

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

HER MAJESTY QUEEN SIRIKIT



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HER GRACE

PHUKET JOINS NATION IN MOURNING THE PASSING OF QUEEN SIRIKIT, THE QUEEN MOTHER

Photo: Royal Household Bureau



The Phuket News
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Phuket has joined the nation in mourning the passing of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, The Queen Mother, who passed away peacefully at 9:21pm last Friday (Oct 24) at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in Bangkok at the age of 93.

In its official announcement, the Royal Household Bureau said a team of doctors had been monitoring and treating Her Majesty's

health since September 2019, noting that she had several medical conditions requiring ongoing care. On Oct 17, Her Majesty developed a bloodstream infection, and despite continued treatment, her condition deteriorated.

His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajirakulaochaoyuhua has instructed the Bureau of the Royal Household to arrange Her Majesty's royal funeral with the highest honours according to royal tradition. Her remains will be enshrined at the Dusit Maha

Prasat Throne Hall in the Grand Palace, Bangkok.

His Majesty has decreed a one-year mourning period for members of the Royal Family and Royal Court officials from the date of Her Majesty's passing.

Born in Bangkok on Aug 12, 1932, as Mom Rajawongse Sirikit Kitiyakara, Her Majesty was the daughter of Prince Nakkhatra Mangala and Mom Luang Bua Kitiyakara. She married His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great (Rama IX) on April 28,

1950, shortly before his coronation.

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit was revered for her lifelong devotion to the welfare of the Thai people, particularly in rural development, women's empowerment and the preservation of traditional Thai arts and crafts.

PHUKET PAYS TRIBUTE

In Phuket, thousands of residents and officials gathered over last weekend to pay their respects.

Last Sunday (Oct 26), the Phuket Provincial Office held a...

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Deluges cause hill landslide on 50 Pi Rd



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Libby asks are we evolving backwards?



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Phuket meet Samui in big island derby



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Queen of cultural fabric

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...water blessing ceremony before a portrait of Her Majesty the Queen Mother in the main lobby of Provincial Hall, allowing citizens from all walks of life to express their sorrow and gratitude for her lifelong service to the nation.

The ceremony was presided over by Phuket Vice Governor Adul Chuthong, together with Ms Ruedeewan Srikuhanetra, wife of the Phuket Governor and President of the Phuket Red Cross branch and the Ministry of Interior Housewives Association. Vice Governor Suwit Phansengiam, senior officials, armed forces representatives, police, prosecutors, state enterprise employees, local administrators and members of the public attended in a solemn atmosphere.

The Ministry of Interior directed all provinces to hold simultaneous ceremonies in remembrance of the Queen Mother. In Phuket, ceremonies were also held in Thalang, Kathu and Muang districts at 2pm. Thalang District's event took place at Wat Thepwararam (Wat Manik) in Srisoonthorn, led by District Chief Siwat Rawangkun. Kathu District held its ceremony at the District Office, presided over by District Chief Akkaraphon Suthirak Chittsuphap, while Muang District held its ceremony at the District Office with District Chief

Pairoj Srilamul leading proceedings.

Government officials, police and soldiers attended in white uniforms with black mourning armbands, while members of the public wore black or formal attire. Provincial Hall was opened throughout the day for residents to sign condolence books and join the ritual.

All government offices, state enterprises and schools across the island have displayed black and white mourning cloths and lowered national and royal flags to half-mast, following a Cabinet resolution issued a directive for a 30-day national period of mourning.

Government officers have been instructed to observe a one-year mourning period, while the public has been asked to wear black or subdued colours for 90 days to honour Her Majesty's memory.

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul announced the measures following the Bureau of the Royal Household's statement confirming Her Majesty's passing, urging all sectors to maintain "a solemn atmosphere befitting the nation's mourning period."

PHUKET CITY AND PATONG OBSERVE MOURNING

Phuket City Municipality has expressed its deepest condolences, with Mayor Supachok La-ongphet announcing that municipal



Photo: Royal Household Bureau

flags will fly at half-mast for 15 days and mourning cloth will be displayed throughout Phuket Town. A condolence book has been made available for residents to sign.

"On behalf of the people of Phuket City, we express our deepest condolences on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother," Mayor Supachok said. "We humbly remember her great kindness and generosity in performing royal duties for the benefit and happiness of the Thai people."

Patong Mayor Lalita Maneesri described Her Majesty as "a second mother to all Thais". Queen Sirikit's birthday, Aug 12, has long also been celebrated in Thailand as Mother's Day, with Queen Sirikit often called the 'Mother to the Nation'.

"I remember her infinite grace and will remain loyal to her. She sacrificed her time and everything for all

Thai people. I am deeply saddened by her loss," Mayor Lalita said.

She confirmed that Patong's Loy Krathong Festival will continue as planned, but with reduced music and no fireworks, in line with the national mood of mourning. Entertainment venues have been asked to scale down performances and ensure music remains subdued and respectful.

"All flags will be lowered, and everyone is asked to wear black or dark attire," Mayor Lalita said. "We want all residents and visitors to show respect through their conduct and dress during this period."

Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Kongsak Khoophongsakorn also expressed condolences on behalf of the business community.

"She did so much good throughout her life, working tirelessly alongside His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great," Mr

Kongsak said. "We in Phuket remember their visits to the island decades ago. They both contributed greatly to the development of our province."

Mr Kongsak noted that while mourning must be observed, the economy must also continue. "The government is taking the right approach by allowing activities to proceed with appropriate adjustments," he said. "This balance honours Her Majesty's legacy while keeping the economy stable."

CULTURAL LEGACY

Beyond her humanitarian work, Her Majesty Queen Sirikit was instrumental in preserving and revitalising Thailand's cultural heritage, most notably through the introduction of modernised traditional Thai dress for women.

In 1960, ahead of His Majesty King Bhumibol's state visits to Europe and the United States, Her Majesty worked with designers to create elegant versions of traditional Thai attire suitable for modern formal occasions. These became the eight recognised styles of 'Chut Thai Phra Ratchathan', or Royal Thai Dress, including Thai Ruean Ton, Chitlada, Amarin, Boromphiman, Chakri, Dusit, Sivalai and Chakkrathat.

Each design was tailored for a specific level of formality and has since become a proud emblem of Thai identity. The Thai

national costume remains popular today, with UNESCO set to consider it for inscription as a World Heritage cultural item in 2026.

Her Majesty's support for Thai silk and traditional crafts also led to the establishment of the SUPPORT Foundation, which continues to provide livelihoods to thousands of rural artisans.

CONDOLENCES

Phuket Governor Saransak Srikuhanetra on Monday (Oct 27) signed the official book of condolences at Provincial Hall, expressing his "deepest and immeasurable gratitude" for Her Majesty's grace.

Books of condolences have been opened at Provincial Hall and all three district offices – Mueang, Kathu and Thalang – for the public to sign. The signing areas are open Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4pm and will remain available for one year.

Residents are also invited to take part in water blessing ceremonies before portraits of Her Majesty across the island. Officials have been stationed to assist mourners attending throughout the day.

"Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother, will forever remain in the hearts of the Thai people as a symbol of love, strength and selfless devotion," Governor Saransak said. "Her grace and guidance continue to inspire the nation."

Patong takes brunt as heavy rain batters Phuket

PATONG BORE THE WORST of last week's flooding as heavy rain from Tropical Storm 'Fengshen' brought flash floods, landslides and widespread disruption across Phuket.

In Patong's Baan Mon community on Oct 23, water surged into homes and caused extensive property damage as continuous downpours combined with high tides. Phuket MP Chalermpong Sangdee visited the area to assess the situation, saying he was coordinating with relevant agencies to provide urgent relief.

"People are understandably anxious with more rain and high tides expected tonight. We are doing everything possible to provide immediate assistance," Mr Chalermpong said.

Patong Municipality later cleared a landslide that had blocked 50 Pi Rd between the Petchkud and Khamuang intersections, allowing traffic to resume. Officials thanked provincial, district and private sector teams, as well as local volunteers, for working through the night to ensure residents' safety.

Elsewhere, flooding along Chao Fa East and West roads in



Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee

Chalong caused severe traffic delays, while Deputy Governor Suwit Phansengiam inspected water levels and drainage systems in flood-prone parts of Chalong Talay. He ordered 24-hour readiness of water pumps and emergency teams, stressing the need to closely monitor low-lying areas.

In Kamala, heavy rain washed

red soil from the Kamala-Patong Road expansion site near the Oceana Hotel at about 3:30pm, covering the road with mud and debris. Kathu District Chief Akkaraphon Suthirak Chittsuphap coordinated with the Highways Office to clear the area and restore traffic flow. Contractors were instructed to strengthen preventive measures during future storms.

Later that evening, Phuket Governor Saransak Srikuhanetra inspected rising water levels at Klong Bang Yai near the Chartered Bank Intersection in Phuket Town, accompanied by Mueang District Chief Pairoj

Srilamul and Mayor Suphot La-ongphet.

The canal overflowed, flooding one lane of road, though the governor said conditions were expected to improve after midnight as tides receded. "The flooding was caused by rainwater rather than seawater, and the drainage system is functioning as designed," he said.

Municipal teams later dredged canals to improve drainage, while residents were urged to stay alert for flash floods, mudslides and overflowing canals, particularly in hillside and low-lying communities. *The Phuket News*

Nightlife urged 'restraint for respect'

Natnaree Likidwanasakun
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Businesses in Phuket, especially Patong, may continue to operate and host events during the official period of mourning for the passing of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, The Queen Mother, but all activities must be conducted appropriately and with moderation, local business leaders and police have confirmed.

The clarification follows the Thai government calling for cooperation from entertainment venues and service establishments nationwide to "refrain from or reduce" entertainment activities for a period of 30 days, following the passing of Queen Sirikit last Friday (Oct 24).

Deputy Government Spokesperson Airin Phanrit announced last Saturday (Oct 25) that the Cabinet had approved an official statement from the Office of the Prime Minister expressing profound sorrow at the passing of Queen Sirikit.

The government said it was "deeply saddened" by the news and outlined a series of national mourning measures and preparations for the royal funeral ceremony to be conducted in accordance with ancient royal tradition.



Photo: Patong Municipality

Under the Cabinet resolution, all government offices, state enterprises, government agencies and educational institutions are to fly national flags at half-mast for 30 days, starting from Oct 25.

Government officials, state enterprise employees and government officials are to observe a mourning period of one year, while members of the public are requested to dress and conduct themselves appropriately during the mourning period.

Ms Airin specifically noted that entertainment and service venues are requested to show respect during this time of national mourning by reducing or suspending entertainment activities for 30 days, as deemed appropriate.

The announcement spurred panic among many nightlife operators throughout the country, spurring Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul himself to clarify to the media that the government had not imposed any ban on private celebrations or entertainment events.

He said while festivities were not prohibited, organisers were encouraged to exercise discretion and adjust the tone of their events to reflect the national atmosphere of mourning.

"There is no ban on concerts or festive gatherings," Anutin explained to the press at Government House. "The prime minister's secretary general [Traisuree Taisaranakul] has clarified the matter," he said.

When asked whether traditional ceremonies such as weddings or ordinations could proceed, Anutin said cultural and religious events may continue as usual, subject to the organisers' judgement. Alcohol sales and venue operating hours remain unchanged but he urged business owners to avoid excessive revelry.

PHUKET TAKE

Patong Council President Weerawit Kreuasombat, who has for decades also served as the President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA), which represents more than 800 nightlife businesses in Patong, said entertainment venues can continue business as usual, but must do so respectfully.

"Businesses in Patong can still hold events, but they must operate appropriately. Live music should be held in moderation and with appropriateness," Mr Weerawit said.

"For outdoor events, if there are limited light and sound shows, that's fine. Each case will be considered individually. Private sector events can still be held, but they should include a moment of silence to show respect," he added.

Phuket Provincial Police Chief Pol Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum also

confirmed that guidelines had been issued to all nightlife operators, in line with the government's request for cooperation during the mourning period.

Pol Maj Gen Sinlert clarified three key measures are: reduce noise levels, limit lighting and decorative displays and maintain service in a manner that is not overly festive or joyful.

"Loy Krathong [to be observed Wednesday next week, Nov 5] and other private sector events may still proceed, provided they are moderate and not excessively extravagant," he added.

Meanwhile, Kongsak Koophongsakorn, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, noted that while mourning is essential, the economy must continue to function.

"If the scale of events is reduced too much, this will have an economic impact. The government understands the grief shared by the people, but the national economy must continue uninterrupted," he said.

He added that events could still be held in a subdued format, incorporating respectful gestures such as moments of silence or speeches in honour of Queen Sirikit's contributions, while avoiding overly festive or inappropriate elements.

Trin wins re-election by narrow margin

FORMER SAKHU SUBDISTRICT Administrative Organisation (OrBorTor) Chief Trin 'Noi' Panyawai has been re-elected Mayor of Sakhu, narrowly defeating challenger Ekaphon Phang-nga of the Sakhu Power Party in the local election last Sunday (Oct 26).

The Thalang District Office confirmed that voting across all eight polling stations proceeded smoothly and transparently, with no reports of irregularities. Turnout reached 84.15%.

Official results showed Mr Trin, representing the Love Sakhu Party, winning 2,362 votes to Mr Ekaphon's 2,212. There were 47 abstentions and 88 invalid ballots.

District Chief Siwat Rawangkun praised the orderly conduct of the vote, saying all officers "performed their duties efficiently to ensure fairness and transparency".

After the result was confirmed, Mr Trin thanked voters online, expressing "heartfelt gratitude for the trust and confidence placed in me and the Rak Sakhu team", and pledging to continue developing the subdistrict "with sincerity and determination".

The election followed Mr Trin's resignation on Aug 28, which triggered a mandatory by-election within 60 days. His decision sparked criticism, with some alleging he stepped down to avoid asset declaration and project spending restrictions under the 2019 Local Election Act.



Photo: Rak Sakhu Party

Despite the controversy, Mr Trin maintained strong grassroots support for his community projects, including local transport, career support and sustainable tourism initiatives. His campaign, under the slogan "The real deal, proven winner", emphasised continuity and experience.

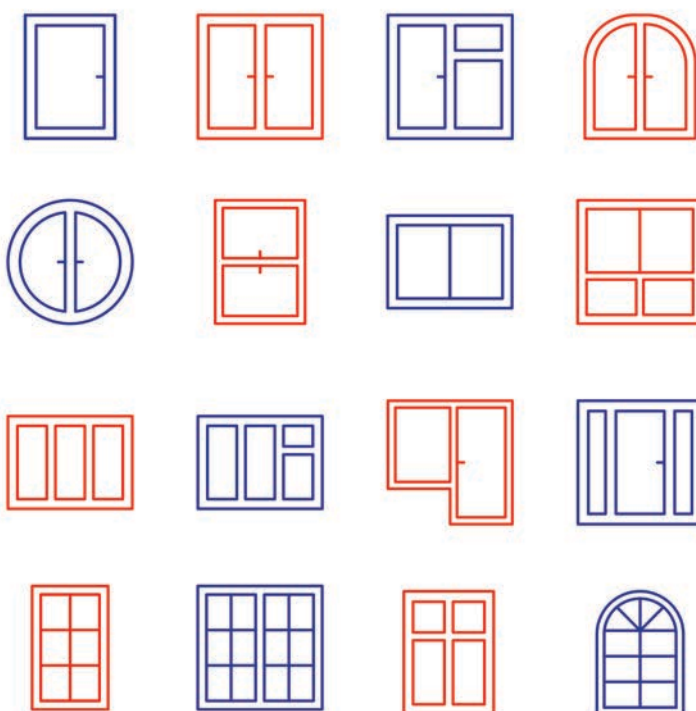
Opponent Mr Ekaphon, campaigning as "The Power of Change", focused on reform, transparency and youth engagement.

Following confirmation of the results, Thalang District Office will submit its report to the Election Commission of Thailand for certification before Mr Trin resumes office for a new four-year term.

District Chief Siwat commended residents for their civic participation, saying the high turnout "shows the strong democratic spirit of Sakhu's people". *The Phuket News*



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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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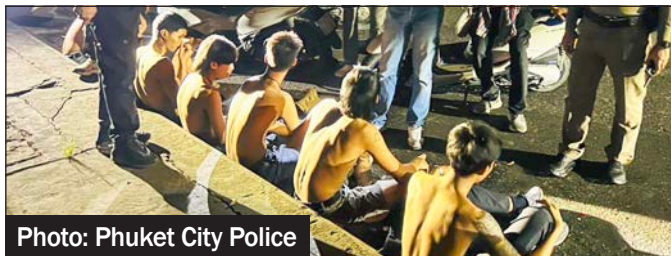


Photo: Phuket City Police

Street youth crackdown nets teens with firearms

PHUKET CITY POLICE have seized more than 40 modified motorcycles, several firearms and detained over 80 youths in a series of night patrols and raids over the past week.

The operations, led by Phuket City Police Chief Pol Col Chatree Chukaew, were aimed at curbing illegal street racing, noise disturbances and weapons offences during the annual festival, which draws large nightly crowds to the Saphan Hin area.

The first major patrol, from the night of Oct 22 into the early hours of Oct 23, saw officers seize 13 modified motorbikes and detain 45 youths for questioning. A second operation on Oct 24-25 detained 35 more youths, seized 16 motorcycles, and resulted in the arrest of 16 people for illegally selling fireworks and firecrackers near Saphan Hin Cape.

The most recent raid, launched at around 12:15am Monday (Oct 27), targeted groups of young men

reportedly gathering with weapons and racing bikes.

Officers arrested five male suspects aged 15-18 in three separate firearms cases, seizing three homemade guns and several rounds of ammunition. Fourteen modified motorcycles were also impounded.

Parents of 26 at-risk youths identified during the operation were summoned to Phuket City Police Station and formally advised of their responsibilities under the Child Protection Act B.E. 2546 (2003).

Pol Col Chatree praised his officers for maintaining order and safety throughout the festival, noting that all operations were conducted under strict supervision to prevent violence and ensure peace during religious events.

"Phuket City Police will continue regular patrols and inspections to ensure the safety of residents and visitors throughout the festival period," he said.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Patong raids target illegal nominees

The Phuket News
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Officers from Phuket Immigration led coordinated raids at five business locations in Patong last week as part of a nationwide crackdown on illegal foreign-owned operations and nominee businesses.

The operation, on Oct 23, followed Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's directive to tighten oversight of foreigners residing or conducting business in Thailand, and to take legal action against those engaged in activities that could harm public order or the country's reputation, Phuket Immigration reported.

Phuket Immigration Chief Pol Col Kriangkrai Ariyaying led the raids with Deputy Chief Pol Lt Col Wisarut La-iat-ong, supported by teams from Immigration Bureau Region 6, the Phuket Provincial Police, Provincial Police Region 8, the Crime Suppression Division, Patong Police, Tourist Police and Phuket Provincial Administrative officers.

The raids were launched after complaints of foreigners operating illegal busi-



Photo: Phuket Immigration

nesses along Phra Barami Rd and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd. Following investigation, officers obtained Phuket Provincial Court search warrant No. 242/68, dated Oct 22.

At 12:30pm, officers inspected five establishments, including motorcycle rental outlets, travel agencies, barber shops and restaurants. Several were found to be in breach of the Foreign Business Act B.E. 2542 (1999).

At one location, an Israeli national claimed to own and manage a business offering motorcycle rentals, tour services and a barber-shop. Although Thai and Myanmar employees were legally employed, officers determined the business type was restricted to Thai nationals under List 3 of the Act. Documents and 66 motorcycles were seized as

evidence, and the case was referred to Patong Police for further action.

Two nearby restaurants were also inspected. In one case, an Israeli man admitted to managing the business, handling sales and receiving payments. Registration and tax documents were seized to determine whether nominee structures were being used to conceal foreign ownership.

Of the five businesses inspected – three on Phra Barami Rd and two on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd – four are suspected of violating Thai law, while one remains under investigation.

Phuket Immigration confirmed that all evidence will be submitted for prosecution and reiterated that operations will continue to ensure businesses in Phuket comply fully with Thai law.

Kuwaiti man arrested for crystal meth, overstay

POLICE IN PATONG HAVE arrested a 36-year-old Kuwaiti man for drug possession and overstaying his visa after officers found a small quantity of crystal meth (ya ice) in his hotel room.

Officers arrested the suspect, not named by police, at a hotel on Nanai Rd Soi 8 on Oct 20.

The operation, led by Pol Lt Col Saran Chaiwut together with the Patong Police investigative team, saw officers seize 0.74g of crystal meth.

Patong Police did not explain how officers came to learn that the man had the small amount of drugs in his hotel room.

Regardless, the man was



Photo: Patong Police

charged with illegal possession of a Category 1 narcotic (crystal meth) and for being a foreign national staying in the Kingdom after his visa had expired, Patong Police confirmed.

The man and the seized evidence were taken to Patong Police Station for further legal proceedings, officers said in their report. Eakkapop Thongtub

Motorbike rider killed in Chalong underpass crash

A MAN WAS KILLED AND his female passenger injured after the motorcycle they were riding crashed inside the Chalong underpass last Saturday night (Oct 25).

Pol Lt Col Charuwit Khuncharoen of Chalong Police Station was informed of the accident by the 191 emergency centre at 9:10pm.

At the scene, officers found a Royal Enfield Interceptor 650 motorcycle, registered in Phuket, on its side in the tunnel.

The rider, identified as Anan Manma, 39, had sustained fatal injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. His passenger, Busaya Manma, 34, suffered injuries and was rushed to Chalong Hospital.

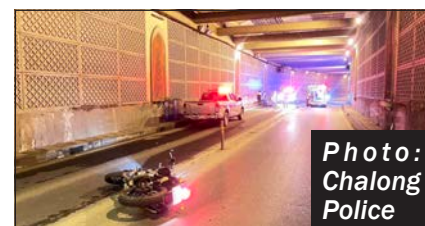


Photo: Chalong Police

Chalong Police Chief Pol Col Rungrit Rattanaphakdee was notified of the incident and coordinated with patrol officers and rescue workers to manage the scene and restore traffic flow.

Mr Anan's body was later transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital for further examination.

At last report, police said the exact cause of the accident remained under investigation.

Eakkapop Thongtub

200th Veg Fest draws to a close

The Phuket News

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The 200th anniversary of the Phuket Vegetarian Festival drew to a close this week with a blaze of devotion, firecrackers and sacred rituals marking the end of nine days of purification, faith and tradition.

At time of press, the final night of celebrations on Wednesday (Oct 29) was to see major shrines lead their closing street processions through the heart of Phuket Town to Saphan Hin, where thousands of devotees and visitors gather each year to pay their final respects.

As tradition dictates, the festival was to officially conclude the following morning (Oct 30) with the lowering of the Go Teng poles at shrines across Phuket, signifying the return of the Nine Emperor Gods to the heavens.

This year's festival carried special significance, not only for its bicentennial milestone but also for its more subdued tone, held in mourning for Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen



Mother. Shrines across the island agreed to scale back the level of festivity and noise, while spirit mediums, or 'mah song', used smaller symbolic weapons in tribute to the late Queen Mother.

Despite the adjustment in tone, the essence of the festival remained deeply spiritual. Devotees continued to uphold the core traditions of merit-making,

purification, and blessing the community.

From the raising of the Go Teng poles on Oct 20 to the final processions, the nine-day festival once again showcased the island's profound Chinese-Thai heritage. Some 39 shrines took part this year, each leading their own 'Iw Keng' processions through their respective communities.

Among the early highlights was the Oct 22 procession by the Jchoor Su Gong Naka Shrine in Wichit, where spirit mediums performed acts of devotion and self-mortification in front of large crowds despite rainy weather.

The following days saw processions by the Tha Ruea and Jeng Ong shrines, whose devotees paraded

through the city carrying offerings and ceremonial banners while enduring steady downpours.

On Oct 25, the Bang Neow Shrine held its revered Iw Keng procession through Phuket Town, continuing the centuries-old tradition of the deity Kiew Ong Tai Te bestowing blessings upon the people.

The largest and most spectacular event came on Monday (Oct 27), when more than 2,000 'mah song' spirit mediums joined the grand city procession of the Jui Tui Tao Bo Keng Shrine – the festival's longest and most elaborate parade. Spirit mediums pierced their cheeks, tongues and bodies with swords, umbrellas and spears in demonstrations of faith believed to absorb and cleanse misfortunes from the community.

That evening, Jui Tui Shrine held its traditional fire-walking ceremony on Luang Pho Rd, drawing huge crowds of devotees and tourists. Participants walked barefoot across glowing embers, symbolising purity, courage and divine protection.

On Oct 28, the sacred deity image from Kathu Shrine – the birthplace of the festival – was paraded through the streets, reaffirming the origins of the island's most important cultural event.

Throughout the week, thousands of Thai and foreign visitors lined the roads to witness the processions, offering incense, fruit and prayers as the sacred palanquins passed by.

According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office, this year's festival was expected to generate around B22 billion for the local economy, underscoring its importance as both a spiritual and economic highlight for the province.

With the closing of this year's festival, many participants have marked their gratitude and reflection. For many, the 200th anniversary of the Phuket Vegetarian Festival served as a powerful reminder of the island's enduring faith, unity and cultural identity – a tradition that continues to inspire devotion two centuries after it began.

Prison 'green space' hits halfway mark

CONSTRUCTION AT the site of the old Phuket Provincial Prison in Phuket Town to transform the area into a 'green space' public area is on target for completion by June next year, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO) President Rewat Arfeerob has confirmed.

"Work is progressing, with the old site already cleared and construction now underway. The construction is now halfway through and hoped to be ready by next year," Mr Rewat told *The Phuket News*.

"Once it is finished, it will be like a new 'lung' for Phuket Town residents, providing a place for exercise, adding green space and a new tourist attraction for Phuket," he added.

The park is built on the former prison land, which is located at the northern end of Phuket Town and covers over 40 rai.

The project, aimed at preserving the historical site and creating a new



Photo: PPAO

recreational space for residents, includes the construction of several key facilities: a pagoda enshrining the relics of the Buddha, a multi-purpose building, pavilion, a children's playground, two additional playground areas, a viewpoint, a scenic viewpoint, and three public restrooms.

Construction began on Dec 19, 2024, and is expected to be completed by June 11, 2026, spanning a total of 540 days.

The construction contract, valued at B165.8 million, was awarded to SPM 5988 Co Ltd, a company based in Bangkok.

The project is overseen by PPAO's committee,

Wasana Samhuai, with Parinya Chariyahatthakit, Sornsawan Sakulsan, Kronchana Khamhaeng, and Suphansa Wunsiew serving as directors and supervisors.

Of note, the old Phuket Provincial Prison was built during the reign of Phraya Ratsadanupradit, the Governor of Phuket in 1901. Counting the total period to the present, it has been in operation for 121 years.

Although the original building stood for over a 100 years, it was not denoted any historical significance and the entire prison site was demolished in November 2022.

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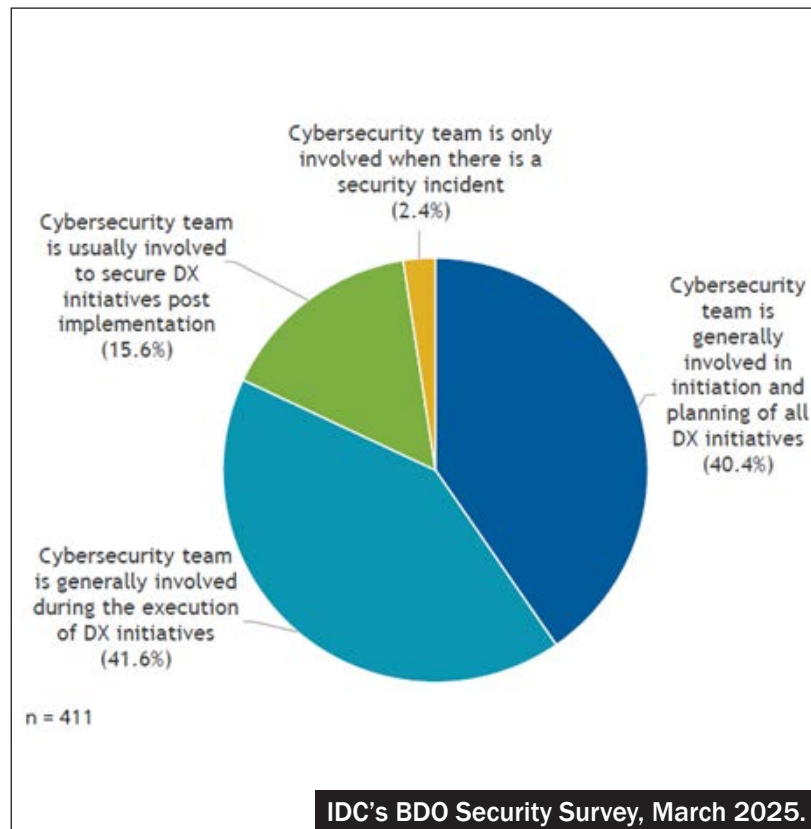
ADVERTORIAL

Cybercrime is no longer just a threat to global corporations; it's impacting local communities as well. In Phuket alone, police have tackled over B900 million online scam losses since 2022, impacting businesses and tourists.

In Thailand, the rapid pace of digital transformation; driven by e-government services, digital payments and tourism recovery; has expanded the attack surface for cybercriminals. SMEs and hospitality operators, in particular, face heightened exposure due to limited in-house IT expertise. Businesses that embed cybersecurity into their transformation roadmap will not only protect their data, but also strengthen stakeholder confidence and long-term competitiveness.

From ransomware and data breaches that paralyse operations, to fake bookings, transport scams and banking frauds targeting visitors, the digital threat landscape has become alarmingly diverse.

Cybercriminals have industrialised their operations, deploying



advanced AI tools like FraudGPT and deepfake technology for large-scale attacks. Underground markets trade stolen credentials for VPNs and Remote Desktops, giving hackers system access. Once inside, they use stealthy tactics – altering permissions and communicating through encryp-

ted channels to maintain long-term, undetected access.

THE DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION SECURITY GAP

The real challenge? A dangerous disconnect between organisations' digital ambitions and their security capabilities. A recent

BDO-sponsored IDC Report reveals critical findings:

Timing Problem: Only 40% of organisations integrate cybersecurity during planning. Most wait until execution (41.6%) or after implementation (15.6%) when it's too late.

Response Crisis: The average incident response time exceeds four days, with full recovery taking over seven days. The primary impact? Delays or cancellations of critical IT and business projects.

Top Vulnerabilities: AI/Machine Learning and cloud adoption are the leading digital initiatives increasing cyber-risk. Third-party risk management and threat intelligence remain the biggest organisational weaknesses.

Budget Myth: Money isn't the barrier anymore. Organisations with flexible budgets still average over five incidents annually proving effectiveness depends on strategy, not spending.

THE PATH FORWARD

Organisations implementing 24x7 monitoring and proactive incident response frameworks recover faster and contain threats earlier.

The solution does not lie in more spending, but in operational readiness and strategic execution.

As identity theft becomes a primary vulnerability in cloud environments, experts urge a shift to agile, proactive security strategies. The focus must be on continuous monitoring, paired with smarter risk management to keep pace with evolving threats.

In today's landscape, cyber resilience must be the priority; it is essential for trust and reliability. BDO's Global Cybersecurity practice helps organisations bridge this gap through:

- Tailored risk assessment
- Deployment of AI-powered defense systems
- Continuous monitoring and threat intelligence integration
- Comprehensive incident response planning

These key steps enable businesses to transform cybersecurity from a compliance requirement into a strategic advantage.

The question isn't whether you'll face a cyberattack, it's whether you'll be ready when it happens.

For more information, contact: infophuket@bdo.th

Phuket on show at ITB Asia

PHUKET HAS TAKEN CENTRE stage at ITB Asia 2025, the region's largest tourism trade show, to strengthen its image as a world-class and sustainable travel destination.

Held from Oct 15-17 at the Marina Bay Sands Expo & Convention Centre in Singapore, the event brought together more than 18,000 participants from across the global tourism industry, including over 1,500 hosted buyers and more than 60,000 business appointments – a 7% increase from last year.

The Phuket Tourist Association, supported by the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation (PPAO), led the island's participation under the theme 'Sea, Sand, Sun', promoting Phuket's natural beauty, cultural heritage and growing reputation for sustainable tourism.

A delegation of 16 tourism operators from Phuket joined the event to meet and negotiate with international partners, reinforcing Phuket's position as one of Asia's must-visit destinations.

The Phuket booth was led by Supattra Jaruariyanon, Vice President of Sustainable Tourism Development and Treasurer of the Phuket Tourist Association, who welcomed several key visitors, including Kittipong Praphatthong, Deputy Governor for Digital Research and Development of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT); and Yatika Kaewborisut, Director of the TAT Singapore Office. Representatives from the Royal Thai



Photo: Phuket Tourist Association

Embassy in Singapore and executives from Chonburi Province also joined the visit.

Phuket also used the opportunity to promote two major upcoming international events: the Thailand Biennale Phuket 2025, set for November 2025 to March 2026, and the Global Sustainable Tourism Council Conference (GSTC 2026), which Phuket will host from April 21-24, 2026.

Participation in ITB Asia 2025 forms part of the province's broader vision to establish 'Phuket as a Sustainable Tourism City', highlighting local collaboration between the public and private sectors, the Phuket Tourist Association said in its report of the event.

"With our strong partnerships and clear sustainability goals, Phuket continues to shine not only as the 'Pearl of the Andaman' but as a global model for responsible and resilient tourism," the association stated. *The Phuket News*

Cabinet mulls easing nightlife zone rules

AS THE GOVERNMENT REINSTATES a study to eliminate zoning rules for entertainment venues and ease the afternoon alcohol sales ban, business operators in the Khao San area in Bangkok say the effort could reduce illegal overtime operations, but certain zones should remain to avoid disturbing nearby neighbourhoods.

During last week's Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul directed the interior permanent secretary and the Public Health Ministry to study abolishing zoning regulations for entertainment venues nationwide, according to a Cabinet source.

At the meeting, discussions concerned outdated zoning rules for entertainment venues, which currently allow only those located in designated zones across five major locations – Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Chon Buri and Koh Samui – to operate until 4am, noted the source.

In Bangkok, only pubs and bars located in permitted zones – along Ratchadaphisek, Silom and Phetchaburi roads – are allowed to stay open late.

Venues outside these areas must either hold an entertainment venue licence or be located in hotels to operate until 4am. However, in practice many places stay open illegally by bribing local officers.

The source said eliminating the zoning rule would encourage operators to register to extend their operating hours.

As a result, the state could collect more value-added tax, potentially amounting to several billion baht.

Authorities are also considering lifting the alcohol sales ban from 2-5pm, said the source.



Photo: Bangkok Post

Sanga Ruangwattanukul, president of the Khao San Road Business Association, said very few pubs and bars on Khao San Road and in Bangkok hold entertainment venue licences, and new licences have not been issued for a long time.

He said most venues only hold licences to sell alcohol and food, which allow them to operate until midnight, even though many bars remain open into the early hours.

If the government plans to reset the entertainment venue licensing system, Mr Sanga said it could persuade illegal operators to register, enabling authorities to enforce more safety measures.

The association said the government should consider issuing different types of venue licences based on operating hours, such as licences allowing operation until midnight, 2am or 4am.

Mr Sanga said zoning regulations should not be completely abolished, as doing so could allow nightlife venues to open near residential areas and disturb local communities.

The government should maintain zoning rules, but expand them to include bustling tourism areas such as Khao San Road and parts of Sukhumvit Road in Bangkok, as the city's nightlife landscape has evolved, he said. *Bangkok Post*

Tributes for Queen Mother pour in

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

World leaders and international organisations have expressed their condolences over the passing of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother as government institutions and members of the public pay tribute to her enduring legacy of service and compassion.

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit the Queen Mother passed away peacefully last Friday (Oct 24) at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital.

The Bureau of the Royal Household said in a statement that a team of doctors monitoring and treating Her Majesty's health at the hospital since Sept 7, 2019, found she had several illnesses and abnormalities in multiple systems that required ongoing medical care.

According to physicians, Her Majesty the Queen Mother developed a bloodstream infection on Oct 17, and despite efforts to treat her, her condition gradually deteriorated. She passed away peacefully at the age of 93.

Tributes soon flooded in, with US President Donald Trump extending his "deepest condolences" to the entire nation when



Mourning members of the public pay their respects to Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the late Queen Mother at the Grand Palace in Bangkok on Monday (Oct 27). Photo: Bangkok Post

he met Thailand's Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul at the ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur last Sunday (Oct 26). "Today, we honour the memory by bringing the blessing of peace to the nation she dearly loved," Trump said.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres also expressed his condolences to Anutin at the Summit, describing the Queen Mother's passing "a great loss for Thailand".

Chinese President Xi Jinping conveyed a letter of condolence to His Majesty the King, expressing deep sorrow over the Queen

Mother's passing and honouring her lifelong dedication to strengthening relations between Thailand and China, according to the Embassy of China in Bangkok.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also expressed his condolences on X, describing the Queen Mother's life as "a shining example of devotion to public service that will continue to inspire generations".

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said President Tharman Shanmugaratnam had written to His Majesty the King to extend his deepest sympathies,

while Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong also sent a letter of condolence to Anutin, offering his respects on behalf of the Singaporean government.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi also expressed her deepest condolences, saying the Queen Mother's "achievements will forever be engraved in our memories".

Leaders from the Philippines, Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates likewise sent messages of condolences.

GUIDING LIGHT

In Bhutan, His Majesty King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, together with His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo, Her Majesty the Gyaltsuen, and Her Majesty Gyalum Tshering Yangdoen Wangchuck, offered prayers and lit 1,000 butter lamps at the Grand Kuenrey of Tashichhodzong in memory of the Queen Mother.

In a letter to Anutin, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet expressed deepest sympathy on the irreplaceable loss of the Queen Mother, praising her lifelong devotion to improving the welfare of the Thai people, preservation of traditional crafts and contributions to rural development.

Cambodia's opposition leader Sam Rainsy, meanwhile, published a message honouring the Queen Mother's contributions to cultural preservation and rural development.

The Karen National Union also issued a statement, describing the Queen Mother as "a guiding light for all Karen people and citizens".

In Bangkok large crowds of mourners from all over the country gathered over the weekend and into this week at Sahathai Samakhom Pavilion within the Grand Palace to pay their respects before a portrait of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, the Queen Mother.

To accommodate the increasing number of mourners, the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration has set up tents and other facilities for public convenience at Sanam Luang.

According to the Bureau of the Royal Household, the public may pay their respects before the royal portrait at Sahathai Samakhom Pavilion from 8:30am to 4pm daily. A royal condolence book is also available at the site for mourners to sign.

The public will be permitted to pay homage before the royal remains at the Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall from Nov 9, between 9am and noon.

Thai-Cambodia ceasefire co-signed by Trump

KUALA LUMPUR

US PRESIDENT Donald Trump co-signed a truce between Thailand and Cambodia during the first stop on his Asia tour last Sunday (Oct 26), touting new trade deals with the countries after they agreed to prolong a ceasefire along their border.

Five days of clashes erupted along Thailand and Cambodia's jungle-clad frontier this summer, as a territorial dispute triggered open combat, killing more than 40 people and forcing 300,000 to flee their homes.

Thailand and Cambodia agreed an initial truce in late July after intervention by Trump, as well as Chinese diplomats and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who chairs the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) bloc.

A new joint declaration was signed by Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet, as well as Trump and Anwar, after the US leader landed in the Malaysian capital.



Anwar (left), Anutin, Hun, Trump. Photo: AFP

"This is a momentous day for all of the people of Southeast Asia, as we sign a historic agreement to end the military conflict between Cambodia and Thailand," Trump said.

The deal, sealed with a firm handshake between the Thai and Cambodian leaders, contains broad rhetoric confirming both countries' "unwavering commitment to peace and security".

It also says they will organise de-mining efforts along their border, withdraw heavy weapons and allow access to ceasefire monitor teams organised by the ASEAN regional bloc.

Thailand has promised to release 18 Cambodian soldiers it has held in

captivity for the past three months.

Soon after the agreement was signed, the White House announced trade deals with Thailand and Cambodia.

A non-binding memorandum of understanding with Thailand outlines increased cooperation on trading rare earth minerals, which are vital to tech products and of which China is the world's leading producer.

The headline of the Cambodian trade deal confirms the 19% levy the country had already secured this summer, a let-off from the 36% Trump had been threatening in his global tariff blitz.

AFP

Paetongtarn resigns to 'save' Pheu Thai

BANGKOK

FORMER PRIME MINISTER Paetongtarn Shinawatra announced her resignation from the post of leader of the Pheu Thai Party this on Oct 22, to facilitate a revamp of the party.

Ms Paetongtarn said in a written statement her resignation would initiate an overhaul in line with her announcement on Oct 7.

"Today I decided to resign as the leader of the Pheu Thai Party with the intention of starting the overhaul of the Pheu Thai Party, as I announced on Oct 7, 2025, with a new vision and courage for change truly for the sake of the people," said the daughter of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

"The Pheu Thai Party, one of the nation's major political parties, must be revamped... Change in the Pheu Thai Party must begin as soon as possible. Therefore, I choose to resign as the party leader



Paetongtarn on Oct 22. Photo: Bangkok Post

to let the party be revamped freely and perfectly rebuilt."

Despite her resignation as party leader, Ms Paetongtarn said, she remained "a member of the Pheu Thai Party, (and) the head of the Pheu Thai family and will together with all of us build a new era for the Pheu Thai Party."

Ms Paetongtarn "made a sacrifice" with her resignation to "save the party" and prevent her story from being used as a "political tool" in the future, said Sorawong Thienthong, former Pheu Thai secretary-general.

He said that after Ms Paetongtarn was removed

as prime minister by the Constitutional Court, there were petitions for the disbandment of Pheu Thai. Her resignation would prevent other parties from using her as an issue to encourage defections from Pheu Thai.

He also said the resignation was part of the party's revamp and party members were prepared to compete in the coming general election, scheduled to take place in March 2026.

Ms Paetongtarn would remain the "head of the Pheu Thai family" and thus a pillar of the party, Mr Sorawong said.

Bangkok Post

Are we evolving backwards?



Photo: Supplied

WELLTHWISE

Libby Heath

Humans spent millions of years evolving to stand tall – hunting, gathering, farming and building civilisations. And now? We are hunched over laptops, necks craned toward glowing rectangles, thumbs twitching faster than thoughts. Our opposable thumbs once allowed us to master tools; now the tools are mastering us, literally reshaping our bodies.

Evolution, it seems, has taken a U-turn. Poor posture is the silent saboteur of modern life. Shoulders round for-

ward, the chest collapses and the head juts out like a turtle peeking from its shell. The spine's graceful S-curve contorts into a weary question mark. What was once an expression of confidence and vitality has become a default slump – moulded by endless screen time, soft chairs, and sedentary habits. Slouching does not just look lazy; it quietly drains energy, compresses circulation and starves your body of vitality at a cellular level.

When you slouch, the chest cavity collapses and the diaphragm loses its full range of motion. Each breath brings in less air, and the lower lobes of the lungs – where oxygen exchange is richest – never fully expand. The result is a subtle but chronic state of low oxygen, known as hypo-oxygenation. When

oxygen levels drop, the tiny capillaries that deliver oxygen to your tissues start to suffer. These vessels rely on a steady oxygen gradient to move oxygen from the bloodstream into the cells. When that gradient weakens, diffusion slows and tissues are literally starved of fuel.

Inefficient

Over time, low oxygen triggers vasoconstriction, the narrowing of small vessels, and something called endothelial dysfunction – the stiffening of the delicate lining inside your capillaries. Once that happens, circulation becomes sluggish, nutrient delivery falters and waste removal slows. The result is a perfect storm of micro-inflammation, stiffness and reduced tissue repair. In short, chronic low oxygen makes your capillaries sluggish, leaky and inefficient – setting off a chain reaction that limits healing, weakens muscles and leaves connective tissue tight and undernourished. Poor posture also compresses blood vessels in the pelvis and legs, contributing to swelling, varicose veins and in the long run, an increased risk of cardiovascular problems.

Slouching also wreaks havoc on muscle balance. When your torso collapses, your core muscles – the deep stabilisers of the spine including the abdominals, obliques and glutes – switch off. That leaves your lower back to carry the load. It is why so many desk workers complain of chronic back pain. Their spines are not weak – their abdominal muscles and glutes have simply taken early retirement, forcing the lumbar muscles into overtime.

Too much sitting creates its own vicious cycle. When you sit, your hips and knees stay bent, which keeps your hamstrings – the long muscles at the back of your thighs – in a shortened position. Sit like that for hours every day and your body adapts: muscle fibres and fascia literally “forget” how to extend fully. The shortened hamstrings pull on the pelvis, tipping it backward and flattening the natural curve of the lower spine. Over time, that distortion contributes to tight lower backs, stiff hips and – you guessed it – poor posture.

And it does not stop at the body. Posture shapes psychology. Studies show that slouching is associated with lower energy, dampened mood and even increased stress reactivity, while upright posture boosts confidence, alertness and emotional resilience. In other words, standing tall does not just make you look more confident; it actually helps you feel that way. Proper alignment is not vanity – it is psychological armour.

Adaptable

The good news is that poor posture can be reversed. The body is remarkably adaptable. Consistent movement, mindful awareness and a few simple adjustments can undo years of slouching. Standing up and stretching every 30 minutes reawakens circulation and reminds the body what vertical feels like. Strengthening the core – not just the abdominals but the whole system of muscles that stabilises the spine – gives the body its scaffolding back. Planks, bridges and gentle Pilates movements reactivate those sleepy stabilisers and bring balance back to the torso.

Releasing the front of the body and reawakening the back is equally essential. Opening tight chest and hip muscles allows the spine to return to its natural curve, while strengthening the upper back helps the shoulders pull gently into alignment. Think of it as re-training your body to “un-slouch”.

Even the way you breathe matters: deep, diaphragmatic breathing restores oxygen flow, calms the nervous system and strengthens the inner corset of muscles that support your spine. Each full inhale expands and lifts; each complete exhale stabilises and grounds. You can literally rebuild your posture from the inside out – one breath at a time.

Finally, environment matters. Adjust your workspace so your monitor sits at eye level, your feet are flat and your pelvis is neutral. Imagine a string attached to the crown of your head, gently lifting you upward – a simple cue that lengthens the spine and awakens postural awareness. And if you want an instant test of strength, try sitting on a backless stool. It forces your body to rely on its own internal support instead of the chair's.

With consistency and awareness, you can undo years of slouching. Stand tall, breathe deeply and remind gravity who is really in charge. The next time you catch yourself hunched over your device, straighten up. Pull your shoulders back, engage your core and take a big, juicy breath. Imagine you are not evolving backwards, but forwards – into a future where technology and human health productively coexist.

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

The December/January 2026 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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

Want to be in it?

CONTACT JASON TODAY – gm@classactmedia.co.th

Thailand's education system is failing the future

Rashmi Grover

Walk into any classroom today, from Bangkok to Boston, and you will witness the same scene: rows of students learning how to recall information that an AI can summon in milliseconds.

Children are being tested on their ability to memorise facts, sit through standardised exams that rewards compliance over creativity and are expected to emerge successfully into a world that demands agility, emotional intelligence and technological fluency.

The disconnect has become almost impossible to ignore. While artificial intelligence is reshaping every industry, education remains stubbornly analogue, clinging to models designed a century ago to produce factory workers, not creators, innovators or system thinkers.

The great mismatch

The core problem isn't laziness or lack of innovation – it's inertia. Most education systems, from the British A-Levels to the International Baccalaureate (IB) are built on a similar foundation: students are graded on how much they remember, not how effectively they think; curriculums are divided into subjects that barely interact, though the real world is inherently interdisciplinary; and teachers are being burdened to deliver static syllabi while technology evolves faster than any textbook can be printed.

It's not that schools are doing their jobs badly – it's that they're doing the wrong job very well.

Teachers can't be faulted as the system refuses to let their role evolve. The truth is, most teachers want to innovate, to personalise learning, to help students think critically and creatively – but they're bound by policies, outdated metrics and institutional inertia that chained them to the past. To unlock education's future, we must first liberate its teachers and give them the autonomy, tools and trust to evolve into mentors, facilitators and co-learners today's world demands.



Students take part in the 'Edsy AI Speaking Coach' project, which introduces the use of AI, at a school in Bangkok, Feb 20, 2024. Photo: Pattarapong Chatpattarasill / Bangkok Post

Customised education

In 1984, Benjamin Bloom wrote a groundbreaking insight that nearly all learners can achieve mastery when instruction is adapted to their individual pace and needs. Instead of teaching to the "average", Bloom argued for mastery learning. Each student only moves forward when they have demonstrated a deep understanding of a concept. His work showed that students who tutored one-on-one outperformed students in a traditional setting by two standard deviations. Today, with AI adaptive technology, Bloom's vision of customised education is finally scalable. Systems can be designed to continuously assess each learner's progress, identify gaps and adjust content and feedback in real time.

The curriculum of the future

If schools are ready to adapt to the current world system, they must begin by breaking down the three-sacred cows: exams, subject silo and teacher-as-oracle model.

1. Assessment should be continuous, not catastrophic: exams currently measure how students perform under pressure, not how deeply they under-

stand or how they learn. In an AI-driven world, the process matters more than the product. Schools should evaluate students through portfolios, projects and real-world problem solving.

2. Subjects should merge into systems: Climate change isn't a 'science problem'. Poverty isn't a 'social studies problem'. The next generation must learn to see across boundaries and understand how data, design, ethics and governance interlock.

3. Teachers are not deliverers, they evolve into coaches: Teachers aren't the main source of knowledge but rather work to motivate and inspire students to follow their own path and unlock their *ikigai*. Their role shifts to become architect of a learning environment where they use AI to personalise learning and free up time for deeper mentorship.

Moment of truth

Picture a classroom that functions more like a start-up incubator than a lecture hall. Students collaborate in small teams in mixed aged settings on real challenges – building AI models to track local pollution, creating digital art exhibitions that tell social stories, or coding chatbots that teach history through conversation. Every few weeks, they present their projects to peers, teachers and community mentors for feedback. Their grades aren't numbers but narratives of growth backed by evidence in portfolios.

The world won't wait for Thailand's education system to catch up. AI will keep advancing. The economy will keep transforming. And the question is whether we want our children to be consumers of technology or creators of the future. This transformation isn't a luxury; it's a survival strategy.

Parents often worry that AI will "take over" their children's minds and that it will replace thinking, creativity or even human connection. But the truth is that it isn't here to consume your child's potential, it's here to expand it. Used wisely, AI can enable our children to guide it, question it and use it to build a smarter and kinder world.

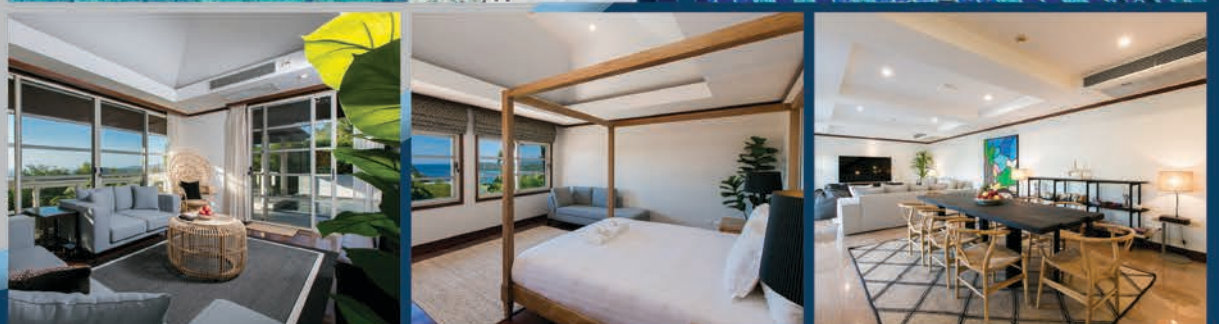
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POP QUIZ

1. In 1971 which USA space probe was first to orbit another planet?
2. Ingemar Stenmark won a record 85 world cup races in which sport?
3. Which common legal item literally means 'under penalty'?
4. Which European country is divided into areas called Cantons?
5. Linus Torvalds invented and wrote what?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

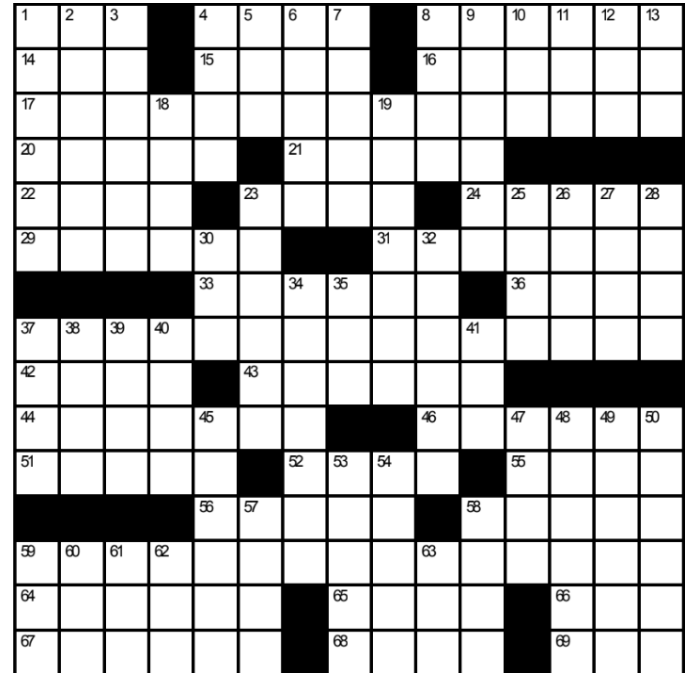
		5	1				6
4		2			8		
7			3				
	6			3			7
				7			
2				9		8	
					9		3
			2			9	4
8				5	6		

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across
1. Batiking need
 4. Carangid fish
 8. German cathedral city
 14. Marker
 15. Kachina doll makers
 16. Swimming briefs
 17. Old ____
 20. Old-fashioned music hall
 21. Mountaineer's tool
 22. Sloughs
 23. Pervasive quality
 24. Actress Samantha
 29. San Joaquin Valley city
 31. Code of the samurai
 33. Simpletons
 36. Kuwaiti, e.g.
 37. Phrase from Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar"
 42. Study, say
 43. Protect, in a way
 44. ____ the Wise (king of Castile)
 46. Clear
 51. Palpitate
 52. Way off the highway
 55. Bickerer in the "Iliad"
 56. Pipsqueak
- Down
1. Become extinct
 2. Over there
 3. Columnist Robinson
 4. Kicker's target
 5. Lettuce
 6. Sap sucker
 7. "____ Duck" (1976 hit)
 8. In the Red?
 9. High points
 10. Education acronym
 11. Common contraction
 12. Old name for Tokyo
 13. Yuletide beverage
 18. Casualty
 19. Soothing brew
 23. Lots
 25. City in western Libya
26. ____ cheque
27. Rodin sculpture at the Met
 28. Bench wear
 30. Not a thing
 32. Depletes
 34. Inattentive one
 35. Mythical beast
 37. Mideast hot spot
 38. Medicinal balsam
 39. Crash site?
 40. Frenziedly
 41. Boy toy?
 45. State-of-the-art
 47. Literally, "king"
 48. Conical tents
 49. ____ bellowsfish
 50. Relegate
 53. Concerning
 54. Flying mimic?
 57. New newts
 58. Compared to
 59. Café alternative
 60. Bottom line?
 61. Hit head-on
 62. "____ pales in Heaven the morning star": Lowell
 63. Special effects maker: (abbr.)

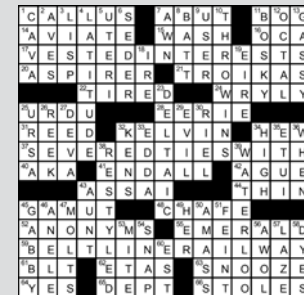
Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

- 1) Mariner 9; 2) Skiing; 3) Subpoena; 4) Switzerland; 5) Linux computer operating system



Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:



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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

3

percent of people change their bed sheets more frequently than once a week, according to a YouGov survey.

12

percent of Americans think that 'USB' is the acronym for a European country, a study has found.

3,860

kamikaze pilots died during World War II, but only 19% of kamikaze attacks managed to hit a ship.

100,000

speeding tickets are issued in the US each day, averaging one in six Americans fined each year and totalling roughly 41 million tickets a year.

50 million

crabs are estimated to be living on Christmas Island – so many that special road crossings have been set up for the species.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW



A quiet moment at Cape Panwa. Photo by Sutharat Khaodee

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

This week in history

Oct 31, 1941

After 14 years of work, Mount Rushmore is completed.

Nov 1, 1512

The ceiling of the Sistine Chapel, painted by Michelangelo, is exhibited to the public for the first time.

Nov 2, 1960

Penguin Books is found not guilty of obscenity in the trial *R v Penguin Books Ltd*,



Mount Rushmore.

the *Lady Chatterley's Lover* case.

Nov 3, 1838

The Times of India, the world's largest circulated English language daily broadsheet newspaper is founded as *The Bombay Times and Journal of Commerce*.

Nov 4, 2008

Barack Obama becomes the first person of biracial or African-American descent to be elected as President of the United States.

Nov 5, 1138

Lý Anh Tông is enthroned as emperor of Vietnam at the age of two, beginning a 37-year reign.

Nov 6, 1971

The United States Atomic Energy Commission tests the largest U.S. underground hydrogen bomb, code-named Cannikin, on Amchitka Island in the Aleutians.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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5 NOV



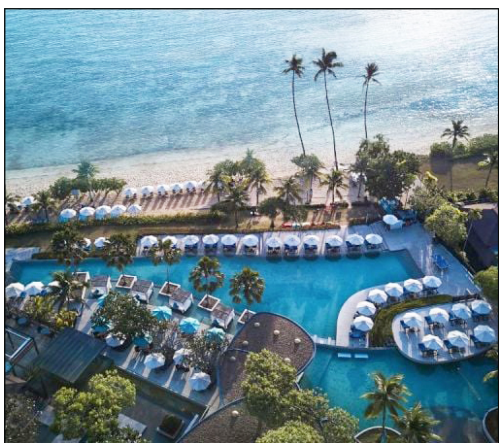
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THU

13 NOV



Skål Phuket November AGM & Dinner

Our host of the month of November, Vincent Delsol, extends a warm invitation to all Skalleagues and friends of Skål for a great evening at Phuket Pullman Panwa Beach Resort. Join us for an elegant evening by the sea as Skål International Phuket welcomes members and guests for our November Networking Dinner. The evening begins with the AGM at 5pm (members only) followed by networking drinks at 6pm at Edge Beach Club, followed by a Thai Night Market-themed dinner at Aqua Restaurant from 7:30pm, celebrating friendship, culture, and the vibrant spirit of Thailand. Members B1200 - Non-Members B1600. Bookings - contact@skalphuket.org

SAT

29 NOV

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Snowbirds Charity Golf Classic

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1 NOV



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7TH VARUN MEMORIAL TROPHY

The annual memorial golf event was held on October 25 at the Red Mountain golf course in memory of Varun Sethi, beloved member of the Sethi family. Over 60 family and friends gathered for a day of celebration of Varun's life. Clear skies welcomed everyone for the round followed by a prize-giving dinner at Bollywood Phuket restaurant.



CASSIA CELEBRATES 10 YEARS OF VIBRANT HOSPITALITY WITH A BRIGHT FUTURE AHEAD

Cassia Phuket, the flagship property of Banyan Group's playful and design-led apartment-hotel brand, proudly marks its 10th anniversary on October 20. To commemorate this milestone, Cassia unites all four of its properties – Cassia Phuket, Cassia Rama 9 Bangkok, Cassia Bintan and Cassia Sokcho – in a regional campaign celebrating a decade of creativity, community and colour. "As Cassia Phuket turns 10, we're celebrating more than a milestone – we're celebrating the stories, friendships and creative spirit that shaped our journey," said Eddy Kanittha Detmak Na Patthalung, General Manager of Cassia Phuket. "From our vibrant design to our community roots, Cassia has always been about living out loud and feeling at home, wherever you are. The future is bright, and we're excited to continue sharing our Cassia energy with the world."

Chinese duo deny Dechapol, Supissara

BADMINTON

MIXED DOUBLES PAIR Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran were runners-up at the US\$950,000 (B30 million) BWF French Open last Sunday (Oct 26).

Bidding to win their fifth title of the year and seventh overall, world No.4 pair Dechapol and Supissara lost to the second-ranked Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping of China in two games at Glaz Arena in Rennes.

It took Feng and Huang 32 minutes before they won the opening game, converting on their seventh game point to edge it at 27-25.

The second was much easier as the Chinese duo, who took the game 21-12 to wrap up their eight World Tour title this year.

Feng and Huang also beat Dechapol and Supissara in the semi-finals of the Arctic Open in Finland earlier this month.

Dechapol and Supissara were the only Thai players competing on the final day of the tournament after



Dechapol and Supissara. Photo: AFP

Kunlavut Vitidsarn bowing out in the semi-finals of the men's singles to Christo Popov of France on Saturday.

Anders Antonsen of Denmark won the men's singles after defeating Popov 21-12, 21-19 on Sunday, while South Korea's An Seyoung overcame China's Wang Zhiyi 21-13, 21-7 to claim the women's singles title.

South Korea's Kim Won Ho and Seo Seung Jae defeated Fajar Alfian and Muhammad Shohib Fikri of Indonesia to win the men's doubles, while Japan's Yuki Fukushima and Mayu Matsumoto overcame Li Yi Jing and Luo Xu Min to claim the women's doubles title.

Bangkok Post

Norris lands top spot in Mexico

FORMULA ONE

AFP

Lando Norris regained the lead in the drivers' world championship for the first time in six months last Sunday (Oct 26) when he steered his McLaren to a commanding victory in a breathless Mexico Grand Prix.

Driving with great authority, the 25-year-old Briton came home 30.324 seconds ahead of Ferrari's Charles Leclerc, with four-time champion Max Verstappen third for Red Bull.

For Norris, it was a first win in Mexico, his sixth this season and the 10th of his career – achieved with a near-perfect race from pole position to lift him back to the top of the drivers' title race by one point for the first time since the Saudi Arabian race in April.

With four races remaining, Norris has 357 points, ahead of PIASTRI on 356 and Verstappen, who is third on 321.

"A beautiful win to celebrate here in this stadium in Mexico," said Norris.

"It's one weekend at a time for me. I am happy and I am focused on myself. I am just keeping my head down and I keep to myself.

"I just stay relaxed and it helps. It helped me get a good start and it's the best thing."

Haas teenage rookie Oliver Bearman was a career best fourth ahead of PIASTRI, and Mercedes' young rookie Kimi Antonelli.



Lando Norris celebrates his win. Photo: AFP

The Italians teammate George Russell was seventh ahead of seven-time champion Lewis Hamilton in the second Ferrari, Esteban Ocon in the second Haas and Sauber's Gabriel Bortoleto.

The packed stands on a hot day at the Autodromo Hermanos Rodriguez witnessed high-speed chaos at the start as the leaders powered down and into the first corner.

Norris made a good start from pole and managed to hold his lead as Leclerc, Hamilton and Verstappen drew alongside him.

Leclerc battled Hamilton and ran off while Verstappen, in uncompromising mood, also ran off after attacking. He returned third but gave it back to Hamilton.

Norris stayed in front ahead of the

two Ferraris in grid order while Verstappen lunged at every opening, bouncing off on lap six and then making contact with Hamilton as he tried again on lap seven.

Looking serene in the sunshine, Norris was five seconds clear by lap 15.

Behind him it was breathless stuff in the thin air at 2,200 metres altitude, but Norris appeared unflustered as the chasing pack began to pit.

Norris pitted on lap 34, but such was his superiority he rejoined the race still with an eight second lead.

In a frantic finale, Verstappen was third and chasing Leclerc, while Bearman resisted PIASTRI before a late VSC deployment to clear Carlos Sainz's parked Williams halted the drama until the final lap.

Thailand island derby

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 16

The island derby is therefore a pivotal moment that should serve as a wake-up call for Thai lower league football. The collapse of the speculative, personality-driven Phuket project proves the fragility of relying on volatile external investment.

While PAFC has restored its internal dignity and performance through its reliable, returning local leadership, the club must still absorb the structural lessons of the Samui model.

First, the club needs to institutionalise stability by moving away from reliance on shared, leased facilities like Surakul Stadium and investing in or integrating with permanent, dedicated infrastructure that mirrors the comprehensive training and housing campus of the Maraleina Sports Resort. This provides a guarantee of long-term commitment and mitigates overhead costs.

Second, the club must commit financial resources to a funded, formalised youth pathway – a Pro-Maker programme



Phang Nga Stadium, PAFC's current home. Photo: Phuket Andaman FC Facebook

for the Andaman region – to create sustainable homegrown talent, rather than relying on high-risk, expensive external acquisitions.

The winner on Sunday will take the points, but the true victor in the long-term struggle for viable Thai football governance is already clear. Samui United has built a resilient model; for PAFC, the return to basic solvency under local hands is a powerful first step, but adopting Samui's structural blueprint remains the necessary course of action to secure their long-term existence.

Simon Causton is the co-host of 'The Football Siam Podcast' and writer of the 'Football Siam' blog which covers all things Thai football.

Tour de France 2026 route unveiled

CYCLING

FROM MONTJUIC IN Barcelona to Montmartre in Paris, the 2026 Tour de France presents champion Tadej Pogacar and his rivals with a plethora of mountain passes and peaks, including two stages tackling the revered Alpe d'Huez.

The 21-day race will start from Barcelona on July 4 and cover 3,333 kilometres before finishing beneath the Arc de Triomphe in Paris on July 26 after three climbs of the cobbled Rue Lepic in Montmartre, organisers revealed on Oct 23.

It is an itinerary which offers Pogacar's chief rivals Jonas Vingegaard and Remco Evenepoel more hope than the 2025 route did. The route ignores the northern part of France altogether, in complete contrast to the 2025 edition.

"It's designed to maintain the suspense until the end," race director Christian Prudhomme said.

The route takes the peloton into France via the Pyrenees and up as far as Bordeaux, before setting off on a diagonal route towards the Alps and a hefty overnight transfer to Paris for the final day.

There are seven flat stages, four hilly runs and eight moun-



Pogacar (centre) and Vingegaard (right). Photo: AFP

tainous routes, with five of those featuring a mountain-top finish.

For the solo specialists, such as Olympic and world time-trial champion Evenepoel, there are two races against the clock.

The opening stage features a 19km team effort in Barcelona which could propel the Belgian into his first yellow jersey.

FORMIDABLE

There is also a tough 26km individual run as the Tour enters the Alps on stage 16, with a formidable climb halfway through.

Last season, Vingegaard performed poorly on both time-trials, which is where Pogacar earned most of his final winning margin.

But the wealth of mountain racing is what stands out on the 2026 edition – and this, on paper at least, favours Visma's Vingegaard.

The riders will tackle all five of France's mountain ranges: the Pyrenees, the Massif Central, the Jura, the Vosges and then an extraordinarily challenging final week in the Alps.

The route features 30 major climbs, the same total as the 2023 edition when Vingegaard rode to his second Tour de France title.

Introduced in 2025 as part of the Olympic Games legacy, the final stage will again feature three ascents of Rue Lepic in Montmartre.

"We wanted to nail this down again and hope to make it a regular feature," Prudhomme said of the wildly successful concluding stage.

The increasingly popular women's Tour de France starts in Lausanne, Switzerland a week after the men's one finishes, ending in Nice with a run along the iconic Promenade des Anglais. AFP

Eze does it for Gunners

FOOTBALL

AFP

Arsenal extended their lead at the top of the Premier League to four points thanks to a solitary Eberechi Eze goal in a 1-0 win against Crystal Palace last Sunday (Oct 26).

Playing against the team he left in the summer, Eze latched onto a flick from centre-back Gabriel to acrobatically fire home the winner in the 39th minute.

The win takes Arsenal four points clear of Bournemouth, who continued their excellent campaign with a comfortable 2-0 win at home against Nottingham Forest thanks to goals from Marcus Tavernier and Eli Junior Kroupi.

Tottenham jumped into third thanks to an emphatic 3-0 win at Everton, with a brace from defender and captain Micky van der Ven and a last minute Pape Sarr strike.

Meanwhile, Liverpool lost for the fourth consecutive game in the Premier League as Brentford beat the champions 3-2 on Saturday.

Less than a month since starting the season with five straight wins, Liverpool's title defence has come off the rails as the defensive frailties in Arne Slot's side were brutally exposed by Brentford.

Dango Ouattara, Kevin Schade and Igor Thiago all scored for the Bees,



Eberechi Eze (left) celebrates with teammates after scoring the winner against former club Crystal Palace. Photo: AFP

with Milos Kerkez and Mohamed Salah on target for the Reds.

Sunderland's dream return to the top flight after an eight-year absence goes on after a 2-1 win at Chelsea lifted the Black Cats up to fourth in the table.

Alejandro Garnacho scored early for the home team before Wilson Isidor equalised and Chemsdine Talbi struck the winner in the 93rd minute.

"We were not good enough and in the Premier League the consequences can be bad," said Chelsea boss Enzo Maresca afterwards.

Unai Emery celebrated three years in the Aston Villa hot seat with a hard-fought victory to end Manchester City's nine-game unbeaten run, with Matty Cash's first half goal the difference.

Manchester United maintained their good recent form with a 4-2

victory over Brighton, with Matheus Cunha, Casemiro, and Bryan Mbeumo (2) scoring for the home side, with Danny Welbeck and Charalampos Kostoulas replying for the Seagulls.

It took nearly a year under Ruben Amorim for United to win back-to-back league games but they have now won three in a row.

Newcastle beat Fulham 2-1 thanks to captain Bruno Guimaraes' 90th minute strike at St. James' Park after Saka Lukic had cancelled out Jacob Murphy's opener for the Magpies.

It saw Marco Silva's men fall to a fourth consecutive defeat that leaves them hovering just above the relegation zone.

Elsewhere, Burnley scored a late winner in a 3-2 victory at troubled Wolves, who remain winless in the league this campaign thus far.

Owls enter administration

FOOTBALL

STRUGGLING CHAMPIONSHIP club Sheffield Wednesday went into administration last Friday (Oct 24) and were hit with an automatic 12-point penalty by the English Football League.

Despite the former Premier League club slipping further towards relegation as a result of the move, supporters expressed delight that the contested ownership of Thai businessman Dejphon Chansiri is over.

Second-tier Wednesday said with creditors closing in they had appointed an insolvency firm as administrators, following unsuccessful efforts to find a buyer.

The 12-point penalty leaves The Owls on minus six points at the bottom of the Championship – 15 points from safety.

Fans have held protests calling on Chansiri to sell throughout the season, with thousands of supporters boycotting games in a bid to force him out, while images on social media showed seats spelling out Chansiri's



Chansiri. Photo: AFP

name in the North Stand at Hillsborough being ripped out.

Wednesday failed to pay players and staff on time on five separate occasions this year.

The Sheffield Wednesday Supporters' Trust described it as "one of the most bittersweet days in our club's proud 158-year history".

"Administration is not to be celebrated. It needn't have ended this way. But we are overjoyed to have Dejphon Chansiri out of our club for good," the Trust said in a statement.

The EFL confirmed the points sanction but pointed out the process "presents Sheffield Wednesday with the opportunity to move matters towards a successful sale and secure future under new ownership". AFP

Hudson vows to fire up War Elephants after Ishii axing

FOOTBALL

NEW THAILAND COACH Anthony Hudson said he is relishing the pressure after being thrown into the hot seat, tasked with leading the War Elephants to the 2027 AFC Asian Cup finals in Saudi Arabia.

Speaking during his unveiling at the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) headquarters on Oct 23, the Englishman, who replaced the dismissed Masatada Ishii, said his top priority is to take Thailand to the Asian Cup.

Thailand are scheduled to play Sri Lanka in their fifth qualifier in Colombo on Nov 18, with the final group match against Turkmenistan set for March next year.

Both teams have nine points from four games, but Turkmenistan hold the edge with a superior head-to-head record against the War Elephants.



Hudson. Photo: Supplied

"My dream is to help Thailand qualify for the Asian Cup, to do everything I can to improve the team, help the players and fans be proud of the Thai team. And I will do everything I can to achieve that," said Hudson.

Hudson, who previously served as technical director for Thailand's U23s, also praised Ishii for his work with the national team and insisted he will build on the Japanese coach's foundation while adding his own personality. "It is more

evolution than revolution," he said.

Ishii's dismissal followed a meeting at FAT headquarters with the association's technical committee on Oct 22.

The surprise decision drew heavy criticism from furious fans, who flooded social media platforms including the FAT president's Facebook page.

According to Ishii, he was abruptly dismissed during what was supposed to be a routine performance review after the national team's Asian Cup qualifiers.

"They weren't sincere," he said immediately after his sacking.

Fans argue Ishii was the best thing to happen to Thai football in years. Under his leadership, Thailand's FIFA ranking climbed from outside the top 100 to 96, and his win rate of over 50% was the second-best of any Thai national team coach in history. *Bangkok Post*

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Sport



**Fury over
Ishii shock
sacking > p15**

KOH-LASSICO

Thai island derby a clash of ideals

Phuket Andaman FC will be looking for the three points in Sunday's (Nov 2) Thailand island derby against Samui United. Photo: Phuket Andaman FC Facebook



FOOTBALL

Simon Causton

The rise of Thai football has often been a story defined by the mainland – the dominance of Buriram, the metropolitan battles of Bangkok. But this weekend the focus shifts south, to the Gulf of Thailand and the Andaman Sea, for a fixture that transcends the standard three points: the first Thailand island derby.

Samui United host Phuket Andaman FC (PAFC) in the BYD Dolphin League 3 (T3) South Region at 3:30pm on Sunday (Nov 2). Adopting a playful take on the famous 'Classico' match in Spain's La Liga between heavyweights Barcelona and Real Madrid, the encounter has been dubbed locally as the 'Koh-lassico.' This clash of island neighbours represents a microcosm of Thai football's persistent struggle with governance, finance and sustainability.

On one side, Samui United, steered by Thai international Mika Chunuonsee, represents a blueprint for integrated, asset-backed stability. On the other, PAFC is attempting to recover from a spectacular governance collapse – an upheaval of its former external leadership – which has exposed the dangers of high-risk, personality-driven and woefully underfunded investment in the lower leagues.

MORE THAN THREE POINTS

On the surface, the fixture is perfectly balanced. Both Samui United and PAFC enter the weekend on 10 points after six games, holding identical records of three wins, one draw and two losses. This equality, however, masks two diverging trajectories.

PAFC, despite deep organisational trauma, has found recent form, posting a run of three wins from their last five matches. Samui United, by contrast, has demonstrated more inconsistency, mixing wins with two recent losses. With PT Satun FC just one point ahead in third place, the winner of this derby will not only gain a crucial competitive advantage but also seize the psychological mandate as the dominant island force.

Yet, the true narrative is off the pitch, in the boardroom and in the ferry terminals. This game is a contest between two antithetical models of T3 management.

BLUEPRINT

Samui United, nicknamed 'The Island Boys', has established a model that structurally protects the club from the financial volatility endemic to the third tier. Their club structure, founded in 2024 as the professional senior team of the long-standing Samui United Academy, is built upon rock-solid, non-footballing commercial assets.

The core of this stability is the Maraleina Sports Resort, a

sprawling 130,000 square-metre complex that functions as the club's integrated home. This model of embedded infrastructure provides unparalleled fiscal resilience by significantly reducing the crippling fixed costs that often bankrupt standalone T3 clubs.

The stark reality of this gulf in resources was laid bare in the Chang FA Cup 2025/26 qualifying round on Sept 24 when Samui United achieved a massive 20-0 victory against amateur side Nakhonpathom City. The result was tragically aided by the visitors' financial plight; the Nakhonpathom players, unable to afford the travel and accommodation for the long journey, reportedly went hungry and were forced to stay in a local temple. The episode, where the established T3 side thrashed an opponent crippled by poverty and distance, serves as a brutal illustration of Samui's self-financed advantage. Vice-Chairman Mika Chunuonsee later provided financial aid to the visitors, a gesture of sporting goodwill that followed a scoreline of absolute, structural dominance.

The technical legitimacy of the project is secured by Chunuonsee's involvement, lending credibility and attracting talent who seek security and high-level training. The long-term vision is further secured through the 'Pro-Maker' academy, a youth focus designed to generate homegrown talent rather than relying on expensive, speculative external transfers.

CRISIS

PAFC, prior to the recent crisis, was an ambitious project based on a grand, speculative vision. Under the 'leadership' of former co-owner and President Russ Horsley, the club was marketed as embracing a modern approach, but in reality, it was woefully underfunded and hinged on a high-risk, 'pay-to-play' academy model designed to generate income from foreign students.

The subsequent "catastrophe" – the chaotic 'Higher Sports Era' – was an abrupt collapse of governance and a failure to meet basic financial obligations, plunging the club into a vacuum of trust and stability.

However, the recovery has been swift and deeply rooted. The original local ownership has returned, immediately restoring stability and, crucially, a simple professional standard: paying the players on time. This commitment to financial rectitude has gone a long way, quickly restoring pride. The core squad, featuring many of the same players, has rallied around the return of their original coach, Coach Go (Jarupong Sangpong). The current form is less about tactical genius and more about the psychological boost that comes from a club administration that treats its staff with respect and provides basic security – a powerful reminder in the Thai lower leagues that good governance begins with solvent, trustworthy leadership.

TYRANNY

Samui United does not merely benefit from sound internal governance; it also exploits a passive, yet potent, competitive advantage derived from its geography: the 'Island Tax' For every mainland T3 rival, and even for Phuket, a trip to Koh Samui necessitates complicated, expensive, multi-modal travel, translating directly into physical and fiscal fatigue.

For mainland teams, reaching Koh Samui requires road travel followed by a ferry crossing. Standard ferry tickets alone cost up to B1,150 per person, compounded by additional specialised fees for transporting team buses or vans across the water. This logistical complexity introduces significant time delays and physical stress.

For this specific derby, PAFC faces its own steep hurdle. The fastest route – a 55-minute direct flight – costs around B3,000-8,000 for a one-way ticket. Alternatively, the bus-and-ferry combined route from Phuket Town can cost between B550-1,500 per passenger. For T3 clubs operating on razor-thin margins, this recurring "Island Tax" can increase the total variable operational cost for an away game by an estimated 160% compared to a mainland fixture. Samui United is therefore passively financed by the immense economic burden placed on every visiting opponent, turning its remote location into a genuine logistical fortress.

Continued on page 14