Phuket health officials this week began rolling out ‘fourth vaccination injections’ to the public as the island continues its mass-vaccination campaign against COVID-19.

The vaccination injections were conducted at the Indoor Sports Stadium in Saphan Hin, where some 4,000 people received their ‘fourth jab’ on Monday (Jan 17).

The vaccinations were administered to ‘frontline personnel’, reported Nawapan Praiphan, of the Phuket office of the Relations Department (PR Phuket).

Healthcare workers have already received their fourth vaccination jabs, she added.

According to the mass-vaccination daily update report issued by Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO), a total of 5,059 people had received their fourth jabs as of Jan 12. As of Tuesday (Jan 18) that number had grown to 11,357.

The vaccinations for “frontline personnel”, which The Phuket News has confirmed includes teachers, was just the first round of “fourth jabs” and was to continue through until Wednesday (Jan 19), Ms Nawapan said.

On Monday and Tuesday this week, the recipients received Pfizer as their fourth jab, and on Wednesday the recipients were to receive AstraZeneca, she said.

“For the general public who received their third jab in September, expect to receive the fourth jab this month, after this group,” Ms Nawapan said.

People who received their third-dose ‘booster’ vaccination in September need to register through the PhuketMustWin website in order to receive their fourth booster dose this month, she explained.

“And those who have received their second jab shoul register to receive their third,” she said.

According to a notice by Vachira Phuket Hospital, the main government hospital on this island, the fourth-booster jabs are first and foremost going to Thai nationals who received Sinovac or Sinopharm as their first two injections.

The fourth booster jab is also being made available to Thai nationals...
95% of new COVID cases are ‘Green’

Continued from page 1

...who received AstraZeneca as their third ‘booster’ dose before Sept 30 last year.

It can be seen that most of the infected people in Phuket are Green patients. They have no symptoms or only a few symptoms. This is likely a result of being vaccinated,” she noted.

Ms Nawapan urged all people to closely follow the news from government agencies in order to get accurate information about the mass vaccination rollout and the COVID-19 situation in the country.

**BOOSTER PUSH**

Meanwhile, Vachira Phuket Hospital is continuing to provide walk-in first-, second- and third-dose ‘booster’ vaccination injections throughout January, but vaccination sessions are limited to 50 people per day.

Those who are interested can receive the vaccine at the “Lan Muang Khaor” area set up at the hospital.

Vachira Phuket explained in a notice posted last week. People still waiting to receive their first vaccination injection have been able to receive a Sinovac jab Monday-Thursdays each week through the month: already on Jan 10-13 and Jan 17-20, and again on Jan 24-27.

Another session of Sinovac vaccine first injections will be held on Friday, Jan 28.

Each session is each day is available only for 50 people, the hospital explained clearly.

No explanation was given as to why the number of vaccinations are being limited to such a small number.

Vachira Phuket also scheduled to provide AstraZeneca vaccinations for people needing a second- or third-dose ‘booster’ injection, first on Jan 14, and again today (Jan 21).

Again, each session was limited to 50 people.

To receive the injections Thais have needed to show only their government-issued ID card, while foreigners only needed to present only their passport or work permit.

**ASTRAZENECA + PFIZER**

In a separate notice, Vachira Phuket Hospital announced that it is providing first injections of AstraZeneca for people looking to have the AstraZeneca vaccine for their first injection and Pfizer as their second injection (the “AZ-Pfizer” combo). The vaccinations are open to Thais and foreigners, but only people aged 18 or older.

Walk-ins for first injections of the AZ-Pfizer combo will be allowed to receive their first injection at the Lan Muang Khaor area at the hospital.

The vaccination sessions were held from 9am to 3pm on Jan 10-13 and Jan 17-20, and will be held during the same hours on Jan 24-28.

**PFIZER BOOSTER JABS**

Meanwhile, Thalang Hospital has announced that it is providing the Pfizer vaccine as a third-dose ‘booster’ jab. The jabs are available only to people who have received AstraZeneca-AstraZeneca or Sinovac+AstraZeneca (AA or SA) as their first and second vaccinations.

Recipients also must have received their second-dose injection before Sept 30, 2021.

The hospital started providing Pfizer booster jabs at the X-Terminal, at Phuket International Airport, on Jan 10.

The announcement by Thalang Hospital gave no end date to the campaign to provide the Pfizer booster shots.

However, people must register and make an appointment to receive the Pfizer injection via the PhuketMustWin.com website.

Of note, all notices announcing the ongoing vaccination rollout were issued in Thai language only.

Also, according to the PhuketMustWin website, all expats must have received their second Sinovac injection in order to currently receive any third-dose booster jab.

Under the “Third dose vaccination for foreigners” section posted on the website is the message, “Check for the eligibility for the 3rd dose for expats and migrant workers who received their 2nd dose Sinovac vaccination already in Phuket.”

**HIT & MISS**

The Phuket News has sporadically received several messages over recent weeks from people who have been unable to successfully register to receive a third-dose booster injection.

However, The Phuket News also notes that many, if not most, expats with work permits already received their booster vaccinations last year.

Phuket officials have issued no statements to clarify the situation for foreigners on the island who have continued to be denied a third-dose booster jab.

According to the latest vaccination daily update report issued by Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PHO) on Tuesday (Jan 18), of the 547,584 target population to be vaccinated, so far the following number of people have been vaccinated: 1st injection - 482,152 (88.05%); 2nd injection - 468,054 (85.48%); 3rd injection - 297,540 (54.34%).
Bangla shooter police trial still yet to begin

The Phuket News
editor@classactmedia.co.th

The trial of Pornthep Channarong, the Phuket police officer who shot a 25-year-old noodle vendor on Bangla Rd while drunk off duty in February last year, has still been postponed for COVID reasons. The next trial date is currently set for March.

Pornthep was drunk off-duty when he shot noodle vendor Aroon Thonglab in the stomach on Bangla Rd in Patong early on Feb 23 last year.

He was corporal with the Phuket Provincial Police who had just been transferred to Region 8 Police at the time. Pornthep was quickly stripped of his rank and discharged from the Royal Thai Police. He now faces charges of attempted murder, carrying a firearm in a public area without necessary reason, and firing a weapon in a public area.

Mr Aroon has been left paralysed from the waist down after surgeons removed the bullet, which had lodged near his spine. His wife, Kathida Channan, spends most of her time caring for him, and their two young children.

The trial was first deferred in August last year, and again in September. Now it has been postponed again, until Mar 17.

“No progress has been made in the trial,” Kerdphol Kaewkird, the Bangkok-based lawyer assisting Mr Aroon with the case for free, told The Phuket News.

“The court has scheduled an examination for witnesses on March 17-18, and April 7,” he said.

“The appointment for witness examination has been scheduled since last year, but has to be postponed every time because the defendant’s lawyer has requested to postpone the appointment two to three times, claiming that it is during the COVID outbreak, and the lawyers, prosecutors and courts can’t find the time to match,” he said.

Mr Kerdphol confirmed that Pornthep continues to remain in remand at Phuket Provincial Prison.

“The police take care of the family to a certain extent, not special care. Police patrol their house from time to time,” he added.

Lt Gen Ampolph Buarabporn, who took up the post of Region 8 Police Commander after the shooting in February last year, said he did not know much about the case, but strongly decried it and thanked the press for following up on progress in the trial.


“The use of guns by police has rules. Everyone must obtain prior authorisation every time they carry a firearm in a public area.

“If you are in uniform, you are legally allowed to carry a gun because it is considered that you are on duty. But if they are not in uniform, permission must be obtained first,” he said.

Lt Gen Ampolph also said that he would raise the issue with subordinate officers.

Of note, The Phuket News explained that repeated attempts to contact the main Phuket Immigration Office by phone resulted in phone calls being unanswered.

The officer explained that the phone lines to the Phuket Immigration Office were being upgraded.

“The phone system is still being upgraded to add more lines. However, we apologise for the inconvenience. Right now 076-221905 is still the only contact number, and people can contact us through the chat service through Facebook,” the officer explained.

Foreigners were advised to regularly check the Phuket Immigration Facebook page for updates and any changes to visa requirements.

The Phuket News

Phuket students go back to school

ON-SITE CLASSES FOR STUDENTS OF all ages resumed on Monday (Jan 17) after Phuket Governor Narong Woosinchuw issued a provincial order less than 24 hours earlier.

The move made national news last Sunday night (Jan 16), as schools elsewhere throughout the country must remain closed to on-site classes until Jan 31 under an order by the Ministry of Education.

The order, Phuket Provincial Order No. 352/2565, although posted online last Sunday (Jan 16), was marked to be in effect from Jan 15-31.

The order was posted online by the Phuket Info Center, operated by the Phuket office of the Ministry of Interior, just after 1am, giving students and their parents less than one day to make arrangements to prepare to go back to school.

The provincial order recognised the previous order “asking” all schools, kindergartens and other educational institutions on the island, both public and private, to “refrain” from holding any on-site activities from Jan 15-31.

However, the order noted: “In the case of any educational institutions that are ready to open classroom teaching (On Site) before the deadline, they must follow the following measures…”

Schools with students 12 years old or older must randomly ATK test students, teachers and personnel on commencement of classes, and continue random testing every seven days.

Schools with students younger than 12 years old must ATK test all students, a provincial order less than 24 hours earlier.

The order allowing students to go back to school was issued earlier today (Jan 16). Image: Phuket Info Center

Teachers and personnel on commencement of classes, and continue random testing every seven days.

All schools must comply with the Thai Stop Covid Plus operating requirements, the order added.

“The Office of Education of Phuket Province or the agency under the jurisdiction of each educational institution shall prepare a report on the results of educational institutions that are ready and wish to open classroom teaching (On Site), which must be reported to the province [provincial government] within 7 days after the start date,” the order noted.

Educational institutions must also submit to the Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) their response plan for any students, staff or personnel who test positive by ATK, the order added.

The Phuket News
COVID-positive Russians on the run

Police are looking for several Russian tourists reported missing from their hotels after they had tested positive for COVID-19, presumably to avoid having to observe the mandatory 10-day Hotel Isolation, during which they must remain in their hotel rooms.

Officers at Kamala Police Station were notified on Jan 14 that Anton Tikhomirov, 29, from Moscow, had left the Sunwing Kamala Beach resort that morning, and had not returned. Mr Tikhomirov checked into the hotel on Jan 3 after arriving on the island under the Phuket Sandbox scheme. He tested positive for COVID-19 on Jan 8 and was to stay in hotel isolation at least three more nights.

Staff at the Sunwing Kamala resort confirmed to The Phuket News that as of Jan 15 Mr Tikhomirov still had not returned to the resort, where his room was a studio with a balcony facing the pool.

Police urged people who have seen Mr Tikhomirov to immediately report his whereabouts by calling 096-010-8322 or calling the Kamala Police Station main contact number 076-385310 (24 hours).

Police were also alerted to a board-and-wife Russian couple Olga Tribshtok, 35, and Sergej Iaroshenko, 35, checking out of their hotel in Patong early in order to avoid staying in Hotel Isolation for 10 days after the wife tested positive for COVID-19. Patong Police reported that the couple left their hotel, the Holiday Inn Express on Haad Patong Rd, before midday on Jan 15, the day they were already booked to check out.

However, officers visited the hotel, where a staff member told that Ms Tribshtok had tested positive for COVID-19 the day before. The couple went to Bangkok Hospital Siriraj to be tested on Jan 14, hotel staff told police. A copy of Ms Tribshtok’s positive test results was provided.

On Jan 15, both Ms Tribshtok and her husband checked out of the hotel before noon. Hotel staff have no idea where the couple might now be staying, said the report.

The hotel was unaware that Ms Tribshtok had tested positive until staff at the hospital contacted the hotel to inform them at 1:38pm on Jan 15, the report added.

Standard practice is for hospital staff to inform the person being tested immediately of the initial test results, but conduct a second test to confirm the results and inform the couple – and the hotel – later.

Police are now looking for the couple.

Another Russian tourist, a 25-year-old man, was reported to the 191 police hotline on Jan 13 for “disappearing from his room” at a hotel in Patong after testing positive for COVID-19.

However, he was later found safe and sound, at his hotel room in Patong. The man had tested positive on Jan 10. Maj Boonyarat Inthakarn of the Patong Tourist Police Patrol said the man had been released, and went to get some fresh air on Patong Beach.

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Sinking platform at Chalong Pier under repair

LONG-TERM WEAR LEAVES a pontoon listing dangerously at Chalong Bay Marina, next to Chalong Pier, last week, leaving official fears that its 60 people will require urgent repair.

The pontoon started taking in water as it tilted on Jan 13, leaving the platform that tourists use to board boats heading out to tour nearby islands leaning dangerously to one side.

The platform was closed, and engineers inspected the damage on Thursday (Jan 13), explained Tiwat Seedokbuab, Vice President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organisation (PPOO), or Orcloer, which is responsible for maintaining the tourist-busy Chalong Pier and Chalong Bay Marina.

The pontoon started taking in water through rust and abrasion after years of use, Mr Tiwat said. Mr Tiwat led a meeting last Friday (Jan 14) to discuss what to do with the pontoon, and any others found in disrepair.

“Technicians and all senior PPOO officials involved held a meeting about the budget required to address this issue. Depending on the action to be taken, it may cost anywhere from B180,000 up to B2mn,” he said.

“It is expected that the platform affected can be reopened by the end of this month. Now, its safety and usability are normal, but it has been in use for a long time, so we have to decide whether to just repair it again, or replace it entirely,” he said.

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The formal complaint was filed with Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Ampol Boonruangphon on Jan 12. Photo: PR Phuket

Police allowing misuse of royal insignia threatened with charges under Section 112

A LAWYER ACCOMPANYED by a top representative of an anti-corruption organisation filed a complaint with Region 8 Police last week over police in Nakhon Si Thammarat not taking any action to investigate a member of a “volunteer foundation” accused of misusing a royal insignia and a Royal Thai Police badge.

The member of the “volunteer foundation” used the insignia, called the ‘Phra Maha Phichai Mongkar’, and the police badge to stage check-points and force local residents to comply with other instructions given, explained Kottachayanat Liaotrakul, Secretary to the President of the Anti-Corruption Governance Association, at Region 8 Police headquarters in the Chai Chai on Jan 12.

The "volunteer foundation" was not named in the report of the meeting by the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department (PR Phuket), but the actions described match those usually conducted by Civil Defense Volunteers, or ‘OrSo’. Region 8 Police Commander Lt Gen Ampol Boonruangphon received the complaint.

Also present was Parinya Jitjedsadaphin, Advisor to the Chairman of the Police Commission. The matter was brought to the Region 8 Police because a formal complaint filed at Sichon Police Station in Nakhon Si Thammarat had resulted in no action being taken by police to investigate the complaint, Mr Kottachayanat said.

Lt Gen Ampol noted that he was aware of the complaint and that he would look into the claims, including “investigating the behaviour of the police officers to determine whether or not they have been neglectful of their duty”.

According to a report of the meeting yesterday by Thai-language news agency Manager Online, but not mentioned in the PR Phuket report, after the meeting Mr Kottachayanat said, “The [anti-corruption] association calls for justice in this case and will prosecute the police concerned under Section 112 [the lese majeste provisions] for allowing the Foundation to use the Phra Maha Phichai Mongkar insignia without asking for royal permission.

“We will also file for the police officers, from the commander down to the investigating officer, to be prosecuted under Section 157 [of the Criminal Code],” he added. The Phuket News
Leading members of the Barisan Revolusi Nasional Melayu Patani (BRN) were in Phuket last weekend for talks with the Thai representatives in Phuket last weekend with the so-called "Southern Border Provinces Peace Dialogue Panel" led by National Security Council Secretary-General Gen Wanlop Raksanoh. The talks were held at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort, south of Patong, on the Saturday (Jan 15). Joining the talks was Commander of the 4th Army Region, Lt Gen Kriangkrai Siriak.

The talks in Phuket follow a two-day meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Jan 11-12, the first peace talks held since the COVID-19 pandemic hit Thailand two years ago. Gen Wanlop said that the talks with the BRN, led by Anas Abdulrahman, "went well." "Anas Abdulrahman, "went well."

"We were friendly towards each other," he said.

"Since the COVID-19 epidemic, which has caused problems with cross-border travel, the meeting has been halted. But due to the commitment of both sides to see the talks continue to progress, we continued to move forward the discussion process, both online and through various channels, until being able to hold actual talks in person on Jan 11-12," he added.

Gen Wanlop noted that three main topics were discussed last Saturday.

The first was the three essential issues – reducing violence, consultation with local people and seeking a political solution in accordance with the intentions and needs of the people in the area, he said. "Both parties want to see the southern border provinces to be a peaceful place, the participation of the people, as well as the solution to the fundamental cause of the problem, which will lead to a permanent solution to the problem," he explained.

Talks on these issues will continue, he assured.

The second topic was that both parties have proposed creating a framework to guide the discussion on the three main concerns (noted above), Gen Wanlop said.

"To reduce violence and enhance consultation in the area, a coordinator and a joint working group of both parties in each case were discussed," he noted.

"Due to the problem’s complexity and specificity, political solutions are arranged in the form of a ‘Joys Start Group’. The group will be semi-formal and will be able to discuss directly with one another to eliminate flaws due to the difficulty of holding formal meetings during the COVID-19 outbreak," Gen Wanlop explained.

The third topic, raised by the Thai representatives, was that both sides ought to cooperate in extraditing various suspects to Thailand. "We raised these issues to be discussed because we want to build a supportive environment for the next meeting and we want people in the area to be aware of the benefits of talks that bring peace and order to the area," he added.

The group and the 4th Army Region were already discussing the Peace Dialogue Panel’s work and its results will be discussed in the next meeting and we want people in the area to be aware of the benefits of talks that bring peace and order to the area," he added.

Further in-person meetings were hoped to continue and to be held in the near future, Gen Wanlop noted.

"The talks panel has carried out the government’s objective of driving the dialogue process as a means of achieving long-term peace in the area, taking into account the participation of all parties, including non-BRN parties and the public," he said.

"To discover solutions together, we need cooperation from all sectors [of the community]," Gen Wanlop added.

Muslim separatist activity has existed in Thailand for decades but the insurgency has turned increasingly violent in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat and Songkhla, where the Muslims make up the majority, a report by Kyodo News noted.

Regard less, Gen Wanlop refuted claims that three Thais suspected to be insurgents handed over by the Malaysian government to Thai authorities last Wednesday (Jan 12) was linked to the peace talks being held.

The three with criminal records were detained near Durian Burung, in Kedah state, last month. Gen Wanlop said the hand-over is due to the cooperation in extradition between the two countries, and had nothing to do with the peace dialogue held in Kuala Lumpur last week.

The three suspects with various criminal records and links with militant groups in the south were in the wanted list in Thailand, said a report by Bernama.
Patong businessman Preechavude ‘Prab’ Keesin, Chairman of Pisona Group and Chief of the Patong Development Foundation, has called for a realistic approach to the current outbreak, with infected people isolated and uninfected staff allowed to keep businesses open.

“We would like people who haven’t been infected with COVID-19 to go to work, while those who are infected must be quarantined and treated following steps,” Mr Prab told The Phuket News' sister-newspaper Khao Phuket in an exclusive interview.

The Patong business sector and the local community have rallied together to establish free ATK checkpoints and provide affordable antigen test kits (ATKs) to help alleviate the expenses Patong people face in the repeated testing required just so they can go to work, he said.

“We have daily tests so infections don’t spread. We sell test kits at an initial price of B40-49 per set. The price depends on each lot. If the person has no money to spare, we will provide the test for free,” he added.

“At the moment, we are still accepting tourists, so we have to live with COVID-19,” Mr Prab continued.

“We have to open and close businesses sometimes in this situation. We have to take care of ourselves,” he said.

“Importantly, we must know what to do when an employee or business operator is infected,” he added.

“Of course, a wide variety of COVID-19 variants will come. So we must adapt and learn to live with it because, while we may not die from COVID-19, we may die from economic catastrophe,” Mr Prab said.

“As a result, the government may have to reduce service times [the hours a business may be allowed open], it may order some closures, or it may even order lockdowns inside the country, and suspend economic activities if the situation worsens,” he warned.

“We can’t stop Omicron, but now we know better how to stay with COVID-19 each day, and reduce the burden on the public health system,” Mr Prab noted.

“People have learned to protect themselves and what to do when they learn they are infected with COVID-19. They now know that they must continue to improve,” he said.

“People forget that Thai tourists normally work. These people need jobs,” he said.

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Test & Go revival proposed as fears over Omicron ease

BANGKOK
Bangkok Post

Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul is proposing to relax restrictions, with the Test & Go programme to allow visitors to spend only one night at a hotel, under which overseas visitors testing negative for COVID-19 would be free to leave that accommodation and enjoy their stay. It was unclear when almost everyone will be infected with Omicron at one time or another.

Anutin insisted a balance must be struck between keeping a guard up against the pandemic and restoring the economy although he stopped short of confirming if reopening entertainment venues will be among measures he had in mind to ease restrictions. He said this issue needs careful consideration as clubs and bars were blamed for triggering infection clusters, especially during New Year celebrations.

Meanwhile, Omicron has almost completely replaced the Delta variant in Bangkok, the Centre for Medical Genomics at Ramathibodi Hospital.

As Omicron is within the country’s dominant coronavirus strain, the centre said checks of COVID-19 infections among patients in state-run and private hospitals in the capital and surrounding provinces showed Omicron accounted for 91% of cases and Delta 2.8%. The checks were performed from Jan 3-16.

According to the centre, the fast-spreading Omicron will be prevalent throughout the country. "That is when almost everyone will be infected with Omicron at one time or another. After that people will have built a high immunity either from the vaccine or the infection," the centre said.

"The intensity of COVID-19 symptoms will decline and fatalities will be significantly reduced," the centre said, adding the cross-technology vaccination formula was also working well to boost immunity.

COVID-19 is likely to evolve into an endemic or a pandemic, the centre said, adding the cross-technology vaccination formula was also working well to boost immunity.

Anutin said checks of COVID-19 infections among patients in state-run and private hospitals in the capital and surrounding provinces showed Omicron accounted for 91% of cases and Delta 2.8%. The checks were performed from Jan 3-16.

According to the centre, after a brief period of ‘Twin-demic’, referring to the parallel infections between the Omicron and Delta strain ending, Omicron will be prevalent throughout the country.

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Genetics of Omics At Ramathibodi Hospital.

Phuket police.

As fears over Omicron ease controls, measures to spur the economy, which were halted earlier, will be resumed amid the country’s dominant coronavirus strain. In the past few weeks, daily caseloads have surged although they now appear to be levelling off.

Anutin said approval will be sought from the CCSA, chaired by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, to resume the Test & Go programme under which overseas visitors spend only one night at a hotel. If their COVID-19 test turns out negative, they are free to leave that accommodation and enjoy their stay. It was unclear when almost everyone will be infected with Omicron at one time or another.

Anutin insisted a balance must be struck between keeping a guard up against the pandemic and restoring the economy although he stopped short of confirming if reopening entertainment venues will be among measures he had in mind to ease restrictions. He said this issue needs careful consideration as clubs and bars were blamed for triggering infection clusters, especially during New Year celebrations.

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FIVE MEN WHO KILLED two Bengal tigers in Thong Pha Phum National Park will face 11 charges, national park chief Charoen Chaichon revealed last Saturday (Jan 16).

On Jan 9, forest rangers raided a camp in the Huay Plik forest inside the national park. A group of hunters there ran away and escaped arrest.

The rangers seized the pelts and carcasses of two slain Bengal tigers with their meat being grilled. Also seized at the site were one shotgun, one .22 rifle with 50 rounds of ammunition, two muzzle-loading pellet guns and many other articles.

On Jan 13, the five men suspected of killing the tigers surrendered to Thong Pha Phum police.

In a statement to police, they said they raised cattle for a living in the national park. During the past two months, they claimed tigers had killed and eaten about 20 cows belonging to them and other local farmers. They planned to kill the tigers to end the problem.

By using the carcass of a cow killed by the tigers as bait, they lay in wait and gunned down the two tigers. They said they borrowed the shotgun, one of the weapons seized by the rangers, from a village defence volunteer.

The charges include violating the forest reserve law, the National Park Act and the Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act, raising cattle in a national park and other related offences.

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THAILAND NEWS

THAILAND NEWS
Trailblazing, Phuket style

By Bruce Stanley

As Phuket’s economy struggles to revive from the effects of a pandemic that has decimated the local tourism economy for nearly two years, it’s interesting to remember how the island went from a rather obscure tropical vacation destination to one of the world’s most vibrant and desirable playgrounds for those wanting winter sun, sand, recreation and entertainment not easily found anywhere else.

The Thailand tourism authorities waged some successful campaigns to bring the country to the attention of the international travel industry, while on Phuket, a group of entrepreneurial westerners were also instrumental in developing the infrastructure to support the enthusiastic visitors who were promised.

Grenville Fordham was born in Yorkshire, England and lived in Malta and Kenya as a young boy. After a diverse career working in both the hotel and construction supplies industries, he moved to Thailand in 1995. He worked in Bangkok’s media as a writer at Thailand Times, editor at Living in Thailand magazine and as a freelance writer for international publications.

In 1998, he moved to Phuket looking for the fresh air and easy living that brings most expats to the island. But rather than spending his time relaxing at the beach, he launched media company, Image Asia, best known today for its Phuket property map, a detailed (pre-Google) road map of the island.

“I started with a small office above my restaurant, Poo’s Beach, where we created a beach atmosphere complete with a floor of sand downstairs, while upstairs I was designing brochures and press releases for any business that needed promotion.”

Grenville soon became one of Phuket’s most active supporters of events. He worked as editor of Phuket Magazine and then for several years managed the media for Phuket’s famous King’s Cup Regatta, when the regatta grew from 50 to 100 entries.

“I had my first sailing experience, in the 1998 King’s Cup, on a 32-foot monohull and was immediately hooked on ‘sailing,'” he recalls.

Over the next five years, in addition to expanding his publishing ventures, working with business partner Andy Dowden, Grenville conceived and developed Thailand’s first boat show, the Phuket International Marine Expo (PIMEX), raising the international profile of Thailand’s leisure boating industry and putting Phuket on the map for the growing yacht community with expanding interest from regional players.

“One of the industry’s biggest challenges was negotiating the reduction of taxes on yacht imports. They were considered luxury goods and were taxed at over 200 percent. I joined, and then became Chairman of, the Marine Alliance of Thailand (now Thailand Yachting Business Association - T Y B A), a group of lobbyists working with the government to have this tax reduced and thereby facilitate the growth of Thailand’s marine leisure industry. We were successful; import taxes were reduced to zero percent, leaving only 7% VAT. This single achievement by determined individuals led the kind of mass tourism we saw in the year or two prior to COVID is not what Phuket should be looking at if sustainable growth is an objective. In that context, it’s important to note that we can’t go backwards to the days of minimal shopping opportunities and deserted beaches; that’s not going to happen. Nor, in my opinion, is the club made many charitable donations, including to the Vachira Hospital Children’s Unit, the island’s Old People’s Home and Childwatch. Through his company he has also supported youth sailing through various avenues, including the purchase of dinghies for training underprivileged youngsters in Phuket and Koh Samui.

In 2017 he was awarded the rare accolade of Honorary Life Member of the British Chamber of Commerce in Thailand (B C C T) in recognition of service to British business interests in Phuket.

He joined the Phuket Yacht Club in its early days, originally supporting club racing as a sponsor, and went on to serve as Chairman of the committee that designed and built the current clubhouse/restaurant in Chalong, going on to serve as both club treasurer and commodore.

In 2019 Grenville decided to change course and divest himself of his media projects and responsibilities. “I’m busy these days with more personal projects. I have finished with the corporate world and plan to spend time writing and travelling. I’ve bought a Toyota Camper van to convert into a camper van. Once it’s fully fitted out, my wife and I will spend weeks at a time on the road exploring Thailand.

On where Phuket should be looking for its tourism growth in the future, Grenville had this to say: “I’m not alone in believing that the kind of mass tourism we saw in the year or two prior to COVID is not what Phuket should be looking at if sustainable growth is an objective. In that context, it’s important to note that we can’t go backwards to the days of minimal shopping opportunities and deserted beaches; that’s not going to happen. Nor, in my opinion, is the exclusive focus on the super-wealthy going to give the island what it needs moving forwards.

“What I believe Phuket should be doing is a three-pronged approach: firstly focus on FIT tourists – those who may come on a hotel + flight package but are free to spend their money where they want. Next, do everything necessary to encourage yachting tourism, including clarifying regulations on bareboat chartering and finalising the super yacht charter issue.

“And finally, make the obvious move towards legalised gambling – and mean luxury casino operations a la Macau – on Phuket Island, combined with designating Phuket as a duty-free zone. In each case, we should be looking at lower overall numbers with higher spend per ‘tourism unit’, combined with maximum indirect economic impact, specifically more, better paid and more diverse jobs.”
One of the three core elements of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme at the British International School Phuket (BISP) is creativity, activity and service, known together as CAS. The service component of CAS involves each student committing to a voluntary activity that will positively impact their community. I think it’s very important for students to carry out service projects for their communities as it’s a way of showing gratitude and helping those who are less fortunate. For me, a leader should understand that everyone’s path is different, that it is his/her duty to spread love and kindness. Unlike most things in the world, the more happiness one shares, the happier one becomes.

I knew that I wanted to do my project focusing on children in need. My friend Anders suggested a school for orphans located in Phang Nga called School for Life. On my first visit to the school, I brought along my close friend Minha. Later on, my other friends Tiffany, Youn, Oak, Bank, Stamp and Mind also joined in.

I had mixed emotions upon entering School for Life; I was overwhelmed by how much land the school has and how friendly the children were. The school principal along with a group of children gave us a tour of the campus. This was when I learned about the history of this orphanage. The school used to be sponsored by a German organisation. But since its sponsorship withdrawal in 2015, the school has been struggling to survive with little to no source of income. The teachers are not fully paid, and the school lacks sufficient food and other resources to support and sustain the orphans.

A group of nine teachers has been caring for upwards of 70 children who ended up at the school due to complex family issues or trauma – some lost their parents to drugs and crime, others were victims of physical and sexual abuse. As volunteers, we knew that we were dealing with fragile individuals who grew up in harsh environments.

I was determined to invest my time to help improve the children’s quality of life. We wanted to assist the school to become more self-sufficient as they mainly rely on small donations on a day-to-day basis from the people around the area. This could be done through farming and raising chickens, at which they already have some experience.

Another goal I wanted to achieve was to improve the mindset of the kids by encouraging creative thinking in solving problems so that they can excel in life. Over the past several months, I have started teaching English to the kids. Every weekend, with the help of my brother Pokpong and occasionally Mind, we can see the children’s steady progress. We laughed and played together, it’s truly remarkable to be able to spread happiness to the kids. On several occasions, we also brought in some donations from our team such as foods, toiletries and clothes.

We will continue to support the school however we can, especially during these hard times. My goal is to help heal these kids as much as possible by guiding them to become great adults in the future. Through this experience, I have learned tremendously from everyone involved as well as from the children. It is clear that some bonds forged here could last a lifetime.

Being the leader of a group is challenging. Throughout this project, I underwent various challenges along the way. I made sure that I put in as much effort as I can to set a good example for my teammates because I believe that a good leader should lead by example. The novelist Ken Kesey said it best, “You don’t lead by pointing and telling people where to go. You lead by going to that place and making a case.”

NOTE: The view and opinion expressed in this article are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect those of PSU Phuket and its employees or official policies of PSU Phuket.

Na-Siam Sa-nguannam is a Year 13 International Baccalaureate student at the British International School Phuket (BISP). This article was featured in The Phuket Collegiate Magazine, the university magazine published by Milla Budiarto at PSU Phuket. For more information, visit: https://www.phuket.psu.ac.th/en/magazine or to share ideas with Milla email: magazine@phuket.psu.ac.th.
1. Who is the lead singer of the pop band Maroon 5?
2. In which year did New York City Police get its first-ever African American police commissioner, Benjamin Ward?
3. What is the peak power production of a horse, in terms of horsepower?
4. A mule is a cross between which two equines?
5. The Taj Mahal is in the city of Agra, in which Indian state?
6. ___ print
7. Bobble
8. ___ Age
9. Bobble
10. Arizona's governor,___
11. 14.9hp; 4) A donkey and a horse; 5) Uttar Pradesh
12. Defiant one
13. Toothpick fruit
14. Defiant one
15. 1966 Beatles hit
16. 1966 Beatles hit
17. Vetch or lupin
18. Prayer leader
19. Alexei's father, ___
20. Times to call, in classifieds
21. Sweet drink
22. Blue eyes or baldness, e.g.
23. Optical
24. Endings for ecto-
25. Mythological
26. Zesty
27. Part of the Corn
28. Jetty
29. Hollywood pole
30. Nymph
31. Alumac tidbit
32. Latin "I"
33. Palestinian city
34. Half of binary
35. 1963 Beatles tune
36. College leave
37. Some jazz
38. Move
39. Nonclerical
40. Squander
41. ___ the moment
42. Ivy League team
43. Trick
44. Organic
45. Model material
46. Asian plants
47. Gift recipient
48. They remained
49. Neurotransmission
50. Command
51. 100 paisa
52. Bartlett's abbr.
53. Set aside
54. Roll call calls
55. Songwriting
56. It's a wrap
57. Prefix with profit
58. King's title: abbr.
59. College frat.
60. Newspaper chain
61. Skip off
62. Put away
63. Watering holes
64. Garage sites
65. 10,000
66. 3.1 percent of the world's population was killed during World War II.
67. 11 years old was Pocahontas' age when she met John Smith, who was 28 years old at the time.
68. 100 times more potent at destroying cancer cells is the illegal drug ecstasy than the original form of MDMA.
69. 10,000 beaches Australia has along its coast. Visiting a new one each day would take 27 years.
70. 8.4 million
71. US dollars is how much a Philadelphia man in 1989 sold one of the first copies of the original US Declaration of Independence from 1776. He had found it hidden under the canvas of an old painting he bought at a flea market for $4.
72. Source: Uberfacts

Crossword by Myles Mellor & Sally York

Across
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GOT YOUR NUMBER

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11 years old was Pocahontas’ age when she met John Smith, who was 28 years old at the time.

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US dollars is how much a Philadelphia man in 1989 sold one of the first copies of the original US Declaration of Independence from 1776. He had found it hidden under the canvas of an old painting he bought at a flea market for $4.

Source: Uberfacts

ISLAND VIEW

Child's play on Kamala Beach. Photo by Josie Burgess

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

This week in history

Jan 21, 1911
The first Monte Carlo Rally takes place. The historic race, held annually since, was won by Henri Rougier and the victorious 25Hp Turcat-Méry.

Jan 22, 1957
The New York City ‘Mad Bomber’, George P. Metesky, is arrested in Waterbury, Connecticut, and charged with planting more than 30 bombs.

Jan 23, 1556
The deadliest earthquake in history, the Shaanxi earthquake in China. The death toll may have been as high as 830,000.

Jan 24, 1972
Japanese Sgt Shoichi Yokoi is found hiding in a Guam jungle, where he had been since the end of World War II.

Jan 25, 1995
The Norwegian rocket incident

Henri Rougier (right), winner of the very first Monte Carlo Rally.

Russia almost launches a nuclear attack after it mistakes Black Brant XII, a Norwegian research rocket, for a US Trident missile.

Jan 26, 1788
The British First Fleet, led by Arthur Phillip, sails into Port Jackson (Sydney Harbour) to establish Sydney, the first permanent European settlement on Australia.

Jan 27, 1967
Apollo program: Astronauts Gus Grissom, Ed White and Roger Chaffee are killed in a fire during a test of their Apollo 1 spacecraft at the Kennedy Space Center, Florida. Source: Wikipedia
Friday Mussels night

6 PM onwards. Belgian style mussels served with French Fries. All you can eat. Your choice. Your style: Marbleine, White wine, Provencale, Garlic & cream. Creamy curry, Blue cheese or Thai style. We have a kids playground zone. Adults: 325 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

Sunday roast

12PM – 9PM. All you can eat Sunday Roast Buffet. Beef, Pork, Chicken & Lamb – Cauliflower, Broccoli, Peas, Carrots, Fried mushrooms, Grilled Tomatoes – Yorkshire pudding – Roasted Potatoes, Mashed Potatoes – Apple sauce, Gravy, Mushroom sauce, Horseradish, Mint Sauce. We have a kids playground zone. Adults: 350 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 175 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

Saturday Brunch

Indulge in a buffet of fresh, chilled seafood and an unlimited selection of delicious à la carte creations from our talented culinary team. Enjoy beverage promotions, full pool access and live music. 1,685 baht per person. Every Saturday from 11am until 4pm. Free transfers for bookings of 4 guests or more. Sala Phuket, Sala Phuket Makha Beach, events@salaphuket.com, 066 338 888

Wednesday BBQ night

6 PM onwards. All you can eat BBQ buffet cooked to order. Beef, Pork, Chicken, Burgers, Ribs, Sausages, Fish, Prawns & Squids, salad buffet and veggies. Choice of potatoes, cold and hot sauces, Bread, Buns & garlic bread. We have a kids playground zone. Adults: 396 baht P.P. Kids under 12 years old: 195 baht P.P. www.shakersphuket.com www.facebook.com/shakersphuket Oliver, Shakers restaurant 98/18 Vises Road, Rawai 83130, 081 891 4381

Saturday Brunch

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Urgently seeking Female/Male Massage Therapist

Urgently looking for a professional massage Therapist to come to work in Dubai for one main hotel. Visa, health insurance and accommodation will be provided. You will be required to book clients. Contact: 0045 45234332.

The Grow Boating Networking Evening for February 2022

The Grow Boating Networking Evening for February 2022 will be held at the Boardwalk Bistro and Bar, at the Phuket Boat Lagoon on Friday the 4th of February from 5pm. Drinks sponsorship is available for the event. Sponsorship costs 10,000 THB and includes a generous media package from our media partner The Phuket News. Message us for more information. There will be a delicious free burger for all attendees and as always all of your favourite beverages will be available. Come and join in the fun, everyone is welcome and there is no entry fee. We hope to see you there and if you know anyone you think would be interested in coming please invite them along. To join our mailing list please send an email to growboatingphuket@gmail.com Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/groups/360366293592499

Sala Phuket, Sala Phuket Maikhao Beach, events@salaphuket.com, 076 338 888

Free transfers for bookings of 4 guests or more. Sala Phuket, Sala Phuket Makha Beach, events@salaphuket.com, 066 338 888

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Join us for Australia Day Phuket Sundowners

Join us for “Australia Day Phuket Sundowners” at JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, on Friday 28 January 2022, from 18.00 – 21.00 hrs. A celebration of all things Australian, join us for your favourite Australian food & beverages, and welcome in the New Year as things Australian. Join us for the first business networking event in Phuket of 2022. Please note that the attendees will be asked for their COVID-19 vaccination or ATK / RT-PCR certification to show on entry to the event. Price: 500 THB for AustCham members, partner Chambers’ members, and Australian Alumni Members. 900 THB for non-members.

Yen in Yaht will receive social recognition.

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Minimum Thai engineering course.

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Punctual at work.

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Interested candidates, please email your CV with photo to

somsin@asianspinskipper.com or Mobile: +66 81 590 6146
The first Optimist race of 2022 organised by Phuket Boat Club was held off Bang Tao Beach, in front of the Arinara Bangtao Beach Resort, on Sunday, Jan 16. The Phuket Boat Club will be arranging sailing races every two months at different locations around Phuket. For more information visit: Facebook/Phuket Boat Club
Novak Djokovic has never hidden his craving to be remembered as the greatest men’s tennis player of all time, but his chance to make Grand Slam history is over for now – and perhaps indefinitely.

The Serbian world number one had been the overwhelming favourite to win a record-extending 10th Australian Open, and in doing so become the first man to clinch 21 Grand Slam crowns.

But his refusal to get vaccinated against COVID-19 – both in the US, where he failed to qualify for the US Open, and in Indian Wells and Miami ATP Masters tournaments last week – had sealed his fate in Australia.

Djokovic’s Australian visa was cancelled by the country’s immigration minister on Friday, with the world number one set to be deported from the country and banned from entering the country for three years.

While Nadal hasn’t won outside the red clay of Roland Garros since 2019, Alexander Zverev, Russia’s Daniil Medvedev and Greek Stefanos Tsitsipas are all knocking on the door.

Medvedev denied Djokovic the US Open and a calendar-year Grand Slam last year to win his maiden major and is favourite in Melbourne to win back-to-back Slams, now that Djokovic is out.

Djokovic missed the world number one spot for a record number of weeks, but that could also be in danger now. Despite missing the Australian Open he will remain top of the ranking points even if Medvedev wins, but his position will be in jeopardy the more tournaments he misses.

The Serbian has yet to reveal his calendar for the early part of the year, but after Australia he often takes time off, then returns for the ATP Masters tournaments in Indian Wells and Miami – both in the US, where he could face visa-related problems to Australia. AFP.
Government to plug Muay Thai
PRIME MINISTER PRAYUT CHAN-ocha has confirmed plans to promote Thailand’s soft power through Muay Thai.

Gen Tawatchai Tipayapajan, an adviser to the Culture Ministry and president of the World Muay Thai Alliance Association, met Prayut on Jan 11 to ask to help add value and promote Muay Thai among young people and further develop its reputation as a world-class martial art.

Gen Tunwakom said Muay Thai can generate income for Thailand as many people overseas are interested in it, adding the government should have a platform offering information and services such as Muay Thai schools, contests, books and equipment.

He also proposed the government introduce Muay Thai curricula in all schools and organise regular events to promote the martial art and to boost the domestic economy. The plan requires cooperation from various parties including the tourism and sports, culture, commerce, foreign and labour ministries, he said.

Bangkok Post

Rafa no longer the gaffer
RAFAEL BENITEZ was sacked as Everton manager last Sunday (Jan 16) after just 200 days in charge of the struggling Premier League club.

Benitez was an unpopular appointment in June last year after his long spell with Everton’s Merseyside rivals Liverpool.

The Spaniard paid the price for a dismal run of nine defeats in Everton’s last 13 league matches, culminating in a 2-1 loss at lowly Norwich on Saturday.

“Everton Football Club can confirm the departure of Rafael Benitez as first-team manager,” a club statement said.

“Benitez, who joined Everton in June 2021, has left the club with immediate effect.”

“An update on a permanent replacement will be made in due course.”

Former Everton forward Wayne Rooney, currently impressing as manager of second-tier Derby, is the bookmakers’ favourite to replace Benitez.

Rooney is a boyhood Everton fan who had two spells at the club as a player either side of his successful time at Manchester United. He has kept Derby competitive in the Championship despite dealing with a pair of points deductions and the club’s descent in administration.

Rooney’s former Everton team-mate Frank Lampard, sacked by Chelsea last year, is another contender for the job. Brighton boss Graham Potter and Paulinho, whose last job was with Roma, could also be in the running.

Under Benitez, Everton earned just 19 points in 19 league matches, their lowest tally at the halfway stage of a season since 2005-06.

Everton fans had made clear their desire for Benitez to be axed during the limp loss at Norwich. They chanted ‘Benitez get out’ before his appointment.

Last month, Moslih stood by Benitez, claiming the 61-year-old would be given time to get things right with new signings and injured players coming back.

But Everton’s results have shown no signs of improving and, with the mood among the fans increasingly toxic, it was clear Benitez would have to go.

Benitez leaves Goodison Park with Everton languishing in 16th place, just six points above the relegation zone.

Rafael Benitez lasted just 200 days in charge of Everton. Photo: AFP

Busanan and doubles sisters win BWF titles
BUSANAN ONGBAMRUNGU-phan claimed the women’s singles title at the BWF India Open in New Delhi last Sunday (Jan 16).

The second seed overcame fellow Thai Supanida Katethong 22-20, 19-21, 21-13 in one hour 16 minutes to win the her first title of the year at the World Tour Super 500 event to claim the $30,000 (B1,002,000) winner’s cheque.

Earlier Sunday, fourth-seeded Thai sisters Benyapa Aimsaard and Nuntakarn Aimsaard won the women’s doubles title when they eased past third seeds Anastasia Akchurina and Olga Morozova 21-13, 21-5 in just 34 minutes in the championship match.

The duo received $31,600 for their first World Tour 500 title.

Thai badminton boss Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul congratulated the winners.

“It was a great start to the year for Thai shuttlers for winning two titles in India,” said Patama.

“I would like to also congratulate Supanida for her huge victory over [Pusarla

VJ Sindhu, who is a former world champion and the Tokyo Olympics bronze medallist.”

Supanida had upset top seed Pusarla V Sindhu of India in the semi-finals on Saturday.

The men’s singles title went to Laksyana Sen as the Indian upset world champion Loh Kean Yew of Singapore 24-22, 21-17.

In the mixed doubles final, Singapore’s Terry Hee Yong Kui and Tan Wei Han defeated third seeds Chen Tang Jie and Peck Yen Wei 21-15, 21-18 to claim the gold medals.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty of India won the men’s doubles title after beating Mohammad Ahsan and Hendra Setiawan of Indonesia 21-16, 23-24.

Bangkok Post

Aimsaard won the women’s singles title at the BWF India Open. Photo: Bangkok Post

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GREEN FEE RATES
FROM 1st JANUARY - 30th SEPTEMBER 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Walk in Rate</td>
<td>3,400 THB</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Rate</td>
<td>2,350 THB</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Local Rate 2</td>
<td>1,870 THB</td>
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For more information or booking, call +66 (0) 76 677 308 or visit www.AquellaGolf.com
How long does it take to make history? For Phuket resident and fighter Jada Ketley, one minute was already too long. In just 52 seconds, Ketley was able to submit Apidet fighter Jada Ketley, one minute after the bout. “It’s such an honour. I believe the last couple of years of my life have been leading up to this moment. Just shows that if you work hard and stay committed and patient, your opportunity will come,” she added.

For many, the sight of watching fighters wrestle and go after submissions on the floor of the Lumpinee boxing ring was satisfying, given how much push-back there was against MMA in Thailand. For years, the authorities and promoters who controlled Muay Thai, and combat sports at large in Thailand, had demonized MMA. Peak anti-MMA sentiment in the Kingdom came in 2012, when the head of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT) went against the 1999 boxing law.

At the time, the deputy governor of the SAT, Sakol Wannapong, commented that “[MMA] is brutal and it is not boxing.” Fast-forward 10 years and the sport is not only allowed but is now hosted in one of the inner-sanctums of Muay Thai in Lumpinee Stadium.

The Fairtex Fight Promotion, an offshoot of the Fairtex fight brand and gym based in Pattaya, hosted their first bi-monthly combat sporting event at their fight brand and gym based in Pattaya. When the opportunity arose to fight at her dream venue, this time in a history-making MMA bout, Ketley jumped at the chance. “This opportunity means the world to me. I have it written on board,” she said. “It’s also just great to see that times are changing, and women are, I feel, starting to really get their voices in martial arts too...although there is still a way to go.”

“They’ve been dreaming about fighting in Lumpinee, but thought that my opportunity was gone when I knew my heart was no longer in Muay Thai. So the fact that I get to be one of the first to do it in MMA is overwhelming.”

Asia blast RoW to set up Game 5 decider

CRICKET

AFTER WINNING THE TOSS at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) last Sunday (Jan 16), Jason Robertson and the Rest of the World (RoW) decided to bat first in arid conditions, looking to make Asia toil away for the full 30 overs. Robertson sent out the previous week’s successful opening partnership of Michael Flowers and Anthony Van Blerk and the pair began where they left off, taking sharp singles and putting away the odd off-line delivery from the Asia opening bowlers Sami Pir and Ashan Fonseka.

Just when it seemed the pair were set to put a significant partnership together, Flowers (9) was adjudged LBW in the 5th over from the bowling of Pir, leaving the score on 33-1. Michael Rhys Thomas (8) fell next as RoW slumped to 47-2 in the 8th over before Van Blerk joined him in the clubhouse in the next over, caught behind by Manish Sadarangani from the bowling of the young up-and-coming Shivram Sachdeva.

Next the hard hitting Paddy Ledeboer (10) faced the extreme pace of Fonseka who delivered a ripping delivery to find the poles and leave RoW in some trouble at 4-17 after 14.4 overs.

Robertson (27) was then clean-bowled by Ahsan Ali which brought Aiden Wood to strike. Wood, who is the DJ for Phuket Cricket’s new sponsor Hugo Hub, immediately got off the mark with a well-played boundary, delighting his supporting friends in the clubhouse.

However, Wood (10) soon fell to a full straight delivery from Fonseka, leaving RoW on 6-147 in the 19th over.

With 68 balls of the innings still to face and unfortunately short-handed due a couple of late cancelations, the reliable Curt Livermore (28*) came to the crease as the... Continued on page 14.