

DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER INSPECTS WATER WOES > PAGE 2

OAR RIGHT!



The 'Million Baht Phang Nga Bay Adventure' team raise their oars. Photo: Kolin Friske

'AXE' RAWLINSON LEADS ADVENTURE CHARITY DRIVE FOR MIGRANT KIDS

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun
reporter1@classactmedia.co.th

A six-day, 350-kilometre human-powered journey of running, cycling and kayaking is underway to raise funds for the St Euthrasia Banya Literacy Center. Organised by a dedicated team of 21 individuals led by Grant Rawlinson and Stephanie Rawlinson, the 'Million Baht Phang Nga Bay Adventure' charity drive aims to buy a new school bus and fund school meals for Myanmar students.

During the event, which started on Tuesday (Nov 26) and

continues through to Sunday (Dec 1), participants will traverse 350km by run, bicycle and kayak over six days.

Starting and finishing at HOMA in CherrngTalay, the journey will take the team through key locations, including Sarasin Bridge, Phang Nga Town, Krabi, Koh Yao Yai and Promthep Cape.

The primary goal is a target of B1 million to raise funds for Myanmar migrant children in Phuket. Donations will be used to purchase a new school bus and provide additional school meals, essential for the students' education and well-being.

The St Euthrasia Banya Literacy Center is the school for the Myanmar children and its operated under the well-known charity Good Shepherd Sisters Thailand. Sister Euthrasia is the patron saint and the inspiration for the school.

The St Euphrasia Banya Literacy Centre in Phuket supports 135 students with six teachers and two staff members. Most students are children of Myanmar migrant workers who have fled unsafe conditions in their home country. Their families often find refuge in Thailand, working low-wage jobs such as gardening or construction.

New regulations now allow Myanmar students to enrol in Thai schools if they pass a transfer exam, a tough challenge due to their limited education. To ease this transition, the centre focuses on preparing young children early, successfully placing over 20 kindergarten students in Thai schools each year.

This year, donations will help buy a new school bus and provide more meals. Currently, the school offers three meals a week, and the goal is to increase this to two meals daily.

The team have been providing the school lunch, organising and...

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

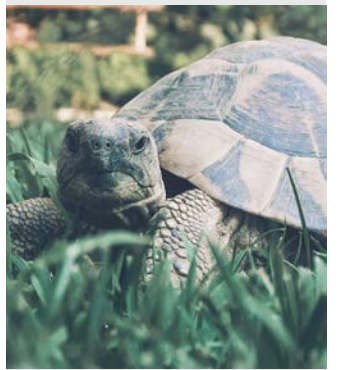
NEWS PAGE 3

New tsunami early-detection buoys deployed



LIFE PAGE 8

When it comes to good health, the tortoise wins



SPORT PAGE 14

Cricket returns to Phuket with series thriller





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PATRICK CHANTHAM

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49/35 BOAT AVENUE, LAGUNA, CHERNGTALAY AMPHOE THALANG, PHUKET, THAILAND 83110

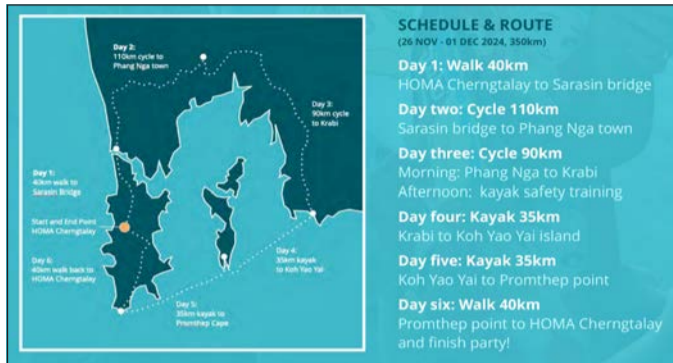


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News



Tourism Minister launches carbon neutral project > p5



SCHEDULE & ROUTE

(26 NOV - 01 DEC 2024, 250km)

Day 1: Walk 40km
HOMA Chertgatalay to Sarasin bridge

Day two: Cycle 110km
Sarasin bridge to Phang Nga town

Day three: Cycle 90km
Morning: Phang Nga to Krabi

Afternoon: kayak safety training

Day four: Kayak 35km
Krabi to Koh Yao Yai island

Day five: Kayak 35km
Koh Yao Yai to Promthep point

Day six: Walk 40km
Promthep point to HOMA Chertgatalay

and finish party!

Banya charity drive

Continued from page 1

...funding PE classes, music classes and extra functional English classes for the school for a few years.

Grant 'Axe' Rawlinson together with his wife Stephanie, are the founders of Million Baht Adventures. Last year, Axe swam 122km around Phuket and succeeded in raising B1.1 mn for the Good Shepherd School.

The Million Baht Adventures team includes 10 core athletes and a network of support staff, all contributing their time and resources to make this mission a success.

The 10 team members will complete the entire six legs in six days, along with many volunteers who donate their time, knowledge and resources to support the event. The initiative is organised and funded by the participating team members, ensuring that 100% of the donations go directly to the school.

JOIN THE EFFORT

While the team consists of 10 core athletes supported

by an operational crew, along the way anyone is welcome to join segments of the journey for a fee, with 100% of proceeds going toward the cause.

Donations and contributions, however big or small, are welcome and will make a meaningful impact for the children.

"Education is a right, not a privilege. We want to give these children the opportunities they deserve," said Stephanie Rawlinson.

"I believe everyone should have a right of education no matter the nationality, the race, the social standings, the gender and the religious points. And I strongly believe that children are our future. I want to give as many opportunities as possible to them," added Ms Shiho Katsuura, one of the Committee members.

For details of how to make a donation, raise funds by joining the walk on Dec 1, or by taking part in an online auction of a host of donated items and services, visit <https://linktr.ee/millionbahtadventures>.

Deputy Interior Minister inspects water woes

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Deputy Minister of Interior Sabida Thaiseth led a delegation to Phuket last week to inspect progress being made, or not being made, in implementing government policy implementation and "key missions of the Ministry of Interior".

Ms Sabida's stop in Phuket was amid a two-day tour to Phuket and Phang Nga on Nov 20-21 to assess "urban flood prevention projects, landscape improvements and urban development initiatives", said an official report of her visit.

Ms Sabida and her delegation were welcomed to the island by Phuket Governor Sophon Suwanarat, Mr Sophon's wife, Ms Busadee, and a host of provincial officials.

However, Ms Sabida's first stop was Surin Beach, where she inspected dark wastewater flowing out into sea.

Of note, the official report of Ms Sabidas' visit by the Phuket branch of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket) made no mention of any issues involving untreated wastewater.

According to the official report, after reviewing the



Photo: PR Phuket

ongoing landscape improvement project for the Surin Rajabhakti Beach Park "to enhance its appeal as a public space for residents and visitors", Ms Sabida and her team moved to the Phuket Provincial Office of the Department of Town & Country Planning, where she was reportedly briefed on flood prevention efforts in urban areas.

Ms Sabida was told that Phuket officials were addressing flooding through dual strategies: blocking water from entering urban areas and increasing drainage efficiency.

Construction is underway in eight communities, focusing on improving 13 canals, installing seven drainage pipes and constructing pumping stations. Projects span six areas, including Srisoonthorn, Kamala, Patong, Wichit, Chalong and the Phuket Town area, officials said.

Specific initiatives in Patong involve canal improvements, two pumping stations and sand traps, while Kathu Municipality awaits budget approval for similar upgrades, the official report noted.

Regarding flooding in these areas, the official

report made no mention of recent construction being a factor at all in flooding.

The report also made no mention of any landslides.

Deputy Minister Sabida also reviewed the 'Bang Yai Canal flood prevention project' in Phuket Town, described as a "critical initiative to mitigate recurring flood risks".

During her tour, Deputy Minister Sabida also visited Laem Phromthep to inspect a landscape development project aimed at expanding its appeal beyond sunset viewing. The B17-million project is scheduled for completion in July 2025.

Phuket incinerator to shut down for maintenance

THE ISLAND'S ONLY public incinerator will shut down for one month for intensive overhaul maintenance, with at least 42,000 tonnes of trash to be directed to recently opened sites at the Saphan Hin landfill while the incinerator is offline.

Confirmation of the shutdown came at a meeting chaired by Phuket City Deputy Mayor Suphot La-ongphet on Nov 18.

The meeting was held to discuss with PJT Technology Co Ltd, which operates the incinerator, plans to cope with inbound trash at the Phuket Solid Waste Disposal Center in

Saphan Hin while the incinerator is shut down.

The temporary closure, for a major cleanout of residual waste and an upgrade to several components at the facility, will span 30 days, from Dec 20 through to Jan 20 next year, the meeting confirmed.

During the meeting, representatives from PJT Technology Co Ltd outlined plans for the shutdown, detailing measures to improve the incinerator machinery's efficiency.

In response, from Dec 1 trash arriving at the waste disposal centre will be directed to new sites at the landfill recently opened to accommodate the

expected large volume of inbound trash.

The inbound waste will continue to be directed to the new landfill sites until Jan 31 next year, the meeting confirmed.

Earlier this month, Phuket City Municipality, which oversees operations at the Phuket Solid Waste Disposal Center, opened Pit 4 and Pit 5 and the Saphan Hin landfill.

Pit 3 was closed due to the foul odour emanating from the site affecting nearby residents.

While overseeing the closure of Pit 3 and the opening of Pits 4 and 5, Deputy Mayor Suphot repeated that the incinerator, when working, has the capacity

to burn only 700 tonnes of trash a day.

In early November Mr Suphot estimated 1,100 tonnes of trash were being delivered to Saphan Hin each day. By last week he said that number had grown to 1,400 tonnes of trash a day.

The volume of trash arriving at Saphan Hin is expected to only increase as the tourism high season begins, Deputy Mayor Suphot said.

Late last month Phuket City Municipality inked a deal to pay more than B511 million for PJT Technology to keep operating the island's only working public incinerator for the next 15 years.

A new incinerator is to be



Photo: Phuket City Municipality

built at Saphan Hin with the capacity to burn no less than 500 tonnes of solid waste each day, while producing 9.9 megawatts of electrical power to be sold back to the local power grid.

However, that new incinerator is not expected to be complete for another two years, and by that time will increase the island's incineration capacity to 1,200 tonnes a day – already less than the volume of trash being delivered to Saphan Hin each day now. *The Phuket News*

Tsunami warning buoys deployed

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

With just one month until the 20th anniversary of the devastating tsunami of Dec 26, 2004 that killed hundreds of thousands of people, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) on Monday (Nov 25) launched a mission to deploy tsunami warning buoys in the usual locations in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

Phuket Vice Governor Adul Chuthong presided over the event, held at the Phuket Deep Sea Port at Cape Panwa, on behalf of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Anutin Charnvirakul, said an official report of the occasion.

"The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation works around the clock to monitor and issue disaster warnings. It gathers and integrates data from both domestic and international sources to analyze and assess potential disaster situations. The findings are then shared with provincial and local authorities, as well as the public, through all disaster warning channels, following the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)," the report noted, without citing any particular person.



Photo: PR Phuket

"This process aims to reduce disaster risks, help agencies plan for crisis response, and effectively manage disasters, including issuing timely tsunami warnings," the report added.

"This initiative follows the devastating tsunami in the Indian Ocean on December 26, 2004, which caused significant loss of life and property. The disaster raised awareness among government agencies, the private sector, and the public about the importance of addressing tsunami threats, particularly in the six Andaman coastal provinces," the report continued.

"The installation of tsunami detection systems in the Andaman

Sea and Indian Ocean aims to create a reliable network for monitoring and issuing early tsunami warnings to coastal countries in the region. This ensures that communities receive clear and timely information, enabling them to prepare for evacuation and enhancing safety for both residents and tourists," the report said.

The two tsunami warning buoys will be installed at their usual locations. Station 23461, a grey 'DART' buoy, will be installed about 340km northwest of Phuket. Station 23401, a larger yellow buoy, will be installed about 965km west-northwest of Phuket, in the Bay of Bengal.

However, according to the National Data Buoy Center, operated by the the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Station 23461, installed 340km northwest of Phuket, has not transmitted any data for at least the past 45 days.

Likewise, Station 23401, installed about 965km away in the Bay of Bengal, also has not transmitted any data in the past 45 days.

The official report of the 'launch event' did not make any mention of whether this latest "mission" was to replace two missing tsunami warning buoys, or whether it was the regular replacement of the buoys after two years in operation.

Regardless, Vice Governor Adul emphasised the significance of the initiative, recalling the devastating impact of the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, which caused extensive loss of life and property in Thailand's six Andaman coastal provinces.

He urged the public, local organizations, and fishermen to support the maintenance and protection of the tsunami detection system, warning towers, and related equipment to ensure their long-term effectiveness.

"This system is a crucial tool in minimising disaster risks, safeguarding lives, and providing

peace of mind for both residents and tourists. By working together, we can ensure these systems remain operational and ready to respond to emergencies," Vice Governor Adul said.

AGREEMENT

Meanwhile, DDPM Deputy Director-General Sahat Wongkulwiwat was at the the Courtyard Marriott Phuket Town on Monday to officiate the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with eight key agencies to enhance the monitoring and maintenance of tsunami detection buoys.

Representatives from partner organisations, including the Royal Thai Navy, Department of Fisheries, Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, Marine Department, National Maritime Interests Protection Center, Thai Fisheries Association, Thai Community Foundation, and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Center (SEAFDEC), joined the event.

Of note, SEAFDEC provides the ship that deploys the tsunami warning buoys.

The MoU renewed a prior commitment that expired on Nov 17, 2024, focusing on ensuring tsunami detection systems remain operational, effective and capable of delivering timely warnings.

Patong Mayor stymied over Soi Saensabai traffic woes

PATONG MAYOR CHALERM-SAK Maneesri has expressed frustration over Patong Municipality's inability to address the worsening traffic congestion and safety hazards on Soi Saensabai, a privately owned street where pedestrians, including foreigners, have been injured by passing vehicles.

The mayor revealed that the municipality's efforts to resolve the issue have been stymied by the private ownership of the road.

"Patong Municipality has no authority to enforce rules or regulations on private property," Mayor Chalerm-sak told *The Phuket News*. "We've requested a transfer of ownership, but they've declined, preventing us from planning any projects."

Efforts to clear the road and implement traffic management measures, such as redirecting cars and motorbikes, have also been blocked.

"Some locals are willing to transfer the land to the public sector," the mayor said. "But unless all private



Photo: Supplied

owners agree to hand it over entirely, the municipality cannot proceed. This could lead to disputes with those who disagree in the future," Mayor Chalerm-sak said.

Mayor Chalerm-sak noted that similar challenges exist on other privately owned roads in Patong, such as Soi Baanzaan, where the municipality faces mounting complaints about traffic hazards.

"I often hear complaints about motorbikes and cars clipping pedestrians. While some business owners want us to intervene, they haven't transferred the land to the public. Without their consent, neither the police nor the municipality can act," he said.

The lack of municipal authority extends beyond

traffic issues. Mayor Chalerm-sak pointed out that the municipality is unable to repair roads or install drains to prevent flooding.

"I just do what I can to address the problem, but I cannot carry out projects or make necessary improvements," he said.

One of the most pressing concerns is the absence of an emergency exit on Soi Saensabai, which poses significant risks during emergencies.

"Fire trucks and other safety services can't access the area. We've filed a complaint emphasising the need for an emergency exit, but the private owner argued there were no regulatory violations," he said, adding that the municipality has even faced legal threats over the matter.

As tourism high season approaches, Mayor Chalerm-sak warned that the lack of municipal authority over privately owned streets could exacerbate traffic and safety issues.

Natnaree
Likidwatanasakun

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

www.foreca.com

FRI NOVEMBER 29

High: +36°
Low: +29°
Wind 11 m/s

SAT NOVEMBER 30

High: +36°
Low: +28°
Wind 11 m/s

SUN DECEMBER 1

High: +35°
Low: +28°
Wind 11 m/s

MON DECEMBER 2

High: +35°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

TUE DECEMBER 3

High: +35°
Low: +28°
Wind 4 m/s

WED DECEMBER 4

High: +37°
Low: +28°
Wind 4 m/s

THU DECEMBER 5

High: +36°
Low: +27°
Wind 4 m/s

Body of British tourist found in Patong drain

THE BODY OF A 36-year-old British tourist was discovered in a drain in Patong early morning on Nov 20.

Patong Police were called to the scene, near the intersection in front of Patong Hospital, at about 9:15am.

Officers, joined by Patong Police Chief Pol Col Chalermchai Hirasawat, arrived and cordoned off the area while they inspected the scene.

Initial examinations found no visible injuries, and a forensic doctor at the scene determined the time of death to be five to six hours before the man's body was found.

The initial investigation led police to believe the man drowned in the drain.

The British man was on holiday in Phuket with his family, police noted.

One of his family members, who identified the body, told police that the man was last seen leaving their room at their hotel, located at the southern end of Patong Beach, at about 10pm on Nov 19.



Photo: Patong Police

Security footage showed the man climbing down an iron barrier near the canal without signs of foul play.

The man's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital for post-mortem examination while police continue their investigation and review additional CCTV footage from the area to confirm the circumstances surrounding the death. The British Embassy has been notified of the death, police noted.

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

Eakkapop Thongtub

Air India passengers stranded for 80 hours

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

More than 100 passengers of an Air India flight bound for New Delhi were stranded in Phuket for over 80 hours, enduring a series of delays caused by recurring technical problems with the aircraft.

Frustrated passengers took to social media to highlight what they described as inadequate support from the airline during the ordeal, reported *India Today*.

The flight was originally scheduled to depart on the night of Nov 16. However, Air India delayed the departure by six hours, citing a technical fault.

The situation deteriorated when passengers, who had been waiting at the airport for hours, boarded the plane only to be de-boarded an hour later after the flight was abruptly cancelled.

Air India expressed regret over the incident, stating that ground staff provided assistance, including hotel accommodations, meals, alternative



An Air India aircraft arrives at Phuket airport. Photo: AoT Phuket / file

flights, and options for refunds or complimentary rescheduling.

"While our staff on the ground made an effort to minimise their inconvenience, providing all on-ground assistance including hotel accommodation and meals, some of the guests were also reaccommodated on alternatively available flights. Passengers were also offered options for full refunds on cancellation and complimentary rescheduling.

"At Air India, the safety and security of our passengers and crew is top priority," the airline said in a statement.

Despite the assurances, passengers reported a chaotic experience. Social

media posts described sparse and unsatisfactory updates from airline representatives. Several passengers shared their frustrations on X, tagging Air India and demanding answers, with many claiming they received little to no meaningful response.

The saga worsened when passengers were informed that the same aircraft had been repaired and was ready to operate.

After a two-day delay, the flight finally took off – only to return to Phuket two-and-a-half hours later due to another technical fault, leaving passengers stranded once again.

One passenger described the experience as "mentally and physically exhausting".

Arrests end shotgun road rage

POLICE HAVE ARRESTED two men after they allegedly used a shotgun to threaten another driver during a road rage altercation on Phra Metta Rd in Patong.

Patong Police were informed of the incident about 11:50am last Sunday (Nov 25).

The victim, identified as Paphangkon Chithong, 23, told police he was threatened with a shotgun after a driving dispute involving being cut off in traffic.

The suspects fled the scene in a silver Toyota Hilux Vigo, registered in Nakhon Si Thammarat.

Police swiftly coordinated with patrol and traffic units, who intercepted the suspects – Kritsana Keorot, 37, who was driving, and Hasalbasree Samea, 27, in the passenger seat – at the Khok Makham intersection on Phra Barami Rd, where officers conducted a search.



Photo: Patong Police

A shotgun was discovered on the back seat of the vehicle.

Both men were taken into custody and taken to Patong Police Station for questioning.

Police charged the suspects and confiscated the firearm as evidence. The exact charges were not reported.

Legal proceedings are underway as investigators continue to examine the details of the case, police said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Woman killed in motorbike fall

A 43-YEAR-OLD WOMAN died after the motorbike she was riding pillion on slid on a wet road in Wichit earlier on Monday (Nov 25), causing her to hit her head on the road.

Police were called to the scene, on Chao Fa East Rd, about 350 metres south of Dowroong Wittaya School, at about 11:50am.

Emergency responders arrived to find the woman, named by police as 'Ms Kwanjai', unconscious in the middle of the road with a severe head injury.

Despite efforts to resuscitate her through CPR, she was pronounced dead at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

According to police, Ms Kwanjai was riding pillion on a red Honda Wave driven by her husband.

The couple had just left the Wichit Subdistrict Health Promoting Hospital, where Ms Kwanjai had undergone dialysis.



At least eight other motorbikes slid on the same section of road in the wet, spilling their riders onto the road. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

As they made their way home to Thalang District, light rain made the road slippery. Her husband lost control of the motorbike, causing Ms Kwanjai to fall and strike her head on the road.

It was not reported whether Ms Kwanjai was wearing a helmet.

Local residents told reporters that at least eight other motorcycles also slipped and fell in the same area during the rain, and complained of calls to Wichit Police Station going unanswered.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Tourism Minister launches 'carbon neutrality' project

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Minister of Tourism and Sports Sorawong Thienthong was in Phuket last Sunday (Nov 24) to officially launch the 'Phuket Old Town Carbon Neutrality 2030' project, aiming to position the historic area as an international model for sustainable tourism.

The event, held at Queen Sirikit Park, brought together a host of high-level local officials, including Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat; Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO); Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas; and Ratchadaporn O-in, of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket office.

Other key stakeholders present included Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, President of the Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation; Dr Tiranee Achalakul, Director of the Big Data Institute, and leaders from both public and private sectors, including Samyot Pathan, President of the Old Town Community Enterprise.

The project, initiated by the Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation, represents a collaborative effort between the Phuket City Municipality, the Big Data Institute and the local community. Its goal is to significantly reduce the environmental



Photo: PR Phuket

impact of tourism while promoting sustainable practices, said an official report of the event.

The programme focuses on efficient resource management, greenhouse gas reduction, systematic waste handling, low-carbon transportation development and public awareness campaigns.

By implementing these measures, the initiative seeks to make Phuket Old Town carbon-neutral by 2030, setting a precedent for sustainable tourism practices nationwide.

Among the waste management innovations launched under the campaign, to tackle waste systematically the Sustainable Tourism Development Foundation has introduced a

colour-coded waste separation system: Blue, for waste for incineration; Green, for organic waste processed via an on-site digester, Yellow, for recyclable materials and Pink for grease trap fats.

An organic waste digester installed in the Phuket Old Town area is already reducing landfill waste by at least 400kg a day, the report noted.

"This initiative aligns with our national strategy to enhance sustainable tourism and address environmental challenges.

"Phuket Old Town will serve as a blueprint for other regions aiming to balance tourism growth with environmental preservation," Minister Sorawaong said.

HM King and Queen to attend Phuket King's Cup

PREPARATIONS ARE underway for the anticipated arrival of His Majesty the King and Her Majesty the Queen, who will attend the award ceremony for the 36th Phuket King's Cup Regatta on Dec 6

The ceremony will take place at Beyond Kata Hotel in Karon, Phuket Governor Sophon Suwannarat announced last week.

The announcement came at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on Nov 21 held to plan for Their Majesties' arrival.

The meeting was attended by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum as well as heads of government agencies and representatives from the private sector.

Key points discussed included the assignment of tasks to government agencies, coordination with relevant organisations, and public relations efforts to ensure a warm and orderly welcome for Their Majesties.

Four locations have been designated as viewing areas for the public:

- In front of Beyond Kata Hotel



Photo: PR Phuket

- In front of Robinson Lifestyle Thalung

- In front of Muang Thalung School

- In front of Aeronautical Radio of Thailand office (near the airport)

The Royal Household Bureau announced that His Majesty the King will present the awards at the ceremony, while Her Majesty the Queen will participate as a member of the Vayu Sailing Team, competing in the IRC ZERO class.

The King's Cup Regatta, a prestigious international sailing competition, has been a cornerstone of Phuket's sporting and tourism calendar for over three decades.

This year's event, held from Dec 2-9, is expected to attract world-class sailors and boost the province's economy. *The Phuket News*

'Mook' Sasisom named Phuket Tourism Ambassador 2025

SASISOM 'MOOK' PHADUNG-kingtrakul has been named the first-ever Phuket Tourism Ambassador of Thailand. The title, presented by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) under its 'Amazing Thailand' initiative, will see Miss Sasisom serve as a cultural and promotional representative for the island throughout 2025.

The official appointment ceremony took place during the 'Phuket Tourism Ambassador' finals held at the Pearl Hotel in Phuket, with 'Pi Mook' taking up her official duties on Nov 15.

Organised as a beauty pageant with a mission, the contest invited participants to engage in activities showcasing Phuket as a tourist attraction in various aspects, including natural attractions, food, local architecture and traditional clothing and costumes.

A key highlight of the pageant in the lead-up to the finals was a panel discussion featuring Dr Kosol Tang-Uthai, President of the Phuket Peranakan Association. Dr Kosol emphasised the importance of preserving cultural heritage, with a focus on the 'kebaya' – a traditional southern women's outfit recently recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage shared by Thailand and four ASEAN countries.

Contestants also participated in a kebaya-themed fashion show, hosted at the historic Baan Chinpracha, a historic building in Phuket Town built towards the end of King Rama IV's reign.



Photo: Phuket Tourism Ambassador / Facebook

As newly appointed ambassador, Miss Sasisom won B50,000. She was also awarded the 'Golden Ambassador Brooch', a bespoke piece valued at over B150,000.

With a design inspired by Peranakan influences, the brooch features intricate designs symbolising the ambassador's role: 'pearl oyster' adorned with genuine pearls, representing Phuket's identity; paired 'swans', symbolising harmony, cooperation and grace; and the 'chenko' flower, embodying gentleness and beauty.

This one-of-a-kind accessory encapsulates the values of elegance, unity, and cultural pride that the ambassador will bring to the role, organisers explained.

As the Phuket Tourism Ambassador, Miss Sasisom will play a vital role in promoting the island's allure on a global stage.

Supported by the TAT's 'Amazing Thailand' initiative, her responsibilities will include highlighting Phuket's natural beauty, diverse attractions and unique cultural heritage to boost tourism and foster a deeper appreciation for the region.

The Phuket News

Australians join effort to resolve Phuket's flood, landslide challenges

AUSTRALIAN AND Thai officials convened at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (Nov 22) for a meeting to discuss strategies to mitigate floods and mudslides, which have increasingly affected the island.

The meeting was chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Adul Chuthong, joined by Pongpol Sripremp, Energy and Transport Research Officer from the Australian Embassy, and his team.

Joining them were Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), Sopon Thongsai, Head of the Phuket Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Office (DDPM Phuket), and other key local government officials.

The meeting was part of a collaborative initiative between Thailand's Ministry of Transport and the Australian Government under the 'Expanding Transport Cooperation



Photo: PR Phuket

through Partnerships for Infrastructure' (P4I-MOT) project.

The initiative emphasises developing disaster-resilient infrastructure and plans to safeguard communities from the growing impacts of extreme weather, said an official report of the meeting.

Key agenda items included assessing Phuket's current disaster situation, formulating preventive measures and strengthening the island's ability to handle future crises.

The collaboration includes on-ground surveys of flood-prone areas

with Australian experts and crafting tailored recommendations for effective disaster management, said the report.

"This dialogue is a significant step in boosting Phuket's disaster readiness. By building resilient infrastructure and robust management strategies, we aim to protect the lives and properties of our citizens," said Vice Governor Adul.

The meeting follows extensive flooding across Phuket earlier this year, and a deadly landslide in Kata on Aug 23 that killed 13 people.

The Phuket News

Governor bolsters ties with Zhanjiang

PHUKET GOVERNOR Sophon Suwannarat last week hosted Li Duomin, Chairman of the Chinese Political Consultative Conference of Zhanjiang City, to bolster relations between the two sister cities.



Photo: PR Phuket

The meeting, held at Phuket Provincial Hall last Friday (Nov 22), aimed to explore new opportunities for collaboration in tourism, trade and investment, said an official report of the meeting.

Phuket and Zhanjiang, both thriving coastal economies, have been sister cities since signing an agreement in 2016.

During the discussions, Governor Sophon highlighted Phuket's active role in the International Island Tourism Cities Network (ITOP Forum) and extended an invitation for Zhanjiang to join the network, a move that could be facilitated through Jeju City, the network's Secretariat.

Zhanjiang, located on a peninsula at the southern end of Guangdong Province, is home to many islands popular for domestic Chinese tourism.

In turn, Mr Li invited Phuket officials to visit Zhanjiang City to deepen economic, trade and cultural exchanges.

Both parties reaffirmed their commitment to developing joint projects, emphasising the strong relationship the two 'sister cities' have built over the years.

"This meeting represents an important step in strengthening our partnership and creating new avenues for cooperation," said Governor Sophon.

The Phuket News

Patong gears up for 38th tourism festival

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Patong City Municipality has confirmed that the annual Phuket Festival, marking the beginning of the island's tourism high season, will be held in Patong on Dec 8-10.

This year's festival, the '38th Phuket Tourism Festival' is themed 'Phuket Memories of a Lifetime', it was announced at a press event held on Patong Beach on Nov 19.

Presiding over the event was Phuket Vice Governor Adul Chuthong, joined by Patong Deputy Mayor Lalita Maneesri.

Also present were Weerawit Kreuasombat, President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA), Thipchalita Sirithaveerat, President of the Patong Hotel Association, and Patong Police Chief Pol Col Chalermchai Hirasawat, and a host of other guests.

The festival aims to position Patong Beach as a global tourism hotspot during the high season, showcasing its stunning natural beauty, rich cultural heritage, and world-class hospitality, Patong Municipality said in its announcement.

The hope is to attract both Thai



Photo: Patong City Municipality

and international tourists, enhancing Phuket's reputation as a "city of happiness and fun", the municipality added.

The three-day celebration will take place at 'Bangla Square', the area on Patong Beach at the end of Bangla Rd, starting at 10am each day.

The festival will stage its traditional 'Grand Parade', featuring colourful floats from local attractions including Phuket FantaSea, Carnival Magic, Simon Cabaret and Andamanda Water Park, as well as cultural and hotel business groups.

Live entertainment will include concerts by local and renowned artists on the stage set up on the beach will

add to the festive atmosphere, while cultural exhibits and local products will also be available.

"Visitors can explore an array of arts, crafts, and goods from community groups, supporting the local economy and fostering sustainable tourism," the announcement said.

The festival is also a significant economic driver for the region, stimulating local businesses and encouraging community development.

By creating memorable experiences for visitors, the organisers aim to ensure that tourists leave with lasting impressions and a desire to return to Phuket, the announcement concluded.

Phi Phi Island national park drawing 6,000 visitors a day

PHI PHI ISLAND NATIONAL Park is witnessing a tourism boom, with over 6,000 visitors flocking daily to its pristine beaches and iconic attractions, contributing more than B2.4 million a day revenue.

Since the start of November, Hat Noppharat Thara-Mu Ko Phi Phi National Park has been bustling with activity as tourists explore popular destinations like Phi Phi Island, Maya Bay, Railay Bay, Talay Waek and Poda Island.

Maya Bay, renowned for its stunning beauty and its exploitation through overtourism in years past, continues to draw international attention, recently ranking 5th on The Beach Atlas's '100 Best Beaches in the World' list and 3rd on Lonely Planet's global ranking.

Phirawat Khamlamlert, Assistant Chief of the National Park, emphasised the park's commitment to preserving its natural



Photo: DNP

resources and ensuring visitor safety.

Officials are enforcing strict regulations, including bans on dropping anchors on coral reefs, stepping on coral formations and feeding wildlife such as fish and monkeys.

Tour operators are also required to follow safety protocols for tourists before embarking on boat trips, Mr Phirawat said.

The surge in visitors coincides with the peak

tourist season, with many travellers taking boat tours from Noppharat Thara Beach to explore the marine park's world-famous attractions.

Park authorities continue to provide guidance to tour operators to balance tourism growth with environmental conservation, ensuring these natural treasures remain pristine for future generations, Mr Phirawat concluded. *National News Bureau of Thailand*

Nominee crackdown targets 27,000 juristic persons

THE DEPARTMENT OF Business Development (DBD) plans to probe 27,000 juristic persons next year as part of its crackdown on the use of Thai nominees by foreign businesses.

The department will look into a total of 26,830 juristic persons in tourism; real estate; hotels and resorts; transport and logistics; and e-commerce platforms and warehouses nationwide, said DBD Director-General Auramon Supthaweethum.

She said the crackdown follows complaints from local business operators and information supplied by relevant agencies.

The probe will include verifying the registration and financial credibility of Thai partners before they became the company's juristic persons, she said.

It will look into the company's shareholding structure, executives and their powers, voting rights and dividend payments, among others, she added.

The DBD will also set



Auramon Supthaweethum, director-general of Thailand's Department of Business Development. Photo: DBD

up an Intelligence Business Analytic System to analyse the behaviour of juristic persons and determine the risks of these entities being used as nominees, she said.

The system is expected to be operational in six months and will help the department better detect the use of nominees, she said.

She noted that the probe is not limited to these targets and that it will look into those facing complaints about practices that avoid full compliance with the Foreign Business Act.

As for this year's investigation, the DBD examined 26,019 juristic persons in four sectors – tourism, land and property trading, hotels and resorts, and transports and logistics.

Of these, 498 were singled out for intense scrutiny with 371 of them cleared of irregularities. Of the remaining, 64 were charged in connection with accounting irregularities and 63 were being investigated further, with four of them suspected of being used as nominees. *Bangkok Post*

Cyanide serial killer 'Aem' handed death sentence

BANGKOK

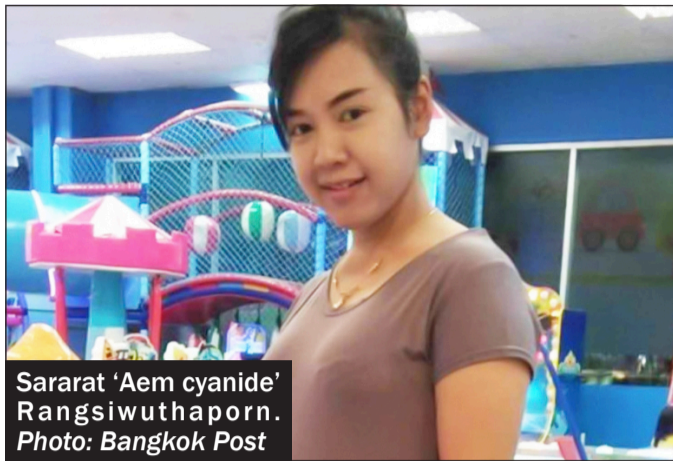
Bangkok Post

The Criminal Court has given the death sentence to a woman suspected of killing 14 people with cyanide and found guilty of murdering one.

The court passed sentence on Sararat "Aem cyanide" Rangsiwuthaporn, 37, on Nov 20, finding her guilty of adding potassium cyanide to either the food or drinking water of her friend Siriporn Khanwong, 32. They travelled together on a merit-making trip to release fish into the Mae Klong River in Ban Pong district of Ratchaburi on Apr 14, 2023 when Siriporn died.

The court in its judgement said Sararat saw her friend collapse and die near the river, but did not appear surprised or offer help, instead leaving the scene with the victim's bag, mobile phone and other valuables worth B154,630.

The court said there were fatal levels of potassium cyanide in the



Sararat 'Aem cyanide' Rangsiwuthaporn. Photo: Bangkok Post

victim's blood, stomach and liver with experts believing the victim ingested the poison in the killer's car, before the two of them went down to the river.

Police found traces of potassium cyanide at several spots in Sararat's car and there was evidence proving that she had earlier ordered and arranged for a motorcyclist to deliver potassium cyanide to her.

The court found that Sararat's bank accounts recorded transactions worth about B95 million in total from Jan 1, 2020, to May 5 last year. It also revealed that she had huge debts after

heavy online gambling losses in 2021 and 2022, a period where a number of her friends had also died. Siriporn is believed by police to be Sararat's 15th victim overall.

The court found Sararat guilty of the premeditated murder of Siriporn for purpose of theft and also sentenced Sararat's ex-husband, Withoon Rangsiwuthaporn, 40, a former chief of Suan Phueng police station in Ratchaburi, and her lawyer Thanicha Aeksuwannawat, 36, to two years in jail for helping her conceal the victim's bag. All three denied all charges.

Withoon's jail sentence was commuted to one year and four months because he gave useful testimony, and he and Thanicha were released on bail of B100,000 each pending their appeals.

The court also ordered the three convicted felons to pay about B2.34mn in compensation to Siriporn's family.

Sararat was also suspected of administering potassium cyanide to 14 other people between 2015 and 2023, to either avoid debts she owed them or to steal their valuables.

The poison was allegedly administered in food or added to diet pills. Only one of her alleged victims survived.

Sararat was arrested on Apr 25, 2023, and had been detained at the Central Women's Correctional Institution before police concluded their investigation several months later.

Sararat was pregnant when caught but miscarried during the fifth or sixth month of her pregnancy.

Thailand detects first case of new e-cig vaping disease

BURIRAM

THAI HEALTH AUTHORITIES have reported the first local case of a new vaping-related disease, and they fear more cases linked to heavy use of e-cigarettes.

A 32-year-old man from Buriram has been diagnosed with the condition known as Evali, or E-cigarette or vaping-associated lung injury, according to the Department of Disease Control (DDC).

The patient, who was admitted to Buriram Hospital, was coughing up blood and his condition quickly developed into acute and severe pneumonia, said Dr Chayanon Sittibusaya, director of the ministry's Division of Tobacco Product Control.

"We don't usually encounter acute pneumonia and the symptoms deteriorated quickly within 24 to 36 hours. In this case, he had to be put on a ventilator," Dr Chayanon explained.

"All tests for infection, such as COVID-19, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus), and others, were negative. After the patient was able to

remove his breathing tube."

The patient's condition is now improving overall and there is no infection of any kind, despite experiencing symptoms similar to nicotine withdrawal, said Dr Chayanon.

The man told doctors he took about 400 puffs of an e-cigarette per day, every day. However, he also had underlying diseases including diabetes and high blood pressure.

E-cigarettes are prohibited in Thailand, but they are easily available both online and offline, despite the authorities' vow to deal with them.

Many academic studies have found that e-cigarettes include numerous harmful substances, including nicotine and heavy metals and the DDC has advised people to avoid using them, particularly if they have chronic conditions. *Bangkok Post*



Photo: AFP

EC's probe into Thaksin continues

BANGKOK

THE ELECTION COMMISSION (EC) has confirmed it will continue to probe former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra's alleged manipulation of the Pheu Thai Party and interference in the coalition government.

The announcement came last Friday (Nov 22) despite the Constitutional Court ruling to reject a petition claiming Thaksin and the ruling party had tried to overthrow the constitutional monarchy.

"Even though these matters concern the same facts [about Thaksin's actions], the EC and the court use different laws in the handling of these petitions," said EC secretary-general Sawang Boonmee.

The court based its judgement on whether Thaksin and Pheu Thai had violated Section 49 of the constitution, which covers misconduct and claims of whether they exercised their rights and liberties in a manner deemed as attempting to overthrow the constitutional monarchy, Mr Sawang explained.



Former PM Thaksin Shinawatra. Photo: AFP

The EC, on the other hand, is looking into petitions received over the Pheu Thai Party's alleged violation of the organic law on parties, which prohibits a party from consenting to being manipulated or interfered with by an outsider, which in this case is alleged to be Thaksin, added Mr Sawang.

He highlighted the difference by giving an example in which the EC had rejected a petition against the now-defunct Move Forward Party (MFP), while a similar petition made its way to the court.

The case concerned the MFP's abuse of its rights and liberties in a manner deemed as attempting to overthrow the democratic regime of government with the King as head of state, which the EC actually has no authority to examine, he said.

Despite being spared the legal hurdle attached to the

petition which was dismissed by the court, Thaksin still faces at least two other cases: one being handled by the EC and the other by the Criminal Court.

In the first case, Pheu Thai and its former coalition parties in the Srettha Thavisin administration could end up being disbanded if they are proven to have consented to Thaksin's alleged interference and manipulation, a violation of Section 29 of the organic law on parties.

A meeting was held on Aug 14, the day Mr Srettha was dismissed as PM by the Constitutional Court, where coalition parties members and Thaksin discussed possible replacements, with Thaksin reportedly intervening in the selection of a prime ministerial candidate.

The other case concerns Thaksin's alleged violation of Section 112 of the Criminal Code, better known as the lese majeste law. In this case, Thaksin stands accused of violating the law by giving an interview with a news agency in Seoul in 2015 in a manner deemed hostile to the monarchy. *Bangkok Post*

Politician wanted in iCon Group fraud case

BANGKOK

THE CRIMINAL COURT issued an arrest warrant last Sunday (Nov 24) for politician Samart Janechaijittawanich in connection with a money-laundering investigation tied to The iCon Group fraud case.

The Department of Special Investigation (DSI) alleges that the 41-year-old former deputy spokesman for the Palang Pracharath Party received funds from the group, a direct sales company accused of fraudulent activities.

The scandal gained attention following the release of an audio recording allegedly involving the CEO of The iCon Group, Warathaphon Waratyaworakul, and a member of a non-MP House committee discussing a potential payoff to clear complaints against the company.

The case has led to multiple arrests, including the CEO and prominent dealers, who face charges of public fraud, fraudulent



Samart. Photo: NNT

borrowing, and computer-related crimes. The company's operations primarily focused on selling dietary supplements through an extensive dealer network.

DSI officials have also questioned Samart's mother, Wilawan Phutthasamrit, who was brought to the agency's headquarters for interrogation on Monday (Nov 25). She reportedly stated that Samart was in Chiang Mai province and intended to surrender.

Investigators continue to examine the company's operations, which include

international dealer networks and aggressive recruitment practices. Many new participants were persuaded to invest heavily in unsellable products, broadening the scope of the alleged fraud.

The fallout from The iCon Group's activities has affected around 8,000 individuals, who collectively reported losses exceeding B2.4 billion.

Authorities are intensifying their investigation to trace financial links and ensure all responsible parties are held accountable. *NNT*

Learning to be the tortoise

WELLTHWISE

Libby Heath

Aesop, the ancient Greek storyteller, is famous for his fables that taught moral lessons through personified animals. In the 'Tortoise and the Hare', the deliberate and focused tortoise beats the much faster, but distracted hare in a race. The moral of the story is that slow and steady wins. The wellness race is won the same way.

The COVID pandemic was a shock to the world, and yet we were already in a pandemic that most chose to ignore: a pandemic of inactivity. In July of 2012, an article was published in The Lancet signaling an alarm that physical inactivity, which increases the risk of many adverse health conditions such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and breast and colon cancers, is the fourth leading cause of death worldwide. Where was the fear? Where was the outrage? Why wasn't action taken?

Prolonged sitting, whether occupational or recreational, has become a normal aspect of modern living. Outside of densely populated urban areas, we are mostly car-dependent for basic transportation. Family members send texts to someone in the next room. Almost any consumer item that you desire is but one 'make purchase' button away. Even McDonald's will deliver a Big Mac right to your door – the ultimate double whammy.

But all is not lost. According to the CDC (the US Centers for Disease Control and prevention), physical activity is one of the most important things that you can do to support your health. Adults need at least 150 minutes per week of moderate-intensity physical



Photo: Aron Visuals / Unsplash

activity, such as brisk walking, recreational swimming or doubles tennis, or 75 minutes of vigorous-intensity activity such as running, fast cycling or lap swimming. In addition, at least two days of strength training activity are recommended.

How do you judge intensity? Try the talk test. As a rule of thumb, a person doing moderate intensity exercise can talk, but not sing, during the activity. A person doing vigorous activity cannot say more than a few words without pausing for breath. The more often you perform the activity, the more endurance you will build.

If 150 minutes per week seems like too much, break it down. Could you move for 38 minutes four times per week? What about 22 minutes each day? What about 11 minutes in the morning and in the evening? Even in small increments, physical activity counts. Slow and steady. There is no upper limit. Find movement you enjoy and do it.

Beware of becoming a 'Weekend Warrior' who concentrates activity into one or two intense workouts.

Studies show that regular, moderate-intensity exercise spread across the week can help lower blood pressure, improve cholesterol and reduce overall cardiovascular risk more effectively than concentrated sessions. Daily or near-daily activity helps regulate blood sugar levels, insulin sensitivity and promote more effective fat metabolism. Consistent workouts promote muscle endurance, joint stability and flexibility, which can help prevent injuries. Exercise also releases endorphins and other mood-enhancing chemicals that promote a cumulative sense of well-being.

We all know that person who never seems to sit still. They are constantly moving; toe-tapping, fidgeting, pacing while talking on the phone, always taking the stairs. They are usually lean. Is it luck? No, it's NEAT: Non-Exercise Activity Thermogenesis.

NEAT is the energy spent on everything we do that is not formal exercise, sleeping or eating. It can account for a sizable part of daily caloric expenditure and have a notable impact on weight management, metabolic health and overall energy balance. How to boost NEAT? Get a standup desk – whether at home or work. Set a timer to move every 30 minutes. Park in the farthest spot. Take short walks. Dance to your favourite song. Do air squats while waiting for the microwave. Do pushups on the bathroom counter before brushing your teeth. Think of these as exercise snacks that are always good for you. Move, move, move.

Lastly, tortoises in the wild can live for 80 to 150 years on average; the wild hare up to four years. Slow and steady wins for sure.

Libby Heath 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



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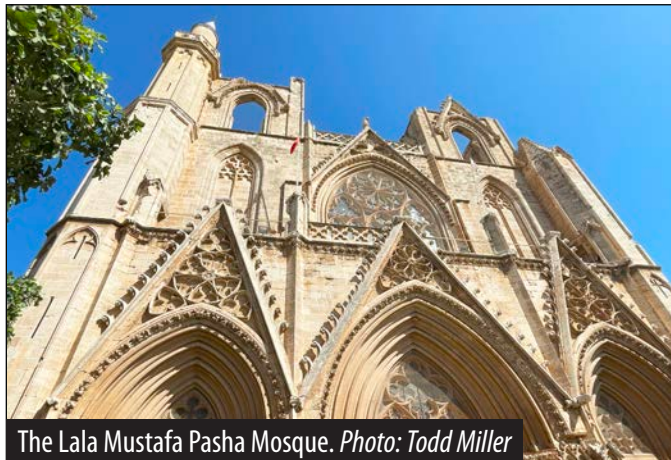
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Lovers Bridge - Cape Greco National Park. Photo: Todd Miller



The Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque. Photo: Todd Miller



The abandoned ghost town of Varosha, near Famagusta, Northern Cyprus. Photo: Todd Miller

'The Cyprus Problem' revisited



GLOBETROTTER

Todd Miller

Cyprus is often described as a Mediterranean melting pot – Greek, Turkish and a dash of British influence – served with a side of halloumi. An island so irresistible that foreigners dating from Alexander the Great have sought a piece of this real estate. Today's Cyprus features a political landscape unlike any other in Europe. Which makes it the ideal place for Phuket Globetrotter to pay a visit.

THE CYPRUS PROBLEM

Most visitors to Cyprus head to the south side. This version of Cyprus, full of beaches and cafes, offers a typical Mediterranean scene of sun and sea. I spent my first day checking out some of the beautiful bays, ocean caves and blue lagoons that adorn this island, where, according to legend, Aphrodite emerged from sea foam. But soon I bored with this crowded tourist scene. That's when I met Yannis, a local entrepreneur who quickly became my go-to guy for piecing together the complexities of modern Cyprus.

The island has been divided since 1974, with the northern part occupied by Turkish forces and the southern part governed by the Republic of Cyprus, a member of the European Union and the United Nations. Today, the UN-monitored Green Line splits the island like an awkward family dinner table. I made two excursions into the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, a de facto state recognised only by Turkey and embargoed by the rest of the international community. Southern Cypriots commonly refer to this land as the "occupied territory", and today the situation is politely referred to as "The Cyprus Problem".

A GHOST TOWN

My first foray north was to Famagusta, the most important city in Cyprus prior to 1974. My vehicle headed past abandoned villages and divided farmland until we passed the Green Line and immigration and customs formalities. Soon we arrived at the place that once attracted the international jet set. In Famagusta's well-preserved medieval walled city, locals held out for a year after the Turkish invasion. Eventually they surrendered as supplies depleted.

The situation was different at the formerly fashionable seaside resort of Varosha a few kilometres away, where inhabitants and vacationers fled overnight. When the Turkish army ar-

rived at the seaside, Varosha was already abandoned. The Turks took the resort without a shot. Varosha remains a military-controlled ghost town petrified in time behind barbed wire. For decades the city was off-limits to everyone, but in 2020 Northern Cyprus decided to make Varosha a daytime tourist park. The area is still under strict military control, and all buildings are restricted entry, but the main thoroughfares have opened to visitors.

Walking around Varosha is a surreal experience, an eerie 1970's snapshot of when the music stopped in the middle of the song. Now the buildings are crumbling, and the weeds are everywhere, results of time and an uninhibited Mother Nature. The only other comparable analogy I have experienced is Pripyat, the once-prosperous town in Ukraine near Chernobyl that also evacuated overnight, leaving a city's hollow shell that is being gradually swallowed by trees and green in the absence of human interference.

THE BUFFER ZONE

My second journey to the North took place in the capital the following day. Nicosia is the world's last divided capital city. In Nicosia, the UN-enforced exclusion zone (also referred to by Cypriots as the "Dead Zone") is demarcated by high walls, barbed wire, metal gates and concrete-filled oil drums. The buffer zone ruptures quiet streets and neighbourhoods as it dissects the city. Some military posts along the Green Line are manned.

I entered the buffer zone at two different checkpoints. In one location I visited the former Ledra Palace Hotel, which sits in the middle of the buffer zone. This former hotel now serves as the headquarters of the UN mission in Cyprus, and as a neutral venue when North and South get together for official discussions. Another checkpoint, situated on the capital's main pedestrian street, sees voluminous foot traffic. The commercial area on the Northern side was thriving. It's where most visitors get a taste of Northern Cyprus – Turkish coffee, kebabs, lokum – before returning to the South. I visited on a Saturday afternoon and the area was hopping. It's an odd arrangement. But it's also a porous arrangement, as Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots get on with their lives, together but separately.

NAGGING QUESTION

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the island's division. Two decades ago, an UN-brokered permanent solution fell apart after it went to referendum in both North and South. Northern Cypri-



Part of the UN-monitored Buffer Zone that dissects Nicosia, Cyprus. Photo: Todd Miller



An abandoned villa in Varosha, Northern Cyprus. Photo: Todd Miller

ots were on board. But Southern Cypriots decisively rejected the United Nations plan, it was explained to me, because of the plan's specifics and not because of a lack of interest in reconciliation. A recent University of Cyprus poll found that most people on both sides are ready for a solution. Which begs the question: Why, after 50 years, hasn't this situation been resolved?

The night before I left Cyprus I popped into my go-to guy Yannis's shop for a final chat and to attempt to an-

swer this question that had nagged me for days. "It's pure geopolitics," Yannis explained to me. "The West needs Turkey."

Adventurer and author Todd Miller has explored more than 100 countries. His Amazon bestseller 'ENRICH: Create Wealth in Time, Money, and Meaning', was lauded by Forbes, USA Today, Entrepreneur and other global media. He resides at Natai Beach. www.enrich101.com



The January/February 2025 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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POP QUIZ

1. What is the capital of Yemen?
2. Which legendary Greek character eloped with Helen of Sparta to spark the Trojan War?
3. At the Equator, how fast does the Earth spin on its axis?
4. What was the full name of Dr Henry Jekyll's alternative personality?
5. Clyde Chestnut Barrow and Bonnie Elizabeth Parker were better known as who?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Yawp

5. ___-free

9. Less typical

14. Daughter of Poseidon

15. Corn bread

16. A-list

17. Sped up

20. Brownish purple

21. Molded, as metal

22. Closemouthed

25. Give a thumbs-down to

26. E.Indies tree

27. Relating to the Christian Orthodox church

29. Craved

34. Be dependent

35. Astrological ram

36. Genesis name

37. Errs

41. Exploit

42. Benefit

43. By way of, briefly

44. Qui vive

46. Most ironic

48. Backslide

49. Laundry room brand
50. Eggs

51. Reorganization

55. "Got my ___ working" Elvis

57. Led

62. Alaskan islander

63. Minus

64. Fashion

65. Bogs and mosses

66. Fastidious

67. Guess
- Down
1. Clear the tables

2. Gallery display

3. Midget

4. Finnish person

5. Coinage

6. An unbound manuscript of some ancient classic

7. Wahoo fish

8. Care for

9. Practice

10. Smart ___

11. Baltic capital

12. Itinerary info

13. Break

18. Give up, slangily
19. Neatens

22. Whisper

23. Anxiety

24. Did a farm chore

28. Word of support

29. Characteristic

30. Grade

31. Tie up

32. Very

33. Appoint as agent

35. Out there

38. Parts of the line of battle that project closest to the enemy

39. Park, for one

40. Hog's home

45. Seek a date

46. Swelling

47. Indian prince

49. Correct

51. Give and take

52. Healthy

53. Not in port

54. "Hey, you!"

56. Resistance units

58. Chi preceder

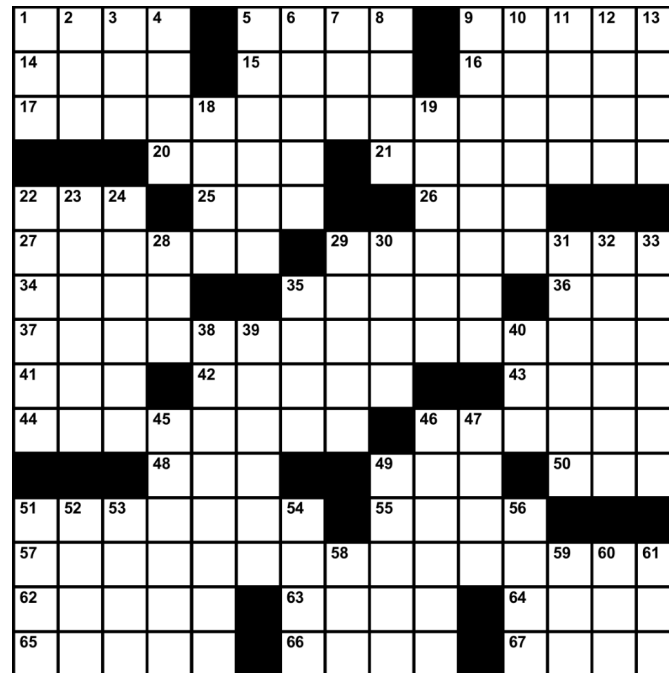
59. Fast no more

60. Rap sheet letters

61. Cotillion V.I.P.

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- 1) Sana'a; 2) Paris; 3) 1,000mph (1,600kph); 4) Edward Hyde; 5) Bonnie and Clyde



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

SUP	GSA	SPA	SAE						
PROTEAN	OILSKIN								
RACEAG	INST	TIME							
ANKARA	MATEY								
TIER	AFTER	NAB							
SAT	SOL	ASS	U	AGE					
BIONIC	STIR								
FORTH	ET	ME	BE	ING					
OGE	AI	KI	DO						
ALAMO	DE	RED	N	UB					
LED	SASSY	FARE							
STUPA	FAILED								
INTHEN	CK	OFTIME							
ROSEATE	ERRATIC								
ESP	LSD	ADO	YAK						

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

1

day on Venus is longer than 1 year on Venus.

24

hours was how long a ban on using the word "mate" within the Australian parliament building lasted in 2005 before being reversed.

1,250

to 1 is the probability that a plane you're traveling in will get hit by lightning.

3,000

calories and more than 150 grammes of fat are consumed by the average American during a Thanksgiving meal.

1

trillion

dollars is how much Norway has as a pension fund for its 5.2 million citizens. Roughly \$192,000 for each person.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Rawai Bay. Photo by John Williams

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

This week in history

Nov 29, 1972

Atari releases 'Pong', the first commercially successful video game.

Nov 30, 1982

Michael Jackson's sixth solo studio album, 'Thriller', is released worldwide. It will become the best-selling record album in history.

Dec 1, 1960

Paul McCartney and Pete Best are arrested (and later deported) from Hamburg,

Germany, after accusations of attempted arson.

Dec 2, 1930

First Great Depression: US President Herbert Hoover proposes a \$150 million (equivalent to US\$2.835 billion today) public works program to help generate jobs and stimulate the economy.

Dec 3, 1976

Bob Marley is shot in an assassination attempt in



Photo: Eddie Mallin

Kingston, Jamaica. He takes to the stage just two days later for the 'Smile Jamaica' free concert.

Dec 4, 1872

The American ship 'Mary Celeste' is found by the Canadian brig 'Dei Gratia'. The ship, with no crew on board, had been abandoned for nine days but was only slightly damaged.

Dec 5, 1952

Great Smog: A cold fog descends upon London, combining with air pollution and killing at least 12,000 people in the weeks and months that follow. Source: Wikipedia

Trades & Services

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 The map of PHUKET English 中文 Русский

LIVE 89.5 

Contact: gm@classactmedia.co.th

FRI29NOV



Long-Term Resident Visa Workshop

We are pleased to invite you to our upcoming LTR Visa Workshop in Phuket on November 29, 2024. This event, hosted by FRANK Legal & Tax, will provide key insights into Thailand's Long-Term Residence (LTR) Visa process. Our experts will cover essential details on LTR visa requirements, benefits, and practical application tips. Whether you're considering a long-term stay in Thailand or simply want to understand the opportunities available, this workshop offers valuable information in an engaging setting. Speaker: Mr. Fabian Doppler – Managing Partner at FRANK Legal and Tax. Held at SAii Laguna Phuket from 15:00 - 16:00. Register - info@franklegaltax.com



Friday Mussels Night

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

SUN1DEC



Sunday Roast

12PM – 9PM: All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet Beef, Pork & Capon chicken – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horse radish, Mint Sauce. We have a kid's playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

MON2DEC



Monday BBQ Night

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

WED4DEC



Wednesday BBQ Night

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Grow Boating Evening - December 2024

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar from 5pm. We are delighted to announce that our drinks sponsor for the evening will be Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co., Ltd. an independent marketing consultancy based in Bangkok, Thailand specializing in commercial sponsorship. For more details see paulpoole.co.th There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar for all attendees. Find us on facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket/

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SAT7DEC



Charity Rugby Bash

Join us for an exciting afternoon of rugby as the Phuket Vagabonds Rugby Club hosts a (anything but) friendly match between teammates on Saturday, at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG)! Kick-off is at 4:30 pm with social drinks going further into Sunday. All funds raised from the raffle will go toward supporting a child we sponsor through the Asia Center Foundation (ACF) asiacycenterfoundation.org a charity in Phuket dedicated to helping disadvantaged kids, as well as christmas gifts for the kids in the Phuket Vagabonds Academy and ACF Rugby Programme. Bring friends, family, and fans along to enjoy the game, support a meaningful cause, and kick off the holiday season with us! Rugby@phuketvagabonds.com

TUE10DEC



Rotary Club of Patong Christmas Party

The Rotary Club of Patong Beach invites everyone to join them for an evening of food, drinks and festive music at Eden Valley Christmas Village. Starting at 6:15pm and includes a sumptuous buffet, free flow soft drinks and various selected beverages. Adults - THB 3000, children 6-12 - THB 800. Book your tickets via email: membership@rotarypatong.org

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AUSTCHAM JOINT CHAMBERS PHUKET SUNDOWNERS

A wonderful night of making new connections and catching up with familiar faces in the Australian-Thai business community in Phuket held at Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town on Friday, November 22. Over 60 members and guests enjoyed the yummy spread of treats from the Courtyard by Marriott team as well as the Aussie pies and minced pies from event sponsor Lady Pie. Prior to the Sundowners an informative members briefing on 'Crafting Tomorrow's Hospitality' was presented by Sumi Soorian, Director of Mitha Co Ltd, as Moderator; with Jayne MacDougall, Executive Director of the Phuket Hotels Association; Dary Milani, Pro Vice-Chancellor / Executive Director (Recruitment and International Operations) at La Trobe University; and Stephen Healy, Founder and Managing Director from Nurture Higher Education and Global Academy at Siam University.



Jeeno Wins LPGA Tour Championship

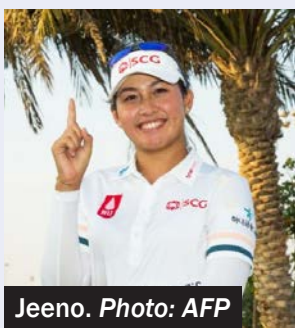
GOLF

JEENO THITIKUL SANK a six-foot birdie putt on the final hole to win the US\$4 million (B138mn) top prize at the LPGA's season-ending Tour Championship last Sunday (Nov 24).

An eagle-birdie finish for the second day in a row by the 21-year-old Thai star completed a seven-under par 65 final round to leave her on 22-under 266 after 72 holes at Tiburon Golf Club in Naples, Florida.

"I don't know what happened to me on 17 and 18," Jeeno said. "I really needed a birdie on 17 to give me a good chance but having an eagle, it was more than I can ask for. All the hard work that I've done has just paid off."

Three birdies and a 10-foot eagle putt on 17 over the last six holes gave Jeeno a one-stroke victory over American Angel Yin with New



Jeeno. Photo: AFP

Zealand's Lydia Ko a distant third on 271 after a closing 63.

Jeeno took home the largest top prize in women's golf history by withstanding pressure for Yin down the back nine.

Together with a season-long \$1mn bonus for her play on single specific holes throughout the season, Jeeno took home \$5mn from last weekend's tournament.

"It's just another opportunity that's going through my life one time in my career," Jeeno said. "It's not a life or death. I just told myself if I win it's going to be really good but if not it's one tournament I give it 100%." AFP

Magic Max wins fourth title

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato
michael@boxofneutrals.com

Max Verstappen won his fourth Formula 1 world championship after finishing fifth behind a dominant Mercedes one-two led by George Russell at the Las Vegas Grand Prix last Saturday (Nov 23).

Verstappen needed only to prevent rival Lando Norris from outscoring him by more than two points to get the job done, with fifth place enough ahead of the ailing Briton in sixth to claim the title with two rounds remaining.

The Dutchman's triumph places him equal fourth on the list of F1 world championship with fellow four-time title holders Alain Prost and Sebastian Vettel.

He is the fifth driver in grand prix history to win four titles consecutively, following Michael Schumacher, Lewis Hamilton and Juan Manuel Fangio and Sebastian Vettel.

"Something that when you grow up racing and you see all these stats of some legendary drivers and you're like, 'That's very impressive and I hope one day that I can even just be on the podium, win a race, maybe win a championship'," Verstappen said.

"It's already hard enough to win one; of course then you also need a bit of luck to be in the right team situation to maybe win more. Luckily we did



Verstappen celebrates his fourth title after the Las Vegas grand prix. Photo: AFP

that. This year we hit the ground running well, but then we had a lot of tough races," he added.

"Something I'm very proud of is that in those tough races where we were definitely not the fastest car we kept it together as a team."

But Verstappen's championship success was only a small story in a bigger race that saw Mercedes score a surprising one-two result against the run of play.

Mercedes has struggled for consistency this season, but its troubled car was immediately at home in the cold and low-grip conditions of the Las Vegas Strip Circuit, topping every session from first practice to the grand prix.

Russell executed flawlessly off the line, while teammate Hamilton, who had started 10th after botching both his

pole attempts at the end of qualifying, made quick work through the frontrunning pack, before choosing to make a second pit stop on lap 17, forcing the entire field to convert to a two-stop race.

Ferrari responded on the subsequent laps, but both Charles LeClerc and Carlos Sainz rejoined the race in the Mercedes car's wake.

Sainz battled past Verstappen late in the race to take the final podium place, though the Spaniard lamented that his Ferrari had been slower than expected at a circuit the team had hoped would move it closer to the top of the constructors title table.

Leclerc finished fourth ahead of Verstappen, Norris and Oscar Piastri, with Nico Hülkenberg, Yuki Tsunoda and Sergio Pérez rounding out the remaining top 10 places.

Thousands join Phuket anti-violence walk-run

PHUKET

THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE gathered at Saphan Hin Public Park early last Sunday morning (Nov 24) for a walk-run campaign aimed at raising awareness and ending violence against children, women and family members.

The event was organised by the Phuket Juvenile and Family Court to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and Children, observed annually on Nov 25.

The campaign brought together agencies and organisations across Phuket to strengthen efforts in preventing and addressing domestic violence. It also served as a platform for sharing knowledge, public outreach and building a collaborative approach to protecting vulnerable groups from abuse.



Photo: PR Phuket

Worawut Thawatsin, President of the Court of Appeal Region 8, presided over the event's opening and flagged off the runners. Joining him were Sittirak Duangrithong, Chief Judge of the Phuket Juvenile and Family Court; along with Phuket Vice Governor Adul Chuthong, judges, associate judges, mediators and officers from various government agencies.

The campaign highlights the significance of Nov 25 as a global day of action. The United Nations designated the date to honour the memory of

three Dominican sisters – political activists murdered on Nov 25, 1961 – and to campaign for an end to violence against women worldwide.

The 'white ribbon' symbol, worn internationally, was prominently featured throughout the event as a call to action against domestic violence.

The event was praised as a resounding success, fostering unity and commitment toward a safer and more equitable society.

The Phuket News

ANZA Champs on top at the ACG

CRICKET

PHUKET'S CRICKET season kicked off in earnest last weekend (Nov 22-23) as touring regulars ANZA Champs from Singapore faced-off against local side Patong Penguins in a two-match series played at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) in Thalang.

It would be the Patong Penguins to draw first blood in Friday's (Nov 22) encounter, claiming a nervy 4 wicket victory in a low-scoring thriller before ANZA would emulate the home side's success the following day to level the series and leave Phuket with both bragging rights and the coveted silver trophy.

After winning the toss in Friday's 25 over clash, stand-in skipper Curt Livermore looked to capitalise on favourable bowling conditions and was quickly rewarded as pacemen Sajal Gaur and Jagsir Brar ripped through the top-order to leave the away side reeling at 35/3 after 7 overs.

Kane Stavens (26) and Aakash 'A-Dog' Dogra (29) then combined for a crucial



Photo: Supplied

31-run stand before a disciplined bowling and fielding performance by the Penguins in the final 5 overs saw just 26 more runs added to the total as the ANZA innings closed on 123/8.

Requiring just 124 runs to win, the home side quickly found themselves wobbling at 9/2 inside the first 3 overs before the trademark Penguin middle-order collapse saw them reduced to 60/6 with just 10 overs remaining.

Michael Flowers (23*) and Brar (30*) then began a rebuilding job before Leer-dam (10*) showed immense class under pressure to guide his side to a narrow 4 wicket victory with just 2 balls to spare.

The following day's extended 30-over contest saw another batting collapse as the hosts were reduced to 24/4 after a disastrous power-play.

However, newcomer

Adrian Lai (75*) stepped up and looked to be batting on a different surface to his team-mates as he began peppering the boundary with regularity. Joined by fellow debutant Ajay Sampige (6), the two managed to rally and mustered up a much-needed 33 run-stand for the final Penguin wicket to boost the score to a much healthier looking 139 all-out.

In reply, openers Reddi Kotha (17) and Graeme Gardiner (40) helped the visitors race to 44 without loss after 8 overs before Simon Wetherell and Livermore removed them in the 9th and 12th overs respectively.

A 25-run partnership between Taariq Janodien (18*) and Bhatnagar (15) steadied the ship for the visitors before Stavens (23*) guided his side to a well-deserved 4 wicket victory with 3 overs to spare, ensuring Phuket's firm grip on the trophy was no more.

This weekend (Nov 30-Dec 1) sees the British High Commission from Singapore return for the third straight year to take on the Penguins in a two-match series at the ACG.

Curt Livermore

Rout leaves City in blue mood

Djokovic hires retired rival Murray as coach

FOOTBALL

AFP

It was more a case of blue mood than blue moon as Manchester City collapsed to their fifth straight defeat last Saturday (Nov 23), hammered 4-0 by Tottenham in another huge blow to their Premier League title hopes.

The rout at the Etihad ends City's 52-game unbeaten home run and leaves manager Pep Guardiola scrambling for answers just two days after he signed a contract extension with the club he has guided to four consecutive league titles.

James Maddison scored twice in the opening 20 minutes, with further goals coming from Pedro Porro and Brennan Johnson.

"In eight years we have never lived this kind of situation," said Guardiola.

"Now we have to live it and break it winning the next games, especially the next one. We have to move forward."

The four-time defending Premier League champions travel to Liverpool on Sunday (Dec 1), where defeat would leave their title hopes in tatters.

Liverpool moved eight points clear at the top of the league after a Mohamed Salah double, including a late winner from the penalty spot, secured a 3-2 win at Southampton on Sunday. The Egyptian star has now scored 12 goals in all competitions



Tottenham's players celebrate Pedro Porro's goal in the 4-0 hammering of Manchester City last Saturday (Nov 23). Photo: AFP

this season and six in his last five league appearances.

Arsenal cruised to a 3-0 win against Nottingham Forest to pull level on 22 points with third-placed Chelsea, who remain ahead of Mikel Arteta's Gunners on goals scored after a 2-1 win against Leicester, with Nicolas Jackson and Enzo Fernandez both on target. The Foxes sacked manager Steve Cooper following the defeat, despite him only being in charge for 12 games.

Aston Villa are now winless in six games in all competition and had to twice come from behind to salvage a 2-2 draw at home to Crystal Palace, while Brighton's incredible start under 31-year-old boss Fabian Hurzeler continued with a 2-1 win at Bournemouth as they climbed to fifth.

Wolves are out of the bottom three

thanks to a stunning 4-1 win at Fulham, with Matheus Cunha scoring twice, as West Ham secured a morale-boosting 2-0 win at Newcastle but Everton failed to take advantage of an early red card for Brentford's Christian Norgaard in a 0-0 draw at Goodison Park.

Meanwhile, Ruben Amorim was given a stark illustration of the size of his task at Manchester United after his uninspiring team were held 1-1 by struggling Ipswich in his first match in charge on Sunday.

Amorim is United's sixth permanent appointment since Alex Ferguson retired in 2013 after leading to the team to a 20th English title.

At 39, the Portuguese is the youngest United boss since Wilf McGuinness followed Matt Busby in 1969.

TENNIS

NOVAK DJOKOVIC HAS confirmed that his retired long-time rival Andy Murray is joining the 24-time Grand Slam-winning player's coaching team, starting at the Australian Open in January next year.

"I'm thrilled to have one of my biggest rivals on the same side of the net with me, this time as my coach. I look forward to starting the season with Andy and having him by my side in Melbourne, where we've shared many exceptional moments throughout our careers," Djokovic said last Saturday (Nov 23).

Murray, a three-time Grand Slam champion who retired from competitive tennis at the Paris Olympics in August, said: "I am very excited about this and look forward to being on the same side of the net for a change."

"I'm also grateful for the opportunity to help him achieve his goals for the upcoming year."

The 37-year-old Serb has won the Australian



Djokovic and Murray in 2016. Photo: AFP

Open a record 10 times, defeating Murray in four Melbourne finals.

Djokovic failed to win a Grand Slam in 2024 and has slipped to seventh in the world, although he did land the Olympic singles title in Paris, a victory he described as his "greatest achievement."

He is level with Margaret Court for the most major singles titles by any player and would dearly love to overtake the Australian in Melbourne.

Djokovic and Murray faced each other 36 times in their careers with the Serb winning 25 times.

Nineteen of those clashes came in finals, including seven at majors.

AFP

Lobsters grab late win in seven goal thriller

FOOTBALL

CERTAIN GAMES ETCH THEMSELVES into your memory, transcending the mundane and becoming timeless reminders of the beautiful chaos that football can offer.

I was fortunate enough to witness such a match with my six-year-old daughter in the 2022/23 season when Phuket Andaman FC (PAFC), 3-0 down at half-time to Young Singh Hatyai United, staged a stirring comeback to snatch a 4-3 victory in extra time.

I spent a considerable amount of time afterwards explaining to my daughter that not all games were this exhilarating, and perhaps our footballing experiences could only decline from that moment onwards - games like that just don't happen again.

Last Sunday's (Nov 24) game against Suratthani City, however, proved to be another one of those exceptional moments.

No one in the PAFC camp harboured any real expectations going into this fixture, with the hosts unbeaten in eight games, boasting a solid defence and playing on a pitch that resembled a marsh - conditions that wouldn't suit PAFC's typically fluid passing game.

To compound matters, Mark, the defensive lynchpin and frequent goal threat, was absent. Most of the players and the coach himself seemed pessimistic, a pre-game draw feeling like a satisfactory



outcome. What unfolded, however, was one of the most entertaining games of football I have witnessed since... well, since that game in 2022/23.

The home side took the lead in the 19th minute, before Bebe levelled 8 minutes later. Further, spectacular goals from Prem and Bank seemed to have put PAFC in complete control of the game.

However, the hosts scored on 72 minutes, before equalising with just 5 minutes to go. It must be said that goalkeeper Bee could be considered culpable for all three goals conceded.

However, in the 96th minute, Bank emerged as the hero after a cross from the right was deflected into his path and he expertly headed home the winner to seal a dramatic win.

The result left PAFC sitting in 10th place in the 12-team league as the campaign takes a mid-season break. Their next match is against PT Satun FC at home on Jan 18, 2025. Simon Causton

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