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Bar owners hit by 'beer crisis'

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

BARS and other businesses in Patong's entertainment industry, as well as the thousands of other establishments islandwide, are reeling from the effect of product shortages brought on by the floods in Bangkok and Central Thailand.

Among the greatest concerns for the bars is the shortage of alcoholic beverages, which Patong Entertainment Business Association (PEBA) says will reach "crisis" level within 30 days if steps are not taken to bring booze back to Phuket's party town.

"At the beginning of the flood crisis, we didn't expect it to affect us much," said PEBA President Weerawit Kurasombat, whose members generate more than 100 million baht annually for the local economy.

"But now we are starting to feel the effects - we are running short of alcoholic beverages," he said.

Mr Weerawit said that even small bars in Patong make 6,000 to 7,000 baht a night from alcohol sales.

"The main income generator for each bar is beer sales. Big bars



The beer shortage is likely to reach 'crisis level' within 30 days, say experts.

can usually make about 30,000 baht a night from selling beer alone," he said.

Alcohol sales comprise a critical portion of income for entertainment businesses, he said. "Overall, between 20% to 30% of the overall income generated by entertainment businesses is from alcohol beverage sales alone.

"Of that income, 60% is from beer sales, 30% is from sales of whiskey and wine, and the re-

maining 10% is from cocktails," he added.

"This is the beginning of the high season. If the supply situation does not improve within about 30 days, I believe the entertainment business will start showing the real signs of a crisis," Mr Weerawit warned.

See 'Beer stocks dwindling' on pages 4-5 and 'Flood shortages spur consumer price rises' on page 11



China's Changning Zhang smashes the Mikasa as Canada's Victoria Altomare blocks. Photo: FIVB

FIVB IS BACK

THE FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour returned to Phuket this week with the qualifying rounds opening the tournament at Karon Beach on Wednesday.

As the final tournament on the Swatch World Tour 2011, the season-ending US\$190,000 tourney has attracted 53 teams from 26 countries.

On the list of world-class entrants are reigning world champions and current world number one duo Larissa Franca and Juliana Silva from Brazil.

Also vying for the top prize of US\$30,000 are April Ross and Jen Kessy from the United States. They are also looking to win their third Phuket FIVB title.

The final will be played on center court on Sunday (November 6), along with the third-place playoff.

Before the final gets underway, students will be playing for the right to be named champions of the inaugural PTT Schools Cup.

See page 44 for our run down of the teams hoping to take top honors at this year's tourney.

Mystics fail to reveal bodies of missing lovers

By Wichai Wittawat and Warisa Temram

THE families of the man and the woman who have yet to resurface since disappearing from Thepkasattri Bridge last Thursday night have called in soothsayers to help find the bodies.

However, despite at least five mystics proffering descriptions of where to look in the fast-flowing waters under the bridge, divers have yet to find the bodies of troubled young lovers Nattaphon Sitthiyanon, 25, and Chanokporn Aimauksorn, 27.

"I can see them. I see both of them now.

They are both stuck under the bridge together," one rang song (spirit medium) said while a Gazette reporter was present.

On hearing the seer's description of where to look for the bodies, rescue volunteers, divers and local fisherman launched a search and scoured the area - to no avail.

As more seers arrived to help, the number of failed search attempts rose.

Perturbed by the visionaries' repeated failure to locate the bodies, one Kusoldharm rescue volunteer told the Gazette, "Every time a rang song claimed he knew where the bodies were, we sent a dive team down.

Each time it costs money, and we still haven't found the bodies."

To this, one seer days later said he had finally discovered the reason why - the spirit of the sea had already claimed them and was hiding them from the living.

Tah Chat Chai Police Duty Officer Watcharin Jiratikarnwiwat responded to the call just after midnight last Thursday night reporting that a man and a woman had "jumped" from the bridge.

At the scene, Maj Watcharin found an abandoned white Toyota Vios parked half



MYSTIC RIVER: Hopes of finding the lovers' bodies are waning. Photo: Wichai Wittawat

Continued on page 2

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This Week

Witches' brew



Bar girls busted spiking tourists' drinks and robbing them. **Page 6**

Livewire



Set up a computer to Google in English all the time. **Page 12**

Culture



Sea gypsies angle for rights to fish in coastal waters. **Page 14**

In Focus



Patong's jet-skiers rescue 600 Bangkok flood victims. **Page 16**

Property



Completion of Pullman Phuket Arcadia is on the horizon. **Page 27**

Sport



ITF Pro Circuit 2011 tournament heats up at TSLC: Lomas rugby a big hit. **Pages 41-43**

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Bus terminal hits 'breaking point'

By Pimwara Choksakulpan

GOVERNOR Tri Augkaradacha has been roped into resolving the ongoing dispute between local residents and the Phuket Highways Office over work that may see the bus terminal north of Phuket Town finally open.

The 128-million-baht facility was completed nearly two years ago, but has yet to be used.

The delay in opening stems from complaints over traffic safety due to buses using the terminal, and problems in having a government authority managing the site once the terminal opens.

The move to call in the governor appears to be a last ditch effort to stop work in front of a house belonging to Rassada Mayor Suratin Lianudom, where the Highways Office wants to "break" the median strip and install traffic lights so buses can enter and leave the terminal safely.

Alternative locations previously



Teerayout Prasertphol, chief of the Phuket Land Transportation Office.

suggested where buses using the terminal could make U-turns have been deemed either unsafe or unwanted by local residents.

Contractors hired under government contract to do the work failed to even start this month. Workmen arrived at the site on October 22 only to be "ordered" to stop work by Mayor Suratin.

At the ensuing meeting of the Provincial Land Transportation Committee, Phuket Highways Office Deputy General Manager

Sathaporn Sornchana related the tale of intervention by Mayor Suratin, adding that it was no surprise. "The contract allows the workmen to complete the job from September 28 through January 26. The contract is for 120 days, but the work should take only 45. We gave more time because we knew this kind of problem would happen," he said.

Phuket Land Transportation Office Chief Terayout Prasertphol, in support, said, "The road and traffic island are under the authority of the Phuket Highways Office and what we are doing is for public use, so the [project] committee agrees for them to keep working."

However, the next day, October 28, Mr Sathaporn received notice from the Damrongtham Center (provincial ombudsman's office) that a complaint had been filed by the "Rassada people" and that no work could commence until Governor Tri had reviewed the case.

American denies snatch theft

AMERICAN Jake Bordes, 27, has denied charges of committing several snatch thefts in Kata-Karon.

Mr Bordes was stopped and arrested on October 26 after Chalong Police received reports of "Ritua Walli" being robbed at about 9pm that day on Ket Kwan Road in Kata, and "Amande Jo Reed" being robbed near Wat Karon about 30 minutes later.

Both victims reported that a "Westerner" wearing a yellow t-shirt and jeans was riding a motorbike as he stole their bags.

At about 10pm, Sen Sgt Maj Boonlue Samngamya spotted Bordes, who matched the victims' description, riding a Honda motorbike near the Phuket Island View Hotel in Karon.

He said that Bordes "looked suspicious", so he stopped him and had him taken to Chalong Police Station for questioning.

Police found a Nokia mobile phone, an Olympus camera and a



Several women identified Mr Bordes as the snatch thief. Photo: Warisa Temram

black wallet under Bordes' motorbike seat, all of which Ms Reed identified as possessions stolen from her earlier in the evening.

She also identified Bordes as the snatch thief.

Police also found him in possession of 13,760 baht, 200 Australian dollars, a clothing bag, an Acer notebook computer, an

iPad and a knife.

In addition to the two women robbed, a Russian woman – who asked not to be identified – went to Chalong Police Station after receiving a call from officers and identified Bordes as the man who stole her bag in August.

– **Atchaa Khamlo and Warisa Temram**

Troubled lovers still missing

From page 1

way across the bridge and a pair of women's shoes outside the car – there were no people in the area.

Items inside the car were in a state of disarray and it looked as if "things had been thrown around after a fight," he said.

It is believed that troubled young lovers Nattaphon and Chanokporn took their problems to the bridge and ended up disappearing into the waters below, Maj Watcharin said.

"I talked to some fishermen who regularly fish in that area and they didn't see the moment the couple jumped, but they heard a 'splash' as they hit the water," he said.

CCTV footage from Tah Chat Chai checkpoint showed the white Vios leaving Phuket at 1:19pm that day.

Police are still checking footage from other CCTV cameras in the hopes of learning more about the couple's activities after leaving Phuket.

"They were lovers, but recently they've had many problems – they always argued," Ms Chanokporn's brother said.

"They rented a car together and the next thing I know, she had jumped off the bridge with her boyfriend."

"I don't believe my sister would do that. I believe her boyfriend pushed her off the bridge," he said.



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Singaporean killed in bike tour crash

ANTHONY Chaw Tat Soon, 39, from Singapore is recovering at Phuket International Hospital with three broken limbs – a lucky escape from a head-on crash in Phang Nga that killed fellow rider and friend Charlene Jade Tay, 31.

Mr Chaw was rushed from Phang Nga Hospital to Phuket last Friday. After operations to correct both of his broken arms and his broken right leg, Mr Chaw was moved to the intensive care unit, but has since been released and is now in a general recovery room, a hospital staffer told the *Gazette*.

“He is still experiencing pain from his injuries, and on pain-relief medication, but he is fully conscious and he can lift both of his arms even though they are in casts and support slings,” she said.

The two Singaporeans were on a road trip with five other riders to the Ratchaprapa Dam in Surat Thani when a car overtaking a pickup collided with Ms Jay and Mr Chaw.

Police have charged the driver, who did not flee the scene, with reckless driving and suspect that at least one of the vehicles involved in the accident was travelling at high speed.

– *Atchaa Khamlo*

Aussies to be deported over insurance scam

By Atchaa Khamlo

AUSTRALIAN couple Abdul Karim El-Rajab, 31, and Zeidan Nouha, 30, have been fined 600 baht each and are to be deported after being found guilty of filing a false report of being robbed with the aim of making a fake insurance claim.

According to a police statement, the couple on holiday in Phuket were charged with intentionally providing false information to police officers.

Maj Thammasak Boonsong of Patong Police told the *Gazette* that the couple confessed to police that the robbery they reported taking place on the Patong beach road last Sunday was fictitious.

In their confession, the couple admitted to creating the bogus robbery in order to get the proper documents needed to file a claim with their insurance company, Maj Thammasak said.

In their original report of the incident, filed with police at 11:30pm on Sunday, the couple claimed they were driving a motorbike near The Kee Resort when



Abdul Karim El-Rajab (left) and Zeidan Nouha (center) at Patong Police Station.

a man on another motorbike snatched Ms Nouha's shoulder bag and rode off.

They described the man as wearing a helmet and a yellow shirt. The description given was similar to that of an American thief recently caught in Patong.

The next day, the police returned with the couple to the scene of the alleged theft, a popular thoroughfare near Soi Bangla, and asked taxi drivers and store own-

ers about the incident.

However, not a single person remembered hearing or seeing the robbery, said police.

Suspicious of the couple's claim, investigating officers asked them to return to the police station for further questioning.

The officers then obtained permission from the manager of the hotel where they were staying to search the couple's hotel room with both tourists present.

In the room safe were the black Cannon digital camera, two Orotan wallets and Ms Nouha's and Mr El-Rajab's driver's licenses, all reported stolen.

Police found elsewhere in the room the pink Kakinu shoulder bag that Ms Nouha had told police was stolen.

Inside the bag was the credit card she also claimed was stolen, and in the couple's luggage police found two white iPhone 4s – also reported stolen.

“We didn't want to charge them, but recently there have been too many complaints from the [honorary] consuls [in Phuket]. They are always receiving reports of lost belongings, such as laptops, wallets and cameras,” said Patong Police Superintendent Arayapan Pukbuakao.

“These types of cases have increased since last year. So now we'll charge all of them – we don't want them to take advantage of us for their benefit,” he said.

Mr El-Rajab and Ms Nouha were due to return to Australia on Tuesday.

Chairat files plea to fix deadly road

PATONG Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukbal has appealed to Governor Tri Augkaradacha to order the damaged road on Patong Hill to be repaired.

The road was damaged by a landslide on October 13 after heavy rain fell across Phuket. The road suffered further damage after yet another landslide at the same location on October 19.

The state of the road greatly affected the safety of motorists heading to and from Patong, but Patong Municipality was powerless to fix it as the road falls under the responsibility of the Phuket Highways Office, explained Mr Chairat.

“The road is already busy with traffic in the morning and in the afternoon, and traffic will only get worse as we enter the high season,” he said.

However, Phuket Highways Office Deputy General Manager Sathaporn Sornchana told the governor, “The damage is too great for us to fix it immediately. All we can do right now is draw up a plan and submit it to our head office for the budget.”

“Regarding safety, the best we can do right now is close that lane,” he added.

Mr Sathaporn, however, did not explain how much the repairs would cost or precisely what would be required to fix the road,



Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukbal

considering that the damaged section borders a very steep slope.

Mr Chairat also called for the Phuket office of the Land Transport Department to ramp up safety inspections on commercial passenger vehicles, especially buses.

The call for the boost in road safety follows the bus crash at the final curve entering Patong on the same road on October 26 in which 22 people were injured, mainly Russian tourists who had arrived in Phuket only hours earlier.

“The tour bus looked nice on the outside, but was probably not that safe,” said Mr Chairat.

Yet, Phuket Land Transport Chief Teerayut Prasertpol in front of the governor blamed Mr Nakrob for reckless driving.

“The driver of the bus was not paying enough attention when descending the hill into Patong,” he said.

– *Chutharat Plerin*

Bangkok flood exodus heads for Phuket

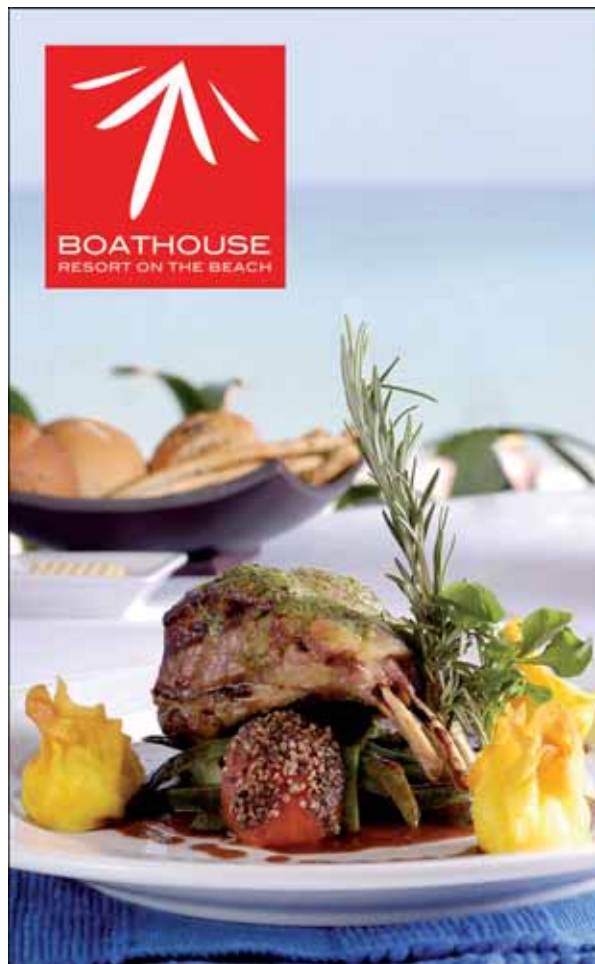
BUS, train and airport terminals and roads exiting Bangkok were jammed with people leaving the capital late last week to escape rising flood waters, heading to safe areas including, quite noticeably, Phuket.

The exodus saw long tailbacks on outbound highways with cars and adding to packed accommodations in Pattaya, Hua Hin and Chon Buri, among other domestic destinations.

in the days leading up to the long weekend, Bangkok residents were locking up their homes and

migrating to resorts or relatives' homes outside the capital, but after the government last Wednesday announced October 27, 28 and 31 to be public holidays in 21 flood-hit provinces, the intermittent streams became a flood of stressed-out safety seekers.

Fuelling the rush out of Bangkok was the city administration's declaration of evacuation zones. Residents of Don Mueang, Bang Phlat and Sai Mai districts have been told to leave their homes. Partial evacuation was also announced for Thawee Watthana district.



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'Hapless' thief nabbed after B950k gold heist

By Warisa Temram

A 22-YEAR-old Phuket man was arrested in connection with a brazen 950,000-baht gold heist on October 28.

Dechin Gongsinon was presented to the press at Phuket City Police Station on October 29.

He was arrested at his home in Rassada that morning after police followed a trail of clues left by the seemingly hapless thief. Mr Dechin was found in possession of two stolen gold chains and the rest was stashed in a neighboring house, police said.

Police received a report at about 4pm that Thong Tanet 1 gold shop near the Kaset Market in Phuket Town had been robbed.

At the scene, Police found a black helmet in front of the store and several frightened shopkeepers inside.

"I was at the counter with my sister and another worker when a guy, about 20 years old, came in wearing a black shirt and a cap," said shopkeeper Puangpen Saelim.

"He pretended to look at the gold



Dechin and his loot

and we showed him some, but he said he didn't like the pattern and walked away," Ms Puangpen said.

"About a half-hour later, the same guy came back to our shop and asked to look at the same chain. Another employee took out the whole display tray to show him. That's when he suddenly grabbed the tray and ran out of the shop, hopped on a motorbike where another person was waiting, and drove off," she said.

"The thief was an amateur," said Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Jamroon Playduong.

"He rented a motorbike and thought we wouldn't be able to trace him, but he forgot that he left his national identification card at the rental shop," Lt Col Jamroon said.

Police recovered the rented Honda Click shortly after the robbery, parked at the Phuket Post Office. The motorbike had the rental shop name and address emblazoned on it and in what appeared to be a taunting gesture made by Dechin, there was a gold chain hanging from the foot peg.

Upon visiting the rental shop, police were no doubt surprised to learn that the alleged gold snatcher left his ID card when he rented the motorbike.

Dechin told police that he robbed the gold shop in an effort to pay off "football gambling" debts he had racked up. He added that he had no idea who the getaway driver was, police said.

Thong Tanet 1 is the sister shop of Thong Tanet 2, which was robbed of 4mn baht worth of gold in June. No arrests have been made in that case.

Beer stocks

PHUKET's critical tourism and entertainment industries are struggling to cope with the disrupted supply of consumer products and price rises, brought on by the floods in Bangkok and central Thailand. The latest shortage to take hold on the island is alcohol, with reports flooding in to the *Phuket Gazette* of bars either running dry or short of stock and having to pay inflated prices for beverages. The *Gazette's* Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai and Chutharat Plerin report.

NOT only bars are seeing their booze supplies dwindle, but retailers are being forced to deal with bare shelves.

"We've had no beer in stock for more than a week, and we've yet to hear from our headquarters in Bangkok on any news of when new stock will be delivered," said Napatsorn Jammeun, a shelf stocker at Tesco Lotus on the bypass road.

The alcohol situation at another Phuket retail giant is much the same.

"We don't have much left in stock and we haven't received a delivery from Bangkok in nearly a week," said Supawadee Kaewthai, a worker at Big C on the bypass road.

"We do not know when new stock will be delivered, as that depends on our head office in Bangkok. We are still waiting to hear from them," she added.

The shortages have even hit the ubiquitous Family Mart and 7-Eleven convenience stores across the island - some are even running short on water.

"We're short on bottled water,

Singha beer and Chang beer...We have some Leo beer in stock, but not much," said Kesinee Sanyee, store manager of a Family Mart on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road in Patong.

She explained that Family Mart stores in Phuket are served by local distributors.

"We order stock from local agents in Phuket, but they too have only limited stocks."

Ms Kesinee told the *Phuket Gazette* she was at a loss of what to do with the problem.

"I don't know what to do to resolve the shortages, and I am not the one who is in charge of planning," she said.

Meanwhile, 7-Eleven stores nationwide are suffering the same.

A spokesperson for CP All Group, the parent corporation for all 7-Eleven stores in Thailand, told the *Gazette*, "Our problems are just like every other store in Thailand."

"We source most of our products directly from the manu-

'We order stock from local agents in Phuket, but they too have only limited stocks... I don't know what to do to resolve the shortages...'

- Family Mart store manager

Gov checks for hikes

PHUKET Governor Tri Augkaradacha last Friday inspected Phuket's three largest grocery retailers after receiving complaints of unexplained price rises on some products.

Joining the governor were Phuket Provincial Office Chief Prajiad Aksornthammakul and Phuket Commercial Office Director Supatcha Boonpalit.

At each store, the governor and his entourage were welcomed to the store by the store manager and taken on a guided tour of the aisles.

The Tesco Lotus superstore on the bypass road was the first stop on the tour, followed by Big C Phuket, also on the bypass road, and wrapping up with Super Cheap on Thepkrasattri Road.

All three were short on some products, such as popular or cheap brands of rice, condensed milk, sugar, water, instant noodles and dry food products.

However, where stocks had been cleared of the popular or cheap brands, other more expensive brands of the same essential items were still available, including bottled water.

The management at all three retailers explained to the governor that the problem resulted from the floods in and around Bangkok and Central Thailand, which have been the worst the country has experienced in more than half a century.

Some manufacturers have been forced to cease production, as their factories are under water, and those that are still in production have inflated transportation costs to cope with as delivery vehicles have to navigate flooded roads and highways.

"Overall, I think we still have enough goods for consumers. I just want to ask for cooperation from all stores *not* to raise the prices of or hoard consumer products," said Governor Tri.

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dwindling



Customers are left with little choice as retailers are forced to stock shelves with whatever is left as shortages continue due to the worst flooding in decades. Photo: Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

facturers in Pathum Thani, where they are flooded. We try to distribute what we can to all our stores in Thailand."

However, she added, "7-Elevens are restocked through our network of distribution centers set up in each region in Thailand, so we are not really worried about running out of products for sale in all of our stores."

"We still can deliver some products such as rice, sugar, instant noodles and milk – but I can't guarantee beer. We are selling what we have, and it is running low," she said.

Further up the supply chain, the manager of the Corporate Information Center for Boon Rawd Brewery Co, the parent company for Singha Corp, told the *Gazette*, "We have five factories in Central Thailand, and four of them are flooded."

"One of those flooded factories

is dedicated to producing Singha. That's the main reason most stores in Thailand are short of Singha beer for sale."

"We actually have factories all over Thailand. Our factory in Chiang Mai produces bottled water. The one in Surat Thani produces bottled water and soda water, and our plant in Khon Kaen produces bottled water and Leo beer," she added.

"Even though we are running out of Singha beer, we still have Leo beer for sale as our Khon Kaen facility remains unaffected by the floods."

"However, we are unable to produce any more Singha beer until the situation is back to normal," she said.

A spokesperson for Thai Beverage Co Ltd (ThaiBev) reported a slightly brighter situation.

"Our factories are not affected by the floods. The only thing that

is causing shortages of our products in Phuket and other parts of Thailand is the shipment," she said.

"We still have the same amount of product to send out to all of our distributors, but most of the roads out of Bangkok are flooded. That is what is delaying the whole shipment process," she added.

The spokesperson said that ThaiBev's top sellers in Phuket were Chang beer and Chang bottled water.

"We usually dispatch deliveries of beer and water to Phuket at least once a day. Now we have had to cut it down to once every three to four days," she explained.

"Although we are still able to deliver about 30 per cent of the regular volume of beer and water that we usually dispatch, we still have more than enough for consumers," she added.

Regarding rising prices for the beverages that do make it to the shelves in Phuket stores, the spokesperson said that ThaiBev had not passed on any extra costs of delivery to their customers.

"We have a policy to expressly not raise prices during this period. We are selling all of our products at the same prices they were before the floods," she said.

in pricing

"The prices of all products at all stores are to remain the same. I told all stores that if it were necessary to raise prices, to please not raise them too much. People are already suffering from the crisis," he added.

"The government is now trying to solve the problem by importing products from other countries," Gov Tri said.

Boonsom Anantjaroonwong, the Managing Director of Super Cheap explained, "We may have less consumer products for sale compared with before the crisis, but we still have items in stock."

"We may have to adjust the prices of some products, but I can guarantee that it would not exceed three to four per cent of the original price."

"Since we have to buy these products from wholesalers [and not directly from the manufacturer], it is impossible for us to bargain over prices," he added.

– Warisa Temram

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Bar girls drug tourists

By Atchaa Khamlo

PHUKET police arrested six women Monday night for spiking tourists' drinks and robbing them after they fell asleep.

The women all worked in bars on Soi Bangla, Patong.

Investigating a string of complaints from tourists who were robbed, Patong Police officers arrested Kemporn Poosedin, 45; Saeng Nuansri, 47; and Wanida Yusuk, 36, at their rented room, said Maj Thammasak Boonsong.

After questioning the three women, the officers also arrested Supaporn Yusuk, 18; Sukanya Jansong, 23, and Suchada Yusuk, 29, he added.

"They went back to foreigners' rooms and asked them to have a drink. They then slipped a concoction of drugs into the victims' drinks to knock them out.

"When their victims were unconscious, they robbed them," said Maj Thammasak.

Ms Kemporn, Ms Saeng and Ms Wanida all confessed they had drugged and robbed tourists many times, most recently on October



The women used a combination of three prescription drugs to render their male victims unconscious.

28, at about 5am he said.

"They asked a Singaporean man on Soi Bangla to stay at the Patong Resort Hotel. When he wasn't looking, they drugged his beer and robbed him," he said.

Ms Kemporn explained that the

concoction used was a mix of five Alprazolam pills, seven Atarax pills and five Chlorphen-Y pills.

The pills were crushed, mixed with water, put in small bottles and poured into victims' drinks.

All six women have been

charged with illegal possession of prescription drugs.

Polices seized a variety of drugs as well as many valuables believed to be the victims', including cash, gold necklaces, wallets, cameras and mobile phones.

Speedboat passengers rescued

SIXTY-SIX tourists were towed to safety in Phuket on October 28 after spending hours stranded at sea when the speedboat they were on broke down.

Marine Police were informed at about 7pm that the engines on the speedboat *Kamika* had stopped running about 15 miles offshore from Phuket on a return trip from Phi Phi Island, Lt Col Rithee Phaothep said.

Weather conditions made it impossible for Phuket Marine Police Officer Panya Chaichana and other officers to transfer the tourists to a patrol boat, so they towed the *Kamika* to safer waters near Tapao Yai Island, Lt Col Panya said.

At Tapao Yai, some of the tourists boarded the patrol boat while others remained on the *Kamika*, which was towed to Rassada Pier and sank after the tourists safely disembarked, he said.

Upon arrival in Phuket some passengers were visibly weak, yet seemed happy to be on dry land.

A police investigations revealed that the engine trouble was likely caused by a cracked fuel hose.

Car kills merit-maker

A PHUKET woman was struck by a car and killed Sunday, October 30, moments before embarking on a merit-making tour to a temple in Ranong Province.

Police received a report at 5:30am that a woman had been hit by a car in the southbound lane of Thepkrasattri Road in front of Thepkrasattri Municipality.

At the scene police found Somboon Keawprasert, 60, face down on the road. About 150 meters away was a Toyota sedan

with damage to the front end and a shattered windshield.

The driver of the Toyota presented himself to Thalang Police for questioning.

Mrs Somboon and a friend were waiting for a tour bus to take them to Ranong, a province north of Phuket bordering Burma, for a merit-making ceremony. Mrs Somboon was struck by the car as she attempted to cross the road to board the bus stopped on the side of the northbound lanes, police said.

Man survives head shot

A YOUNG Nakhon Sri Thammarat man got more than he bargained for when he asked a "friend" to pay back a debt of 700 baht last month. Petchburi native Soraphit Kaewsi responded to the request from Nawaphon Chinphong, 22, by shooting him in the head with a 9mm pistol.

Miraculously, the bullet bounced off Mr Nawaphon's right temple without penetrating the skin and fell to the floor, causing only scratches and bruising to the shocked victim's head. Police were called to the scene of the crime, the Nakhao Hotel in Chamai Subdistrict, on October 29.

When Inspector Phairoj Chanachai of Thung Song Police Station arrived, he found Mr



Nawaphon standing outside one of the hotel rooms in a state of shock.

Nearby was a flattened 9mm bullet and a motorbike.

Mr Nawaphon told police he had driven to the hotel to collect the debt from his friend, Mr Soraphit, who was staying in one of the rooms with his girlfriend.

Mr Nawaphon knocked on the door and was greeted by a furious Mr Soraphit, who scolded him for asking for such a small debt

back and demanded to know why he didn't trust him.

When Mr Nawaphon saw how angry Mr Soraphit was, he backed away and got on his motorcycle to return home.

When the bike started, Mr Soraphit pulled out a gun and shot him in the head at close range.

Mr Soraphit then jumped on his motorbike with his 28-year-old girlfriend and fled.

Mr Nawaphon believes he survived because he was wearing a coin with the image of a famous local monk, Luang Por Nuan Parisuttho, around his neck.

The prestige of the local monk had saved his life, he said.

Police are searching for Mr Soraphit.

- Thai Rath

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Thai troops surrender for Chinese sailor massacre

NINE Thai soldiers have turned themselves in for the murder last month of 13 Chinese sailors on the Mekong River in Chiang Rai Province.

Meanwhile, China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand have promised to carry out joint security operations on the river after the Chinese government summoned envoys from the three smaller states to a security meeting in Beijing.

The nine Thai troops surrendered to police on Friday in Chiang Rai, Lt Gen Wut

Liptapanlop said, while declining to give more details because the investigation was ongoing.

National Police chief General Piewpan Damapong promised a full investigation into the deadly raid on two Chinese vessels in early October, saying the military was fully cooperating.

"Police will prosecute all nine soldiers," he told reporters. "Their actions have nothing to do with the Thai army."

The sailors were killed after two cargo

ships on the Mekong River were hijacked on October 5. Drug smugglers were suspected after Thai authorities found about 920,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills on one boat.

On November 1, Xinhua reported that officials from China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand promised to boost security on the river following the murders.

"The smuggling of drugs and weapons has been rampant on the Mekong in recent years and crimes such as black-

mail and armed robbery occur frequently and endanger shipping," a statement released by China's Ministry of Public Security said.

"It's necessary for law enforcement agencies to strengthen cooperation and take effective measures," it added.

The agreement will see the four states share intelligence, patrols and law enforcement in order to "eradicate criminal organizations which have long threatened the region's security."

Deep South carnage continues as Army battles Central floods

VIOLENCE has flared in Thailand's restive Deep South as militants took advantage of lax security due to the country's worst floods in decades, which have tied up army resources for relief efforts in Central regions.

On Sunday, suspected insurgents shot four people dead and detonated a string of homemade bomb attacks in Narathiwat province.

The following day, a second wave of bombings was unleashed, also in Narathiwat, in attacks that seriously injured several villagers, including a 10-year-old and a 16-year-old boy.

In the first incident, four men on two motorcycles shot dead two men and a woman at a petrol station in Narathiwat City on Sunday morning. Victims included a 75-year-old man shot in the head while refueling his motorcycle and a woman gunned down in front of a grocery store at the station.

Another man was shot dead in neighboring Songkhla province by gunmen in a pickup truck, the Associated Press reported.

In the evening, militants detonated homemade bombs at 10 spots in five districts of Narathiwat, targeting grocery stores, shops and homes. The at-

AROUND THE nation

tacks caused property damage but no casualties.

On Monday, insurgents unleashed a second wave of bomb attacks.

The first incident took place at 7am, when a civilian defense volunteer was inspecting trees felled to block a road in Waeng district. He stepped on a home-made bomb and lost his right leg. Police said the bomb was a plastic water pipe filled with 1kg of explosive.

A banner tied to tree branches at the scene had a message in Thai, which said: "October of Tak Bai: As long as those who killed Malays are in power, Thai Buddhists pay for it with their lives."

The message referred to the Tak Bai incident of October 25, 2004, when heavy-handed suppression of a protest by the army resulted in the deaths of 85 people. The incident continues to be used by insurgents as a rallying call against the Thai state.

Later, at a rubber plantation in



Firefighters battle a blaze at the scene of a bombing in Narathiwat Province. Photo: The Nation

Sri Sakhon district, a 16-year-old and a 10-year-old were wounded after the elder boy stepped on a similar device and lost his left ankle. The younger boy was hit

with shrapnel in the torso and both legs, sustaining minor injuries. Police found debris similar to the first bomb.

Days earlier on October 25, the

anniversary of the Tak Bai incident, around 15 bombs exploded in neighboring Yala province, killing at least one civilian and wounding dozens more.

Floods kill at least 381

AT LEAST 381 people have been killed by the worst floods Thailand has seen in almost six decades.

Much of Bangkok has so far escaped the deluge, though some northern and western districts have been inundated.

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, whose competence as leader has been called into question during the crisis, said she was "hopeful" that the rest of Bangkok would be spared from the flooding.

"We will recover soon," she said.

But Matthew Cochrane, of the International Red Cross, told *Sky News* the situation was critical. Many people were living in flooded areas without access to

food and clean water.

"There are more than two million people who have been affected over the past few months. Many of them are still affected," Mr Cochrane said.

Although a high tide period has passed without seriously flooding Bangkok, a huge quantity of run-off water from the North of Thailand continues to surround much of the city.

Thousands of the city's residents have evacuated to other provinces in a bid to escape the deluge.

Mrs Yingluck said the waters were likely to start receding soon.

"After October 31, the situation is likely to improve if there is no rain," she told reporters.

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Bangkok floods, Phuket catches cold

WHILE the ongoing saga of floods laying siege to Bangkok has dominated national news and made headlines around the world for weeks, Phuket has remained safe and dry.

But the images carried by news services have nevertheless caused Phuket harm, as clearly demonstrated by the 15 teams pulling out of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour event at Karon Beach this week (see page 41).

Even though entrants contacted tournament director Geoffrey Rowe directly, he could not convince all of them that Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport was fully operational and that all connections from that airport to Phuket were running according to schedule.

The fact that Mr Rowe needed to try to convince the players of this truth is what deserves particular attention. Mr Rowe was dealing with sophisticated players who travel the world, not some isolated family that rarely leaves home for a vacation.

This highlighted the fact that despite the much-touted efforts of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), many people around the world obviously still think of Phuket as solely a component of "Destination Thailand", and not as a stand-alone destination itself.

This flies in the face of years of positive promotion of "Brand Phuket" as a unique tourism destination, and the ongoing push to develop more direct flights to the island.

For Phuket, the challenge now lies not in carving out its own identity to stand apart from Bangkok – that has already been done. We are Phuket.

What the champions of Phuket have yet to achieve is to overcome the Bangkok-centric mentality that permeates the world both in and outside of Thailand. That mentality is nourished daily by the central government and throughout the "national" media.

That well-travelled international athletes playing on a world tour didn't know that Bangkok has two airports, one flooded and one not; that there is no flooding at all in Phuket or elsewhere in the south of Thailand; and that Phuket has its own international airport, speaks volumes about the competence of the nation's government-dominated PR apparatus.

It is reminiscent of the damage to Phuket tourism during the political violence in Bangkok last year when more than 100,000 tourists cancelled their bookings to Phuket because of localized turmoil about 1,000 kilometers north of here.

Although tourist arrivals into Phuket for the first eight months of this year were running well ahead of the same period last year, and might even have been favorable for last month (October), one can only speculate on what October's arrivals might have been had the world known that Phuket was, with the exception of some shopping shortages, a) not affected by the floods, and b) easily accessible by air, both through Bangkok and directly.

Perhaps Thailand's tourism marketing gurus will have taken note of this. But then, perhaps they, too, are Bangkok-centric.



Slave-monkey rebuttal

Re: *Phuket Gazette, Stop slave-monkey madness, October 22*

I read the letter to the editor "Stop slave-monkey madness". I've lived all over Asia for many years and have seen these creatures at work many times. If you have a bird dog, sheep dog, cadaver dog, raccoon dog, or mine-detecting dog, would you call them "slaves"?

If Thailand is anything like other Asian countries, you will find that these coconut-retrieving monkeys are very expensive to train, are indeed well-trained, and a valuable asset to their owners. They are well-kept as any asset would be.

I also understand these monkeys are revered as the "bread earner" of the family and as such are pretty much cared for as if they were the head of the household.

I do understand that everywhere there are people who mistreat their animals. But, I'm hopeful that any local family who depends so much on this creature for their livelihood will treat it with respect. If you owned an expensive working dog, would you not keep it safe and secured?

Gary Cameron
Kathu

Friends in a bottle

I have 20 kilograms of rice, several cases of beverages, and enough sugar to make a hive of honey bees jealous.

I know it seems like I might be over-reacting to the possible food and beverage shortages facing Phuket, but I don't want to be caught high-and-dry if the supply chains from Bangkok completely shut down.

I think everyone on the island, expats and Thais, should set

Letters to the Editor

aside a couple hours to prepare survival kits.

You don't need much, just make sure you can start a fire to purify water, have a sharp object like a machete, canned foods or rice and a couple friends in a bottle.

Be safe out there Phuket.

Gregory Kilgore
Rawai

'Eggs-agerating' the cost

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket retailers scramble to stem flood shortages, November 1*

I believe that only Thais can complain about the rising costs of food. Not *farang*, because the food here is much cheaper than anywhere else in the world. You can still get good prices for food in local markets and when I see an old woman with water up to her shoulders, I don't mind paying 85 baht for ten eggs.

Concern
Gazette Forum

rights and big money? Tourists and expats. What a wonderful future Phuket has.

Criminologist
Gazette forum

Bus business

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Amid the many bus and van crashes killing tourists in Phuket, it's time to focus more carefully on responsibility, October 30*

What a waste of good copy space, *Phuket Gazette*. Why chase after a story that you already know the conclusion to? Nobody gets prosecuted for bus accidents; they get brushed under the carpet.

This is the way it has always been and no one will change that. Driving tests in Thailand are basically non-existent; vehicle tests are virtually non-existent as well. This is the way it is – accept it as the Thais do.

Skeptical John
Gazette Forum

Speedboat safety

Re: *Gazette online, Stranded Phi Phi tourists towed to Phuket safety, October 30*

Anyone who gets on locally-built speedboats in Phuket is nuts and/or uninformed. First of all, they are a huge source of pollution, though there are more and more of them using four-stroke engines, which is a good step forward.

Second of all, they have zero safety equipment. The "life preservers" they use are illegal in most countries. Tourists should be better informed about the risks they are taking before going to sea on one of these "boats".

Juan Grande
Gazette forum

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Editor: Parichat Utintu

News Manager: Chris Husted

News Editor: Stephen Fein

Features Editor: Neil Quail

Managing Director: Oranee Hildebrand

General Manager: Natthira Susangrat

Production Manager: Suchart Changate

Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

Contact us:

Editorial: news@phuketgazette.net

Advertising Sales: adsales@phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertising: classads@phuketgazette.net

Website services: anna@phuketgazette.net

Gazette Guide: guide@phuketgazette.net

Events Sponsorships: events@phuketgazette.net

General: info@phuketgazette.net

Telephone: 076 273555 (10 lines) Fax 076 615240

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79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

Unpack your wings and fly Phuket skies

FIRST PERSON

I WAS introduced to paragliding six years ago when I was at Phromthep Cape, where I saw two Frenchmen – each carrying a backpack. When I saw them pull out “wings” and a harness, then just jump off the cliff and fly, I knew I had to try paragliding.

I searched for a paragliding school in Thailand and found the Thai Paragliding School in Rayong Province, where I was certified to do tandem flights.

Most paragliders are overly confident, which can cause accidents.

The paragliding spot on Phuket is atop the hill on the southern end of Nai Harn Beach, where the big windmill is. It's only 80-meters high and with the winds we have, it's not suitable for any paragliding acrobatics. In fact, if your wing collapses at this height, there isn't enough time for it to unfold itself.

If you are trying to paraglide in bad conditions, it doesn't matter how much experience you have, you'll probably end up having an accident.

Nobody wants to see an accident, but accidents happen all the time – I have friends in accidents every year. Some of them come back to paragliding, but sadly, some of them cannot. They can't even return to living a normal life.

A man who has been paragliding much longer than me once told me,



Phuket Paragliding Club President and co-founder **Prasert Thepla-ong**, DDS, 42, operates a dental clinic in Phuket Town. The Phuket native has been active in the island's paragliding community for about six years. Here he talks about how he got into paragliding and how others interested can give it a try.



A participant in the 2011 Phuket Fun Fly. Photo: Ekkachai Chanakul

“there are no good paragliders, there are only old paragliders”.

If you are interested, you are welcome to come practice with us or try it at the windmill (above Nai Harn Beach). If you really like it you can take a class through us. I don't have time to teach anyone myself, but my friend Parinya Kongsamut, a certified tandem pilot, can do it.

Because of the dangers associated with paragliding, I would like anyone who is interested in it to come to the club and register.

Through the club, we are able to exchange ideas and information about paragliding and warn each other about dangerous situations.

Last year about 300 people came to the club and most of them were tourists. I would really like more people to come out and join our group – the more members we have, the better-known we will become.

For more information, call Mr Parinya at 081 535 3528 or Oliver Thurmman at 087 877 2320.

Tablets for kids a recipe for success

Island View

By Hugh Williams

Do you have an opinion to voice?
Email Editor@PhuketGazette.net

I RETURNED from Kuala Lumpur (KL) recently and couldn't help but reflect on how far Thailand is falling behind in three main areas: roads, technology, and English..

To improve roads, local governments need to spend all of the money that is allocated to them for building higher quality roads. More importantly, drivers should receive a better education about safe driving practices and an effective system for traffic-law enforcement should be implemented.

Thailand must also invest in infrastructure to provide reliable and speedy access to the internet in order to compete in a global economy.

English language skills are also a must-have for business, and education is at the heart of that problem.

Many people have criticized Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's proposal for “one tablet, one child”. I wholeheartedly disagree: I think this is a huge step in the right direction to ameliorate both the technological and English-language problems facing Thailand.

In KL, everyone has smartphones and tablet PCs. They're not toys or status symbols: they streamline communication, increase productivity, and give everyone access to information.

PM Yingluck isn't proposing buying 20,000-baht iPads for every first grader in the country. She is talking about 3,000-baht tablet PCs. The cost of these tablets can be justified by the fact that it costs 800 baht a year for textbooks for a first grader. Over the course of

four years, one-third of the time a student will be in primary and secondary school, the savings from doing away with textbooks will easily pay for the cost of the tablets.

I checked out one of the tablets being considered by PM Yingluck – it was nothing to get excited about. In fact, they're lame in comparison to the iPad. However, by the time the proposal is accepted, the cheaper tablet PCs being considered should be more usable products.

Of course, the wireless internet infrastructure in Thailand also needs to be set in place for this proposal to be effective, but they're making progress – already there is 3G in Bangkok and Phuket. But 3G needs to be rolled out across the country. Teachers in Thai schools will also require a little training on how to use the tablets for teaching, but not much. These devices are pretty straightforward.

It's obvious that flooding is the greatest problem Thailand is currently facing, but sooner or later these systematic problems will need to be addressed. Tablets will give Thai children a much-needed boost in their education, especially their English language and IT (information technology) skills, which will give them a more realistic chance of succeeding in this ever-changing world.

Issues & Answers...

...asking the questions that affect you...

Daily explosions

I live near Wat Chalong, and every day at 7am and/or 5pm there is a detonation that rocks the house. Can anyone tell me what it is? I'm concerned about what the explosion could be doing to the structure of our house and the environment.

Concerned Chalong Resident
Chalong

Sombat Puangsombat, director of the Phuket Provincial Irrigation Office (PPIO), replies:

The detonations are part of the PPIO Klong Krata Reservoir construction project. According to the contract the project will be completed in January 2013.

I talked to the project supervisor and he said that they plan to have the detonations, which are creating rock fill that can be used for the dam, twice a day until December of next year.

I understand that having detonations twice a day for another year is too much for some residents, but the project supervisor said the problem was that they don't have any place to store the rock fill, so they have to collect it on a daily basis.

I understand your concern

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

about your house near Wat Chalong, but I don't think the detonations will effect its structure because there is a mountain between the project and Wat Chalong.

I also understand your concern about the environment. The area that the construction company is working in isn't up on the mountain. It's actually part of the area that is planned to be included in the reservoir, so the detonation area will be underwater when the project is complete.

Anti-spam action

Over the last week there has been an increase in the amount of spam emails sent to my email accounts.

A local company has been a particularly persistent source of these

emails – they are sending me a newsletter that I never subscribed to. They even advertise products that appear to be completely useless or even illegal, such as boosters for mobile phones. Are there any laws prohibiting spam emails? If so, where can I file a complaint?

Spamhater
Patong

Chaiyut Rodjanapittayakul, office manager at CAT Telecommunication Public Company Limited, replies:

You can file a complaint at a police station on the basis that you are being harassed or annoyed by someone repeatedly sending you spam emails.

The police can then investigate. They are able to check with telecommunication providers to see where the emails are coming from.

By checking the IP address, the police can often figure out who sent you the spam mail.

Similar procedures can be followed if you are being continuously annoyed or harassed by phone.

It will take a little time, but the police can absolutely figure out the source of the emails or phone calls.

Capt Nucharee Longkaew, a detective at Phuket City Police Station, replies:

You can file a complaint with the police but you have to prove that the “person” really sent spam email, and how often it was sent.

After you make a complaint to a police officer, we will either have the spam sender come into the police station and we will inform them to stop sending you spam, or we will send an official letter to the sender ordering them to stop.

If they continue sending spam, you can file complaints daily with police to use as evidence in a civil case. Thailand does not yet have criminal laws regarding spam.

You can call Phuket City Police Station at 076 212129.

Guns for foreigners

In an Issue & Answer in the June 4, 2011 issue of the *Phuket Gazette*, there was a question whether or not someone can shoot an unarmed intruder. In the response, a police officer clearly stated that it is forbidden for a foreigner to own a gun.

This is not true. A foreigner

who has a yellow *tabien baan* house registration book for more than six months or is a permanent resident of Thailand is allowed to own a gun by law, but only if he or she is able to give a valid reason to the authorities.

Eric Limbos
Khao Sok

Wilairat Kwanchien, chief of the Muang District Office Public Administration Section, replies:

It is true that a person needs to have a *tabien baan* house registration book in order to get permission to own a gun. So, a foreigner whose name is in a yellow *tabien baan* is able to ask for a permit, but that doesn't mean they will get one.

The district chief has the final authority to sign an approval for a permit, and that person will consider many things, such as how long you've been in Thailand, whether you speak Thai, whether you have a Thai family member living in Thailand. They will also consider whether you work in security, or are assigned for temporary work with the police or military.

If you have a gun for sport, you must have documents showing that you are a sport marksman.

On The Move

Introducing the island's movers and shakers



Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort recently welcomed Robin Deb as their new General Manager. Robin obtained his Bachelor of Arts from the Hotel Management School in Zurich, and since has completed several assignments in various departments in Switzerland, Spain, Egypt, Thailand, Indonesia and South America with such groups as the Ritz Carlton, the Dolder, Acor, Sofitel, Pullman, and Novotel.



InterContinental Hotels Group announced the appointment of Simon Morley as General Manager for Holiday Inn Resort Phuket Mai Khao Beach. Simon, an Australian national, graduated from the University of Hawaii, Honolulu, USA. He has over 10 years of experience in the hospitality industry and has worked in the UAE, Dubai, Oman, Melbourne, Seoul, and prior to his current appointment, was the General Manager at Holiday Inn Clark, Pampanga, Philippines.

Amway to inject B1bn

PHUKET is set to welcome 16,000 Chinese employees of direct sales giant Amway in April when they meet on the island for their annual meeting, Amway 2011.

The visitors, who will stay on the island for one month, are expected to inject 1 billion baht into the local economy, according to the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB).

Speaking after a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall to discuss plans for the event, Phuket V/Gov Somkiat Sangkhaosutthirak said that in addition to holding their meeting, the company's employees would visit a variety of tourist attractions on the island, bringing benefits to all sectors of the economy.

The TCEB and the Phuket Provincial Government have already signed a memorandum of understanding on the matter, he said.

V/Gov Somkiat asked all agencies to place a high degree of

importance on the event, since the reputation of Phuket was at stake.

The slow speed of inspections at Tah Chat Chai Checkpoint, which is currently understaffed, is an issue that will need to be overcome in order to ensure that everything runs smoothly for the event, he said.

The event will be a chance for Phuket to prove it's able to cope with large groups of tourists. If the island is able to meet the challenge it will augur well for Phuket's future, he said.

V/Gov Somkiat said that it would be particularly important to ensure that One Tambon One Product (OTOP) goods were ready so the outlets can take advantage of the group's visit.

Also in attendance at the meeting were Prajiat Aksornthamakul, head of the Phuket Provincial Office, Poramet Chinno of the TCEB and representatives of

other relevant agencies.

Mr Poramet said the TCEB would work with the Tourist Police to ensure the safety of the group, adding that it was a very good sign that Amway had chosen Thailand to host the meeting.

Mr Poramet said Amway planned to arrange team building exercises, creative activities and tours of the island's important tourist attractions.

Laguna Phuket is a potential host venue for the event, he said.

"The visit of the group of Amway delegates will generate a lot of income for Phuket province, with an average expenditure of 16,200 baht per person [per week]" he said, adding that the 16,000 visitors would therefore result in more than a billion baht added to the local economy.

Restaurants, accommodation, souvenir shops and OTOP outlets would likely benefit most from the event, he said.

Tourism unaffected by flooding

THIS year's devastating floods will have little effect on Phuket tourism, with hotel occupancy set to exceed 90% at the end of the year, the Phuket Tourism Association (PTA) has insisted.

Bhurit Mawongsa, vice president of the PTA, said that these days most visitors to Phuket were foreigners who arrived on the island on direct flights run by more than 40 airlines.

As such, the floods are not likely to affect these tourists' travel plans, he said.

As for the internal tourism market, particularly seminar bookings, Mr Bhurit said that he again expected the floods to have little effect, although meetings in Bangkok might be moved to areas unaffected by flooding. Such places include Phuket, Chiang Mai, Udon Thani, Khon Kaen, Pattaya and Koh Samui, he said.

It's still highly convenient to travel to Phuket, with direct flights to Chiang Mai, Udon Thani

and Bangkok, Mr Bhurit said, adding that he was confident there would be no effect on tourism as a result.

As for the wider tourism picture, Mr Bhurit said that this year has been a better year for Phuket than last year.

Hotel room occupancy in Phuket is now at around 75%, he said. In November, the figure is expected to rise to 80%, while an occupancy rate of around 90% is expected at the end of the year.

Mr Bhurit conceded that the European market was likely to suffer a little during the next high season because of the region's economic problems.

Many European travelers are choosing to take short-haul vacations, rather than long haul, he said.

Nevertheless, Mr Bhurit said new markets were opening up to replace the more established markets.

The PTA and Phuket Provincial

Administration Organization (OrBorJor) have run constant marketing schemes to encourage new visitors to the island.

In particular, they have had great success in building the Scandinavian market, Mr Bhurit said. Most recently, Thai Airways has launched thrice-weekly flights to Phuket direct from the Danish capital of Copenhagen, which are already almost fully booked until March next year, he said.

An increase in the number of Scandinavian visitors will help to compensate for the loss of travelers from Southern Europe, such as Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal, where the economic problems are the worst, he said.



Bhurit Mawongsa, VP of PTA.

Andaman region looks to Span

THE Andaman Office of Strategic Management, under the umbrella of the Ministry of Interior, hired Nonthaburi-based firm Span Consultants Ltd to look for ways the five Andaman provinces of Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Ranong and Trang can become more integrated in terms of the tourism industry and marine trade.

Chuwit Sutchaya, program manager for Span, said the provinces could be divided into three groups: North Andaman, comprising Ranong province; Central Andaman, including Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi; and South Andaman, comprising Trang province.

Mr Chuwit advised that transport links between the North and Central Andaman regions should be improved. There needed to be more flights between Ranong and Bangkok, as well as smaller flights connecting Ranong with Phuket, he said.

At the same time, there should be better connections within Central Andaman. In particular, flights were needed between Krabi and Phuket, better land transport was needed within Phuket itself, while better land connections were needed between Phuket and Phang Nga, he said.

Within the Phang Nga Bay area there should be more boat connections between the various islands and better road connections. Sea connections between Krabi, Phuket and Koh Phi Phi should be improved, he said.

Meanwhile, Trang province needed more return flights to Bangkok, better connections to neighboring Phattalung province in the Gulf of Thailand, improved boat connections to the province's islands and development of the province's ports.

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Shortages island-wide, consumer prices surge

PRICES of various consumer items in Phuket continue to skyrocket, cited to be a result of a disruption in supply lines caused by flooding in Bangkok and the central region.

As speculation about imminent shortages began to circulate around the island last week – at about the same time flood waters began to breach the capital's defenses – consumers in Phuket raced to the markets and grocery stores to stock up on everything from bottled water and beer, to rice, sugar, lotion and coffee.

Consumer panic was further fueled when reports surfaced that the prices of some vegetables had doubled at local markets.

In response, Governor Tri Augkaradacha along with Prajiad Aksornthammakul of the Phuket Provincial Office, Phuket Internal Trade Office chief Supatcha Boonpalit and Phuket MP Raewat Areerob last Thursday embarked on an inspection tour of Phuket's three largest grocery retailers: Tesco Lotus superstore and Big C – both on the bypass road – and Super Cheap on Thepkasattri Road.

The inspections followed a warning issued by the Ministry of Commerce that any exploitation of the crisis situation by unsubstantiated price gouging could incur a maximum penalty of up to 7 years in prison and/or a fine not exceeding 140,000 baht.

The probe found that retailers were short of some products, including rice, condensed milk, sugar, water, instant noodles and dry food products.

Management at all three retailers confirmed to the governor that the shortages were linked directly

to flooding in and around Bangkok, explaining that transportation costs have risen since delivery vehicles have to detour flooded roads and highways.

"We may have to adjust the prices of some products, but I can guarantee that it will not exceed 3 to 4 per cent," assured Boonsom Anantajaronwong, Managing Director of Super Cheap.

"Since we have to buy these products from wholesalers, it is impossible for us to bargain over prices," he added.

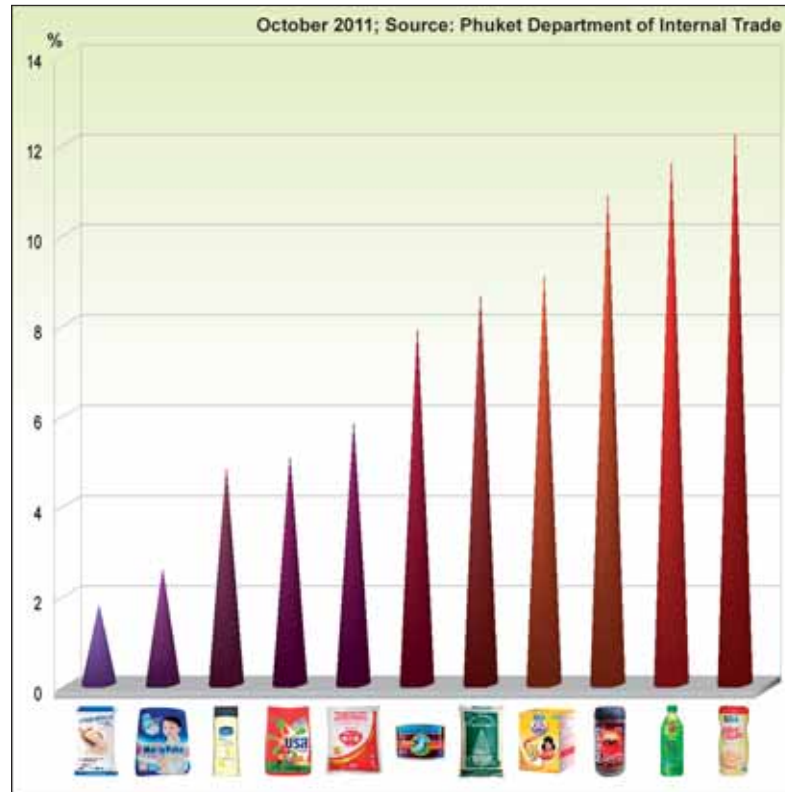
Asked where Super Cheap sources its produce from, Purchasing Manager Kwanruen Talungjit said, "We usually get our fruit and vegetables from Talad Thai and Simummuang Central Market in Pathum Thani, and Sri Muang Market in Ratcha Buri."

"Since the flood has affected the two markets in Pathum Thani, now we can only get fruit and vegetables from Sri Muang Market," she said.

"There are some local distributors we get vegetables from, but we only buy local southern vegetables from them. We still have plenty of fruit and vegetables for sale, but we don't know how long we can keep sourcing from Ratcha Buri."

"Transportation is a big problem. Since we have to rely on the delivery truck from Bangkok, I'm not sure how long they can operate their service," she said.

Governor Tri asked for cooperation from retailers. "The prices of all products at all stores are to remain the same...if it's necessary to raise prices, please don't raise them too much. People are already suffering from the crisis," he said, adding that the government is in the

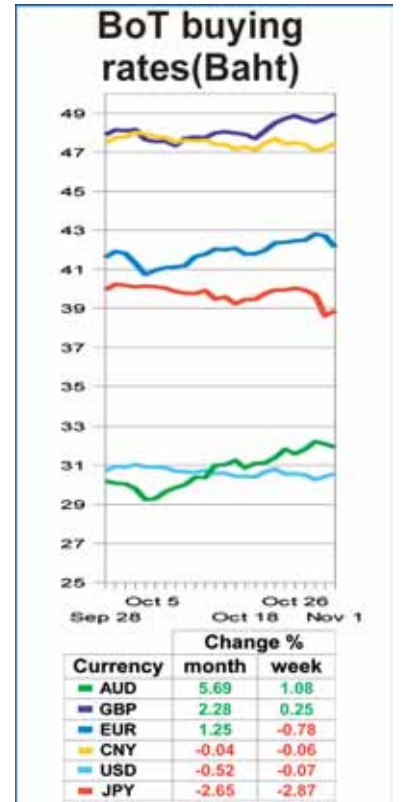


INFLATING: As flood waters rise in Bangkok, so do prices in Phuket.

process of importing some consumer products from abroad.

Phuket Internal Trade Office chief Supatcha Boonpalit told the *Gazette* that everything should be back to normal within a month and urged consumers not to panic.

"Big C will be now be importing bottled water from Malaysia," she said. "Other Phuket retailers such as Super Cheap have reported that they have found alternative supply sources for the time being," she added, explaining that price increases are justified when retailers can show that their base costs have in fact increased. "Penalties are intended only for unfair price gouging," she said.



Commodities		
Item	Current	Month Change %
Rubber*	101	-8.91
Gold**	25,100	2.99
Gasohol 91	33.78	2.96
Benzine 91	36.8	2.72
Gasohol 95	36.81	2.72
Diesel	28.43	1.76

*Local price for raw black rubber per kg. source = Office of the Rubber Replanting Aid fund
 **price per Baht unit (15,244 grams) for bar of Thai gold 99.5%. Source = Department of Internal Trade

THAI launches direct flights between HKT and CNX, ICN, CPH

THAI Airways International (THAI) last week launched direct flight services between Phuket and Chiang Mai, as well as Seoul, and are set to launch direct flights from Copenhagen starting next week.

On October 30, the national carrier began daily direct Phuket Chiang Mai flights, serviced by a 247-seater 46 Royal Silk Class and 201 economy Airbus 300-600. Flight TG214 is scheduled to depart Phuket daily at 4:25pm and arrive at Chiang Mai at 6:20pm, while the return leg (TG129) departs from Chiang Mai at 1:40pm with an estimated arrival time in Phuket of 3:35pm.

On November 1, THAI began services for three weekly flights per leg between Phuket International Airport and Seoul's Incheon International Airport using an Airbus 330-300 with 42 Royal Silk

Class and 263 economy seats. Flight TG654 departs Phuket on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10:25pm, arriving at Seoul the next morning at 6:25am local time. Flight TG655 departs Seoul at 8:15am and arrives in Phuket 1:05pm, local time. Check ThaiAirways.com for flight fares and availability.

THAI will launch thrice-weekly direct flights from the Danish capital of Copenhagen this Friday (November 11).

The first Boeing 747-400 flight is already booked, with 336 passengers inboard. Prasert Tanhan, sales manager at Thai Airways, said future flights were already almost all fully booked.

Flights will leave Copenhagen on Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays at 20:45 and arrive in Phuket at 13:20 the following day.

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Google in English online all the time

HOW many times have you typed google.com in a browser's address bar and ended up at google.co.th? Let me show you how to fix Google so it won't do that any more – and at the same time, show you how to set up your favorite web browser so it brings up the pages you want, whenever you start it.

The general Google location-altering drill goes like this. You navigate to google.com (possibly by typing google.com in your browser's address bar). Google looks to see if there's a cookie for your browser on your computer and, if there is, whether the cookie has a preferred location. If there's no cookie, or the cookie doesn't say you want to go to google.com (or google.co.uk or google.com.au or ... whatever), Google looks at your IP address – kind of like your phone number – and figures out where you're located. Without specific instructions to the contrary, you're sent to the Google home page for the country you're in.

That's how you end up going to google.co.th. Either your browser doesn't have a cookie set specifying which location you prefer, or the person who used the browser before you went to google.co.th and left the cookie pointing there. Cookies can get wiped out for all sorts of reasons, some intentional, so it's entirely possible that you'll be tossed to google.co.th rather randomly on occasion.

If you end up at google.co.th, and click the link at the bottom that says English (see the screen shot), you don't go to google.com. You got to an English-language version of google.co.th. That may sound academic, but it isn't. Google.co.th gives



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

different search results from google.com, no matter which language you use.

There's a trick. If you want to force your browser to go to google.com, you need to type this in the browser's address bar: **www.google.com/ncr**.

The "ncr" stands for "No Country Redirect." When you type that in the address bar, you always end up at google.com – and if cookies are enabled in your browser, Google sets a cookie to make sure you go back to google.com every time.

But wait. There's a better trick. I set up all of the browsers that I use so they go to google.com/ncr every time I start them. That way I don't have to manually type google.com/ncr (or remember the "ncr" part) whenever somebody else uses the PC. As soon as I start the browser, it automatically brings up the Google main page, and resets Google so it's always in English.

I also set my browsers up to automatically show the *Phuket Gazette* home page, Bill Barnett's *The Phuket Insider* page, and the *Phuket Internet Speed Reporting* site, every time I start them. It's easy.

First, make sure you have the latest version of whatever browser you happen to like: Internet Explorer 9, Firefox 7, or Chrome 14 are the most common choices. Download and install the latest version if you don't already have it.

Go into your browser and open up tabs for the sites that you want to make your



I'M FEELING LUCKY: The Google page in Thai. It's great if you can read Thai, but for most of us the English version is easier to handle.

"Home" pages. In IE, click the gray box to the right of the last tab, and you'll start a new tab. In Firefox or Chrome, click the big + to the right of the last tab, to get a new tab. I set up tabs for each of these sites:

<http://www.phuketgazette.net>

<http://www.thephuketinsider.com>

<http://www.google.com>

<http://www.phuketinternetspeed.com>

You may want to add a few of your own. Go right ahead. When you have the tabs you want, you have to tell the browser to set those tabs as your "Home." The method for doing that is different in each browser.

In IE, click the gear icon in the upper right corner – to the right of the star – and choose Internet Options. Click the General tab. Click Use Current. You should see each of your tabs listed in the box. Here's the tricky part. Change the Google line so it reads <http://www.google.com/ncr> then click OK.

In Firefox, click the Firefox icon in the upper left corner and choose Options, then Options (yes, a second time). On

the General tab, click Use Current Pages. Then you have to go in after the <http://www.google.com/> entry and type the characters ncr (no following slash), without disturbing the weird character (called a "pipe" character) that looks a little bit like a number 1. Click OK.

In Chrome, click the wrench (spanner) in the upper right corner and choose Options. In the box at the top, click on the Google line and change it so it reads <http://www.google.com/ncr> – and you're done. Chrome's easy to change.

Now test to make sure you got the home tabs set up correctly: exit your browser and start it again. It should appear with all of your chosen pages in their own tabs, and with Google fired up at google.com, ready to go.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Follow him on Twitter: @PhuketPC, "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppes, or visit his free Sunday morning computer clinics at Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

The conundrum of negative returns

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

I OFTEN mention that I prefer to err on the side of caution and in keeping more money in cash than one thinks they should at the present time. Since the mind often thinks in terms of missed opportunities, when considering

the future one often thinks of missing out on positive returns, when the reality is that this cash will often be missing out on negative returns over certain periods.

In terms of growing wealth, if you can miss the negative returns, you will likely end up with a larger pot even if you miss the largest returns. Chasing the highest returns dramatically increases the odds that you will realize a large loss. Keep in mind I am talking about a portfolio as a whole, as there is a place within a portfolio for funds which can achieve large returns, but these need to be a very small allocation relative

to the rest of the portfolio.

The chart attached demonstrates why this is so. One would think that if one was able to achieve large positive returns such as 50%, that some equally large negative years wouldn't be a big deal, since our brains naturally want to make the mistaken assumption that they would offset each other. However, the larger the negative return realized means the return required to get back to even grows by an ever increasing rate. To end up with good growth, large returns are not needed if one can avoid any serious drawdowns on their

portfolio. This is why I am such a big proponent of assembling portfolios in a manner as to attempt to smooth out overall returns as much as possible rather than simply going for the largest return if it turns out the assets are highly correlated (meaning they go up and down together, so are likely to cause the entire portfolio to take a large loss if that asset class, such as stocks, performs poorly).

If your portfolio takes a 50% hit, it will need a 100% return to get back to even. If you have been an investor in the last decade you surely know how difficult it is to double your money without taking on excessive risk. I really hope that those of you who are invested heavily in gold do understand that the current gold trade will inevitably end in the same manner as that of the dot com era stocks, and I recommend scaling out of your holdings until they are at a level where a crash won't cause too much pain. Otherwise I wish you good luck in trying to pick the top and get out before then. Although I admit there could be plenty of room to run still, one should not confuse "trading" and "investing". I used to be a professional trader and I know for certain that retirees should have

If the DECLINE is:	It takes the following GAIN to break even:
-25%	+33%
-33%	+50%
-50%	+100%
-75%	+300%
-90%	+900%

no business in trading unless it is with money they can afford to lose.

Even a drawdown of 33% requires a 50% gain to get back to square one, I hope you can see how much easier your money can get away with working if you limit the steps backwards. Of course one can't get return without taking risks, and even if one looks for assets that have historically balanced each other out, there are always periods where this relationship changes temporarily and it seems like everything is going down simultaneously. While this is the case, you will still achieve much smaller negative returns in your portfolio by mixing in funds which employ different strategies than the traditional long only mutual fund.

David Mayes MBA provides wealth management services to expats throughout the world and specializes in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at E:david.m@faramond.com

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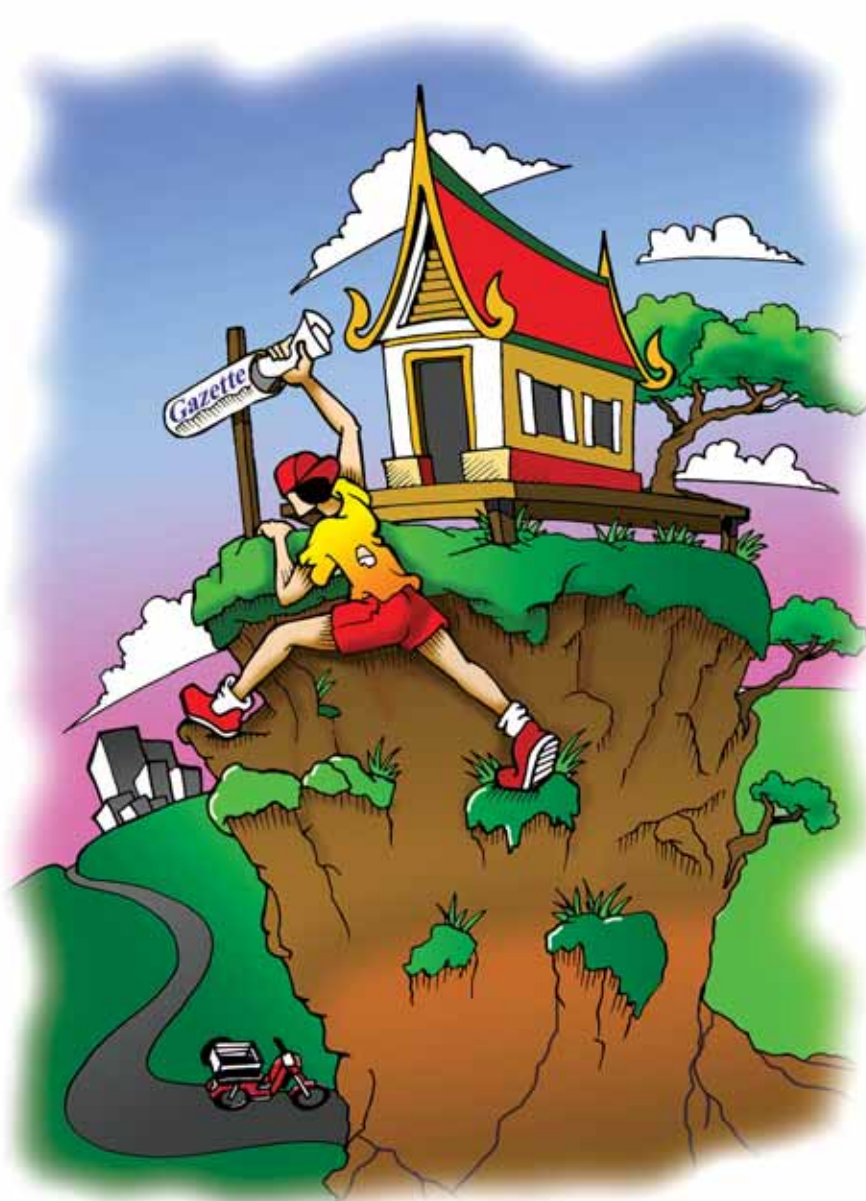
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Sea gypsies gain ground

After decades of struggle, Phuket's sea gypsies may soon be allowed back into their ancestral fishing waters.

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

SEA gypsy communities for centuries lived freely off the abundant sea life in Andaman waters with an unyielding respect for the source of their nourishment and an innate commitment to environmental preservation.

With industrial development, tourism growth, the creation of new technologies and the arrival of big-business fishing, calls for regulation and environmental activism led to the creation of "marine preservation zones".

The sea gypsies seem to have lost out on all sides of the environmental debate and have seen their fishing territory gobbled up by commercial fishermen, luxury hotels and the government, which has designated protected areas off-limits to fishing.

In recent years, the sea gypsies of Phuket have been fighting

to regain their rights to fish in traditional areas with some tangible results on the horizon.

A meeting last month, chaired by Phuket Deputy Governor Chaiwat Taephee, was held to seek a sustainable solution to what all sides have recognized as a real threat to a traditional way of life.

In 1969, The Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office (PPFO) designated almost 30,000 rai of Phuket's coastal and island areas as marine preservation zones.

All collection or harvesting of sea life in those areas – unless directly involved with academic research – became illegal. As the preservation

areas are mostly along the coastline, this created a problem for locals who made their living by fishing near their communities.

"We have been fishing in these areas for more than 100 years – this is how we earn our living. We don't use any illegal equipment, so I don't understand why we have to change our entire way of life because of these laws," local representative of the traditional fishing group Sutha Prathep Na Thalung said.

"Our boats are very small, so we can't fish too far from shore. Even a small wave can capsize them, so we have to fish close to the coast – we have no choice," he said.

Kawi Saranakhom-kun, of the PPFO, said the protected area is about five per cent of Phuket's total sea area.

"The PPFO created these areas in order to protect marine life. Even though there aren't many animals living in the protected areas, they are rich in seaweed and corals, which are great places for fish and other creatures to lay their eggs," he said.

However, the sea gypsies are struggling to avoid fishing in the protection zones.

"I remember why these areas became preservation areas. Back in 1969, the Danish government wanted to give the PPFO the funding to establish a marine research center, but they couldn't give them the funding unless the research center was in a 'preservation area', so they had to create them," said Mr Sutha.

"I think these areas should never



A sea gypsy operates a longtail boat, which are used by the community for fishing. Photo: Jim Welch

have been turned into protected areas – there isn't a lot of seaweed or coral there," Mr Sutha said.

"Even the marine creatures are too small to catch and sell at the market for a good price, but we have to go there, because everywhere else commercial fishing boats catch all the fish before us.

"We try to stay away from the preservation areas, but the other areas are mostly owned by fancy hotels and resorts along the beach," Mr Sutha said.

"I know that beaches are supposed to belong to the public, but many times when we have been collecting shellfish close to a hotel, security guards have chased us away or threatened us with their guns. I don't know where we are supposed to earn our living," Mr Sutha said.

Sarod Pramongkit, a represen-

tative of a Koh Sireh sea gypsy community, told a similar tale of being chased off beaches near luxury hotels.

"I wish the government would allow us to fish in the preserved areas. We never use any equipment that can damage coral," he said.

The idea of issuing special identification cards for sea gypsies – which had been mooted in the past – was once again brought to the meeting. Proponents hoped that the identification cards would protect sea gypsies from being arrested while fishing in preservation areas.

"This is against the law," Mr Kawi of the PPFO said, referring to the ID card proposal.

"It's unfair to others if we allow sea gypsies to fish in preserved areas. Everyone should have the same rights and a special identification card is not the right solution," he said.

Mr Kawi emphasized that the best way to resolve the situation was to give equal rights to everyone. He suggested that sea gypsy communities list the types of fishing equipment they intend to use in an effort to create a system of permits allowing anyone to fish in protected areas, as long as they used proper equipment.

"As long as none of [the equipment] is illegal, I can write a letter to the Phuket Governor, who can then take the issue to the Department of Fisheries in Bangkok to get approval for everyone to fish and earn a living in the preserved areas," Mr Kawi said.

"Nobody wants to break the law – we just don't have any other

option. If there is any way we can make it right, I'll be happy to follow the law," said Mr Sutha.

"I used to think it would be easier if they just repealed the laws that protected the areas along the coast, but I realized we would lose more than we would gain by doing that. If they were 'free zones', everyone would come to make use of the resources, then we would have less opportunity to find fish – commercial fishing boats can catch a lot more than we do.

"I think controlling the type of equipment is the best solution to the issue, but we have to make sure that non-sea gypsy people or commercial fishing boats who

want to fish in this area have to use the exact same tools we use," he added.

Mr Sarod of the Koh Sireh sea gypsy community is more skeptical.

"It's not fair to allow everyone to be able

to fish in the protected areas, even with equipment requirements. This means that more people will be using the only resource we have," he said.

Mr Kawi said that this is just a short-term solution and that he hopes to see more "artificial coral" built to create new fishing areas.

"The PPFO has gotten approval for a three-million-baht budget to build 500 artificial coral areas under the sea about 1.3 kilometers off Bon Island," he said.

"If we can provide sea gypsies with more places to fish, they will not invade preserved areas. We hope to provide one artificial coral reef for each sea gypsy community so they can have a place near the shore to legally make a living," he added.



Traditional 'po' fish traps on Koh Sireh



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INVITED TO VOLUNTEER: Jet-ski operators rescuing a flood victim and delivering food rations.



HEROES: Somporn Khanpakdee (left) and Somkid Kueanun, head of Patong Jet Ski Club (right).

Jet-skiers play good samaritans

By Chaiyot Yongcharoenchai

IN A humanitarian effort, 13 members of the Patong Jet Ski Club traveled from Phuket to the flooded regions in and near Bangkok where they used jet-skis to rescue more than 600 people, and distribute emergency food rations to stranded victims who were unwilling to leave their homes.

Somkid Kueanun, a 36-year-old Phuket native and head of both Patong Jet Ski Club and Patong Life Guard Group, accepted the invitation from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation to help the flood victims in the affected areas of Bangkok. They ran a rescue operation from October 17 to October 23.

"I received an invitation from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation to bring my jet skis to help flood victims in the central part of Thailand. They had offered to transport the club's jet-skis to Bangkok for us, and cover

all expenses for the mission," Somkid said.

Somkid then asked all of the jet ski operators in his jet-ski club to see if anyone was willing to help. They did not hesitate to volunteer. "In 2004, when the tidal wave hit Phuket and other provinces in the south, we received so much help from everyone. I thought it was time for us to repay their generosity," he added.

The thirteen Patong Jet Ski Club members loaded nine jet skis onto trucks and took them to Bangkok.

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation provided them with a ten-wheeler truck to transport their jet-skis. They drove three of their own trucks there as well.

"We left Phuket on October 17 and arrived at the flood relief center at Don Muang Airport on October 18. When we arrived, there was chaos. We wasted a whole day trying to figure out who to contact. Finally, the Mirror Foundation told us where we

could start our rescue mission," Mr Somkid remarked.

Mr Somporn Khanpakdee, a 34-year-old man from Phang Nga, is one of the members of the jet-ski club who went to Bangkok.

"Our mission started at the Navanakorn community in Prathumthani province. Our main goal was to relocate the flood victims to a safer place. When we first arrived, the water was already up to our waists. When we were done for the day, around 8pm, the flood water was around 2 meters deep. In that one day we rescued about 600 people from the area," affirmed Mr Somporn.

There were a few obstacles, but the mission was a success. The main problem was that debris in the water was constantly getting caught in the jet-ski propellers. They had to jump off the jet skis and dive into the water in order to clear the propellers. "I can't tell you how disgusting the water was," he added.

On subsequent days of the mission, the team transported the sick and elderly to safety, and distributed food rations to those who were unwilling to leave their homes.

"We went to Wang Noi and Bang Pa In in Ayutthaya, and Bang Bua Thong in Nonthaburi on the following days. We went there to rescue people from their homes and to provide them with food rations," said Somporn.

Unfortunately, there were a few profiteers who threatened violence against the team for relocating victims without charging them a fee. "The biggest problem we faced was some local long-tail boat operators who were charging people for transporting them to safety. They got upset with us and threatened us with a gun because we were helping people for free. They felt that we were stealing their customers," he disclosed.

"We are done with our mission, but there's still a lot of we could do.

We returned to Phuket late on October 22, but we all felt we should have stayed longer. If anyone could provide us with a ten-wheeler truck to carry our jet skis back to Bangkok, we would gladly return there," announced Mr Somkid.

When asked if they were motivated to help the flood victims in order to improve the image of jet-ski operators in Phuket, he quickly responded, "We don't care about our image. We didn't do this to change anyone's attitude toward us. We just wanted to offer help to those in need. After all, we're all Thai, and no one should be left on their own in such a difficult situation."

Phuket is one of the fortunate provinces that was not directly affected by the recent natural disaster. With enough resources and an ample food supply, Phuket's inhabitants, like Mr Somkid, can find innovative ways to help those people now suffering around Thailand.






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Rotary Club of Tongkha



ALL FOR CHARITY: RCT members advertising their wares for sale.

THE Rotary Club of Tongkha (RCT) is an organization involved in many social charities with a focus now on Thailand's flooding.

Many provinces in Thailand are seriously affected by the current inundation and great suffering is being endured by the people living in these areas. Homes are being evacuated and factories are closing down. The distress and hardship caused by this disaster is being exacerbated by shortages of food and other daily necessities.

The RCT wishes to invite the public to be a part of their efforts in assisting

the victims of this tragedy.

By visiting their charity shop in the Phuket Indy Market at the Limelight Avenue every Thursday and Friday and buying donated items, the RCT will donate all the funds raised for victims of the floods – without any deductions.

In addition, the RCT will gladly accept donated articles to include in their sales drive.

The shop is open from 5pm until 10pm every Thursday and Friday, starting October 27 until the end of November.

Hats on for charity

THE Melbourne Cup, the horse race that stops a nation [Australia] was celebrated in style at Andara & Villas in Kamala, on November 1.

Anticipation was high before the race, and once the gates opened guests cheered for their favourites with Dunaden winning the Melbourne Cup in a thrilling photo finish, one of the closest finishes in the race's history.

No Melbourne Cup event is complete without glamour and glitz and this year's guests were dressed to impress for the Fashion on the Fields competition. There were fantastic prizes up for grabs from

Paresa, Andara and Phuket Pavillions. The stylish winners were: best dressed female – Anna Cato; best dressed male – Leon Coburn; best hat – Ido Haddon and best model Nathan Chilcott.

With Garry Holden as MC and Jay Leshark on the decks the event was a great success and raised approximately 420,000 baht for the Soi Dog Foundation and Barnhem Munag Mai Orphanage.

Both charities have chosen to give all proceeds to the Bangkok Flood Appeal.

The event was co-sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTv among others.



AND THEY'RE OFF: All eyes are on the race televised live at Andara. Photos: Christian Mouchet



Amrita Sarkar.



Ido Haddon sports her winning hat.



Debbie Dionysius was pretty in pink.



Cristy Baker and Gary Holden.

double take

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A mission of madness

Books

By James Eckardt

EVERY grade school student is familiar with the epic voyage (1497-1499) of Vasco da Gama from Portugal around the Horn of Africa to India.

What they are not so familiar with is the gruesome tale of naval bombardments, sea battles, siege, sack, piracy and mass mutilations that would follow. Launched only five years after the first voyage of Columbus to the New World, da Gama's arrival in India was the tipping point in the Christian West's struggle against the Muslim East. And Iberia was the natural launching pad, its rulers having only recently expelled the Moors. Worldly Venice might trade in Egypt for Asian spices, but crusading Iberia meant to snatch that trade away from the Muslims.

This is a story told with great flair and serious scholarship by Nigel Cliff in his *Holy War* (HarperCollins, New York, 2011, 547pp), subtitled 'How Vasco da Gama's Epic Voyages Turned the Tide in a Centuries-old Clash of Civilizations'.

As the title implies, the author must dutifully trot the reader through a canned history of the land and sea battles of the Mediterranean, the rise of Islam and the Crusades. But once da Gama takes off on his three small ships in 1497 bound for India, the story picks up pace, suddenly awash with the color, splendor and danger of unknown lands and peoples.

"They were not just traveling for the pleasures of discovery or the profits of trade: they were sailing to convert and conquer in

the name of Christ, the author observes. "Religious passion joined to the opportunity for epic plunder was a lethally galvanizing combination, and it would draw the Portuguese inexorably on to India and beyond."

It was no accident that the Portuguese sails were emblazoned with red crusader crosses. They were part of the same strategy that sought to expel the Muslims from Europe, North Africa and, eventually, Jerusalem.

As Portuguese ships slowly picked their way over decades down the west coast of Africa, the Arabs were already long estab-

lished along the east coast, operating a string of trading towns for gold, ivory and slaves. The reception that da Gama met in these far-flung outposts varied, but his country's long-term intentions did not: the Portuguese aimed to oust the Muslims and establish a string of fortified trading posts along the coasts of Africa, India and the Far East.

At first, they were woefully unprepared for the task. After incredible hardships, Vasco da Gama's bedraggled little fleet reached the fabulously wealthy Calicut on the west coast of India, only to find the ruler, his

nobles and the leading Muslim merchants turning up their noses and laughing out loud at the pitiful trade goods they put on display. What use had they for woolen cloth, red caps and tiny brass bells?

The Portuguese did have one technological advantage: naval artillery. When Da Gama returned on his second voyage, his nineteen ships laid waste to the Indian coast. They had no qualms about burning and sinking the Miri, a huge merchant vessel packed with men, women and children returning from the haj to Mecca.



Vasco da Gama lands at Calicut on May 20 1498. Ernesto Casanova



CRUSADERS: Vasco da Gama sports a red crusader cross leading Portugal's religious missions which eventually succumbed to mercenary greed. Photo by Anthony Preston

"The dehumanizing notion that their enemies in faith were somehow not real people was too deeply ingrained to the shaken," Cliff writes. "Like holy warriors before, they avoided looking into the whites of their victims' eyes and got on with their godly business." Later admirals seized Hormuz and Aden and bottled up the Arabian Gulf and the Red Sea. The Arab spice trade dwindled to nothing as the Portuguese advanced further east taking Malacca, the Spice Islands and Macau.

In the process, they lost their crusading fervor to advance on Jerusalem and settled down to enjoy their loot. It took a century before the superior warships of the Dutch and the English picked off their coastal prizes that stretched from Hormuz to Goa to Malacca. At its conclusion, the glorious Portuguese Age of Discovery is revealed as

a squalid tale of greed, violence and treachery all in the service of the Portuguese king's mad idea of weakening the Arab world to the point where Jerusalem could be surrounded and captured in the name of Christ.

Millions of Asians and Africans paid dearly for that vision. "The clash between East and West has consistently been as creative as it has been destructive," Cliff concludes. "The one thing it has never been is stilled, and dogmatists and diehards of all stripes have soon enough found themselves left behind. In the end, the religious certainty that drove Vasco da Gama and his fellow explorers halfway around the world was also their undoing. For all their astonishing achievements, the idea of a Last Crusade, a holy war to end all wars, was always a crazy dream."



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Harin Sukavat

ALTHOUGH not a native of Phuket, Harin Sukavat, writer and advisor of the Phuket Thaihua Museum, cares deeply about the island's welfare.

"I am worried about the people's refusal to believe that our economy, which is heavily influenced by tourism, will not survive the basic law of evolution. One day the tourists will stop coming to Phuket. And what will we do?" asks Harin.

The writing was on the wall, he says, as early as 1912 when the first governor of Phuket, the visionary Phraya Rasada, encouraged diversification of the mining industry, which at the time was the main livelihood of Phuket, and laid a foundation for the development of commerce, finance and agriculture.

A native of Thonburi province, young Harin enrolled in Thailand's top art institution establishment of the time, Silpakorn University, to study interior design. As the leader of the students union, he was outspoken, radical and rebellious. In short, he was not popular with the authorities and, as a result, dropped out after one year.

He took a job delivering newspapers and rode his scooter all over Bangkok. The publishing house for whom he worked was owned by Thailand's most prominent writer and statesman Sulak Sivaraksa. Writing must have been in his blood as, over time, Harin worked his way

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

up through the ranks to become the manager and then the editor of the radical, but now defunct, paper *Wittaya Sarn*. According to Harin, he found his voice and has been writing ever since.

As an editor, he lasted for five years before the newspaper was closed down by the government with its publisher facing numerous charges, including lese majeste. Harin and his wife moved to Phuket into a large house on Chaofa Road. There, he rekindled his passion for art and turned his home into a gallery and also created a micro-community populated by local artists and craftspeople.

As his reputation as an art dealer grew, he convinced the Boat House and Meridian hotels to host regular art exhibitions and events that would become important to the island's creative landscape in the late 1990s.

"I had so much fun doing that, and because I knew so many artists, friends started to call me 'art mafia'," he recalls with a smile.

In 2005 Harin was invited by

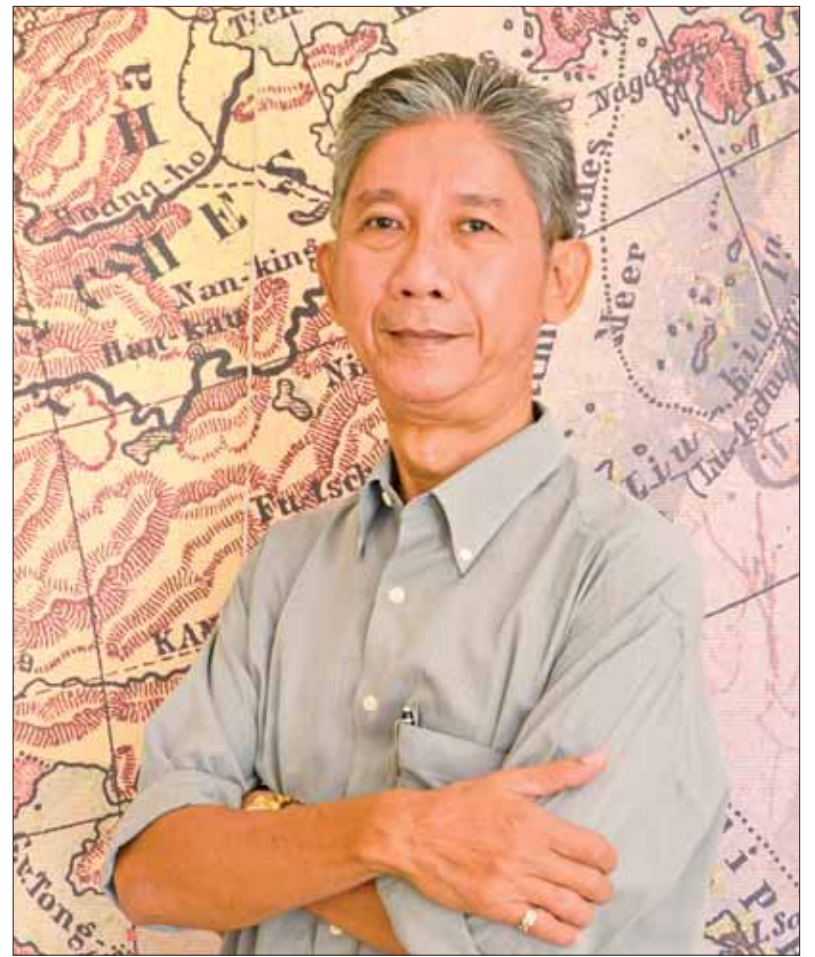
Kusol Dharma Foundation to be part of a team of experts responsible for the construction of a new museum in town. He was to look after the design of space and display information in the Phuket Thaihua Museum. Harin's skills as an organizer was put to full use, managing historians, linguists, architects, artists, designers, and craftspeople.

The Museum opened its doors in August 2010, and Harin deservedly became its first director. Under his management, the museum won the 2008 Royal Architectural Society's award and was listed by the National Discovery Museum Institute as the model museum for the southern region of Thailand in 2011.

Harin now acts as the museum's advisor as he wants to devote more time to his writing. Presently, he is the editor of the *Community and Mine*, a monthly magazine published in Bangkok.

Harin explains that other forms of mining including gems, minerals, coal, lime are still active all over Thailand, even if the mining of tin has long since stopped.

"The idea is to reverse the negative image of mining and increase awareness of this form of industry. We also want to encourage today's miners to run their businesses with sensitivity and be responsible for the environment," says the 55-year-old writer.



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.





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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

October 29 - November 12. Chang ITF Thailand Pro Circuit 2011 (Mens)

For the first time in Phuket, the Chang ITF Thailand Pro Circuit 2011 (Mens) will take place at the newly opened Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC). TSLC's six ITF standard-approved 'Plexicushion' tennis courts, with a "Cool-Lite" roof system covering four of them, is the perfect venue to host these elite players. The competition will be intense as all the players fight for ranking points and prize money. Venue: Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club from 8am to 7pm. Admission Fees: starting from 50 baht. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact: Virapol or Napapen at T:076-336000 E:virapol@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

November 1 - 6. Phuket Thailand Open 2011 powered by PTT Swatch Beach Volley Ball World Tour. The world's top beach volleyball womens teams will compete for total prize money of US\$190,000. Admission is free. Many supporting activities, including sponsor booths, clinics and events for local kids. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are charter sponsors for this event held from 9am to 5pm at Karon Beach. Contact: Geoffrey Rowe at T:02-3113414 E:geoffrey@pentanglepromotions.com or visit W:pentanglepromotions.com.

November 1 - 7. Crab Festival Come and join us for dinner and some crab cracking fun from 6



November 11.
Phuket International Women's Club Annual Party

Save the date. This year's event will be held on Friday, November 11. From 6:30 pm to midnight at The Hilton Arcadia Resort & Spa Phuket. Contact: Carole Dux at T:076-316711. E:info@phuketiwc.com or visit W:phuketiwc.com.

to 10pm at DiVine Restaurant in Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. You will get your own bib and mallet and of course a basket brimming with the very best crab. Only 1,350 baht per person (exclusive of service charge and tax). Reserve your table soon to get those claw-crackers, as space is limited. Reservations at T:076-336000 E:divine@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com.

November 5, 19 and 26. Two Chefs Saturday Brunch

Welcome to our Saturday brunch that we serve every Saturday from noon to 3pm at Two Chefs Kata Center. We serve a big buffet with loads of Scandinavian specialties. Our popular musicians will enter-

tain you for the afternoon. All this for only 395 baht. Also drink what you want from our free flow options by just adding 300 baht. Reservations at T:076-330065 E:katacenter@twochefs.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

November 7 and 21. Cowboy Night

From 6pm to 2am, there's a large buffet inspired by the Old West. So come on down to Two Chefs in Kata. Enjoy the buffet for only 495 baht. With Francis & Ollie performing live music, it can't be anything but a success. Don't miss it. Reservations at T:076-284156 E:info@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

November 10. Loy Krathong Festival

Loy Krathong is one of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It's traditionally held on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A krathong is a small vessel made of banana leaves that contains flowers, a candle and incense sticks which is set adrift in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the river Goddess; and at the same time it gives you an opportunity to send away any bad luck that you may have experienced during the past year.

November 16. Two Chefs Tex-Mex Wednesday

Wednesday night means Tex-Mex at Two Chefs Karon, from 6pm to 1am. We set up probably the best Tex-Mex Buffet in Phuket at Two Chefs Karon Branch. For only 495 baht we are serving this great buffet. With great prices on the drinks and MJ & Megan at the mics, we can promise you a good party too. Don't miss it. Reservations at T:076-286479 E:karon@twochefs-phuket.com or visit W:twochefs.com.

November 17. BIS University and Higher Education Fair 2011

British International School (BIS) and local Thai school students and parents are invited to attend the fair and explore the many opportunities from noon to 5pm. This year it is expected there will be a very

diverse set of representatives from Australia, Europe including the UK, Canada, America, and of course many Thai universities. Contact: Bevin Clark at T:076-335555 E:bclark@bisphuket.ac.th or visit W:bisphuket.ac.th

November 18 - 20. Foundations of Ashtanga Yoga with Kimberly Roberts

Learn the practices of yoga and meditation with Kimberly Roberts. The practices will be adjusted to be appropriate for each level of student. No prior experience necessary. All levels are welcome. 3-day, 2-night packages start at 11,600 baht, including yoga, meals, access to fitness club, pool, and a complimentary spa massage. Program: November 18, 7-8pm: Introduction and Discussion. November 19, 9am-11:30am: Foundations of Ashtanga Yoga; 4-5:30pm: Moving into Meditation; and 5:30-6pm: Discussion/Q&A. November 20, 9-11:30am: Foundations of Ashtanga Yoga; 2-3:30pm: Moving into Meditation; 3:30-4pm: Discussion/Q&A. Contact: Napapen at T:076-336000 E:napapen.k@thanyapura.co.th or visit W:thanyapura.com/yoga-retreat.

November 20. PYSC Endeavour Trophy Regatta

This regatta is open to all Dinghy Classes and Beach Cats sailors not involved in the Phuket King's Cup Dinghy Series. Come early to rig boats and attend a skippers' briefing (9.30am) at the Clubhouse in Ao Yon. Racing starts at 10am. Classes: Optimist Topper (Junior, Youth and Adults), Laser Standard and Tasar Beach Cats. Crew needed and boats available for charter. Entry fee for members: 100 baht per person, non-members: 200 baht per person. This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*. Contact: Katyat T:085-2159185 E:phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com or visit W:phuketyouthsailing.org.

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VINES OF VIENNA: Austrian Ambassador Dr Johannes Peterlik and his wife Dr Ria-Ursula Peterlik were at the Dusit Thani recently to help promote Austrian wine. Dusit GM Peter Komposch is pictured (right).



HERE THEY COME: The RBL team arriving in Phuket.



RHAPSODY IN BLU: Radisson Blu recently held the opening party of their new Radisson Blu Plaza Resort, Phuket Panwa Beach with (from left) Mr Den Ferdinand V. Navarro; Director of Sales & Marketing of Radisson Blu Plaza Resort, Mr Andre De Jong; Senior Director Operations Thailand, Brunei and Bangladesh Carlson Hotels, Asia Pacific, Mr Peter Schiess; General Manager of Radisson Blu Plaza Resort and Miss Sangmanee Supasumrankit; Sales and Marketing Executive of Radisson Blu Plaza Resort.

YOUR Phuket



LONG ENOUGH? Officials struggled with one of the player's names at the Chang ITF pro circuit held in Phuket.

FLOOD RELIEF



LIFESAVERS: In response to an appeal in last week's Phuket Gazette, 15,000 baht in cash and 50 life vests have been donated to flood victims. The generous donors were the Yacht Haven marina, SEA Marine Services, and boat owners at the marina. Pictured here on behalf of the donors are Roger Goldsmith of SEA Marine (second left) and Marina Manager Nick Wyatt (far right). Receiving the donations are the Gazette's Events Manager Kanjana ('Jane') Sriboonsom (far left) and IT Manager Seubsak ('Big') Sahaworapun. The Gazette office in Koh Kaew serves as a drop-off point for donations to the flood relief efforts of the Rotary Club of Patong Beach who, in turn, ensure delivery direct to flood victims.



PEDAL POWER TO PHUKET: Ten riders representing the Royal British Legion and the Thai War Veterans Organization completed a 855-kilometer bike ride from Bangkok to Phuket, called the "Spice Roads Royal British Legion Big Push", raising over 510,000 baht for their charity.



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RICK OR TREAT: Halloween came early to the Rick 'n' Roll Music Cafe in Kata where the theme this year included pirates.



PRINCE OF DARKNESS: 'Ozzy' dropped in with his lady friend 'Amy' although they claimed to be Gary and Debbie Crause.



FRIGHTFUL: Zombies young and old were out way past their bedtime.



HELL-O: Sasichol 'Jeab' Thongnak, Director of Sales & Marketing Hard Rock Cafe Phuket (left) with her spooky friends at Hard Rock Cafe's Halloween night in the heart of Patong. Photos: PhuketBESTEVENT.



THRILLER: Sascha, as MJ, popped in to entertain his zombie fans.



Halloween



MONSTER MASH: Paul, Rianne and Sascha (right) rocked Rick 'n' Roll playing 'Zombie' and other raves from the grave.

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The Impossibly Possible Quiz

- Which animal name is the nickname of Prime Minister Yingluck?
- Which animal name is the nickname of ex-Prime Minister Taksin?
- The *Marriage of Figaro* is an opera by which Austrian composer?
- What yachting race was called the Hundred-Guinea Cup until a team from the US won the race in 1851?
- Among FC Phuket players, which foreign country is most represented?
- Which city is the most populous urban agglomeration in the world?
- Henry VIII allegedly married six times. How many of his wives did he have beheaded?
- What were the famous words spoken by Tom Cruise to his on-screen partner (Rene Zellweger) to win back her heart in the film *Jerry Maguire*?
- Two British composers produced a celebrated series of comic operas, including *The Pirates of Penzance*, between 1871 and 1896. Who were they?
- "Only time can heal your broken heart, just as only time can heal his arms and legs," was said by who?
- What is Australia's largest inland city?
- What computer device did Douglas Engelbart invent in 1963?

Provided by readersdigest.com.au

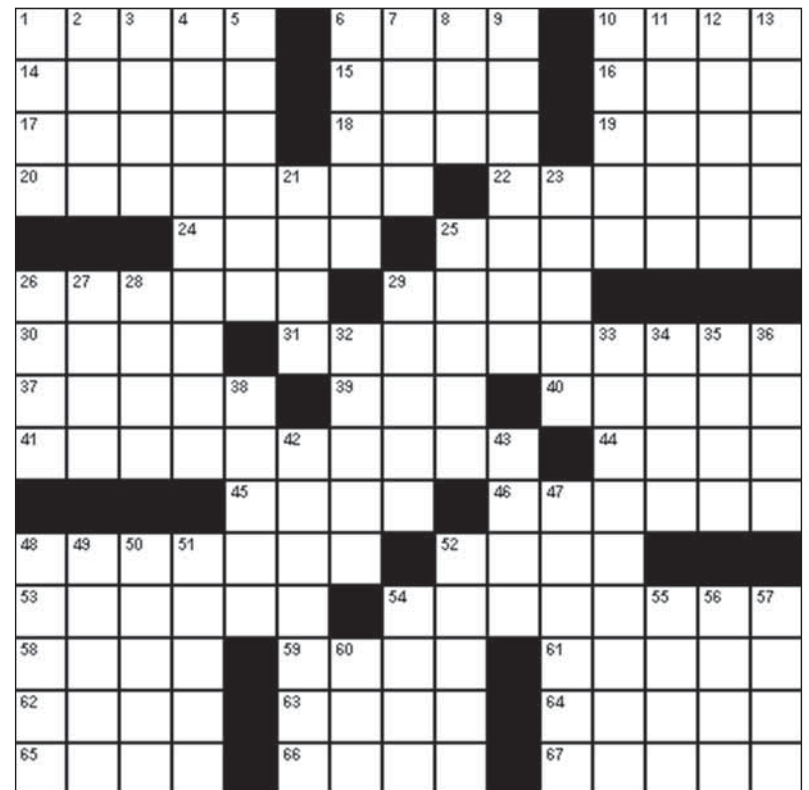
Quiz answers on page 39

Across

- Gives off
- Cave dwellers
- Moat
- Medicine
- Dos cubed
- Litter's littlest
- Latin-American dance
- London jail
- Suit to —
- Conceal
- Hang loosely
- Sardine containers
- 16th president of the USA
- Owl's cry
- Bird feed
- Islamic call to prayer
- Resembling rogues
- Backstreets
- Hosp. areas
- Dense
- Having three teeth
- Make-up artist?
- Gather, harvest
- Actress Mimieux
- Automobile shelters
- Quick look
- Uncovered
- Inform
- Carry on
- Fall short
- Small hand drum
- Prefix with plasm
- Peter Fonda title role
- Siouan speakers
- Faculty head
- Discounted by
- Like marshes

Down

- Kitchen addition
- Complain
- Hostelries
- Made tighter
- Smelting residue
- Counterfeit
- Mil. school
- Howe'er
- Military person
- Former French currency



- Money paid
- Fishhook line
- Dutch painter Jan
- Peeling potatoes, perhaps
- Cordillera of South America
- Minimum
- Cure, in a way
- Emperor of Russia
- Hindu princess
- Fragment
- Little bits
- Bottom of a flatiron
- Cease

- the crack of dawn
- Bronte heroine
- Suit fabric
- Necessary
- Baby blues
- Quantity which has magnitude and direction
- Pierced with horns
- Expeditiously
- Oscar de la —
- Composer Bruckner
- Heaps
- Conks out
- It's blown among the reeds
- Dog-powered snow vehicle
- New Orleans is The Big —
- Bass, e.g.

Provided by BestCrosswords.com

Puzzle solutions on page 39

SCORPIO (October 24-November 22): The stars recommend careful navigation for those born under the sign of Scorpio. Making a wrong move is highlighted mid-week and this could land you in deep water where work is concerned. This is an auspicious time to call in some favors, particularly from another water sign who you has helped recently. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead will be in a healthier financial position as the year progresses.

SAGITTARIUS (November 23-December 21): A decision opens the door to more freedom for those born under the sign of Sagittarius. The stars back this move, but advise that starting the way you intend to carry on will be important. Another fire sign is poised to steal your limelight late next week if you lose concentration. Lucky days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 20): Capricorns are forecast to be swept away on a wave of enthusiasm. After a rather non-eventful October, there are signs that November's strong energy will more than make up for this. The

only downside occurs on weekend when you could be encouraged to spend more than you can afford. An air sign knows how to put the pressure on and the stars suggest minimizing contact with this person until your bank balance is healthier.

AQUARIUS (January 21-February 19): Aquarians' tendency towards spontaneity won't please everyone. The stars indicate that at least one colleague's nose will be put out of joint by your carefree attitude. Where work is concerned, sticking to arrangements is advisable – acting on the spur of the moment should be saved for your social life. Your luck in romance with an earth sign is strong, but the stars forecast some heated moments with a fire sign partner.

PISCES (February 20-March 20): The stars advise Pisceans to pay careful attention at work as there is much to be learned from how more experienced people operate. Those lacking the necessary skills to climb the career ladder should receive inspiration to learn more. Where romance is concerned, it will take some perseverance to know what's going on with another water sign. Wednesday and Thursday are the best days to encourage them to open up.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

ARIES (March 21-April 20): Arians are best-advised to remain true to themselves. There are indications that an air sign may have the right tools to persuade you to act out of character. If this relates to business or personal finances, it would be best to wait until the middle of the month before making commitments. Romance also benefits from a cooling off period; a relationship with an air sign looks like it will be too hot to handle.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21): Taureans who have been feeling insecure about a work-related situation should have reason to relax. There are hints that another earth sign is about to put your mind at rest. Personal finances are fairly well-starred, although the stars advise that you could be palmed off with less than you deserve midweek. On the social scene, expect a fire sign friend to introduce you to a new activity.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21): Unexpected gains are forecast to make November a profitable month for those born under the sign of Gemini. A lucky break concerning finances should give you something to celebrate midweek. Where a personal goal is concerned, another air sign has the power to make this dream come true. Those who are single and seeking could find that a fire sign brings a ray of sunshine into their romantic lives.

CANCER (June 22-July 23): The stars show that some Cancerians are in danger of allowing an earth sign to have too much control over their life. If this relates to property agreements, it would be wise to take time out for reflection before commitments are made. In romance, separating fact from fiction will put a relationship with an air sign on firmer ground. Your lucky color is hot pink.

LEO (July 24-August 22): Leos who have more responsibility in the world of work could have to make some tough decisions this week. The stars suggest that causing ripples will be unavoidable and a water sign is likely to rock the

boat. The astral atmosphere should calm down after the middle of November. Where romance is concerned, your sharp wit is a sure way to impress an earth sign this weekend. Lucky days for money are Wednesday and Thursday.

VIRGO (August 23-September 23): A minor energy crisis should give way to more productive days next week. However, many Virgoans will not be firing on all cylinders until middle of the month when the astral atmosphere encourages more energy. The stars suggest pacing yourself in the meantime to avoid burnout. A water sign can help you discover that you have more artistic talents than you think, early next week.

LIBRA (September 24-October 23): The stars recommend that Librans stop allowing other peoples' problems become their own. There are signs that you will have enough on your plate during the first half of the month without worrying on behalf of those close to you. Where personal finances are concerned, a surprise windfall should enable cash-strapped Librans to get back on their feet after the middle of the month. Wear the color turquoise to encourage better focus.

PROPERTY Gazette

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B558mn villa in Cape Yamu listed by Indigo

LUXURY living

V VILLA, a Jean-Michel Gathy contemporary architectural masterpiece, has just been put on the market by Indigo Real Estate for 558,000,000 baht.

This grand 4500-square meter villa, situated on a 16,000sqm plot of land on Cape Yamu Estate, includes a 100-meter private beach overlooking Phang Nga Bay.

The villa has seven bedrooms, all with ensuites, and a 40-meter

infinity swimming pool, one of the largest private pool in Phuket. It also has a gym with bay view, a state-of-the-art movie theater, a commercial style kitchen, and a suite of rooms to accommodate three live-in staff.

The interior was designed by Hong Kong-based interior designer, Debbie Oppenheimer. All indoor and outdoor living spaces are decorated with high ceilings, imported limestone floors and a range international building materials, so the structure stands as a unique work of architecture.

"We're very excited to offer this extraordinary Phang Nga Bay



FUSION OF THAI AND CONTEMPORARY DESIGN: The pool is one of the largest private pool in Phuket.

home which has a rare view of limestone karsts and the jewel-like islands that dot the horizon," disclosed Nick Anthony, Managing Partner of Indigo Real Estate.

Cape Yamu Estate is a private community set on a wooded pen-

insula overlooking the limestone islands of Phang Nga Bay. World renowned designer Philippe Starck and architect Jean-Michel Gathy, well known for his work with Aman resorts, have created a villa development that includes

private residences with access to a fully equipped spa and restaurant, and a variety of other luxury services.

Cape Yamu Estate will be completed in 2012 with the launch of Christina Ong's boutique hotel.

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WINDOW DRESSING: Soi Romanee is touted as part of a possible UNESCO heritage status.

Uncle Unesco meets Mr Disney



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

A GROWING global culture club of travelers has provided a steady stream of well heeled business to exotic destinations around the globe. Be it rain or shine, Madoff or whatever current pain is being suffered in their own home towns, these self-enlightened individuals, pairs or groups are a hotelier's dream – the kind that spend money.

Yes these are no ordinary arm-chair lounging types, but those who have mastered the “been there and done that” banter. Most sport more stamps in their passports than they can even start to list off.

UNESCO destinations have become a magnet for these elite urban guerrillas. Often seen plying the spice or trade routes of South America, Asia (or perhaps as some of the older ones call it The Orient), or the Middle East, this

movement leaves the more mundane off at the nearest bus stop.

Phuket Town (okay we know it's actually a City) has continued to be touted for possible UNESCO status. Though the news of late is that Thailand's Ministry of Culture has nominated Chiang Mai under a special city status for its creative crafts and folk art.

Never mind the island's core heritage of Sino-Portuguese architecture and age old Chinese influence, the country's north is of course very politically correct as of late. I'm not going to start ranting about that lazy Panda again like in past columns where my in box was filled with irate emails from animal activists and wizened expats no doubt shirking at some banana pancake stall, wearing *Birkenstocks*.

Yes, cliché s are the flavor of the day and we've got plenty. UNESCO is indeed a great tourism brand aid, but go deeper into 'cultural destinations' from Hue, to Luang Prabang and Siem Reap

and things start to move out of focus. Despite tasteful mini-vans from destination management companies abounding, the propensity for the globe trotting upper crust to taste the cavier off the bread and quickly discard the dough beneath is on show for all to see.

Packs of camera wielding gangs in these places are on view, chasing after anyone bearing a resemblance to a monk. On a recent trip to Laos I had donned a yellow tee-shirt and ultimately spent an entire day, dodging and weaving mobs of polo logoed granddads.

Cases of mistaken identities also happen when groups of locals sharing some animated conversation suddenly find themselves set upon by photo hungry 'snaphappies' who think it is a special religious festival.

Daily life in these destinations becomes a microcosm of photo opportunities. Click click, click click, see the culture, maybe a Wat or two, and yes throw a few coins to the locals. Then off in a cloud

of dust to the next dusty monument, of course assuming it won't be too garish or routine.

Residents of UNESCO destinations have become miniature mice in the rising swell of an overcrowded local Disneyland. On show, but nothing real or sustainable other than perhaps an appearance in a finely crafted coffee table book.

I'm not knocking the ambition of travelers to seek out culture, history and art, but more so the superficial and seven days, six nights approach that is now in vogue. Collecting destinations rather than taking time to understand, connect, and really take more away than some rather nice photos of a trip abroad is a distasteful trait.

Preservation of Phuket Town is a needed and necessary priority which should take on its own life outside of domestic Thai political agendas. But UNESCO is not the end solution, as what happens once the culture junkies move on to the next big thing is far more relevant.

Accessible attractions to a wide range of travelers, and a sustainable approach need to be the ambition here.

To put it succinctly, UNESCO yes, but Disney no.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through www.c9hotelworks.com.

In brief...

Jungceylon heads to Bangkok

JUNGCEYLON retail management group Phuket Square will plunge into the Bangkok market with a reported 300 million baht project set to unveil some time in early 2012.

Looking to replicate their success on the island, this time the product will be a community mall aiming at the lifestyle segment.

Christened as Mille Malle, the complex will be located on the frontage of the Millennium Residence on Sukhumvit Soi 20.

Meanwhile, for shoppers on the island, there is speculation about a new project, currently under planning, for a large scale commercial complex situated on Thepkasatri Road, on the west side of the road near to the Heroines Monument.

Samui airport expands terminal

BANGKOK Airways will be expanding the Koh Samui Airport with two new passengers halls due next year.

Reportedly a 50 million baht budget has been allocated and the airline expects to increase passengers handling with the new facilities.

Recent media stories have surfaced about a private group looking to establish a new airport on the mainland in Don Sak near to Surat Thani.

This is 45 minutes away from the aforementioned existing airport and is effectively that much closer to Samui.

Given the time, cost and scale needed to develop a new entry, logically the current Surat Thani airport should be a far more viable solution to aid the island's airlift problem.

Phuket's high cost of living

INFLATION is never a good thing, but recent hyperinflation has been reverberating around the island.

Of course, post Global Financial Crisis, the situation Phuket finds itself in is hardly unique as basic needs such as food continue to escalate through the veritable roof worldwide.

Thailand's Consumer Price Index (CPI) which covers all manner of commodities including food, electricity and water, housing, medical care, transportation, petrol, and education continue to grow.

With an outcry over the proposed increase to the island's minimum wage from its current figure to 300 baht, which now looks set to come on stream early next year, the move could be a double whammy to inflation and create a domino effect which will see benefits not only quickly eradicated, but perhaps worsening CPI levels.

– Bill Barnett

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Pullman Phuket Arcadia Nai Thon nears opening

By Neil Quail

CONSTRUCTION of the five star Pullman Phuket Arcadia began in October in 2010 on Nai Thon's headland and with the project completion target date of August approaching, marketing and recruitment proposals are scheduled for the end of this year.

Mr Maitree Narukapichai, the project owner representative and managing director of Villa Zolitude Resort and Spa in Chalong, detailed the structure and concept of this upcoming development to the *Phuket Gazette*.

"The new Pullman Phuket Arcadia is being developed on 40 rai of headland in the Nai Thon area. There is 68 rai available, the remainder of which will be used for further development in the future," Mr Narukapichai said.

The resort will comprise 281 rooms including three styles of guest room, superior, deluxe and seven pool villas. Each villa will have four large individual guest rooms over two storeys, but each room will consist of each its' own private facilities.

Of the seven private pool villas, six will be one-bedroomed and one two-bedroomed villa.

"The resort is constructed on a cliff and we do not wish to spoil the natural aesthetic qualities, so the structures will not extend above three storeys," Mr Narukapichai added.

International hotel management chain, Accor will control daily operations, as with the Hilton Phuket Arcadia and facilities will incorporate both leisure and corporate market requests.

A 200-seat capacity meeting room with three individual break out rooms will provide for business individuals alongside a

chill-out room a new concept of Pullman branding that will enable further networking. In addition, an Accor connectivity lounge – situated in the lobby area – will enhance commercial communications.

Resort leisure features include a gymnasium, five individual spa treatment rooms, two swimming pools (one of which is Olympic-sized) and a kids club while diners can avail of three outlets: an all-day international cuisine restaurant, an Italian restaurant and a delicatessen.

"Luxury resorts must be able to adapt and equipped to cater for all markets. During the high season we will focus on the leisure market such as families and couples. In the low season we can vary our focus towards MICE and more corporate markets," Mr Narukapichai explained.

The project has a budget of approximately 1.5 billion baht and is utilizing established Thai companies for all aspects of the development.

Construction is being managed by Bangkok firm, Powerline Engineering.

Habita who have worked on many other projects around Phuket including Sri Panwa and Anantara, have been employed as project architects and a contemporary Thai design style will be emphasized throughout the structure.

P49 DEESIGN are responsible for the interior design and are well known in Phuket for their influence on resorts such as Trisara.

P Landscape are contracted to shape the resorts exterior with notable examples of their work at the Paresa Resort and Malaiwana.

"I am confident in the collection of companies we have chosen to work with. Certainly, I consider our selections to be



HILLSIDE: CGI of the project from the rear.



Mr Maitree Narukapichai at Villa Zolitude.



VIEW FROM ABOVE: A CGI aerial overview of how the new Pullman Phuket Arcadia in Nai Thon will look once complete. Images courtesy of Mr Narukapichai

the lead in their respective categories in terms of experience, not only in Thailand, but also abroad," Mr Narukapichai said.

With sustainable energy technologies and eco-friendly constructs now being incorporated into many large developments, the Pullman Phuket Arcadia will employ sev-

eral options such as waste water recycling for their vast landscaping requirements.

"With the project aiming to be finished by August 2012, we hope to fulfill the needs of our target market and further enhance the goals and aims of tourism in Phuket," Mr Narukapichai explained



ON A ROLL: Martin Foster, Anthony Van Blerk and Tom Belcher.

ACG facility opens

FINAL preparations are being made for the visit of Singapore Cricket Club who will participate in the official opening of Phuket's new cricket facility, the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG), this weekend.

Work on a piece of land in Thalang donated by Mr Cooke began in April, and in just a few months has been transformed from barren waste into an idyllic "village green" for the island's cricketers.

This week saw the clubhouse house roof completed and the synthetic grass wicket laid which was supplied by the Cricket Authority of Thailand (CAT).

Tropical Landscape International (TLI) has been responsible for the outfield design and layout while also having assisted in the laying of the playing wicket - a delicate and intricate process. Tom Belcher of TLI

and Martin Foster of the Phuket Cricket Group (PCG) stuck to the task on Monday to ensure the facilities were in line for the opening weekend's events.

Mr Cooke spoke of his delight with the efforts of all that have endeavoured to have the ACG in a state of readiness as targeted a few months earlier.

"Progress on the clubhouse has been quite dramatic. Both changing rooms will be substantially complete as will the two ground floor toilets, in time for this weekend.

"We will be playing our first games on the ACG against a touring team from Singapore. This is a soft opening, but the ground floor of the clubhouse will be open to the public, and all are welcome to attend," Mr Cooke said.

– Neil Quail

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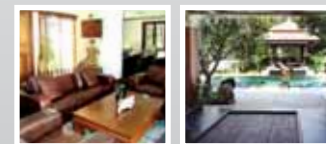
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FUNCTION AND FORM: Brownea, or scarlet flame bean, is practical for garden shade. Photo: Wmpearl



Sometimes Brownea branches need to be propped up. Photo: Wmpearl

It's all about looking pretty



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

IN THE next few weeks, this space will be devoted to small trees suitable for your Phuket garden.

The distinction between small trees and large shrubs is a blurred one. So what are the differences between shrubs and small trees?

Both are perennials, and both live for a number of years, but neither is a herbaceous perennial, as are fleshy plants such as *Dieffenbachia*, *Aglaonema* or even the banana, all of which lack permanent woody tissue in their stems.

Trees need these woody stems to support the heavy boughs and foliage of a large structure. Moreover both shrubs and trees renew their growth above ground: they do not have to put up new aerial growths from a rootstock every spring, but can sprout again from the previous year's branches.

Small trees will be defined here as woody plants rising well above human height. Usually they possess a single bole or trunk,

whereas large shrubs are normally bushy and produce a number of main stems: for example *Azaleas*, *oleanders*, or *Hibiscus*.

While such shrubs are generally better at providing overall cover in the garden bed, small trees, especially those with spreading canopies, are better at providing pockets of shade.

Thailand, which has extraordinary biodiversity, has a treasure-trove of small trees to choose from. Some are ornamental, with either decorative blooms or leaves (sometimes both); others are primarily functional, and provide edible fruit. A select few have all the virtues, like European apples, plums, or cherries. These trees are both beautiful and delicious.

Let's begin with the ornamental ones. *Brownea* is a small tree that does well here, but has somehow avoided mention in this column. Like the peacock flower, it is a legume that belongs to the *Caesalpinia* family – so, not surprisingly its fruit resembles a flattened, woody pod. This gives *Brownea* its common name 'scarlet flame bean'. When new,

Brownea's evergreen leaves hang limply like bundles of rags, at first bronze-colored, then cream and finally, erect and deep green in color. The blooms are also distinctive since they are grouped in heads that hang below the leaves. Pink, red or orange, the actual flowers are funnel-shaped and point downwards beneath a group of colored bracts.

In the case of *Brownea ariza*, the flowers are very large – up to ten inches across – but are sparsely scattered among the branches.

Capitella, which hails from equatorial South America, has attractive pink flowers with long, cream stamens. *Latifolia* is even more exotic, with brilliant red flowers, flaring petals and huge pink stamens with yellow anthers.

Brownea is a tropical *par excellence*, requiring

ample summer rainfall and plenty of humidity. It should be quite enjoying this year! A slow grower even under ideal conditions, it nonetheless satisfies two of our main criteria: one, both flowers and foliage are decorative; two, it is an excellent shade tree with a dense canopy.

Note, however, that the lower branches tend to sag towards the ground, and it may be necessary to raise them on props to allow viewing of the spectacular flower heads, as well to enhance the tree's shade value. It is predictably much in demand throughout hotter climates, particularly for use in lawns and courtyards.

Brownea is not the easiest tree to start. Sowing seeds may be the most effective method – if you can get hold of some – for cuttings are difficult to strike. It's best perhaps to track down a potted plant in a good nursery.



Brownea ariza

Tip of the week

Weed or a plant?

WEEDS are plants growing where gardeners don't want them to grow. They rob other plants of water, nutrients and sunlight, they can harbor pests and they look unattractive.

Some plants, such as bindweed, are regarded as pests wherever they grow; others are weeds only in specific situations such as when they invade a lawn.

Some plants spread so aggressively in the right conditions that they are considered weeds, especially climbers such as the butterfly pea or morning glory, and many varieties of grass.

Some ornamentals have gone beyond their native habitats, invading other environments where they have been introduced either by accident or design. Water hyacinth and water lettuce are pests in parts of America; *Lantana* and rubber vine are weeds in Queensland.

On the positive side, weeds can help hold soil together on steep banks, preventing erosion – something that is now an important consideration.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

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Detached house in Rawai 98sqm, 3 bedrooms. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

2-STOREY HOUSE IN PATONG

Sea view. 50 Pi Road, 49sq wah. 4 bedrooms with balconies, 2 bathroom, aircon, fully furnished. Chanote. Price: 17 million baht ono. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA

For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 7.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: yaris.vios@gmail.com

CONDO FOR SALE / RENT, RAWAI

26/56sqm, center Rawai. Nice and clean. Good price for long term. Tel: 086-112 1477 (Thai). Email: rawaireservation@yahoo.com

POOL VILLAS FOR SALE

2 houses with 4 bedrooms and 4 houses with 2 bedrooms, large pool, 2,600sqm land, auto gate. Urgent sale: only 31.5 million baht. Contact Matt. Tel: 084-851 6121. Email: phuketmat@yahoo.com

LAND FOR SALE IN RAWAI

1 rai with Chanote title. 5 minutes to Rawai beach in secure area. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms on top floor. Freehold. North Patong. Price: 8.9 million baht (reduced from 9.7 million baht). Tel: 086-276 5117. For photos, please email jihshand@gmail.com

BEAUTIFUL LAND NEAR BEACH

3 rai 40sq wah in Nai Yang. 6 million baht per rai. Contact Khun Nan. Tel: 087-091 8331. Email: chiangmaibeltrade@hotmail.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE

Bang Tao area, 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, large pool, fully furnished, auto gate, sat TV, ADSL. 650sqm land, house 380sqm. Urgent sale: only 8.8 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 bedrooms, bathroom, fully furnished, 350sqm land. Urgent sale: 3 million baht. Tel: 084-851 6121.

KRABI, AO NANG

Holiday homes, 1-2 bedroom pool villas. 3.8/4.8 million baht. For more info call 085-573 4734.

QUALITY BUILD PLOT FOR SALE

Quality build plot (400sqm), with planning consent to build your own 450sqm Thai home in quiet rural area of Rawai near Don's Cafe. Architect designs provided free of charge. Please email for more information, photos & designs. Email: gsutcliffe1972@gmail.com

HERITAGE PKT 18MIL

Beautiful house approx 800 sqm. Quiet, safe, family-friendly. Tel: 081-822 7571 (English & Thai). Email: wanliyap@gmail.com Full details at http://phuket-house-sale.blog.spot.com/

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, 60% finance, 0% interest, 40% deposit. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

LAND PLOTS FOR SALE

Peaceful location, near PIA school, next to Mission Hills golf course, 860sqm plots in an estate with underground electricity and security. For sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 081-343 0777.

A1 LOCATION B6.7MN

Patong central home. 2 bedrooms, quiet and neat - nothing to do. Live in or rent for high reason. Tel: 087-900 8445. Email: lozt@vic.chariot.net.au

ONE-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Near Laguna. Land 125sqm, building 83sqm, fully furnished, private pool 3.5m. Sale 5.5 million baht. Long-term rent 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-979 3369. Email: bhee@phuketrealty.net

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Taurus Travel

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Properties For Rent

CHALONG RESIDENCE SEAVIEW



Dream pool villa with 5 bedrooms all with en-suites on 1 rai of land. Big hall, office, maid room. Brand-new construction. Near Wat Chalong on the way up to hill. A huge 685sqm of living area, full. Fully furnished, modern European kitchen. Big seaview, pool, terraces include sala and attractive bar area. Security alarm system. Monthly long-term rent or by the week available. Full service. By owner directly. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. Email: schulz.th@gmx.de

2 PATONG STUDIOS AVAILABLE

For long-term rental, 25,000 per month. Free WIFI, maid, pool, gym. Close to town. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: phvcondo@aol.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Stylish serviced apartments. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Rooftop pool, Free WiFi. Also beachfront condo available. Tel: 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

LARGE HOUSE NEAR BIS SCHOOL

4-5 bedrooms, parking. Tel: 076-239435. Email: 4132john@gmail.com

KARON, DELUXE OCEAN VIEW

Condo. Furnished, 2.5 bedroom, kitchen. Available. Short or long term. Tel: 076-486624, 086-281 9311.

B.L. APARTMENT

New in Kathu. Big rooms, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, aircon, cable TV, ADSL, hot shower, garden, and car park. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-692 3163.

PATONG POOLSIDE APARTMENTS

1 & 2 bedroom. Free cable TV, maid, WiFi, pool & gym. Close to town. Call for showing. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

SURIN HOUSE AND GARDEN

3 bedrooms, 2 toilets, fully fenced with large garden. Good for pets and kids. Outdoor kitchen and living area. Tel: 075-664600, 086-941 0410 (English & Thai). Email: here@fastmail.fm Please see website <http://see.rental.here.fastmail.fm/>

450 B/DAY OR 11,000 BAHT/MONTH



1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, shared pool, fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, fridge, kitchen. Cheap lease with private financing for foreigners (10-30 years). 100,000 baht yearly rent. 200 meters from Rawai Pier. Tel: 089-054 5271. Email: phuket7@yahoo.com Website: www.thaidreamvilla.com



houseinphuket.com

Rent or buy a house on my island? Maybe I can help you. My name is Wellita

LUXURY HOLIDAY VILLA

6-bedroom villa on unspoiled Natai Beach. Only 20 mins drive from Phuket Airport to the north. Personal staff service during stay. Please contact us for more details. Tel: 081-970 7019. Email: stay@villasundara.com

PRIVATE VILLA/CHERNG TALAY

for short-term rent/long-term lease. 220sqm, 3 bed, 3 bath, kitchen/living/dining/laun/2 car parks, WiFi, aircon, sat TV, pool, tennis court. Fully furnished. Secure quiet location. 38,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-874 3040. Email: taibowman@hotmail.com

RENT NEW APARTMENT

Patong condo. Pool, security 24/7. 46sqm, fully furnished. Day/month. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

FULLY-FURNISHED HOUSES

2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Near Panwa Bay. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

2-BEDROOM TWIN HOUSE



in Phuket Town. 20,000 baht/month.

Surface: 45sq wah (180sqm).

- 2 storeys: ground floor with living room, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, garden and parking lot.

- Top floor with 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 2 balconies and living room

- Peaceful area in a nice neighborhood (and uncommonly large roads)

- Only minutes away from Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Central Festival

- 24-hour security

- Clubhouse with swimming pool

Call 081-868 7676 or 089-868 2268 for more information or house inspection.

SURIN BEACH APARTMENT

1 bedroom, Surin gate, resort with pool and beach shuttle. 17,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-968 4230. Email: johan@phuket-properties.co.th

5 MINUTES FROM LAGUNA

For rent: 4-bedroom family pool home, 1,000sqm land, 330sqm built-up area. From 55,000 baht per month. Contact for details. Agents welcome. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924 (Thai). Email: claudebaltes@gmail.com

LONG-TERM RENT

1-2 bedroom, furnished houses, beautiful garden. Chalong area. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311.

PATONG CENTRAL

2 bedrooms home, neat, clean, in private estate. 3 month rate: 35,000 baht. 6 month rate: 30,000 baht. 12 month rate: 27,000 baht. Tel: 087-900 8445. Email: lozt@vic.chariot.net.au

EXCLUSIVE HOUSE NAI HARN

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool, jacuzzi, 800sqm land. For long- or short-term rent. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

KATA SEAVIEW WESTERN APART



1 bedroom, great sea view, penthouse, 100sqm, with huge terrace, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, ground floor 115sqm with 60sqm covered terrace. Sat TV, Internet, fully furnished, fitted kitchen, parking. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8east98@yahoo.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN BANG JO



Cherng Talay. Private house, very nice garden. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircon, 1 living, 1 kitchen, 1 dining, big carpark, WiFi, cable TV. 15,000 baht per month. Contact K. Apple. Tel: 088-447 6464.

HOUSE FOR RENT



At Land & Houses Park, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, small garden, safety area and clubhouse. Tel: 081-569 7068. Email: sirio@tisco.co.th

HOUSE FOR RENT IN KATHU

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 2 balconies, 107sqm. Fully furnished with internet, cable TV and small garden with car parking. Near golf. Quiet. 7 mins to Patong, 4 mins to Central Festival. 14,800 baht per month, not less than 6 months rent. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

Fully furnished, with 3 bedrooms near Lotus Rawai, in quiet and secure area. Tel: 089-4729 870. Email: d_chaibut@yahoo.com

BALI VILLA NEAR BIS

15,000 per month, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 086-571 3667 (English & Thai). Email: kinnie.nalaphus@gmail.com

RAWAI BEACHFRONT



for rent. Please call for more info. Tel: 089-649 9939.

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Simply write out your ad, pay for it and leave it with Khun Na. Tel: 076-325586 or 081-3977307.

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Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** in the **Gazette Online!**

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**RUSSIAN STAFF
NEEDED**

Cable Ski Park restaurant need guest relations staff. Female only, Russian and English speaking. Tel: 082-329 3207.

**THE SUNRISE
OCEAN VILLAS**

looking for self-motivated staff:
PA/ Secretary 2 positions
Boat captain 1 position
Pool maintenance 2 positions
Maid 2 positions
Chef (Thai food) 1 position
Waitress 2 positions
Contact. Tel: 081-343 0777.
thesunrisevillas@yahoo.com

**HOUSEKEEPER/
MAID**

Senior foreign national requires Thai lady age 35-45 with fair English. Location: Chalong. Please email about yourself to: breaker43@aol.in

**MOUNTAIN BIKE
TOUR LEADER**

Amazing Bike Tours are seeking more guides to join our team. Must speak good English and be passionate about biking. Tel: 087-263 2031. Email: info@amazingbiketoursthailand.asia

STAFF NEEDED

Cable Ski Park need staff for guest relations. Thai female only, with good English. Full time salary. Tel: 085-474 7317.

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT
REQUIRED**

Must be able to deal with jobs in Phuket, sent by phone / email from UK. Property management / general business. Part time, paid by hour. Apply by email with hourly charge. Tel: +44-704-200 5381 (English). Email: chris_ske1ton@yahoo.co.uk

CAD TECHNICIAN

To work in new office in Phuket. Proficient in AutoCAD (2004 or higher) for 2D drawing. Experience of 3D AutoCAD, Google SketchUp, Adobe Photoshop or Adobe InDesign would be a bonus. Proficient in Microsoft Excel, Word, Outlook. Thai national, good spoken and written English. Send CV indicating qualifications, experience and expected salary. Tel: 081-854 1056 (English). Email: david@yes.co.th Visit website: www.soundide.as.co.uk to see the type of work we do.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down the story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- ▶ Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

STAFF NEEDED

Cable Ski Park need restaurant manager, Thai with good English. Full time salary. Tel: 085-474 7317.

**GERMAN-FLUENT
HOTELIERS**

Katathani Phuket Beach Resort requires German-Fluent Hoteliers with 3+ years experience in Assistant Manager. Also 5+ years experience as Customer Relations Manager. Email: executive@katathani.com

WAITER/BARTENDER

Some English required. 4pm-1am O'Malleys bar. Contact Annie. Tel: 082-515 3938. Email: chayaphat.ann@hotmail.com

**ITALIAN LADY
TEACHER**

Lessons 300 baht per hour. Or in exchange for English or Thai lessons. Tel: 090-071 6846.

**DETOX WELLNESS
MANAGER**

Samui detox resort seeks multi-skilled therapist as Wellness Manager. Email: fasthealing@yahoo.com

WANTED

Thai gardner & maid with hotel experience for farang home in Rawai. Tel: 076-288188, 081-797 7898.

**FINANCIAL
CONTROLLER**

Looking for a controller (Thai nationality only) for a private hi-end villa operation to open at end of 2012. Must be organized, proactive and a team player. Great working environment and good benefits. Tel: 089-895 7178. Email: kurt.heck@gmail.com

**HEADSTART
INTERNATIONAL
SCHOOL**

HeadStart International School invites applications from fully qualified KS3/4/5 Mathematics Teachers. Start Date: January 2012. Tel: 076-612876. Fax: 076-612877. Please send a full CV and letter of application to ralph@headstartphuket.com

**1 ADMIN STAFF,
1 WRITER**

1 English and Thai speaking admin staff and 1 freelance writer. Tel: 087-882 2209. Email: hr@phuketeventcompany.com

MASSAGE MANAGER

Shop in Phuket Town, full-time, Thai national. Tel: 086-474 9591.

CASHIER REQUIRED

Family bar on Nanai Road. Starting salary 10,000 baht per month. 2pm-12 midnight. Tel: 087-905 5273 (English). Email: hannamal@msn.com

**NIGHT GUARD AT
GUESTHOUSE**

The duty is between 10pm to 8pm. The salary is between 7,000-8,000 baht. Tel: 076-345853, 080-385 90962. Email: ellak@live.se

**LOOKING FOR
THAI STAFF**

For a shop in Khao Lak. Must speak some English. Tel: 076-485102, 076-344814.

MINI BUS DRIVER

Thai mini bus driver for a tour company. Full time. Basic English is essential. Tel: 088-381 9390 (English). Fax: 076-384389. Email: peter@orientalphuket.com

The company is one of the largest entertainment groups in Phuket with over 300 employees and operates large clubs such as Seduction Beach Club and Disco, The Factory and Phuket Beach Club. A rapid expansion is foreseen with different entertainment concepts in Thailand and overseas.



The Clubs are well known for their international club acts and active involvement and sponsoring of exciting major events including beach parties.

In order to manage and professionalize the daily operations and to support the expansion of the Company, we are looking for dynamic candidates to fill two key leadership positions:

Managing Director (Thai/foreign national)

Responsible for all management aspects with the purpose of promoting sales and revenue while keeping focus on positive margins and the development of the various brands. The position reports to the Board of Directors.

Job qualifications

- University graduate, preferably business degree holder.
- At least 5 years experience at senior management level, preferably in the hospitality business.
- Self-starter, able to implement initiatives quickly and effectively.
- Planning and execution skills.
- Strong organizational and leadership skills, written, verbal and interpersonal skills.
- Able to make sound business decisions, effective problem solver.
- Proven track record of business operations management, ability to develop financial plans.

Finance and Administration Director (Thai / foreign national)

Manages, evaluates and oversees the development and implementation of finance and accounting policies in order to maximize financial results through cash management, tax planning and financial controls. The position reports to the Managing Director.

Job qualifications

- University graduate in Finance and/or accounting, preferably holds a CPA.
- At least 5 years of experience in a senior finance position.
- Knowledge of QuickBooks is an advantage.
- Excellent planning skills and knowledge of all aspects of finance.
- Responsible and self-motivated. Can work under pressure, firm, attentive to details, has a positive hands-on work attitude.
- Fluent in spoken and written English.

The company is offering an excellent package for successful candidates for these challenging positions.



Suitable qualified applicants should email a cover letter (with expected salary), resumé and 3 contactable referees to vacancies.md.fa@gmail.com.

We regret that only short-listed candidates will be notified.

**VACANT POSITIONS****Zeavola Resort Phi Phi Island SLH Member**

The Zeavola is the only 5-star resort on Phi Phi Island and is currently highly successful. In order to improve our performance further, the Zeavola family is seeking applications from dynamic and talented individuals, who share our passion for providing excellent customer service. You should be highly motivated, confident and enthusiastic about assisting the team to reach new levels of service quality and financial success.

Island-Based Positions Vacant

- PA to the General Manager
- Dive Instructor/Activity Manager
- Human Resources Manager
- Assistant F&B Manager

Profile:

- ▶ Bachelor's Degree, or at least Vocational Certificate
- ▶ At least 3-5 years experience in the field
- ▶ Strong result-oriented, people management and leadership skills
- ▶ Strong in English communication skills, and computer literate
- ▶ Strong in analytical, problem-solving skills, and execution of work

Fringe Benefits:

- ▶ Good Salary + Share of Service Charge
- ▶ Group Insurance, Social Security, Workmen Compensation
- ▶ Duty meals the staff canteen / Officer Check at hotel restaurant as per position category
- ▶ Free laundry services
- ▶ Transportation from/to Phuket / Krabi - Resort round trip by ferry
- ▶ Accommodation as per your position category at resort

Only Thai citizens will be considered. Please send your CV to hr@zeavola.com or call Khun Preecha Onkong at 075-627-000 for an appointment.

Human Resources Department

Resort: 11 Moo 8 Laem Tong, Koh Phi Phi, Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000 Thailand
Tel. 075-627000 ext. 1400 or 1401 Fax. 075-627025

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

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PART TIME (FLEXI TIME) REAL ESTATE MARKETING PROFESSIONAL

- The ideal candidate must have a good command of English, be currently or previously in the field of real estate marketing and have strong background in high end real estate marketing.
- Good knowledge, skill and experience in how and where to market the properties, with good network connection not only in Thailand but also internationally in Russia, Hong Kong and Singapore markets for example.
- Part time hours to suit (flexi time) with high rate of pay, and good working conditions
- Open to both Thai nationals and foreigners.
- Company car available when needed.
- Office based in Kathu.

Want to know more?

To arrange an interview call **Mr Geoff** on **081-854 0061**

Prior to interview a resumé with current photo is required.
Email to: mrgoeffcurry@yahoo.com

VILLA MANAGER

Experienced villa manager required. Must speak excellent English with good computer skills. Live-in/live-out position available. Please send CV to: admin@esxasia.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Full time, Western male, must have excellent organizational/negotiation/computer skills, self-motivated/good communicator. Speak and write excellent English. Home based. Send CV/salary to admin@esxasia.com

DIVE INSTRUCTORS

Native English speakers. Own work permit (can be provided for right candidate). Introducing new divers to the underwater world. Must be friendly and love talking with people. Tel: 089-044 0623. Email: jobs@worldwidealoha.com

THE SWEETEST JOB ON PHUKET

We need Thai staff for our candy shops in Kata, Karon and Patong. You must speak basic English, be organized and service-minded. Full time with good salary. Tel: 087-888 1819.

MAID IN KAMALA

2 maids needed in Kamala to clean different houses. Tel: 083-634 5772. Email: info@husiphuket.se

WORLDWIDE DIVE & SAIL

is one of the leading liveaboard dive operators in Southeast Asia operating vessels from the Maldives to Palau.

We are looking for dedicated long-term staff to join our dynamic Phuket-based team in the following positions:

- 1) Bookings & Reservation Agent.
- 2) English Language Teacher. English fluency and excellent communication skills are a must. Competitive salary and benefits.

Send CV with photo and cover to employment@worldwidediveandsail.com For further details, please see our website at www.worldwidediveandsail.com

HOME TEACHER NEEDED

English-Maths-Science. For class 6 and 8. Patong area. Tel: 089-729 8852.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

- ▶ Able to write news stories in clear, concise English
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Willing to work extended hours
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Have the initiative to delve into the facts to make a good news story
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially PageMaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and samples of work published in print or on the internet by email to Oh@PhuketGazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. over 35 years experience in professional printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide.

Text & Layout Editor

Job Description:

- Knowledge of German language
- Work with text-editing program
- Art or imagination in design
- Teamwork and cooperating with related departments

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai National Only
- Fluent German language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of computers (Windows or Macintosh)
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work as a shift with team or independently

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.
- Incentive bonus: depends on quality, skills and experiences.

Interested applicants apply at:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605
Email: info@vsdma.com

SALA RESORTS AND SPAS



SALA Resorts and Spas, an exciting 5 star hotel development and management company is seeking qualified and motivated candidates to join our rapidly expanding team.

SALA SAMUI RESORT AND SPA

Sales and Marketing

- Sales Executive

Food and Beverage

- Food and Beverage Manager

- Expatriate, with 3-5 years Food and Beverage managerial experience in 4 - 5 star properties. Only candidates that have previously worked in Thailand will be considered for this position.

- Food and Beverage Supervisor
- Bartendy

Front Office

- Bell / Driver

Housekeeping

- Housekeeping Attendant

Interested applicants, please contact **Human Resources Department**
10/9 Moo 5, Baan Plai Laem, Bophut, Koh Samui Suratthani 84320 THAILAND
Tel: 077-245888 # 2021-2022 Fax: 077-245889
E-mail: hrrsamui@salasamui.com

SALA PHUKET RESORT AND SPA

Front Office

- Guest Relations Officer

Food and Beverage

- Restaurant Manager

- We require an enthusiastic and experienced restaurant professional.
- Excellent leadership and communication skills, understandings how to manage people with an emphasis on training & development.
- Candidates with restaurant bar and room service experience is preferred in return for the right candidate an excellent package is on offer.

- Food and Beverage Supervisor

- Senior Waiter / Waitress
- Waiter / Waitress
- Pool / Beach Attendant
- Bartendy

Housekeeping

- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Room Attendant

Engineer

- Senior Carpenter (ช่างไม้ระดับอาวุโส)
- Pool & Pond Cleaner (ช่างทำความสะอาดสระน้ำ)
- Carpenter (ช่างไม้)

Spa

- Spa Therapist (พนักงานนวดสปา)

Interested applicants, please contact **Human Resources Department**
333 Moo 3, T. Maikhao, A. Talang Phuket 83110 THAILAND
Tel: 076-338888 # 2011-2013 Fax: 076-338810
E-mail: hrrphuket@salaphuket.com

For more information about SALA Resorts & Spas
Please visit our website at www.salaresorts.com



Phuket's leading beach resort, the Village @ Coconut Island
(Koh Maphrao), Phuket

Resort Sales Director

As the resort sales director, you will be responsible for creating and delivering a sales strategy for The Village.

You'll play a fundamental role in developing future growth, and provide vision, direction and leadership. Your specific duties will include:

- Developing strategies, tactics, sales plans and profit targets.
- Delivering sales by developing relationships with travel partners.
- Identifying and reporting on business opportunities in target markets.
- Increasing market share in existing markets and maximizing new business development opportunities.
- Achieving targets for revenue, profitability and sales growth.
- Provide direction to your department.

Hours and Environment

Nominally, you'll work 8am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday. However, your duties are likely to involve a lot of out of extra outside of work hours.

You'll be office-based, but also spend much of your time visiting clients and partners in the field. You may also need to attend trade fairs and exhibitions. Your job will involve travel.

Skills and Interests

To be a sales director you'll need to have:

- Excellent sales and negotiation skills
- Good business sense
- The ability to inspire, motivate and lead a team
- Initiative, drive and enthusiasm
- Excellent communication and 'people skills'
- Good planning and organisational skills
- The ability to work calmly under pressure
- Good IT, budget and report writing skills

Entry

You'll need proven sales management experience, together with a proven record of achieving challenging targets.

Package

A substantial package including salary and commissions will be available to the successful candidate.

Interested candidates should apply in writing with full resumé, stating present and expected salary, and attaching a recent photograph, to:

Email: hr@thevillage-coconutisland.com or
dao@thevillage-coconutisland.com

Tel: 076-352153 Mobile: 081-968 6912 Fax: 076-352154
www.thevillage-coconutisland.com

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Articles
For Sale**1 YEAR OLD STROLLER**

Cool Kid stroller, 1 year old. Used very little. Want to sell for 4,250 baht (new one is 12,600 baht) or best offer. Tel: 081-271 3228. Email: info@procarpentering.com

TOP OF LINE IPAD 1 FOR SALE

64 GB, WiFi / 3G, inclusive of accessories, black cover/case, protective film and OS 5 installed. 10 months old. Rarely used. Price 15,000 baht. Tel: 076-388779, 089-872 9156 (English), 089-873 7372. Fax: 076-388779. Email: beaujeu1@yahoo.com

TWO-SEAT STROLLER

Phil and Teds double seat foldable stroller: 12,000 baht. Tel: 086-654 3139 (English). Email: miguel-van@hotmail.com For further details, please see the manufacturer's website at http://philandteds.com

MOVING SALE

Potted red palms, plants and flowers, earthenware, craftsmanship fountains, new TV decoder and black dish antenna. Tel: 087-282 2699 (English & Thai).

CARRYBOY ROOF RACK

Roof rack with all attachments for roof rails. Size: 1.0m x 1m (approx). Roof bars: 1.2m long (approx). Great condition. 2,000 baht. Tel: 087-563 6248 (English). Email: marksimon.allen@gmail.com

FOOTBALL GAME

Classic football game 1.5x.76 x.97 high, up to 6 players. As new, little used. Cost new 55,000 baht. Price 25,000 baht. Tel: 090-409 1898 (Eng), 081-538 0685 (Thai).

HONDA GENERATOR EU10I

Honda generator Eu10i. As new: 28,500 baht. Tel: 084-443 5050.

IPAD 1 64GB WI FI 3G

iPad 1 in super case with bluetooth keyboard, blacks 64GB, 3G card WiFi mint condition (from USA) also selling my iPhone 4G, 16 black in box, like new 083-214 2270. Email: edward.climson@gmail.com

TWO SANYO DRINKS FRIDGES

Single door. One for 9,500 baht (14,800 when new). One old and needs paint, but works great: 1,500 baht. Tel: 088-440 9324 (English). Email: nightrelaxbar@hotmail.com

ALPINESTARS BOOTS

Alpinestars No Stop Trials boots, brand-new, never worn, size 11 (US). Price: 10,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 2916.

ARAI HELMET

RX7 Corsair Kenny Roberts replica, brand-new, never worn. Size XL. 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-367 2916.

PIZZA WAGON 260

For sale. Tel: 081-370 9661 (English).

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2 x Pioneer CDJ 800 Mk 2s, Pioneer DJM 600 4 channel mixer housed in a brand-new flight case, 1 x Crown amp in cabinet, 2 x XXL Speakers. 80,000 baht ono. Tel: 087-086 9821. Email: jpoole-robb@knightsbridges.com

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Tues 7 PM

English Speaking Meetings
Mission Hospital - Phuket Town
Wed and Sun 7 PM

Bangkok Hospital - Phuket Town
Fri 7 PM

Patong Hospital - Patong
Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun 7 PM

Green Man Pub - Chalong
Tue, Thu, Sat 1 PM

Stereo Lab Restaurant - Surin Beachfront
Mon and Thur 9:30 AM

Bhavana Treatment - Cape Panwa
Sun 9:30 AM

Scandinavian Meeting - Karon
Tue and Sat 7 PM (Nov-April)
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Opportunities**MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE**

Saiyuan Road, Rawai, good income shop, take over lease. Tel: 083-641 9327. Email: rawaipoolvillas@hotmail.com

GYM KARON BEACH

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MICKY'S BAR FOR SALE

Nanai 1, 3-year lease. Good location, 3 bedrooms, 1 ensuite, 2 staff rooms, kitchen, staff toilet, shower, pool table. Quick sale. 675,000 baht ono. Rent only 15,000 baht per month. Contact Mick or Brian. Tel: 082-288 1418, 083-107 1886.

BAR IN SOI CROCODILE

3 years key money just paid. Rent is 30,000 baht a month. Price is 3 million baht. Tel: 087-268 0680 (English). Email: mattias@phuketdreamliving.com For further details, please see our website at: www.phuket dreamliving.com

PATONG SHOP FOR RENT

Large 2-storey shop behind Jungceylon. Tel: 089-504 8882, 086-281 8883.

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Fax: 076-390746.
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- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

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- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (main entrance road to Laguna Phuket) Tel: 076-324313
- Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

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AMERICAN WIDOWER

Looking for Thai woman 30 to 40 years old. Relocate to USA for marriage, if compatible. Send pics and info by email, please. Tel: +1-216-598 0421. Email: marklewis120@juno.com

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Both as-new and little used cover. Full set of cues, pool and snooker balls with each. Cost 65,000 baht. New price: 30,000 baht. Tel: 090-409 1898 (English), 081-538 0685 (Thai).

MAX 1 POOL TABLE

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44-FOOT CATAMARAN

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SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S PUZZLES

Crossword puzzle:



1	E	M	I	T	S	6	B	A	T	S	10	F	O	S	13
14	T	O	N	I	C	15	O	C	H	O	16	R	U	N	T
17	T	A	N	G	O	18	G	A	O	L	19	A	T	E	E
20	E	N	S	H	R	O	21	U	D	22	D	A	N	G	L
23	T	I	N	S	24	L	I	N	C	25	O	L	N		
26	S	C	R	E	A	K	27	S	E	E	D				
28	A	Z	A	N	29	P	I	C	A	R	E	S	30	S	Q
31	L	A	N	E	32	O	R	S	33	S	O	34	U	P	Y
35	T	R	I	D	36	N	T	A	T	E	37	L	I	A	R
38	R	E	A	P	39	Y	V	E	T	T	E				
40	G	A	R	A	41	G	E	S	42	P	E	E	P		
43	O	P	E	N	44	D	I	S	C	L	O	S	E		
45	R	A	N	T	46	F	A	I	L	47	T	A	B	L	A
48	E	C	T	O	49	U	L	E	E	50	O	T	O	E	S
51	D	E	A	N	52	L	E	S	S	53	R	E	E	D	Y

Impossibly Possible Quiz answers:

- Crab (bpoo)
- Pussy cat (maew)
- Mozart
- The America's Cup
- Ivory Coast
- Tokyo
- Two: Kathryn Howard and Anne Boleyn
- You complete me
- Gilbert and Sullivan
- Miss Piggy from Jim Henson's Muppets
- Canberra
- Mouse

Aircraft For Sale

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HS-AWS. Year: 1976. Operated in Thailand for 6 years. Engine: Lycoming IO 540T4B5D. 1,300hrs and 700hrs until TBO. Garmin and King radios. Autopilot and Stormscope. Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra. Contact Tony Scragg at mobile 081-906 3250, or send email to tony_scragg@hotmail.com

CESSNA 172P

With full IFR for 3 million baht. Everything on the aircraft is new, including Garmin Aera 500. Interior and exterior was redone in 2010. The engine has 700hours with TBO at 2,000. Dual nav/dual com, EGT, transponder, etc. Registration: HS-SEX. Cost: 2.8 million baht. Location: Best Ocean Airpark (near Bangkok). For more details. Email : sonny@salientgroup.net.

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COM Becker; Transponder C Becker; GPS Moving map; Intercom 2 seats; Electric Attitude Indicator; Electric Heading Indicator. Engine: Rotax 912S, 80 hrs. Airframe: 80hrs. Exterior: new aircraft; Interior: new aircraft. For sale at 1.9 million baht. Email: fly@nokaviation.com

TECNAM P-92

-Price: 1.5 million baht
-Registration: U-B08
-Year of Manufacture: 2002
-Equipment: Full standard equipment
-Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.
Aircraft is based at Klong 15
Contacts: Tharee. Tel: 081-840 8418.



Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.



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ITF in full swing

By Neil Quail

THE Chang International Tennis Federation (ITF) Pro Circuit 2011 Phuket tournament is heating up after a week of top class tennis being served up at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC).

Hopes of local success took an early downturn in the first qualifying match of this the first ever ITF event hosted in Phuket, when Tachakorn Tonnon, 17, bowed out of the competition to Wing-Lun Lam of Hong Kong, losing 6-0, 6-0 in a best of three sets encounter.

Vice President of TSLC, Mr Dave Roberts – formerly ranked at 445 in the world during his own playing days – watched Tachakorn's match and remarked on the standard of play.

"These players have very good fundamentals, but the biggest problem with athletes of this caliber is that they don't get enough match play practice for tournaments," Mr Roberts explained to the *Gazette*.

With that analysis, it would seem that the intentions of TSLC to bring more international tournaments and players to their facility will go a long way to highlighting the profile of tennis in Phuket and giving players, local or otherwise, an opportunity to vastly improve.

The beginnings of such steps came only a fortnight ago when Tachakorn and his fellow Satree Phuket schoolmate, Pavapon

Limaskul were both awarded a wild card entry for the ITF tournament by virtue of reaching the Thanyapura Tennis Challenge final.

Inspiration for these young players comes in the form of playing alongside internationally recognized tennis stars, and the ITF tournament at TSLC has drawn a number of players who are ranked in the Association of Tennis Professionals' (ATP) top 500.

Thailand's number one player and seeded number one for this competition is Danai Udomchoke who is ranked 224 in the world. Also contending for the winners purse is Jimmy Wang of Taipei who is ranked at 282 and seeded number two for this event.

Laurent Rochette from France has an ATP ranking of 377 and is seeded fourth. Zhe Li from China is the tournament's number five seed and is ranked 387 in the world.

Thailand also commands top seeding in the doubles competition with brothers Sonchat and Sanchai Ratiwatana who have an ATP ranking of 140 and 142 respectively.

The tournament was officially opened by the guest of honor, Mr Chestavit Tantiphonwadee, President of the Sports Association of Phuket and presented by Mr Nicholas Seavers, CEO of TSLC.

Mr Chestavit welcomed the players and offered congratulations to the tournament organizers

and sponsors before the introduction of Danai Udomchoke and Emilien Firmin on to court one for the morning's feature game.

A grandstand packed with dignitaries, tennis enthusiasts and local schoolchildren witnessed a standard of tennis most would probably have only seen on a sports reel.

Udomchoke efficiently dealt with the big serving and vocal French player, easing into the next round on a 6-3, 6-0 scoreline.

"I played OK today. He's [Firmin] a good player with a strong serve, but he made many mistakes today. I played him last week in Vientiane, so I knew what to expect. My strategy was simply to move him around the court and wait for the error," Danai explained to the *Gazette*.

More first round matches of the main draw followed throughout Tuesday and two seeded players fell at the first hurdle to French players. Number three seed, Ti Chen from Taipei, lost to Yannick Jankovits 4-6, 6-3, 6-2. and number eight seed, Daniel Yoo from Korea, lost to Mick Lescure 6-0, 6-3.

Doubles play also threw up an unexpected result when Soong-Jae Cho and Ji Sung Nam from Korea defeated the partnership of Udomchoke and Li who were seeded number two in the doubles competition 7-5, 1-6 (11-9), after a terrific third set tie-break.



LASHING OUT: Danai Udomchoke whips a winner past Emilien Firmin in their first round match. Photos: Neil Quail



ITF OPEN: (from left) Sanchai Ratiwatana, Kittipong Wachiramanowong, Benjavit Tongtan, Nicholas Seaver, Chestavit Thantiphonwadee and Sonchat Ratiwatana.

FIVB down 15 but tournament still strong

A LACK of clarity in understanding which parts of Bangkok were flooded and how travelers could transfer to flights heading to Phuket has seen 15 teams withdraw from the FIVB Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour, which started on November 2, a day later than scheduled, on Karon Beach.

Tournament director Geoffrey Rowe of Pentangle Promotions was disappointed, but indicated that the cancellations have had no effect on the top 32 teams competing in the world-class event.

"The problem is that people overseas do not understand that

Bangkok has two airports. When the news went out that Don Mueang Airport was closed, people sent emails to me asking how could they get to Phuket if the Bangkok airport was closed," he told the *Phuket Gazette*.

"While we could convince some teams to come to Phuket, other teams pulled out of the tournament because they were concerned," Geoffrey said.

"Although we lost some teams, it doesn't make a lot of difference to the tournament because the main draw has only 32 teams, so it just means there are less teams

in the qualifying rounds

We started with about 70 teams – about 15 teams pulled out – but all those teams would have had to play in the qualifiers – so now all that means is that we have only one day of qualifying matches," he added.

Qualifying started on Wednesday morning with first country quota playoffs.

Among the 53 teams from 26 countries are the current world number one ranked team, Julie Silva and Larissa Franca from Brazil, who are determined to make the Phuket tournament their 7th tour title this year.

April Ross and Jen Kessy (ranked 5 in the world) from the US will look to prevent that record and set their own by winning the Phuket event for a third time.

Having lost last year's final, Greta Cicolari and Marta Menegatti (ranked 7 in the world) are sure to seek vengeance and an Italian victory.

Winners of the 2006 event, Xue Chen and Zhang Xi (ranked 3 in the world) from China will certainly have their eyes set on the top podium place.

All of which makes for a highly competitive, world class beach

volleyball tournament.

Don't miss this exciting event and these supreme athletes in action. Get down to Karon Beach for the Phuket Thailand Open over the weekend with finals due to be played on Sunday. Entry is free for spectators.

The *Phuket Gazette* is a sponsor of the Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT, part of the Beach Volleyball Swatch World Tour.

Check the *Gazette* online or the FIVB website: fivb.ch, for daily updates on results and tournament events.

– Chutharat Plerin



EYES RIGHT: Germany's Huttermann and Schillerwein (white tops) and Greece's Papageorgiou. Photo: FIVB

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CATCH ME IF YOU CAN: Krikrit Taweekarn (blue) races to get possession.



ALL-STUNNED: Phuket defenders were no match for Ronnchai Rangsiyo (9) and Thailand. Photos: Apinan Saithong

Thai U23s annihilate 'All Stars'

By Steven Layne and Pimwara Choksakulpan

IN THE first of two friendly charity football matches held at Surakul Stadium this past week, the Thailand U23s annihilated a Phuket All Stars team by a score of 6-1 on Sunday evening.

The All Stars team was in fact an FC Phuket 'B' team given the opportunity to showcase their abilities against the junior national team preparing for the 26th SEA Games in Indonesia, due to begin for Thailand on November 9, when the junior War Elephants will take on 2009 SEA Games

football champions, Malaysia.

The star of last Sunday's charity match was Sri Racha Suzuki player Sutcharit Chantakol, who scored a hat trick that surely impressed the national teams' coaching staff.

Sutcharit bagged the first two goals, before Phuket's golden boy, Sarach Yooyen playing for the U23s, weighed in with Thailand's third goal which added to the All Star's defensive misery and sent them in at half time 3-0 down.

Former FC Phuket player Adisak Kraisoron notched up Thailand's fourth, and shortly after that, local baller from Thailand,

Natthapong Thubsai scored a consolation score for the All Stars.

Sutcharit polished off his hat trick and Thailand's fifth which was followed by the final nail in the coffin, hammered in by Thailand's captain, Ronnchai Rangsiyo.

Among the spectators was the familiar and ever-popular FC Phuket A-team face, Jonathan Matijas.

Speaking with the Gazette after the match, the plain-clothes Frenchman confirmed that he and most of the FC Phuket A-team will be ready to represent FC Phuket against the Thailand U23 War Elephants in the charity match showdown, which has been rescheduled to Thursday evening, a match that was taking place at the time this went to press.

Jonathan also talked about a potential new FC Phuket player from the Italian league, pointing to a white man on the All Stars bench wearing a Phuket jersey.

"His name is Carlo Coppari. Carlo is here to explore the possibility of signing with FC Phuket for next season. He may play on Thursday depending on the coach's plans," Matijas explained to the Phuket Gazette.

Coppari has played in the Italian Serie B League with teams including AC Mantova, Mezzocorona and Poggibonsi.

For results and report of Thursday's match between Thai-



STRENGTH TRAINING: Thanapol Udomlarb, Komkrit Kumsokchuek and Nattarit Thammarossopon feast at their Karon hotel (left to right).

land U23 SEA Games squad and the FC Phuket A-team, be sure to check Phuket Gazette online.

Thailand U-23 National Football arrived in Phuket on October 28 and stayed for a week long of training.

Team manager Kasem Jaliyawatwong said the reason he chose Phuket because was because the weather is similar to that of Jakarta, Indonesia.

"We had to choose between Phuket or Chiang Mai. We chose Phuket because the weather is warm and humid like in Jakarta. If players aren't used to this kind of weather, they will lose a lot of sweat and [risk having] heat stroke."

Mr Kasem revealed that the team had stayed at the Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa in Karon.

He revealed the part of the team's regiment includes a six ki-

lometer jog on the beach each morning as to increase leg strength, adding that their evening training sessions were held at Surakul Stadium.

"Now, there are too many sorrows from all the flooding news in media, so we will try to become champions in Indonesia as good news for all Thai people," he said.

The team was en route back to Bangkok at the time of going to press, and will fly to Indonesia from Suvarnabhumi Airport this Sunday (November 6) morning.

The stakes are high for Thailand. Having failed to make the finals two years ago, Thailand will look to win their 12th SEA games football championship – the most titles of any other SEA country. If successful, the team will be awarded with a 10 million baht reward.

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BIS football tourney time

YOUTH footballers from 25 schools from around the South and East Asian regions will be in Phuket to compete in the annual 7-a-side football tournament hosted by British International School (BIS).

This year's tourney is being held on the 4th and 5th of November. Last year, about 850 young footballers came to compete and a similar turn out is expected this year.

Tim Pearson, Marketing and

Communication Executive at BIS was enthusiastic about the event.

"It is not everyday that one gets to see young football players from Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Taiwan, Indonesia, Korea and other regions in Thailand come to compete against each other," he said.

"It is great to see the friendships that are forged and the cultural exchange that goes on

between the teams. The students benefit a lot from this kind of event and it is a pleasure to see them doing so," he added.

Local government and International schools are also invited to attend, as is the local Youth Football Home, which will bring its truly exciting squad of young Thai footballers. The BIS tournament is sponsored by Desjoyaux Pools and Marriott Hotels.

Sport

King's College take Phuket rugby cup

By Neil Quail

AS WATERS continue to inundate Bangkok and travel advisories assist with reduced visitor numbers to Phuket, it was a privilege to see the efforts made by a few rugby playing schools and organizations to travel and participate in the first Phuket Lomas International Youth Rugby Tournament hosted by Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) last weekend.

King's College from Bangkok secured the inaugural title after a tense final encounter against Centaurs RFC of Singapore. Two breakaway tries late in the second half gave the Bangkok boys a deserving 12-0 victory and their spirited celebrations went on well into the evening.

A tough DHL Ta'Moko RFC side from Singapore extinguished hopes of local success, defeating the Phuket Lomas in the Plate final by 10-0, while in the Bowl final, Krabi were victorious over their southern opponents, Surat Thani, scoring three unanswered tries (15-0). King's College Bangkok also took the U13 title, beating a small but utterly determined Phuket Lomas side.

Event organizer Pat Cotter was extremely pleased with participation numbers for the tournament. "The day went very well. Thanks to all the teams who came to Phuket, especially when traveling to Thailand is not easy at the moment. Let's hope this is the first of many of these tournaments," Pat said to the *Phuket Gazette*.

However, the excellent standard of rugby and organization was only part of the story. In last week's *Gazette*, our rugby article reported that several teams had withdrawn from the competition due to flooding and the forecasted difficulty in traveling. But in the true spirit of the game, King's College Bangkok decided to travel despite negative travel advisories and their efforts were truly rewarded.

Rugby, and sport in general, is the perfect medium for youth development programs such as those provided by the Phuket Lomas and Plate winners, DHL Ta'Moko from Singapore.

Program director for Community Outreach Rugby Development Ltd (CORD) in Singapore and head coach of DHL Ta'Moko Daniel Khor detailed the benefits of their



LIFT: Krabi and Surat Thani in action.

efforts to the *Phuket Gazette*.

"We have been working with youngsters from less fortunate backgrounds for five years. The boys that traveled to Phuket came to us when they were 10 years old with no rugby experience and now, not only are they good players, they are passionate about the game," Daniel explained.

"Our goals are simple. With the support from our founders, DHL,



WE MOVE THE WORLD: Phuket Lomas and DHL Ta'Moko together in rugby.



Pat Cotter and King's College capt.

we help them improve their school grades, develop confidence and build characters – all through rugby.

Ta'Moko's passion for the game was evident during the tournament. Having lost the semi final to King's College, the boys huddled in disappointment and only a rousing post game pep talk from coach Sean, lifted them from despair.

Once the awards ceremony had concluded Tim Lambert, manag-



Tim Lambert gifts kit to the Lomas.

ing director of Centaurs Group, stepped forward and brought the days activities to a fitting close by presenting the Phuket Lomas with a bag of rugby kit for the players.

These donations have been ongoing from the Centaurs of Singapore for some time, and fuels the solid sporting relationship between the two organizations with a view to developing youth rugby in South East Asia.

Fuel for your body



COMPLETING a successful triathlon is not just about swimming, biking and running.

You need to fuel your body with the right energy sources and ensure you are properly hydrated.

Use the days before the race to load up on fuel.

Carbohydrates deliver the most energy. Make a shift in your diet towards this kind of food. Good sources of carbohydrate include pasta, potatoes, rice, fruit and sports drinks. To store the carbohydrates as glycogen in your body you need to drink a lot of water too. One gram of carbohydrates binds 2.7 grams water.

Be mentally prepared to add a kilo or more to your normal weight. You will need it during your race. Do not drink water by itself as it may flush out your electrolytes. It's important to deliver the water to your body cells. If you drink too much water you will feel bloated and you may experience edema unnecessarily. That's why it's a good idea to add sports drinks, mineral tablets or table salt to your diet.

On race day, follow the same principles.

Consume a mix of energy sources, electrolyte drinks and a reasonable amount of water. Wa-



Ensure you are properly hydrated before the race. Photo: Team Traveller

ter intake should not exceed 50 per cent of your fluid intake. You can always bet on high temperatures in Phuket, so you'll need to drink around 1-1.5 liters of fluids per hour under race conditions.

Solid food is essential for longer races too. Consume bananas, energy bars or gels on the race course, but do not overload. I recommend about 300 to 400 calories per hour.

My personal advice to you is to also consume a small amount of fat and protein on race day. This helps to stabilize your blood sugar.

The Laguna Phuket Triathlon and 70.3 Ironman are well organized races. They have plenty of aid stations on the bike and run course with everything you will need on race day. It's like an all you can eat buffet!

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