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# SEZ SILENT

## BHUMJAITHAI SILENT ON PLEDGE FOR PHUKET 'SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE'



Supajee Suthamphan, who now serves as Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister, at a Bhumjaithai Party campaign event in Phuket just days before the Feb 8 national election. Photo: Bhumjaithai

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The Bhumjaithai Party's high-profile pledge to transform Phuket into a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is facing intensifying scrutiny, with critics questioning its progress, legal viability and whether the policy risks becoming another stalled reform effort.

Despite being a centrepiece of the party's election campaign, no formal proposal has been tabled in parliament, no legislative framework has been made public and no timeline has been set – leaving a widening gap between political promises and tangible action.

The issue carries strong public interest in Phuket, which generates an estimated B500 billion annually in tourism revenue but continues to struggle with mounting infrastructure pressures, environmental strain and uneven distribution of economic benefits.

**THE PLEDGE**

The SEZ proposal was prominently outlined by Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Supajee Suthamphan during a campaign event at Saphan Hin on Jan 28, just days before the February 8 national election.

Speaking on national television, Ms Supajee described Phuket as a province with "immense potential" but burdened by structural

challenges that require a new governance and funding approach.

"The real problems... are multifaceted in Phuket," she said, citing infrastructure shortfalls, unequal tourism income distribution, expenditure management and illegal employment.

She argued that addressing these issues in Phuket would not only improve the province but also strengthen national economic performance.

At the core of Bhumjaithai's proposal is a shift in how revenue generated in Phuket is managed. Rather than relying heavily on central government allocations, the party has proposed allowing a greater share of locally generated income to remain within the

province to fund development.

Ms Supajee pointed to Phuket's waste crisis as a clear example. The island faces an estimated 1.2 million tonnes of accumulated waste, with only one operational incinerator and a second under construction.

"If one incinerator malfunctions, it will have a significant impact," she said, adding that local funding would allow faster investment without relying on central budgets.

The party has framed its approach not as redistributing existing state revenue, but as expanding overall economic output – particularly by further developing the Andaman region as a global tourism hub.

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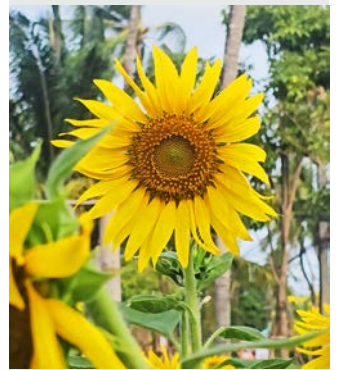
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PPAO ramps up EV bus services with new routes



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Regenerative journey at Laguna Phuket



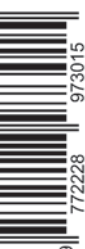
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Young tennis talent tops national comp



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# News



Airlines react despite Iran ceasefire > p4

## Avoiding a 'Hometown Tax'

Continued from page 1

"Our approach is to expand the pie," Ms Supajee said, explaining that higher tourism revenue would generate increased tax income, allowing a portion to be retained locally without reducing central government receipts.

She added that efficient expenditure management would be key, arguing that "every baht saved should be considered profit for the people of Phuket".

However, beyond these broad principles, few operational details have been provided. Ms Supajee's 'revenue generation' policy also did not explain just how the money generated by Phuket will go directly to addressing critical issues in Phuket.

### NO ACTION

More than two months after the election, there has been

no visible legislative movement. No draft SEZ bill has been submitted, no policy framework released and no implementation timeline announced.

Attempts by *The Phuket News* to seek clarification from Bhumjaithai representatives and Ms Supajee since Feb 10 – including multiple follow-ups – have gone unanswered.

The absence of detail has fuelled criticism that the policy remains largely aspirational rather than actionable.

Opposition MPs representing Phuket say the lack of progress is clear. Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee said on Apr 3 that there has been no formal move to bring the SEZ proposal before parliament.

"It's probably more of a campaign rhetoric typical of political parties," he said.

Mr Chalermpong pointed



People's Party MPs hold a press conference at Parliament House to explain the nine draft laws submitted, including a set of decentralisation drafts. Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Facebook

to the Interior Ministry's Mar 9 public hearing on a proposed "Hometown Tax" scheme as an indication of the government's current direction.

The scheme would allow up to 10% of income tax collected in an area to be spent locally, while also encouraging tax-incentivised donations to support public services – such as already used in Phuket to

fund Vachira Phuket Hospital's new cancer treatment centre.

However, MP Chalermpong argued that such measures fall short of meaningful reform. "What we really need is power – administrative power, budgetary power and personnel power – for local authorities to manage their areas," he said. "Not a 'Hometown Tax'."

Fellow Phuket MP Somchart Techathaworncharoen echoed the criticism. "I haven't seen anything concrete from the Bhumjaithai Party yet," he said.

Both MPs pointed instead to a competing initiative led by the People's Party, which has submitted nine draft decentralisation laws aimed at expanding local governance nationwide.

Their proposals focus on three pillars: expanding administrative authority through a "negative list" system, increasing local revenue powers – including borrowing and bond issuance – and granting local governments greater control over budgets and financial regulations.

However, even if the government moves forward, significant legal hurdles remain.

A previous attempt to establish a Phuket-specific governance model – the Phuket Metropolitan Administration Act – was rejected last year after being deemed inconsistent with constitutional provisions on citizens' rights and state duties.

The ruling has raised concerns that any new proposal involving revenue redistribution or expanded local authority could face similar scrutiny.

While Thailand already operates special administrative models such as Pattaya, expanding such frameworks remains legally complex and politically sensitive, Mr Chalermpong noted.

Asked whether a new proposal could face the same fate, Mr Chalermpong said: "There's a chance. It could be the same as before – or even worse."

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## Restaurant inspected over Hebrew sign

A GREEK RESTAURANT NEAR the Big Buddha has been found to be operating legally following an inspection prompted by online criticism over a Hebrew-language sign displayed at the site.

Mueang District officials conducted the inspection at about 5:30pm last Friday (Apr 3) at the entrance to the Big Buddha in Chalong, after images of the sign and related messages circulated widely on social media.

The sign had drawn criticism online, with some people questioning its "appropriateness" and legality, prompting action from district-level officials.

The inspection brought together administrative officials, local leaders, Chalong Municipality officers and members of the Volunteer Defense Corps (OrSor), who examined the premises and reviewed the business's legal status.

Authorities confirmed that the restaurant is a registered legal entity owned by a Thai national and is operating in compliance with relevant regulations.

Officials reported that the business employs a total of 13 staff, comprising both Thai and foreign workers, all of whom were found to hold valid work permits. No illegal activities, including drug use, were detected during the inspection.

The restaurant was also confirmed to hold a valid licence to sell alcohol.

Regarding the land on which the



Photo: Mueang District Office

business operates, initial reports indicated that it is registered under a SorKor 1 land title. Officials noted that further checks will be carried out in coordination with relevant agencies to clarify land status.

The restaurant manager told officials that the Hebrew-language sign was installed to assist foreign visitors, particularly tourists who speak the language, as the Big Buddha area attracts a diverse international crowd.

Mueang District Office confirmed that monitoring of the business will continue to ensure ongoing compliance with all laws and regulations.

Officials said the inspection was also aimed at "maintaining public confidence", both among local residents and tourists visiting one of Phuket's most prominent landmarks.

The Phuket News

# Peranakan Festival goes 'Bloom'

The Phuket News  
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Phuket's cultural heart came alive earlier this month as the Phuket Peranakan Festival 2026 opened in a vibrant celebration of heritage, performance and international exchange under the theme 'BLOOM'.

Held across Phuket Old Town from April 3-5, the festival transformed key historic streets into a sprawling cultural stage, drawing large crowds of residents and tourists throughout the weekend.

The official opening ceremony on Apr 4 was presided over by Vice Governor Suwit Phansengiam, joined by Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPAO) President Rewat Areerob, Phuket Town Deputy Mayor Pibulsak Kittithorakun, and Peranakan Association of Thailand President Anchalee Wanich Thepbutr.

Now in its fourth year, the festival was jointly organised by Phuket Province in collaboration with government agencies, private sector partners and



Photo: PR Phuket

cultural networks. Officials said the event aimed to promote Phuket's distinctive Peranakan identity on the international stage while supporting tourism and the creative economy.

One of the main highlights was the 'BLOOM' International Grand Parade, which wound its way through the streets of the Old Town, including Thalang Rd, Yaowarat Rd and Phang Nga Rd. Large crowds lined the route, with spectators gathering early to secure vantage points.

The parade featured performers from more than eight countries, including Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Vietnam, China and South Korea. Participants showcased a rich blend of traditional and contemporary Peranakan culture through elaborate costumes, music and dance.

The procession also reflected Phuket's long-standing multicultural heritage, with performances ranging from elegant Peranakan dance to more unexpected elements,

including a Scottish bagpipe troupe that added a distinctive international dimension to the event.

Officials said the parade symbolised the "blooming" of cultural exchange across Asia and beyond, reinforcing Phuket's growing reputation as a global cultural destination.

As night fell, the festival shifted into a more contemporary mode, with crowds gathering in the heart of the Old Town for a headline performance by Thai pop star Kratae Rsiam. Her

high-energy show proved one of the standout moments of the opening day.

Performing before a packed audience, she delivered a dynamic set that blended her signature modern style with the festive atmosphere. The performance drew loud cheers and strong audience participation, with many spectators capturing the moment on their phones.

Organisers said the inclusion of modern entertainment alongside traditional cultural displays was intended to broaden the festival's appeal, particularly among younger visitors, while maintaining a strong connection to heritage.

The 'BLOOM' concept this year extended beyond visual spectacle, with organisers expanding the festival's international scope through full-scale cultural exchanges involving countries across Asia. Western cultural elements were also incorporated to highlight Phuket's diverse historical influences.

Events throughout the three-day programme included cultural showcases,

performances, and an international conference focused on Peranakan heritage, along with additional activities at Saphan Hin and the popular Lard Yai market.

Officials emphasised that the festival played a key role in promoting Thailand's "soft power", while also supporting sustainable tourism and local economic development.

"The Phuket Peranakan Festival reflects the identity of Phuket and demonstrates strong cooperation across all sectors," organisers noted. "It also helps position Phuket as a world-class cultural city."

Authorities had encouraged both residents and visitors to take part in the festivities, highlighting the importance of community participation in preserving and promoting local culture.

With strong attendance, diverse international participation and a mix of traditional and contemporary programming, this year's 'BLOOM' edition further cemented Phuket's status as one of the region's leading cultural tourism destinations.

## New Phuket EV bus routes to come online

THE PHUKET PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION ORGANISATION (PPAO) has confirmed plans to expand its electric bus (EV) network with two new routes, as officials moved to ease transport costs for residents and tourists amid rising fuel prices.

PPAO President Rewat Areerob said the expansion followed a strong public response to the existing EV bus service, which was introduced to provide affordable and environmentally friendly transport across the island.

Two additional routes were scheduled to be rolled out in the coming months.

The first, an education-focused line, was set to run from Phuket Muslim Wittaya School in Koh Kaew to Saphan Hin. The route was designed to serve several schools along the way, making it particularly accessible for students. Services on this line were scheduled to begin on May 15.

A second route, connecting Phuket International Airport to Rawai, was expected to launch in early June, providing a direct link between the island's main gateway and its southern coastal communities.

The new services were to expand on the PPAO's existing three EV bus lines already in operation. These include the Yellow Line from Saphan Hin to Central Phuket, the Red Line from Chalong Bay Pier to SuperCheap, and the Green Line from Ratsada Pier to Kathu Municipal School 2.



Photo: PPAO

Fares remained set at a flat rate of B15 for the entire route, with payment available via QR code. The service continued to be offered free of charge for five groups: students, senior citizens, monks and people with disabilities.

Buses operate daily from 5:45am to 6pm.

Mr Rewat said the EV buses were fully air-conditioned and powered by electric motors rather than traditional combustion engines. Each vehicle was capable of travelling up to 150 kilometres on a single charge, with typical daily usage of around 100km while retaining reserve power.

He added that the service was designed to be inclusive, catering to all sectors of the community, and operated under existing provincial administration regulations. Students using the service were not required to wear uniforms.

The Phuket News



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# Airlines react despite ceasefire

Bangkok Post

Airlines operating in Thailand are adjusting flight schedules, trimming capacity and raising fares as oil price volatility linked to Middle East tensions continues to weigh on travel demand and operating costs, despite a temporary ceasefire.

A two-week ceasefire announced on Apr 8 between the United States and Iran has eased immediate pressure on global markets, prompting a dip in oil prices. However, airline executives say uncertainty remains high, forcing carriers to recalibrate their summer operations.

Nuntaporn Komonsittivate, head of commercial at Thai Lion Air, said the airline has adjusted both domestic and international schedules following the Songkran holiday period in response to rising fuel costs and softer demand.



Photo: Bangkok Post

Jet fuel prices have surged by as much as 90-100% over the past month, significantly increasing operating expenses. In response, Thai Lion Air has raised fuel surcharges by around 5-10%, depending on the route.

"Oil and jet fuel prices should eventually fall, but to a new baseline that is unlikely to be as low as before," Ms Nuntaporn said, adding that ongoing uncertainty is forcing airlines to align capacity more closely with demand.

While Thailand has avoided fuel shortages, allowing airlines to continue refuelling domestically, the

situation has been more severe elsewhere in the region. Carriers in Vietnam, including Vietnam Airlines and VietJet Air, have cut flights due to supply constraints linked to reliance on imported energy.

At VietJet Thailand, vice-president of commercial and customer service Pinyot Pibulsonggram said the airline has not faced similar shortages, as it primarily refuels within Thailand. However, it has reduced flight capacity for the summer low season in line with typical demand patterns.

Despite maintaining overall capacity similar to

last year, VietJet Thailand has raised fares by 10-15% to offset higher costs. The airline is also closely monitoring developments in the Middle East and may cut flights on some routes, including India, if demand weakens further.

Bookings for April and May remain strong, Mr Pinyot said, though demand for June remains uncertain. Another airline executive, speaking anonymously, said bookings dropped by double digits following the initial escalation in the Middle East, prompting carriers to scale back operations.

The source added that fare increases have not kept pace with rising costs, while forward bookings for the rest of the year remain unclear, with tourism unlikely to match 2025 levels.

The pressure on airlines comes as Thailand faces broader economic risks from rising energy prices.

According to the World Bank Group, the country is among the most vulnerable in the region to an oil price shock due to its reliance on imported energy.

Sustained higher oil prices could reduce household incomes across the region by 3-4%, while Thailand's inflation could rise by 0.67 percentage points within six months if crude oil prices increase by 30%. The World Bank has also downgraded Thailand's 2026 GDP growth forecast to 1.3% from 1.8%.

The bank noted that governments face a difficult balance between supporting households and maintaining fiscal discipline, with targeted assistance seen as more effective than broad subsidies.

For Thailand, volatile energy prices, softening tourism demand and limited structural reform momentum continue to cloud the near-term outlook.

## Measures launched to solve plastic crisis

THE GOVERNMENT HAS outlined new measures to tackle the plastic pellet crisis, focusing on price control, supply stability and long-term waste reduction.

Deputy Prime Minister and Commerce Minister Suphatee Suthumpun, Industry Minister Varawat Silpa-archa and senior officials met last week to develop management guidelines.

The move follows the Commerce Ministry's decision last month to classify plastic pellets as controlled goods to curb price volatility amid supply disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict.

Mrs Suphatee said plastic pellets are a key upstream material used in food packaging, medical supplies and consumer goods, making cost control essential to limit impacts on household expenses. Measures will be regularly reviewed to reflect changing conditions.

Priority will be given to essential products, including food packaging, medical supplies and plastic bags. Authorities will also promote alternative materials and work with businesses to simplify product lines, reducing production com-



Photo: Bangkok Post

plexity. Longer term, packaging redesign will be encouraged to cut plastic use and improve efficiency.

Thailand produces about 2.7 million tonnes of plastic waste annually, but only 20-25% is recycled. The government aims to accelerate waste separation, expand recycling systems and encourage consumers to reduce plastic consumption.

A joint task force involving the ministries of Commerce, Industry, Natural Resources and Environment, and Public Health will be established to manage potential shortages, stabilise prices and oversee supply chains. The group will implement short-, medium- and long-term measures while monitoring stock levels and preventing hoarding.

Mrs Suphatee said a recent two-week ceasefire could help ease transport and raw material costs, supporting efforts to stabilise prices and ensure adequate supply of essential goods. *Bangkok Post*

## Arrivals tax draws mixed response

TOURISM OPERATORS HAVE expressed mixed views on the government's proposed B300 tourism tax, warning it could affect travel sentiment as the sector slows due to the Middle East crisis.

The government is also being urged to shorten visa-free stays from 60 days to 30 days to curb illegal activities by foreigners, alongside stricter enforcement against illicit businesses.

Thanet Supornsahasrunsi, president of the Association of Chonburi Tourism Federation, said it remains unclear whether the new fee would worsen the current downturn, as airlines have already cut flights and airfares have surged.

While he supports the principle of collecting the fee from air arrivals to fund tourism development, Mr Thanet said the government should consider delaying implementation until the situation stabilises.

"Announcing the fee during this period could create unfavourable conditions for travel sentiment," he said.

Ratchaporn Poolsawadee, vice-president of the Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT), said the B300 fee is relatively minor compared with rising airfares, noting that travellers who continue to visit tend to have higher purchasing power.



Photo: Bangkok Post

He added that the TCT supports reducing visa-free stays to 30 days, as most tourists visit for fewer than 20 days. The move could help curb illegal employment among foreigners.

Thailand has seen an increase in long-stay visitors seeking safe destinations during global conflicts, some of whom have worked illegally, particularly during the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Hamas conflicts, Mr Ratchaporn said.

However, Mr Thanet cautioned against applying uniform visa rules across all markets, noting that travellers from the Middle East often stay longer for healthcare and wellness services.

He said improved entry screening and stricter law enforcement would be more effective in tackling illegal activities, particularly among foreigners staying in unlicensed accommodation.

Amid slowing arrivals, operators are urging the government to introduce stimulus measures, such as domestic travel subsidies, while targeting resilient markets including Russia, India and Southeast Asia. *Bangkok Post*

# Co-payment scheme extended

## BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

The Finance Ministry has confirmed the next phase of the “Khon La Khrueng” co-payment scheme will start in May, with an expanded reach aimed at easing the financial strain on households amid ongoing economic pressures.

Lavaron Sangsnit, permanent secretary for finance, said the forthcoming round would cover more beneficiaries than the previous phase, which covered about 20 million people. The precise number, however, will depend on the budget allocation to be determined by the Budget Bureau, Mr Lavaron explained.

He said the government intends to broaden access in light of the widespread hardship affecting the population, though participation is unlikely to extend to as many as 50mn people.

Details regarding the value of the subsidy – previously capped at B2,400 per person – and whether eligibility criteria will remain unchanged are still under consideration, he said.

“The proposal is scheduled to be submitted to the Cabinet on April 21, with spending expected to begin the following month,” he said.

### CARRY-OVER FUNDS

A report by the Comptroller General’s Department dated Apr 7 says about



A sign is displayed in front of a shop participating in the ‘Khon La Khrueng’ co-payment scheme at Chatuchak weekend market in Bangkok. Photo: Bangkok Post

B84 billion in uncommitted funds remain available.

The sum comprises budget allocations from projects that have yet to meet disbursement conditions, as well as carry-over funds from previous fiscal years.

The government has indicated such resources may be redirected to support economic relief measures.

An emergency decree on budget transfers will be issued, as it allows for more immediate implementation following Cabinet approval, subject to subsequent parliamentary endorsement.

Officials cautioned, however, that the available balance may fluctuate as projects reach their financial cut-off and disbursement stages. The expanded scheme is being introduced against the backdrop of rising living costs.

### RUSSIAN IMPORTS

Meanwhile, Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Suriya Juangroongruangkit has unveiled plans to import up to 2 million tonnes of chemical fertiliser from Russia to address a looming supply shortage affecting Thailand’s farming sector.

The announcement came after a meeting between high-level officials within the ministry on Apr 8. The discussion focused on resolving the fertiliser shortage, exacerbated by geopolitical tensions in the Middle East, prompting stockpiling and supply disruptions.

Mr Suriya said securing imports from Russia would help stabilise soaring fertiliser prices and ensure sufficient supply ahead of the next planting season, just a few months away.

# Bangkok to host first Asian Eurovision

## BANGKOK

EUROVISION WILL take its kitsch pageant on the road outside Europe for the first time when Bangkok hosts the song contest’s Asian debut in November.

Ten countries have already confirmed their participation in the event in Thailand, with more than 600 million viewers expected, the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) said in a statement on Mar 31.

“On the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world’s largest live music event, the Eurovision Song Contest is now opening a new chapter in Asia shaped by the region’s diversity, creativity and cultural identity, and grounded in the same spirit that has always defined the Contest: United by Music,” the EBU added.

Besides the hosts, South Korea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan have already signed up, “with further countries expected to join”.

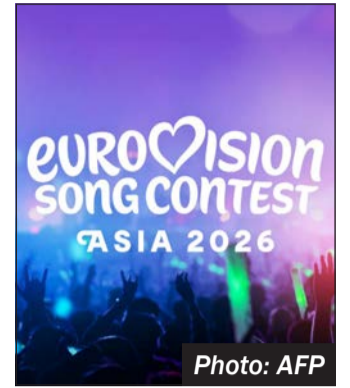


Photo: AFP

The Asian edition’s grand final is scheduled for Saturday, Nov 14.

“This is about evolving Eurovision together with Asia, building something that reflects the voices, identities and ambitions of the region, while staying true to what has always made the contest special,” said Eurovision director Martin Green.

The announcement comes as the competition’s European original faces protests and boycotts over Israel’s participation in the 2026 edition, with the country facing accusations of public vote-manipulation in last year’s contest and criticism over its conduct of the war in Gaza.

AFP

# Thai drug kingpin with B1mn bounty expatriated

## BANGKOK

A FUGITIVE THAI drug kingpin with a B1 million bounty, who was wanted under 60 arrest warrants and played dead, was arrested in South Korea and extradited to Thailand on Apr 7.

Justice authorities brought the suspect identified only as Thapanan aka Noo Chen, 43, to a press conference at the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) after his arrival at Suvarnabhumi International Airport from South Korea.

According to the ONCB, Mr Thapanan was a drug addict, who became a small drug trafficker in areas along Srinagarindra Rd in Samut Prakan province from 2000-2002.

Later, he developed ties with ethnic groups in a neighbouring country and had a drug plant built near Thailand. His net-



Photo: Bangkok Post

work smuggled tens of millions of speed pills and more than a tonne of crystal meth into Thailand for about a decade. More than 60 warrants had been issued for his arrest.

In 2009, he was arrested with 26,000 speed pills in Samut Prakan and fled to a neighbouring country during his appeal.

In late 2022, Mr Thapanan was reportedly “murdered” with his body being dumped into the Moei River in Myawaddy. However, Thai immigration police later dis-

covered that he was alive.

The suspect hid in Laos, Vietnam, Japan and finally in South Korea where he was arrested on Apr 6.

ONCB secretary-general Suriya Singhakamol said that Thapanan’s cartel was behind 25-30% of narcotics smuggled into Thailand annually.

The suspect was in the most wanted list of the narcotic suppression police and his bounty was set at B1mn.

Bangkok Post

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# Laguna Phuket unveils sustainable, regenerative trail

## Press Release

Laguna Phuket has announced a new 2.5-kilometre regenerative journey that will be the centrepiece of its landscape and amenities transformation, set to roll out in stages throughout 2026.

The journey spans over 1,000 acres and connects six resorts, designed to create a walkable experience that links landscaped parks, cultural spaces, wellbeing areas, and beachfront environments within Laguna Phuket's integrated ecosystem. The initiative aims to enhance the travellers' experiences by connecting them with nature, while also supporting long-term environmental and community goals.

Along the journey, travellers can look forward to key attractions such as beautifully designed welcome areas, community parks featuring seasonal outdoor art installations, herb gardens, forest therapy spaces, and mindfulness zones by the beach. This cohesive experience is designed to evolve with the seasons, ensuring that each visit offers something unique and enriching.

This landscape-led journey builds on Laguna Phuket's long-standing commit-

ment to responsible development and destination stewardship while providing immersive, regenerative travel experiences that emphasise purpose, participation, and personal meaning.

### Low-carbon mobility across the integrated resort destination

In November 2025, Laguna Phuket launched a fleet of fully electric shuttle vehicles that connect its six resorts and key facilities throughout the integrated resort destination. These electric shuttles were introduced to enhance the guest experience by providing quieter and cleaner transportation options, while also reducing dependence on fossil-fuel vehicles.

This initiative is part of a broader plan to promote low-carbon mobility, which includes expanding electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure and gradually reducing internal transport emissions across the destination.

### Living lagoons, marine conservation and biodiversity protection

Laguna Phuket's sustainability efforts are built upon long-term conservation initiatives. Since 1994, the Sea Turtle Conservation Programme has successfully released over 2,294 sea turtles



Photos: Laguna Phuket

and involved more than 5,000 participants in various conservation activities, partnering with local marine centres.

Another significant aspect of Laguna Phuket's sustainability initiatives is mangrove restoration. Since 2007, more than 35,500 mangrove saplings have been planted to bolster coastal resilience and improve biodiversity.

The commitment to sustainability is further underscored by the achievement of EarthCheck certification at the precinct level, where Laguna Phuket has maintained Gold Status since 2020. This prestigious certification involves annual audits that evaluate their performance across key areas such as energy use, water management, waste practices, and emissions, solidifying their commitment to sustainability practices.

Additionally, all hotels within Laguna Phuket have received certification under the Trusted Thailand programme, a national accreditation recognised by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. This certification highlights their adherence to strict standards of health, safety, and environmental management, ensuring rigorous operational and hygiene benchmarks are met across the integrated resort destination.

### People, community and cultural stewardship

Beyond environmental initiatives, Laguna Phuket is committed to investing in long long-term social and cultural programmes. This includes educational and community learning initiatives, as well as continual support for local traditions and festivals that help preserve Phuket's heritage and sense of place.



## The May/June 2026 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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## THE AI EDGE

Joe Smith

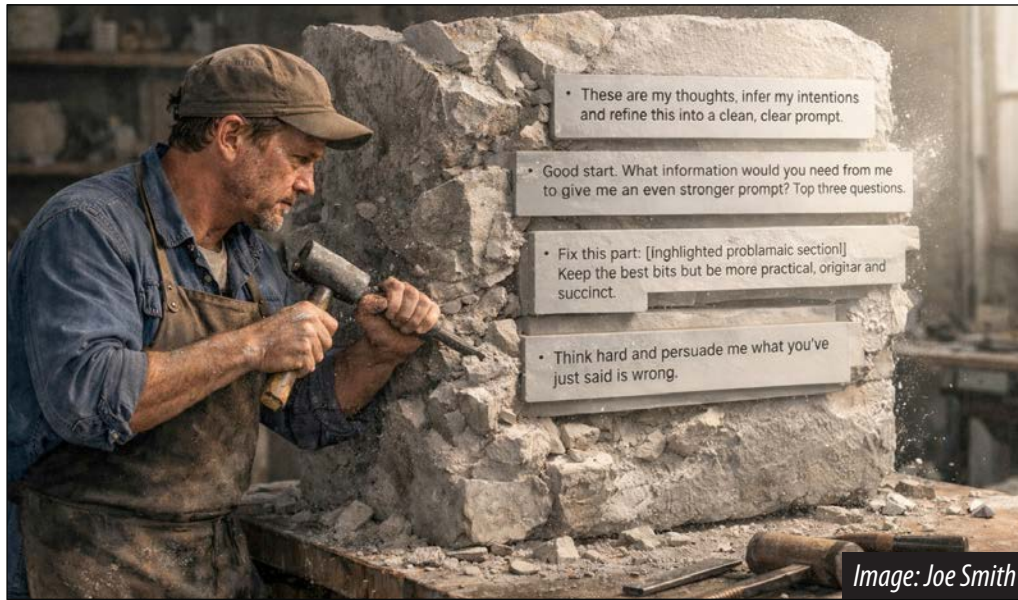
Back in the prehistoric days of 2024, minds were blown by the discovery that AI gave better answers if you asked it nicely. It was held up as proof of how bizarre and unpredictable this strange new intelligence really was.

Then someone actually did the research. The “please effect” turned out to be false. In fact, being a little rude proved marginally more effective.

Telling your AI to “think harder”, however, genuinely works – and the reason is pure economics. When you signal that you want a real effort, your provider is nudged to route your request to the cutting-edge models you’re entitled to use, but which their creators would rather you didn’t, because they’re ruinously expensive to run. Left to their own devices, these companies will quietly push your query to the cheapest model they think they can get away with. Fight back by selecting “thinking” mode in the settings on ChatGPT and Gemini – it’s there, and you should be using it.

What other science-backed tips and tricks are there for getting the best out of your AI?

The shine has come off “prompt engineering” – the idea that there’s a



special set of magic instructions for wringing better answers out of your AI. But research shows there really are some modes of communication that get better results, and save you time and frustration in your AI interactions.

These usually leverage my own method of “Lean Prompting”. Its premise is that you’re not going to get the best answer from a single long prompt that tries to anticipate all contingencies. Instead, you should prioritise several short, back-and-forth iterations that allow you and the AI to hone in on the perfect answer

A first tip is to ask AI to make your half-formed question into a solid first prompt. Dump your ugly notes and scratchpad-type thoughts into the chat-

box and say: “These are my thoughts, infer my intentions and refine this into a clean, clear prompt.”

A good refinement at this point is to provide more context. Instead of racking your brains to think what that might be, ask the AI. Say: “Good start. What information would you need from me to give me an even stronger prompt? Top three questions.”

Now run the prompt, then iterate. If the reply is in the right direction, say, “Close, but off-point here [insert the problematic part]. Fix that, keep the best bits of the original and be more practical/original/succinct.”

This type of dialogue will get you, incrementally but quickly, to a better answer than you’d get by asking just off

the bat. But remember that these LLMs are designed to sound convincing – constantly inserting the next most plausible token.

So before you take any consequential action on the back of AI advice, “red-team” it. You can do this by asking: “Think hard and persuade me what you’ve just said is wrong.” Another option is to enter the response into a rival chatbox and tell it to shoot it down.

The thread running through these techniques is to treat every exchange as a negotiation – pushing back, stress-testing, and demanding better.

It’s not the case, though, as some experts will tell you, that all the critical thinking in their process has to come only from you – you can get AI to improve your critical thinking, as by asking it to hone your prompts, to request the context it needs, and by asking it to re-examine its own thinking

Lean Prompting is a habit of mind. Start quick and dirty, refine ruthlessly, and interrogate the answer before you act on it. Master that loop and you won’t just get more out of AI – you’ll stay smarter than it.

Joe Smith is Founder of the AI consultancy 2Sigma Consultants. He studied AI at Imperial College Business School and is researching AI’s effects on cognition at Chulalongkorn University. He is author of *The Optimized Marketer*, a book on how to use AI to promote your business and yourself. Contact [joe@2Sigmaconsultants.com](mailto:joe@2Sigmaconsultants.com).

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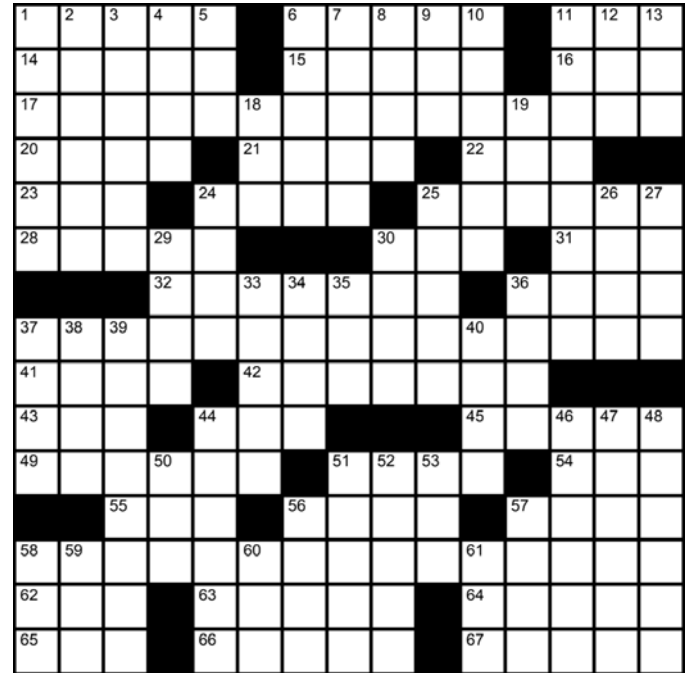
# POP QUIZ

1. What does a pluviometer measure?
2. In which European city was the first organised marathon held?
3. Which bird turns its head upside down to eat?
4. If you have Chlorosis what colour does the skin turn?
5. What is the main ingredient in Borscht?

Answers below, centre

## Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across**
1. Italian beverage
  6. Black
  11. Calphalon product
  14. They were created in 1912
  15. Mountaineer's tool
  16. \_\_\_ Rancho (suburb of Albuquerque)
  17. Be in charge
  20. Go for
  21. Egg
  22. Faint
  23. Bass, e.g.
  24. Castle part
  25. Diminutive
  28. Turning chisel accompanier
  30. N.B.A.'s Unseld
  31. Be off base
  32. \_\_\_ physics
  36. Carbamide
  37. Fancy frocks
  41. Indian tourist site
  42. Annoying
  43. Debate position
  44. Ribosomal \_\_\_
  45. Dummkopf
  49. Six-line poem
  51. Achievement
  54. \_\_\_ power
  55. Cal. col.
- Down**
1. Lite
  2. Interstice
  3. Afternoon service
  4. Cause for a lawsuit
  5. D.C. setting
  6. It doesn't hold water
  7. Carry on
  8. Road shoulder
  9. \_\_\_-tzu
  10. Oozes
  11. Chief administrative officers
  12. Cause of inflation?
  13. Discouraging words
  18. Furrow maker
  19. Remain unused
  24. Set aside
- 25. California's San \_\_\_ Bay**
26. Elder, e.g.
  27. Pitching stats
  29. Maori war dance
  30. Rings up?
  33. \_\_\_ the town
  34. 100 kuru
  35. Breed
  36. Drew on
  37. Beans
  38. Beast
  39. Ocular problem
  40. Discharge
  44. Enter again
  46. Insect stage
  47. Idle
  48. Hamlet et al.
  50. Call on
  51. \_\_\_ Thieves
  52. Chart holder
  53. Old English character
  56. Corn dish
  57. Atlas stat
  58. Do-it-yourselfer's purchase
  59. Party time, maybe
  60. Buttermilk morsel?
  61. Common contraction



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

## SUDOKU

Hard

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

### Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:

1) Rainfall; 2) Athens; 3) Flamingo; 4) Green; 5) Beetroot

### Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

## GOT YOUR NUMBER

**1**

single mouthful of krill consumed by a blue whale has as many calories as an average person consumes in roughly 180 days.

**7**

percent of all US households don't have a bank account.

**70**

percent of millionaires in the US don't consider themselves 'wealthy'.

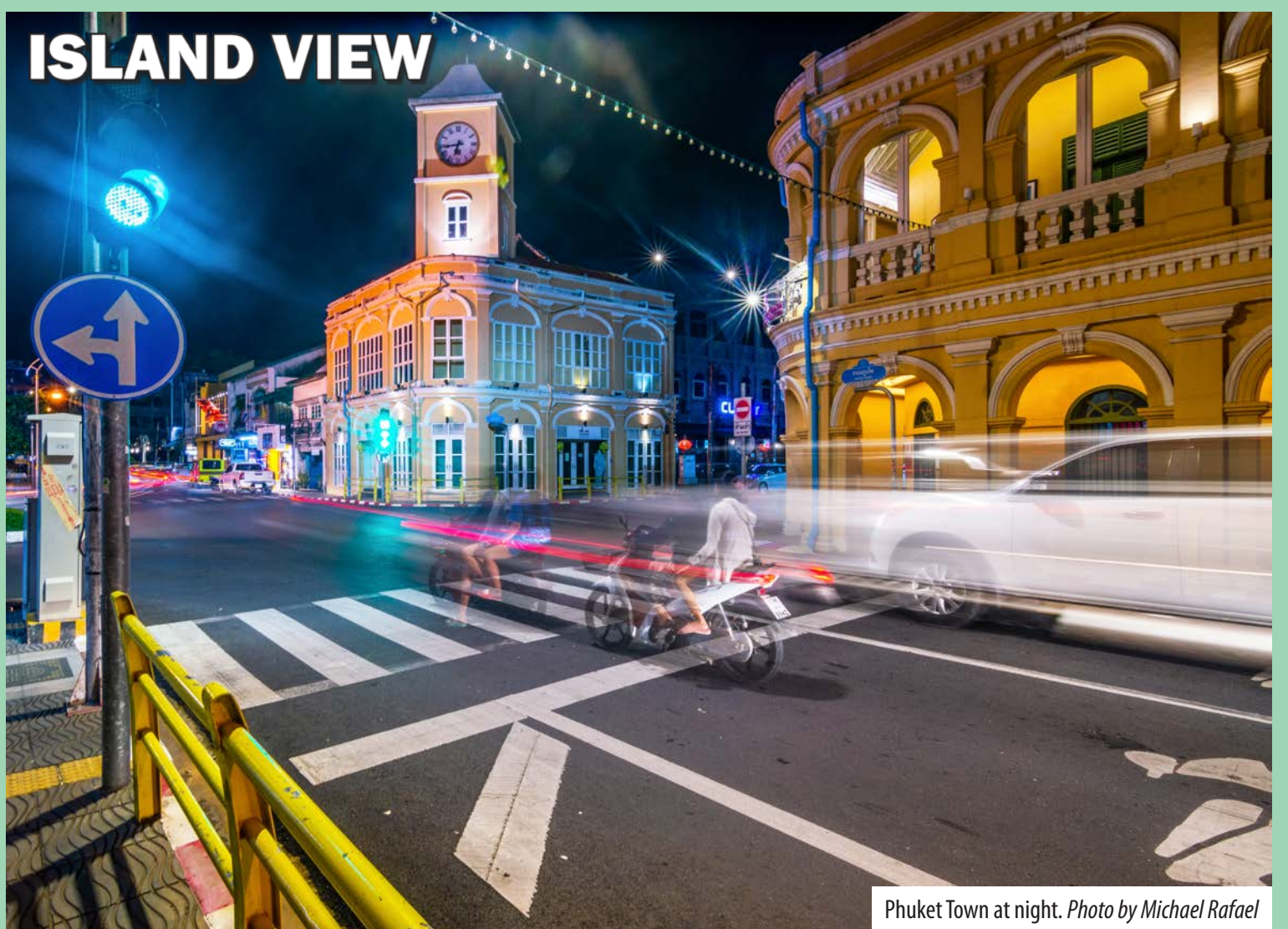
**600**

places in Australia are named after the emu.

**2.7 million**

pages is how much evidence prosecutors had in pressing sex trafficking charges against Ghislaine Maxwell

Source: Uberfacts



Phuket Town at night. Photo by Michael Rafael

Got an unusual or particularly beautiful picture of Phuket? Email it to [editor3@classactmedia.co.th](mailto:editor3@classactmedia.co.th)

## This week in history

**Apr 17, 1492**  
Spain and Christopher Columbus sign the Capitulations of Santa Fe for his voyage to Asia to acquire spices.

**Apr 18, 1949**  
The Republic of Ireland Act comes into force, declaring Eire to be a republic and severing Ireland's "association" with the Commonwealth of Nations.

**Apr 19, 1927**  
Mae West is sentenced to 10 days in jail for obscenity for her play *Sex*.

**Apr 20, 1999**  
Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold kill 14 people and injure 23 others before committing suicide at Columbine High School, Colorado.



Henry VIII

**Apr 21, 1509**  
Henry VIII ascends the throne of England on the death of his father, Henry VII.

**Apr 22, 1969**  
British yachtsman Sir Robin

Knox-Johnston wins the *Sunday Times* Golden Globe Race and completes the first solo non-stop circumnavigation of the world.

**Apr 23, 1635**  
The first public school in the United States, the Boston Latin School, is founded.

Source: Wikipedia

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**TUE 21 APR**



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**THU 23 APR**



**Skál Phuket - April Dinner - Special Edition**

We are pleased to invite you to our upcoming Skál Phuket gathering, hosted by Ajay and his team at Pullman Phuket Karon Beach Resort. This special

edition will feature an interactive workshop session, followed by our signature networking drinks and dinner. Workshop Highlight: The Thrive Approach with Niels Steeman, one of Bangkok's leading health and lifestyle coaches. Niels has built a custom 2 hour, practical and valuable session, based on our input for the topics. Interactive session where active participation is required. Registration 15:30-16:00 for the workshop. Dress code: comfortable casual (workshop) and smart casual (dinner). Networking drinks followed by dinner from 18:00. Members B1300 - Non-Members B1700. Bookings - [contact@skalphuket.org](mailto:contact@skalphuket.org), more info at [facebook.com/SkalPhuket](https://facebook.com/SkalPhuket)

**SAT 25 APR**



**ANZAC Dawn Service**

Hosted and presented by the Phuket Veterans, all welcome. Please arrive by 5am. Meeting point - Kamala beach, near Kamala police station. ANZAC breakfast will be held at the Devils Bar Kamala after the service. More info - [facebook.com/phuketveterans](https://facebook.com/phuketveterans)

**SAT 9 MAY**



**Phuket White Collar Boxing**

Phuket is set for an exciting new addition to its social calendar as the first-ever Phuket White Collar Boxing. This glamorous black tie charity event will welcome over 400 guests for an unforgettable evening of live boxing, entertainment, great food and an after party at RAVA Beach Club. All proceeds go to the Laguna Children's Fund, helping to fund a brand new mobile library supporting orphanages across Phuket. 20 local participants, many of whom you may recognise, have taken on the challenge of stepping into the ring after 12 weeks of training, all to raise funds for the community. Tickets are now available at: [www.PhuketBoxing.com](http://www.PhuketBoxing.com) Whether you're coming for the boxing, the atmosphere or the cause, this is an event not to miss. Tables of 10 are available for the full experience.

**SAT 16 MAY**



**PHAB 8 - Infinity Ball**

TICKETS ON SALE NOW! The Annual PHAB Gala Dinner is back – always an unforgettable night – and this year marks our 8<sup>th</sup> fundraising event with a very special theme: PHAB ∞ (Infinity). Infinity represents the endless impact that scholarship support has on our community. Every baht raised helps shape the future of young hospitality professionals, strengthens Phuket's tourism industry and creates opportunities that last a lifetime. Join us for an inspiring evening of great food, music and dancing, while helping us raise vital funds to change lives and build a more resilient future through education. We hope you can celebrate with us and be part of PHA. More info [phab.phukethotelsassociation.com](http://phab.phukethotelsassociation.com)

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# Zakharkina wins Thai Tour

## CYCLING

Bangkok Post

Valeriya Zakharkina won at the Princess Maha Chakrit Sirindhorn's Cup Women's Tour of Thailand 2026 on Apr 2, while Nguyen Thi That claimed the final stage victory.

Russian national Zakharkina of GNC-FNIX Girl Power Cycling Team topped the general classification in 7:13.07, four seconds ahead of China's Zhu Shimeng of Li-Ning Star Ladies Team and 12 seconds ahead of Thi That of the Vietnam national team.

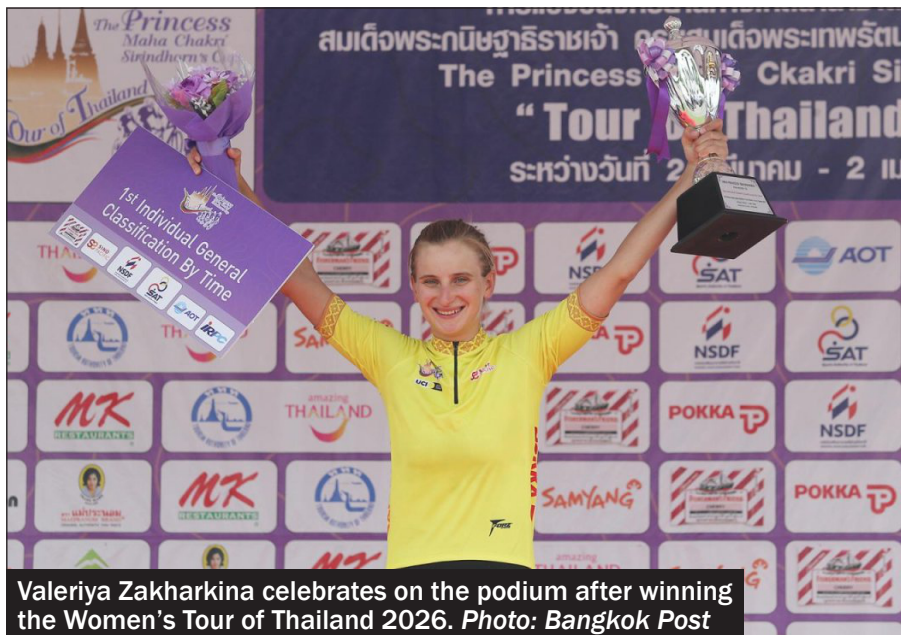
Defending champion Jutatip Maneephan of Thailand Women's Cycling Team finished fourth overall, 13 seconds behind Zakharkina. China's Jin Chenhong of XDS China Women Team was fifth overall.

Stage winner Thi That finished with a time of 1:54.37 hours, edging out Jutatip Maneephan and China's Su Ning of Bodywrap LTtwo Women's Cycling Team over the line in a thrilling sprint finale on Apr 2.

Thi That also took home the Best ASEAN Rider award (purple jersey) and the Best Sprinter Classification award (green jersey).

Jutatip and Elizabeth Le Min Liau of the Singapore national team finished second and third respectively in the Best ASEAN Rider category.

Zakharkina took control of the race after winning the opening stage on



Valeriya Zakharkina celebrates on the podium after winning the Women's Tour of Thailand 2026. Photo: Bangkok Post

Mar 31 and never relinquished her position at the top of the overall standings of the three-day race.

Jutatip won the intermediate sprints (IS1) while Kazakhstan's Yalizaveta Sklyarova topped the IS2. The Kazakh rider also won the Most Combative Rider award.

Li-Ning Star Ladies Team from China won the overall team title with a total time of 21:40.27 hours. GNC-FNIX Girl Power Cycling Team, also from China, were second in 21:40.27 and the Indonesia national team took third place in 21:40.45 hours.

The Best ASEAN Team award went to Indonesia while Standard Insurance Philippines were second and

Thailand Women's Cycling Team took third place.

The third and final stage covering a total distance of 81.90km took place between Si Chiang Mai and Nong Khai Main Stadium.

Previously, in the men's race, Kazakhstan's Vadim Pronskiy was crowned champion of the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn Cup Tour of Thailand 2026 on Mar 29.

Pronskiy finished on top of the overall standings with a time of 17:36.10 hours. Li-Ning Star's Argentine Eduardo Sepulveda (+0.03) and British rider Daniel Whitehouse (+0.09) of St George Continental Cycling Team came second and third respectively.



Rangsarit. Photo: Bangkok Post

## TGA charts path to Asian Games glory

### GOLF

THE THAI GOLF ASSOCIATION has outlined plans to win gold medals at the upcoming Asian Games in Japan, hoping to build on the success of Thai golfers last year.

The Thai national golf team swept all four gold medals at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Southeast Asian Games in Thailand last December – a feat achieved for the first time in 10 years.

Pongsapak "Fifa" Laopakdee was one of the standout performers at the SEA Games. He made history when he became the first player from Thailand to win the Asia-Pacific Amateur Championship in Dubai in October, earning coveted invitations to the Masters Tournament and the British Open this year.

Thai junior golfers also won many major tourna-

ments across Asia, including South Korea, Japan, Singapore and Malaysia.

"The main goal for this year is the Asian Games. The competition regulations allow for the participation of professional golfers, so a decision is currently being made on whether we will send a national team of amateur or professional golfers for both the men's and women's events in order to have the strongest team possible," said TGA president Rangsarit Laksitanon.

"The association is also planning to send the Asian Games players to train at the competition venue in Japan in advance to familiarise themselves. We are committed to matching the team's medal haul of two gold and one silver medals won in the previous edition," he added.

Bangkok Post

# How top football stars are fuelling a global chess boom

## FOOTBALL

ERLING HAALAND and Mohamed Salah are among the Premier League stars "addicted" to chess, helping to spark a surge in the game's popularity among younger people.

Manchester City striker Haaland is so fascinated by the game that he recently invested in a ground-breaking new chess tour to capitalise on the increased profile bestowed by its celebrity players.

As well as Haaland, Liverpool forward Salah and England team-mates Harry Kane, Trent Alexander-Arnold and Anthony Gordon are all avid chess players.

Salah is obsessed by playing the faster 'blitz' version of chess using an anonymous online profile.

"I'm addicted to chess. Every day, literally every day," the Egyptian said.

Arsenal midfielders Martin Odegaard and Eberechi Eze are both



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (left) says he is addicted to chess while his Manchester City counterpart Erling Haaland says there are clear similarities between the games of chess and football. Photos: AFP



keen players, with the latter winning an amateur tournament in 2025.

Chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen, a five-time world champion, is a huge football fan and the Norwegian's love for both games has played a role in the surprise crossover.

Alexander-Arnold often plays chess with his brothers and once levelled-up to face Carlsen, who defeated the Real Madrid defender in a 17-move rout that lasted just five minutes.

AC Milan winger Christian Pulisic has the

queen chess piece tattooed on his arm in tribute to his grandfather, who taught him the game as a child.

France World Cup winner Antoine Griezmann and Real Madrid's Dani Carvajal are also aficionados.

On the surface, the contemplative, cerebral nature of chess is a stark contrast to the physicality and aggression of football.

But dig deeper and there are more similarities than you would expect.

"Chess is an incredible game. It sharpens your

mind, and there are clear similarities to football," Haaland said.

"You have to think quickly, trust your instincts, and think several moves ahead. Strategy and planning are everything."

### 'IT'S REMARKABLY SIMILAR'

Backed by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), the new tour will feature four tournaments each year in different cities, with a world champion crowned across three disciplines – fast classic, rapid and blitz.

Each season will have a minimum prize pool of £2 million (B86mn).

"Seeing a world-class athlete like Erling Haaland join the Total World Chess Championship Tour is a powerful signal of the global attention and cultural relevance that chess enjoys today," FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovich said.

Chess has its roots in seventh century India. But those humble origins are a far cry from the technology fast-tracking the chess boom, with online apps taking over from the traditional board as the game's most common battleground.

Online play rocketed during the COVID-19 pandemic and, according to FIDE, at least 1.5 billion people now have a chess app on their phone.

Netflix series *The Queen's Gambit* and the impact of celebrity influencers, including footballers, have all contributed to the boom transforming the previously staid image of chess.

The strategy involved in chess also appeals to

football managers looking for a mental edge in their tactical battles on the pitch.

Quoted in the book *Pep Confidential*, Manchester City boss Pep Guardiola said: "You have no idea how similar the two things are."

Avid Real Madrid fan Carlsen sees his game through the same lens as former Barcelona coach Guardiola: "In chess and football, the important thing is to control the middle. If you control the middle, you control the pitch or the board," he said. "In terms of space, it's remarkably similar."

But will the satisfaction of a successful checkmate ever replace the thrill of scoring a winning goal for chess-fixated footballers?

For Kane, his true love remains football, leaving chess as the perfect way to relax.

"I use chess to switch off," he said. "It's such a mental game. You have to focus on every moment."

AFP

editor3@classactmedia.co.th  
**Sport**



**Thai golfers target Asian Games > p11**



**Thanyapura Color Fun Run dazzles**

Participants at the start of the 2026 Color Fun Run at Thanyapura Health & Sports Resort on Apr 4. Photo: Sports Association of Phuket

**RUNNING**

The Phuket News  
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket was once again bathed in colour as the island's most dazzling running event, the annual Color Fun Run at Thanyapura Health & Sports Resort, took place on Saturday, Apr 4.

More than 1,000 runners of all ages and abilities joined in the festivities, inspired by the famous Holi Festival from India, which sees an explosion of vibrant colours, energy, music and movement throughout the day.

The annual event has become established as a firm favourite with families residing in Phuket and visiting tourists alike due to its unique standing in fusing sport and culture. As opposed to some of the more serious events geared

towards professional athletes, the Color Fun Run promotes fitness for fun rather than competition, welcoming everyone from very young children to those that are young-at-heart, regardless of athletic prowess.

The event took place at the Thanyapura Health & Sports Resort in Thalung with participants opting for either a 1.5 kilometre or 5km course.

**VIBRANT COLOURS**

Thammawat Wongcharoenyos, Sports Authority of Thailand Committee Member and President of the Phuket Provincial Sports Association, oversaw the official opening ceremony ahead of the 4pm race start at the Thanyapura Health & Sports Resort.

Joining Mr Thammawat were: Phuket Vice Governor Suwit Phansengiam; Deputy Mayor Chalam Atthatham; Phuket Provincial Sports Association

secretary Warin Khaothong; Phuket Provincial Sports Association registrar Songyot Hemhong; as well as selected guests and representatives from various public and private sector organisations.

The annual Thanyapura Color Fun Run is considered one of the most popular running events in Phuket, which attracts a large number of locals and tourists, explained Mr Thammawat in his opening remarks.

It is the perfect occasion for families and fun runners of all levels as the run is not competitive but has more of an emphasis on the merits of participation, fun and a celebration of culture via an array of vibrant colours, Mr Thammawat added.

However, that being said, the event does still also encourage people to be positively mindful of their health by engaging in exercise, he explained.

**FUN EXPERIENCE**

Each participant was equipped with a pair of sunglasses and a bag of colourful powder before setting off. Once the klaxons were sounded to signify the start of the race, participants were urged to throw handfuls of the colourful powder into the air, covering themselves and fellow runners, as the collective crossed the start line.

Throughout the course volunteers at colour stations then showered the runners with multi-coloured powders, while runners returned the favour by throwing their own coloured powder back at volunteers, other runners and spectators.

It resulted in a hugely fun experience with most participants covered head-to-toe in the colours of the rainbow by the conclusion of the race. The coloured powder used is certifiably safe, washes off with water, and does no damage

to the surrounding environment.

Once both races had concluded participants had the chance to enjoy a range of food and beverage refreshments, while live musical entertainment acts provided chance for anyone with any energy remaining to shake a leg. For those too tired to exert any further, there were numerous massage stations where exhausted participants could receive a relaxing, post-race rubdown.

There was also a children's activity zone, which kept the younger attendees occupied, as well as the opportunity for face painting, in addition to several fun-themed obstacle courses which participants with any energy remaining could enjoy.

Each race participant was given a T-shirt and a commemorative medal of completion, while limited edition race kits were also available.

**Young Phuket tennis prodigy shines on national stage**

**TENNIS**

A YOUNG TENNIS PLAYER from Phuket lit up the court at a recent national championship, winning two major trophies in the process.

Eight-year-old Lori Linlabench shone as she scooped top awards in both the girls' singles and girls' doubles under-8 age category at the 64<sup>th</sup> Thailand Youth Tennis Championships 2026, played at the National Tennis Development Center in Nonthaburi

Province on Apr 1.

The 6<sup>th</sup> seed from Phuket performed exceptionally well to overcome opponent In Sihanathakthakul from Bangkok 5-4(4), 4-1 in the girls' singles final.

Lori then teamed up with Naphisaya Chanphet from Trang to defeat In and her teammate Natamon Kongkham from Bangkok 4-2, 4-1 in the girls' doubles final.

Lori was awarded Royal Trophies under the patronage of His Majesty the King and Her Royal

Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn by Kachacharn Mongkolcharoen, executive committee member of the Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand.

There was further local joy as Phuket native Krit Nakdontri teamed up with Rapee Kuearak from Phatthalung to defeat Artiware Withiphanich (Nonthaburi) and Alexander Wendshu (Bangkok) 4-0, 4-1 in the U-8 boys' doubles final, while Kritphas Akito Ishihara from Bangkok defeated Rapee Kuearak of

Phatthalung 5-4(3), 5-3 in the boys' U-8 singles final.

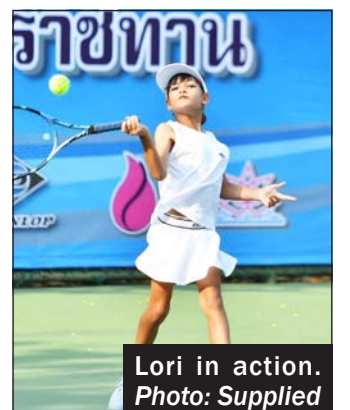
Elsewhere, Pharaoh Kowitwattanchai beat Denis Khiewraksa 6-2, 6-2 to win the under-14 boys' singles final, while Saruda Sutta overcame Nichawaratch Ploykasemsook 7-5, 6-3 in the under-14 girls' singles final.

In the U-14 boys' doubles final, Bangkok's Chan Laoamornpanich and Denis Khiewraksa of Chonburi defeated Pichpong Jinaphan (Pathum Thani) and Nadol Pong-

pinyo (Khon Kaen) 6-1, 6-3, while Bangkok duo Warinda Leepreechanon and Arphornan Sophia Saengsuchat beat Thanaporn Konsila (Nonthaburi) and Saruda Sutta (Bangkok) 7-5, 6-3 in the U-14 girls' doubles final.

The U-12, U-16, and U-18 boys and girls competition had yet to be played at time of press.

The winners of the U-18 boys' singles and boys' doubles will receive the Royal Trophy from His Majesty the King, while the



Lori in action. Photo: Supplied

winners of the U-18 girls' singles and girls' doubles will receive the Royal Trophy from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn.

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