

**PATONG FLOODWORKS UNDERWAY > PAGE 2**

# BID BOPPED

An artist's impression of the what the Expo site would have looked like, though the site will still serve as home to the B5.1 billion 'Andaman International Health Center'. Image; BIE

## PHUKET LOSES EXPO BID, BUT B5.1 BILLION 'MEDICAL HUB' TO GO AHEAD

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

The government project to develop Phuket as an 'International Medical Hub' will continue despite Thailand losing its bid for Phuket to host the World Specialised Expo 2027/28, Government Spokesperson Anucha Burapachaisri has confirmed.

The curtain call for Phuket's bid to host the World Specialised Expo 2027/28 came at the final voting held at the 172<sup>nd</sup> general assembly of the event organiser, the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE),

in Paris on June 21.

BIE announced the winner, Belgrade, in Serbia, was to host the expo, under the theme 'Play for Humanity – Sport and Music for All'.

Phuket was up against four cities to host the event: Minnesota, in the United States; Belgrade, in Serbia; Malaga, in Spain; and San Carlos de Bariloche, in Argentina.

Thailand secured just 16 votes in the first round of voting, compared with 54 for Serbia, 42 for Spain, 19 for the United States and eight for Argentina.

The second round of voting saw Thailand secure 15 votes, compared

with 21 for the US, 69 for Serbia and 48 for Spain.

In the final round of voting, between Serbia and Spain, Serbia won by securing 81 votes compared with 70 for Spain.

The theme proposed by Thailand for the expo was "Future of Life: Living in Harmony, Sharing Prosperity", to be held from Mar 21 to June 20, 2028.

### HIGH HOPES

Phuket stood to reap great benefits for the country if it won the bid to host the expo. The government set aside a B4.18 billion budget to host

the event, which was to be organised by Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), the Public Health Ministry, the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and related sectors.

TCEB President Chiruit Isarangkun Na Ayuthaya said the expo was to be a core part of Thailand's plan to promote its health, wellness and medical tourism in Southeast Asia.

Phuket hosting the expo was expected to generate up to B50bn in economic value and attract about 5 million visitors, he added.

Phuket hosting the expo was also forecast to create 113,439 jobs on the island and help promote tourism in...

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## News



**Boutique hotel law finally passed > p6**

# Patong floodworks underway

The Phuket News  
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Patong Police have issued a map providing an alternative route now that a one-kilometre section of Phra Metta Rd, one of the main roads through the tourism town, has been closed for flood-prevention works to be carried out.

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

The road was originally announced to be closed to all traffic until Aug 26. However, according to the notice issued by Patong Police, the alternative routes around the flood-prevention works are to remain in effect until only July 5. No clarification has been provided.

The road was closed to traffic so work can be carried out on installing “sand trap (SP1)” near the wastewater treatment plant, police explained in their initial announcement.

Patong Police in their latest notice explained that southbound traffic approaching the closed section of road are advised to turn left onto Soi Banzan then turn right onto



Photo: Patong Municipality

Nanai Rd and continue their journey southbound.

Traffic entering Patong from the south are advised to either turn left or right at the roundabout at the southern end of the town to avoid the affected area altogether.

Northbound traffic can either turn left along Prachanukroh Rd and continue their journey north along the Thaweewong Rd (the Patong beach road). Alternatively, motorists can turn right and continue north along Nanai Rd, then turn left onto Soi Banzan, then right back onto Phra Metta Rd and continue their journey northbound from there.

The southern section of Phra Metta Rd, before it was given the temporary name Phang Muang Sai Kor Rd (literally “Town Plan Route B”), was known simply as “Soi Tun” (literally “Dead End Street”). The section of road is now again literally a dead end.

## FLOOD PREVENTION

Patong Deputy Mayor Sanakorn Kisin on inspected the road closure on June 21 to discuss the impact on traffic with police. Joining Deputy Mayor Sanakorn were fellow Patong Municipality councillors and officers from the Department of Public Works

and Town & Country Planning.

The construction of the sand trap, called “SP1”, is part of the flood-prevention system, said a report by Patong Municipality. The construction period is 70 days, from June 20 to Aug 26. People were asked to avoid using the said route.

Of note, the affected section of Phra Metta Rd was originally announced to be closed to all traffic until Aug 26. However, according to the notice issued by Patong Police, the alternative routes around the flood-prevention works are to remain in effect until only July 5. No clarification has been provided.

The section of area to undergo the installation of a “sand trap” was identified as the main cause of extensive flooding in the area in November last year.

The incident drew the attention of Pongrat Piromrat, Director-General of the Department of Public Works and Town & Country Planning for the whole country, who travelled from Bangkok to inspect the construction site firsthand.

Mr Pongrat was told that construction of the project to expand the drains had been ongoing since 2016. Under the government contract, the

deadline for completing the project is this month, November 2021, said an official report of the visit.

However, the project, operating under a budget of “about B222 million”, had not yet been completed.

## BUSINESS IMPACT

The works finally continuing will have a dire impact on many businesses along the affected section of road.

However, owners and operators of hotels, guesthouses and other businesses along the west side of Phra Metta Rd near the intersection with Soi Rat U-Thit 200 Pi 2 (which passes the wastewater treatment plant and was once called “Soi Nam Sia – literally “Wastewater Street”), may find the works a blessing.

The west side of the street along that section of Phra Metta Rd has been closed for years due to a road-works project remaining incomplete for reasons that remain unexplained, other than the contractor has yet to complete it.

Operators along that section of road have suffered with no direct street access to the businesses, and without even streetlights installed, Patong Municipality has been blamed for rising crime in the area.

# Expo bid falls short, but ‘International Medical Centre’ to proceed

Continued from page 1

...nearby provinces, he said.

In the run-up to the final presentation and vote, Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew in Paris on June 16 said, “It is an honour to be able to present the potential of Phuket as a viable candidate city to host the Specialised Expo 2028,” adding that Phuket is very much regarded as a world-class tourist destination with over 120 flights arriving on the island from 63 cities each day.

“Phuket has become a second home for many people around the world, such is its allure and popularity,” Governor Narong highlighted.

## THANK YOU

Governor Narong issued a statement directly thanking all those who stood strong in their support in Phuket’s bid to host the World Sepcialised Expo 2027/28.

“Team Thailand extends their heartfelt appreciation to all sectors involved in this extraordinary bidding process.

“Your unwavering support and dedicated efforts have been instrumental in shaping this remarkable journey

,” Governor Narong said in a Facebook post immediately after the results were announced.

“Phuket continues to open its arms and welcome visitors from around the world to experience its captivating beauty, rich cultural diversity, and genuine warm hospitality.”

In a separate announcement later, Governor Narong said, “Team Thailand would like to thank all sectors for their support, pushing Phuket to become the host of the world-class expo Phuket Expo 2028 this time.

“Although what we are trying to push will not be achieved in accordance with the goals we set, we can still use the experience we gained from preparing this time. [It has been a] Good lesson for bidding for the right to organise other events in the future,” he added.

“Over the past four years, we have seen the determination of local people, all departments both public and private... Believe in the future. If we continue to work together with determination [being a] destination for the



Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) stands on stage with ‘Team Thailand’ at the 172nd general assembly of the Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) in Paris on June 21. Photo: BIE

next expo is certainly not out of reach.

“Thank you Team Thailand and all Phuket people who always support us well,” Governor Narong concluded.

## MOVING AHEAD

Despite the setback, Government Spokesperson Anucha expressed gratitude on behalf of caretaker Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha for the efforts made to promote Phuket during the bidding process.

Mr Anucha affirmed that Phuket remains committed to its long-term development plans, focusing on sustain-

ability and the enhancement of infrastructure and economic stability.

Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan outlined the province’s continued dedication to projects associated with the expo, particularly the transformation of the planned venue in Mai Khao, where the expo was to be held, into an international health centre. The initiative aims to cater to the healthcare needs of both Thai residents and foreign visitors, he said.

Meanwhile, Rewat Areerob, President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO) re-

vealed that discussions would be held with 18 local partners to explore projects aimed at stimulating the economy and boosting tourism in the region.

The Cabinet has approved more than B5.1bn to build the ‘Andaman International Health Center’ on the 141-rai site in Mai Khao, at the northern end of Phuket, which was to serve as the focal point of activities for the Phuket Expo.

The Treasury Department officially handed over the 141 rai of land in Mai Khao to the Ministry of Public Health in December last year so that an “International Medical Centre” can be built at the site.

The Cabinet approved the budget, precisely B5,116,262,532 in total, in October last year to build the medical centre. The bulk of the B5.1bn will be spent on building a brand-new international hospital, the Songklanagarind Hospital Phuket, for B4,762,262,532.

A further B212.5 million will be spent on the ‘International Health and Science College’, marked as a “building renovation” project. The final B141.5mn will be spent

creating the ‘International Wellness Center’ and the ‘Digital Dental Center Songklanagarind, also marked as a “building renovation” project.

In announcing the Cabinet approving the budget, Prof Dr Anek Laothamatas, the Minister of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), said, “This will build confidence among people and tourists in coming to travel to the Andaman [region] and to Thailand.

“It will also help generate income from health tourism. It will also offer premium international tourist services and become the first modern dental centre in the South, in addition to taking care of the health of Thai people,” he said.

“The project will be able to generate direct income from medical treatment for foreigners of not less than B1.6bn a year and not less than B300mn a year from dental services,” Dr Anek added.

In total, the project is expected to boost the value of tourism in the Andaman area with an increase of approximately B62bn a year, Dr Anek said.



# Chinese tourists charged for damaging Racha corals

The Phuket News  
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Two Chinese tourists have been charged for handling starfish and climbing over corals during a dive trip to Koh Racha Yai, south of Phuket, the caretaker Minister of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) Varawut Silpa-archa has confirmed.

Three tourists that were among a 30-strong dive tour to Ao La at Koh Racha Yai operated by Jinyang Holiday Group Co Ltd were called to present themselves at Chalong Police Station to face charges, Mr Varawut said in his report.

However, only two tourists – Qin Sanyang and Zhang Wen – presented themselves, he said. The couple arrived at Chalong Police Station last Friday (June 23), he noted.

At time of press no mention had been made of efforts to contact the third, so far unnamed, tourist wanted for the damaging behaviour.

Under Section 29 of the Marine and Coastal Resources Management Promotion Act, the tourists face punishment



Photo: TOP Varawut / Facebook

of up to two years in jail or a fine of up to B200,000, or both, Mr Varawut noted in his report.

Sirikwan Saengravee, manager of Jinyang Holiday Group Co Ltd, and the owner of the company held a press conference last Friday to apologise for the incident.

Ms Sirikwan said that the company had to explain and remind all their dive instructors to not allow their tourists to interfere with corals and other marine wildlife.

“Especially to the Chinese, who have done this type of thing before. Some of them find the animals cute and want to have the pictures taken with

them to show their friends,” Ms Sirikwan said.

“This incident is a great lesson. The company has been open for two months... Yesterday was our first trip,” she said.

“On behalf of the company, we are very sorry that this has happened. Next time, we are ready to improve and pay more attention to our customers.

“As for the incident, we’ve learned our lesson. It results in customers looking at a bad image, for both Chinese and Thai people. However, we would like to thank all of you for your interest here. As we are new, thank you and we apologise for the incident

and accept all comments,” Ms Sirikwan said.

So far officials have made no mention of any legal action to be brought against the tour company.

Apichai Ekvanakun, Deputy Director-General of Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), who is currently serving as the Acting DMCR Director-General, said the problem of people “not following the rules” when it came to protecting marine natural resources was not new..

“Especially when it comes to tourists not following the rules,” Mr Apichai said.

“Strict guidelines have always been put in place. Whether it’s a guide or divers who lead tourists into the area, the important thing is not to destroy, pick at, pick up or break any part of the resources, whether it’s corals or sea creatures or beautiful animals located in coral reefs... In the past, there have been many incidents. The DMCR has urged officials to take decisive action... Many cases have been prosecuted,” he said.

## Airport stages ‘active shooter’ response drill

PHUKET INTERNATIONAL Airport held an emergency security drill last Friday (June 23) simulating the response to ‘active shooter’ in the Domestic Terminal.

The drill, called the ‘Full-scale exercise of Phuket International Airport Emergency Plan (PEMEX 2023)’, was part of security exercises regularly held at the airport under the ‘PEMEX’ banner.

The exercise was held on the second floor of the Domestic Terminal, starting at 11pm, after boarding for the final departing domestic flight had cleared the area.

The exercise simulated the co-ordinated response by security and anti-terrorism personnel to a person shooting people in the domestic terminal area.

Present to oversee the exercise were Phuket Vice Governor Anupap Rodkwan Yodrambam, joined by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Pol Maj Gen Sermphan Sirikong, Phuket International Airport General Manager Monchai Tanode and Thalang District Chief Bancha Thanu-in.

The response plan carried out included responding



Photo: AoT Phuket

to armed attack, sabotage and arson, and the taking of hostages.

The aim of the training exercise was for the various participants and their agencies and organisations to be aware of and practise the correct procedures in full coordination with other relevant agencies in order to respond to such events in a timely manner, reported Airports of Thailand Phuket branch (AoT Phuket).

Among the agencies that took part in the exercise were Provincial Police Region 8, Sakhu Police, Phuket Airline Operations Committee (AOC), Airports of Thailand ground service company (AOTGA) and the private security company provided by Airports of Thailand Co Ltd (AOT AVSEC). Also taking part in the exercise were medical emergency personnel.

The Phuket News

## Airport limo co-op fined B180k for tour shop stops

AN AIRPORT LIMOUSINE CO-OPERATIVE has been fined “about B180,000” for its drivers stopping at tour shops before delivering passengers to their hotels or other destinations, in breach of the terms of its concession to serve tourists at Phuket International Airport, Tourist Police have confirmed.

Action against the taxi co-operative was confirmed during a visit to Phuket by Maj Gen Krit Warit, Commander of Tourist Police Region 3, on June 20.

The offending operator was named as Phuket Airport Limousine and Business Service Co-Operative Ltd (สหกรณ์บริการรถยนต์บริการธุรกิจภูเก็ต จำกัด), which has an office just south of the airport as the base of its operations.

Tourist Police have also asked for the driver’s licences of the van and taxi drivers involved to be suspended, reported the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The fines and call to suspend the driver’s licences followed officers conducting inspections at 19 sites on the island, including van and taxi kiosks, the report noted.

The practice of passenger vans and taxis stopping at roadside tour shops in the hope of selling tours or even have tourists change their place of accommodation has plagued Phuket’s tourism image for decades.

It is common knowledge that the tour shop and the driver both receive commissions on any sales made.




Photo: PR Phuket

While in Phuket, Maj Gen Krit joined meetings with several relevant agencies “to find measures to rebuild confidence in safety for tourists”, PR Phuket reported.


At Phuket airport Maj Gen Krit led a meeting joined by Phuket Tourist Police Chief, the Chief of Immigration at Phuket airport, the Sakhu Police Chief and Monchai Tanode, General Manager of Phuket International Airport (under Airports of Thailand – AoT).

The aim of the meeting was described as “to integrate and find a solution to the problem of tourists being taken advantage of and not providing convenient service when using tour counter services and the use of public transport vehicles at Phuket International Airport”.


Maj Gen Krit later also met with officials from the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), Phuket branch of the Office of Tourism Business and Guide Registration and from the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) to discuss the same problems. *The Phuket News*



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## PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SAT JULY 1



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Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

SUN JULY 2



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 11 m/s

MON JULY 3



High: +31°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

TUE JULY 4



High: +32°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

WED JULY 5



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

THU JULY 6



High: +30°

Low: +27°

Wind 4 m/s

## Phuket City Municipality stirs anti-dengue blitz

PHUKET CITY Municipality has launched an intensive campaign to counter dengue infections in the Phuket Town area. Specifically to be targeted are schools and other educational institutions,

According to the Department of Disease Control, from Jan 1 to June 7 there were 19,503 patients throughout the country who were confirmed to have contracted dengue. Of those, 17 patients died, Phuket City Mayor Saroj Angkanapilas explained in announcing the campaign.

The Department of Disease Control predicts that dengue fever will return with "epidemic" widespread infections again this year, he added.

"During this time of year there is a significant increase in the number of dengue patients because there is rain in many areas, leaving much standing water around. This becomes breeding grounds for mosquitoes," Mayor Saroj explained.

"The Phuket City Municipality Disease Prevention and Control Division is deploying its plan to spray smoke to eliminate mosquitoes both in educational institutions and community sources to prevent the spread of mosquitoes and prevent the spread of dengue fever," he said.

The municipality's public health division noted that many of the infections in its area were found in school-age children, he added.

Phuket City Municipality will also ramp up its dengue education and awareness campaign, Mayor Saroj said.

For information or advice about dengue, people were advised to contact the Phuket City Municipality Disease Prevention and Control Division at 076-216929-30. *The Phuket News*



Photo: Phuket City Municipality

## Navy conducts cruise liner medivac drill off Phuket

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Adm Choengchai Chomchoengphaet, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Navy, was in Phuket last Saturday (June 24) as Navy personnel conducted a medivac exercise with the 'Spectrum of the Seas' cruise liner off Phuket.

The exercise, conducted in deep water just outside Ao Makham, off Phuket's east coast, used a Navy S-76B helicopter to airlift a patient to safety and emergency medical services.

Adm Choengchai explained that the exercise was conducted as part of Thailand's obligations as a party to a convention by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

During an assessment by the IMO on Feb 20-27 this year, it was "found" that Thailand had no specific organisation dedicated to conducting air and sea search and rescue services for foreign passenger ships that enter and leave the country regularly. In Thailand, all air-sea rescue services are performed by the Royal Thai Navy.

"I chose to train with the 'Spectrum of the Seas' because it is the largest foreign cruise ship that regularly enters Thailand," Adm Choengchai said.

"The ship has been regularly arriving in Thailand since Oct 29,



Photo: Royal Thai Navy / THAI MECC 3

2022, and comes every Saturday. It is considered the ship that enters and leaves Thailand most often at this time," he added.

The 'Spectrum of the Seas' is 347 metres long and 49.24m wide, with a displacement of 169,379 tons. The cruise liner can accommodate up to 4,905 passengers (excluding crew), has 2,100 rooms, and has a travel speed of 22 knots.

The ship is the first Quantum Ultra class cruise liner. It sails the Andaman Sea and drops anchor at Patong Bay. The ship will later regularly drop anchor at Makham Bay, said an official report of the exercise.

Adm Choengchai thanked

Royal Caribbean International, which operates 'Spectrum of the Seas', and all else who took part in and made the exercise a success.

Ensuring the security and safety of tourists visiting on foreign ships was an important part of Thailand's economic recovery in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, he said.

"Since October 2022, there have been 83 visits by cruise ships coming into the country, both in the Andaman Sea and the Gulf of Thailand, bringing more than 310,000 tourists, which have generated more than B1.8 billion in income," Adm Choengchai noted.

## Foreigner killed in accident

A FOREIGN MAN DIED in a motorcycle accident in Karon last Saturday (June 24) after the Honda motorbike he was riding collided with a pickup truck at a bend on the coastal road between Karon and Patong.

The fatal accident was reported by Rescue Team Volunteers Phuket just after 2pm. According to the Kusoldharm Foundation rescue unit in Patong, the Honda motorcycle driven by the foreign man, whose name has yet to be reported, collided with an Isuzu pickup truck.

Photos taken at the scene showed the front bumper of the pickup sustained damage in the collision.

The foreign man was reported as dead at the scene. He was shirtless, dressed only



Photos: Kusoldharm Patong, Rescue Team Volunteers Phuket

in shorts, and had fair skin.

"Please always drive carefully for your own safety and the safety of others on the road. Our condolences to the family of the deceased," wrote Kusoldharm Patong staff.

"Helmets save lives, speed kills," added Rescue Team Volunteers Phuket.

*The Phuket News*

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# Trafficking fight targets welfare

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

More than 60 officials from various agencies joined a training seminar on June 22 that placed the focus of the recovery of victims of human trafficking squarely on human security and welfare.

The seminar, held at the Pearl Hotel in Phuket Town, was organised by the Phuket Provincial Office of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS Phuket) to explain the “National Referral Mechanism” (NRM) – a legal mechanism enacted to ensure that all relevant officials are involved in dealing with the problem of human trafficking.

Pariyat Khaepheng, Chief of the MSDHS Phuket office, explained, “Sharing referral information protects persons who are reasonably believed to be victims of human trafficking and victims of forced labour or services, and to help these people access early support services.”

“The NRM works as a referral mechanism at the national level in order to ensure that the process [of responding to the needs of human



Photo: PR Phuket

trafficking victims] complies with international standards,” she added.

“It was approved by the National Anti-Trafficking Commission (NRM) on March 23, 2022, and the National Referral Mechanism (NRM) Sub-Committee approved the NRM mechanism on September 8, 2022, and has established procedures and guidelines to raise the performance standards of officials working in the prevention and suppression of human trafficking to lead to solving the problem of human trafficking or forced labour or services.” Ma Pariyat continued.

The NRM was brought

into effect in Phuket by the Phuket Sub-Committee of the Anti-Human Trafficking Operations Center, through the Phuket branch of the Integrated Center for the Identification of Victims of Trafficking, on March 13 this year.

The NRM is especially important “if there is a case where other laws must be used in consideration of welfare protection to provide homes for children and families in Phuket”, Ms Pariyat said.

“The objective [of the training seminar] is to allow personnel working on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking to receive training on ways to drive the

implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), to promote and develop new knowledge of multidisciplinary teams to be able to work in the same direction in order to help and protect victims of human trafficking in accordance with the process,” she added.

There were two training sessions with 60 people attending each. Participants included police officers, officers from Phuket Immigration, personnel and officers from the Royal Thai Navy and ISOC (Internal Security Operations Command, the political branch of the Thai military, representatives from Srinakharinwirot University,

and officials from the Ministry of Labor and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

Expert speakers delivering the presentations included officials from the Office of the Attorney General, the Technology Crime Investigation Division, the Anti-Human Trafficking Division and the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security.

“Phuket is one of the provinces that have many forms of human trafficking problems,” said Phuket Vice Governor Amnuay Pinsuwan, who officiated the opening of the seminar.

Phuket’s problems with human trafficking and forced labour were two-fold, Vice Governor Amnuay said.

“The perpetrators use air and sea transport as a means of bringing victims of human trafficking into forced labour or services by using Phuket as a transit point,” he said.

“They bring victims from other places to Phuket airport or the ports, or by other natural routes, in order to travel to another country,” V/Gov Amnuay explained.

“Phuket is also a destination [for victims of human

trafficking] because it is a province with economic prosperity, and tourism has a high demand for labour,” he said.

“The perpetrators lead victims to Phuket to seek benefits in various forms, such as seeking benefits from prostitution, forced labour as sea fishermen and to move them on as immigrants to migrate,” he added.

“Phuket Province [provincial government] therefore attaches importance to the development of personnel working in the prevention and suppression of human trafficking,” Vice Governor Amnuay said.

“It is important [for officers] to gain knowledge of the approach to drive the implementation of the National Referral Mechanism (NRM), for each agency to know their roles and responsibilities and operate in the same direction in the hope that the implementation of this project will promote and develop new knowledge of the working team so they are able to work efficiently in carrying out work on prevention, suppression and help protect victims of human trafficking in accordance with the process,” he concluded.

## Marine safety ramped up

MARITIME SAFETY and disaster officials have launched a campaign to ramp up water transport safety in the hope of preventing accidents involving local boats and ferries and to build confidence among tourists in Phuket water transport safety.

The campaign was announced at a meeting held at the Andaman Sea Safety and Traffic Control Center (also called the CSC ANDAMAN – Coastal Surveillance Center), at Phuket Deep Sea Port on June 22.

Leading the meeting was Rear Admiral Nattapong Yanothaikhachit, Deputy Director of Phuket Internal Security Office (ISOC), the political arm of the Thai military.

The meeting followed Phuket Marine Office Chief Nachapong Pranit issuing an order on Wednesday, June 21 for port staff in the Phuket area to ensure safety measures are being observed by boat operators before leaving the pier.

Mr Nachapong tasked Prat Sengnum, Harbour Inspector, to carry out opera-



Marine officials inspect a boat for safety compliance.  
Photo: Phuket Marine Office

tions to ensure compliance with safety measures.

Key issues discussed at the meeting was the establishment of an ‘Andaman Sea Tourist Safety Command Center’ specifically for Phuket and the development of a response plan to help victims at sea.

Joining the meeting was Udomporn Kan, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM Phuket)

Mr Udomporn Kan said that with the increasing number of tourists travelling in Phuket, there was a greater risk of safety incidents on at sea

“Therefore, to ensure

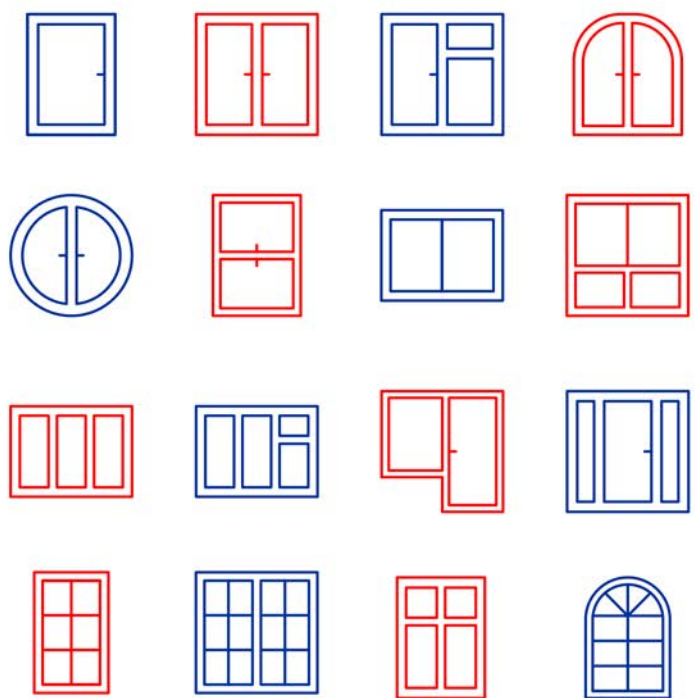
safety and create a good image for a world-class tourist city, we are preparing a safety protection plan. It is important so that each unit can be prepared in their own organisation when an incident occurs. Response management needs to be fast and able to help victims in a timely manner. This will make tourists confident in travelling to Phuket,” he said.

The launch of the campaign comes less than two weeks before the fifth anniversary of the sinking of the Phoenix tour boat on July 5, 2018. The Phoenix capsized and sank in storm conditions southeast of Phuket, killing 47 Chinese tourists.

The Phuket News



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# Boutique hotel law in effect

The Phuket News  
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The long-awaited ministerial regulation to allow boutique and other small accommodation venues to legally operate as hotels has been brought into effect.

The news was confirmed by Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) President Chamnan Srisawat at the Royal Phuket City Hotel in Phuket Town on June 22, the opening day of the two-day 'SME Restart' event.

The Ministerial Regulations Prescribing Other Types of Buildings for Hotel Business Operations (No. 4) 2023' was signed as approved by caretaker Minister of Interior Gen Anupong Phaochinda on June 7. The new ministerial regulation came into effect with its promulgation in the Government Gazette on June 20.

Mr Chamnan touted the new ministerial regulation as "good news for small SMEs, boutique hotel operators across the country".

However, operators must still wait for the Cabinet to define the administrative and procedural requirements in order to properly bring the new regulation into effect, he said.

The administrative requirements must also be approved by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the National Economic and Social Development Council (NESDB), he noted.

Regardless, Mr Chamnan noted



Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) President Chamnan Srisawat delivers the news at the 'SME Restart' event in Phuket Town. Photo: BAC Phuket

that the new regulation "will allow small hotel operators across the country to have a greater chance to meet the criteria for obtaining a hotel licence while still realising the importance of building structures that need to be strong and safe according to the prevailing criteria".

The new regulation repealed previous requirements on shape, size and construction of buildings allowed to be issued a licence to operate as hotels.

However, the regulation was very clear that construction materials, structural integrity and the safety of buildings were critical requirements, as were adequate fire prevention measures, fire alarm systems and the number of fire extinguishers that must be made readily available

throughout the buildings.

In a special remark at the end of the regulation, Gen Anupong noted, "The reason for promulgating this Ministerial Regulation is that it is appropriate to amend the requirements on other types of buildings used in the hotel business for the owner or occupant of the building which provides room service before the date of the Ministerial Regulation 2559 B.E.

"The owner or occupant of the building must comply with the requirements in order to ensure that the building is stable and has a fire safety system in accordance with specified standards."

## GREATER INCLUSION

The Boutique Accommodation

Consortium - Phuket (BAC) reported that the TCT had also confirmed that non-hotel accommodation ministerial regulations of the Department of Provincial Administration will undergo amendments that will expand the current definition from four rooms for no more than 20 people to eight rooms for no more than 30 people.

Ministerial regulations covering other accommodations such as rafts and tents will also undergo revision so operators will also be able to apply for a licence. The move has already been approved by Cabinet and is now under consideration to be promulgated which was expected to be announced "soon", BAC Phuket said in a statement.

"This will result in the government being able to collect more taxes and the business operators themselves, if they qualify for a licence, will be able to apply for funding to expand their business and increase capital investment in the tourism industry of Thailand, and continue to welcome tourists from around the world," BAC Phuket said.

## SME RESTART

Joining the 'SME Restart' event was Wirintra Paphakityotphat, head of the TCT Region 11 branch, which represents Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

Ms Wirintra was instrumental in spearheading the need to broaden

the legal definition of hotels so that smaller venues may serve tourists legally. She led the charge by making a special appeal in person to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha in January.

'SME Restart' was organised by TCT Region 11 and the Office of SMEs Promotion (OSMEP) to explain business options and strategies for SME operators in Phuket's tourism industry, and "strengthening new skills necessary for business operations".

The aim of the event was to help SMEs meet the needs of modern tourists, together "revitalising the tourism sector to generate income for the community and stimulate the country's economy", reported the Phuket branch of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

The event included a special discussion on "Strategies to drive Thai tourism to grow sustainably", a lecture on strategic plans for adaptation of tourism business operators and "Marketing in the 5.0 era".

Specific areas discussed included opportunities and adapting to Medical & Wellness Tourism, including information to elevate "Wellness Hotel / Wellness Tourism".

Discussions and activities were also held related to five selected areas in the tourism industry: water and land transportation services; hotels and accommodations; restaurants; tours and guides; and spa businesses.

## More than 5,000 jobs offered at headliner 'Job Expo 2023'

MORE THAN 5,000 JOBS were on offer at the two-day 'Job Expo Phuket 2023' held at the Central Floresta shopping mall on the bypass road last week.

More than 80 companies took part in the job fair, noted Suthep Chitayawong, Secretary-General at the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, who presided over the job fair's opening ceremony on June 23.

Also present for the grand opening of the job fair were Phuket Vice Governor Danai Sunantarod, Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour Wannarat Srisuksai, Department of Employment Deputy Director-General Santi Nantasuwon and Pailin Jindamaneepon, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Skill Development.

The aim of the job fair was to "create jobs, create careers and enhance the quality of life that is stable, and to support sustainable



Photo: PR Phuket

The event also featured career advice counsellors and a 'world career exhibition' in the tourism and hospitality sector. People can apply to work abroad and receive firsthand advice from people working in specific industries.

"It's a time saver and reduces costs for both parties, and also lets us know the demands of the labour market," Dr Suthep said.

"Job seekers have the opportunity to improve their job application skills and techniques and receive career guidance services. The right career advice can prepare them to develop knowledge and skills for workers so they have higher potential in order to prepare to enter the labour market effectively," he added.

"This will help promote employment, reduce unemployment and reduce the shortage of certain types of labour. It also helps promote independent occupations that are in the interests and needs of the new generation," he said. *The Phuket News*

employment," Dr Suthep said.

"Job Expo 2023 is being held to support government policies, stimulate the domestic economy and to serve the needs of people who want to have a job, and have a career to make money for themselves, after the COVID-19 situation," Dr Suthep said.

The fair aimed to help provide "stable and sustainable improvement of the quality of life for all target groups of people, namely the general public, and including new graduates, people with disabilities and the elderly," he said.

The event included stalls where companies can explain vacancies to job seekers and even interview candidates.

## Inbound tourism enjoys rebound

PHUKET IS WITNESSING A SURGE IN international tourists, with Chinese travelers leading the way, followed by those from Russia and Australia, reports state news agency NNT

Thanawat Oncharoen, Vice President of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), noted that most Chinese tourists are independent travelers, while the number of tour groups from the country remains relatively low, the state news agency reported on June 20.

Despite international arrivals standing at 70% of pre-pandemic levels, representing a significant improvement from last year, NNT noted.

Phuket authorities are actively seeking to welcome tourists from Kazakhstan and Israel this year to diversify their visitor base.

Additionally, the Middle East is expected to contribute to an influx of tourists during Phuket's rainy season.

Officials said figures for Indian and Australian visitors have already returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Meanwhile, Suksit Suvunditkul, President of the Southern chapter of the Thai Hotels Association, disclosed that hotel occupancy in Phuket held steady at a promising 70% between January and May.

The island boasts some 3,000 hotels offering around 200,000 rooms, providing ample accommodation options for travelers, he said.

Lertchai Wangtrakuldee, Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) Phuket office, reported that Phuket has already welcomed over 6 million domestic and international tourists in the first five months of this year, resulting in a B196 billion boost to the local economy.

The TAT now expects to welcome a total



Hong Kong Airways has become the third airline to offer direct flights from Hong Kong. Photo: AOT Phuket

of 12mn tourists to Phuket this year, the NNT report concluded.

## HONG KONG

Hong Kong Airlines' inaugural direct flight from Hong Kong arrived in Phuket on June 21 evening, bringing 147 passengers to the island.

Flight HX741 by Hong Kong Airlines touched down at Phuket International Airport at 9.15pm, reported the Airports of Thailand Phuket branch (AoT Phuket).

The arriving passengers were warmly welcomed and presented with gifts by the airport's official representatives. The plane then flew back to Hong Kong performing return flight HX742.

Hong Kong Airlines now joins Cathay Pacific and Hong Kong Express as the third airline to provide a direct service between Hong Kong and Phuket. The route is serviced by Airbus A320 airliners, and the flight duration is approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes.

In terms of pricing, Hong Kong Airlines offers a middle-ground solution with fares starting from around B5,500. Cathay Pacific's prices begin at B11,000, while Hong Kong Express can be as affordable as B2,000. *The Phuket News*



# Coalition parties plot government backup plan

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The eight prospective coalition parties were set to discuss a contingency plan at a meeting yesterday (June 29) should they be unable to proceed with the formation of a government, according to Pheu Thai secretary-general Prasert Chantararungthong.

Asked if Pheu Thai had a backup plan in case the Move Forward Party (MFP) cannot form the government, Mr Prasert said: "If necessary, the issue may be raised at a meeting between the eight-party coalition on June 29."

"After the selection of the House speaker, the next step is to select a prime minister. We may have to discuss the matter carefully, particularly the number of MPs who support [each candidate]."

Asked about a rumour that a substantial sum of money would be paid to renegade MPs in certain parties in exchange for their support during the vote on the House speaker or the vote for a prime minister, Mr Prasert said: "It will not be easy this time because democracy has progressed considerably."

"In previous elections, renegade MPs could not make it back into parliament," he said, adding that Pheu Thai never grants its MPs a free vote on important issues



Leaders of eight coalition parties, led by MFP's Pita Limjaroenrat (centre), at Pheu Thai Party headquarters on June 7. Photo: Bangkok Post

such as the selection of the House speaker.

The rumour mill went into overdrive recently about a move by rival parties to form a government and usurp the eight-party coalition led by the MFP by paying to lure the support of renegade MPs.

Responding to the rumour that about 60 renegade MPs would be paid B100 million each in exchange for their support, Bhumjaithai Party leader Anutin Charnvirakul said: "People wouldn't pay."

Asked whether Bhumjaithai would join a coalition government led by Pheu Thai if the MFP fails in its bid to form a government, Anutin said that there had been no signs showing the MFP would fail so far, adding that Bhumjaithai had never even thought of joining a minority government.

Meanwhile, the House of Representa-

tives will convene on July 4 to select a speaker and two deputies, according to Senate Speaker Pornpetch Wichitcholchai.

He said His Majesty the King will preside over the state opening of parliament on July 3, and Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and Cabinet ministers, newly elected MPs, senators and foreign diplomats will attend the ceremony.

The following day at 9am, MPs will select a House speaker, who will also serve as president of parliament and two deputies, Mr Pornpetch said.

Each House speaker candidate will be given a chance to share their vision for the development of the Thai parliament before the vote, he said, adding that the session will be held behind closed doors while voting will be carried out via secret ballots.

## B20bn worth of seized narcotics up in smoke

BANGKOK

THE GOVERNMENT destroyed US\$600 million (B21 billion) worth of drugs seized from illegal traffickers on Monday (June 26) that included tonnes of amphetamines, heroin and cocaine, according to the Thai Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

The narcotics incinerated included 27 tonnes of amphetamines, 5 tonnes of cathinone, 275kg of heroin, 43kg of cocaine and 6kg of opium confiscated in 192 different cases, the agency said.

The haul was inspected by officials of various agencies before they were sent for burning, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

Thailand is a major transit hub for drug trafficking along Southeast Asia's vast Mekong river valley. The region's organised crime economy, including the illicit trade in drugs and wildlife, was worth an estimated \$130bn in 2019, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes.

The narcotics haul was burnt in accordance with the guidelines of the US Environ-

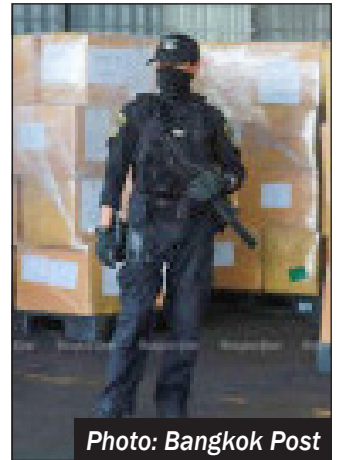


Photo: Bangkok Post

mental Protection Agency to ensure no harmful substances or by-products were released into the environment, the Thai FDA said.

The agency broadcast live the burning of the drugs on its Facebook page to ensure transparency and accountability in the storage and destruction of seized drugs to mark International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

A similar exercise was conducted in Myanmar on Monday where junta authorities said they torched \$446mn worth of illegal drugs, while warning they were failing to stop a surge in production and trafficking of narcotics.

Bangkok Post

## Celebrated 'Wild Boars' cave rescue governor Narongsak passes away

BANGKOK

NARONGSAK OSOT-thanakorn, the former Chiang Rai governor who won worldwide praise for his leadership of the mission to rescue the "Wild Boars" football team from the Tham Luang cave in 2018, has died of cancer at the age of 58.

Narongsak, who served most recently as governor of Pathum Thani, passed away peacefully on June 21 at Siriraj Hospital in Bangkok, where he was being treated.

A career civil servant, Narongsak was known for a scrupulous and no-nonsense approach. In his 15 months as governor of Chiang Rai, he refused to sign off on some controversial projects billed as economic stimulus as he suspected irregularities.

A transfer from Chiang Rai to Phayao – believed by many to be a demotion – was already in the works when fate intervened, in the form of a boys' football team that had become trapped



Narongsak during the Tham Luang cave rescue mission on July 10, 2018. Photo: Bangkok Post

in a flooded cave on June 23, 2018.

As the rescue effort got under way and began to attract experts and press from many countries it became clear that a steady hand would be needed to coordinate all the moving parts. Narongsak rose to the occasion, declaring that any officials who felt daunted by the tough rescue task ahead could go home.

"Anyone who cannot make enough sacrifices can go home and stay with their families," he said. "You can sign out and leave straight away. I will not report any of you. For those who want

to work, you must be ready any second. Just think of them as our own children."

When the Asia Society decided to give its Asia Game Changer Award to "The Rescue Team at the Tham Luang Caves", it invited Narongsak to New York to accept it.

He said he hoped the rescue would lead to more people doing good deeds in the future.

"I wish the entire incident would inspire everyone to start living for others. This small change could be a game changer for the world."

Bangkok Post

BCCT Bumrungrad International Hospital Thailand Privilege Phuket News

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# Farewell the FUZZtonez!



## PHUKET MUSIC SCENE

Andy Tong Dee

I was sad to see an advert for a farewell gig by popular Phuket rock band The FUZZtonez at The Grapevine in Cherng Talay. Sad, as it billed them as “hanging up their guitar straps and putting away their plectrums”. Sad, but not surprised, for Alf Hodges, their legendary frontman and local school teacher, is a good friend of mine, and I knew he had plans to retire some time soon to the far north of Thailand where his wife’s family reside.

Yes, I’ll miss Alf and The FUZZtonez with Anand on lead guitar, Glenn on bass, Paul on drums, and this is despite them being difficult to find performing. You see, they don’t play professionally here on the live music venue circuit. Yes, you’ll see them at the occasional festival, but that’s usually about it, which is why I always make a special effort to go see them.

I am not alone in this, for the gig was organised as a parting tribute by FUZZtonez fans Curious Itch, a band of local teachers who also performed in support. And I arrived to find The Grapevine was packed out with young expat fans who the band were to soon have literally bouncing off the walls!

But what is the secret of such popu-



The FUZZtonez. Photo: Tony Edwards

larity? How were they able to build up such a strong following, despite being so far off the radar here?

The FUZZtonez origins go back to 2006 when some musicians got together who were disillusioned by the state of the music scene here. They wanted something a bit more interesting, to play songs that were not all from the standard Classic Rock setlist. (Classic Rock is from the 1970s and ’80s, but some would include the early ’90s.)

After getting some songs together, the band quickly took off, soon garnering some encouraging local support. The band’s repertoire included songs by well-known artists, but they would often

choose lesser-known ones. They would also try to rework covers in a more exciting style, such as a punk version of Johnny Cash’s *Folsom Prison Blues*, which they were to play as an encore.

Their final gig’s setlist reflects this, the opening song being The Foo Fighters’ 1999 song *Learn to Fly* from after the Classic Rock era. Blink 182’s *Small Things* also from 1999 followed, provoking an enthusiastic sing-along from the audience. Another Foo Fighter song *Times Like These* from 2002 came after. Other popular songs from the later rock era included *Sex on Fire* and *Slow Night*, *So Long* (Kings of Leon 2004 and 2008), *Mr Brightside* (The Killers 2004)

and *Dakota* (The Stereophonics 2005). The FUZZtonez also played their own excellent *Millionaire*, featuring a glorious Link Wray-style riff.

I argued in my last article that live music here is still trapped in that pre-1990s past. Okay, so The FUZZtonez also played Classic Rock songs at the gig such as *Hush* (Deep Purple), *Fire* (Jimi Hendrix), *Ziggy Stardust* (David Bowie) and *Fortunate Son* (CCR), but The FUZZtonez were never remotely stuck in that past.

Also, The FUZZtonez were always a full-on band. There were never to be any quiet, sentimental songs in the middle of the set. Rather like The Ramones who I saw in 1977, they just kept going like a train down a hill. As Alf told me, “We always tried for energy rather than overplayed hits... The idea was to ‘Fuel Your Night’.”

I believe it’s because of such reasons that The FUZZtonez were and will always be loved and sadly missed, particularly by younger expats who want to hear their generation’s most-loved songs performed live.

So farewell Alf, Anand, Glenn and Paul. I’ll miss you too. I can only hope now we’ll get more comebacks out of you than Frank Sinatra ever did!

Andy Tong Dee is a local expat and musician. Find out more about Phuket’s music venues and bands at his website [www.phuketmusicscene.com](http://www.phuketmusicscene.com)

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- ★ บ้านและการตกแต่งภายใน
- ★ ที่เที่ยวและที่พักภูเก็ต
- ★ อาหาร ร้านอาหารและบาร์

- ★ ท่องเที่ยวภูเก็ต
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# EGAT a 'bright spark' for coral recovery

The Phuket News  
editor1@classactmedia.co.th

**T**he Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT) has joined the efforts to help corals off Koh Maithon to recover by providing 240 frames of now-defunct frames of power cable insulators for corals to grown on and for reef fish to use as their new home.

The insulator frames were installed off Koh Maithon, nearly eight kilometres direct southeast off the tip of Cape Panwa, on Friday (June 23) through an operation carried out by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

The DMCR has placed particular focus on helping the cool reefs off Koh Maithon to recover, and led an operation in February to install at the site 39 3D-printed concrete frames made available through a project by the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO). The project was made possible by funding raised by local Rotary clubs and through sponsorship provided by SCG Cement.

"This mission is therefore a very important cooperation of all sectors to participate in the restoration of Phuket's coral reefs, which are marine and coastal resources that are important to the ecosystem and the integrity of the sea and a source of income in terms of tourism and People in Phuket who rely on fishing for an income," said



Photo: PR Phuket

PPAO President Rewat Areerob at that event in February.

"It also promotes the image of sustainable tourism of Phuket," he added.

"In addition to EGAT taking care of the stability of the country's power system, EGAT also realises and attaches importance to taking care of society, communities and the environment, and joins the government in achieving the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," said Kitt Petchsantad, EGAT's Deputy Governor for Transmission Systems, said at the installation event on Friday.

DMCR Deputy Director Apichai Ekwanakul, who is currently serving as the Acting DMCR Director-General, also at the event on Friday explained that a study to develop a model and method for using suitable materials in the work of coral reef restoration was

conducted last year.

"It was found that after placing insulators in the area of Koh Maithon, different types of coral larvae grew to between two to 12 centimetres on average after 12 months. The surface of the insulator material became covered with microalgae and marine animals and many groups of fish started to live in the coral restoration area," Mr Apichai said.

"This shows how to grow and restore natural corals from insulators. There is a good tendency to create a healthy ecosystem for coral reef organisms, resulting in complex living structures that increase the amount of natural resources under the Thai sea," he said.

Assoc Prof Dr Teekamon Pengsakul, Director of the Research Center for Health and Environment at the Prince of Songkla (PSU) Phuket campus, agreed.

"The old ceramic insulators became habitats for marine animals. This is a way to help restore the habitat of marine animals effectively," he said.

"We have conducted tests on using old insulators under simulated marine environments, and we have found that the use of insulators to create habitats for marine animals can be achieved without any leaching of heavy metals that are toxic to living organisms and they do not affect the environment," Dr Teekamon said.

"In addition, we detected no changes in the salinity and the acid-base (pH level) of the surrounding sea water. It remained in the same range as natural sea water," he added.

EGAT Deputy Governor for Transmission Systems Mr Kitt explained that EGAT has joined with a network of partners for its 'Coral Restoration Base Project' that uses old frames of power-cable insulators to help coral reefs to recover.

"The project has been operating since 2011, and targets selected areas to have old insulators that have expired and deteriorated installed... At present, more than 4,000 sets of insulators have been placed in the seas of Thailand at various points throughout the country, including in Phuket, Chonburi, Prachuap Khiri Khan, Phang Nga, Songkhla, Pattani and Narathiwat provinces," Mr Kitt said.

"Let's build a habitat and nursery for marine animals to restore the ecosystem along the coast to be fertile," he concluded.

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## POP QUIZ

1. Due to its many textile factories, what was the nickname for Manchester, England, during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century?
2. On which Hawaiian island is the capital Honolulu?
3. What is the freezing point of water on the Fahrenheit scale?
4. What exactly is Deep Space Nine in the science fiction television series?
5. What is Bart Simpson's full name?

Answers below, centre

## SUDOKU

Hard

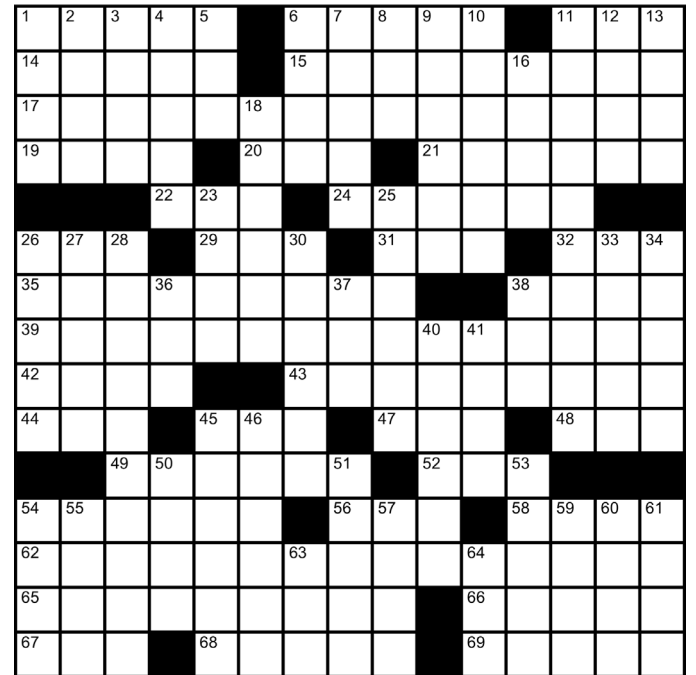
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## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Expert
  6. "Rigoletto" composer
  11. Be laid up
  14. Hawaiian veranda
  15. Innateness
  17. Criminal's pals, to police
  19. Its motto is "Lux et veritas"
  20. Letter from Greece
  21. Back up
  22. The Righteous Brothers, e.g.
  24. Social insects
  26. Strike caller
  29. Genetic info carrier
  31. Downs' opposite
  32. Get off the fence
  35. Claims anew
  38. Have a hankering
  39. Eye \_\_\_ of America
  42. Leaning against
  43. Not moving
  44. Ultimate degree
  45. Basic chess tactic
  47. 252 wine gallons
  48. Gob
  49. Bread maker
  52. Persian, e.g.
  54. Teased
  56. Hotshot
  58. Common contraction
  62. Community college diploma
  65. Quibbled
  66. Christopher of "Superman"
  67. Neon, e.g.
  68. Gawk (at)
  69. Beasts of burden
- Down**
1. Boozer, slangily
  2. "Two Years Before the Mast" writer
  3. Organic compound
  4. Mauled
  5. Material for a whitesmith
  6. MasterCard alternative
  7. Come after
  8. Fraternity letter
  9. Abscond
  10. Spring blossoms
  11. Aloof
  12. Clinches
  13. Just in case
  16. "\_\_\_ of Eden"
  18. Is repentant
  23. \_\_\_ Major
  25. Mideast capital
  26. Concentrated, in a way
  27. Had in mind
  28. Believers in an abstract deity
  30. Poisonous gas
  33. Shot
  34. Basic belief
  36. Go downhill fast?
  37. Boatload
  38. PIN requester
  40. Accustomed
  41. Hokkaido native
  45. Summary
  46. Charge
  50. At the summit of
  51. Critic, at times
  53. Pledges
  54. Report
  55. Largest of seven
  57. Give up
  59. Burns up
  60. Campbell of "Party of Five"
  61. Caddie's bagful
  63. Rap sheet abbr.
  64. Diamond stat

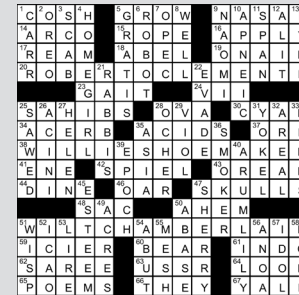
## Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- 1) Cottonopolis; 2) Oahu; 3) 32°F; 4) A space station; 5) Bartholomew Jojo Simpson



Visit: [www.ilovecrosswords.com](http://www.ilovecrosswords.com)

## Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

**0.1**

of a second is how fast a Venus flytrap can close on an insect.

**75**

percent of the world's food today is generated from only 12 plants and five animal species.

**500**

shades of grey can be detected by your retina's light-and-dark detecting rod cells.

**2,653**

firearms were found by TSA airport screeners in 2015 while searching carry-on bags – about 83% of them were loaded.

**3.09 billion**

is the current total estimated number of video gamers in the world.

Source: *Uberfacts*

## ISLAND VIEW



Phuket sunset through flowers at Baan Borrae, Wichit. Photo: Marco Capriz

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

## This week in history

**June 30, 2019**

Donald Trump becomes the first sitting US President to visit the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea).

**July 1, 1997**

China resumes sovereignty over the city-state of Hong Kong, ending 156 years of British colonial rule. The handover ceremony is attended by British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Prince Charles of Wales, Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

**July 2, 1937**

Amelia Earhart and navigator Fred Noonan are last heard from over the Pacific Ocean while attempting to make the first equatorial round-the-world flight.

**July 3, 987 AD**

Hugh Capet is crowned King of France, the first of the Capetian dynasty that would rule France until the French Revolution in 1792.

**July 4, 1892**

Western Samoa changes the



Micheline Bernardini models the first bikini.

**July 5, 1946**

Micheline Bernardini models the first bikini on July 5, 1946 at the Piscine Molitor in Paris. Born on Dec 1, 1927, today she is 95 years old.

**July 6, 2003**

The 70-metre Yevpatoria Planetary Radar sends a METI message (Cosmic Call 2) to five stars. The messages will arrive to these stars in 2036, 2040, 2044 and 2049, respectively.

Source: *Wikipedia*

International Date Line, causing Monday (July 4) to occur twice, resulting in a year with 367 days.



# Trades & Services

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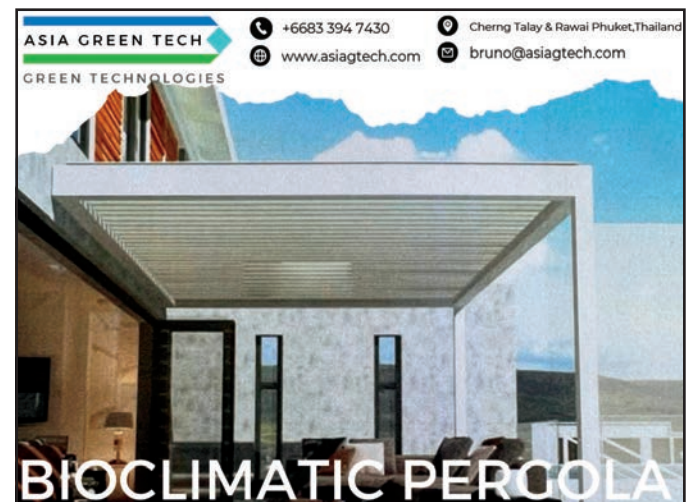
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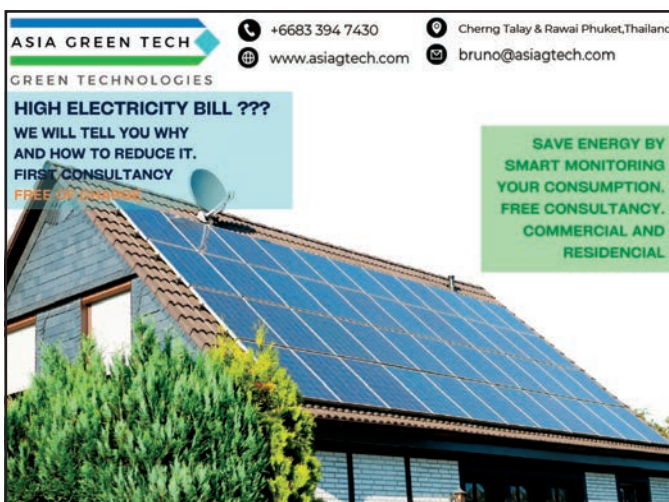

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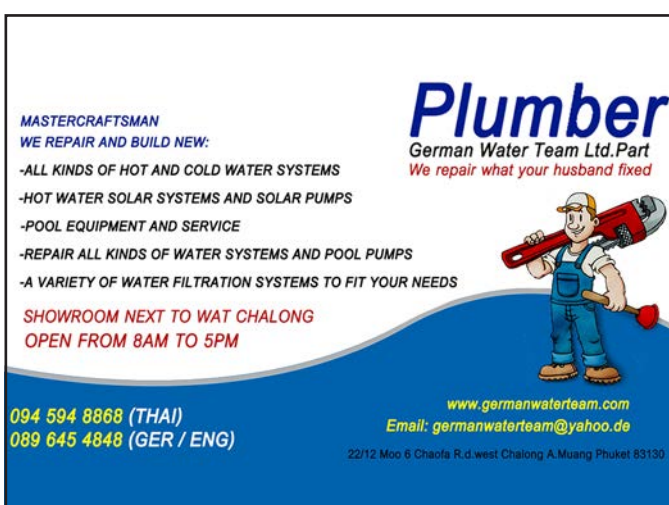
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## FRI 30 JUN



### 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

## SUN 2 JUL



### 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

## MON 3 JUL



### 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

## WED 5 JUL



### Wednesday 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

## THU 6 JUL



### OMGD Chaine Phuket - Invitation to July event

A Night at the Cantina, Celebrating Traditional Flavors, Textures & Colors of Mexico. Established 2016, Mamasita Mexican is a 100% family owned and operated Restaurant. As such, it is only natural that we welcome you as part of our family. An amazing menu, with paired drinks, has been created specifically for the La Chaine des Rotisseurs Phuket OMGD event. Dress code - No jeans, with Chaine ribbon. THB 5,000 for OMGD members, THB 5,500 for Chaine members, THB 6,000 for a limited number of Guests. \*\*Limited to 18 attendees. OMGD members get priority. To book your seat at this very special dinner, please visit - phuketticketmaster.com \*Pay via Bank Transfer and only pay the dinner price, booking fees only apply to other payment options.

## FRI 7 JUL



### Grow Boating Evening

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Evening at the Isola restaurant at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm on Friday the 7th of July. Sponsorship for drinks is available and includes a generous promotional package from our media sponsors The Phuket News, Live 89.5 FM and Phuket News TV. Send us a message or email growboatingphuket@gmail.com for more details. There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Isola Restaurant for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. To join our mailing list click this link https://facebook.us16.list-manage.com/subscribe Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/growboatingphuket Grow Boating is kindly supported by our media partner The Phuket News, Live 89.5 radio and Phuket News TV. See www.thephuketnews.com

## THU 13 JUL



### BCCT Multi-Chamber Phuket Evening

Medical Tourism - What value does it bring to the Phuket economy? Medical Tourism is the growth sector that everyone is talking about. How will it help boost the Phuket economy? The British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT) is bringing together industry leaders to explain the what, the why and how Medical Tourism can help Phuket as a whole. Join us on Thursday 13th July at the Courtyard by Marriott Phuket Town from 6pm. Tickets for BCCT/partner

members THB 500 net and guests THB 1,000 net. This includes free flow selected beverages and a light dinner. Book now by emailing events@bccthai.com

## THU 20 JUL



### Skål International Phuket Dinner at Infuse Restaurant

Monthly dinner of Skal International Phuket for good food, good drinks, casual business, friendship, fellowship and fun, from 6pm, the 3rd Thursday of every month. For more details visit - www.facebook.com/SkalPhuket, contact@skalphuket.org

## JOB

### The Phuket News

Class Act Media is Southern Thailand's most comprehensive media company, incorporating Phuket's only English weekly newspaper 'The Phuket News', Russian-language newspaper 'Novosti Phuket', the Thai-language 'Khao Phuket', Phuket's leading English radio station 'Live 89.5', 'The Phuket News TV' (Phuket Xtra) and a host of publication services.

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## JOBS



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## PROPERTY FOR SALE



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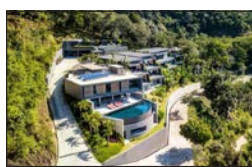
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## CARS, TRUCKS FOR SALE



### BMW 320d Luxury 2014

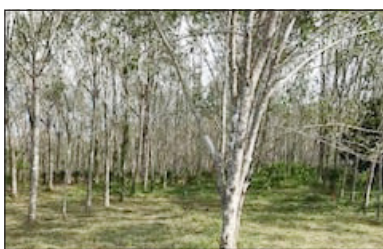
Excellent condition; purchased 2016 with 8000km; local driving only by elderly driver; 112000km; cameras; BMW service; leaving Thailand. B750,000. John, [johnhkt2560@icloud.com](mailto:johnhkt2560@icloud.com), 0869890919

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### Yanui Beach Seaview Cabins

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## PROPERTY FOR SALE



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Photo: Phuket Peranakan Festival / Facebook

## PERANAKAN FESTIVAL PUTS LOCAL CULTURE ON SHOW

**M**ore than 1,000 people turned out to take part in the Phuket Peranakan Festival 'Extravaganza Carnival' grand parade held in the heart of Phuket Old Town last Saturday evening (June 24).

Roads were closed for the event, the keystone spectacle of the three-day festival, which concluded last Sunday (June 25).

Despite residents in Phuket Town celebrating their Baba-Nyonya culture through government-supported events for decades, the 'Phuket Peranakan Festival' was heralded as the first of its kind, a "prototype" of events to promote sustainable tourism by focusing on local culture.

More than 20 organisations joined together to create the Phuket Peranakan Festival 2023, including the Phuket Provincial Office, the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), Phuket City Municipality, the Peranakan Association of Thailand, the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), the Thailand International Events & Festivals Trade Association (TIEFA) and the Phuket Old Town Community association, reported the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket).

It was not reported how much government budget was allocated to holding the event.

Phuket Governor Narong Woonciew presided over the opening ceremony, joined by PPAO President Rewat Areerob, former Phuket MP Anchalee Vanich Thapabutr and Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Prasit Sinsawapak.

The festival served as "a magnet for sustainable tourism, with emphasis on inviting local Phuket residents and Thai and foreign tourists to participate in the event, highlighting and prompting traditional costumes, and helping to raise the level of Phuket's soft power so the event becomes an annual international arts and culture festival that is sustainable in the future," PR Phuket reported.

"Hundreds of stories have been passed down to the new generation, with many dimensions connecting, from the introduction of preserving Baba-Nyonya wedding traditions to the international Peranakan style and the application of contemporary art and culture.

"It also includes media innovation. All of which is to forge the oneness of Phuket with strong roots or DNA and with stories and content of Peranakan [people and their culture] that Phuket is home to, on the Malay Peninsula," the report continued.

The festival is also hoped to inspire year-round tourism for visitors to observe and enjoy Peranakan culture, which has already served as a major attraction for Phuket Town tourism for many decades.

Various shops in Phuket Old Town and surrounding areas were hoped to benefit from the festival, and the subsequent increase in the number of tourists visiting the area that the festival is hoped to inspire.

The festival began on Friday (June 23) with an event at Woo Gallery & Boutique Hotel promoted as the "opening" of the 'Phuket Peranakan Festival 2023', with a display of stunning traditional wedding dresses and costumes in the Baba-Nyonya style of the Peranakan, ethnic Chinese-Malays living on the Malay Peninsula.

Expert speaker Cedric Tan from Malaysia presented the 'Workshop & Showcase', explaining 150 years of Peranakan style in Malaysia.

In the evening, the Khun Jom Yamaha band from Sounds Gallery performed traditional Malay songs, and dancers from Indonesia entertained those present.

Continuing the opening festivities, the Thai Women's Social Creation Association, the Peranakan Association of Phuket and the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) hosted a reception for guests at The Carb House.

The music and traditional dance performances continued over the weekend at the Standard Chartered intersection, in the heart of Phuket Town.



# Kamala set for new sports facility

## FOOTBALL

WORK HAS BEGUN ON the construction of a new sports facility in Kamala, officials confirmed on June 22.

The facility will boast a 30x50-metre football field made from artificial turf which will be fully enclosed and complete with a comprehensive lighting system, meaning it can be used at any time and in any weather conditions.

The facility will be situated behind the official Kamala Subdistrict Administrative Organisation offices just off Khok Yang Rd.

Charoon Kobkoy, Deputy President of Kamala Subdistrict Administrative Organisation, confirmed that a contract has been confirmed with a building contractor and work on the B12 million budget project has now begun on the site.

Construction work is expected to take approximately four months and Mr Charoon confirmed a local football event would be organised to officially unveil and open the facility.

"The facility will provide an excellent opportunity for local residents who enjoy



An artist's impression of the facility. Photo: Phuket Info Center

playing sports to do so in a safe and clean facility," Mr Charoon commented.

"It will especially appeal to those that enjoy to play football although it can be used to support any number of activities for the local community and all ages will be welcome to use the facility," he added.

There is also the option to add further facilities in future, including a possible running track around the perimeter of the structure, Mr Charoon confirmed. Grandstands to enable spectators to watch the sporting action are also a future possibility, he said.

Mr Charoon concluded by saying there are plans to cooperate with various public and private sector entities to arrange the special match later in the year and that further details on this would be released in due course.

The Phuket News

# Home turf surf joy for Annissa

## SURFING

The Phuket News  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Annissa Flynn had reason to celebrate on home soil last Sunday (June 25) as she won the women's shortboard and finished in second place in the women's longboard competitions at the Phuket Surf Contest 2023.

The three-day competition, held at Kata Beach under the auspice of the Thailand Surfing Federation (TSF), was part of the Amazing Ultimate Festival, an array of sports and recreational tourism events organised by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports and Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The festival is taking place across four coastal provinces: Khao Lak in Phang Nga, Chalatat Beach in Songkhla, Hua Hin in Prachuap Khiri Khan and Kata Beach in Phuket.

The Phuket competition last weekend attracted 160 surfers from 14 countries who competed in men's and women's long and shortboard contests with an overall prize pot of B220,000 up for grabs. Winners received B20,000, runners-up B15,000 with third and fourth-placed contestants receiving B10,000 each.

Local favourite Annissa triumphed in the women's shortboard with a score of 10.35, ahead of fellow Thais Phrao Panutatnapha, Lalana Sinsorak and Mathilda Ashley Holmberg, who recorded scores of 8.00, 7.20 and 3.75 respectively from the judges.



Annissa in action last Sunday (June 25). Photo: Thailand Surfing Federation

Annissa followed up her win by finishing in second place in the women's longboard competition, registering a score of 7.65. Soogi Kim from South Korea took top spot with an impressive 11.50, with Thailand's Chanikan Phaitakasri third on 7.50 and Flora Christin from Indonesia fourth with 5.80.

Indonesian competitors dominated in the men's shortboard category with Jori Putra winning with a score of 12.50, Febriansyah Biawak in second on 12.25 and Pito Wardana in third on 11.20. Wasan Sarasai from Thailand finished fourth with a score 9.75.

In the men's longboard category Tedi Kurniadi from Indonesia emerged

victorious with a score of 10.95, followed by Nathan Sadoun from France with a score of 10.10, Patthana Kerkhantod from Thailand with 9.40, with Malaysia's Muhammad Nor Afik Haikal fourth on 7.40.

Once competition was concluded the trophies and cash prizes were distributed by Paiboon Thumsen, Director of Creative Activity Development at the Tourism Authority of Thailand, and Channin Aiyarak, TSF President.

Running alongside the surfing competition on each of the three days were a number of other activities such as craft and food stalls, fashion displays and live musical entertainment from well known artists and DJs.

Esteban Ocon driving for Alpine. Photo: AFP



# Hollywood actors buy 24% stake in F1's Alpine Racing

## FORMULA ONE

HOLLYWOOD ACTORS RYAN Reynolds, Rob McElhenney and Michael B. Jordan are among a consortium that has bought a 24% stake in Formula One team Alpine Racing.

Alpine's parent company Renault announced on Monday (June 26) that the group will invest US\$218 million (B7.6 billion) for their stake, valuing the team at \$900mn, to help Alpine's "growth strategy and sporting ambitions".

'Deadpool' star Reynolds and 'It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia' creator McElhenney have already enjoyed success with sporting investments as owners of football club Wrexham.

Backed by major investment, the Welsh side were promoted to the fourth tier of the English Football League in April for the first time in 15 years.

'Creed' and 'Black Panther' star Jordan also has a stake in Premier League club Bournemouth.

Reynolds' Maximum Effort production company has teamed up with Otro Capital and RedBird Capital Partners, who recently took control of AC Milan and have a stake in Fenway Sports Group, owners of Liverpool and the Boston Red Sox.

"Alpine F1 team will benefit from the investor group's collective expertise and track record in the sports industry," said Renault Group.

Alpine's F1 engine-making entity in the suburbs of Paris is not part of the transaction and will remain entirely owned by Renault.

Since the Renault team was rebranded as Alpine in 2021, they have managed one Grand Prix victory and two other podium finishes.

Alpine finished fourth in the constructors' championship last season and sit fifth in the standings eight races into the 2023 season. AFP

# Phuket International Rugby 11s a huge hit

## RUGBY

THE PHUKET INTERNATIONAL Rugby 11s, hosted at the Thanyapura Sports Club over the weekend of June 9-11, proved to be a huge success with teams from Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, the UAE, the USA and Phuket all involved.

Maintaining tradition, the tournament kicked off with the Athena Siam Coffin Dodgers tournament on June 9.

Valley Kangaroos from the USA and the Hamilton Dynamiters from South Africa produced a humdinger of a match in the Coffin Dodgers Over 35s final, with the American team winning 7-5 thanks to a late try and conversion.

In the Coffin Dodgers Over 35s plate final, the Chiang Mai Cobras were unlucky to go down to a strong Barrelhouse side by a relatively close final score of 5-0, while the Kowloon Auld Dragons from Hong Kong won the Coffin Dodgers Over 35s bowl final after defeating the Moorabbin Stray Cats 15-5.

The One Foot in the Grave Over 45s might have been slower paced but it was just as ferocious as the Hamilton Dynamiters showed their pedigree in the final to defeat the Asian Japanese Dragons 10-0.

Day two illustrated just how much ladies' rugby has progressed



Photo: Phuket International Rugby 11s

and continues to bloom with debutants Sandy Phoonanis and the University of Hong Kong joining regulars the Dingoes from Malaysia, the Banger Belles, ReBelles and Southerners' Ladies for some pulsating action.

Bangers ReBelles won both the and plate bowl finals, while the Dingoes won the cup after a thrilling late minute try ensured a 12-7 victory against the Southerners.

Sunday is always the main day with all the knockouts and finals contested and big crowds in attendance.

The Singapore Bucks defeated a young Krabi Eagles side to win the plate final, while Tomo Cheese from Japan claimed victory against the Flying Kukris in the shield final.

The Phuket Vagabonds and the Raw Dogs tied in the bowl final 5-5 at full-time, with the Vagabonds deemed the winners due to them

scoring the first try of the match.

The cup final saw the KL Tigers and the Bank Maumalat Bullets face-off in what was a classic encounter. Scoring a last-second try to level the scores at 12-12, the successful conversion from the Bullet's kicker ensured they were declared 2023 Phuket International Rugby 11s Champions.

The Phuket 11's continued their long association with the Asia Center Foundation (ACF) who celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Funds were raised over the weekend for the ACF scholarship program providing underprivileged children on the island the chance of a better future. For more information visit [www.asiacenterfoundation.org](http://www.asiacenterfoundation.org).

Dates for the 24<sup>th</sup> Phuket International Rugby 11s have been set for June 7-9, 2024.

The Phuket News



# Chelsea set for fire sale

## FOOTBALL

AFP

Chelsea have embarked on a fire sale following their stunning spending spree, trimming their bloated squad in an effort to comply with financial regulations as they prepare for a new era under Mauricio Pochettino.

In their first year under the ownership of an American consortium, Chelsea spent more on transfer fees than any club has ever done in a 12-month period, only to finish 12<sup>th</sup> in the Premier League – their lowest placing since 1994.

The arrival of RB Leipzig forward Christopher Nkunku last week has added to the outlay of more than £500 million (B22.4 billion).

But most of Chelsea's business is focused on departures, with key players in the squad that won the Champions League just two years ago set to leave.

France midfielder N'Golo Kante and Senegal defender Kalidou Koulibaly have both already said their goodbyes to join a wave of star footballers



Kai Havertz could be on the move very soon. Photo: AFP

heading to Saudi Arabia, with other Chelsea players expected to follow.

A potential influx of Saudi cash could prove vital to Chelsea's chances of complying with the Premier League's financial fair play (FFP) rules.

Clubs are allowed a maximum loss of £105mn over a three-year period, with deductions allowed for spending on infrastructure, youth and women's football.

Chelsea looked set to be well over that limit, having posted £275mn worth of losses in the final two years of Roman Abramovich's reign, even before LA Dodgers co-owner Todd Boehly and private equity group Clearlake Capital took charge.

Some of the club's new signings last season such as Enzo Fernandez and Mykhailo Mudryk were handed eight-year deals to minimise the

impact of their transfer fees on the books.

For FFP purposes, transfer fees are spread over the number of years of the contract.

By contrast, sales can be registered in full as soon as they are completed and Chelsea are in a rush to get business done before the end of football's financial year on June 30.

A number of Chelsea's Premier League rivals are cir-

cling, keen to take advantage of cut-price deals.

Croatia international Mateo Kovacic is on the verge of joining English champions Manchester City for an initial £25mn.

England's Mason Mount, with just 12 months left on his deal at Stamford Bridge, is the subject of serious interest from Manchester United, who tabled a £55mn bid for the midfielder last week.

Germany forward Kai Havertz is close to joining London rivals Arsenal for £65mn, while Marc Cucurella could reportedly join Newcastle for around half the £60mn he cost Chelsea to sign from Brighton year.

Saudi interest in Edouard Mendy and Hakim Ziyech is also making waves.

Both found themselves out of favour last season and getting their wages off the books along with receiving a significant transfer fee would come as a blessing.

Business links between the Saudi Public Investment Fund (PIF) and Clearlake have resulted in accusations of a conflict of interest.

Former Manchester United captain Gary Neville has

called for an embargo on transfers from Premier League clubs to Saudi to "ensure the integrity of the game isn't being damaged".

However, the Premier League reportedly investigated any links between Chelsea's ownership group and the PIF at the time of last year's takeover and was apparently happy there was no conflict.

The hard work in transforming Chelsea's fortunes on the field, though, still lies ahead for Pochettino on his return to English football.

The club's hierarchy are banking on the Argentine to develop the abundance of young talent at his disposal, much like he did as Tottenham boss between 2014 and 2019.

But the competition at the top of the Premier League is even tougher now with PIF-backed Newcastle joining the traditional top six of City, United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham in the battle for Champions League places.

And Chelsea's reckless splurge over the past year could end up strengthening their rivals should Havertz, Mount and Kovacic go on to shine at their new clubs.

## Anderson promises 'more aggression' in second Test

### CRICKET

VETERAN FAST BOWLER James Anderson has vowed England would be "more positive, more aggressive, more entertaining" when they look to level the Ashes series at Lord's this week.

Australia won the opening Test at Edgbaston on June 20 by two wickets after England skipper Ben Stokes had declared his team's first innings at 393 for eight.

Some critics said that decision allowed Australia to keep a foot in the door of the match which they then gratefully exploited.

"I think we'll go more positive, more aggressive, more entertaining," said 40-year-old Anderson who endured a tough first Test in which he took just one wicket.

"Just because we're 1-0 down I don't think we'll try anything different. I think we showed enough last week to show we can win the next four if we keep playing like that and iron a few things



Anderson in action during the first Test. Photo: AFP

out. We'll go exactly the same."

Australian off-spinner rival Nathan Lyon reflected fondly on the opening Test win, saying: "It was an absolutely incredible Test win and to be able to play a part in that was extremely special.

"It is going to go down as one of the best Test matches I've played in," the 35-year-old said.

"There's still a lot of work we need to do. We feel like we can still get a lot better, and we need to if we want to compete against England and the brand of cricket they're playing."

Meanwhile England have called up teenage leg-spinner Rehan Ahmed for the second Test as cover for Moeen Ali.

Ahmed, 18, became the youngest man to play Test cricket for England when he was picked to play in Pakistan in December, making an eye-catching debut with seven wickets in the match and 5-48 in the second innings.

Off-spinning all-rounder Moeen struggled with a finger blister in first Test although he hopes to be fit.

The second Ashes Test at Lord's started on Wednesday (June 28) and concludes Sunday (July 2). AFP

### BLUE TREE PHUKET

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# Sport



**Surf's up at Kata Beach contest > p14**

# IT'S 'ALRIGHT'!

**Victory for 'Fugazi' and 'Alright' as monohulls allowed in new regatta**

'Alright' in action. Photo: Scott Murray

## SAILING

Scott Murray

Good wind and fine weather prevailed on the final day of the Yacht Sales Co Regatta as Dan Fidock's *Fugazi* and James Bury's *Alright* continued their dominance in their two classes to win the multi- and monoclases respectively.

Principal Race Officer Simon James sent both the classes on two windward-leeward races to start the day last Sunday (June 25), followed by a longer race towards the channel marker at Cape Panwa for the multi-hull fleet and one last windward-leeward for the monohull class.

The *Fugazi* crew of Joel Berg, Ciaran Corrigan, Scott Duncanson, Dan Fidock and Nick Gutry made an amazing recovery, bouncing back

from a starboard shroud snapping last Friday (June 23) – which brought the boat's mast down – to repairing the boat that evening and having it in the water ready to go Saturday morning without missing a beat. With the dropped race format in play, once the minimum requirement of five races was met the 'Did Not Finish' (DNF) ended up being discarded anyway and *Fugazi* ended up winning six of the seven races it did complete for a final total of eight points.

John Newnham's *Twin Sharks* and George Eddings' *Blue Noze* staged a race within a race as the two Fireflies jockeyed for position all regatta in the eight-boat multihull division, with each boat winning a race in their game of snakes and ladders. In the end, *Twin Sharks* captured second spot with 14 points with *Blue Noze* close behind with 18. Both Fireflies

were designed by Mark Pescott and Mark Horwood and built in Phuket.

Dirk Weiblen's *No Fear* finished in fourth place with 29 points, closely followed by James Haste's *Bonza* on 34 points, while Glywn Rowlands' *Twister 2* finished a point back in sixth with 35 points. Roger Diggelman's *Saffron* was seventh with 43 points while Andrew McDermott and his all-female crew on *Trident* rounded out the multihull class with 53 points. *Twister 2* and *Saffron* were both built in Phuket by Asia Catamarans.

In the monohull class, *Alright* (formerly *Emagine*) won seven of the eight races to capture the first official monohull title in the Yacht Sales Co Regatta. The *Alright* crew travelled all the way up from Australia to compete in the event and frequently sail another boat, *Aquarii*, in regional regattas.

Niels Degenkolw's *Phoenix*, who is used to winning this class, came second in the three-boat monohull class with Fang Liang Zhou's *Sumalee* in third. Zhou's crew flew in from China for the regatta and showed great sportsmanship competing in the event.

Near the end of the second race on the final day, *Phoenix* encountered halyard problems, so they motored into the Ao Chalong mooring area where Alexander Velikokhotko shimmied up the mast to rectify the problem and ended up using a shorter version of the halyard that had snapped.

Roger Diggelman took to the stage on the final night to thank *Saffron*'s owners Dan and Dao Fidock for letting him take the tradesmen who built the craft onboard as crew during the regatta so they could see

what it was like to sail their finished product.

Paul Stamp, Yacht Sales Co General Manager for Southeast Asia, and company broker Charles Robinson were on hand at the closing dinner and awards ceremony held at the Phuket Yacht Club. Mr Stamp passed out the trophies to the delighted winners.

Sponsors of the regatta included: Yacht Sales Co; Multihull Solutions; Phuket Yacht Club; Phuket Boat Lagoon; SEA Yachting; Octopus Electrical Service; and East Marine Asia.

Yacht Sales Co is the exclusive distributor in Thailand for: Absolute; Cora Catamarans; Dufour; Fontaine Pajot motor yachts and sailing catamarans; Iliad; LEEN Trimarans (power); Maritimo; NEEL Trimarans (sail); Ocean Voyageur; Stealths; and Tesoro Yachts.

# Dojo students showcase their judo and jiu-jitsu prowess

## MMA

TWO MORE RECENT TOURNAMENTS in judo and jiu-jitsu meant yet more medals for the dynamic mixed martial arts team from the Dojo at Blue Tree Phuket.

Most recently 14 young team members from the Cherg Talay-based Dojo competed at the Phuket provincial jiu-jitsu championships at Saphan Hin Stadium on June 17.

Under the tutelage of Dojo head instructor Alexis Plantard the team secured a whopping 25 medal haul (10 gold, seven silver and eight bronze) and were named team of the tournament.

Competing in the Newaza Gi division, gold medals were won by students Gabin, Tomo, Damir, Meera

and Naithon, with the trio of Mael, Oscar and Trystan securing silver medals, while David, Leo, Sota and Justine claimed bronze.

In the Newaza NoGi division gold medals went to Gabin, Naithon and Tomo, as Leo, Meera and Justine claimed silver and Mael, David and Trystan all claimed bronze.

In the jiu-jitsu fighting division Timur won both a gold and a silver medal, while Tomo also won gold and David secured a bronze.

"It was a fantastic overall team performance and I am extremely proud of every single student," beamed Alexis afterwards.

"Tomo is getting stronger in every tournament, Naithon is improving and displaying the right mindset and Gabin justified his position of team captain with consistent results



Winners in Phuket. Photo: Alexis Plantard

and attitude."

Alexis also has special mention for his 6-year-old Indian student Meera. "It was her first championship so to secure a medal, a gold at that, is simply amazing," commented Alexis.

Prior to the success in Phuket, a total 13 team members competed at the Philippines International Judo Open in Manila on the weekend of June 10-11.

With over 500 competitors from all over the world, the standard was high in the Philippines' capital yet the Dojo team were once again up to the task, winning a total of seven medals.

Gold medals were claimed by students Oscar and Sota and by Alexis himself in the senior age category competition, with silver medals going to students Gabin, Tomo and Oliver and Kiichi securing a bronze medal. Fellow students Naithon and Damir performed admirably to place fifth and seventh in their respective bouts.

The success was all the sweeter for 8-year-old Sota as it was the first international event he was competing in. He won his match by what is known as 'ippon', which is equivalent to a knockout in boxing

or a pin in wrestling and immediately ends the match. "Sota works hard and has developed very well," commented Alexis. "He now looks very mature in his performance."

The gold medal win for 10-year-old Oscar followed a similar achievement at the National Championships of Judo in Nakhon Si Thammarat in April, which contributed to the team being awarded the number one national ranking within Thailand within the under-12 age classification.

"Oscar is coming on leaps and bounds," said Alexis. "Next up for him is the United States Open in Miami next month and he looks more than ready."

All ages and levels are welcome to the Dojo as they build the next generation of champion. For more info contact 09280 58527 or email dojo@bluetree.fun. Ben Tirebuck