

'PROBLEM FOREIGNERS' TO BE TARGETTED IN CRACKDOWN > PAGE 3

EVERYWHERE



A Disease Control Division officer conducts COVID site cleansing at a 7-Eleven in Chalong. Photo: PR Phuket

OFFICIALS SILENT ON LOCKDOWN TALK AS COVID CASES SPREAD TO ALL CORNERS OF PHUKET

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket officials this week had yet to make any public recognition of the possibility of lockdowns on the island as the number of confirmed COVID-19 infections continued to rise in every area throughout the province.

The PPHO on Monday night (Apr 26) reported that Phuket recorded 13 new cases of infection, bringing to 348 the total number of people in Phuket

officially recognised as infected with COVID-19 since Apr 3.

Of the 348 people infected, 255 were still under medical care, while 92 people had been discharged from medical care, the PPHO noted.

The PPHO on Tuesday also released an updated report of the number of COVID patients receiving treatment at each hospital.

The report, dated as accurate as of 6pm Monday night (Apr 26), noted that 82 people were receiving medical care at 'Field Hospital 1' at the Prince

of Songkla University (PSU) Phuket campus in Kathu.

A further 41 people were receiving treatment at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, along with 27 at Patong Hospital and 12 at Thalang Hospital.

Of the privately operated hospitals on the island, 54 people are currently receiving COVID treatment at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, along with ZERO at Dibuk Hospital and 28 at Bangkok Hospital Siriroj. All three hospitals are operated by Bangkok

Dusit Medical Services (BDMS) Company Limited.

Nine people with COVID are receiving treatment at Mission Hospital Phuket and two are receiving treatment at Phuket Provincial Hospital in Rassada.

The report also noted that 92 people had been discharged from COVID medical care, with one person referred to another facility, which had previously been reported as transferred to Bangkok.

Of note, the PPHO has yet to...

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NEWS PAGE 5

Rapid tests in full swing as COVID measure



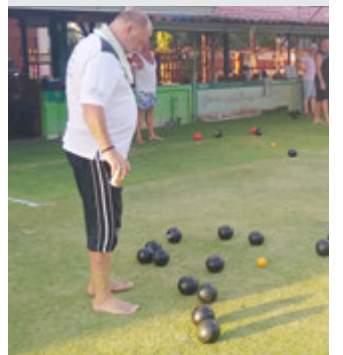
LIFE PAGE 8

Keep it simple: 15 reasons to not eat seafood



SPORT PAGE 16

Aussies bowl over Swedes in local tourney



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News



July 1 push
still on the
cards > p6

Infections gain speed across island

Continued from page 1

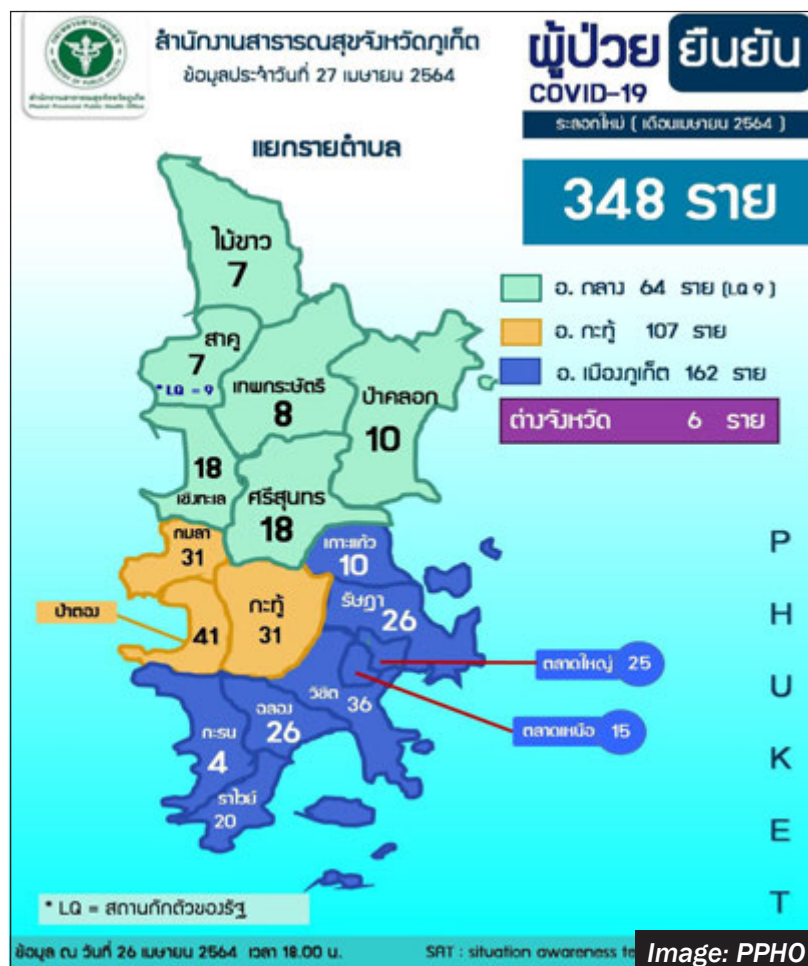
...report the seriousness of infection of any person in Phuket confirmed as infected with COVID-19 during the current outbreak.

The PPHO on Monday also released an updated map showing the locations of COVID infections on the island. The map, showing 314 cases of infection and marked as accurate as of 6pm Saturday night (Apr 24), reported the locations of infections as follows: Patong 37 infections; Kathu 30; Kamala 28; Cherno Talay 17; Thepkasattri 7; Srisoonthorn 14; Pa Khlok 10; Koh Kaew 9; Rassada 20; Talad Yai Phuket Town 23; Talad Neua Phuket Town 13; Wichit 34; Chalong 24; Rawai 19; Karon 4; Mai Khao 6; and Sakhu 7.

The PPHO and health officers at local municipalities have launched efforts to dampen the spread of COVID-19 in their areas, with Disease Control Division officers last Sunday conducting COVID site cleansing at restaurants and other venues on Soi Ta-ia in Chalong where a 20-year-old Icelandic man was known to frequent. The site cleansing also included the 7-Eleven branch at Soi Palai, and the Phuket Gallery Restaurant.

Phuket Governor Narong Wong on Apr 20 issued an order mandating a raft of prevention measures to counter the spread of infections, though days later had to issue another order to introduce mandatory rapid testing of all arrivals from “red zone” provinces who could not prove they were fully vaccinated or present a COVID-free Certificate issued within the previous 72 hours of arriving (see page 5).

The initial order came into effect on Apr 21, but was marked to



remain in effect only until today (Apr 30), on the presumption that the measures can be continued with a quickly issued ‘follow-up order’ to continue the measures.

Under the order all pubs, bars and other “entertainment” venues that were previously ordered to close from Apr 9-18 were ordered to remain closed.

All in-person classes at any educational institutions, including language schools, are prohibited.

It is forbidden to organise activities involving groups of more than 50 people unless authorised by the competent official, or is an activity performed by a competent official, or

is an activity in an area designated as a quarantine facility. Any such activities that are authorised must followed COVID protection measures

Massage parlours and traditional massage businesses, massages at spa businesses, massage businesses for health, massage businesses for beauty, including Thai massage establishments, foot massages and other similar businesses were suspended. Traditional treatments at medical facilities were permitted.

Walking Street markets are prohibited. It is forbidden to join social activities, drink alcohol or alcoholic beverages in public areas such as parks, playgrounds, canal

roads, roads around reservoirs, among other places.

All restaurants and other food businesses are prohibited from having customers on premises after 9pm, though the business may continue to sell food and beverages to be consumed elsewhere until 11pm.

All types of restaurants and food centres are prohibited from selling alcohol and the consumption of liquor or alcoholic beverages is prohibited on the premises.

Department stores, shopping centers, community malls or other similar establishments must close at 9pm. They must not hold any promotional activities and must limit the number of visitors during open hours. All game machines and amusement centres at the site are not allowed to operate.

Cinemas, theaters, water parks, swimming pools – both government and private – that are open to the public, including swimming pools for competitive athletes, are not allowed to open.

Convenience stores, supermarkets, night markets must close at 11pm, and may reopen at 4am.

Stadiums or places for outdoor exercise must close at 9pm. Indoor fitness courts such as gyms, fitness centres and badminton courts, are prohibited from opening.

The order also mandates that all ports of entry to the province – by land, sea and air – are monitored and arrivals are screened for entry to the province, “especially the travel of persons from the situation designated as the highest control area”.

“People should refrain from organising social events in the form of parties, banquets or festivities during this time unless it is a traditional ceremony such as a

funeral, ordination or wedding. If the activity cannot be postponed, then it is to be held in accordance with all COVID protection measures,” the order notes.

All people were asked to work at home where possible, and for on-site work arrangements to be organised to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

All persons leaving home, work or other location to enter a public area must wear a face mask at all times unless eating, drinking or exercising.

Any person deemed to be at risk of infection may be ordered into quarantine immediately by a health official, and are to remain in quarantine until a medical officer has deemed the person safe to be released.

The raft of prevention measures are not considered by officials, local or national, as any form of “lock-down”, just “COVID protection measures”.

Meanwhile, a medical officer with the respiratory disease department at Vachira Phuket Hospital has confirmed that people who are covered by the Social Security Fund are covered for COVID treatment.

Any persons presenting themselves to be tested for COVID because the government has asked them to do so will be tested for free, the officer said.

Any persons covered by the fund who present themselves voluntarily for a test will also receive a COVID test for free, he added.

However, any person who presents themselves for a COVID test without any government office or officer asking them to do so, and who test negative for the virus, will have to pay, the officer said.

New COVID-clear requirements for overnight stays in Phang Nga

PEOPLE FROM PHUKET travelling to Phang Nga and staying overnight must now prove they are fully vaccinated or have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of arriving – or else face 14 days “Home Quarantine” in Phang Nga.

The requirement follows Phang Nga Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada issuing a revised order on Apr 22.

The order was marked in effect as of Apr 22.

Under the new order, Phang Nga is now using the same documentary requirements as Phuket to

determine whether or not people from the 18 red zone provinces for COVID infections will be allowed to enter the province – but only if they are staying overnight.

People who enter Phang Nga on day trips and who are not staying overnight are not required to present any evidence that they are not infected with COVID-19 and will not be required to observe any quarantine.

They may enter the province freely, but must follow the disease control measures, including wearing a face mask, washing their hands as often as possible, keeping social



Phang Nga Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada issued a revised order on Apr 22. Photo: PR Phang Nga

distance, avoid touching or going to places where crowds gather, and they must install

MorChana app and scan their entry to any public venue through the ThaiChana app.

For those staying overnight in Phang Nga, arrivals from red zone provinces must now prove that they are fully vaccinated or have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours of arriving.

If arrivals cannot prove either of the two requirements, they will be required to observe “Home Quarantine”, as the order calls it, for 14 days or for the duration of their stay in Phang Nga.

People who have been released from a quarantine facility within three days of arriving are exempt from the quarantine measure, the order noted.

As of Apr 22, according to the Phang Nga Provincial Public Health Office, Phang Nga had accumulated 29 officially recognised infections of COVID-19 during the current outbreak. Among them is an 8-year-old boy.

Of the 29 cases, 14 were asymptomatic, 12 patients suffered only mild symptoms of infection, and three had developed pneumonia, said the official report.

So far 6,060 people have received their first injection of the Sinovac vaccine. None have received their second. *The Phuket News*

Officials to target problem foreigners in crackdown

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong has levelled a very clear warning for all people to wear face masks at all times while in public on the island, or else face a fine, and consular officials will be sought to discuss “problem foreigners” failing to comply with COVID-protection measures.

Speaking after the urgent meeting of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee at Phuket Provincial Hall last Saturday (Apr 24), Vice Governor Pichet said, “The Phuket Provincial Office will ask for cooperation with people [for them] to wear masks.

“The Phuket Provincial Office issued Phuket Provincial Order No. 62/2021 in January. People must wear masks every time when leaving their accommodation.

“Violations [of the order] may be an offense under Section 51 [of the Communicable Diseases Act], which incurs a fine not exceeding B20,000,” he said.

“And may be punished under Section 18 [of the Act], and [violators] shall be liable to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years or a fine not exceeding B40,000, or both.

“In addition, in [Phuket Provincial] Order 2077/2021, people are required



Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong at the meeting last Saturday (Apr 24). Photo: PR Phuket

to comply with the DMHTT measures, where M is to wear a mask,” Vice Governor Pichet noted.

“Therefore, cooperation between Thais and foreigners is requested to wear a mask because wearing a mask will reduce the transmission of infection from person to person to a great extent.

“If everyone participates, wearing a mask will help prevent the spread of COVID 19, thus we are asking for special cooperation,” Vice Governor Pichet said.

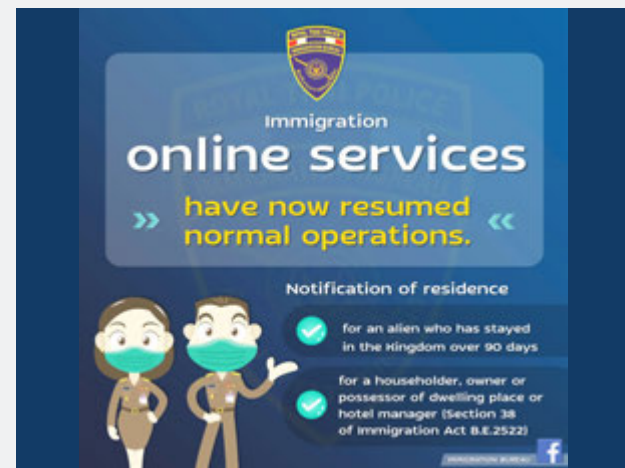
PROBLEM FOREIGNERS
Vice Governor Pichet also noted the

problem of foreigners living in Phuket failing to comply with Phuket regulations and orders.

“In this regard, the Phuket Government has set out two guidelines,” he said.

“Measure 1: Phuket provincial officials will attend a meeting with all consuls in Phuket to clarify and understand the regulations of Phuket Province to let the consuls publicise and clarify to foreigners to know [the laws] and follow them,” Vice Governor Pichet said.

“The second approach is to strictly enforce the law against the perpetrators,” he added.



The online immigration web portal is online, again. Image: Immigration Bureau

Immigration portal hoped to end crowds

THE ONLINE SYSTEM for foreigners to submit their 90-day reports and for landlords to report the presence of foreign tenants is up and running again after being out of action for several months.

Immigration Bureau deputy commander Pol Maj Gen Achayon Kraithong said online reporting is an essential channel to help reduce overcrowding at immigration offices during the COVID-19 pandemic, reported state news agency NNT.

He said those who have to meet the legal requirement for reporting their

whereabouts every 90 days now have an option besides showing up in person at provincial immigration offices or sending a form via postal mail. The online system can also reduce travel time and expenses.

The Immigration Act also requires landlords to report the presence of any foreign tenants to authorities using the TM30 form within 24 hours of their arrival. They can visit the website or download the “Section 38” app for Android or iOS devices.

National News
Bureau of Thailand

Phuket people leaving the province and returning now face rapid test requirement

PHUKET PEOPLE WHO leave the province and return now face having to undergo a rapid antigen test to return home if they are unable to prove they are fully vaccinated or present a COVID-free certificate issued within 72 hours of arriving.

The news was announced by Phuket Vice Governor Pichet Panapong last Saturday (Apr 24), with the official order posted online just after midnight last Saturday night, at 12:15am.

The official order, signed by Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw, was marked to remain in effect until at least Apr 30.

The order also added three more provinces – Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Surat Thani and Narathiwat – to the list of “17 red zones” previously announced.

Under the order issued by Governor that came into effect Wednesday last week (Apr 21), all people arriving from red zone provinces must have completed two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine recognised by the Thai FDA or the traveller must have been tested for COVID-19 by RT-PCR within 72 hours before departure and be able to prove this with a medical certificate.

If the traveller is unable to



A man is tested at the Phuket Check Point. Image: PR Phuket

provide either document, they “must be tested for COVID-19 by Antigen Rapid Test”, the newly issued order repeated.

“The Ministry of Public Health is responsible for the cost, except foreigners must be responsible for their own expenses,” the order also repeated.

The full list of ‘red zone’ provinces under the order issued last night is as follows: Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chonburi, Samut Prakan, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Samut Sakhon, Pathum Thani, Nakhon Pathom, Nakhon Ratchasima, Nonthaburi, Songkhla,

Tak, Udon Thani, Suphan Buri, Sa Kaeo, Khon Kaen, Nakhon Sri Thammarat, Narathiwat, Surat Thani, and people who leave Phuket and return.

Of note, Phuket was named as one the original 18 ‘red zone’ provinces for COVID-19 infections in the “re-categorising” of all provinces in the country by the Center for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) on Apr 16.

However, before last Saturday, Phuket officials did not consider Phuket as a province to be included on the rapid test requirement list.

Vice Governor Pichet explained

that the meeting of the Phuket Communicable Disease Committee held last Saturday was an “urgent meeting”.

“It appears that now provinces in the South, which can easily be travelled to from Phuket by car, are experiencing an increase in the number of infections of COVID-19, especially in three provinces, namely Narathiwat, Surat Thani and Nakhon Sri Thammarat,” he said.

“Meanwhile, Songkhla and Prachuap Khiri Khan were already among the 17 ‘red’ maximum control provinces for Phuket,” he added, using the national government’s label for red zones.

“There are some citizens who may leave Phuket to these ‘maximum control’ risk areas and come back by car, which is difficult to determine whether they are from a vulnerable area.

“Therefore, the Phuket Government aims to solve the problem by focusing on the national ID card. If a person is found with an identity card from Narathiwat, Surat Thani, Nakhon Sri Thammarat or Phuket, they must go through the Antigen Rapid Test process [sic] at the Tha Chatchai Checkpoint,” Vice Governor Pichet explained.

“For operations at Phuket Airport, all travelers entering Phuket

province [via the airport] are already checked,” he said.

LATEST CASES

Two expats from Phuket tested positive for COVID-19 at the checkpoint leading onto the island while trying to return home from travelling off-island. One of them was an Italian man who returned from a trip to Krabi, the other was a Belgian man who had returned from Bangkok after visiting the Belgian embassy to renew his passport.

The Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) on Tuesday (Apr 27) marked in its ongoing release of timelines of the movements of a person now confirmed as infected with COVID-19 that the 36-year-old Italian man tested positive at the Tha Chatchai checkpoint after returning from a motorbike trip in Krabi and Phang Nga on Apr 22.

A second test confirmed he was COVID-positive on Apr 23, and he was taken to receive treatment at Thalang Hospital.

The 32-year-old Belgian man tested positive at the checkpoint after he returned from a round-trip to Bangkok by bus to renew his passport at the Belgian embassy.

He was taken to receive treatment at Patong Hospital.

The Phuket News

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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FRI APR 30

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Low: +25°

Wind 4 m/s

SAT MAY 1

High: +32°
Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

SUN MAY 2

High: +33°
Low: +27°

Wind 7 m/s

MON MAY 3

High: +33°
Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

TUE MAY 4

High: +33°
Low: +26°

Wind 7 m/s

WED MAY 5

High: +33°
Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

THU MAY 6

High: +33°
Low: +26°

Wind 4 m/s

Pharmacist angered by saliva antics

Eakkapop Thongtub
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A pharmacist in Phuket Town has gone public with her complaint against Phuket officials, including police, for the lack of action taken over a man who has been harassing her customers for money, and who has since intentionally wiped saliva on the door to her shop.

Amporn Boonyaudomsart, owner of Ying Pharmacy on Srisuthat Rd in Phuket Town, posted on her Facebook page last Saturday (Apr 24) that she had filed a complaint about the man's behaviour with the Phuket City Police on Apr 13.

The man, who is missing more than half of his left arm, had continued to annoy herself and her customers by asking for money, Ms Amporn said.

He has also annoyed customers at the 7-Eleven store nearby by asking them for money too, she added.

"I and my staff felt insecure, so we contacted Phuket City Police and other officials,



The man was recorded licking his finger and intentionally wiping it on the shop door frame. Image: Supplied

such as the Phuket Center for the Protection of the Homeless under the Department of Social Development and Welfare," she said.

"Officers accepted the complaint and told us that they will take action on this, but no officer has contacted me back," she added.

"I filed a complaint with Investigator Capt Khuefa Pongsapan of Phuket City Police on Apr 13, but she told me that they can take the man

in custody but need to release him in a few days. A relative of the man needs to take him to receive mental treatment by themselves," Ms Amporn explained.

"I was told that the man's name is 'Bank'. He is about 20 years old and has a disabled left arm. He is living with his grandmother in a house in Saphan Ruam community in Phuket Town," Ms Amporn said.

"Before this, I had given

him some money, but not often. However, after I did not give him [any money], he started standing in front of my shop and staring into the shop. He sometimes even asked my customers for money, making customers feel annoyed and afraid," she said.

"I want officers to take action on this man and take him to get the right treatment somewhere," Ms Amporn said.

"I am concerned about the safety of my relatives, staff

and customers when he asks them for money. I have my grandmother staying above the shop and always take her home in the evening, which is when the man normally comes," she added.

"I'm afraid that he will attack my grandmother one day," she said.

"He also smeared his saliva by his hand on my door frame once," Ms Amporn noted.

From CCTV footage taken in front of the shop, the man can be seen licking his finger and intentionally wiping it on the door frame where people are likely to come into contact with it, while checking to see if anyone was looking, just before 9pm on Apr 22.

Phuket City Police Chief Col Theerawat Liamsuwan told *The Phuket News* that he had not received any complaint describing the man's behaviour, and that police had not taken any such man into custody.

At the time of going to press, Capt Khuefa of the Phuket City Police had been unavailable for comment.

Man found hanged in Baan Manik

POLICE ARE HOPING TO IDENTIFY the body of a man found hanged near the site of an old tin mine in Baan Manik, Srisoonthorn, last Sunday (Apr 25).

Lt Col Kraisorn Boonprasop of the Thalung Police was called to the scene by local villages in the area, Moo 7, Srisoonthorn, at about 6:40am.

Officers arrived along with Kusolharm Foundation rescue workers, a medical team from Vachira Phuket Hospital and forensic police to find the man hanged by a nylon cord tied to a branch several metres above the ground.

The man, of Asian features, was about 30-35 years old and about 160cm tall.

He had a large tattoo of a koi fish on his back, near the right shoulder.

Officers found no wounds or bruises on the body indicating that the man had been in any altercation.

The man was dressed in a long-sleeved white shirt with black stripes, military camouflage pants, and a black belt, but no shoes.

In the right pocket of his trousers was an envelope containing two small bags of crystal methamphetamine (*ya ice*).

They did not find any form of identification.

Police believe he died at least six hours before his body was found.

Supanee Kongkaew, 65, explained to police that she was foraging for mushrooms under trees when she found the body at 5am.



Rescue workers recover the man's body from the woods in Baan Manik last Sunday (Apr 25). Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

She noticed the shape of something unfamiliar in the darkness and walked closer to see what it was, to discover the man hanged from the tree.

Shocked, she rushed to inform her neighbours and the village headman.

Still visibly upset by the discovery, Ms Supanee said that "this type of thing doesn't happen in this area".

The village headman said investigators at the scene were not sure whether the man was a foreigner or Thai.

The man is believed to have been living nearby as no motorcycles were left parked near in the area and the man was not wearing shoes, leading officers to believe he had walked to the scene, he said.

Also, the man would have had to have known the area, in order to avoid construction workers living nearby.

Eakkapop Thongtub



Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

Young dolphin found dead at Tri Trang

MARINE LIFE EXPERTS are investigating what caused the death of a young striped dolphin found with heavy wounds to its body, which was lying on rocks at Tri Trang Beach, south of Patong, on Apr 22.

Officers from the Patong Police were called to the scene at about 1:10pm.

Unfamiliar with investigating dead dolphins, the police officers contacted Kusoldharm rescue workers to take the dolphin to the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) based on Cape Panwa in Wichit.

Marine biologists there noted that the dolphin was not full grown. It measured

1.3 metres long and weighed 30 kilogrammes.

The dolphin had many wounds along the right side of its body, to the right of its mouth, under its right eye, on its fins and there were scratches all along its body and underneath its tail.

The officers did note that the wounds may have been caused by the dolphin being stranded on the rocks.

The dolphin was estimated to have died at least 24 hours before its body was found.

Officers at the PMBC will conduct an autopsy on the young dolphin's body in the hope of learning more about what caused its death.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Rapid test on arrivals begins

Foreigners must pay B500 per test, Thais tested free

The Phuket News
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Thousands of people arriving at Phuket International Airport from elsewhere in the country on Apr 22 were subjected to the first day of mandatory rapid tests for COVID-19 as a requisite for entering the province.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciw on Apr 21 inspected the operations to ensure they went smoothly, though long queues of people were found waiting to undergo the procedure.

Governor Narong during his live video press conference on Apr 22 said that it was expected that very few people would be able to avoid having to take the rapid test, even though the first two flights that day carried less than 150 passengers in total.

"The first two flights, we have 79 and 52 passengers, respectively," Governor Narong said.

"Today is our first day. Most passengers do not have the documents to prove they are COVID-free and need to be tested. They have to fill information into a form, which is to prove to the National Health Security Office [NHSO] that they had the test, so it is quite crowded in the areas we arranged," he said.

"Among the passengers, only one person, a medical staffer, could prove they were fully vaccinated, and three people could prove they had tested negative for the virus within 72 hours before coming," he added.

Under the revised COVID-protection order issued by Governor



People queue at the airport as the first day of enforcing rapid tests on arrivals from red zone provinces came into effect on Apr 22. Photo: AoT Phuket

Narong on Apr 20, all arrivals from the other 17 'red zone' provinces (Phuket is one of the 18 red zone provinces in the country) who are unable to prove that they are fully vaccinated or unable to prove they have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours before arriving must be cleared by an 'Antigen Rapid Test' before being allowed onto the island.

The rapid test requirement also came into effect at the Phuket Check Point at Tha Chatchai, the one way by road onto the island, on Apr 22, with Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO, or OrBorJor) President Rewat Areerob overseeing operations there.

Governor Narong apologised in advance for the inconvenience of enforcing the rapid test.

"I have to apologise for this inconvenience, but we have to do this to protect our local people and the passengers themselves from infection," he said.

"We choose to test arrivals instead of quarantine because I think it is a better way to move forward our economy and tourism. The measure will support our plan to reopen to foreign tourists," he added.

Phuket International Airport General Manager Thanee Chuangchoo noted, "We have six teams of medical staff from hospitals in Phuket to conduct the rapid tests for arrivals.

"Our medical staff are now working perfectly. I think staff at other airports should take Phuket International Airport as a role model," he said.

FOREIGNERS MUST PAY

Thais facing mandatory rapid tests on arriving in Phuket from any of the 17 'red zone' provinces will be tested for free, while foreigners will have to pay for the compulsory test.

The test will cost B500 each time, confirmed an official notice posted by Phuket provincial authorities on Apr 21.

Phuket Vice Governor Vikrom Jakthee explained that initially the test was to cost B300 per person.

"At first, for the rapid testing, we released an order that people taking the rapid test have to pay B300, but our PPHO Chief, Vachira Phuket Hospital Director and PPAO President spoke with the Secretary-General of National Health Security Office (NHSO), who has approved to provide free

test for Thais people," V/Gov Vikrom said.

However, no explanation was given as to why, when Thais were also to pay for the test the cost was B300, but when it was confirmed that only foreigners were to be required to pay, the "cost" of the test rose by more than 60%, to B500.

"Right now, Phuket has only flights from the airports located in red zone provinces, so all arrivals at the airport must face a rapid test upon arrival," V/Gov Vikrom said.

As for arrivals from the 17 red zone provinces arriving in Phuket by land, V/Gov Vikrom said. "Arrivals from only the 17 zone provinces must do a rapid test at the Phuket Check Point [at Tha Chatchai], except if they have been fully vaccinated with two jabs or swab tested within 72 hours."

During the briefing, Vachira Phuket Hospital Director Dr Chalermpong Sakontapol assured that the rapid test to be used was highly accurate.

"The rapid test is a standard test with high accuracy. The test has about 90% accuracy for finding the virus. It produces only 10% false negatives, which are people who are actually positive but the test shows negative. The 10% is a very low number. The test has been used in some provinces," he said.

"Medical staff have to obtain a nasal swab sample. The testing alone will take about 15 minutes, but it may take up to 30 minutes for the whole process," Dr Chalermpong added.

"The NHSO has spent about B40 million to support the rapid testing in Phuket," he noted.

Rapid tests identify COVID carriers

THE RAPID ANTIGEN tests now being conducted on people arriving in Phuket from red-zone provinces elsewhere in the country have already identified four people as COVID positive on the first day of the tests being in effect.

Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong confirmed the news in a daily briefing video posted online Thursday night last week (Apr 22).

As of Thursday last week, all people arriving in Phuket from the 17 other red zone provinces (Phuket itself has been designated a red-zone province) must undergo a rapid antigen test if they are unable to prove that they are fully vaccinated and unable to prove they have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours before arriving, V/Gov Piyapong explained again for Thai-language viewers.

If people coming to Phuket cannot prove that they are fully



New arrivals at Phuket airport on Apr 22. Photo: AoT Phuket

vaccinated or prove they have tested negative for COVID-19 within 72 hours before arriving, they will be required to be tested, he repeated.

At Phuket airport last Thursday, the first day that tests were required, 1,051 people arrived to enter the province, V/Gov Piyapong said.

Of those, 958 were tested, resulting in two people being identified as COVID positive.

At the Phuket Check Point, at Tha Chatchai, that same day a total of 9,338 people arrived across the only bridge onto Phuket, Vice Governor Piyapong continued.

Of those, 1,290 arrivals underwent the rapid test, which requires a nasal swab,

"That saw another two people testing positive for COVID-19," he said.

Although the first day saw long queues at the airport as people waited to be tested, Vice Governor Piyapong last night said that the testing process itself takes "only about 15-20 minutes".

The process had little effect on delaying arrivals at the airport, he added.

"At Tha Chatchai, it is the same," he said.

All arrivals must follow the COVID-prevention measures, Vice Governor added.

"You must wear a mask 100%, everywhere you go, and wash your hands often. This is the new normal, wherever you go, shops, restaurants, etc. Everything, everyone must follow the 'New Normal'," he said. *The Phuket News*

Second field hospital set up

DUE TO THE RISING number of infections each day, Phuket health officials have set up a second field hospital, this one at the Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU) campus north of Phuket Town.

Dr Chalermpong Sakontapol, Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital, inspected the second field hospital at PRU on Apr 21, where 70 beds made of cardboard had been set up in the university's main auditorium building.

"From this outbreak, the number of new infected cases in Phuket is increasing every day, and we now have more than 200 cases receiving treatment in both government and private hospitals, as well as at the field hospital at PSU [Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus



The second field hospital is being set up at the Phuket Rajabhat University (PRU) campus north of Phuket Town. Photo: Eakkapop Thongtub

in Kathu]," Dr Chalermpong said.

"Right now, we have about 80 cases at the field hospital [at PSU], and about 20 new cases every day. If the number of new infected cases keeps increasing like these over the next seven to 10 days, the field hospital [at PSU], which has full capacity for only 150 beds, will be full," he said.

"So we have prepared to set up another field hospital at the [PRU] university meeting hall, which has full capacity for 265 beds.

"We are setting up 70 beds as the first phase in a small meeting hall. If that hall becomes full, we will set up more 195 beds in the main meeting hall," Dr Chalermpong added.

The Phuket News

Reopening plan hopes still alive

Narumon Kasemsuk

Despite daily infections reaching a record high of 2,070 cases in Thailand last week, the country is determined to reopen to international tourists starting with Phuket on July 1.

The Tourism and Sports Ministry last Friday (Apr 23) committed to its plan to welcome vaccinated foreign tourists without quarantine requirements, reported the *Bangkok Post*.

However, that leaves only two months to prepare and it will require a massive effort to ensure the plan can proceed.

Tourism operators are demanding clarification from the government about entry regulations, international flights administration, travel bubble agreements, and COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Previous timelines predicted 70% of the population would need to be inoculated by June, but that projection now seems hopelessly optimistic.

Reflecting that lack of progress, some tourism operators remain uncertain about the benefits of reopening when Thailand has yet to inoculate much of its population.

Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Yuthasak Supasorn said the government is working on creating standard operating procedures



Phiphat Ratchakitprakarn's Tourism and Sports Ministry is committed to the plan for Phuket to reopen to receive international tourists from July 1, despite the pandemic's third wave in Thailand. Photo: NNT

as the country races to nail down rules in order to meet its reopening deadline.

The third wave of the pandemic that began in Thailand in April has damaged the prospects for international arrivals, with the TAT now projecting 3-4 million visitors, down from 6.5mn previously.

"We will submit a complete plan to the Centre for Economic Situation Administration to receive approval by the end of April, then start taking more concrete action. In the third quarter, this 'Phuket Sandbox' scheme should attract at least 120,000 international arrivals, generating B11 billion," said Mr Yuthasak.

Bhumikitti Ruktaengam, presi-

dent of the Phuket Tourist Association, said the commitment from the tourism sector in the province has been unwavering despite the third wave, but it needs more clarification and updates from the government.

"Vaccines are just one of many components to make a reopening successful. We still require endorsement from other related authorities such as the Public Health and Foreign Affairs ministries, particularly about whom Thailand has initiated travel agreements with," he said.

"This is a crucial factor as it's hard to bring in visitors if they are required to enter quarantine upon their return home."

Suksit Suvunditkul, chief execu-

tive of Deevana Hotels and Resorts, said most hotels are closing their properties until the end of this year as there is no sign of new bookings.

At present, 85% of hotels in Phuket remain closed. Of the 2,000 hotels in the province, only 200-300 properties are actively listed on travel websites.

The closure rate remains high because operators are not confident about the ongoing situation. Moreover, a fourth wave may erupt anytime if people don't have immunity against the virus, said Mr Suksit.

"A fruitful outcome is unlikely as there are too many uncertainties and tourism operators do not want to take a risk with an unpredictable situation," he said.

BELATED BUBBLES

Travel exchanges without compulsory quarantine, known as travel bubbles, have started to take shape in a few countries.

One such arrangement is the Australia-New Zealand travel bubble, which launched on April 19 as both countries have kept outbreaks under control. The flag carriers of both nations, Qantas and Air New Zealand, plan to add more cross-border flights in response to high demand, which is considered a positive sign for the recovery of the aviation industry.

Suttipong Kongpool, director-

general of the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand (CAAT), said the third wave has lowered the number of semi-commercial flights to Thailand this month.

However, if Phuket goes ahead with its reopening and has a clear plan to facilitate entry for inoculated tourists without quarantine, it should help revive international traffic again, said Mr Suttipong.

He said CAAT examined time slots at Phuket airport and found there are sufficient spots for more direct flights. To spur flights, the operator of Phuket airport offered a 50% reduction on parking and landing fees.

However, international airlines that want to book slots may have to wait for a clearer set of regulations before planning flights under the sandbox scheme, said Mr Suttipong.

While private airlines have started enrolling in International Air Transport Association's (IATA) travel pass, a digital certificate for inoculated passengers, CAAT will not rush to join that initiative, he said.

"Even if we don't adopt IATA's travel pass, it should not affect Phuket reopening. We can implement an entry process manually with our own system, which will be decided later," said Mr Suttipong.

Bangkok Post

Phuket's mass vaccination efforts can catch Maldives, Seychelles, says Vice Governor

PHUKET CAN CATCH up with world-renowned island tourist destinations the Maldives and the Seychelles and re-open to receiving vaccinated international tourists by July 1, Phuket Vice Governor Piyapong Choowong has assured.

The statement of confidence was delivered during Vice Governor Piyapong's now nightly video posted online updating the people of Phuket with the latest situation regarding COVID-19 on the island.

The Maldives and the Seychelles were both popular island destinations for tourists around the world, "and



More than 10,000 people in Phuket received their second vaccination injection of the Sinovac vaccine last Friday (Apr 23). Photo: PR Phuket

so is Phuket," Vice Governor Piyapong explained last Friday (Apr 23).

Vice Governor Piyapong pointed out that Phuket had already administered first vaccination injections to "about 100,000" people in 10 days,

from Apr 1-10.

"That is about 22.5%," he noted, referring to the required number of vaccinations in Phuket to achieve the targeted 70% to achieve herd immunity.

"The Maldives has vaccinated 49.07%. The Seychelles, 65.6%. And that is as of April 10," he added.

"With the rate of vaccinations being carried and the vaccines doses to come from the national government, we can beat the Maldives, we can beat the Seychelles," V/Gov Piyapong said.

The second vaccination injections for the first 100,000 people who have already re-

ceived their first jab is underway, starting on Apr 22, and is also expected to be completed within 10 days, V/Gov Piyapong continued.

A separate post online last Friday night by the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) reported that in total 10,047 vaccinations were administered on Apr 23, as follows:

- Indoor Sports Stadium in Saphan Hin - 3,643
- Phuket International Airport - 2,067
- Angsana Laguna Phuket resort in Cherng Talay - 1,752
- Phuket Orchid Resort in Karon - 1,079
- Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong - 1,506

Compared with the rest of the country, Phuket is well ahead with its vaccination campaign.

A report posted by the Ministry of Public Health shared last Friday reported that from Feb 28 - Apr 22 a total of 964,825 doses of COVID-19 vaccines had been administered nationwide.

Of those, 834,082 (about 1.19% of the total population) were first injections, and the remaining 130,743 (about 0.187% of the population) were second injections.

"Once we have completed the vaccinations, we can receive tourists by land, by air and by sea," Vice Governor

Piyapong said.

"We can do this, if we all work together. The medical teams are working very hard, like they don't know what tired is, but we need everyone to work together," he added.

V/Gov Piyapong called on people to arrive for their second injection only if they had received an SMS informing them of the assigned second injection time and date.

People will need to present their certificate confirming they have received their first injection and their ID card.

Making the process run smoothly was key to the campaign's success, he added.

The Phuket News

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Thailand bans travel from India after COVID boom

Bangkok Post

The Kingdom will close its border to travellers from India beginning tomorrow (May 1), the Thai embassy in New Delhi announced on Monday (Apr 27).

The travel ban will, however, exclude Thai citizens, the embassy confirmed.

The decision follows the recent skyrocketing of COVID-19 cases in India where an average 300,000 cases of new infection and 3,000 deaths have been recorded each day over the past 10 days.

Thailand's Centre for COVID-19 Situation Administration (CCSA) said in a statement on Monday that the Public Health Ministry and the Foreign Affairs Ministry were dealing with the issue in the wake of the spike in India.

The Thai embassy said it will not issue certificates of entry (COE) to non-Thai nationals until further notice. As part of the Kingdom's COVID-19 measures, travellers from overseas need to acquire a COE to enter Thailand.

From tomorrow onward,



Between April 18 and 25, India reported 2.24 million new coronavirus cases, the highest number recorded by any country in a seven-day period. Photo: AFP

only Thai nationals will be able to enter Thailand from India, the embassy said.

"All COEs that have been issued to non-Thai nationals to enter Thailand from India with arrival dates [after] May 1, 2021, will be cancelled," it said.

The embassy statement reiterated the CCSA's decision last Sunday to temporarily ban the arrival of Indian and other foreign nationals from travelling from India to Thailand.

Three Air India flights from New Delhi will be allowed to land in Thailand next month on May 1, 15 and 22, according to the embassy. These flights

are meant to help repatriate Thai citizens given the travel restriction, it said.

A total of 602 Indian citizens arrived in Thailand from April 1 to 20, according to Thailand's Foreign Ministry and the Immigration Bureau.

Both agencies said strict entry rules were enforced, and no foreign national entered the kingdom on frantic chartered flights to escape the raging COVID-19 transmissions in India.

Recently, local news reports said rich foreign nationals were landing in Thailand on board chartered flights to get away

from the COVID-19 surge in India.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Tanee Sangrat said it was a misunderstanding stemming from a translated portion of a foreign news piece on the matter.

Any information about escape flights was untrue, Mr Tanee said. In fact, the news report stated that a group of foreign nationals based in India had shown an intent to travel to Dubai, he said.

Also, the CCSA reiterated that the ministry and the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand have confirmed that no chartered flights have landed in Thailand for the past two months.

At time of press, India had the second highest total number of COVID-19 infections globally, behind the USA, with 17.7 million confirmed cases of which 14.6 million have recovered. Between April 18 and 25, the country reported 2.24 million new coronavirus cases, the highest number recorded by any country in a seven-day period.

At time of press, it had recorded 198,000 COVID-related deaths.

Probe as woman dies shortly after Sinovac jab

THE MINISTRY OF Public Health has pledged to perform an autopsy on the body of a saleswoman whose concerned relatives claimed died two days after she received the second dose of Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine in Samut Sakhon.

The 23-year-old saleswoman whose name was not disclosed received her second shot of Sinovac's COVID-19 vaccine on April 21 in Samut Sakhon where she worked.

The following day she was very ill with vomiting and a headache. Later that day she was admitted to a hospital in Pathum Thani and was pronounced dead just two days later on April 23.

According to her relatives, they have received no formal explanation for her sudden death.

Chawetsan Namwat, acting director of the Emergency Health Hazard and Disease Control Division of the ministry, said at a press conference that it is too early to say whether the



The woman received the Sinovac vaccine. Photo: AFP

vaccine had been a factor.

"We will perform an autopsy on her body to determine the true cause of her death," Dr Chawetsan said.

He went on to say that the case had also been submitted to the ministry's committee on Adverse Event Following Immunisation to investigate.

"We have yet to find a death we could attribute to the vaccine. There is no need to suspend the roll-out as we strongly believe it can and will help to bring the outbreak under control.

"However, it is our duty to investigate and we will let the public know once the facts become clearer," he said. Bangkok Post



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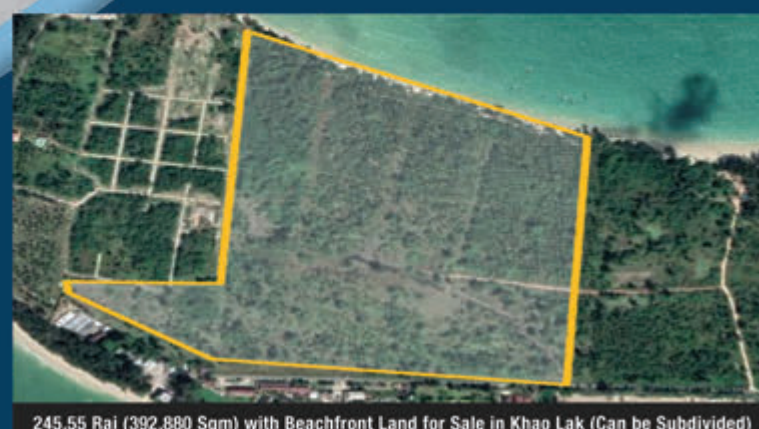
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245.55 Rai (392,880 Sqm) with Beachfront Land for Sale in Khao Lak (Can be Subdivided)



Ali Tabrizi, director of 'Seaspiracy', observing a shark fin. Photo: Lucy Tabrizi

15 reasons to stop eating seafood



SUSTAINABLY YOURS

Palmer Owyong

Following from our look at the Netflix documentary Seaspiracy last week, this week we look at 15 reasons you should quit eating seafood.

1. Slaves caught your fish. Despite efforts to reform the industry since 2014, a 2020 report from UnderCover Asia says that the perpetrators have found ways around the new regulations. The fishermen come from poor countries around Thailand and some are as young as 13 years old. One victim who worked on boats for five years described the conditions as hell. He claimed he worked around the clock and was sometimes only allowed to sleep for 30 minutes a day.

2. Whales are the single best natural solution for fighting climate change. However, 300,000 dolphins, whales and porpoises are killed every year in fishing nets according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), either getting caught as bycatch or in a lost or discarded net. The WWF says that industrial fishing is the biggest threat to cetaceans. Scientists estimate that 50% to 80% of the world's oxygen comes from the phytoplankton in the ocean and that it sequesters 40% of all CO₂. Whale poo acts as a fertiliser for it, making the marine mammal an essential part of the earth's ecosystem. Increasing the whale population by just 1% would be the equivalent of planting 2 billion trees.

3. Industrial fishing is destroying 3.9 billion acres (an area over three times the size of the Amazon) of sea-floor every year by bottom trawling. This is when a boat drags a heavy-weighted net along the ocean floor and kills everything in its path. According to a study published in 2021 bottom trawling releases one gigaton of CO₂ per year, which is higher than all pre-pandemic aviation emissions.

4. Most of the world's large ocean plastic is ghost gear (discarded fishing equipment). One study found that 70% (by weight) of macro plastics (above 20cm) floating on the ocean's surface

was fishing related. This fishing equipment continues to kill fish and other animals for years, even decades after it was discarded. Eliminating fish from your diet is the single biggest thing you can do to reduce ocean plastic pollution.

5. A study published in 2003 estimated that the fishing industry has wiped out 90% of large fish like sharks, marlin, tuna, and swordfish. To allow these species to recover, we need to stop eating fish.

6. Seaspiracy says that 30,000 sharks per hour are killed for their fins or as bycatch. According to a 2012 study published in *Marine Policy*, that number is probably closer to 11,500 per hour or about 100 million every year, although the authors acknowledge that the number could be as high as 273 million. To put this into perspective, sharks kill about 12 humans per year. Sharks are apex predators and play an important role in keeping the ocean ecosystem in balance. Without them, some species might overpopulate leading to dead zones in the ocean.

7. The fishing industry captured, injured or killed 250,000 turtles in the US alone, because of bycatch. The primary killer of turtles is not plastic bags or straws, it is industrial fishing.

8. Fish Farms create an immense amount of pollution and act as incubators for disease and they provide almost half of our seafood. This is true whether the fish came from a farm in Scotland or America. Salmon naturally have a lot of parasites including, sea lice, viruses and bacteria. When you cram them into a pen together, this creates a breeding ground for disease and outbreaks are common. Like livestock, they pump these fish full of antibiotics and other chemicals to stave off disease, which humans end up ingesting.

9. Fish are full of toxins. Many people eat fish because of the perceived health benefits. However, a 2016 report from the Scripps Institute found that fish populations throughout the world's oceans are contaminated with industrial and agricultural pollutants like DDT, mercury, PCBs, flame retardants, and coolants. These toxins have been linked to everything from cancer to lower IQ and can accumulate in the flesh and fat as big fish consume smaller fish. If you want Omega 3s in your diet you are

better off taking algae oil than you are eating fish.

10. Fish and shellfish are full of microplastics. According to an article from the Journal of Aquatic Food Product Technology, they have discovered microplastics in many species of fish and shellfish that are consumed by humans. In her book, Count Down epidemiologist Shanna Swan suggests that hormone-disrupting chemicals found in plastics are contributing to the 50% drop in sperm count from men in western countries over the past 40 years. Sexual development in women is also changing and is leading us towards a world of infertility.

11. Factory fishing fleets are destroying the ability of subsistence fishermen to earn a living. The documentary focuses on European fishing fleets that come down to African waters and overfish them, leaving nothing for the local fishermen, but this happens in Thailand and the rest of the world as well.

12. Overfishing increases the risks of another pandemic. Since the local fishermen in Africa can't compete with the factory fishing ships, they resort to hunting bushmeat like bats, monkeys, rats, snakes and other animals for their protein. This increases the chance of a zoonotic transfer, which could lead to an Ebola breakout or a new viral pandemic like we are experiencing with COVID-19.

13. Mangrove forests are being destroyed for shrimp farms that use slave labour. Many of these are often children who are used to clean, pick and process the product. They pump farmed shrimp full of antibiotics which can lead to resistance. Worldwide, 67% of mangrove forests have been cut down for shrimp production in Thailand that number is over 85%. Mangroves help prevent flooding, sequester CO₂ and are a vital source of biodiversity.

14. Globally \$35 billion goes to fishery subsidies, which directly contribute to overfishing. So your tax dollars are being used to destroy the world's oceans.

15. There are plant-based substitutes for fish and shrimp available that taste almost as good as the real thing and are much healthier to eat. Three that are available at Villa Market are Quorn

vegan fishless sticks, Fry's prawn pieces and fish fillets. You can also order dozens of vegan seafood and other meatless products from JFoodMarket

What You Can Do

Move to a plant-based diet eliminating or reducing most seafood including fish, shrimp, lobster and crab. It is the single biggest thing you can do to fight climate change and reduce plastic pollution.

If you want to eat seafood bivalves like oysters, mussels, clams, and scallops can be grown sustainably and help to clean the water, although they can be high in microplastics so eat them in moderation.

Regenerative Aquaculture

Governments need to end the \$35 billion in subsidies it gives to the fishing industry and redirect it toward feeding people with plant-based foods, which would effectively end world hunger.

In the meantime, we could replace the current destructive practices with marine aquaculture that is regenerative and helps clean and repair the ocean. For example, Phuket could introduce oyster farms like the Billion Oyster Project in New York Harbor. This was introduced in 2014 and has built 13 oyster reefs that create bio-diverse habitats where fish and other marine life thrive. The project has produced 30 million oysters and each one can filter up to 190 litres of water per day. This has led to cleaner waters and the return of large marine life like dolphins and whales, which hadn't been seen in decades.

Phuket could also create seaweed and shellfish farms that produce mussels, clams, and scallops and can clean the ocean by removing CO₂ and other contaminants from the water, provide habitats for marine life and offer fishermen a way to make a living without polluting.

At the end of the film Seaspiracy, famed oceanographer Sylvia Earle poignantly adds, "We must protect that which remains. No one can do everything but everyone can do something, look in the mirror and figure it out."

Palmer Owyong is an environmental activist working with the Kamala Green Club and the Global Sustainability Hub.

Celebrating 160,000 Life Bags and Preparing for the Road Ahead

ADVERTORIAL

By Joanna Matlub

This April, 5 Star Marine passed a milestone – over 14 months' of continuous efforts supporting vulnerable families and communities in need, situated in and around the Phuket and Phang Nga areas. Over 60 weeks of donations has produced an incredible amount of Life Bags; more than 160,000 have been paid for, packed and delivered to date; with each Life Bag containing staple items such as eggs, oil, noodles, sauces and rice, among other essentials.

So, what do these numbers actually mean? Well, each Life Bag can feed a family of 4 for 5 days, which means that over the last 14 months they have already helped over 640,000 people (and counting) get access to basic food supplies.

During the last 14 months, 5 Star Marine and Sutai Muay Thai have, and continue to, put themselves out there in the local communities at least twice per week to make these deliveries. Through this charity initiative, they have made a huge difference to those most in need and been able to target some of the remote, hardest to reach and most at-risk areas and islands utilising the fleet of 5 Star Marine speedboats.

Even the current and previous waves of Covid-19 in Phuket did not dampen these all-important charity drives. After seeing first-hand how much devastation was caused to the local economy (where pre Covid-19 international tourism was so heavily depended on – with more than 90% of the island's GDP reliant on it), the 5 Star Marine team now continues to work even harder to find solutions to en-



5 Star Marine are working around the clock supporting the community, who need it now more than ever.

able them to continue these indispensable efforts.

5 Star Marine have built trusted relationships with a network of local OrBorTors and these connections have enabled them to get insights into the real needs of these communities. So, they are able to identify the highest priority villagers, and where they need to focus efforts several times a week. They also fully understand the necessity for these Life Bags is now, sadly, greater than ever.

Packing had previously been at Sutai Muay Thai on Saturday mornings by teams of volunteers and schools; in a Covid-19 safe and TAT SHA compliant way. However, as numbers of active cases in Phuket have increased recently, the decision was made to keep everyone safer by reducing the number of packers, and revert back to the original core group of 5 Star Marine and Sutai Muay Thai staff. With an ever-increasing need for Life Bags as the months go on, it means that this small-scale team will work around the clock to ensure no one is left out.

They recently managed to finish 1,000 Life Bags in a long 6-hour packing window. To put this into perspective, this amount would normally take up to just 1 hour with the usual numbers of Saturday volunteers. However, the team didn't stop there, after finishing the mammoth packing task, they then went out to immediately get them delivered to identified communities in need.

During the past few months, 5 Star Marine have received increasingly frequent and anguished requests for help. During community visits some villagers have shared their concerns about not working and the desperation this comes with; some simply don't know where to turn, and they are truly struggling.

However, in order to prepare for the road ahead, 5 Star Marine have increased their own funds available for donation; meaning they can reach and help more people and provide better support to those who are in need. They will continue to help the communities during this pandemic, and of course beyond too, and are continuously coming up with safer, more efficient ways to do this. They understand that the use of plastic in these Life Bags is not ideal, and have teamed up with UWC Thailand to come up with solutions and ways to reduce this.

So, please rest assured that throughout this pandemic, 5 Star Marine will continue with the buying, packing and distribution of Life Bags to the communities who rely on this so badly, and often have no other means of getting food.

How can you help and get involved? Please follow @5StarMarinePhuket on Facebook to see all the donation activities they have been busy carrying out. Also, when packing efforts resume (please note these are currently paused for the safety of volunteers and staff), then why not volunteer some of your time to help out – this really will make a difference.

Stay safe and be kind, from the 5 Star Marine team.

WANT TO TALK TO PHUKET?

WINDOW ON PHUKET

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

Where to eat in PHUKET

The Phuket News Your Island – Your Paper

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POP QUIZ

- How old was famous explorer Marco Polo when he set out for Asia?
- Which is the largest salt flat in the world, which also contains half the world's supply of lithium?
- What is Nicolas Cage's real name?
- Which company owns the trademarks and products of board-game makers Parker Brothers and Milton Bradley?
- Which bridge crosses the River Thames between Blackfriars Bridge and Hungerford Bridge?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

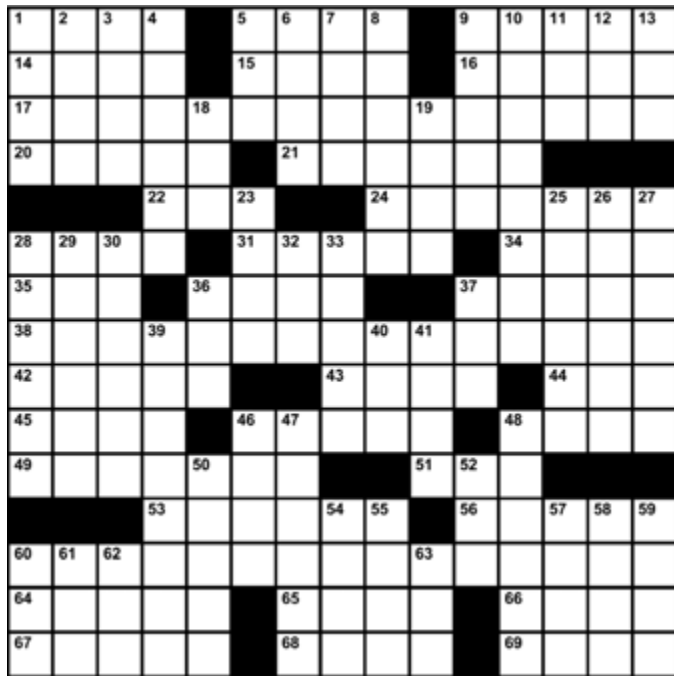
	9		6	7				
6			3		9	8		
5					2			3
		4		1			2	
	3			8		6		
7			8					5
		5	7		4			1
				2	5		7	

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

 - Rage violently
 - Sword handle
 - Counters
 - Infant's desire to be loved (Japanese word)
 - Asian nurse
 - Cricket position
 - Outlaw turns soul singer?
 - Cockeyed
 - Spread a fertilizer
 - Oolong, for one
 - Enlist
 - Maori war dance
 - Spite
 - Exude
 - "Act your ___!"
 - Had on
 - Personae non gratae
 - Director turns businessman?
 - Sentence type
 - Fruitless
 - Trick taker, often
 - Any thing
 - Mozart
 - contemporary
 - Finnish river
 - Cognac cocktail
 - Bit
 - Adorn
- Down

 - Big Indian
 - Home of ISU
 - Cher flick
 - 100 centimos
 - "The ___" (Uris novel)
 - Prayer leader
 - Guru
 - Prefix with magnetic
 - Color of honey
 - Faulks novel
 - ___ Annie
 - Bully
 - Hampton ___
 - "Concentration" pronoun
 - Brickbat
 - Acknowledge
 - Uproars
 - Nahuati speakers
 - Rent payer
- Kentucky forward
 - Rabbit-like rodent
 - Got it
 - Baseball stat
 - On edge
 - South Korean currency
 - Juliet, to Romeo
 - Agoraphobic?
 - Palindromic begetter?
 - Touch
 - Muslim pilgrimage
 - Anatomical ring
 - Text changer
 - Perfume
 - "Aladdin" prince
 - Scolded
 - Pad or cap starter
 - Needle holder
 - Undeveloped idea
 - European language
 - This may be fragile
 - Nova, e.g.
 - Piggy digit?
 - Hosiery defect



Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) 17; 2) Salar de Uyuni in Bolivia; 3) Nicolas Copola (famed director Francis Ford Copola is his uncle); 4) Hasbro; 5) Waterloo

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

5

to seven adults are reported to police as missing in Las Vegas every day.

18

percent of mothers in the UK regret the names they picked for their children, according to a recent UK survey.

600

minutes is the minimum length of time obese people generally sit for each day.

14,000

years ago, cave lions roamed the forests in England and Scotland. Today, Scottish wildcats are the only species of wild felines in the British Isles.

25 billion

US dollars is how much the 'Harry Potter' franchise is estimated to be worth.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW



Karon sunset. Photo: Yasmin Juan

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This week in history

April 30, 1975

Fall of Saigon: Communist forces gain control of Saigon. The Vietnam War formally ends with the unconditional surrender of South Vietnamese president Duong Van Min.

May 1, 1776

Establishment of the Illuminati in Ingolstadt (Upper Bavaria), by Jesuit-taught Adam Weishaupt.

May 2, 2008

Cyclone Nargis makes landfall in Myanmar, killing over 138,000 and leaving millions homeless.

May 3, 1921

The Government of Ireland Act 1920 is passed, dividing Ireland into Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland.

May 4, 1260

Kublai Khan becomes ruler of the Mongol Empire.

May 5, 1980

Operation Nimrod: The British Special Air Service storms the Iranian embassy in London after a six-day siege.



William Colby (centre) with George Bush (left) and US President Ford, 1975.

May 6, 1996

The body of former CIA director William Colby is found washed up on a riverbank in southern Maryland, eight days after he disappeared.

Source: Wikipedia

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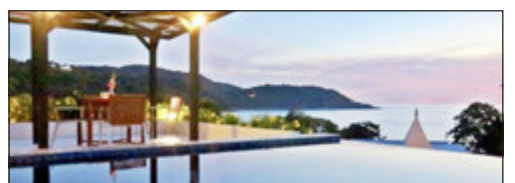
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Red Bull Racing powers up

Team plans to become full-blown engine and car constructor

FORMULA ONE

Michael Lamonato

Four-time champion Red Bull Racing is poised to become a fully fledged engine builder to cement its return to the front in Formula 1.

Red Bull makes cans, not cars – or so the refrain went in Red Bull Racing's difficult early years in Formula 1.

But the plucky Austrian-backed constructor proved wrong its derisory critics in just its sixth season, winning its first driver-constructor championship double in 2010. Combined with German wunderkind Sebastian Vettel, the team proved unbeatable in a four-year spell of domination.

It's easy to forget that in 2013, at the height of those heady days, Vettel was talked about as the logical successor to Michael Schumacher's seven-championship record and Red Bull Racing as the answer to Ferrari's run of 2000s title success.

But there the fledgling dynasty ended, and since 2014 Mercedes has reigned.



Red Bull Racing driver Max Verstappen seen here at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix in Dec 2019. The team is poised to become a fully fledged engine builder to cement its return to the front in Formula 1 and continue its fight with great rival Mercedes. Photo: AFP

Red Bull Racing has hovered between second and fourth in the standings and well beyond title striking distance, at least until this season.

The early momentum behind Mercedes' title run was built on its power unit. The team had devoted significant time and resource to the hybrid engine introduced in 2014 such that no other motor came close to that purring in the back of

the silver cars. And with power guaranteed, the team in turn could focus on beefing up its aerodynamic package to become a comprehensive force.

Red Bull Racing, on the other hand, has felt it has variously had the car to beat Mercedes but never the power unit. Originally powered by Renault in the turbo-hybrid era, the championship-winning partnership dissolved after

five years of French under-performance.

Instead Red Bull Racing entered into an equal-status relationship with Honda in 2019. The Japanese has made great strides since, powering the team to wins every year and arguably coming to terms with Mercedes in the power stakes this season.

But last year Honda announced its planned with-

drawal from the sport at the end of 2021, risking plunging the team back into the twilight zone of having a competitive car without a commensurately powerful motor.

ENGINE MAKER

A short-term fix was developed between Austria and Japan for Red Bull Racing to take over maintenance of the engine programme until the expiry of the current power unit rules at the end of 2024, but with the bridges to Renault burnt and with neither Mercedes nor Ferrari willing to supply its most dangerous rival with power, the team still needed a long-term plan to remain competitive.

And so the can maker turned car maker becomes an engine maker.

Red Bull has long written off engine development as too expensive and too far outside its core competencies to be worthwhile, but clearly tired of having its title-winning team hamstrung by the vagaries of supply, the company announced last week it is biting the bullet to go toe to toe with

Mercedes as a full-blown engine and car constructor.

What's more, it's poached Ben Hodgkinson, head of engineering at Mercedes' engine base, to head up the new powertrain operation.

"When Red Bull announced the creation of Red Bull Powertrains it was also announcing a new phase of the company's ambition in Formula 1 – to bring every aspect of car design in-house and to put our destiny in our own hands," Red Bull Racing principal Christian Horner said.

"Ben's appointment signals our long-term intent, and we will support him and his team with every available resource required in order to succeed."

Ambitious, provocative and ready to back itself against the established players – it's a move that has all the hallmarks of Red Bull's arrival in the sport more than 15 years ago. And with a powertrain division in place, the team will at last be fully equipped and dependant on no-one in its quest to recapture its 2010-14 glory years.

Mercedes be warned.

Fans could return for Monaco GP Japan's slow vaccine rollout raises concern as Games loom

FORMULA ONE

A LIMITED NUMBER OF SPECTATORS could be allowed to attend the Monaco Grand Prix on May 23, Formula One chief executive officer Stefano Domenicali revealed last Sunday (Apr 25).

However, no fans will be allowed at the races in Portugal this weekend and Spain on May 9.

"We are monitoring the situation on a daily basis, which is changing hour by hour," Domenicali told Sky TG24.

"It gives us hope for the future, because if the situation improves there will be a gradual reopening and fans will have the opportunity to participate."

The Italian added: "There is an incredible



The 2019 Monaco GP. Photo: AFP

physical desire for Formula One, not just on television."

During the season-opening Bahrain GP in March, a few spectators who were vaccinated or cured of COVID-19 were able to witness Lewis Hamilton's win.

Monaco recently announced an easing of health restrictions in the Principality but made no decision on the Grand Prix, the fifth round of this season's calendar. AFP

OLYMPICS

THREE MONTHS BEFORE IT hosts the Olympics, Japan has fully vaccinated less than 1% of its population in a cautious, slow-moving programme.

Olympic organisers and local officials stress vaccines are not a prerequisite for the Games. Participants will not have to be inoculated before arrival and there are no plans to prioritise vaccination of Japanese athletes or volunteers.

But the slow rollout in the world's third-largest economy, which experts say is driven by a mixture of caution and entrenched bureaucratic hurdles, is starting to weigh on public opinion.

The government has emphasised caution to build trust in the vaccine, said Takakazu Yamagishi, director of the Center for International Affairs at Nanzan University, who researches health policy.

But, seeing speedy vaccinations elsewhere, "more and more people are realising that the delayed vaccination process has put Japan in a difficult position to hold the Olympics," he said.

A majority of Japanese already oppose holding the Games this summer, and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, who faces a general election this year, has been under pressure for months over his coronavirus response.

Olympic organisers insist the rollout's pace will not impact the Games.

"We'll be able to deliver the Games even without vaccination," Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshio



Olympic organisers insist the rollout's pace will not impact the Games. Photo: AFP

Muto told reporters on Wednesday (Apr 27).

"Of course, if vaccines become available, that would be an upside... But as far as we're concerned, regardless of the vaccine, we will take thorough COVID-19 countermeasures to be able to deliver the Games."

The International Olympic Committee is encouraging athletes to get vaccinated and has secured Chinese doses for teams from countries with limited access. Several countries have already vaccinated their teams or said they plan to.

But Japanese officials say there is no plan to follow suit, and there is no timetable yet for expanding jabs to the general population.

The government has deals with AstraZeneca, Pfizer and Moderna for enough doses to cover all 125 million residents, but it has only approved the Pfizer shot so far.

The country's outbreak has been comparatively small so far, with fewer than 10,000 deaths.

But several regions, including Tokyo, have recently requested new virus states of emergency after a fresh wave of cases that has already overwhelmed some local healthcare systems. AFP

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Man City outclass Spurs to win fourth consecutive League Cup

FOOTBALL

AFP

Manchester City claimed a fourth consecutive League Cup last Sunday (Apr 25) with a dominant display to beat Tottenham 1-0 in front of 8,000 fans at Wembley.

Aymeric Laporte's header eight minutes from time finally ended Tottenham's resistance as their 13-year wait to win a trophy goes on.

For the first time in 13 months, a football match in England had designated fans from both teams inside the stadium in one of a series of test events at Wembley as coronavirus restrictions are eased.

Defeat by Chelsea in the FA Cup semi-finals the previous weekend means City cannot claim an unprecedented quadruple of trophies this season.

However, they remain on course for a treble with a two-legged Champions League semi-final upcoming against Paris Saint-Germain and just six points required to seal the Premier League title, which



The Manchester City squad celebrate their win against Tottenham at Wembley last Sunday that brought them their fourth consecutive League Cup success. Photo: AFP

they could achieve next week-end.

After a slight dip in form in recent weeks, Pep Guardiola's men played like champions as they pinned Tottenham back from the first whistle and should have won by a far more comfortable scoreline.

Spurs sacked manager Jose Mourinho on April 19 amid a chaotic week as both City and Tottenham also quickly withdrew from plans to join a European Super League.

But City looked in a different league from the off as they peppered Hugo Lloris's

goal without finding the breakthrough.

Raheem Sterling saw a goalbound effort blocked by Toby Alderweireld before Lloris made a stunning save from point-blank range to turn behind Phil Foden's shot.

A Sterling dink over Lloris then spun just wide before Riyad Mahrez twice flashed powerful efforts inches wide.

Spurs somehow held out without conceding until half-time as Lloris was called into action again to deny Joao Cancelo.

Despite Harry Kane's re-

covery from an ankle injury to start, Tottenham had offered nothing as an attacking threat until Giovanni Lo Celso forced Zack Steffen into a fine save a minute into the second half.

However, the majority of the chances continued to come and go at the other end.

Ilkay Gundogan sliced wide at the near post before Lloris was forced into another flying save to deny Mahrez.

When the breakthrough finally arrived, it came from an unlikely source as Laporte rose highest to head home Kevin De Bruyne's free-kick at the back post.

Under interim boss Ryan Mason for just the second time, Spurs' energies were spent after conceding as they failed to muster any response to try and take the game to extra-time.

Sterling and Foden were guilty of being wasteful once more in front of goal in the closing minutes, while Mahrez had a second goal ruled out for offside.

But one goal was enough to secure a seventh major trophy in Guardiola's five seasons in charge in Manchester.

Clubs to boycott social media in racism protest

FOOTBALL

ENGLISH FOOTBALL clubs will stage a three-day social media boycott this weekend as part of a protest against racism.

The blackout, encompassing England's governing Football Association, clubs in the Premier League, English Football League and Women's Super League, will begin at 2pm GMT today (Apr 30) and run until 10:59pm GMT on Monday (May 3).

Referees and managers' organisations will also be involved.

A joint statement from the participating organisations said they would unite for a social media boycott "in response to the ongoing and sustained discriminatory abuse received online by players and many others connected to football".

It added: "This has been scheduled to take place across a full fixture programme in the mens and womens professional game and will see clubs switch off their Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts."

"As a collective, the game recognises the considerable reach and value of social media



Raheem Sterling has been subjected to racist abuse. Photo: AFP

to our sport. The connectivity and access to supporters who are at the heart of football remains vital.

"However, the boycott shows English football coming together to emphasise that social media companies must do more to eradicate online hate, while highlighting the importance of educating people in the ongoing fight against discrimination."

England's Marcus Rashford, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Raheem Sterling are among a long list of players to have been subjected to racist abuse.

Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson recently said he would be prepared to follow Arsenal and France great Thierry Henry in abandoning all online activity as a protest against racist behaviour. AFP

Red-hot Iheanacho sinks Palace

FOOTBALL

LEICESTER STRENGTHENED THEIR grip on third place in the Premier League as Kelechi Iheanacho's superb strike capped a spirited fightback in their 2-1 win against Crystal Palace last Monday (Apr 26).

Brendan Rogers' side trailed to Wilfried Zaha's first half goal at the King Power Stadium but Timothy Castagne equalised soon after the interval with his first goal since September.

Nigeria striker Iheanacho sealed Leicester's second successive victory when he scored with a thunderous finish 10 minutes from full-time.

Leicester are four points clear of fourth placed Chelsea and seven ahead of fifth placed West Ham as they bid to qualify for next season's Champions League.

With five games left, the FA Cup finalists have already matched their total of 62 points from last season.

Going into February, Iheanacho had not scored a single league goal this season, but no-one has netted more than his 10 in the competition since then. The 24-year-old has 12 goals in his last nine games in all competitions.

Elsewhere, Manchester United drew 0-0 with Leeds on Sunday to stay on track for a second-place finish and Chelsea edged out West Ham 1-0 courtesy of a rare Timo Werner goal to stay in fourth.

Jurgen Klopp admitted Liverpool are not playing like a side who "deserve"



Leicesters Kelechi Iheanacho is in a rich vein of form in front of goal. Photo: AFP

Champions League football next season after blowing the chance to move into the top four with a 1-1 draw against Newcastle on Saturday.

Mohamed Salah had opened the scoring after just three minutes, but Liverpool wasted a host of chances to extend their lead and paid in stoppage time when Joe Willock equalised.

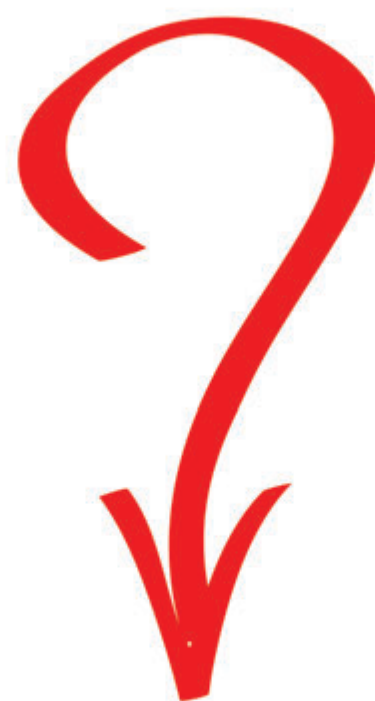
Burnley took a giant step towards survival as they pummelled Wolves 4-0 to lift themselves nine points clear of the Premier League relegation zone.

Chris Wood scored a first-half hat-trick and is now Burnley's outright top scorer in the league. He is also the first player from New Zealand to score a Premier League hat-trick.

The win lifts Sean Dyche's men to 14th in the table, nine points clear of 18th-placed Fulham with just five games remaining, meaning they are almost certain to secure a sixth successive season of top-flight football. AFP



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Sport



Red Bull take things to next level > p14

AUSSIES ROLL TO VICTORY

Trio from Down Under edge out Swedes in new international tournament at Kamala Bowls Club

Team Aussie 1 player Nobby Styles delivers in fine 'style'. Photo: Rob Knight



BOWLS

Robert Knight

A brand-new competition was added to the calendar at Kamala Lawn Bowls Club last Monday (Apr 26) as 18 players competed in the "International".

Teams from Thailand, Canada, England, Sweden,

and two from Australia all played one another, with three players per team. Each match consisted of 8 ends with 2 points for a win and 1 for a draw.

On paper there were no clear favourites but quite a few were vocal in promoting their team and country as probable winners.

The Aussie 2 team of Ray "Rocket" Austin, Greg "Hol-

lywood" Holman and Rob "Iceman" Daminato led the way after the first two rounds, closely followed by the UK team of Dot Barker, Rob Knight and Glenn Collins.

The experienced Aussie 1 team of Dean Lambert, Derek "Rocky" Chalmers and Nobby Styles and team Sweden consisting of Ulf Egerstaad, Pat Ailm and Pierre Hammar were also

showing good form.

However, losses for Aussie 1 and team UK meant it was Aussie 2 and Sweden vying for the title going into the final round.

Sweden beat the Thai team of Nidnoy, Noon and Spensa by a 3-point margin to lead the table meaning the final game between the Aussies would be pivotal.

Aussie 1 bowled ad-

mirably but Greg Holman delivered a "Hollywood" ending by bowling a snorter to ensure Aussie 2 finished the competition with a 100% winning record to deservedly take the title.

Despite this being the first time this particular format had taken place, it was a resounding success and no doubt will become a permanent fixture on the calendar for many years

to come. A special thanks to Ulf Egerstaad for organising the day.

Kamala Lawn Bowls Club is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday and everyone is welcome to join. Private parties are also available on the other days. All equipment is provided and barefoot bowls is the preferred style. For further details please contact the club on 0991307299.

Penguins perish after Fonseka flyer

CRICKET

DUE TO THE LIMITED NUMBER of players currently available, the Thalang Cows and the Patong Penguins decided to launch a three-match series of T20 9s at the ACG last Sunday (Apr 25).

The Cows' openers Jeremy Bootsy and Pir Sami were restricted by the Penguins' bowlers and a slow outfield, before the former was bowled LBW in the 8th over by Michael Flowers with the score on 51.

Former Sri Lanka professional

Ashan Fonseka then joined Pir at the crease to put on a 123-run partnership in just 10 overs before Pir 51 (54) was bowled by James Chattaway who then claimed Cows captain Ninan for a golden duck.

Fonseka went on to dominate strike and continued to blast the ball to all parts of the ground in the final stages of the innings, finishing on 112 (not out) from just 45 balls with four 4s and 12 6s to post a commanding total of 207/3.

With the required rate exceeding 10 per over right from the get-go, the Penguins needed

to take advantage of the 6 over power-play and openers Paddy Ledebouer 34 (19) and Sajal Gaur 27 (25) got off to an excellent start before both being dismissed.

Chataway added 19 runs before he was bowled by Naresh Joshi in the 13th over before Seemant Raju and Shilash Sharma added a 63-run partnership.

Sharma 29 (24) then made the selfless decision to retire to allow Flowers and Seemant to attempt the big shots required for a very unlikely victory with 43 runs required from the final 3 overs.

Raju 33 (16) was run out mean-

ing Flowers and Curt Livermore needed 23 runs from the final over for victory.

They came mighty close, hitting 10 runs from the first 2 balls, before falling short as the Cows won by 6 runs to take a 1-0 series lead.

Fonseka (4 overs 1/30) and Deuskar (4 overs 1/34) were the pick of the Cows' bowlers while Fonseka was the clear Man of the Match ahead of several good performances from Penguin players.

The series will continue this Sunday at 1pm at the ACG.

Michael Flowers



Ashan Fonseka celebrates an unbeaten century which included 12 sixes. Photo: Joe Ninan