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PURGE



Former Phuket Vice Governors Adul Chuthong and Teeraphong Chuaychoo. Photos: PR Phuket



VICE GOVERNORS TRANSFERRED AS ANUTIN ENTERS CORRUPTION QUAGMIRE

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul on Monday (June 16) ordered an investigation into corruption allegations engulfing Phuket's provincial administration, and had the Ministry of Interior abruptly transfer two vice governors out of the province, dramatically escalating a contro-

versy that has shaken the island's political establishment for months.

The intervention came during a tense Ministry of Interior meeting in Bangkok where PM Anutin, who also serves as Interior Minister, publicly challenged allegations circulating online, questioning claims that a Phuket "deputy governor" wielded enough influence to have the governor transferred, and warned that offi-

cials accused of supporting illegal activities had no place within the ministry.

Within hours, the Ministry of Interior issued an order transferring Phuket Vice Governors Adul Chuthong and Teerapong Chuaychoo to Songkhla and Nakhon Sri Thammarat respectively, effective immediately.

The transfers took effect on June 16 under Ministry of Interior

Order No. 1483/2569, with two replacement vice governors appointed to Phuket.

The dramatic developments mark the latest chapter in a widening dispute that began with investigations into public land issues at Bang Tao Beach and Freedom Beach before expanding into allegations involving senior officials, nightlife licensing, political influence and the role of provincial administrators...

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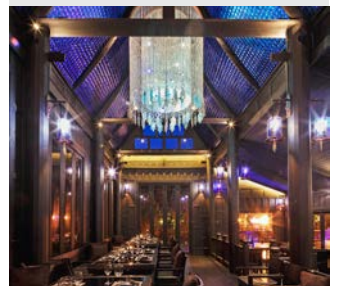
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PHUKET'S QUALITY TILE BOUTIQUE

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News



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Heads roll in corruption saga

Continued from page 1

'WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S FIRE'

During Monday's meeting, PM Anutin openly referred to allegations that have circulated for weeks across social media platforms and local news pages.

Among the claims cited were allegations that individuals close to a deputy governor had been linked to encroachment on public land in Cherng Talay and that a deputy governor had boasted of possessing enough political influence to have Phuket Governor Nirat Pongsithaworn removed from office.

PM Anutin stressed that allegations should not be accepted as fact, but said they could not simply be ignored.

"We don't necessarily believe these things," he said. "But we have to adhere to the principle that where there's smoke, there's fire."

Reading excerpts from social media posts during the meeting, Anutin questioned why allegations involving Phuket officials had been allowed to gain such traction and instructed Interior Ministry Permanent Secretary Arsit Sampantharat to investigate.

Governor Nirat acknowledged the seriousness of the situation and requested that the ministry establish an independent fact-finding committee led by a deputy permanent secretary.

"I would like to propose that the Permanent Secretary establish a ministerial-level committee to investigate the facts in order to ensure fairness for all parties," he said.

'THREE FINGERS'

The Prime Minister repeatedly linked the issue to the govern-



Worapong Yurahman, founder of the 'Hod Jung Phuket' Facebook page, files a complaint over the B5 million criminal defamation charge against him. Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Facebook

ment's campaign against influential figures and corruption.

"We are cracking down on influential figures," Anutin said. "If we point one finger at others while allowing influential figures to remain within our own organisation, three fingers point back at us."

He warned that allegations of officials supporting or facilitating illegal activities represented one of the greatest threats facing the ministry.

"The most frightening thing is when state officials are involved in supporting illegal activities," he said. "That must not happen in the Ministry of Interior."

At one point, PM Anutin questioned allegations circulating online that a deputy governor had claimed to possess enough influence to secure the transfer of Phuket's governor.

"I want to know how a deputy governor could transfer a governor," he said. "It has to go through the Cabinet. How is that possible?"

He dismissed the claim as implausible but said the allegations themselves required investigation because of the damage they were causing to public confidence.

ASKED TO EXPLAIN

Part of the discussion centred on

online references to a figure dubbed "Deputy Seafood", a nickname used on social media pages making allegations about influence and political connections in Phuket.

As ministry officials attempted to identify who was being referred to, Deputy Governor Teeraphong Chuaychoo, whose nickname is "Kung" (shrimp), was asked to respond.

Mr Teeraphong declined to address the allegations verbally, saying he preferred to submit documents because the matter involved multiple individuals.

PM Anutin said he was prepared to listen to explanations from any official implicated in the allegations and stressed that all parties should be treated fairly.

Nevertheless, by the end of the day both Mr Teerapong and Mr Adul had been transferred out of Phuket.

The Ministry of Interior has not publicly stated whether the transfers are disciplinary measures or part of a broader administrative reshuffle.

SILENCED

The controversy took another dramatic turn on Monday when local media operator Worapong Yurahman sought assistance from Phuket's Damrongdharma Centre (Provincial Ombudsman's Office)

after receiving a criminal defamation summons and facing a B5 million damages claim.

Mr Worapong, founder of the 'Hod Jung Phuket' ('So Cruel Phuket') Facebook page, submitted a complaint requesting assistance from the Ministry of Interior and the Prime Minister's Office, arguing that the legal action stemmed from his reporting on public-interest issues.

According to the complaint, the case relates to reporting and commentary concerning investigations into public land disputes at Bang Tao Beach and the transfer of officials linked to those investigations.

Mr Worapong argued that he had been reporting facts and raising questions in the public interest, but instead found himself facing criminal proceedings and a substantial damages claim.

The matter was also raised with Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee, who questioned whether legal action was being used to silence scrutiny of issues involving valuable public land.

"What is worrying is not only the complaints about public land," Mr Chalermpong said. "It is that complainants, informants and media performing their duty of scrutiny are facing legal action."

"If public land worth hundreds of millions of baht has really been encroached upon, but those being sued are local media and citizens asking questions, society has the right to ask who the justice system is protecting."

Mr Chalermpong said he would refer the matter to a parliamentary committee for further consideration.

PHUKET SAGA

Monday's developments represent the most direct intervention yet by

the Prime Minister in a controversy that has steadily expanded beyond Phuket.

The dispute first gained public attention through investigations into alleged encroachment on public land at Bang Tao Beach and Freedom Beach, both high-value coastal areas that became the focus of complaints regarding access and land use.

The controversy intensified following allegations that officials were involved in extortion linked to licensing and permit approvals for nightlife venues in Patong.

Those allegations led to the transfer of five senior Phuket officials, including Phuket Provincial Palad (Chief Administration Officer) Rungruang Thimabut.

The transferred officials subsequently denied wrongdoing and publicly claimed they were being made scapegoats.

The row later reached Parliament amid allegations involving Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA) Director-General Narucha Khosasilvilai and claims concerning political pressure surrounding the February national election (see story below).

Against that backdrop, Monday's intervention by PM Anutin signals that scrutiny of Phuket's administration has now reached the highest levels of government.

Whether the latest transfers will calm the controversy or intensify demands for wider investigations remains to be seen, but the Prime Minister made clear that allegations involving public officials will not be ignored.

"We have received the information," he said. "We must find out the truth."

Phuket MP seeks NACC probe into election interference allegations

PHUKET MP CHALERM-
pong Saengdee and People's
Party deputy leader Wiroj
Lakkhanaadisorn have filed
complaints with the Na-
tional Anti-Corruption
Commission (NACC) and
the Election Commission
seeking an investigation
into allegations that senior
Interior Ministry officials
interfered in the February
Senate election.

The complaints, submitted on June 9, focus on allegations that Department of Provincial Administra-

tion (DOPA) Director-General Narucha Khosasilvilai instructed local officials to assist a political party during the election process.

Mr Chalermpong said the complaints were prompted by evidence allegedly provided by former Phuket Provincial Palad Rungruang Thimabut, including a LINE chat conversation said to have taken place about one month before the election.

According to Mr Chalermpong, the chat contained polling informa-



Photo: Chalermpong Saengdee / Facebook

tion and included a message allegedly sent by Mr Narucha stating, "Help Namngern", followed by a reply reading, "100%, sir."

Mr Chalermpong argued that if authentic, the communication could constitute

an abuse of authority and a breach of civil service political neutrality requirements. He called on the NACC and Election Commission to investigate and take legal action if warranted.

"The main issue is whether the Director-General actually communicated with subordinates through these messages and whether the messages are authentic," he said.

The allegations are the latest development in a

controversy that intensified after the transfer of Mr Rungruang and four other senior provincial officials to temporary posts at DOPA headquarters in Bangkok. Mr Rungruang later petitioned Parliament to investigate the transfers, claiming they may have been politically motivated.

At the centre of the dispute are screenshots of a purported LINE conversation containing the phrase "Help Namngern" ("Help the Blue"), widely inter-

preted by critics as a reference to the Bhumjaithai Party.

Narucha has repeatedly denied sending the messages or acting improperly, stating that his LINE account was accessible from multiple devices. He has also suggested the allegations are linked to DOPA investigations into alleged misconduct involving Phuket officials and has indicated he may pursue legal action.

The Phuket News

DOPA chief orders hotel raids

The Phuket News
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Officials have arrested operators of seven unlicensed accommodation businesses in Phuket as part of a crackdown on illegal hotels specifically ordered by the Department of Provincial Administration (DOPA).

The latest operation on June 11 saw officials target four establishments in Patong, bringing the total number of illegal hotel operators arrested in Phuket to seven following raids in Karon and Rawai the previous day.

The crackdown was ordered by DOPA Director-General Narucha Khosasilvilai, who publicly uses the name Narucha Kosacivilize.

Narucha has repeatedly said that the crackdown has come under a government policy led by Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul aimed at tackling corruption, maintaining public order and suppressing influential figures operating outside the law.

Narucha ordered Deputy DOPA Director-General

Witthoon Sirinukul to lead a special operations team from the department, working alongside Phuket Provincial Police, in carrying out the second day of inspections, DOPA reported.

According to DOPA, investigations found that the targeted businesses were offering accommodation to both Thai and foreign tourists and accepting bookings through online platforms in a manner similar to licensed hotels, despite lacking the hotel licences required under the Hotel Act 2004.

Officials said evidence gathered during the investigation showed the establishments were operating as hotels without authorisation.

Following inspections, officers arrested those deemed responsible and launched legal proceedings. Evidence collected during the raids will be used in further investigations, DOPA said.

DOPA did not identify the four Patong businesses targeted in the latest operation.

The latest arrests followed raids conducted



Photo: DOPA

on June 10 in Karon and Rawai, where three accommodation operators were arrested after officials alleged they had been providing hotel-style services without licences.

Narucha said the campaign was intended not only to enforce the law against illegal operators but also to protect tourists, maintain accommodation safety standards and ensure fair competition for businesses operating legally.

"Cracking down on illegal hotels is not only about enforcing the law against offenders, but also about regulating the tourism sector, establishing safety standards for tourists and ensuring fairness for businesses operating legally," he said.

Narucha added that inspections would continue in major tourism destinations across Thailand.

He also warned that authorities would investigate any complaints or information suggesting negligence, favouritism or the illegal acceptance of bribes by government officials connected to unlicensed hotel operations.

"The Department of Provincial Administration will proceed in a straightforward, transparent and consistent manner, without discrimination," Narucha said.

"If any offenders are found, decisive legal action will be taken, whether they are business operators or those involved in illicit profiteering, in order to

elevate the standards of Thai tourism, build confidence among tourists and maintain Thailand's image in the long term."

The Phuket operations form part of DOPA's nationwide "Conquering the Gangsters" campaign targeting businesses operating outside legal requirements in major tourism centres.

TENSION

The Phuket hotel raids come amid growing political scrutiny of DOPA Director-General Narucha.

On the same day the first Phuket raids were announced, Phuket MP Chalermpong Saengdee and People's Party deputy leader Wiroj Lakkhanaadisorn filed complaints with the National Anti-Corruption Commission and the Election Commission seeking investigations into allegations that Narucha and other Interior Ministry officials interfered in the February national election (see page 2).

The complaints stem from the 'Helping the Blue' controversy, in which critics allege state officials were

instructed to support candidates linked to the Bhumjaithai Party led by Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul.

Mr Chalermpong has cited evidence allegedly provided by former Phuket Provincial Palad Rungruang Thimabut, including a LINE chat conversation said to have taken place about one month before the election. According to Mr Chalermpong, the chat included election polling information and a message allegedly sent by Narucha stating, "Help Namngern", followed by a response reading, "100%, sir."

Narucha has publicly denied any wrongdoing and has maintained that the activities in question were legitimate government information campaigns.

The complaints are the latest development in a wider dispute that has drawn national attention to Phuket following the transfer of a host senior provincial officials in the wake of the operations to clear businesses serving tourists from beachfront land at Bang Tao and Freedom beaches.

ISOC names Bang Tao venues under probe

THE INTERNAL Security Operations Command (ISOC) Region 4 has identified 16 beachfront businesses under investigation as part of the ongoing Bang Tao Beach encroachment probe.

Officials say the venues are among 34 structures located within a disputed area of more than six rai of public beachfront land in Moo 2, Chong Talay. The remaining 18 structures are residential properties.

The businesses named by ISOC are: The Wave Phuket, Ember Steak House, Maya Beach Club, Bud Haven, A-Loma Massage, Reggae Bar, Tiki Shack Bar & Restaurant, MAMBA, Yuuhi Beach Club, Beach Pig, Solis Beach Club, ALOMA, ALOMA Bang Tao, Blue Ocean Restaurant & Bar, Golden Fish and Nomad Beach Club Phuket.

The names were disclosed during an inspection led by Rear Admiral Praphan Srisuvipa, Deputy Director of ISOC Phuket and chairman of the provincial fact-finding committee investigating alleged encroachment on public land.



Photo: Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

According to information presented during the inspection, authorities have identified 34 structures allegedly located on public or forest land protected under the Forest Act. Rear Adm Praphan said the structures include restaurants, bars, beach clubs, massage businesses and tour operators.

"The committee's duty is to establish the facts. We are not deciding who is right or wrong," he said.

Investigators are examining land boundaries, ownership claims and the extent of development within the disputed area. Officials are also reviewing five land title deeds cited during the investigation: Nos. 22642, 22643, 34220, 34223 and 34224.

Rear Adm Praphan said some sections appear straightforward, while others overlap with neighbouring titled land and require further examination by the Phuket Land Office and Phuket Forestry Centre.

The committee is expected to submit its final report to Phuket Governor Nirat Pongsitthaworn in early September.

The investigation follows Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul's visit to Bang Tao Beach on May 10, when he pledged a crackdown on alleged influential figures, corruption and the illegal occupation of public beachfront land.

Natnaree
Likidwatanasakun

'Singha' ordered to explain claim to Nui Beach land

OFFICIALS FROM the Ombudsman's office, Phuket authorities, police and forestry agencies have inspected the disputed Nui Beach area in Karon following complaints of illegal encroachment on protected forest land and obstruction of public access.

The June 10 operation was led by Pol Lt Col Pongsakorn Meepanthu of Investigation Bureau 4 and Ombudsman investigator Phumikhanit Jiamonukulkit, joined by officials from the Phuket provincial administration, police, forestry agencies, the Phuket Land Reform Office and Karon Municipality.

Authorities said local residents had complained that influential individuals had encroached on land within the Nakkerd Hills National Forest Reserve, built structures illegally and restricted access to the beach.

Officials noted that the Supreme Court revoked



Photo: STRONG Anti-Corruption Club of Thailand

rights to the disputed land in 2014, but alleged occupation of the area has continued.

During the inspection, forestry officers met a man identified as Singha 'Laem Singh' Paisanvorachai, also known as Kittipop Pengkaew, who claimed ownership or possession of the land. Officials informed him that the Director-General of the Department of Forestry had ordered him to clarify allegations of forest encroachment and had issued a demolition order under the National Forest Reserve Act.

Sources from Forest Management Office 12 said applications had been submitted seeking permission to use land in the Nui

Beach area. The Department of Forestry has requested a survey and recommendations before any decision is made.

The Ombudsman's office said it would coordinate with relevant agencies and consider legal action based on evidence gathered during the inspection.

The investigation comes amid a wider crackdown on illegal occupation of state land in Phuket. Earlier this month, Natural Resources and Environment Minister Suchart Chomklin ordered faster progress on more than 28 encroachment cases in Sirinat National Park and said demolition work at Freedom Beach and Nui Beach is expected to begin in July.

Authorities have designated Phuket as a pilot province for accelerating legal action against illegal structures on protected land.

The Phuket News

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PHUKET SEVEN DAY WEATHER FORECAST

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Low: +25°
Wind 4 m/s

SUN JUNE 21

High: +29°
Low: +26°
Wind 14 m/s

MON JUNE 22

High: +30°
Low: +26°
Wind 14 m/s

TUE JUNE 23

High: +29°
Low: +26°
Wind 18 m/s

WED JUNE 24

High: +29°
Low: +26°
Wind 18 m/s

THU JUNE 25

High: +29°
Low: +26°
Wind 18 m/s

Photo: Phuket Immigration

Russian Interpol fugitive arrested for B150mn fraud

A RUSSIAN NATIONAL wanted under an Interpol Red Notice for alleged fraud and document forgery offences causing losses of more than B150 million has been arrested in Phuket.

The suspect, identified only as 'Igor', was apprehended on June 13 by officers from Immigration Police Division 6 and Phuket Immigration following a joint investigation with Russian authorities and the Royal Thai Police Foreign Affairs Division.

Immigration Bureau Commissioner Lt Gen Panumas Boonyalak said the arrest was part of ongoing efforts to target foreign fugitives and transnational criminals hiding in Thailand.

According to police, Igor was the subject of Interpol Red Notice No. A-6580/4-2026, issued on Apr 27. Russian authorities allege he was

part of a criminal network that forged company documents to obtain payments for goods that were never produced.

Investigators claim the group defrauded one company of more than B70mn in 2025 and caused additional losses exceeding B80mn in 2024 through falsified procurement and transportation documents.

Officers tracked the suspect to a luxury villa in Phuket and arrested him as he left the property. Immigration records showed he entered Thailand through Phuket International Airport on Mar 7 and had overstayed his visa by nine days.

He was charged with overstaying and transferred for legal proceedings. Police said he will be deported to Russia after legal action in Thailand is completed.

Eakkapop Thongtub



Photo: Phuket Customs Office

SA woman caught with 16kg of heroin

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

A South African woman was arrested at Phuket International Airport after authorities discovered 16 kilograms of heroin hidden inside pet food packages in her luggage as she prepared to board an international flight.

The arrest was made at about 6pm on June 11 by customs officers working with Sakhu Police and the Narcotics Suppression Bureau (NSB).

The 32-year-old suspect was detained at the oversized baggage inspection area in the airport's international terminal after

officers became suspicious of a blue wheeled suitcase she was checking in.

A search revealed about 16kg of heroin concealed inside seven bags of dog and cat food. The drugs were packed in clear plastic bags wrapped in black tape and hidden within the pet food packaging.

According to the Customs Department, the woman was scheduled to fly from Phuket to Entebbe International Airport in Uganda.

Officials estimated the heroin had a street value of about B48 million in Thailand and could have been worth more than B96mn at its intended destination.

Investigators also seized mobile phones containing foreign SIM cards, which are being examined to identify others linked to the smuggling operation.

The suspect was charged with attempting to export a Category 1 narcotic without permission and possessing a Category 1 narcotic without permission under Thailand's Narcotics Code and Customs Act. She was handed over to investigators at Sakhu Police Station for further legal action.

Authorities said the case forms part of ongoing efforts to disrupt transnational drug trafficking networks that use Thailand as a transit point for smuggling narcotics overseas.

Brit lets son, 9, drive car

A BRITISH MAN HAS BEEN charged after allegedly allowing his 9-year-old son to drive a car on a public road in Wichit.

Wichit Police launched an investigation after a video shared online showed a grey Honda City swerving and braking erratically on Chao Fa West Rd on June 9. The footage appeared to show a young boy sitting on the driver's lap and controlling the vehicle.

Police identified the driver as British national Mark Grant and later located him and the car at his home in Chalong. Mr Grant reportedly admitted allowing his son to drive.



Image: via Wichit Police

The vehicle was seized as evidence. Mr Grant faces charges including careless driving, allowing an unlicensed person to drive, and offences under child protection laws. Legal proceedings are continuing.

Eakkapop Thongtub

Crane snags open-top tour bus

A CRANE HOOK SNAGGED the upper fibreglass structure of a Phuket City Municipality sightseeing bus in Phuket Town on June 9, injuring four people, including Chinese and Filipino tourists.

The accident happened at about 2:30pm outside Nawamin Plaza on Phuket Rd. Police said a crane parked at a work site caught part of the open-top electric bus's upper structure as it passed, tearing away sections of fibreglass that fell onto passengers. Debris also struck a nearby motorcycle.

The injured were identified as Chollada Labsaeng, 23; Chinese national Shan Lu, 40; motorcycle rider Muhammad Ruswan Saeleh, 22; and Filipino national Joseph



Photo: Phuket City Police

Ballaran Bonghanoy, 40. All were taken to hospital for treatment.

At last report police were investigating and had not yet determined responsibility for the incident. Eakkapop Thongtub

Cherng Talay Police seek B53mn for new station

Natnaree Likidwatanasakun
reporter1@classactmedia.co.th

Cherng Talay Police have secured approval to use more than 11 rai of land for a new police station and are seeking B53 million in funding as their current station struggles to keep pace with rapid growth in the area.

The proposed station will be built on Srisoonthorn Rd, about 1.3 kilometres from the existing Cherng Talay Police Station, which is located at the busy intersection of Srisoonthorn Rd (Route 4025) and Baan Don-Cherng Talay Rd (Route 4030).

A ceremony formally marking approval for the Royal Thai Police to use the land was held at the site on June 11, with Phuket Provincial Police Commander Maj Gen Sinlert Sukhum presiding.

Cherng Talay Police Chief Col Ekkarat Plaiduang said the new station was needed because the current facility can no longer adequately support operations in one of Phuket's fastest-growing areas.

"The current location has served the community for more than 80 years, but Cherng Talay has changed dramatically during that time," he said.

Col Ekkarat noted that the station's 82 officers face significant space



Photo: Natnaree Likidwatanasakun

constraints, with shortages of office space, public service areas, storage facilities and parking. Rising numbers of residents, tourists and businesses have increased demand for police services, while the existing site has no room for expansion.

Police have requested B23mn to construct the main station building and a further B30mn for police housing, bringing the total project cost to B53mn.

The new station will be built on 11 rai 1 ngan of land behind the Cherng Talay OrBorTor offices, accessed via

Soi Bangtao 1 opposite Lotus's Cherng Talay on Srisoonthorn Rd.

If funding is approved, construction could begin later this year and is expected to take about three years to complete.

Most police operations will move to the new site when it opens, though the current station will remain in use as a traffic police base because of its strategic location at the major Cherng Talay intersection.

Until construction is completed, all services will continue operating from the existing station.



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket pays tribute to Princess Bajrakitiyabha

PHUKET GOVERNOR Nirat Pongsitthaworn led provincial officials, members of the judiciary, military and police officers, and residents in a ceremony honouring Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendiradebyavati at Phuket Provincial Hall last Saturday (June 13).

Held at the Mahisornphakdi Auditorium, the ceremony included the ritual pouring of water before a royal portrait of the Princess and the signing of a book of condolences.

Governor Nirat was joined by Vice Governor Adul Chuthong, Phuket Provincial Red Cross Vice President Dr Khemmawan Chuthong, representatives of the courts and prosecutors, heads of government departments, local officials and members of the public.

Participants paid their

respects before the royal portrait and statue before taking part in the ceremonial rites.

Provincial officials said the event was held to express sorrow and honour the Princess's lifelong dedication to public service and national development.

Attendees reflected on her contributions through royal duties, humanitarian work and efforts to improve the welfare of Thai people. Officials also highlighted her work in the legal field and her role in helping make legal knowledge more accessible to the public.

The ceremony was conducted in a solemn atmosphere, with participants expressing loyalty, gratitude and respect while pledging to follow her example of public service and dedication to helping others. *The Phuket News*

Scottish boxer in coma after fall from moving tuk-tuk in Patong

WBO INTERNATIONAL WELTER-weight champion Colin Cairney remains in a coma in Phuket after suffering a severe head injury when he fell from the back of a moving tuk-tuk in Patong in the early hours of last Sunday morning (June 14).

Mr Cairney, 22, from Stirling, Scotland, was critically injured when he struck his head on the road after falling from the vehicle at about 4am, according to police. He was initially taken to Patong Hospital before being transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he remains under intensive care.

Pol Lt Col Surachat Thongyai, the investigating officer, said Mr Cairney's condition was considered "50/50" due to the severity of the head trauma.

Police said Mr Cairney had been holidaying in Phuket with relatives and friends. Investigators believe alcohol may have been a factor and have ordered blood tests.

According to the investigation, Mr Cairney had visited an entertainment venue before taking a tuk-tuk to his hotel. A dispute reportedly arose over the fare, prompting him to obtain cash before re-entering the vehicle.

Police believe the tuk-tuk then drove past the hotel entrance and continued along the road. CCTV footage reviewed by officers reportedly shows Mr Cairney falling alone from the rear of the moving



Photo: Colin Cairney / Facebook

vehicle and landing on the roadway.

Investigators initially considered whether the injuries may have resulted from an assault, but after reviewing CCTV footage and interviewing witnesses concluded they were consistent with a fall from the vehicle.

Police have identified the vehicle involved through CCTV footage and information recorded by a hotel security guard. The registered owner reportedly told police the tuk-tuk had been rented to another driver at the time.

At last report officers were working to identify and locate the driver, who could face charges including negligent driving causing death if Mr Cairney's injuries prove fatal, as well as failing to stop and render assistance.

Eakkapop Thongtub



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Phuket Airport rolls out e-passport gates

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

Phuket International Airport has taken another step towards modernising passenger services with the launch of its new Automated Border Control (ABC) system, allowing eligible international travellers holding electronic passports to complete immigration clearance through self-service gates.

The system officially entered service last Saturday (June 13) following a readiness inspection conducted by Phuket Airport General Manager Monchai Tanode and Phuket Airport Immigration Deputy Superintendent Pol Lt Col Apha Kueakool at the airport's international terminal.

Airport officials say the new technology is designed to reduce congestion at immigration checkpoints, shorten processing times and improve the overall travel experience for passengers using Thailand's second-busiest international tourism gateway.

The Automated Border Control system uses biometric verification technology to allow travellers to complete passport checks without direct assistance from immigration officers. Passengers scan their electronic passports and undergo automated identity verification before being



granted clearance.

According to Phuket Airport, the project has been introduced in phases. The first phase includes 10 automated inspection lanes operating alongside 24 conventional immigration counters in the international terminal.

A second phase is already planned, which will see the number of automated lanes more than double to 21 while the number of staffed immigration counters is reduced to 16. Airport officials believe the change will increase passenger-handling capacity

while making more efficient use of available space within the immigration hall.

The launch follows earlier testing of the system and comes as Phuket Airport continues to handle high passenger volumes throughout the year.

Only travellers holding eligible electronic passports, commonly known as e-passports, are able to use the automated gates. Passengers carrying older-style passports or those requiring additional immigration screening must continue to use

conventional counters staffed by immigration officers.

Phuket Airport Immigration said the ABC system has been introduced to improve convenience for travellers while maintaining security standards through the use of biometric verification and Immigration Bureau databases.

Officials noted that the system is expected to provide a faster and smoother immigration process, helping to reduce waiting times during peak periods.

The launch also reflects a broader trend at airports around the world towards greater use of automation and self-service technology in passenger processing. Similar systems are already in operation at major international airports in Thailand and overseas, where they have been used to increase efficiency and manage growing passenger numbers.

For Phuket Airport, the move comes as international travel continues to recover and expand. The airport remains one of Thailand's most important tourism gateways, serving millions of visitors each year travelling to Phuket and other destinations in the Andaman region.

Airport officials have previously noted that even during the low tourism season, Phuket

Airport regularly handles between 27,000 and 30,000 international passengers a day, with hundreds of flights arriving and departing daily.

The growing number of international travellers has placed increasing pressure on immigration facilities, making faster processing systems an important part of future airport planning.

According to airport management, the ABC system is intended not only to improve passenger convenience but also to allow immigration officers to focus on other duties while maintaining effective border control procedures.

Phuket Airport and Phuket Airport Immigration said they remain committed to continually improving services through the use of modern technology and innovation.

Officials added that the new automated gates will help enhance Phuket's image as an international tourism destination with modern infrastructure and services that meet international standards.

No timeline has yet been announced for the completion of the second phase of the project, which will increase the number of automated immigration lanes from 10 to 21.

Visa shift unlikely to deter Indians

REPLACING VISA-FREE ENTRY with a visa-on-arrival (VoA) scheme for Indian tourists is unlikely to significantly impact the market, as affordable travel costs remain the main factor driving demand, according to a leading Indian travel agency.

Thailand's Cabinet has decided to end the current 60-day visa exemption for 93 countries, including India, and revert to a VoA system similar to that used before 2024.

Amit Gilani, owner of Mumbai-based TravelButler, said Indian travellers are unlikely to be deterred by the change. The VoA fee of B2,000 remains affordable for most visitors, while travellers can also apply for an e-visa costing B1,000.

Mr Gilani said the move could help reduce abuse of tourist visas by individuals who overstay or work illegally in Thailand.

"This is a good move by Thailand. Hopefully this won't tarnish India's name any further," he said.

The Tourism and Sports Ministry is also considering a proposal to grant Indian visitors a 15-day visa exemption, recognising India as one of Thailand's top five source markets.

Mr Gilani said a 15-day exemption would be sufficient for most Indian tourists, who rarely stay longer than two weeks, including those booking wellness holidays. TravelButler has seen growing demand for 12-15 day wellness retreats



in Thailand focused on mental and physical wellbeing.

Phuket and Bangkok remain the most popular destinations for Indian visitors due to extensive direct flight connections. However, interest is growing in destinations such as Koh Chang, Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai and Pai as travel agents promote a wider range of locations.

Patsee Permvongsene, executive director for the ASEAN, South Asia and South Pacific region at the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), said the agency is targeting 2.55 million Indian arrivals this year if the current visa exemption remains in place.

Thailand welcomed more than 2.48mn Indian visitors last year. As of June 7, Indian arrivals had reached 1.1mn, making India the country's third-largest inbound market.

Mrs Patsee said a return to the VoA scheme could lead to a revision of this year's target and is expected to affect mass tour groups more than luxury and independent travellers. *Bangkok Post*

Health Expo to showcase Phuket's prowess in wellness, well-being

THE PHUKET CHAMBER of Commerce has announced plans for the 3rd Phuket Health Expo 2026, with organisers aiming to strengthen the island's position as a world-class wellness destination and international health tourism hub.

The expo, themed 'Longevity: Well-being for a Long Life', will be held at Central Phuket from July 1-5 and is expected to bring together health, wellness, sports and tourism businesses from across Thailand and overseas.

The event was officially launched at a press conference on June 10, attended by Phuket Vice Governor Suwit Phansengiam, Phuket Chamber of Commerce President Kongsak Khoophongsakorn, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organisation Deputy Mayor Anupap Wechwanchaisanong and public health pharmacy expert Somsuk Sampanprateep.

Speaking at the event, officials outlined Phuket's long-term vision of becoming a future health city



under the concept 'Phuket: The Future of Life', with a focus on improving quality of life for local residents while attracting visitors, investors and healthcare businesses from around the world.

Mr Kongsak said the expo would serve as a platform linking health knowledge, innovation, technology and business opportunities while supporting the development of Phuket as a leading centre for health and wellness tourism.

Organisers said this year's event builds on the success of previous expos, which demonstrated the island's potential as an international destination for healthcare, medical services and wellness travel.

The 2026 expo will be organised around five key themes: Sport & Perform-

ance, Nutrition & Longevity, Mind & Spiritual, Medical & Biohacking, and Wellness Lifestyle.

More than 80 businesses are expected to showcase products and services covering health, wellness, sports and tourism sectors.

Other highlights will include international business-matching sessions, familiarisation trips showcasing Phuket's health and wellness tourism offerings, and the presentation of the Phuket Health Expo Awards 2026.

Officials said the event is intended to create international partnerships, stimulate Phuket's health economy and support efforts to establish the province as a regional hub for Health & Wellness Tourism.

Vice Governor Suwit said achieving that goal would require cooperation across government agencies, the private sector, educational institutions, healthcare providers and local communities, with a focus on promoting healthier lifestyles.

The Phuket News

A nation mourns its Princess

BANGKOK

Bangkok Post

Thailand entered a period of national mourning on June 11 following the passing of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendiradebyavati at the age of 47.

The Royal Household Bureau announced that the princess passed away peacefully at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in Bangkok at 7:48pm on Thursday, June 11 after more than three years of medical treatment.

She had been receiving care since Dec 15, 2022, after falling into a coma due to a heart-related condition. The princess had collapsed while exercising her pet dogs in Nakhon Ratchasima's Pak Chong district a day earlier.

According to the bureau, her condition deteriorated on May 21 following an abdominal infection caused by inflammation of the large intestine, leading to low blood pressure, irregular



A black-clad Thai holds the portrait of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Narendiradebyavati at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital in Bangkok last Friday (June 12). Photo: Pattarapong Chatpattarasill

heart rhythms and blood-clotting abnormalities. Despite continuous treatment and close monitoring by medical teams, her health progressively worsened.

His Majesty the King has ordered that funeral arrangements be conducted with the highest royal honours in accordance with royal tradition.

His Majesty has also granted permission for members of the royal family, the Privy Council, the Cabinet, government agencies, private organisations and the public to host

funeral chanting ceremonies after the first 100 days of royal rites.

Princess Bajrakitiyabha's royal remains were placed in the Phiman Rattaya Throne Hall at the Grand Palace, where the public were allowed to participate in royal bathing rites before a portrait of the princess at the Sahathai Samakhom Pavilion last weekend.

They will also be allowed to pay their respects to the royal remains at the Phiman Rattaya Throne Hall from June 27, following the initial 15-day

period of royal merit-making ceremonies.

TRIBUTE

Thousands gathered at Sanam Luang on Sunday to pay their respects on the first day the Royal Household Bureau opened public access for mourners to offer tribute before her portrait and sign condolence books.

The atmosphere throughout the morning was solemn as people from Bangkok and provinces across the country arrived steadily to take part in the commemorative ceremonies. Many wore black and carried

portraits of the princess, expressing their gratitude for her lifelong service to the nation.

Visitors queued quietly, some overcome by emotion as they stood before the royal portrait and signed the condolence register. Officials coordinated the flow of visitors through designated waiting areas near the entrance tunnel leading to the Grand Palace complex.

Public announcements gave guidance on procedures and routes, while security screening and baggage inspections were carried out before mourners proceeded to Sahathai Samakhom Pavilion inside the Grand Palace grounds.

Mourners also gathered at King Chulalongkorn Memorial Hospital across the weekend to honour the princess's memory.

HALF-MAST

Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul, who chaired a special Cabinet meeting convened after the announcement, said ministers observed a moment of silence before discussing preparations for the

royal ceremonies. Relevant ministries and agencies were instructed to provide full support and facilitate members of the public attending the events.

Anutin said previously scheduled international engagements would proceed as planned, although officials travelling abroad have been advised to focus strictly on essential duties and keep visits as brief as possible.

He added that people should continue their daily lives as normal during the mourning period while observing appropriate conduct and paying their respects.

Government spokeswoman Rachada Dhnadirek said all government offices, state enterprises, public agencies and educational institutions would fly flags at half-mast for 15 days as of last Friday.

Civil servants, state enterprise employees and public officials were also instructed to observe a 15-day mourning period, while members of the public were encouraged to do so as appropriate.

PM unveils chip hub vision

BANGKOK

PRIME MINISTER ANUTIN Charnvirakul has unveiled a plan to position Thailand as ASEAN's hub for advanced chip manufacturing, with the goal of producing "Made in Thailand" semiconductors by 2050.

Anutin has signed an order creating the National Semiconductor and Advanced Electronics Policy Committee as part of the government's efforts to expand the semiconductor industry, it was confirmed on Monday (June 15).

The move supports a broader strategy to strengthen competitiveness and develop future industries, including semiconductors, artificial intelligence, robotics and clean energy, he said.

The government views semiconductors as critical to long-term economic growth and aims to attract investment while building domestic capabilities, with a target of bringing "Made in Thailand" semiconductor products to market by 2050, the PM added.



A semiconductor factory in Prachin Buri province. Photo: Bangkok Post

The plan targets investment worth B2.5 trillion and the development of more than 230,000 highly skilled workers and the committee is intended to help turn those objectives into substantive outcomes, explained Anutin.

The policy, says the government, will strengthen supply-chain security for targeted industries, support workforce development and investment promotion and contribute to broader industrial restructuring.

The committee will be chaired by the PM, with Deputy Prime Minister Ekniti Nitithanprapas serving as vice-chairman.

Its responsibilities include setting policy directions, master plans and development targets;

reviewing projects related to semiconductor and advanced electronics development for Cabinet approval; monitoring and evaluating implementation; reporting progress to the Cabinet; and appointing subcommittees or working groups as necessary.

A source with the Board of Investment said Thailand has benchmarked semiconductor strategies in regional hubs such as Singapore and Malaysia and competitors including Vietnam and the Philippines.

Despite its industry remaining at an early stage, Thailand sees strong potential based on its infrastructure, skilled workforce and manufacturing base, the source added.

Bangkok Post

Promising Australian sprinter dies in Koh Samui bike crash

KOH SAMUI

POLICE SAY SLIPPERY ROAD conditions appeared to have been a factor in the road accident on Koh Samui that killed 25-year-old Australian sprinter Jemma Stapleton on June 10.

The accident occurred at 3:45pm on a curve along Highway 4169 in tambon Bo Put during steady rainfall and involved three vehicles, Surat Thani provincial police chief Pol Maj Gen Suwat Suksri said.

At the scene, police found a black Subaru stopped in the middle of the road, facing Chaweng Beach. The driver was identified as a 38-year-old Russian man.

Stapleton's body was found beneath the Subaru's front passenger-side wheel. She had been riding a motorcycle before the crash. A Honda City, driven by a 27-year-old Thai woman, was also at the scene.

Police released CCTV video that captured the moments leading to the fatal crash. It showed Stapleton's motorcycle losing traction and falling before sliding into the opposite lane while an oncoming car was approaching, causing a violent collision with the rider.

Her body was thrown more than 20 metres along the road, while the motorcycle slid to a halt in front of



Jemma Stapleton. Photo: Bangkok Post

another vehicle travelling behind the first car.

A preliminary examination by Koh Samui Hospital found severe head lacerations and bruising on her body. Stapleton, who was on a family holiday, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Police were told that she had been riding ahead of family members, who were travelling behind on other motorcycles. Investigators believe the wet road surface and slippery conditions contributed to the accident.

The promising sprinter from Melbourne began her athletics career at a young age and rose through the ranks of Victorian athletics before becoming a finalist in the Stawell Gift, Australia's oldest and richest professional footrace.

Stapleton celebrated her 25th birthday on June 1, less than two weeks before the fatal crash.

Bangkok Post

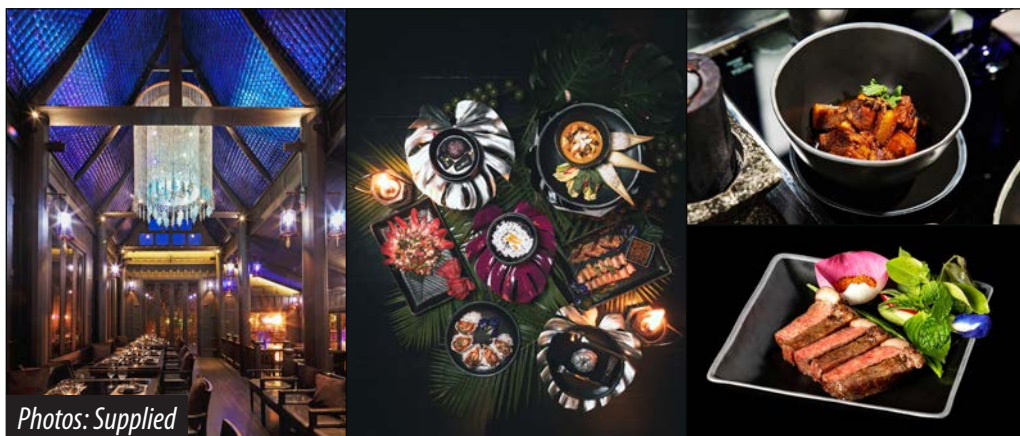
A journey into a culinary wonderland at Black Ginger

Ben Tirebuck
editor3@classactmedia.co.th

It is often said that food can take you on a journey. When dining at the spectacular Black Ginger at The Slate, Nai Yang Beach, you are literally taken on a journey into a culinary wonderland, one which will not be forgotten in a hurry.

After arriving at the main reception my dining partner and I are taken via buggy through the expansive grounds of the lavish property to the restaurant's entrance. Or at least that is what we thought. Venturing through the impressive walkway, adorned with illuminated shields honouring the courage of heroines Khun Chan and Khun Mook, who in 1785 bravely thwarted a Burmese invasion, we arrive at a lake. There a rope-pulled raft awaits to carry us across the water to the restaurant itself, as fire lanterns burn and cast a delightful collage of playful shadows on the landscape and water. As you slowly approach, excitement and anticipation grow as it genuinely feels as if you are travelling back in time, even to another world – it is a truly magical start to the experience.

The restaurant itself is a majestic wooden structure, “blending old-world charm with contemporary elegance” that captures the vibe of the Ayutthaya period. We are met by smiling, courteous staff and soon seated in the charming and extremely atmospheric main dining room. With numerous



Photos: Supplied

menu options available, we opt for the “Black Ginger Experience”, which offers via an array of smaller plated dishes a “tapestry of flavours from land to sea, crafted to showcase the Island’s rich culinary heritage”.

To start we are brought three separate dishes. The *Yam nor thue* is a salad fusing young wild ginger, green mango, tamarind dressing and charcoal-grilled river prawn and is a delicious palate cleanser. The *Tod man pla* is among the finest fish cakes we have ever tasted, only bettered by the signature house-made sweet chilli sauce, which is absolutely fantastic! The *special recipe-fresh spring rolls*, punctuated by the juicy crab and tender pork traditional Thai pancakes round off the perfect start to our meal.

Overdrive

Chef Paik takes things into overdrive with the main courses. *The Mee Hokkien* is a delight, with the charred lobster

tail and crispy pork lardons the stars, while the *Moo hong* offers braised pork belly slowly cooked for hours with dark soy, sauce, black pepper, garlic and other seasonings, which is delicious.

The *Gaeng som pla* mixes fresh turmeric, grouper fish fillet, tamarind and pineapple and is genuinely a standout that I would easily order again on its own. However, the *Gaeng poo bai cha plu* is my personal favourite – delicate blue swimmer crab simmered gently in a fragrant southern-style yellow curry. It is incredibly tasty and extremely more-ish!

The *Nua yang* charcoal-grilled Australian wagyu beef, marinated and seasoned with a bold, fiery curry blend that Chef Piak says is an age old family recipe is divine, while the *Pad pak mieng* offers a nutrient-rich leafy vegetable dish blended with garlic and egg.

Our taste buds are further piqued with three deserts that round off the dining experience perfectly. The *Kanom*

bulu is a soft, traditional Phuket-style sponge cake and works fantastically well with the *Kiao supparot* (crispy pineapple wontons). However, the star for us is the *Sapparot mok I-tim*, charcoal-burnt pineapple ice cream, which is a truly delicious and unique taste, the likes of which neither of us had experienced before.

It concludes a fantastic menu and we are more than satisfied. More than a simple tasting menu, our choice offered several playful inroads to delicious Thai food made with a local twist from the brilliant Chef Piak. The portions are just right and the fact that everything tastes spectacular but nothing overpowers or lingers speaks volumes as to how Chef Piak and her team have mastered true Thai cuisine.

The venue, the ambience, the exemplary staff and service and the delectable food at Black Ginger make it a truly unique and unforgettable experience. Taking the raft back it dawned on me that the dancing light among the shadows from the flickering torches seemed a symbolic representation of the journey our taste buds had been on in the previous few hours: playful, fun, illuminating, different, daring, unique. We will be journeying back to this very special place very, very soon.

Black Ginger at The Slate
Nai Yang Beach, 116 Moo 1, Sakhu, Thalang, Phuket 83110, Thailand
E: contactfb@theslatephuket.com
T: +6676 327 006
<https://blackginger.com/>



The August/September 2026 hard copy issue goes to print very soon

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The Mandalorian and Grogu excels but for fans only

David Griffiths

Before I dive into my review for *Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu* I feel like I have to make a massive admission. I am a huge *Star Wars* fan and have been ever since my parents let me watch the original films on VHS back in the 1980s.

Now, I wouldn't say that I'm at the stage where I'm joining Storm Trooper Legion Fan Clubs and dressing up to go to conventions, but I am more than happy to wear my Millennium Falcon T-shirt to bed. And I should probably also admit that I think *The Mandalorian* television series is probably one of the best *Star Wars* plotlines we have ever seen – and that Grogu is just so damn cute.

So I am guessing that you are probably assuming I was pretty excited to go and see *Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu*. You'd be right. And I guess that just leaves one question. Did it live up to my expectations or was it a massive disappointment? Well, I wasn't disappointed, but I do have to say this is probably a film that is better suited for those that have already watched the television series right the way through.

Directed by Jon Favreau (*Iron Man*), *Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu* picks up exactly where the last season of the television series finished. The Mandalorian (Pedro Pascal – *The Fantastic Four: First Steps*) himself is now working for the New Republic. More importantly, they now take orders from Colonel Ward (Sigourney Weaver – *Alien*) and help her try to wipe out those who are still trying to bring the Dark Force back to life.

However, things don't exactly go to plan when Mando and Grogu are sent out on a mission to not

only track down a nameless and faceless villain, but to also try and rescue Rotta the Hutt (Jeremy Allen White – *The Bear*) from the planet where he is supposedly being kept captive.

Soon, Mando discovers that things may not be what they seem – for a start, Rotta claims that he is not a captive and from there, the mystery deepens. Soon, both Mando's and Grogu's lives are in danger.

Characterisation

Now, this is why I say that this film is really a movie made for fans of the television series. Yes, the film has some epic moments, including an amazingly brilliant cinematic opening – seriously, it is one of the best battle sequences that we have ever seen in a *Star Wars* film – but for the most part, this just feels like an overly long episode of *The Mandalorian*. That is largely due to the fact that every episode of *The Mandalorian* feels like a feature film in itself.

Favreau himself has said that this is a film for fans of the television series and that shows throughout. There is very little set up of characters or why they are in the predicaments that they're in – it is very obvious that Favreau expects that everybody watching the movie has seen this series, so therefore he doesn't try to fill in the blanks.

However, that close tie in also leaves some pretty big questions for serious fans like myself. For example, with Mando's life in danger, how come we don't see people like Bo-Katan Kryze coming to his rescue? Showing that plotline allows Grogu to come into his own and grow as a character, but surely Grogu would have gone to the person that he admires and trusts the most outside of Mando in order to try and save him?

That little quirk aside though, there is no way I



Photo: IMDb

am going to complain too much about this film as there is no way any serious Mandalorian fan will leave the cinema disappointed. There are little things about this film that makes it absolutely stunning – from the amazing cinematography that sees Mando's ship landing with the sunset in the background, a scene that looks like it is paying homage to the great *Apocalypse Now* through to the touching, heartfelt plotline that sees Grogu grow as a character. Many of the recent *Star Wars* films have been criticised for not focusing on characterisation but that certainly isn't the case here.

So I guess the warning is there – if you are not a fan of *The Mandalorian* television series, then you are not likely to get much out of this film. However, if you are a fan, you are going to totally love everything that happens here because Favreau has managed to mix characterisation, humour and amazing action set pieces together in a way that only he could.

Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu is currently screening in Thailand and is rated '13+' 4/5 stars.

David Griffiths has been working as a film journalist for over 25 years. That time has seen him work in radio, television and in print. He currently hosts a film podcast called *The Popcorn Conspiracy*. He is also a Rotten Tomatoes accredited reviewer and is an alternate judge for the Golden Globes Awards. You can follow him at Facebook: *SubcultureEntertainmentAus*.



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POP QUIZ

- What is the traditional gift for a sixth wedding anniversary?
- Who rode a horse called Magnolia?
- If you were eating a Malus Pumila what would it be?
- What creature's sex act lasts exactly two seconds?
- Which country is the world's largest exporter of frog legs?

Answers below, centre

SUDOKU

Medium

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

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

- Across

 - Elbows and shells
 - Kind of seal
 - Importune
 - "Not ___!"
 - Bad spots?
 - Some injections
 - Office accessory
 - Contribute
 - Speck
 - Unskilled
 - ___ for impact
 - Cost of living?
 - A constellation
 - Viewable
 - Editor Harold
 - Brain wave
 - Day ___
 - Office accessory
 - College major
 - Light biscuit
 - Kind of gun
 - In a vigorous manner, in music
 - Bill collector?
 - A-line line
 - Digital tome
 - Capital city
 - Not busy
 - Cousin of an ostrich
 - Office accessories
- Down

 - Sobriquet for Haydn
 - Mellowed
 - Smoothing machine
 - Idiosyncrasy
 - True inner self
 - Go fast
 - Tummy trouble
 - H.S. biology topic
 - Make waves
 - Online newsgroup system
 - Circulating enzyme
 - Distinguished
 - Count, now
 - Venues
 - "___ Love," Denver song
 - Captain, e.g.
 - Sacred Hindu writings
- At any point
 - Moore documentary
 - Bachelor's last words
 - Nonpareil
 - Goiters
 - Compensation from union funds
 - Clap
 - Organic radical
 - Sharer's word
 - Chi follower
 - ___ snuff
 - Attach
 - People
 - Mitch Miller's instrument
 - ___ of Vicksburg
 - Dimethyl sulfate, e.g.
 - Young but wise one?
 - Smudge
 - Celestial bear
 - Kind of appeal
 - Parcel
 - Kind of car
 - Certain turn
 - Sean ___ Lennon

Answers to this week's Pop Quiz:
(1) Sugar; (2) George Washington; (3) Apple; (4) Mosquito; (5) Indonesia

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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53						54		55				56	57	58
59						60					61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

Visit: www.ilovecrosswords.com

Solutions to last week's puzzles:

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

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

GOT YOUR NUMBER

0.003

grams of marijuana detected in a man's shoe in Dubai in 2008 was enough for him to be arrested for drug possession.

10

trees must be planted by each high school and college student in the Philippines before they can graduate, according to the country's Graduation Legacy for the Environment Act.

90

percent of all the scientists that have ever existed are alive today.

18,879

US dollars is how much a businessman in Cangzhou, China paid for a car... in coins.

400 million

years is how long sharks have been around.

Source: *Uberfacts*

ISLAND VIEW

Sunrise at Cape Yamu. Photo by Anya Marcourt

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

This week in history

June 19, 1910
The first Father's Day is celebrated in Spokane, Washington.

June 20, 1877
Alexander Graham Bell installs the world's first commercial telephone service in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

June 21, 1982
John Hinckley is found not guilty by reason of insanity for the attempted assassina-

tion of U.S. President Ronald Reagan.

June 22, 1633
The Holy Office in Rome forces Galileo Galilei to recant his view that the Sun, not the Earth, is the center of the Universe in the form he presented it in, after heated controversy.

June 23, 1969
IBM announces that effective

Pride

January 1970 it will price its software and services separately from hardware thus creating the modern software industry.

June 24, 474
Julius Nepos forces Roman usurper Glycerius to abdicate the throne and proclaims himself Emperor of the Western Roman Empire.

June 25, 1978
The rainbow flag representing gay pride is flown for the first time during the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade.

Source: *Wikipedia*

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THU

25
JUNE



Skål Phuket - June Dinner

Join our June host, Emmanuel and his team, for a casual beach chic evening on the beach at Tann's Beach Cub in Karon, enjoying one of the best sunset views on the island with networking drinks and pass around tapas bites. Unlike our usual seated dinners, this event embraces a relaxed cocktail-style format, encouraging members and guests to mingle freely, reconnect with friends, and build new business relationships throughout the evening. Members B1300 - Non-Members B1700. Bookings - contact@skalphuket.org, more info at facebook.com/SkalPhuket

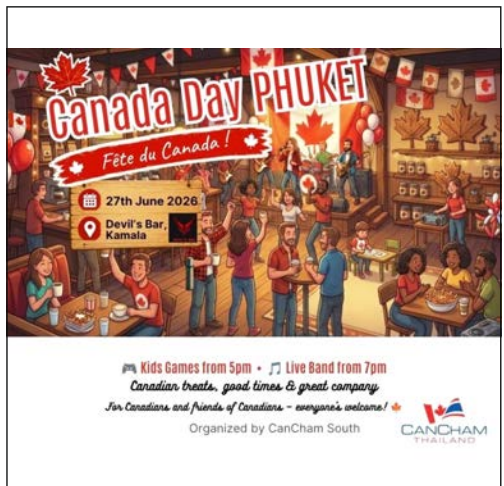






SAT

27
JUNE



Canada Day Phuket Celebration

Celebrate Canada Day in Kamala! Join the Canadian Chamber of Commerce Thailand – Southern Branch for a fun, family-friendly Canada Day celebration at Devil's Bar in Kamala. We'll kick things off at 5:00 PM with kids' activities, followed by a live band from 7:00 PM. Enjoy a relaxed evening of community, music, good company, and a buffet featuring a few Canadian treats. Buffet: 200 THB for adults and 100 THB for kids. All Canadians, friends of Canada, and Canadians for a day are welcome – so bring the family, wear a little red and white, and come celebrate with us! Please click through to register for the kids' activities so we can plan accordingly.



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FRI

3
JULY



Grow Boating Phuket Evening - July 2026

We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Boating Phuket Evening at the Bluu Asian Kitchen & Bar at the Royal Phuket Marina from 5pm. Sponsorship for drinks is available for just 12,000 baht and includes a generous promotional package from our media sponsors The Phuket News and Phuket Live Radio - Live 89.5. Send us a message or email growboatingphuket@gmail.com for more details. There will be a delicious buffet sponsored by Bluu Asian Kitchen & Bar for all attendees and as always, all your favourite beverages will be available from the bar. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. If you know anyone you think would be interested in coming, please invite them along. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/GrowBoatingPhuket

SAT

11
JULY



World Rock Day 2026 I Phuket's Ultimate Music Festival

Join us on July 11, 2026, at Hanuman World Phuket for an unforgettable day of live rock performances. Featuring 15 rock bands and over 50 performers from around the world, the event will showcase incredible talent, electrifying performances, food & beverage booths, and a festival atmosphere unlike any other in Phuket. Event Details: • Date: July 11, 2026 • Venue: Hanuman World Phuket • Time: 3:00 PM – 12:00 Midnight • Early Bird Ticket: 300 THB (Book now until July 3 only) • Regular Ticket: 500 THB • Email: marketing@naughtynuristhailand.com • For ticket reservations and inquiries, please contact us via email. Presented by Naughty Nuri's Phuket and Hanuman World Phuket. Join fellow music lovers for Phuket's ultimate World Rock Day celebration.



June/July 2026 issue



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PROPERTY FOR SALE



Relocating Property must sell

Urgent sale as owner relocating, Farang style house 300 metres from Heroines Monument, 2 bed, 2 bath, 1 office with safe, living/dining room, air con every room. Recently renovated. Partly furnished with oven, cook top, micro oven, washing machine. Undercover outdoor entertainment area. Plus 2,260 square metres land close to dream willage on new 4 lane highway, ideal for big villa or 4 two bed rentable units, 10 min to International School, 15 min to airport, in small development, no common fees. Both house and land are priced for urgent sale. Interested parties call English 093 629 4400, Thai 093 649 3583.

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TICC BUSINESS AWARDS PHUKET 2026

The first Thai Italian Chamber of Commerce (TICC) Business Award and recognition event took place on Thursday, June 11, at Bocconcino Italian Restaurant in Boat Avenue. Wonderful traditional Italian cuisine was created by Chef Massimo Pettinau and his team. Awards were given to companies or individuals whose continued support, friendship, and contribution have strengthened the Chamber and fostered the development of the Thai-Italian business network - Amari Phuket, Asia Green Tech, Easy Day accounting, Euro Thai Service, Kudo Beach Club, Little Roma Restaurant, Patong Bay Hill, Phuket Solar, PPJ Accounting, Villacarte Group, Surfhonse Residence, Chef Antonio Facchinetti, The Phuket News, Phuket Unit, Pic Phuket, and Phuket Futsal Thai League.

The Phuket Police command was given three awards for institutional relations and collaboration to - Police Major General Sinlert Sukhum, Commander of Phuket Provincial Police, Police Colonel Teerawat Leamsuwan, Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Province, Police Major General Chalit Thinthanee, Former Commissioner of Region 8 and president of the Phuket Police Association. Also present was Francesco Pensato, Honorary Consul General of Italy for South Thailand and TICC Vice President, Antonio Sanna TICC Director, Bruno Barone Chairman of TICC South Thailand Committee, his Deputy Aladino Mancuso and Diego Bianchi Chairman of TICC Phuket Committee. Find out more on TICC visit - thaitech.org





Photo: Supplied

Thai sports stars honoured

ALL SPORTS

THE SPORT WRITERS Association of Thailand (Swat) named weightlifter Weeraphon Wichuma and teqball player Jutatip Kuntatong best male and female amateur athletes of 2025 respectively at a ceremony on June 4.

Badminton player Kuntavut Vitidsarn and women's world No.2 golfer Atthaya "Jeeno" Thitikul were selected as the best male and female professional athletes.

The best junior amateur athletes were sprinter Puripol Boonson and weightlifter Thanaporn Saetia, while wheelchair racer Pongsakorn Paeyo and wheelchair fencer Saysunee Jana were named the men's and women's disabled athletes and Khunsueklek Boomdeksian again received the best Muay Thai athlete trophy.

The best team (sport)

award went to the national men's volleyball team, while the best team (event) were the ju-jitsu mixed duo of Warawut Saengsrirung and Lalita Yuennan.

Rasisalai United football club were declared the best professional team (sport), while badminton stars Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran were named the best professional team (event).

Atthaya's coach Kris Assawapimonporn received the best professional coach award, while Sakchai Thitacharee (weightlifting) was named the best amateur coach.

The Thai Amateur Weightlifting Association was awarded the best sport body prize.

Khuning Patama Leewadtrakul, a member of the International Olympic Committee and president of the Badminton World Federation, was chairwoman of the event's organising panel.

Bangkok Post

Hamilton claims first Ferrari win

FORMULA ONE

AFP

Lewis Hamilton claimed his first victory for Ferrari last Sunday (June 14) at the Barcelona-Catalunya Formula One Grand Prix, ending championship leader Kimi Antonelli's five-race winning streak.

The seven-time world champion finished ahead of George Russell and Lando Norris, while Antonelli was forced to abandon in the final stages because of a technical problem.

Hamilton, 41, cut down Antonelli's title lead to 41 points by triumphing nearly two years after he last won a race.

Mercedes polesitter Russell came in 19 seconds behind Hamilton, with Norris completing an all-British podium, the first since the 1968 United States Grand Prix.

"You have helped me so much to achieve this dream, I cannot thank you enough," said Hamilton over team radio, after becoming the first driver for a team other than Mercedes to win a race this season.

Russell, pre-season favourite for the championship, arrived in Barcelona bemoaning bad luck for his recent struggles but after team-mate Antonelli edged in front of him late on he had some good fortune to cut the gap on the teenager to 50 points after the Italian abandoned.

With track temperatures up at 51° Celsius, Hamilton opted for a three



Hamilton crosses the finish line to win the Barcelona-Catalunya Formula One Grand Prix. Photo: AFP

pit-stop strategy and it worked to perfection, with the third of those fortuitously coming while the virtual safety car was deployed.

Ferrari's heavily upgraded car may well have been fast enough for Hamilton to triumph anyway, as he recorded the 106th victory of his career.

"(All of them are) special in their own way but this one is something else," said Hamilton.

"When I was young, I watched Ferrari have all their success on TV. I always wondered what it would feel like – and it's come.

"It's not over, that's for sure," said Hamilton of the championship race, who also second in Monaco the

previous weekend.

Red Bull's Max Verstappen came in fourth, ahead of McLaren's Oscar Piastri and Isack Hadjar in the other Red Bull, while Alpine drivers Pierre Gasly and Franco Colapinto finished seventh and eighth respectively, with the Racing Bulls pair of Liam Lawson and Arvid Lindblad rounding out the top ten.

"Good to be back on the podium and have a clean race, but Ferrari were mighty today so we need to keep pushing," said Russell.

"The last stints were difficult, but it's good to be back here. The pace today was insane from Lewis, they are coming I think."

Balance bike success puts Thailand in frame for 2027

BALANCE BIKE

THAILAND HAS BEEN hailed for its organisational excellence after hosting the Asian Balance Bike 2026 Presented by BATA in Bangkok, with the Asian Cycling Confederation (ACC) confirming the nation is well placed to stage the event again next year.

Datuk Amarjit Singh Gill, president of the ACC, declared that Thailand is "fully prepared" to host the Asian Balance Bike Championship once more in 2027.

He cited the country's infrastructure, travel connections, accommodation options and diverse food culture as factors underpinning its readiness.

Formal approval will be required at the ACC Congress 2027 in China, but Gill's endorsement was a strong signal of confidence.

The latest edition of



Asian Balance Bike 2026 in Bangkok. Photo: Bangkok Post

the championship, held on June 6-7 at Island Hall, Fashion Island Mall, drew hundreds of young competitors from eight Asian nations.

General Decha Hemkasri, ACC vice president and president of the Thai Cycling Association, described the event as "a historic success" and thanked parents for their commitment in bringing children to compete.

Foreign delegations offered glowing reviews of Thailand's organisation.

Muhammad Haroon, manager of Pakistan's national team, and his wife Maham Tariq, said they were "deeply impressed" by the management and atmosphere.

"Our children may not have won yet, but they gained invaluable experience. Next year they will return stronger," Haroon remarked, pledging Pakistan's participation in 2027.

Mohammad bin Awabuddin, manager of Malaysia's M8 team, also lauded the event.

He highlighted the facilities, smooth logistics, and additional activities such as prize draws that delighted young riders.

"It was a thoroughly enjoyable competition. We will certainly return next year and may even bring athletes to national-level events in southern Thailand," he said.

The event has quickly become a fixture in the regional cycling calendar and is regarded as a pathway for young riders to advance in the sports of cycling and biking.

Bangkok Post

Pornpawee's wait continues

BADMINTON

PORNPAAWEE CHOCHUWONG missed out on a chance to end her title drought after losing to Akane Yamaguchi in the women's singles final of the US\$500,000 (B16 million) BWF Australian Open in Sydney last Sunday (June 14).

The Thai second seed last won a tournament at the 2025 Princess Sirivannavari Thailand Masters and the wait continues as the 28-year-old fell to the top seed from Japan 20-22, 18-21 in 46 minutes.

The loss ended Thailand's quest for a maiden Australian Open women's singles champion. The nation's last finalist in the discipline was Nitchaon Jindapol in 2013.

For Yamaguchi, the Sydney victory capped off her remarkable month-long surge which saw the Japanese book her fourth consecutive final.

The three-time world champion lifted the Thailand Open title four weeks ago before finishing runner-up to world No.1 An Se-Young at the Singapore



Pornpawee (left) with Akane Yamaguchi. Photo: AFP

and Indonesia Opens.

Alwi Farhan was crowned the men's singles champion as the Indonesian third seed ended Dong Tianyao's dream run with a 21-13, 21-13 victory.

China's 22-year-old Dong never made the main draw at this level before this week and only made it after earning promotion from the qualifying list.

Mixed doubles top seeds Feng Yanzhe and Huang Dongping defeated fellow Chinese second seeds Guo Xinwa and Chen Fanghui 21-17, 21-19 to claim the

top honours.

The women's doubles crown also went to a Chinese pair after top seeds Jia Yifan and Zhang Shuxian defeated seventh seeds Febriana Dwipuji Kusuma and

Meilysa Trias Puspitasari of Indonesia 24-22, 21-13.

Fourth seeds Chen Boyang and Liu Yi took the third title for the Chinese contingent as they tamed third seeds Sabar Karyaman Gutama and Moh Reza Pahlevi Isfahani of Indonesia 21-15, 21-19 in the men's doubles decider.

Bangkok Post

World Cup 2026 underway

FOOTBALL

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The 2026 FIFA World Cup got underway on June 11 with a dazzling opening ceremony at the Estadio Azteca in Mexico City.

Colombian pop superstar Shakira lit up the stadium by partnering with Nigerian Burna Boy to perform “Dai Dai”, the official song of the tournament, bringing roars from the 80,000-strong crowd.

Dancers twirled around a giant model of the World Cup trophy while fireworks streaked across the pitch as the noise levels ramped up.

That noise got louder as Mexico charged to a dramatic 2-0 win over an overwhelmed South Africa, who had two players sent off, while the other Group A match saw South Korea come from a goal down to beat Czech Republic 2-1 in Guadalajara.

Fellow hosts the United States and Canada were in action the following day, with the US thrashing Paraguay 4-1 in Los Angeles in Group D, while in Group B Canada salvaged a 1-1 draw against Bosnia and Herzegovina in Toronto to secure their first-ever point in the tournament after winless campaigns in 1986 and 2022.

Saturday’s action saw the first heavyweight clash of the tournament as Brazil and Morocco drew 1-1 in New Jersey in Group C, with



The opening ceremony at the Estadio Azteca on June 11. Photo: AFP

Brazil’s Vinicius Jr scoring a stunner for the Seleção.

Scotland went top of Group C, however, as they overcame a plucky Haiti side 1-0 thanks to John McGinn’s deflected first half-strike later on Saturday in Boston to secure the Scots’ first World Cup win in 36 years.

Qatar were also celebrating on Saturday as they secured their first ever World Cup point after a late own goal forced a 1-1 draw against Switzerland in Group B in Santa Clara, California, while Australia opened their campaign with an impressive 2-0 against Turkey in Vancouver in Group D.

Sunday saw Group E get underway, with the Ivory Coast

beating Ecuador 1-0 in Philadelphia, while Germany hammered tournament debutants Curacao 7-1 in Houston.

In Group F Japan battled back to secure a 2-2 draw against the Netherlands in Dallas on Sunday, while Sweden trounced Tunisia 5-1 in Monterrey, prompting the latter to sack coach Sabri Lamouchi.

European champions Spain were held to a shock 0-0 draw by tiny World Cup debutants Cape Verde in Group H on Monday despite the 2010 champions enjoying 74% possession and laying siege to their opponent’s goal.

Saudi Arabia and Uruguay drew 1-1 in Group H, while in Group G Belgium and Egypt also drew 1-1 and Iran against New Zealand ended 2-2.



Photo: PR Phuket

Phuket gears up for Pickleball competition

PICKLEBALL

PHUKET IS GEARING up to host a major pickleball event this weekend as part of the United States’ 250th birthday celebrations.

The Amazing Phuket Pickleball Cup 2026 is being held at the Raccoon Pickleball Court in Thalang starting today (June 19) until Sunday and is being organised by the Phuket office of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) in collaboration with the United States Embassy Bangkok.

Pickleball, an American-origin sport that has become a modern cultural phenomenon, reflects the spirit of community, wellness and people-to-people connection, said the organisers. The event highlights the growing global reach of American community sports

culture through an engagement in one of Thailand’s leading international tourism destinations, they added.

Competing for an overall prize pot of B150,000 players will be divided into a range of specific divisions: men’s singles; men’s doubles; women’s singles; women’s doubles; mixed doubles; open age; 35 years and below; 50 years and below; 60 years and below; beginner; intermediate; advanced/open level.

Games will take place in three separate time slots across the three days of competition: 8am to 1pm; 1pm to 5pm; and 5pm to 9pm.

Registration fees are B700 for beginners and intermediate players and B900 for advanced/open level players.

The Phuket News

Phuket’s young footballers shine

FOOTBALL

Continued from page 16

...clear: a sustainable, self-sufficient footballing ecosystem where young talents can stay on the island, build a professional career and represent their home province as they work their way up the leagues.

This local foundation is already yielding massive dividends. Kunanon’s domestic performances recently triggered a call-up to the Thailand U-17 national camp – a stark, eye-opening experience that served as a sudden reminder of the elite standards required at the international level.

“The national camp showed me the real levels that Thailand has,” Kunanon admits. “There were a lot of very good players there. It showed me that I have to work much harder if I want to play with the senior national team one day. That is my ultimate goal.”



Kunanon celebrates with Phuket United staff. Photo: Supplied

His classmates at school have been incredibly supportive, text messages flooding his phone after the match, even if they subject him to some good-natured teasing about being “famous now”. But behind the boyish giggles lies a player of frightening potential. Whether Phuket United are playing in Thai League 3 or the semi-pro ranks next season, Kun-

anon is fully committed to the project, viewing it as the ideal gateway for his portfolio.

The Phuket talent factory has historically built its reputation on sending its brightest stars across the globe. But in Kunanon Sittikarn, they may have just unearthed the cornerstone of a revolution that keeps that talent exactly where it belongs: right on the island.

The

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World Cup
kicks off in
style > p15

WONDER BOY

Kunanon the latest from Phuket football talent factory

BISP Cruzeiro programme graduate Kunanon Sittikarn has made an impressive start to his Phuket United career. Photo: Supplied



FOOTBALL

Simon Causton

The video link is characteristically patchy, a flickering digital window connecting a rainy evening in Phuket to a balcony in Bangkok. Sitting on screen is Kunanon Sittikarn, his slight, teenage frame clad in a blue Cruzeiro jersey, dwarfed by a pair of framed Brazilian football shirts hanging on the wall behind him. He looks exactly like what he is: a schoolboy. Yet, just days prior, this 15-year-old stepped onto a senior men's pitch and entirely rewrote the script of local football.

In a brief, hyper-charged 10 to 12-minute cameo that completely belied his age, Kunanon scored the winning goal to secure Phuket United's first-ever competitive victory over their fierce regional rivals, Phangnga United. It was a historic milestone for the club, and a moment the young forward describes with wide-eyed sincerity as the absolute pinnacle of his life.

"When I saw the ball hit the back of the net, I felt surreal," Kunanon reflects, a shy smile breaking through as he recalls the touchline-clearing celebrations. "Everyone ran to me. The crowds were shouting... it was really nice."

For years, the British International School, Phuket (BISP) Cruzeiro programme has

operated as an elite conveyor belt, meticulously forging raw talent into professional-grade exports. The alumni list reads like a global scouting dossier.

Domestically, high-profile graduates like Ben Davis have returned to Thai shores, currently plying his trade with Uthai Thani, while promising talents like Art are applying their craft with Trat FC in Thai League 2. Further afield across the Asian continent, Siam Yapp is currently testing his mettle in the demanding, physical environment of South Korea with Paju Frontier.

UPWARD TRAJECTORY

The regional success of the academy is perhaps best exemplified by Sachin Samuel. Having graduated from BISP in 2018, Sachin returned to his native Malaysia to sign his first professional contract with the powerhouse Johor Darul Ta'zim F.C. He has recently secured a transfer to PDRM FC, continuing his steady upward trajectory in the Malaysian football pyramid.

The academy's reach extends far beyond Southeast Asia. In the Americas, the Duchowny brothers, Jonah and Micah, are carving out professional careers in Mexico with Los Cabos. The programme also serves as a vital pipeline into the highly competitive US university system, developing a wealth of talent currently thriving stateside.

Among those US-based

alumni is the explosive forward Dov Cariño. Earning rave reviews across the collegiate network, Cariño is currently strongly tipped to make a sensational return to the island to join Phuket United, should the club secure its ambitions for promotion this season.

And then there is the European contingent. The academy has aided the development of former Norwegian youth international Nicolai Skoglund, who honed his clinical edge within the prestigious youth system of Sporting CP in Portugal before returning to play in Norway with Follo FC. The island's pedigree was further cemented recently when Brazilian goalkeeper Pedro Souza, another phenomenal BISP talent, signed for Portuguese giants Benfica.

BURDEN OF MATURITY

However, knowing this elite heritage line is one thing; stepping into it is another. The transition from the manicured, pristine environments of international school tournaments to the bruising, cynical reality of senior men's semi-professional football is a notoriously unforgiving crucible.

To compete at this level at 15 requires an immense psychological robustness. You are sharing a dressing room with battle-hardened adults, absorbing the tactical demands of grown men, and trading tackles with defenders

twice your age who care very little about your development pathway.

Naturally a central midfielder, Kunanon has recently been deployed on the left wing by Phuket United. This tactical tweak functions as a pragmatic shield. Placing him out wide protects his lightweight frame from the heavy, attritional and often malicious knocks prevalent in the chaotic centre of the pitch, whilst simultaneously granting him the tactical freedom to isolate defenders using his agility.

Such composure was evident recently against Phangnga United as the clock ticked past the 88th minute with the match tightly poised at 1-1. A deep cross was cleared to the edge of the 18-yard box where Kunanon displayed razor-sharp anticipation and execution to unleash a low, powerful snapshot with his left foot into the back of the net. The stadium erupted into absolute pandemonium. The 15-year-old sprinted toward the corner flag, a release of pure adrenaline before being swarmed and completely engulfed by his ecstatic, disbelieving teammates.

Crucially, Kunanon is not navigating this daunting leap alone. In a brilliant operational alignment, Coach Eder Diniz, the architectural mind behind the BISP football programme, also serves as the head coach of Phuket United. This dual role creates a flawless, incredibly

smooth transition for the island's brightest prospects, allowing Eder to carefully manage their integration from high-potential schoolboys into the unforgiving world of men's football. Under his wise, watchful eye, Kunanon remains incredibly modest and grounded.

"Coach Eder helps me with everything," Kunanon says. "He analyses the games with me and gives me the opportunities to play with the team. If I have any issues, or if anyone is being disrespectful to me on the pitch, I can just tell him and he helps me sort it out."

Historically, reaching the professional ranks meant leaving Phuket entirely. The established pathway demanded that the brightest prospects pack their bags for Bangkok or overseas just to see senior minutes. Kunanon represents a market correction in that paradigm. Driven by Eder's dual leadership, he is cutting his teeth in competitive senior football right on his doorstep.

The long-term hope now is that Phuket United can consistently offer a direct pipeline for these academy graduates to make their senior debuts. If the ambitious rumours regarding Dov Cariño's potential return are true, the framework is already in motion. As BISP ups its game to deliberately increase the volume of local Thai players coming through their ranks, the ultimate vision for the island is becoming...

Continued on page 15