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■ CONTRACT GUNMAN PAID A MEAGER 12,000 BAHT IN ADVANCE TO PULL THE TRIGGER

Jealous ex-lover pays B100k to murder rival

Mastermind, gunman and getaway driver all confess, one man claims innocence

By Gazette reporters

A WOMAN from Krabi has confessed to paying 100,000 baht for a hit squad to kill 55-year-old Phuket resident Sumittra Namfak, who was shot at close range in the back of the head while watching television in her home in Thung Thong last Saturday.

Police on Monday arrested Winaporn Rathakarn, 46, in Pa Khlok, Thalang, near the Heroines' Monument. Meanwhile, officers in Phang Nga moved in to arrest her brother Sirawat Rathakarn, 44, in Koh Yao District.

"The woman has confessed to paying 100,000 baht for the contract killing. She gave the money to Sirawat and another man, a Thai man, who we are still searching for," an officer at Thung Thong Police Station told the Gazette.

'This other man is suspected of teaming up with Sirawat to hire the killers," he said.

The gunman, Savit Jongruk, 28, from Loei province, was to be paid 20,000 baht to pull the trigger, while the other 80,000 baht was to be shared among the whole gang.

The gang received 40,000 baht in advance, with Savit receiving 12,000 baht in advance. The rest was to be paid after the hit was complete.

Police are trying to contact a 62-year-old British man who had been romantically involved with Ms Sumittra for two years, a relationship brutally cut short by her murder



CHILDHOOD SWEETHEARTS' HONEYMOON DEVASTED BY RIVER RAFTING TRAGEDY

Widowed bride watches as groom slips from grasp, disappears and drowns during Continued on Page 3 | whitewater rafting trip. Full story on pages 4-5

Officials push for **Chalong Hospital**

A HOST of officials are co-ordinating their efforts to secure 186 million baht to upgrade the Chalong public health clinic to full hospital status.

The move follows the news that



two people die each Vice Governor Sommai month while being rushed to emergency

wards at major hospitals in Phuket Town. Spearheaded by Vice Governor Sommai

Prijasilpa, along with the Health Office and Chalong Muncipality officials, the project aims to take on new and "unusual" tactics to gain approval by directly appealing to Prime Minsiter Yingluck Shinatwatra...

Full story on Page 7

Patong Tunnel by 2017

The chief of EXAT, the company assigned by the Ministry of Transport to build the Patong Tunnel, teams up with Patong Mayor Pian Keesin to expedite plans to build the major thoroughfare to Phuket's main resort town...

Full story on Page 3

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New Zealand wines get a tasting with Anuchit Saeng-on. **Page 21**



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The latest Phuket Villa project launches in Chalong. Page 31



Sport

Farewell FC Phuket. Hello Phuket FC, the Islanders. **Page 46**



Thursday

Saturday

Sea gypsies to get ID cards, but no new fishing rights

By Orawin Narabal

SOME of the issues facing Phuket's sea gypsy communities were resolved in a meeting last week, held in accordance with the Ministry of Culture's plan to improve the quality of life of sea gypsies along the Andaman coast.

The meeting follows more than 2,000 protesters, including sea gypsies and members of other landless communities from across the country, mobbing Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra at Phuket International Airport when she arrived for the mobile Cabinet meeting in March.

Though the first issues raised during the protest in March were fishing and land-occupation rights, the meeting on June 8 focused on the ongoing issue of national ID cards for sea gypsies.

"The main problem is the lack of ID cards for sea gypsies in Baan Laem Tukkae and Baan Sapam," said Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak.

"Many issues are the result of them having no official documentation to prove that they are Thai nationals," he explained.

Sumran Yukunthorn of the Phuket Provincial Office explained, "They need to contact their local village headman to certify their Thai nationality, after



Sea gypsy communities will get proof of Thai nationality, but not the right to fish in protected waters, as they requested last year. Photo: Gazette file

which the village headman will send the necessary documents to the Phuket Provincial Office.

"Then the names can be added to the community registrar and the legal documents can be processed and sent to the local District Office to issue the ID cards," he said.

The other central issue addressed at the meeting was the lack of tap water for the sea gypsy community in Rawai.

"We will set up a water supply and meters for each house in the community," said Pichai Wetchrungsri, Deputy Director of the Phuket Waterworks Authority. "Rawai Municipality will be responsible for providing free water during periods of drought," he explained.

However, Awiwut Chueadee of the Phuket Provincial Fisheries Office explained that his office will not grant special permission for fishing in protected areas.

Previously, Sutha Pratheep Na Thalang, a local representative of a traditional fishing group, claimed that his people had been fishing in many of the protected areas for more than 100 years and that it was fundamentally how sea gypsies earned their living.

Killer cop desk-bound while inquest continues

THE off-duty cop that shot a man dead in Phuket Town on May 5 has been granted bail.

Though some details about the case have come to light, the exact cause of the argument that led to Cpl Rachaporn Semaksorn shooting Eakkasit Sangangam in the head on Phun Phol Soi 11 in Phuket Town is still unclear.

"They all are still young and impetuous, so when they get angry, they cannot control themselves," Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Jumroon Plaidoung told the *Phuket Gazette*.

Lt Col Jumroon said that the police were collecting evidence. Once



Cpl Rachaporn Semaksorn

finished, the case will be sent to the provincial prosecutor.

The *Gazette* contacted the Phuket Provincial Court and was informed by the Court Officer that the brothers had been released on bail.

Police investigate Australian tourist rape claim

POLICE are investigating reports that an Australian woman on holiday in Phuket was raped in an attack by three men in Patong early last Sunday morning.

"We are now investigating the case to make sure exactly what happened," Phuket Provincial Commander Maj Gen Chonasit Wattanavrangkul said on Monday.

The woman, aged in her early 20s, showed no prominent signs of physical trauma, he said.

She was interviewed last Monday by a female officer with a female translator in a private room.

The woman, accompanied by her partner, also in his early 20s, reported the incident to Patong Police at about 4am last Sunday.

In the report, the woman said



Maj Gen Chonasit Wattanavrangkul, Commander of Phuket Provincial Police. Photo: Gazette file

the attack occurred at about 2am while she was travelling back to her hotel in a tuk-tuk she hired on the beach road at the end of Soi Bangla.

A reliable source told the *Gazette* that after escorting the couple back to their hotel, officers saw their room in disarray, with broken items scattered around it.

The woman's partner reportedly had been drinking alcohol that night.

"It's not that we don't believe her, but officers need to gather evidence before I can confirm any [more] details about the case," Gen Chonasit said this afternoon.

The news echoes a similar report in 2006 when a tuk-tuk driver was accused of raping an Australian woman at a secluded spot while driving her back to her hotel room in the early hours of the morning.

– Atchaa Khamlo





Patong Tunnel to be open by 2017: EXAT Governor

THE Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT) Governor, Aiyanat Tinapai, has announced that his office is pushing for the Patong Tunnel project to see the light of day by 2017.

The news came at a meeting with Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa and other high-ranking officials at Phuket Provincial Hall on June 8.

"Our main goal is to make the project a reality as soon as we can," Mr Aiyanat added.

To expedite the project, modifications have been made to the plans submitted by Patong Municipality, which in drawing up its plans used the Highways Department standards and did not account for the collection of toll fees from motorists.

According to the current plans, motorists heading west to Patong will join the 577-meter-long on-ramp comprising four to six lanes near the Patong Go-Kart Speedway on Phra Barami Road

The tunnels will be separated, with the tunnel from Patong to Kathu measuring 1.581 kilometers, and alongside it a tunnel from from Kathu to Patong measuring 1.613km.

On the Patong side, the on- and off-ramps measuring about 888 meters each will connect to Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, which runs behind Jungceylon.

However, EXAT's modifications will see CCTV cameras and emergency telephones installed along the length of the project, and traffic lights will not be installed where the on- and off-ramps join existing

Also, the Patong Tunnel will become the first road project built under EXAT to allow motorbikes to use

"Normally, motorbikes are not allowed on expressways [operated by EXAT], but Phuket is a special case, as it is a tourist destination and this will make things convenient for tourists," said Governor - Atchaa Khamlo



At the meeting, EXAT engineers provided photo evidence of the size of the tunnels they had expertise in building. Photo: Gall Zeidler Consultants

Jealousy hit squad caught

From page 1

"This [British] man met Winaporn first and was in a relationship with her for four years before he met Ms Sumittra," explained the Thung Thong Police officer.

"He was very much in love with Ms Sumittra. He apparently gave her lots of money. We have been told the amount is in the millions of baht. This apparently made Ms Winaporn very angry.

"We have emailed the British man and are awaiting his reply,"

Ms Sumittra's niece and one of her neighbors were inside the house when Savit entered through the front door, which was left open. During a re-enactment of the crime on Tuesday, Savit showed police how he walked up behind Ms Sumittra, pointed the gun at the back of her head and pulled the trigger.

A person was sitting right beside Ms Sumittra when he fired the gun, he said.

However, he gave no description of the person who may have been an eyewitness to the murder. One of Ms Sumittra's neigh-



Confessed gunman Savit Jonruk points towards Mrs Sumittra's house, which he entered and shot his target at close range. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

bors, who asked not to be named, told the *Gazette* that she heard the gun go off. "But it sounded like a firecracker... I did not notice anything unusual until police started arriving at the house," she said.

Just hours later, however, police arrested gunman Savit while he was trying to leave the island with Aroon Patan, 28, and Sanguan Phu-ngern, 26.

The trio were arrested at Tah Chat Chai police checkpoint after police stopped and searched the bronze-silver pickup they were travelling in. The vehicle was stopped following witness reports of a car matching that description leaving the scene of the crime.

The searched uncovered one handgun and 20 ya bah (methamphetamine) pills inside the vehicle.

All three men are registered as residents of Klong Thom in Krabi and reportedly work as farmers.

Both Savit and Aroon confessed to police their roles in the killing, with Aroon confessing to being the getaway driver.

Sanguan, however, maintained that he was innocent and that he was in the vehicle only because he was travelling "with friends".

Ms Summitra was originally from Northern Thailand and moved to the house about three years ago, said the neighbor.

"She had two children with her now ex-husband, who lives in Chumphon. The children study in Bangkok and they came to visit their mum every school break," she added.

However, Thung Thong Police Deputy Superintendent Borriboon Yusuksomboon told the Gazette earlier that Ms Sumittra had just one child, from her marriage with her ex-husband.

Ms Summitra's body was taken to the ex-husband's house in Chumphon, where the cremation ceremony was to be held this week.

Police are continuing their investigation.

Police to target 'likely' Euro 2012 gambling venues



POLICE will target "likely" venues in a crackdown on gambling in Phuket during the Euro 2012 football tournament, which kicked off June 7.

"We received an order [from the Police Region 8 Headquarters] about two weeks ago instructing us to target those areas likely to be venues for gambling," Phuket Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee told the Phuket Gazette.

"All places showing live matches will be targeted, especially those near schools," Col Peerayut said.

"Anybody found gambling will be arrested and charged," he

Search and rescue called off for US student, presumed drowned

MARINE Police on Wednesday search for his body, not a rescue afternoon called off a search-and- mission," Col Rittee said. rescue mission for 21-year-old American university student AZCentral.com news website, the Joshua Shane, who was missing and presumed drowned after entering the surf with friends at Patong Beach on Tuesday night.

Lt Col Rittee Paopan of the Marine Police office in Phuket Town said the rescue mission was abandoned based on eyewitness accounts of his disappearance, the length of time he had been missing, and deteriorating weather and surf conditions.

At the time of writing this article, the team was to resume their search on Thursday.

"The next mission will be a

According to a report in the student's parents were notified by US diplomatic staff that their son was missing, presumed drowned.







The strong surf battering Phuket's west coast last week reduced the seawall to rubble. Photo: Orawin Narabal

Monsoon waves destroy Surin beach sea wall

CONSTANT battering by strong local beach vendor Boonchuen waves this week demolished a seawall at Phuket's Surin Beach, forcing local beach vendors to relocate.

Under orders from the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), which built the sea wall to prevent coastal erosion, lifeguards have roped off the area as a safety precaution.

"It has been broken since Wednesday [June 6], but we still haven't heard anything from Cherng Talay *OrBorTor*. They just sent lifeguards to rope off the area along the beach as a no-entry zone, nothing else," said 49-year-old Auengsakul.

"We are waiting for the OrBorTor to fix the wall because we are worried that the waves will only get stronger and soon we won't have anything to protect,"

Pranee Charoenkul, who runs a Thai massage service on the beach, said the strong surf may make quick action by the OrBorTor unlikely. "I don't think the *OrBorTor* can fix the wall soon because the waves are too strong and come very close to shore. It's too dangerous to get on the beach and fix the wall," she said.

Storm victims to get assistance

OFFICIALS in Srisoonthorn and Cherng Talay, on June 8 inspected more than 30 houses damaged by the storm the previous day.

Many homes had portions of their roofs blown off, while others were battered by falling trees.

The roof of a drinking water plant flew off and fell onto two houses in the area. No people were reported injured in the incident.

In Baan Lipon, Srisoonthorn Mayor Worawut Songyot joined the Thalang Territorial Defense Volunteers and officers from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) in the



Luckily no one was hurt by the falling debris.

cleanup operation.

"The municipality will offer some compensation to the owners of those houses damaged in the storm," Mayor Worawut said.



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Vhitewater raft

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

EGYPTIAN couple Hossam and Sarah boarded a plane on June 2 bound for their dream honeymoon in Phuket. However, their love story, which began in their midteens, came to an unfathomable and abrupt end in Phang Nga, when their tour company decided to brave rough waters and lead a whitewater rafting trip that ended in disaster.

It wasn't until three days after the trip that the body of the honeymoon groom Hossam Mostafa, 24, named by the Egyptian Embassy in Bangkok as Hossamellein Mostafa Abdallas Hamada, was found on Monday.

Mr Mostafa's family agreed to talk to the *Phuket Gazette* in hopes that their tragic story might not be repeated by another couple or family.

"We don't want this crisis to happen again," explained Mr Mostafa's cousin, Ayman Nabil.

Hossam and Sarah Mohamed Hussien were a "big love story", said Mr Nabil. The young lovers had been together since secondary school, meeting when they were about 15 or 16 years old.

After graduating from secondary school, Hossam joined the police academy, where he specialized in weapons training.

It wasn't until June 1, after years of being together, that the two formally tied the knot. They left their wedding party by riding in the back of a refurbished convertible while pyrotechnics rocketed off in the background.

The couple arrived in Phuket on June 3.

Hossam and Sarah booked an adventure tour with Rafting Discovery Ltd, which is based in Chalong. The river, Klong Song Phraek, had been closed to rafters



for the past four days, but was re-opened to rafting trips on June 8. Despite this, Rafting Discovery Ltd was the only operator running rafting trips on the river on June 8 the day of the tragedy.

Sarah was reportedly hesitant about going, but eventually she and Hossam were talked into joining the whitewater rafting portion of the trip.

"The two guides told Hossam that it was safe and allowed. The last four days it had not been allowed, but now it was safe," Mr Nabil said.

Sarah and Hossam were joined by two men from Kuwait, one of whom was also killed during the rafting trip. Aref Atamosammad Mosammad, 48, died at the scene.

Rafting Discovery Ltd was unwilling to give any specifics as to why the raft that the newlyweds and the two Kuwaiti men were in capsized, or what happened after the incident.

"The accident this time was caused by the strong water in the river in the rainy season," was the only explanation the company would offer.

After the raft flipped, Hossam and Sarah clung to each other.

"They were hanging onto each others hands, before the water ripped Hossam further downstream," Mr Nabil explained.

Probe given 30 days to report on land clearing

PHUKET Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak has given local government 30 days to confirm whether or not the clearing of a plot of land in Srisoonthorn, Thalang District, was legal.

The news follows V/Gov Somkiet's inspection of the site on June 6, after a complaint was filed with the Phuket Governor's Office.

"The person who filed the complaint said he had previously filed a complaint with the Thalang District Office, but received no reply," said V/Gov Somkiet.

"He also gave additional information that alluded to local government officers being involved in this case," he added.

Joining V/Gov Somkiet at the site, a plot near the hills in the Baan Manik area, were officers from the Phuket Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the Phuket Land Office.

An initial investigation had uncovered a Chanote title deed for part of the land in question, explained V/G Somkiet.



Phuket officials have launched an investigation into whether or not the clearing of land in Baan Manik, Thalang, was legal. Photo: Orawin Narabal

"But we found that the area that was levelled is outside the area covered by the Chanote," he added.

However, V/Gov Somkiet confirmed that the investigation was only just beginning.

"The landowner might have other land documents that could represent possession of the area, so I have assigned officers from the Land Office to verify whether or not the developer has the correct documents to prove ownership of the land," he said.

"Officers from the Phuket Provincial Forestry Office have also been assigned to verify whether or not the land in question is in a protected forest area," he added. - Orawin Narabal

trip widows newlywed wife

both families."

Even before Hossam's body

Hossam's body was found on

was found, two family members

were on a flight to Bangkok.



The newlyweds arrived in Phuket for their honeymoon on June 3, just days after getting married.

"In his last minute, he was hanging onto his wife," he added.

Family members are in disbelief at the treatment, or lack of, that Sarah received from the tour agency and the local hospital.

"In this case, the physiological pain was much more powerful than the physical pain," Mr Nabil explained.

"They released her from the hospital wearing only a hospital gown, just one or two hours after she had arrived.

"She wasn't given any medical care. She didn't even have shoes on her feet. She spent four hours on the bus in this condition," he said.

To this, Phang Nga Hospital Deputy Director Dr Thipparat Tansakulprasert told the Gazette that the hospital does not have an in-house psychiatrist.

sent here requested not to receive any treatment from our hospital. Besides, they asked us to transfer them to a nearby private hospital," he said.

During the ride on the tour company bus from Phang Nga to her room in Phuket, Sarah was told nothing about whether or not Hossam was still alive or what search efforts were underway.

After repeated invitations from the Gazette to Rafting Discovery Ltd to provide an explanation of the sequence of events, the only statement the company would issue was:

"Our company always cares about the safety of the customers. We confirmed that all of our equipment is up to operation standards and is always in a good

"We regret this happened, and "The two injured who were we send our deepest apologies to

An officer stands on the bank of Klong Song Phraek in Phang Nga as

Hossam's body is recovered from the waters. Photo: 77 Nation Channel

Monday still wearing the lifejacket he had put on for the trip.

His body was ceremonially prepared in Phuket before it was flown to Bangkok and then on to Egypt, accompanied by family.

Hossam was buried on Wednesday.

At the time this edition went to print, Hossam's family, appalled with the local government and the tour agency, is considering legal

Hossam is survived by his wife Sarah Mohamed Hussien, his father Mostafa Abedallah Hamada, his mother Sahar Maklad and his older brother Ahmed Mostafa Abedallah Hamada.

Additional reporting by Orawin Narabal

International crime-fighters to hold Phuket convention

PHUKET will host an international crime-fighting convention next month targeting money laundering and transferring the ownership of property to people or organizations overseas.

The seminar, being organized by the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), will feature experts from anti-money-laundering organizations such as the Ministry of Justice in Switzerland. Among them will be Peter Ritchie, senior adviser of the International Crime - Policy & Engagement Branch of the Attorney-General's Department in Australia.

"If money or properties are transferred abroad, then it's hard to get them back because we cannot take direct action," explained NACC Assistant Secretary-General Chairat Khanittabutr.

"Our country's image with respect to corruption is not getting any better, and corruption in Thailand is becoming more



NACC Assistant Secretary-General Chairat Khanittabutr

complex," Mr Chairat said.

"And according to our information, Phuket has a big problem with corruption, especially related to land encroachment," he added.

"About 70 delegates will be from abroad and about 50 Thai officers from anti-corruption organizations and 20 officers from other relevant agencies are expected to attend," he said.

- Atchaa Khamlo



Ms Wanida's husband died just days before her fatal accident.

Woman killed in hit-and-run

A WOMAN was killed instantly while trying to cross Thepkrasattri Road in Srisoonthorn on the night of June 6 when she was struck by a car traveling at high speed.

Thalang Police Duty Officer Col Somkid Khaosang and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers arrived at the scene to find the deceased lying on the northbound carriageway of Thepkrasattri Road near to Srisoonthorn Temple.

Police identified the woman as 49-year-old Wanida T.N. Oun [sic] from Mai Khao and assessed that she died from massive head trauma immediately following the strike. From interviews with witnesses, Col Somkid learned that Ms Wanida had been struck as she attempted to cross the road from the direction of the temple to a grocery store opposite.

"It was raining at the time and she tried to cross quickly but was hit by the car, which failed to stop and drove off," Col Somkid said.

"Locals told me it was a black car, but they don't know the make or model and no one could read the license plate number," he

Residents explained that Ms Wanida's husband died a few days earlier. His body was still at the Temple ready for a funeral ceremony planned for the next day.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

Local reds and yellows take to the streets over reconciliation bills

AS THE Constitutional Court debacle continues in Bangkok [see page 9], both Phuket red-shirt and yellow-shirt supporters have taken to the island's streets.

About 20 Phuket red-shirt supporters rallied at Phuket Provincial Hall on Friday June 8 to protest the Constitution Court ordering Parliament to stop the third reading of the hotly-contested reconciliation bills.

Coinciding with the red-shirt protests in front of Parliament in Bangkok that began on June 7, the Phuket contingent filed a letter of complaint to Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa.

"We disagree with the court's decision and think the ruling is against the law," said red-shirt protest leader Surin Yothark.

Joining Mr Surin were protesters identifying themselves as the "Phuket Group for Protecting Democracy".

The complaint given to V/G Sommai accused the Constitution Court of "abuse of power". The claim stems from the court's order to stop the third reading of the bills, which the opposition Democrat Party and yellow-shirt supporters claim will pave the way for fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra to return to Thailand a free man.

The Democrats filed a complaint in Bangkok against the reading of the bills, claiming that the provisions the red-shirt supported ruling Pheu Thai Party are trying to introduce would in effect repeal the entire Constitution.

The provisions would be tantamount to overthrowing the democratic form of government with the King as Head of State and acquiring administrative power unconstitutionally through methods





COLOR PERCEPTION: The red shirts (left) want the reconciliation bills pushed through, but the yellow shirts (right) just see it as a way for Thaksin to return and reclaim his money. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong

not legislated in the Constitution, the Democrats allege.

The complaint filed by the Democrats also asked the Constitution Court, if it saw fit, to instigate criminal proceedings against key figures, including politicians, for attempting to introduce such changes.

However, the letter handed to Phuket V/G Sommai by protest leader Mr Surin yesterday read: "The Constitution Court ordering Parliament to stop its third reading of the bills was a violation of the law. The Constitution Court has no right to order that. Therefore, Parliament does not need to follow the Constitution Court's

"It is written in Section 68 of the Constitution that the Attorney-General must request the Constitution Court to review constitutional amendments. To file a complaint against the reconciliation bills, the complaint must be filed through the Attorney-General.

"If the Attorney-General agrees with the complaint, the Attorney-General would be the one to file the petition to the Constitution Court," the letter explained.

Mr Surin called for people to support the red-shirt cause.

"I urge people who love democracy to help us have this panel of judges removed from the Constitution Court. Our group will campaign to encourage people to exercise their democratic rights," he said.

"We also would like to invite other Phuket red-shirt supporters to join our group's activities in the future," said Mr Surin.

In response to the red-shirt protest, Phuket supporters of the People's Alliance for Democracy (PAD), also known as the "yellow shirts", held a rally the next day.

During their protest, the group burned effigies of 2006 coup leader General Sonthi Boonyaratglin and fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Rallying at Queen Sirikit Park in Phuket Town last Saturday, the PAD members demanded that redshirt supporters stop interfering in the Constitution Court order to prevent a third reading of the controversial reconciliation bills.

The court order to halt the readings came in the wake of PAD members from across the country rallying in Bangkok and preventing MPs from entering Parliament earlier this month.

"We want red-shirts to stop interfering with the Constitutional Court," said Lertpong Tansowat a member of Phuket PAD."

Mr Lertpong listed several more demands of the PAD, which included putting an end to the push for passing the reconciliation bills, stopping moves to amend Section 112 of the Constitution (which embodies the controversial lese majeste laws) and stopping the establishment of "Red Shirt Villages" in Phuket.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Police round up drug gang

A PLANNED police operation that took place throughout Phuket last week resulted in the arrest of seven members of a drug gang and the seizure of thousands of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and half a kilo of ya ice (crystal meth).

The arrests were announced at a press conference on Saturday June 9, organized by the Crime Suppression Unit of the Phuket Provincial Police.

Police Chief of Investigations Col Wanchai Palawan paraded five of the suspects together with the recovered drugs.

The chain of arrests started on June 2 when 27-year-old Katha "Khai" Kijnakom, who was already wanted on an outstanding warrant for drug-related offenses, was apprehended at an apartment in the Eua-Athorn ("We Pity You") public housing estate in Srisoonthorn, Thalang.

A search of the apartment recovered 500 milligrams of ya ice, an improvised handgun and four



Police were already watching Mr

rounds of ammunition.

Two days later, the police pounced again, this time arresting a man and two women at different locations in Phuket Town.

Aphinan "Arn" Saetiew, 25, was arrested in front of the Samkong Municipality School on Yaowarat Road with 1.25 grams of *ya ice* in his possession.

The women were also found in possession of ya ice: Utumporn "Fon" Petchamnarn, 25, with 5.6g and Manassanan "Kae" Siamson, 27, with 12g.

Janya Saeng-a-roon, 47, was caught on June 5. She was found in possession of 500 ya bah pills and 24g of ya ice.

The final arrests came on Friday, when police arrested two men who had just arrived at the new bus station on Thepkrasattri Road from Bangkok.

Adisak Wai-ar-sa, 22, a motorbike taxi driver in Bangkok, and Suppakij Sae-iew, 18, were found to have 6,000 ya bah pills and 500g of ya ice in a bag that they claimed not to have known the contents of.

Police stated that Ms Janya had ordered the drugs from a man in Bangkok, who hired Mr Adisak and Mr Suppakij to deliver them to Phuket for 30,000 baht.

All seven are now being held at Phuket Provincial Prison.

Police said that so far officers had seized as evidence about 20 bank books, a car and a pickup truck in the arrests.

- Atchaa Khamlo

Dying to get there

Officials push to establish Chalong Hospital as two people die each month en route to Phuket Town Hospital ER units

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Chalong clinic, or Chalong Health Promoting Hospital as it is officially called, dates back to 1940 when Gao Areerob donated the land and Kao Kraitat donated the money for the building. Both men wanted to establish a hospital to treat local residents from Chalong, Wichit, Rawai and Karon.

Now officials are pushing for the public health clinic in Chalong to be upgraded to a fully equipped hospital in order to reduce the number of people dying en route to emergency wards at major hospitals in Phuket Town.

Director Ruedee Suriya of Chalong health clinic told the *Gazette* that on average two people every month die while on their way to one of the main hospitals in Phuket Town.

"We can't handle serious cases here so they have to go to Phuket. It's a long way to Vachira Hospital and the traffic adds to the journey time."

"Most casualties that die in transit have either been involved in a road accident, a violent assault or have been rescued from the sea," she added.

"At the moment about 70 people a day visit the clinic. There are two nurses working during the day from 8:30am to 4:30pm and a duty nurse until 11pm. Doctors from Vachira Hospital are on duty every Tuesday morning and all day Thursday," she said.

"We agree with the plan to upgrade the clinic. If the plan goes ahead, we will have a 30-bed inpa-



Medical staff operate at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Currently two people die each month while en route to major a hospital in Phuket Town.

tient ward," Ms Ruedee said.

Provincial officers, led by Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, met with Chalong Muncipality officials at the municipality office last Wednesday to discuss the proposed upgrade to Chalong health clinic, from clinic to hospital complete with emergency surgery facilities.

Vice Governor Sommai explained that at the Cabinet meeting in Phuket in March, a budget of 186 million baht was approved in principle to upgrade the Chalong health clinic facilities and services to hospital quality.

"We expect to get the budget from the Ministry of Public Health and have the hospital open by August 12, 2016 to celebrate HM the Queen's seventh cycle birthday [84th birthday]," V/Gov Sommai said.

Phuket Public Health Office Deputy Director Dr Wiwat Seetamanotch believed it a very good sign that the Cabinet had, even if only in principle, approved the project.

"Previously we submitted the project to the Ministry [of Public Health]. It was rejected because it is not ministry policy to have hospitals in subdistricts as the population density is usually not enough to warrant a full hospital."

"However, our hospital project was approved in principle and we must now try our best to acquire the 186mn baht as soon as possible. Many other projects were also 'provisionally' approved by the Cabinet and they too will need funding by the Ministry of Public Health."

Dr Wiwat explained that 102mn baht would be needed for an outpatient building and the remaining 84mn for staff accommodation.

"If we reach a point and have not yet received the budget, [Phuket] MP Raywat Areerob has assured me he will lobby the Cabinet. He will press the issue in Parliament, asking why the project has been abandoned when politicians have stated it as their intention," said Dr Wiwat.

"I believe we will surely get the budget," he added.

Dr Wiwat also suggested that they should take the opportunity at the ASEAN Health Ministers Meeting, scheduled for July 2-6 in Phuket at M venpick Hotels & Resorts, to thank the Cabinet for their assistance.

"We have to show that we already have the land for the project and a list of investors, including the capital they're prepared to put into the project, to prove our good intentions to the Cabinet.

"The money does not need to be transferred yet as we have another four years to collect it. I do not think it will be a problem to subsidize that amount until then."

"As Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is scheduled to open the meeting, we could have representatives from Chalong there to thank her and Wittaya Booranasiri, the Minister for Public Health.

"We need to remind her of the project because so many others were presented [at the mobile Cabinet meeting], it would be easy to forget this one," said Dr Wiwat.

Dog causes two pickup pile up





Onlookers appraise the spectacle of two pickups mounted on the median strip of Thepkrasattri Road.

TWO pickup trucks spun out of control and ended up on the median strip of the busy Thepkrasattri Road in Koh Kaew on the evening of June 9 after a third pickup truck screeched to a halt after hitting a dog.

Somchai Tankanya, 40, was driving in the right-hand lane when a pickup to his left, being driven by a 36-year-old who declined to give his name to the *Gazette*, suddenly cut across the front of his vehicle.

The 36-year-old told police he was forced to swerve to avoid ramming a third pickup truck in front of him that screeched to a halt after hitting a dog.

The two pickups spun out of control, with the 36-year-old's vehicle coming to rest after hitting a light pole.

No people were injured in the accident, but it was later reported that the dog died at the scene.

The two pickups were taken to Phuket City Police Station as evidence.

- Atchaa Khamlo

Homeless man found dead at Saphan Hin

POLICE suspect that a homeless man found dead at Saphan Hin Park on the morning of June 8 died as a result of consuming too much alcohol in an attempt to keep warm during the wet weather last week.

Phuket City Police Duty Officer Nanon Pitakkultorn arrived at the scene along with Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers.

On arrival, they found the body of a man aged about 50 years old. He was lying on his back, head resting against the gymnasium wall, with his few daily-use possessions nearby.

Police found no signs of violence, but observed small wounds to both cheeks, which they attributed to animal bites after death.

"We haven't been able to confirm his identity, but from statements collected from local residents he identified himself as



The body of Mr Phon being taken to the mortuary by rescue workers.

Mr Phon," said Col Nanon.

Local residents told police Mr Phon very much enjoyed drinking alcohol.

Col Nanon believes that alcohol and the monsoon weather might have had something to do with his death.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong



Soi Dogs launches 'Trade of Shame' campaign against dog-meat trade

THE Phuket-based Soi Dog Foundation has launched a "Trade of Shame" campaign to raise awareness of the illicit dog meat trade in Asia.

The Thai Veterinary Medical Association estimates that as many as 500,000 Thai dogs per year are transported to Vietnam and Southern China, where they are butchered for dog meat, the Soi Dog Foundation says.

"The conditions under which the dogs are transported and slaughtered are horrific and many die from suffocation long before they reach their final destination.

In reality these are the lucky ones.

"Those that have survived the unbearable journey are then brutally killed due to people believing that the more pain inflicted before death the more tender the meat will be. The dogs are tortured for hours and then often skinned alive," said foundation says.

In almost all cases, the dogs are stuffed into rusty cages that are piled onto trucks. The cages are then put onto boats for the short river crossing to Laos, where they are then loaded onto more trucks for the journey to Hanoi.

ernment officials are working together to end the practice.

"The first raid was last August, when nearly 2,000 dogs were intercepted near Nakhon Phanom. Many of those had already suffocated enroute to Laos. Since then there have been several other successful interceptions by the Thai police and Thai navy," the release said.

The Soi Dog Foundation is calling for people to join its Trade of Shame campaign to raise awareness and stop the trade.

For more information, visit the Soi Dog The Soi Dog Foundation and Thai gov- Foundation website: www.soidog.org.



It is estimated that as many as 500,000 Thai dogs are smuggled annually to Vietnam and Southern China. Photo: Soi Dog Foundation

Baraku bars still under the microscope

THE ongoing crackdown on "baraku bars" targeting youths in Phuket continued last week with Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada stressing that all baraku bars could be controlled using existing laws and regulations.

In March, provincial officials led by the V/Gov Chamroen inspected 26 baraku bars in all three districts of Phuket. As a result of that operation, 11 bars and 10 people are now under investigation.

Other charges arising from the raids have been brought against six foreigners who were caught working illegally, and two individuals who tested positive for drugs.

Some of the bars under investigation in Phuket Town have since been closed by the owners.

In line with V/G Chamroen's comments about using existing regulations to control baraku venues, the owners of the 11 bars are being investigated for selling illegally imported tobacco.

"Since coming under scrutiny from the authorities, baraku bars have moved their operations behind closed doors," he said.

- Atchaa Khamlo

Paying power bills is sending resort broke

PHUKET Governor Augkaradacha on Tuesday was called on by villagers and at least one resort owner to instigate action in getting mains power to Koh Maphrao, better known as "Coconut Island".

Families on the island have to pay at least 3,600 baht a month for diesel to power generators, claim village representatives, while The Village Coconut Island resort has alone spent more than 25 million baht on buying six generators.

The resort currently spends about 5mn baht a month on diesel to provide power to its own property as well as many local public facilities, including a mosque, a school, the health center and the island pier, said one letter of complaint filed with the governor.

The representatives pointed out that the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority had said it would provide electricity to the



Wijarn Chuayprod, chief of the PPEA's consumer service division, said the project was now awaiting approval from Bangkok. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

island two years ago, but that promise was never fulfilled.

"Since the start of the village, we have invested well over 2 billion baht... We currently employ 300 staff, many from the local island population and Laem Hin... We use local laundries and many other local suppliers. All of these [people] are about to lose their jobs or income," the complaint read.

Paying the power bills for the

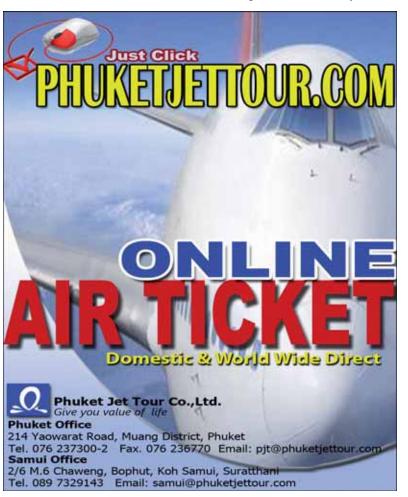
community is crippling the resort finances. Although no name was attached to the resort complaint, it read, "For the last six months I have been trying to get further funding... No one will lend us money or invest because of the electricity problem."

"We have been waiting for electricity for more than 30 years. There are more than 700 people and many resorts on the island," Village chief Younope Petdee said.

Wijarn Chuayprod, chief of the PPEA's consumer service division, explained that years ago his office drew up plans to install underwater cables to supply power to Koh Maphrao.

"The PPEA filed a report so we could go ahead and install power cables for Koh Maphrao. The applications to go ahead with that project is now with the central government," Mr Wijarn said.

- Atchaa Khamlo



Raid uncovers illegal beach resort

MARINE Office officials on Tuesday arrested nine Burmese workers found building a small resort on Tri Trang Beach, at the southern end of Patong bay.

Although the officers, led by Phuket Marine Office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut, could not determine the "owner" of the buildings, the workers were ordered to demolish the structures within 30 days

The buildings under construction included a restaurant, guest rooms and a beachfront rock wall to prevent sea damage.

Patong Police officers who joined the raid charged the nine workers for illegal construction in a public area.

"When we arrived here, we found the Burmese workers building on 900 square meters of land, including the beach itself," he said.

Mr Phuripat said the raid was the result of complaints from people he chose not to identify.

He also explained that any con-



The small resort under construction occupies 900 square meters on Phuket's pristine Tri Trang Beach. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

struction on coastal land without on public areas. Everything has to permission from officials was deemed illegal under Section 117 of the Navigation in Thai Waters Act B.E. 2546.

"Therefore, the Marine Office in Phuket was ordered to demolish all structures that encroached

be removed within 30 days.'

"If the contractor fails to remove all structures within the stipulated period, we will press further charges," Mr Phuripat warned.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Parliament and court No views of Euro 2012 on at war over charter

AROUND THE nation

THE legislative and judicial branches of the Thai government have become entrenched in opposing camps following a ruling by the Constitution Court to force Parliament to suspend its deliberations over amendments to the current charter.

The ruling Pheu Thai Party claims the court overstepped its jurisdiction by forcing a halt to the debate over the amendments while it rules on whether or not they are constitutional.

The Constitution Court on June 1 issued an injunction ordering suspension of the third reading of the amendments after receiving a number of petitions asking it to do so.

The court ruled that those backing the launch of the constitutional amendment process may be attempting to overthrow Thailand's system of government: parliamentary democracy with His Majesty the King as head of state.

The court has ordered Parliament to stop deliberating the amendments until it rules on whether or not the claims of undermining the system of government are accurate. It will commence its investigation on July 5.

The court could rule that the proposed amendments be abandoned completely and even go as



Representatives of the red-shirt movement hand 20,000 signatures supporting the impeachment of seven Constitution Court judges to the Senate president on Friday June 8. Photo: The Nation

far as disbanding the Pheu Thai

The court has already dissolved two precursor parties to Pheu Thai: Thai Rak Thai and the Phalang Prachachon parties, both set up by former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

The Pheu Thai Party claims the court should not have issued its injunction, since according to Article 68 of the Constitution only

the Attorney General has the right to submit a petition against the amendments.

The Attorney General's Office has backed the Pheu Thai Party's claims, leading to an impasse.

Some Pheu Thai Party MPs and associated politicians are calling for the party to openly defy the court and push through the amendments.

Chaturon Chaisaeng, a banned

politician and one of the key strategists behind Pheu Thai, has said the court has made an illegitimate assault on the parliamentary system.

Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung claimed Parliament did not have to comply with the Constitution Court order.

The party is now demanding the court revoke its order after the Attorney General confirmed its interpretation of the constitution.

TrueVision

FOOTBALL-mad customers of cable TV provider TrueVisions are furious after being left unable to enjoy this year's UEFA Euro 2012 tournament, currently underway in Poland and Ukraine.

The 1.64 million subscribers to TrueVisions - Thailand's biggest network – have been left in the dark after media group GMM Grammy bought the rights to the tournament last year.

Subscribers to GMM's satellite service, as well as those of one of its subsidiaries, have been able to view the tournament, the footballing world's second-most prestigious international showdown after the World Cup.

Even those without satellite or cable service are able to watch the tournament on terrestrial channels.

In the past TrueVisions often rebroadcast terrestrial channels showing such content, but now has honored the fact that it had not secured rights to air Euro 2012 and blocked those terrestrial

However, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) on Monday threatened a 20,000-baht a day fine if TrueVisions failed to comply with the watchdog's June 7 order to enable its subscribers to view live Euro 2012 matches on terrestrial channels 3, 5, 9 carried on its network.

At the time of going to press, a TrueVisions representative had told Southeast Asia Real Time that a solution was unlikely to be reached – at least during the early stages of the competition.

So far, viewers trying to watch the Euro2012 matches are being greeted with a message informing them that the company cannot show the games.

Cops nab acid attacker

POLICE last week arrested a man accused of carrying out an esti-mated 30 "acid" attacks in Bangkok, many of which targeted

Fifty-year-old scrap dealer Rachan Theerakitnukul, told police he had been high on ya ice (crystal methamphetamine) when he carried out many of the at-

The stories of random "acid" ttacks – in which a man sprayed some sort of acrid liquid at victims before fleeing – had been circulating in the capital for

Several pictures of women with acid burns recently appeared on a popular Thai webboard.

Police arrested Mr Rachan on June 10 while he was riding on a tricycle cart in Din Daeng.

He was found in possession of a bottle of toilet cleaner, which he eventually confessed to spraying on a victim in the nearby Saphan Kwai area of Bangkok.

During questioning, he also



A scrap dealer has confessed to the 'acid attacks'. Photo: The Nation

confessed to committing about 30 similar attacks. His victims included several Thai women, an English tourist and even cats and dogs.

Mr Rachan told police he carried out the attacks because he felt socially alienated and disrespected

Boathouse Wine & Grill







French and Thai cuisine at its best with Chef Maître Cuisinier de France Jean-Noël Lumineau at the helm. The new rooftop Sunset Lounge is perfect for a few drinks before dinner. 'Best of Excellence' Wine Spectator award winning cellar.

The impressive wine list comprises over 800 different labels. Daily Happy Hour from 5pm-7pm (50% off).

Restaurant is open everyday from 11am-11pm.



Boathouse Resort on the beach 182, Koktanode Road, Kata Beach, Phuker 83100

Corruption and the duality of man

EVERY now and then, local officials do things that either stun *Gazette* readers or slide right past them. The news stories this week about the push to establish a "Chalong Hospital" and the projected opening of the Patong Tunnel (see news pages 3, 7) both highlight a phenomenon often overlooked – that sometimes officials have the public interest at heart.

Local authorities pushing to upgrade the Chalong public health clinic deserve credit. The officials give as their reason a motive of the highest order: People in need of emergency medical care in the southern reaches of the island are dying in transit before reaching major hospitals located in Phuket Town.

These officials are lobbying the Ministry of Public Health to "bend a few rules" to make the Chalong Hospital project a reality. They have already been given Cabinet approval, at least "in principal", to establish the country's first subdistrict-level government hospital. The are also moving forward in another key area: acquiring the needed land and lining up private investment.

Similar refinements are at work in the Patong Tunnel project, which when completed would become the first tollway built by the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT) to not only allow motorbikes, but provide them with a dedicated lane for added safety. Let's just hope toll collectors can bar entry to illegally-modified motorbikes like *salaeng* and the other contraptions that cause so many unnecessary accidents year-in and year-out.

If online forum comments posted by the *Gazette*'s most cynical readers are any indication, many foreigners read into such infrastructure developments first and foremost a hidden agenda of corruption, with officials railroading projects through as a way of feathering their own nests.

Cynics tend to portray official corruption as an everyday fact of life on the island. The reality, however, is that very few law-abiding people suffer at the hands of corrupt officials on a regular basis. The average resident is only confronted by graft at certain critical junctures, but this is often enough to reinforce the impression that official corruption is more widespread than it actually is. The sad result is that many honest, well-intentioned officials are also assumed to be on the take.

A topic seldom discussed in forum discussions is the extent to which official corruption exists in the foreigners' home countries, especially where large government contracts are involved.

For some reason, some foreigners seem so attached to a cynical view of life that they tend to forget that few people are truly good or truly evil, and that most will go out of their way to do the right thing if the opportunity presents itself — public officials included.

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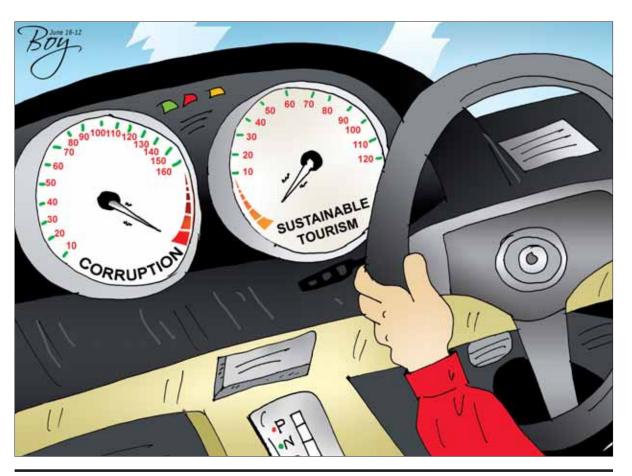
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Red rag to a tourist

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials scramble to stop surf drownings, June 12

I watched the lifeguards at Surin Beach the other day, pulling up a red flag and waving it at a group of foreign tourists who had entered the huge surf.

All they did was wave back at him.

Seriously, I don't know why these guys put their own lives at stake trying to save some folk – I'd let them drown!

The lifeguards deserve medals for their efforts.

Agogohome Gazette forum

A good defense requires upkeep

Re: Gazette online, Phuket monsoon surf batters sea wall to pieces, June 10

Building a properly designed sea wall is not cheap. And that is exactly where the problem lies with the *OrBorTor* [Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization].

It is sad how the once proud and beautiful Surin Beach has slowly, but surely, over the years, deteriorated into a dump. It is pure local government neglect.

With five-star hotels nearby, Surin Beach could attract a lot of business, but the stink of raw garbage and neglect drives away potential customers.

> Kamala Resident Gazette forum

Keeping wired on the Gazette's good stuff

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Gazette readership approaches 50,000 – new look, Property Review launched today, June 10

Letters

to the Editor

Bravo! In an age where local newspapers – even huge local newspapers – are having a harder and harder time keeping the doors open, the *Gazette*'s prospering by sticking to its "old fashioned" journalistic roots.

The marketing is going well,

I'm proud to be writing for the *Gazette* – for 10 years now, as of this month. We're helping to forge some real changes here at home. Good stuff.

Woody Leonhard Gazette forum

Thailand makes list

Re: Gazette online, International crime-fighters to meet in Phuket, June 9

Thailand is now on the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) watchlist for money laundering, corruption and non-transparency, so the meeting here is appropriate. Other countries on the list are: Cuba, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Pakistan, S o Tom and Pr ncipe, Sri Lanka, Syria, Tanzania and Turkey.

dickemery Gazette forum

Take the cruelty out of shipping dogs

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's Soi Dogs launches 'Trade of Shame' campaign against dog-meat trade, June 11

Obviously, the work done by the Soi Dog Foundation and other

organizations is not getting any results. The dog-meat trade is a perfect solution to the stray dogs problem.

We have too many dogs here, and some people are willing to pay to eat them. Why forbid this practice?

If there is a problem with dog transportation, it would be better to try to regulate it instead of just banning everything.

John Gazette forum

They are tortured!

John, your comment – it is just ridiculous that you can agree to regulate. "Those that have survived the unbearable journey are then brutally killed due to people believing that the more pain inflicted before death the more tender the meat will be. The dogs are tortured for hours and then often skinned alive."

What type of human being are you?

Well done to PG for printing this problem.

How can we donate? Most Thais love dogs.

Adam Gazette forum

Don't forget the food

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Lifestyle: Low season diving, June 8

I have dived with this company [Andaman Ocean Safaris], and you missed the second-best thing about a day out with them – the food on the boat. It's as good as any Thai restaurant.

Very important to us divers, *Phuket Gazette*!

Jon Gazette forum

Helping to make special moments

First PERSON

ALTHOUGH we can only afford to pay staff 5,700 baht a month, money is not what our school needs. We need people to visit our school and play with the students.

The students are overjoyed when they have visitors.

Phuket students and teachers visit the school almost every weekend. They usually provide fun activities that both our students and students from other schools can enjoy. We are also visited by members of other organizations based in Phuket, such as staff from hotels and entertainment venues.

It is not our policy to go out and ask for donations or walk along the streets of Phuket selling stuff. However, we do hold some events to put on display some of our students' work.

A good example is the 62nd Student Handicraft Expo: Southern Region, which will be held in Phuket on December 19-21. Students, including special needs students, from all 14 provinces of Southern Thailand will be attending the event and taking part in more than 100 competitions. Our school will host the competitions for special education students.

Our goal at the school is to help each student develop to their full potential. We teach them to be independent and to develop the skills



Wirach Klaharn took over as the director of the Phuket Special School in 2002. He has a master's degree in special education from Srinakharinwirot University. Here, Mr Wirach talks about how special Phuket's only special needs school is and what he dreams it could be.

necessary for them to have careers.

We also encourage them to be physically active and participate in sports, such as track and field, swimming and petanque.

Our students did very well in the National Special Student Sport Games earlier this year in Ubon Ratchathani and succeeded in winning plenty of medals.

Also, a past student of ours, Aroon Koomuda, 21, this year broke the national records for the 100-meter breaststroke, 100m freestyle and 50m freestyle swimming events at the Disability Sport Thailand [games].

Because we function under the Bureau of Special Education Administration and not the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, we are unable to provide free accommodation, food and education to our students after they finish their schooling.

Many tourists come to Phuket for their holidays, and if by chance some of them have children with



Special needs student takes on the hula hoop. Photo: Gazette file

learning disabilities, we would like to invite them to visit us.

This way Phuket would not only be a world-class tourist destination, but also a hub for special education. I dream of our school being a regional center of special education for all of Asia when the Asean Economic Community starts in 2015.



Tourist play in the pounding surf, despite red flag warnings posted along the beach and signs warning of the danger. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Tourist surf 'n' turf

I SAW the Phuket Gazette pageone story last week ["Beach drownings spark tourist safety measures," June 9, 2012 issue] and just couldn't believe it. I can appreciate that the new signs warn tourists of the dangers of swimming in Phuket's dangerous surf at this time of year, and it's great that the warnings are in all seven major languages spoken by the bulk of the tourists who come here on holiday. But what is the point of having brand-new signs, when the tourists don't even bother listening to warnings from the lifeguards? I have seen the ignorance with my own eyes. It's disgustingly rude and it beggars belief.

One man I saw waved his hand dismissively at a poor lifeguard, who was warning him of the danger but could do little else. After all, the man who was ignoring him was about four times the lifeguards' size, as wide the proverbial outhouse and had no neck.

The man was going for a swim and no-one was going to tell him any different.

Of course, it was only about five minutes later that the burly tourist staggered out of the surf, plainly exhausted from battling the

Island View

By Damien Evans

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

incessant waves and the undertow at the place he had decided to go for a paddle.

That was fun to watch. It was good to see the wry smile on the face of the lifeguard too. But it belies the danger, and the fact that the burly tourist could have easily ended up in serious trouble.

Surely we can come up with something better than silent signs to protect our tourists?

If tourists like this are going to ignore the lifeguards, what chance does a piece of metal with paint have?

One suggestion I heard was to post signs keeping a body count of the number of people who drowned on each beach.

Another option is to give the lifeguards some official support, so they can stop ignorant people – both the rude ones and the genuinely unaware – from entering the water and endangering their own lives.

Issues & Answers... ...asking the questions that affect you...

Hard hitting questions about hammerhead sharks

Baby scalloped hammerhead sharks were recently discovered at the Kata fish market. These are an endangered species.

Are there laws protecting these sharks in Thailand? If so, to whom can we report it?

Nomad Joe Kata Beach

Paitoon Panchaiyaphum, Director of the Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Center (DMRC) office in Phuket replies:

According to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment notification in 2010 scalloped hammerhead sharks are on a protected species list. It clearly states that fishing for, or possessing a protected species of fish is illegal.

Next week, I will send the officers to inspect fish markets around the Kata area and will report the results back to the *Gazette*.

If you happen to see anyone who catches, keeps or tries to sell



Majestic hammerhead shark in US aquarium. Photo: Gary J Wood

any protected marine animals, please report it to our office or the nearest police station.

We can be contacted Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm at any of the following numbers: 081-537 0047, 081-173 1146, 076-39 3566.

Narin Meewong, Officer of Phuket Fisheries Department replies:

I have investigated the jetty in Phuket and I found only a few baby scalloped hammerhead sharks that were accidentally caught in the fishermen's nets. Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/ IssuesAnswers

The fishermen will either take them back to sea or send them to the Fisheries Department.

I haven't seen or received any reports that they are being sold in the market.

Thank you for informing me of the situation. I will report this information to the Chief of Fisheries Department and we will send officers from Phuket Coastal Fisheries Research and Department Bureau to inspect the area.

You can contact us by phone Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 4:30pm on either 089-724 2159 or 076-212 460.

Shipping with those hidden charges

I recently shipped my personal belongings from Phuket to Ger-

Many things went wrong, resulting in hidden extra charges.

I would like to know which authority in Phuket or Bangkok I can contact since the shipping contract was broken by a Thai moving company.

Munich

Prapan Kanprasang, from the Consumer Protection Board office at Phuket Provincial Hall Damrongtham Center replies:

You will have to bring the contract in question to us, so we can determine what part of the contract was broken. We would need more information about the situation to offer specific advice. However, I would suggest you contact us in Phuket or Bangkok to file a complaint.

Send faxes to the Consumer Protection Board to 02-143 9774 or email us at consumer@ocpb.go.th

Customs: trade booming

Import – Export

By Steven Layne

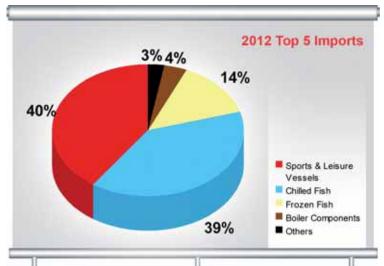
TWO-THIRDS the way into the current government fiscal year, international trade in Phuket is thriving, with the value of both imports and exports looking likely to surpass last year's record-high performance.

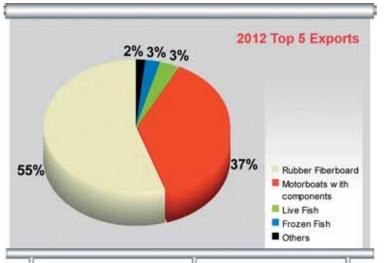
Phuket Customs' records through May 31 show that the value of exports in 2012 (October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012) is now at 11.11bn baht – just 1.4bn baht shy of the previous year's total.

Meanwhile, the value of imports is up to 1.59bn baht, compared to 2.12bn baht reported last year.

With still four months to go before the fiscal year is over, Phuket's trade surplus of exports over imports has already cleared the 90% mark to matching last year's figure of 10.39 billion baht.

Indeed, the total value of trade – the sum





NOT SO FISHY HERE: Phuket's imports (left) were dominated by boats, while exports (right) were mostly rubber and related products.

of exports and imports – is rapidly approaching the 13bn baht mark, rapidly approaching last year's figure of 14.6bn baht.

Phuket's top export this year, by far, has been block rubber, with exports of the com-

modity currently valued at 8.1bn baht.

This is followed by rubber fiberboard (1.6bn baht), motorboats and related components (1.1bn baht), live fish (96.1mn baht) and frozen fish (77.8mn baht).

Topping the list of imports by value is cargo vessels (545mn baht), followed by sports and leisure vessels (420mn baht), chilled fish (408mn baht), frozen fish (145mn baht) and boiler components (40mn baht).

Maha Sarakham inks rice deal with Phuket

TRADE representatives from Phuket and Maha Sarakham have entered into bilateral negotiations centered primarily on the supply of scented jasmine rice from the Northeastern Thai province.

Marking the start of a promising commercial alliance, the development was highlighted by the signing of a trade memorandum at the Pearl Hotel in Phuket Town last week.

The general terms of the agree- signed the agreement. ment outline the nature of future



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trading of the staple, in which producers and distributors in Maha Sarakham agree to supply scented jasmine rice and related products to buyers in Phuket on a regular and contractual basis.

Among those attending the signing ceremony were representatives from the commercial and cooperatives offices of both provinces, the Phuket agricultural cooperatives office and about 10 private traders.

Representing suppliers from Maha Sarakham were the Borabu Cooperative, the Khok Ko Germinated Brown Rice (GABA) Group and the Gao Noi, Moo 2 village rice center – a community enterprise.

Presiding over the meeting, Maha Sarakham Vice Governor Suthinan Bunmi explained that the drafting of the memorandum was complementary to a government project, funded from the current fiscal year, aimed at assisting the development of rice-market operators in Maha Sarakham.

'Maha Sarakham realizes the importance and benefits of integrating and working with partners. By signing this agreement, we are building a business network and alliance that will foster the exchange of trade knowledge and experience," he said.

Commerce Ministry: CPI rise slows down

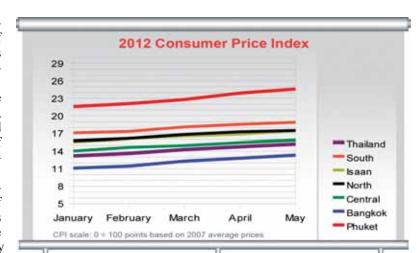
THOUGH the cost of living in Thailand continues to rise, the rate of increase over the past three months has slowed, Consumer Price Index (CPI) figures indicate.

Compiled and released by the Ministry of Commerce (MoC), the CPI national average nudged 0.45 points up to a score of 115.23 in May, a month-onmonth increase of 0.39%.

Calculated by comparing current average prices commodities and consumer goods to those reported in 2007 (base year prices = 100 points), monthly CPI increase rates in the first part of this year are as follows: 0.37% from January to February, 0.58% from February to March and 0.42% from March to April.

In the first five months of the year, the CPI has increased by 1.78%, up from 113.21 points in January.

While last month's CPI score represents a 2.53% jump from May, 2011, the MoC projects that the total CPI increase this year will be



Cost of Living

between 3.30 and 3.8%.

When comparing the average CPI of all commodities in the first five months of the year with averages during the same period last year, the increase equates to 3.03%.

The category with the highest increase so far this year was electricity, fuel and water supply,

jumping 8.31% when compared to averages in the first five months of 2011.

This is followed by ready-made food (7.97%), food and beverages (6.30%) and raw food (5.03%).

Using the same comparative criteria, the only categories to show decreases were public transportation services and communication and related equipments, falling by 0.55% and 0.16% respectively.

- Steven Layne



Siam International 38/54 Nanai Road. Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

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Company formations Tel: 076 346 149

Notarial certifications

Contracts

❖ Work permits

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Translations

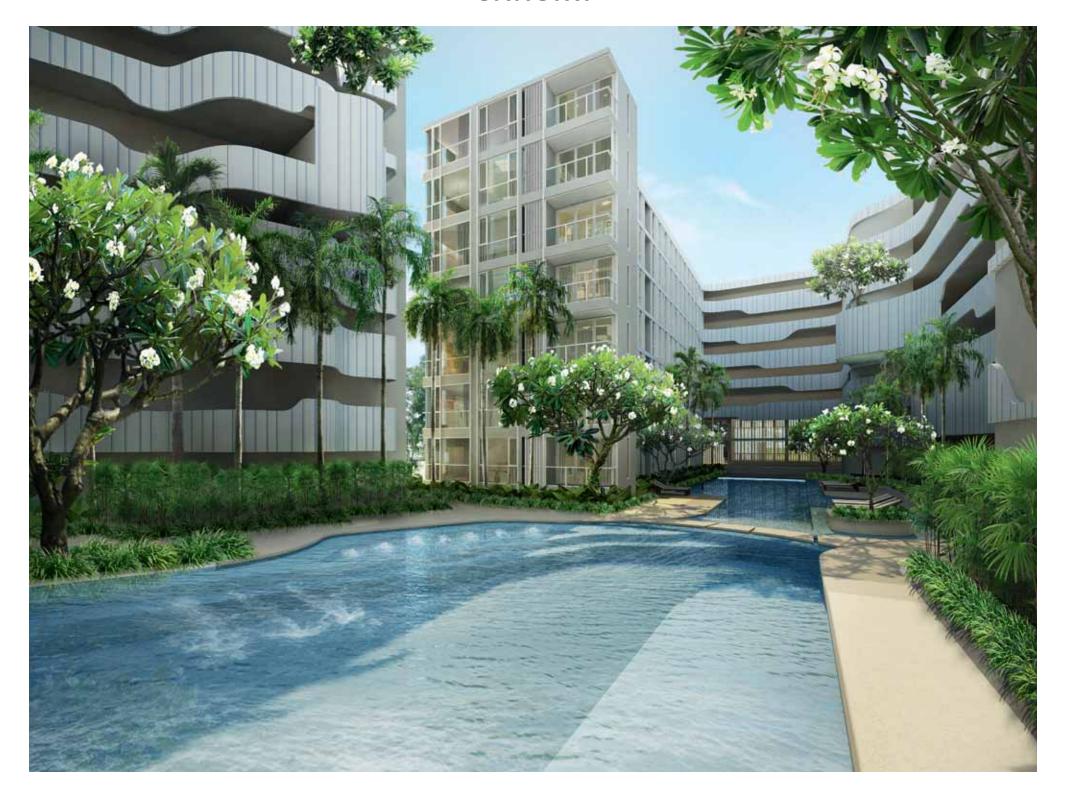
Commodity Wholesale Report

		Change	(%)	
(per liter / kg)	June 11	Month	Year	
Palm bunch (17%)*	5.58	-10.43	-5.58	
Raw Palm Oil (Grade A)	32	-10.86	-6.92	
Rubber (Block, Class 3)	91.54	-13.1	-32.18	
Live Chicken	40	27.11	-20.29	
Chicken Eggs (Class 3)	2.85	22.32	-3.72	
Live Pork	56.5	-9.09	-18.71	
Cassava	1.99	10.56	-9.55	
Corn feed	10.45	0.1	10	
White Rice (100%)*	1815	10.81	23.39	
Jasmine Rice (Class 2)*	3055	7.99	13.7	
Glutinous Rice (Class 2)*	2705	5.87	-7.74	
**per 100kg Source: Ministry of Commerce	, Central Thai ma	arket prices		

Rice stocks pile high

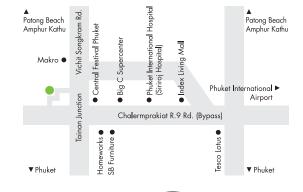
ENGAGED in negotiations with at least five governments, Thailand is looking to shave down some of its record-high stockpiles of unmilled rice. According to recent estimates, the Kingdom is sitting on about 15 million metric tons of the raw commodity, a number which is expected to swell through June as farmers pay off their loans using rice under the government's rice pledging scheme. Countries set to purchase the rice include Ivory Coast, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Philippines and the United Arab Emirates.





THE BASE DOWNTOWN - PHUKET AS CHARMING AS LIFE

Phuket downtown condominium from Sansiri Pre-sales 29 June - 1 July Visit Sales Gallery with special privileges* Starts 1.9 MB*



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Phuket



Project: The Base Downtown-Phuket Address: Wichit Sub-District, Muang Phuket District, Phuket Province The Owner: Sansiri Public Company Limited, Company's registered no. 0107538000665. Head office located at no. 475, Sri Ayudthaya Road, ThanonPhayathai Sub-District, Rajthewi District, Phuket Province The Owner: Sansiri Public Company Limited, Company's registered no. 0107538000665. Head office located at no. 475, Sri Ayudthaya Road, ThanonPhayathai Sub-District, Rajthewi District, Phuket Province, India of unit(s) and office unit(s), on partly of the land title deed no. 3581, land no. 324, survey no. 324. Wichit (Rangag) Sub-District, Phuket Province, total of 1 plot(s), the approximate land area: 3-3-50 Rai. For the time being, the land has not yet been transferred to the project owner by the existing land owner. The land will be mortgaged and processed to submit the building permission afterward. The period of construction is approximately 16 months, commencing from February 2013 and expected to be completed in May 2014. The project will be registered as the condominium after the condominium Juristic Person under the condominium duristic Person under the condominium law.* Company's conditions apply / Featured photography in the advertisement consists of photography on location, photography on location, photography on location with simulated atmosphere and simulated graphic. Should you have any questions regarding any photography, please contact our customer service staffs or visit our projects' site. Call 1685.

What to do if your email is blocked



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

I SEND out a lot of email – many dozens of pieces every day. Lately, I've been having more and more problems with the email being rejected at the receiving end.

Here's a message I just received in response to a message I sent to a reader in the US last night:

SMTP error from remote mail server after initial connection: host relay.verizon.net [206.46.232.11]: 571 Email from 96.127.180.74 is currently blocked by Verizon Online's anti-spam system. The email sender or Email Service Promay visit http:// www.verizon.net/whitelist and request removal of the block. 120609

I've sporadically received messages like that for years, but it's been getting much worse in the past few months.

I've even started "spam" hitting blocks when going to web sites. A screen appears that

says the web site's blocking my access because of identified problems with my IP address: I have to type in a CAPTCHA code (where the computer shows a very-hard-to-read picture and expects a typed response) to prove I'm a human before I can see the site.

If you hit either of those problems, you might be tempted to think that you did something wrong. It's possible that you did, but more likely the problem is due to some other person with an infected computer. Let me explain what's going on.

Every time you log on to the Internet you get an IP address -

a number that's similar to a phone

Right now, for example, I'm connected to the internet on a True ADSL line and my IP address is 58.8.93.20. As long as my router's connected, I keep that same IP address.

If I turn off the router and turn it back on, or the power goes out or something goes "bump" with the line, I get a different IP address. I just reset my True router and, a few minutes later, my IP address is now 61.90.11.31. (You can check your IP address at W: askwoody.com/testdntflash.)

IP addresses are assigned in blocks, and the blocks are assigned to Internet Service Providers, so it's possible for a

"The infected

computers send

out hundreds or

thousands of

email messages

an hour."

computer to look at an IP address and tell, more or less, where it came from.

If you use Outlook or Mac OS X Mail or Outlook Express or Windows Mail or iPad Mail Eudora, (or Thunderbird or any

other email program that lives on your PC or tablet), your mail sits on a computer, called a mail server, on the Internet until you go out and retrieve it.

Usually when you get your mail, you send mail out, too - and the mail that's sent out goes from your PC to the server, then from the server to the intended recipient's server. The mail servers know your IP address - that's how you communicate with the server.

The message at the beginning of this column says that the offending message came from 96.127.180.74. That could have been my IP address when I sent out the message last night, or it



SPAM A LOT?: Naughty neighbours abusing local IP addresses can get you blocked too. Photo: Freezelight.

could be the IP address of my mail server. Either way, I'm shafted.

Why? Because the gatekeeper at the Verizon mail server has decided that mail coming from 96.127.180.74 is probably spam. Since that IP address (or perhaps a group of IP addresses) has such a bad reputation, the spam blocker at Verizon basically says, "You're probably a spam

message and we don't want to hear from

Yes, you can log on to the web site and plead your case to have your IP address unblocked. In my experience, the people who maintain the blacklists couldn't give a furry rodent's posterior whether one specific individual (which is to say, me) has been blocked unfairly. They get a lot of spam, and a solitary complainer in Phuket is just collateral damage.

The solution? For years I've been using a Gmail account to circumvent the problem. When PART 1: a message gets bounced, I fire DENIAL OF SERVICE up Gmail, copy the message, and send it from Gmail. When you send mail from Gmail, it gets branded with a Gmail IP address, and no blacklister in their right mind would block all Gmail mail.

Once I've got the message out through Gmail, I turn off my router, wait a minute, and turn it back on again. That's kind of Russian roulette – sometimes the new IP address is better than the old one, sometimes it's worse.

Usually IP addresses get blacklisted because someone who has been using the IP address (or possibly a whole bunch of people have been using the IP addresses from the same Internet Service Provider) have infected computers.

The infected computers send

out hundreds or thousands of email messages an hour.

I once had a TT&T ADSL line that was blocked from accessing Slashdot, one of the most popular Web sites, because other TT&T ADSL users with similar IP addresses were flooding Slashdot with thousands of hits per hour.

Chances are very good that a bunch of TT&T ADSL users had

been "zombified" and were

responding to remote commands orches-CAN I HAVE A CUP OF COFFEE? trating them into

SIMPLY EXPLAINED

a DDoS (Distributed Denial of Service) attack against Slashdot.

I complained, but in the end had to wait a week until the pinging stopped. Only then would Slashdot allow my IP address to access their site.

Many people, ...er, IP addresses, can be tarred by the same brush. The spam blocking routines or web site blocking routines can take out a whole range of IP addresses, if they start getting hit by more than one address.

Some of my friends recommend that you pay extra for a "dedicated IP" line. That will help some of the time, but it won't work all of the time, simply because of the guilt by association.

It may just be me, but I'm seeing more and more blocking on both my 3BB and True lines, and I wonder if it's because a whole lot of people using 3BB and True have PCs that are infected. Yes, I use the term "PCs" quite deliberately because the only widespread Mac virus so far doesn't work this way and iPads/iPhones/Android phones and tablets don't get infected this way either. Yet.

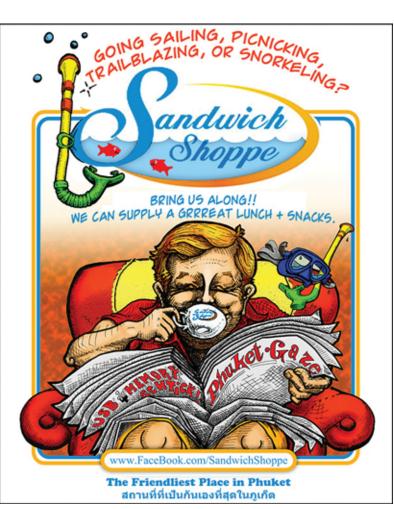
In fact, I'd be so bold as to say that 90% of the infected PCs in Phuket are running pirate versions of Windows - most likely XP - and the vast majority are running Internet Explorer 6, with versions of Flash and Acrobat Reader that haven't been updated recently.

If your PC is running a pirate copy of Windows - especially pirated Windows XP - and you haven't kept Windows, your browser, Flash and Reader updated, you might as well just point a gun at it right now.

But that's a topic for next week.

Seth Bareiss holds computer sessions every other Wednesday afternoon, from 1 to 3pm. If you have a Windows problem, drop by, or come to one of our free Sunday morning roundtables at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Details in the Events Calendar. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/ SandwichShoppe.



More meter taxis sought for airport

By Atchaa Khamlo

THE Phuket Taxi Meter (PTM) Service Co Ltd filed an official request recently to add 30 cars to their fleet of 80 metered taxis already in service at Phuket International Airport.

The move to boost the fleet at the airport comes as part of the company's negotiations to renew its current concession, set to expire on September 30.

PTM, one of three taxi companies that serve passengers at the airport, claims that the current number of metered taxis available is unable to meet demand, as five to 10 cars are under repair daily.

"All taxis at the airport should be metered taxis in order to create a recognized standard for their management," said Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) chief Teerayut Prasertpol.

Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada used the meeting as an opporconduct and basic standards with denied that there was an issue which the company needed to comply.

"The quality of the cars being used as taxis at the airport must be improved. The drivers should also have polite manners and be well dressed," said V/Gov Chamroen.

The current fare for metered cabs leaving the airport is a base fee of 150 baht, they charge 7 baht per kilometer from the second kilometer to the 20th. After the 20th kilometer, the charge falls to 6 baht per kilometer.

A metered taxi from the airport to Patong should cost about 450 baht.

However, the Tourist Police representative at the meeting, Capt Siramed Thanaphansiri, alleged that the metered taxis often overcharged passengers.

"Measures must be taken to prevent metered taxi drivers from charging their passengers an extra 200 to 300 baht per trip," he said.

But Dulyatham Rawungdee, a representative from Airports of Thailand (AOT), the public comtunity to outline a code of pany that operates Phuket Airport,

with metered taxis overcharging at the airport.

"We have not received complaints of metered taxi drivers charging more than the price on the meter," he said.

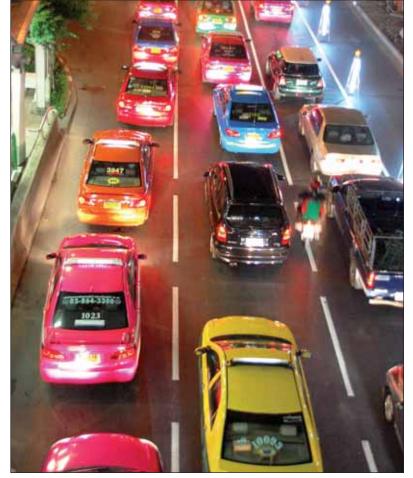
"Of course, if we do get complaints, we will inform the PLTO, so they can warn the offenders or – in case of repeat offenders - even consider cancelling the registration of the offending driver's car," he added.

V/G Chamroen also used the meeting to voice the complaints of "lots" of private organizations about the entrance to the airport being clogged by taxis.

"Even the entrance hall, where people wait for passengers, is crowded with taxi drivers, tour agents and people picking up their friends – it's chaotic," he

"The airport needs to fix the problem, because it is the first impression tourists have of Phuket," he added.

The meeting concluded with the Phuket International Airport necessary.



TAXI TURMOIL: PTM Service Co Ltd wants to add 30 more metered taxis to its fleet in order to meet airport demand. Photo: Anu Leponiemi

Mr Dulyatham agreeing to send a report that included the suggestions presented to the AOT head office in Bangkok.

it will be handed over to Phuket Governor Tri Augkaradacha before the committee and the PLTO will be able to decide if When the report is returned to the extra 30 metered taxis are

When the financial gate slams shut



FENCED IN: Why you should be weary of 'gated' funds. Photo: Falk Lademann

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

SINCE I'm often writing about how I like alternative investment strategies, it may be a good idea to do a few pieces on the features of funds available to managers when they open.

This will help you understand what can happen when you invest in such a fund. This week is about gates - since most alternative funds write the option to put up a gate into their offer memorandums.

A gate is the ability to suspend redemptions if a certain percentage of the assets in a fund are redeemed at the same time. While this sounds like a bad thing, it can actually help save a fund and protect its remaining investors.

If a fund has illiquid and needs to dump them quickly, everyone loses. A gate is a way to prevent this from happening. Unfortunately, if you need to access proceeds from a sale and the fund puts up a gate, it might be some time before you get your cash.

If you're looking at buying an alternative fund with illiquid assets, know that if there is a run a gate will likely be put up. I advise people to stay in funds where underlying assets are exchange traded and can be

liquidated quickly.

This way, a gate should never be a problem. However, some funds with illiquid underlying assets do provide extra diversi-

If you find yourself in a position where your fund has put a gate up, my personal opinion is to get your money back as soon as it becomes available again. Some would argue that if a gate is opened and lowered it means that the fund used it properly to protect the interests of remaining investors, and is therefore still a solid company.

I think that if there is a whiff of trouble with any investment you should get out as soon as possible. Whenever I've delayed acting on this instinct, my clients have suffered for it. Thus, I'm not going to delay getting out if a gate is lowered.

Many of the best fund managers in the world have lowering a gate as an option, so I don't think it is good advice to avoid funds if you see they have it written into their offering memorandum.

Just make sure you know what could happen in a moment of panic if the markets cause liquidity to drop and money to flow out of risk assets. This phenomenon might lead to a fund lowering its gates.

Make sure you know which funds assets would be easily disposed of and think of those holdings as likely to be true to the liquidity terms you read about on the fund fact sheet.

David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, specializing in UK pension transfers. He can be reached at 085-335-8573 or david.m@faramond.com



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Sophie Cox: From Phuket teacher to London 2012 judo hopeful

She moved to Phuket to retire from the world judo stage, she left to chase after Olympic gold

By Fraser Morton

ENGLISH judo competitor Sophie Cox has six weeks left until her fight to become Olympic champ - seven years after retiring to Phuket to become a teacher.

Sophie, 30, broke the news of her Team GB selection as the under 52-kilogram competitor on Twitter recently, but the official team selection announcement from the British Olympic Association is expected on June

Sophie Cox She has made a comeback few would have thought possible and praises Phuket for helping her do it.

The two-time European silver medalist competed at the 2002 Commonwealth Games in Manchester and the 2004 Olympics in Athens. She took up the unforgiving one-on-one martial art when she was six years old and was the British judo champion at the age of 16.

But in 2004 she said farewell to the sport, age 23.

"I was at the point where I didn't connect with the sport. I felt like I hadn't achieved my full potential, but I needed a new

challenge," she recalls, speaking to the Gazette via webcam from her training camp in Seoul, South Korea last week.

She moved to Phuket in 2005 with her partner looking for adventure and a "new challenge".

> Sophie's first "proper job" was a real challenge – teaching kindergarten.

> > "It was very tough. It was a massive learning curve but was very rewarding."

Sophie then got a job at Chalerm-prakiat School in Phuket Town where she taught for a year-and-a-half.

"I was teaching English, but I was also appointed PE teacher. This was great. I was allowed to teach judo and bought mats for the kids."

Sophie said teaching the children reignited her passion for the sport. She spent her free time keeping fit, making friends and travelling around Thailand. She also started intense Muay Thai training sessions.

"Training Muay Thai defiantly helped me as an athlete," she

"Without even meaning to, my hand speed – a vital skill in judo – increased by training Muay Thai."



TOUGH TEACHER: Former Phuket teacher Sophie Cox (blue) has her sights set on London 2012. Photo: AFP

Sophie also took yoga and holistic therapy classes, learning how to balance her physical and mental health.

"Today, as an older athlete, it is important I feel good about myself mentally and physically. My work, training and life in Phuket made me more aware of how my body and mind work. This is unique to me – an edge I feel I have over my competitors."

Sophie continued to teach judo and impart her skills to students at the British International School Phuket and at evening classes at a center in Phuket Town before she landed a job at Phuket International Academy in 2009.

"All of my jobs in Phuket took me out my comfort zone. Judo is natural to me. Even fighting on the big stage - it's what I know. Teaching in Thailand took me out of that zone and threw new life challenges at me."

On a sunny Phuket morning in April 2010, as Sophie pinned photos herself at the Olympics to a pinboard as part of an "Olympic Day" at her school, she felt a pang of nostalgia.

As she looked at the photographs of her former self competing at the highest level of her sport, she made a decision: "I'm going to compete again."

A few weeks later she got her chance. A 12-hour bus journey to Bangkok and three fights later at the Thailand National Open and Sophie had a gold medal in-hand.

Sophie called her coach back in England, to see if he was interested in coaching her again.

"Come back. You can still have time for the London 2012," he said.

Sophie made the decision to leave her school, her friends and her life in Phuket and arrived back in England in June 2010.

"I just wanted to train again. I thought I had an outside chance of making it to London 2012."

Sophie moved in with her parents in Manchester, started training daily with her coach and living off her savings.

Her hard work paid off. Just one month later she competed as



an independent competitor in Germany to win bronze.

"The British team was also there and at that point there were no strong competitors at the under-52kg weight level."

"After winning bronze, people took notice. I was asked to compete again for Britain."

Three weeks later Sophie competed at the World Championships in Tokyo.

"I didn't get anywhere. I lost my second fight, but just to have the opportunity to compete on the world stage was a huge boost."

And Sophie took advantage of her team re-call, winning six medals in 2011, including a bronze at the GB World Cup in Birmingham and at the Olympic test event in London.

"After that Team GB asked me to relocate to London in preparation for London 2012."

"It all happened so fast. I rented a flat with another girl about five minutes' drive from the training centre, and then I was back in the routine: eating, sleeping, training and all over again."

Sophie said the past six months have been exhausting but exhilarating.

'There's not much space for anything else. I've travelled around the world. I must have been on 50 flights, including a quick trip back to Phuket to see friends in November last year."

Sophie currently trains seven days a week, with intense strength, conditioning and flexibility sessions. She also meets weekly with a nutritionist, pyschologist and has regular video analysis seminars as part of her training.

Most days she's up at 7.30am, out running and then eating porridge for breakfast, and maintaining a strict diet of vegetables, lean proteins and trying to keep her weight at under 52kg – no easy feat as her "natural weight" is 55kg.

"Every now and then I get an ice cream or a fry up, but not often."

"I miss the fresh fruit of Phuket, and vendors who slice your fruit for you ready to eat. Here I have to cut fruit myself – I hate that," Sophie jokes.

Despite the rigorous training, Sophie has one goal in mind winning gold at London 2012.

"Anyone who steps on that mat in front me is another body I have to get out the way. I know on my day I can beat anyone in my weight in the world."

Sophie said that a lot will depend on what happens at the games as to what she will do in the future.

"I'm in love with the sport again. In the future I would love to coach, especially children. I want to give something back. That's my goal.





ANCIENT ART: Tribal patterns can help make you instantly chic. Photo Maegan Tintari



Abby McMillin

THE hottest style of trend in pattern design this year is undoubtedly tribal. Last year saw an explosion of African-inspired prints hit runways and major stores and the trend has continued.

In 2012 prints have trickled down to the masses and evolved to feature Aztec and Southwestern Native American designs.

When wearing a tribal print, your look is instantly trendy. These fashion-forward pieces give you street-style flair with a cultivated edge. This look stirs up images of far-off lands and ancient civilizations.

Incorporating a few statement patterns will add a new dimension to your fashion sense.

Key characteristics of tribal prints include bold geometrical shapes, daring color combos and a mix of patterns and lines. Colors range from bright neons to dusty earth tones – depending on taste.

This trend looks great when paired with denim or solid colors – to avoid an over-the-top look. Donning natural accessories, such as leather and feathers, will add to the bohemian traveler theme.

Silver with turquoise accents really brings out the South American feel of this trend.

This look calls for simple sandals by day and boots or statement platforms by night.

Fearless prints are dominating all realms of apparel – from skirts and dresses, to leggings and shoes, this is one trend that keeps on expanding. Some

women even sport intricate nail art that incorporate tribal and geometrical prints.

Remember to invest in pieces that you'll actually wear and follow your instincts with this style.

Some *fashionistas* can pull off outrageous outfits that appear stunning, but if classic is more your taste, opt for something black and white – like a skirt or leggings.

Or add an attractive dress with a simple chevron pattern to your wardrobe and try it out on the weekend. This isn't a look that you have to pull off daily.

Wearing a tribal print signifies that you're *ens vogue* and tells everyone around that you have fun with fashion. Don't overthink by focusing on more than one piece at a time.

Consider buying some Aztec jewelry or a geometric print clutch if wearing the clothing seems like too much for you. A little bit can go a long way with this trend, so have fun with it!



TRENDY TRIBAL: This bracelet features Native American designs. Photo Larry Lamsa



Life & style Camera rolling, regulator in

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

TOWELED dry and eating a pile of pancakes on Andaman Ocean Safaris' boat, my dive buddy and I head to the upper cabin with lackluster enthusiasm to watch the video from the day's dive. I had seen these sorts of videos before. They usually came off as gimmicky and, let's be honest, I had just been on the dive so I remembered what I saw and how it looked – but this time I had no idea what I was getting myself into.

Henrik Konradsal's video had me laughing before the divers finished suiting up, as a little playful editing made each awkward diver dance to the 1990s classic Mambo Number 5.

But it wasn't until the camera went underwater that Henrik's magic took hold of everyone watching, and we were sold.

A blue spotted ray wafted from the sandy bottom, it's colors vibrant against the blue water – it was all vastly more beautiful than I remembered it. I caught myself thinking "I want to be on the that dive! "Yet, there I was on the television staring at a cuttlefish.

Almost all the exciting marine life spotted, some of which we had only heard about from other divers, was in the video. All this footage came from one camera, and one man, who had been able to not only shoot the approximately 20-minute video, but also all the post production.

I had to find out how he did it.

Phuket Gazette: How do you incorporate the sense of discovery into your videos?

Henrik Konradsdal: I'm always looking for new things to put in the video. The more interesting fish and corals I find, the more interesting the video is going to be for the guests. So if I can see a leopard shark that's going raise



SHOT FOR SHOT: Henrik Konradsdal has a picture snapped of him while he is filming a friend on a dive. Photo: Frederic Juneau

the value of my DVD, I shoot it. PG: What are you looking for when you shoot the film?

HK: First of all, I want the nice shots. The shots that are going to make people say, "Wow, is that actually the dive we did?" I know where to go and I have my spots. I figure out which angle is good for a particular shot, try to go to my spot, do the shot I normally do and then I try to look for something special to see. Instructors and Dive Masters know what I'm doing, so if they've seen something special they always point it out to me – "shark over there" or "octopus over here". I find all the special things and people are sometimes surprised on how

much I find. But I may only find half of it, while the instructors show me the rest. They, of course, want me to see whatever they saw, so that I can film it, and they can tell their customers later, "Oh, that's the shark we saw."

PG: Do you use any stock footage outside of the intro, where you are introducing the staff?

HK: Yeah, it happens. Sometimes I'll see something and I'm not able to get a good shot of it. Then maybe I'll have to use footage from a previous day or the day before that. But if it's a day with bad visibility, I won't suddenly put 20 meters visibility into the film. I mean I would use stock footage of bad visibility of the same fish, crab or whatever. But I try to use as little as possible.

PG: I was very impressed by the way the camera and you move through the water. What kind of camera angles do you look for when you are shooting?

HK: If I'm following the subject I try to be below it, shooting up, or at least on the same level. I try not to shoot from the top for the same reason you want to shoot a fish from the front. You actually want to see the fish, its expression and its face. You want to see how the fish interacts with the camera.

PG: It looked like you were working nonstop on the boat. How does that editing process work for you on the boat?

HK: My set up for the video is the same every day. I have the morning part; I have the funny part; I have the diving part; and green. Most of the effects for the the afternoon part. And in each sec-

tion there is something I'm looking for. And I always know right away when I have it. So when I sit down to edit, I just go straight to that part. It saves me time, not having to look through everything.

PG: So if lunch is late you don't get to eat, right?

HK: Yeah, as soon as I come out of the water from the first dive and start importing footage I need the food to be ready. I can start eating while the files are importing. As soon as my files are imported, I start editing.

PG: Are you able to jump to exactly where you want to be when editing?

HK: Yeah, and I try not to keep the camera rolling too much. I just shoot the film I need and then stop. For other videography projects you would continue filming a little bit longer, just in case, but I don't have time for that because it's going to take longer to import and longer to find the footage that I need.

PG: Earlier we were talking about how your videos look better than real life. The water looks clearer, the colors are a little sharper. How do you do

HK: I do some color editing. Underwater, I basically set up my white balance correctly. That's how I get the blue effect. It doesn't matter how green the water is. I want the water to be blue, so I do the white balance accordingly. Then, if I don't think it's blue enough, I add some blue during the edit and maybe take away some film I create underwater, with the

angles. I have a bit of a wide-angle feature on the camera, so I can get a bit closer to the object and it will still fit inside the frame. On the TV it might look like I'm three meters away, but in reality I might be just a meter away. So that makes the water look clearer than it is.

PG: What kind of advice do you have for a hobbyist or someone just starting underwater videography?

HK: Get to know your equipment before you get into the water. You need to know where the buttons are. Also, learn how to do white balance on your specific camera. I've never really had any success with the underwater mode, which many cameras have.

Really, the key to being an underwater photographer or videographer is your buoyancy. If you are new to diving, but you are an experienced photographer you'll have problems. You need to learn to dive properly before being able to take good shots.

PG: So before we bring this to a close, what's your favorite dive site to work on?

HK: I love Shark Point, which is beautiful. The tops of pinnacle two and pinnacle three are just amazing to film. There's so much marine life and, on top of that, there are all the colors of the soft corals. I just can't fail at shooting there [laughs].

Henrik shoots with a Sony cx550 in a Light and Motion Stingray G2+ housing. On the boat he uses iMovie editing software, but for more advance editing he uses Final Cut Pro. He can be contacted at fx.scuba.phuket@gmail.com





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Tempting tastes of the Cape

Dining Out

FEW things can tell someone about another culture or country like its food. Italian food is full of flavor and body. American food comes in large quantities and fills you up. Thai food is spicy with intricate details and layers.

If food is indeed anything to go by to get a sense of culture, then the South African Food and Wine Expo, held at the RE K TA Beachside Restaurant in Kata, hit the nail on the head by offering its patrons a taste of what South Africa is all about.

The flavors on offer from the food and wines were so diverse it was almost impossible to try them all – well, almost impossible.

The meats off the braai -Afrikaans for barbeque - on display were hearty and in abundance. The wines were full of form that had people reaching for more and the aromas and atmosphere that filled the air truly had an *Ubuntu* feel to it.

In attendance was HE Ruby Marks, the ambassador for South Africa to Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Thailand and she had nothing but praise for the event.

"This is all wonderful. It really is and I feel so proud to be a South African and am truly overwhelmed by it all," she said, clearly gushing with pride.

"The Thai palate is a refined one and open to new tastes and experiences. South African food is perhaps something that many people have not necessarily tried before and, therefore, I am excited that we can introduce them to it.'

Foods such as biltong: a jerkylike snack that is salty and rich.



FLYING THE FLAG: A selection of meats waiting to be cooked on the 'braai'.

Boerewors: a spicy, juicy sausage slowly cooked on the braai. Chakalaka: an accompaniment to all dishes consisting of beans, chilies, carrots and an assortment of spices and herbs.

And, of course *pap*: porridgelike meal made from ground maize, with onion-and-tomato gravy that fills every bit of spare room in your belly.

Then there is the wine. Like any proud, rainbow-blooded South African will tell you, wine from the Western Cape region of the country is up there in terms of quality with the very best from around the world.

Don't believe me? Here's what other wines and this is unique to Monsieur Georges Ciret, the wine director of the Boathouse had to say: "South African wine is special. It has flavors that

separate it from the rest of the world and, if anyone is curious enough to try some, then they will soon realize that wines from the south of Africa can hold their own against anything from France or other countries.

"South African wines are fruitier than

country. Robust grapes give it more body, which accompanies the hearty, meaty food of the country."

BBQ: Chefs Candice Friedman and Bryan Burger from South

Africa cooked up a storm. gazing in the direction of South Africa, and its rich history and amalgamation of

This combi-

nation offers

those who are

curious and the

adventurous

something

uniquely African,

which is a taste

that is gaining

popularity

After the 2010

Cup, the world's

eyes have often

found themselves

World

around

world.

FIFA

flavours cultures shine through in the food and wine on display.

Head chef Bryan Berger is a South African expat who has been living here for seven years and is overjoyed to be able to share a little bit of home with people from all over the world.

"Food brings people together. It is a great unifier," he says, while dishing up a generous helping of barbeque pork ribs off the fire for an Irish couple.

"In South Africa we have so many cultures and languages and people all coming together and mixing it up and that is reflected in our food. In one meal you can have curries from Durban, fruity sauces from the Western Cape or large servings of beef and lamb from the Karoo or the Free State."

This mix of flavours and cultures is perhaps the defining feature of South African cuisine.

The country's history is well known and documented. A radical past has shaped the landscape and thrust different ideologies and beliefs into a great melting pot and stirred them all together. The end product is something that Ambassador Marks believes is something to be proud of.

"We have so much to offer the world and, for a country that is still in its infancy [only 18 years old] we really are a shining light.

"In terms of produce, we have it all. Our weather is conducive to producing top quality ingredients and we are already looking into exporting our citrus products to Southeast Asia as well as our unique tea called rooibos [red bush]."

So, if you are looking for a spice that's lekker and aren't afraid to risk a babbelas, then why not try some South African flavors that will definitely have you screaming, "Ayoba mzanzi, Ayoba!

- Phuket Gazette

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Polynesian nights at M venpick



MAY CONTAIN NUTS: M venpick are offering a taste of some other islands with their recently launched Polynesian - themed Friday evenings. There is a Thai buffet featuring specialities from all over the Kingdom and a floor show featuring fire-staffs and 'luau' dancers. Photo: Marc Mulloy

The other Kiwi juice

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

RAIN squalls, flooding and high winds put a bit of a damper on the recent Steve Bennett MW New Zealand wine dinner held at the Holiday Inn, Patong Beach, but having heard many good reports about this form of Kiwi juice I brave the elements and turn up on time.

On arrival at Sam's Steaks and Grill, I notice that there is only one long table prepared for us, and Executive Assistant Manager (F&B) Morgan Layberry gives me a litany of bad-luck tales that have befallen this epicurean event.

First of all, there were to be five wines, but one case was smashed on the way to Phuket leaving only four. Then the wine-maker himself, Master of Wine Steve Bennett, had to cancel due to the bad weather (many guests cancelled for the same reason).

Finally part of the lobby roof collapsed due to the heavy rain. Despite all this bad luck, the long, elegant table set in the private function room makes for a more intimate setting, perfect for a convivial and memorable evening.

First cork popped is Stillwater Bay Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009 served with a raw tuna amuse bouche.

I remember a certain cigarette slogan which said "Wel-

come to Marlboro country". This would work well for New Zealand wines too. My neighbor, Anuchit Saeng-on, explains the virtues of this famous wine-making region.

Khun Anuchit has replaced Steve Bennett as the speaker as he knows the wines well. He is the Group Product Manager of Italthai, the importer.

"Located on the east coast with mountains the to west, Marlborough is one of New Zealand's sunniest and driest areas. In these relatively 'cool' climate conditions, the grapes have the advantage of a long slow, flavor-intensifying ripening period especially Sauvignon Blancs," he explains.

He is right. This first of two Sauvignon Blancs is crisp, fresh and loaded with gooseberry and citrus notes. A single seared scallop with pistachio cream is served up as an accompaniment.

Stillwater Bay, as it turns out, is Steve Bennett's own brand, although he himself owns no vineyards he has more than twenty-years experience working in the wine industry and knows how to make great wine. In 1994 he became the youngest ever Master of Wine (MW) designated as "someone who has demonstrated, by way of rigorous examination, a thorough knowledge of all aspects of wine and an ability to communicate that knowledge clearly".

There are only 297 MWs in the world. The second South Island wine, a Discovery Point Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc 2009, proves that Mr Bennett (and Khun Anuchit) indeed knows their stuff. This is a much more complex white with an intense, pungent aroma derived from a partial wild yeast fermentation and extended yeast lees aging in small oak barrels. A grilled crispy skin white snapper provides the perfect accompaniment.

After the whites, a blood orange granita is served to cleanse the palate and I explain to the assembled wine lovers why in France this is





CRISPY AND GRILLED: Sauvignon blanc with the snapper, rich pinot noir with the rack of lamb. Photos: Marc Mulloy



DUCK AND ORANGE: Magret de Canard Rossini, duck breast stuffed with foie gras (above) and a 'hole' lot of palate-cleansing blood orange granita (right).

shape of our first red, a 2008 Discovery Point Pinot Noir from central Otago, which has been oak-aged for 10 months. This Chablis-like red is served with a beautiful grilled lamb rack to bring out the rich cherry-stone flavor, clean acidity and soft, dry finish that I so love with Pinot Noir. The ever attentive Khun Anuchit notices how I linger over the smell and orders two large burgundy glasses in order to fully appreciate the delicious aromas of dark berries and plums with hints of spice.

Just as I think it cannot get much better, the pi ce de resistance arrives in the form of a

> roasted duck breast stuffed with foie gras or, as it is called in France, Magret de Canard Rossini. This superb dish is paired with the rare Kairos 'Fait Main' Martinborough Pinot Noir, which spends 14 months in oak and then a further two weeks gaining tannins from leaving in the grape skins.

> All ideas of bad luck have by now disappeared and the "bottled sunshine" we are quaffing is full burgundy-style, hand-made nectar with rich plum and pepper notes.

By this time Khun Anuchit confides to me that he would give "10 out of 10" for the food pairing and that one wine buyer at the table has already set up an appointment the following day. Chocolate mousse, coffee and petits fours served on dry



ice follow and we all retire to the bar to listen to the dulcet tones of Les Martin singing Fly Me to

As I drive home, I feel lucky to

have attended such a convivial evening, despite the black cat that runs in front of my car and the ominous clunk that follows. Luck comes in a variety of guises.



Pattinson stretches his limo

Cosmopolis

Director: David Cronenberg Starring: Robert Pattinson. Juliette Binoche, Sarah Gadon, Jay Baruchel, Samantha Morton, Paul Giamatti Genre: Drama Phuket Release: June 28

AH, ROBERT Pattinson. Swooning teens (and their misty moms) will be happy to hear that the postvamp RPats will soon be back on Phuket's big screens, this time in David Cronenberg's Cosmopolis.

The twenty-something star of the Twilight Saga movies gets his pick of what he wants to do bevond the fangs and his choices so far have been quietly stretching his credentials as an actor.

Last year, his was the stand-

BEYOND THE GUN: Robert Pattinson is as much a

part of David Cronenberg's set design as he is the

lead actor in Cosmopolis.

out performance in the otherwise humdrum Water for Elephants. This year, so far, he has appeared in two modest film fest outings that will most likely leave his drooling teen fans with a strange taste in their mouths.

The first, premiering at February's Berlin Film Festival, is Bel Ami, in which Mr Pattinson plays Guy de Maupassant's lessthan-lovable serial seducer and 19th century social climber, Georges Duroy.

The opportunity to cinematically bed Kristin Scott Thomas, Uma Thurman and Christina Ricci, may have been Mr Pattinson's motivation for doing Bel Ami (and why not) or it may have been the desire to work with acclaimed theater directors, Declan Donellan and Nick

Whatever his reasons, the film seems to have become mired under the weight of having such a

hunky lead actor scoundrel.

and, according to some critics, Mr Pattinson's good looks got in the way of his acting the utter

Cosmopolis is his second attempt to tarnish the teen-gleam image Hollywood has cast upon him and, from the moment he slithers

into the hi-tech interior of the stretch limo at the beginning of the movie, you can see he's silently screaming: "I'm an actor, godammit, not just a heart-throb!"

A loose retelling of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, *Cosmopolis* is based on Don DeLillo's book of the same name. It follows Wall Street money-manager Eric Packer on his last trip across Manhattan in the back of that stretch limo. As his life slowly unravels, he squanders billions of his clients' money and makes love to virtually every woman he happens across, including Juliette Binoche.

Cronenberg is at his claustrophobic best with the unforgiving angles offered by the confines of the car and the story covers several of his favourite subjects: a character, disconnected from a dystopian reality, finds his humanity through his own destruction.

Mr DeLillo is, of course, a great American author. You can tell that's the case because, since 1997's Underworld - widely acclaimed as that hackneyed Golden Fleece; a 'Great American Novel' - everything else he has written has been almost universally panned. (An aside on how ridiculous literary critics can be: Delillo's latest novel, Point Omega, was dismissed because it was too short. Sheesh!)

Cosmopolis, the novel, suffered a similar pummeling from critics on its release in 2003, but Don DeLillo has since proved himself prescient as the noughties themselves unraveled in pretty much the same way as Eric Packer does in the book.

Critics have since taken their original lambasting back to a grudging: "Yeah, well. Not bad, I s'pose."

Will the same thing happen to Messrs Pattinson and Cronenberg's film version of Mr DeLillo's story?

Only time will tell, because so far it hasn't been particularly well received.

Although in competition for the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival in May, critics came away shrugging their shoulders and yawning. However, as David Cronenberg has proved many times in the past, his movies have a tendency to grow on you like an irresistible fungus.

Robert Pattinson gets the acting work he's been after because,

for about 75% of the movie, he's stuck in the back of the stretch limo with the camera pointing straight at his face.

PATTINSON

CRONENBERG

DELILLO

It doesn't matter how smoldering his good looks may be, they simply cannot carry this story on their own. You get the sneaking suspicion that is why Mr Cronenberg picked Mr Pattinson and why Mr Pattinson picked this movie.

RPats acts, and does so with megalomaniacal zeal. He oozes reptilian sex appeal while also managing to invoke a scared-rabbit-in-the-headlights innocence. As with Georges Duroy, Eric Packer is not a particularly likeable character but, in contrast to his performance in Bel Ami, you actually enjoy not liking him in Cosmopolis.

With feelings akin to schadenfreude, you look forward to his descent to the next cycle of self-destruction with gleeful anticipation, but end up hoping that – despite all his failings – he will somehow survive.

Cannes may have got it wrong this time; it wouldn't be the first time and it's not likely to be the last. Cronenberg fans will not be disappointed. Pattinson fans will be surprised, but get used to it: he's an actor, godammit, not just a heart-throb.

Fortunately for us – and most obviously because of Mr Pattinson's involvement – we can find out for ourselves how good or bad Cosmopolis may be. Hardly a month after its premier at the Riviera-fronted film fest (and many months before its limited US release date) Cosmopolis opens here in humble Phuket.

Now, if only someone can convince David Lynch to cast Taylor Lautner in his next cinematic offering, our little island might actually get a fair shake at another 'indy' movie this decade.

Alexander Maycock regularly shouts out the next line of new movies just to prove Hollywood hasn't had an original idea since Casablanca.



Holiday Inn Resort, Thanon Ruam Thai, Patong, Phuket huket re

New on DVD this month



Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows Dir: Guy Ritchie **Stars: Robert** Downey Jr, Jude Law. Jared Harris

Holmes and Watson join forces with a band of gypsies in a race to stop Professor Moriarty from assassinating world leaders and dragging Europe into a war fought with the weapons he designed.



Too Big to Fail **Dir: Curtis** Hanson Stars: William Hurt, James Woods, Ed Asner, Billy Crudup,

Paul Giamatti, Bill Pullman, **Tony Shalhoub**

A troupe of great actors pull out all the stops to chronicle just how the bankers handled the 2008 financial meltdown.



Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance Dir: Neveldine. **Taylor** Stars: Nicolas Cage, Ciaran Hinds, Idris

Elba, Violante Placido

Nicolas Cage's luck has been so bad recently that they didn't even put his face on the US posters. Johnny Blaze fights the devil in Eastern Europe.

Life & style Nantaporn Widler

NANTAPORN "Gai" Widler doesn't believe in coincidence or the wellworn saying about being in the right place at the right time to succeed.

"Nothing happens by accident. I believe everything is pre-determined," says the tall and bubbly lady who attributes the success of her company, Exotica Crafts, to the many individuals who have "crossed her path," from her husband and artist friends to her employees.

Exotica Crafts started life as a cottage industry, when Nantaporn gave up her seven-year career as an air stewardess and moved to Phuket with her Swiss hotelier husband in 1990, crafting small gift items from home while her two children attended school.

Now, Nantaporn's workshop, in the Rassada area north of Phuket town, is staffed by 30 or so craftspeople who design and produce gift items and hotel accessories. Her client list includes many upscale resorts on the island.

While her business flourishes, Nantaporn firmly believes that the growth in profit has to be in line with ethical considerations. By that she means trading in ways that are fair to clients, suppliers and her staff, most of whom are women.

Women's welfare is something Nantaporn takes very seriously and workers who are single mothers get

THAI

gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

special attention. They can bring their children to work (in an area that would not endanger them), or get help with nursery or school fees. Some even get to live on the top floor of the workshop for free.

"I come from a big and loving family and owe a debt of gratitude to people around me so now is the time to give back. Most of my staff are single mothers struggling to hold down a job while keeping their children in school. I do whatever I can to help, be it lending money for school fees or providing accommodation. These people are part of my community and in turn they give me the drive to succeed." she says.

With the proliferation of similar craft business, Nantaporn stays ahead of the game, not by increasing production or her prices, but by creating credibility, business ethics and a personal touch, while keeping prices, quality and service competitive.

It seems her methods work and the clients keep coming back.

"I like the term 'passionate capitalism', coined by some of today's well-known enterprises whose practices benefit all. Anybody can set up this kind of business, designing products that answer the need of the market, but how many are concerned with the community while doing so? ".

Nantaporn adds that she developed her regard for the community as a whole by watching her grandfather at work. As a headman of a small village in Rajburi, he was credited with raising the living standards and income of the then impoverished cattle farmers by initiating a cooperative model that was to become an established name in Thai dairy business.

According to Nantaporn, who is a devout Buddhist, the practice of fair dealing is totally in line with the eight-fold path laid-down by the Lord Buddha that includes thinking consciously and acting with righteousness, among others.

At 50, Nantaporn already has a plan for her retirement. As a speaker or consultant, she would like to use her expertise to help various rural women's groups in developing sustainable business models that are competitive and professional.

She ends the interview with a very thoughtful statement: "Life is not that complicated. All you have to do is follow a definite path. Call it nonsense, but I am hopelessly fatalistic."



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.



24 PHUKET GAZETTE June 16 - 22, 2012



A SURIN THING: Central Festival Phuket, together with the Surin Province Commerce Office held the "Surin Festival Phuket" from June 8 - 10. Central Festival Phuket General Manager, Ms Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree is seen here receiving a basket of local produce from Surin Governer Mr Niran Kalayanamit.



SPORTING CHANCE: The governor of the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), Kanokphand Chulakasem, was welcomed by Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club's Director of Sports Sales & Marketing Virapol Cholvibul, in a friendly soccer match between government officials from SAT and members of the national mass media, who were here for the Phuket Youth Games recently.



PLAIN SAILING: The Phuket Youth Sailing Club (PYSC) in partnership with the Phuket Aquarium, hosted a sailing event organized by the Royal Thai Navy for the recent Phuket Youth Games. The Phuket Sailing Team won Best Coach Award for sailing, which was presented by Admiral Sunan to Kathleen Gooch at the closing ceremony.



COACH CLASS: From left Nattapong "Max" Yoaungnam, Tanaporn "May" Budgrim, Coach Kathleen "Katy" Gooch, Kapoj "Tik" Kankeawand Teerapong "New" Tokratoak.









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YOUR Phuket



POLYGLOT: A Polynesian dancing show is being held every Friday at M venpick with a Thai buffet and Swiss hospitality.

LAND & HOUSES

GETTING OUT: The Phuket Gazette joined the Renaissance hotels' global " Get Out & Discover" initiative on June 7. From left are Kulchada Boonrawd, Marketing and Communications Manager at Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa; Kanjana Sriboonsom, Phuket Gazette Events Manager; Natthira Susangrat, Phuket Gazette GM; Jason Nuell, Renaissance Phuket Resort & Spa GM and Krisana Matzenberger, Advertising and Television Promotion manager PGTV.



THE RETURN OF A PRODIGAL SON: A Phuket blues festival regular, lead singer of The Prodigal Sons, Kai Rutherford Dybedahl, was spotted jamming in Phuket over the weekend.



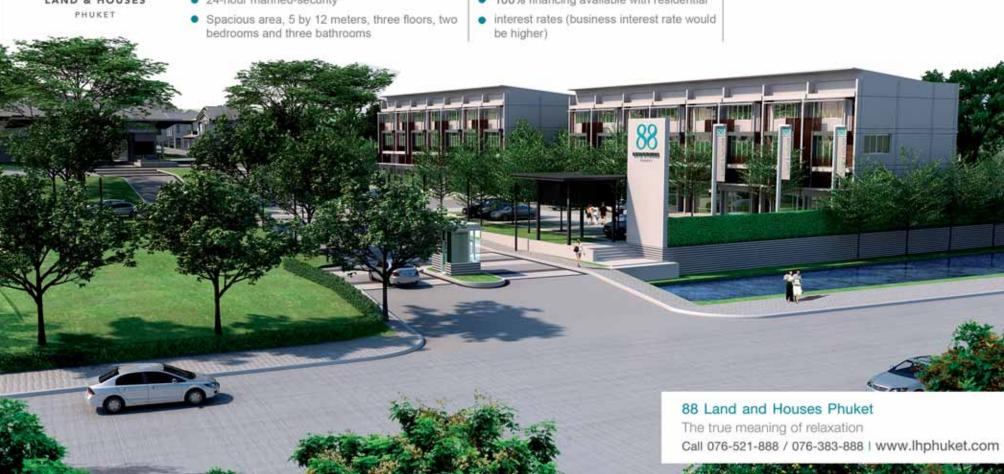
WINE LOVERS: At a recent wine dinner hosted at the Holiday Inn Patong Beach were (from left) Holiday Inn's EAM (F&B) Morgan Layberry; Wine Lovers manager Runsai Intarasuk; Italthai manager Anuchit Saeng-on and Italthai sales executive Benjawan Srisawat.



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June 16, 4-7pm: Phuket Academy Dance 2012 at the **Hilton Hotel**

Song and dance spectacular with ballet, jazz and tap performed by students from across the Island.

June 21, 11:30am-2pm: **Phuket International Women's Club Monthly Lunch at Tawaii** Restaurant, Cherng Talay

All are welcome but prior registration is essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. Contact info@phuketiwc.com.

June 21, 28, 6:30-11pm: Martini Manicure Ladies Night at RE KA TA **Beachfront Restaurant**

Free express manicure for ladies. Free martini for ladies on arrival and 50 per cent off the drinks list for everyone all night long. Cocktail flaring. DJ till late.

June 22-23, 10am-3:30pm: Social Media Marketing (Facebook) Beginner's Course at the Sandwich **Shoppe-Chalong**

Looking to expand your marketing plans by utilizing social media for your business but don't know how? Take this 2-day compact social media train ing course focusing on

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest and learn how to easily maneuver your pages to get your brand out to the online community. Cost per person will be 4,000 DiVine style. 450++ baht per baht and the course will start person, or 600+ + baht per per- with a minimum of four son with a glass of Italian wine. persons. Sign up today by 800++ baht per person with emailing us at info@awprphuket.com! Registration ends on June 17, 2012.

June 23, July 6, 20, 12-3pm: Saturday Brunch at Two **Chefs Kata Center**

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center! Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. For more info, please visit our web page W: twochefs.com.

June 27, 8pm-1am: Phuket Punchline Comedy Night at Holiday Inn Resort Phuket, **Patong**

Paul Myrehaug, Brian Higgins and Jeremy O'Donnell are in town for one night of hilarious no-holds-barred stand-up comedy. Early bird tickets only 960 baht; or 1,200 baht on the door. July 6, 7-11pm: Phuket Curry Phuket's Punchline Comedy Club performances are sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

June 29, July13, 7-10pm: Indian Night at Les Anges



Phuket Marina

Phukets best Indian buffet is back with a new chef and a new menu. Special promotion at just 449 baht. From 5-9pm buy one get one free for the drinks. Reservations recommended, Call Mr Murat on 081-797 3364.

July 1, 11am-6pm: American Independence Day at Headstart International School

American Independence Day picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs and American beer. Games for kids, fireworks. Free entry. Headstart International School of Phuket across from MAKRO. Sponsored by NavyLeaguePhuket.org. Contact David Rucker (087-266

Fridays at the Navrang Mahal Indian Restaurant, Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa

7514) for more info.

We present Phuket Curry Fridays on 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. Here is your chance

to enjoy an authentic and lavish Indian Curry Buffet every Friday. All-time favourite 'Chicken Tikka Masala', verv hot 'Mutton Vindaloo', succulent Kebabs, Goan Fish Curry and much more... served with Nan bread and Basmati rice. All you can eatfor only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett. Special discount on beverages. Venue: Navrang Mahal India Restaurant at Karon Sea Sands Resort & Spa. Time: 7pm to 11pm. For reservations, please call: 076-286464, ext 4

July 13, 7-10pm: Indian Night at Les Anges, Royal Phuket Marina

Phuket' s best Indian buffet is Fridays @ Navrang Mahal back with a new chef and a new menu. Special promotion @just 449 baht. From 5-9pm. Buy one get one free for the drinks! Reservations recommended. Call Mr Murat on 081-797 3364.

July 20, 12-5pm: Saturday

Brunch @ Two Chefs Kata Center

Saturday brunch at Two Chefs Kata Center. Every Saturday we are setting up our brunch buffet, filled to the limits with home made delights. In our smoke house, we smoke all of our fish and meats by ourselves, and in the bakery we we bake all our bread. With very well trained chefs and a Swedish head chef, we can promise you that you won't leave hungry or thirsty. All this for only 395 baht, and if you add an extra 300 baht you can choose to drink what you want from our free flow alternatives. For more info, please visit W: twochefs.com.

July 20, 7-11pm: Curry **Indian Restaurant, Karon**

All you can eat for only 449 baht nett! Draught Beer by the glass: just 50 baht nett.

Special discount on beverages. All-time favourite 'Chicken Tikka Masala', very hot 'Mutton Vindaloo' and much more.

Phuket Afternoon Computer Clinic

Is Windows driving you nuts? Looking for a good internet connection? Need to know how and where to get your PC repaired, or your confounding questions answered? Drop by the new Afternoon Computer Clinics, hosted by Woody Leonhard and Seth Bareiss. Bring your computer. Bring your questions. Bring your sense of humor and let's see if we can solve your PC problems. Second and fourth Wednesday of every month, 1-3pm, at the Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Sponsored by Woody's Sandwich Shoppes and the Phuket Gazette.

Free Computer Clinics at: Sandwich Shoppe Chalong - June 27th, 1-3pm

Contact: 076-282403, Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com

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THAI-DIEN Building & Construction



18

27

33

36

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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

Across

- 9. Loud site destroyed the seclusion
- 10. Be in place second, one time 11. A communication from the landlord
- 12. He notes each point gained
- 13. Dismount nag, halt in Phuket
- 14. Space back in the moor
- 15. Let on train, turned disapproving
- 17. Maybe toil together with Anna countrywide
- 18. Little Prudence, a dish, is easily shocked
- 19. Creatively air a long song
- 21. The Spanish even have an odd

24. Male negotiating in circus for journeys around the world

- 27. Solemn request for pair shortly to change year
- 29. Worker writing
- 30. Kept away from a dive, do dance about
- 33. Small salary increases in buildings with few floors (2 words) 35. Shortly recondition, seven rebuilt, reassembles
- 36. Finish post shifted
- 37. Scattered, we' d rest uneasily
- 38. Fruit squashed into mat, too
- 40. Be against work, take a
- 47. A high priest, the Spanish one 48. Ten parts make one section of a church

Down

1. A hundred, possibly in concert, uses the same center

- 2. Turn up, rail at the perjurer
- 3. Goes back and forwards looking for military accommodation
- 4. Cooking, eating, Northern Alpine plant
- 5. A guest rang, I worked out, for a device to measure stress (2 words)
- 6. Running away from trial evaluation of aircraft (2 words)
- 7. Steer unsteadily round equipment for playing music
- 8. Note date arranged to set off

10. Rod has damaged foot

13

23

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26

- 16. Neat hospital attendant
- 20. In wild party, point to a bird 22. A poetic end of the day, possi-
- bly need tie 23. Note, the rest moved, being
- homeless (3 words) 25. With no opposition, nut desires
- to be different 26. Different trees round, example one conforming to a set image 28. Or spot of movement in upper-

most parts of buildings (2 words)

- 31. An event I arranged for a man from an Italian city
- 32. In a city, little Diana shows sharpness
- 34. Bird of prey forcefully hit high
- 35. Not refined first class place in Phuket
- 39. Think to turn up sum, a note

Compiled by Patong Bill Answers on page 43

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

A colleague's transparent jealousy begins to grate on your nerves and the stars advise that a few well chosen words could lay this issue to rest. Your mental powers will be sharpest after Tuesday and you could also use this advantage to put proposals forward. Those celebrating a birthday during the week ahead will be luckier in love in the coming year. Geminis' lucky number this week is one.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The atmosphere at work becomes more relaxed during the second half of June. Another air sign who has been giving you the big chill lately is forecast to thaw, but this person could also drop a bombshell. In the realm of romance, misunderstanding still clouds happiness with another water sign. The stars advise clearing the air this weekend. The number six can bring good luck for Cancerians this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22): The stars indicate that putting ambition on hold could be beneficial for Leos. Too much focus on end results may be causing you to lose touch with what is really happening now. The stars suggest that quiet introspection this

weekend will show you how to readjust your perspective. Sparkling days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday. Finances fall under auspicious astral conditions on Monday. Number nine shines this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Summer holiday planning demands attention from those born under the sign of Virgo this week. There are signs that wires may have been crossed during communication with distant family members. Within the world of work, the stars advise focusing on your strengths, rather than your weaknesses. Another earth sign is ready to help you get ahead, but developing more confidence will be the key to success. The number eight stands out this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Conflicts within the world of work require careful handling. The stars hint that another air sign will stall for time when a deadline is due and this could cause friction on Monday and Tuesday. Putting too much pressure on this person will have a negative effect, but some tactful talk should save the day. A fire sign won't be able to resist your romantic charisma this weekend. Librans' lucky number this week is seven.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Drawing a clearer line between work and your private life is recommended. There are signs that some Scorpios are finding it hard to know when to switch off and personal relationships could be compromised. Romance with an earth sign can be picked up where it was left off. Money matters fall under benevolent astral conditions, with bargain hunting well-starred this week. The number five comes alive for Scorpios.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

An energy boost allows Sagittarians to move into a higher gear during the second half of June. Projects that were put on hold earlier this month should now be finalized and the stars suggest that diversifying your work interests will pay off. Where friendship and romance are concerned, your aims are not shared by those close to you and compromise will be called for. Number eight can be fortunate.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Capricorns' creative energy receives extra encouragement from the as-

tral atmosphere during the days ahead. Your practical nature should allow you to combine this advantage with money making ideas another earth sign is predicted to give some valuable pointers midweek. In the realm of romance, a fire sign's strange behavior could make you hot under the collar this weekend. The stars suggest that number four is significant this week.

AOUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The second half of June is an auspicious time for financial affairs. Those

Aquarians who are tired of being in the red are predicted to see a green light at the end of the tunnel. Emotions run high in the realm of romance. Another air sign's confession could make or break a relationship, but getting closer to an earth sign proves that love at first sight can come true. Your lucky number this week is three.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Where work is concerned, the cosmic climate is unsettled during

the second half of June - taking people at their word can lead to being let down. The stars suggest that Pisceans with couch potato tendencies will be inspired to change their ways this week. Another water sign could be the motivating force and there are hints that romance can be involved. Number two can bring good fortune this weekend.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



The astral atmosphere encourages Arians to stop and smell the roses this

week. There are signs that paying more attention to the simple pleasures in life will help you find better balance. A work or business related situation that seemed too good to be true should turn out to be genuine and the stars predict a change of employment for those who are ready. Number seven looks lucky this weekend.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Your organizational skills will be appreciated at work this week and the

stars hint that a move up the career ladder could be imminent. Taureans who are uncertain whether they can handle more responsibility are advised to consider carefully before committing. A romantic partner's opinion could be your deciding factor. Auspicious days for money matters are Sunday and Monday. Number four can open a lucky door this week.

PROPERTY Quality homes in a Gazette nice part of town

News | Construction | Gardening | For sale | For rent | Classifieds

ON THE verge of closing sales for Eva Town Suan Luang, a city-park housing project in the heart of Phuket Town, Eva Group is taking reservations for the last 10 units.

Sales for the 250 million baht housing development opened in December last year. With the project now 85% sold out, the developer doesn't think it will be long before the remaining units take on owners.

As an incentive boost, Project Manager Kamthorn Chairat told the Gazette that he will throw in a free 12,000 BTU air conditioning unit for any clients who present this article during contract signing.

Centrally and strategically located just to the south of Rama IX Park, off the unnamed avenue that connects Daoroon Witthaya School and Chao Fah West, the development's sales pitch is: "Quality, modern homes with a unique design born from an evolutionary new idea".

Elaborating on this new idea, the project's main selling points were outlined by Eva Group Managing Director Authanop Pankamnerd. "The style and design of these homes is different from anywhere else, mainly because of the high-



New buyers will receive a free 12,000 BTU air conditioning unit.

quality materials we used.

"These materials are of the same standard and similar price as ones we used for villas in Rawai that we built for the international market.

"So we wanted to build homes for Thais, the prime target group, that are of a similar quality to those occupied by foreigners.

"Yet these homes are affordable while being centrally located near government offices, schools and other amenities in Phuket." he said.

Built with the utmost attention to

every detail by a skilled construction and design team, every inch of space of these homes has been utilized for optimal value.

All in, the development comprises 72 units of two design styles: 20 Type A units and 52 Type B units.

The larger Type A homes feature three bedrooms and three bathrooms. Measuring 8 meters wide in the front, and comprising total built up space starting from 150 square meters, the homes are built on plot sizes starting from 30 square wah or 120 square meters.



BUILT TO LAST: The development features two home designs.

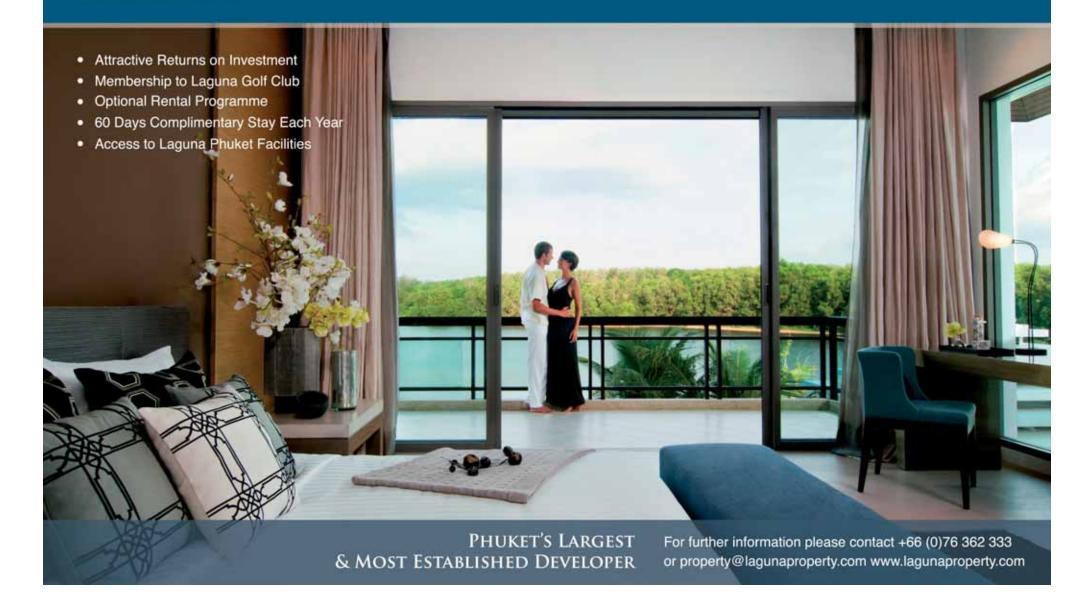
These units are priced between 3.99 and 4.99mn baht

Priced from 2.99 to 3.99mn baht, Type B homes feature twobedroom, three-bathroom units

measuring six meters wide in the front. These homes feature built up space starting from 100 sqm, while plot sizes start from 20 square wah or 80 sqm. – Phuket Gazette



HYBRID CHINOIS STYLED, SEMI-CUSTOM HOME



Who'll stop the rain?

"As we all know, the world

around us is revolving on

a teeter totter at the moment

and certainly things

could be much worse."



ALL of last week, I forgot what exactly the sun looks like. A daily dose of various shades of gray has somehow tweaked my routine into that of a monochrome cowboy.

Perhaps I could don a mask and be the Zorro of property and hotels. Masks don't work well with me though. My head's too Internet site to find that some big. The same goes for hats as I end up looking like one of those

goofy inmates in One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

The best I can muster is a slightly awry baseball cap, in the elusive size of "W" (as in watermelon,

which is bigger than XXXL).

At least the raindrops let me connect with my inner Rainman.

Despite all sorts of comments about killer monsoons and the imminent danger of global warming, this year's rainy season seems like another version in the drone tune "same same, sane insane" by some thrash metal Laotian rock band.

Yes, the shorelines are in tatters, the roofs are leaking and the inland roadways are looking as if someone pulled their finger out of the dike upcountry in Holland.

Luckily, Havaianas float better than even the finest pair of Dutch

clogs. As for the sorely misinformed who wear Crocs, I'm sorry to say you have been deemed too unfashionable and now have to spend the entire rainy season in the sin bin.

But somehow I am off course. Let's move on to property, otherwise the rage of my beleaguered editor will require yet another bottle of Xanax.

Anecdotally, I can't help but take a side trip onto the Web MD side effects from mothers' little helpers can lead to seeing things

> or hearing voices that do not exist (hallucinating), depression, memory problems, confusion, loss of consciousness, problems with

speech and unusual changes in behavior or mood.

This somehow reflects how the property trade views itself as a whole during the lean, mean, green season.

We are now in the countdown to the middle of 2012, and indeed it is a meeting at the crux. So, what lies ahead for us?

Certainly a fast approaching speeding bullet is the launch of a new Sansiri property in a prime location near Central – it is going to be a slam dunk.

Hotel sales continue to flourish: Evason in Rawai is about to announce a new buyer, while up in Bangtao there is another resort



CROC OF... GOLD: Green season depression floats away in stylish flip-flops. Photo: Rupert Ganzer.

sale and two other properties coming onto the market.

In terms of highest and best use, development planning in what we smugly call 'resort grade real estate' is, for the most part, hospitality related.

A few smaller West Coast, ultra luxury projects (which have taken to selling off-plan) have floundered as buyers grow increasingly skeptical about project completion risk.

Although, on the ultra-side, the industry is waiting for high profile launches from Point Yamu, New World on the Patong headland and an affiliate of Japanese group Kajima Overseas above Layan Beach.

Patong land prices continue to skyrocket with asking prices moving from two digits to the now astronomical three.

For the most part, the real action is in domestic shoe-boxflats at one million baht and the resale of existing properties.

As we all know, the world around us is revolving on a teeter totter at the moment and certainly things could be much worse.

Take Spain, with its significant oversupply and declining property prices, which looks to be headed to the deep ocean depths of the Mariana Trench.

Yes, while we are not exactly living a SoHo life, or a NoHo life, for the moment it is a bit SoSo. Best advice is: buy an umbrella and wait out the rain.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through W: C9hotelworks.com

In brief... Minor buys

THAILAND' S Minor Hotel Group has acquired ownership of the 77 unit Bundarika Villas & Suites Resort near Layan Beach.

The property has been transacted on a 100 per cent asset ownership basis, though the existing owner has retained a 5 per cent shareholding in a second company entity.

According to Minor, the resort, situated on 23 rai, will continue to operate as Bundarika Villas & Suites in the short term while an extensive renovation is carried out over the coming months. It will then be rebranded and integrated into Anantara Hotels, Resorts & Spas.



A quarter century in the biz

After 25 years Phuket Villa is still going strong with the launch of a new 2 billion baht project called Villa Chaofah 2



HOME SWEET HOME: This computer generated image shows what the single-storey, semi-detatched model could look like once completed.

PHUKET Villa is a pillar of the island's real estate industry. Tourism and business growth exemplify the growing demand for high-end projects, but the longevity and success of Phuket Villa is unrivalled.

The *Phuket Gazette* spoke with Development Group Managing Director Pongsapak Upatising about what's next, the legacy of the company's past products and the philosophy that drives their business.

"We are involved in various kinds of business – both building and selling. We have been in operation for over 25 years and now have 10 residential projects with over 5,000 units," Mr Upatising continued, "Phuket Villa 1 in the Samkong area was started back in 1988."

Construction is underway on a new project near Kajonkietsuksa School on Chao Fa West Road, dubbed Phuket Villa Chaofah 2. Mr Upatising revealed that the project will be a subdivision consisting of family homes. Phuket Villa's projects have been known to sell out within days, but their core marketing strategy may not be what observers expect.

"We spend a huge amount of resources and attention on our existing customers as well as new ones who walk into our offices. More than 10 per cent of our resources goes towards quality control," Mr Upatising said.

"We believe that the strongest PR we can possibly have is through word-of-mouth – after owners are satisfied with the scope of our services. Of course, this all begins with delivering the best possible products while also making them accessible on the market," he added.

Phuket is one among many national markets that the group is involved in. Products are sold under a different flag in other areas but Phuket is their largest market and given the most attention. Mr Upatising has noted a marked increase in competition in recent years, and also that a changing real estate landscape is still taking shape and has an unknown quality to it.

"More condominium projects have been built around the island due to increasing land value, but whether this new supply matches that demand remains to be seen for certain areas of the island," he explained. "As for Phuket Villa, we developed our first Phuket condo project because we saw potential in the Patong area at that time. It ended up very successful."

The grand opening for Phuket Villa Chaofah 2 will be on June, 29. The project will include 600 units spread over three phases, to be completed within 30 months.

For more information visit W: phuketvilla.com – Phuket Gazette



BROS: Pongsapak (standing) and his brother Maetapong Upatising, both hold Managing Director positions.



Our sunny reminders

TYPHOON force winds, teeming torrents of rain, roads like lakes, uprooted trees and fractured boughs – hardly the conventional image of a "Land of Smiles" burnished by tropical sunshine beaming from azure heavens.

Leaden skies, accompanied by profound gloom suggest that something much more ominously potent than Venus has blotted out the sun. Despite the meteorological office's pronouncement that such weather is normal, it is freakish rather than typical.

Our terraces and gardens were unprepared. On patios everywhere, precious potted plants have been blown over like ninepins, their containers smashed to smithereens; in garden borders, shallow rooting shrubs have lost



their footholds and collapsed, even flowers that have dared to bloom in the inclement conditions are wearing a sodden and bedraggled air.

The only denizens of my patch that are genuinely thriving are the water-babes: flowering plants such as heliconias, zingibers (gingers), cannas, spider lilies, spathyphyllums and swamp lilies.

A number of foliage plants are also enjoying life, notably *caladiums*, marantas, climbing philodendrons, aglaonemas, and ferns such as the *asplenium* (bird's nest fern).

So, all is not doom and gloom.

In tropical gardens it never is. As soon as the sun returns, there will be golden blooms aplenty to remind us of the sunny days that inevitably lay ahead.

One such shrub is the allamanda, last week's selection, a shrub whose intensely luminous golden flowers look like mini suns. Some blooms are literally hanging on, despite the storms.

Another yellow shrub that is coping better than most is the cananga odorata, sometimes known as the ylang ylang. Its unusual blooms hang down from pendulous branchlets; slim, greenish talons that change to golden as they age. The narrow, fleshy petals never open wide, but they are tough cookies, and seem more-or-less impervious to anything the weather can throw at them.

The blooms appear almost continuously amid the glossy dark green foliage, not as spectacular in appearance as the golden-trumpeted allamanda, but with the advantage of possessing a delicate fragrance that is justly famous in Thailand. Go to any spa or cosmetic department and there you will find the distinctive aroma of the ylang ylang, distilled into perfume samples, massage oils or sweet-smelling soaps.

The shrub makes a medium sized evergreen tree or large shrub, and can be trained to cover a trellis. I am aware of one ylang ylang, which covers a metal framework fully twenty feet long and ten feet wide with an overarching canopy of foliage and flowers. There is also a smaller, denser form of the shrub which grows only about two meters high. In both cases, propagation is best achieved by planting hard-wood cuttings.

Doing reasonably well in the monsoon is the yellow oleander



SURVIVOR: Yellow oleander (thevetia peruviana). Photo: Arun Prabhu.

(thevetia peruviana). Like its relative, the common oleander or nerium, it is not a fan of wet, windy conditions, but unlike the nerium it does not sulk, and stop producing its yellow or apricot, bell-shaped flowers.

Certainly there are fewer blooms than in the dry season, but *thevetia* is a shrub – perhaps better described as a treelet – which carries on flowering all the year round. Moreover *thevetia* is evergreen, and its narrow, bright green leaves are an added attraction. Because it is both striking and reliable, it has been widely planted as a roadside presence around the island.

It is also an excellent plant if you want a quick garden screen: the only drawback is that all parts are poisonous, and other smaller plants may find it difficult to grow under its canopy, especially if fallen leaves are not removed. And there are plenty of those right now.

But come rain or shine, the yellow oleander will rise above the conditions. A real survivor.



STORM OF COLOR: Ylang ylang (cananga odorata) and cannas. Photos: Zaqqy J, Randy Read.

Tip of the Week

Recovering from storm damage

THESE last few weeks have seen some of the wildest weather in years.

Trees and potted plants have been particularly hard-hit: trees because their roots have been rendered sodden and unstable by the constant rain, and their boughs and foliage weighed down by the amount of water they



If your potted plants caused this much damage, it's probably time to prune. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

have had to absorb. Add to that the wind's ferocity and you have a deadly combination.

Particularly affected have been evergreens, heavyweight vines, and beach trees such as sea-almonds, and casuarinas. If you have a casualty or two, make a neat cut well inside the splintered wound. In that way, the tree is less liable to become infected.

Plants in containers have been toppling over like skittles. Temporarily remove their platens; which can sometimes make the pots less stable. Resist the temptation to water: they have had more than enough for the time being.









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XL shophouse for sale. Phar Lap bar building. Have a look, make an offer. Email: coco diorster@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

Near the main road to Baan Don-Cherng Talay. 68sq wah. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@ yahoo.co.th

NEW POOL VILLA



For sale in Land & Houses Phuket. 9.5 million baht. Land area: 440sqm. Home area: 300sqm. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, swimming pool, fully furnished. Tel: 081-606 2284.

TO KARON BEACH

OUTSTANDING SEA VIEW VILLA



For sale. Great value and located in Naithon Tel: 084-841 7921 (English). Email: excellentseaviewproperty@ gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT



4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (include furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and Internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument towards to Tesco Lotus Thalang. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9 designs@ gmail.com

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (Eng & German).

PRIVATE SALE OF HALFARAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

LANDAT **CHERNG TALAY**

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

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-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.

-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht. Contact Vutdy on 081-892

HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruek Village at Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

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

HOT PRICE

Royal Place Condo. Price: 2 million baht, 39.5sqm, 6th floor. Tel: 081-788 1705 (English &

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

ANDAMAN BEACH

POST C

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE



Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons, Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat @gmail.com

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra. saetan@gmail.com

RAWAI SAIYUAN APARTMENT

Ground floor, 1 bedroom, pool, fully furnished, quiet, 1.8 million baht. Tel: 085-788 5214.

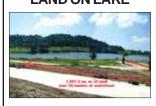
HOUSE FOR SALE/ RENT

3-bedroom house, 3 aircons, fully furnished. For sale, make an offer. Quiet, cul de sac at Chuan Chuen Lagoon. Rent: 25,000 baht per month. Sale: 3.45 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 081-866 8716 (English).

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

Near British International School, 1,020sqm, fully serviced. 6.5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

GOLF COURSE LAND ON LAKE



Best 1 rai plot at Loch Palm Golf Course. 35 meter lake frontage with outstanding views. Quiet location, ready to build your dream home. All services ready, including security management, etc. 14 million baht freehold or leasehold. Tel: 081-273 6959 (English), 081-968 9950 (English & Thai). Email: bobyapp@mac.com

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Seng Ho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in July 2012. Tel: 089-472 9118.

HOUSE IN KAMALA



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: varis. vios@gmail.com

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@ hotmail.com

NICE PLOT FOR SALE



Near Lavan Hill Estate. (Manik-Bang Jo area). Ready to build housing/ pool villas. 1,400sqm. Chanote title. Price: 7.2 million baht. Neg. Contact owner on 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@ amail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE AT CHERNG TALAY

Permsap Villa, 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms. Fully furnished with big lawn and sports club. Price 8.9 million baht. Tel: 02-585 5086, 085-515 6714 (English & Thai), 082-457 4051 (English & Thai). Email: roxern@yahoo.

KAMALA LAND **FOR SALE**

1 rai. Last opportunity: 9.8 million baht. Ready for building. Tel: 089-472 5162.

POOL VILLA RAWAI

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished. Price: 4.5 million baht, 80% finance, over 10 years. Tel: 083-641 9327 (English & Thai). Email: rawaipoolvillas@ hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/ RENT



Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

All classifieds in these pages are



....because they're real.



 your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classads - they work!

KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@ hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale, Price 4.2 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

CHEAP DCONDO

8th floor, only 1.23 million baht, lowest price on market. Email: dcondosale@gmail.com

LAND FOR QUICK SALE

4 million baht, bypass road, 9m x 27m. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

TOWN HOUSE DAOROONG

For sale, 3 storeys, 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 10 minutes to Central Dept. Tel: 083-649 1218.

YANUI STUDIO ON **POOL RESORT**

42m studio. Patio and garden view. Built in 2005, well maintained, fully furnished, ready for rental via on-site management. Near to beaches, 1.75 million baht, Tel: 089-049 1785, Email gillian.brooks@cmft.nhs.uk for details.

RAWAI POOL VILLA

3 bedrooms with aircon, 8x4m pool, 2 toilets, 400sqm land, fully furnished, sale from owner, 5.2 million baht. Tel: 084-852 4091.

TOWNHOUSE



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118

BUNGALOW WITH BIG GARDEN

For sale, 4.5 rai, 5 minutes to Mission Hill Hotel, 10 minutes to airport. Tel: 083-649 1218.

BRIGHT 2-STORY POOL VILLA

REAL Phuket presents this bright modern pool villa in Rawai. A 2 story villa, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a spacious living area, separate kitchen, 12 meter pool and large sundeck. Tel: 082-273 7880 (English). Email: md@realphuket.net For further details, please see our website at http://realphuket.net/ component/estateagent/property/542/sv_00421

LAND FOR QUICK SALE RAWAI

1 rai with Chanote title, 5 minutes to Rawai Beach in secure area. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-472 9870. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

KOLANTA.NET KOH LANTA LAND + VILLA SPECIALISTS duane@kolanta.net In Thailand: 086 948 6836 International: +66 86 948 6836

SINGLE HOUSE **SUPALAI HILL**

kolanta.net/koh-lanta-property-for-sa

For sale, 55sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 storeys, furnished, nice garden. Tel: 083-649 1218.

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

Land & Buildings

Kamala - Phuket

3-3-23 Rai

One bedroom: 24 Units

➤ Studio: 60 Units ► Function Room

Storage building

Perfect as Staff Accommodation,

Apartments, Resort or School

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: 089-770 72 72 or email: kamalasale@gmail.com

FOR SALE BY PRIVATE

Chinese-style house in Phuket Town center. Beautifully reconstructed, lots of space. Ideal for office, home business or big family. Land area appr. 400 sqm. Secured double garage with access from rear soi. Own pressured water supply. Has to be seen to appreciate. Call Jiab. Tel: 087-269 3989, 089-025 2767.

BAAN YAMU -26%DISCOUNT

2 bed condo, only 15 million baht (from 20,231,400 million baht). Foreign freehold unit. Tel: 086-060 6321. Email: nick@ thaireal.com

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION

house with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: pee cho74@hotmail.com

KHAO LAK LAND

Ocean view, 45 rai, suitable for resort. Adjacent to golf course, 40 mins to Phuket Airport. Tel: 083-180 2410.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE



Fully landscaped, 3 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen. Located near the Heroines Monument towards to Paklok. Land size is 53sq wah. 3 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9 designs@gmail.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht,

with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad. All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm. Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.



Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Properties For Rent

VILLA LONG TERM RENT



4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, maid's room with bathroom, 2 kitchen, fully furnished, swimming pool, WiFi, garden. 55,000 baht/month. Tel: 089-729 6244. Email: ninaphuket@hotmail.com

QUIET AREA HOUSE



1 aircon bedroom, near Ao Makham Bay, free WiFi, 3km from town, 1km to Panwa Beach. Rent: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311 (English & Thai).

SEA VIEW BUNGALOW

Private cottage, pool set in established gardens, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, only 15 mins to either PIA or BIS. 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-420 3270.

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

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

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 089-469 1813, 086-476 9612.

2-BEDROOM



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, Boat Lagoor 24-hour security Clubhouse with swimming

> Call 081-868 7676 or 089-868 2268

for more information or house inspection.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For Sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents!, not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet Internation School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

SINGLE HOUSE THALANG

Private house, 1 bedroom, fully furnished. Near Tesco Lotus Thalang. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-795 6363 (English & Thai). Email: vicky grc@hotmail.com

DETACHED HOUSE IN THALANG

3 b/r, 2 baths, modern design. On Thepkrasattri Road, 15 minutes to Surin and Bangtao Beach. 20,000 baht per month. Minimum of 6 months. Tel: 081-958 3421 (English & Thai). Email: kjarrukirati@gmail.com

CONDO PATONG

Studios and one-bedroom apartments for rent at Phuket Place and Patong Tower. Tel: 081-892 1621.

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.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Simply as good as total comfort. Laguna. Rent: 39,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067 (English & Thai).

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house. fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms each with shower/bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 081-737 0365. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

HAVEN LAGOON CONDO-PATONG

1-bed apt, front position, 800m to beach pool, gym, WiFi, cable TV, parking. Available now. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach, for rent, 2-3 bedrooms, aircons, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311 (English &

GROUND FLOOR KAMALA HILLS

Superb, economic 3-bed ground floor apartment for rent in stunning setting in Kamala Hills. UBC, internet and parking space. Tel: 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

TOWNHOUSE IN KOH KAEW



Corner unit, 3 bedrooms. 3 bathrooms, fully furnished. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house 3 bed, 3 bath nearAo Makham. Tel: 081-892 4311.20,000 baht/month. For further details, please see our website at http://panwagreen. weebly.com

PATONG NEW 2-BED CONDO

Best view. 80sqm. Parking. Security. Long lease. 25,000 baht/month, Elec+bond. Private. Tel: 087-372 6770.

KAMALA HILLS APARTMENT

Kamala, highest room with lovely mountain view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with study room including cleaning service 8 times per month. 24hr security guard. Undercover parking for one car. For rent 36,000 baht per month. Contact Sirinart. Tel: 086-478 0339.

2-BEDROOM **HOUSE. BANG TAO**



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, terrace, living room, parking, fully furnished, cable TV, internet, 2 aircons, hot water. Only 5 mins to Surin Beach, Bang Tao Beach and Lotus Cherng Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL

VILLA FOR RENT

Located just outside Laguna, this new three-bedroom pool villa is available for long and short-term rent. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@ loxinfo.co.th

KATA HOUSE ONE BEDROOM

Fully-furnished, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen terrace, air-con, internet and cable TV. Price: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827. Email: nij017@hotmail.com

LUXURY GROUND-FLOOR APARTMENT

Apartment for rent, 1 bedroom, ensuite bathroom, kitchen, large living room and dining area, private balcony, 65sqm, Central Patong. Available now. Tel: 087-887 9070 (English). Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80 sq. meter ground floor units



Please contact Khun Nong for more details Mobile: 087-266 8400 Email: plazadelmar@gmail.com

LUXURY GROUND-FLOOR APARTMENT

Apartment for rent, 1 bedroom, ensuite bathroom, kitchen, large living room and dining area, private balcony, 65sqm, Central Patong. Available now. Tel: 087-887 9070 (English). Email: ianscondo@yahoo.com

GREAT LOCATION GREAT PRICE

Home secure estate with 4 bedrooms en-suite. Fully furnished with pool and sala. Located opposite golf course, 10 mins to most places (BIS, Central, etc). Available now! 55,000 baht per month, minimum of 6 months. Tel: +61-8-6161 2691, +61-43-592 2900 (English), +61-46-831 5377 (English & Thai). Fax: +61-8-6161 2691. Email: jenjira5@hotmail.com

LONG-TERM RENT

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



ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Property Classifieds

Property Services



PRO SERVICE AND RENOVATE

- Water leaks
- Sanitation
- Sinks
- Grease Tanks
- Water Heaters
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- Pressure pumps
- Water Treatment
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Data Water Work Ltd., Part. Tel: 081-396 5050.

SELL FAST NO COMMISSIONS

List property or business, save thousands. For further details, please see our website at www.propertythailand.com

HOMEBUYERS VALUATION&SURVEY

Buying a house in Thailand? Worried there may be some building problems in the future? We offer building surveys and reports to put your mind at rest! Tel:081-787 9767,076-615 727 (English & Thai). For further details, please see our website at www.farang-handy man.com

Property Wanted

LONG TERM RENTAL WANTED

Rawai-Chalong Area, 2-3 bedrooms, with enough storage and a big ga rage. Fenced property only. Inc I uding furniture.Tel:087-823 7371 (English).Email: hol gersaupe750@hotmail.com

RENTALS WANTED

We have a large number of clients looking for rental properties in the Rawai, Nai Harn area. If you have a property for rent, please contact us today on 087-620 8420. PI Rentals.

Accommodation Available

400 BAHT/ DAY, 10,500 BAHT/ M



Rawai Beach, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, aircon, WiFi, CCTV, pool, car/motor rent. Tel: 088-180 0351(Khun Pan). Email: phuket7@ yahoo.com

APARTMENT W/ CAR & M' BIKES

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, hot shower, aircon, satellite TV, internet, car park. For sale: furniture and car (Daihatsu Mira) & 2 motorbikes (Honda) 100,000 baht. Tel: 087-265 0652 (English). Email: gisbert1@gmx.net

HOLIDAY APARTMENTS



Near Kata Beach. Luxury holiday rental opposite Mom Tri's Kitchen. Tel: 080-529 6928. Email: bow.jariya@ gmail.com Please see details at http://junglepara disephuket.com/ Special weekly and monthly prices are available!

CHEAP ROOMS PATONG

From 400 baht per night or 6,000 baht per month for a fan room. From 600 baht per night or 10,000 baht per month with aircon. Quiet mountain location behind Nanai Road (Hasib Pee Road). Five minutes by bike to downtown Patong. Free Wi-Fi, cable TV, fridge. Fully furnished double rooms. Bar. Tel: 087-078 6379, 082-286 5171 (English & Thai), 084-625 2173 (English). Email: nanaisauna@ yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.sunsetspatong.com

LOFT STYLE FLATS - KATHU



Secure, great location for exercise. Long-term rental. 9 to11,000 baht per month. Tel 086-664 5575. Email: hkguy789@yahoo.com

DETACHED HOUSE IN THALANG

3 b/r, 2 baths, modern design. On Thepkrasattri Road, 15 minutes to Surin and Bangtao Beach. 20,000 baht per month. Minimum of 6 months. Tel: 081-9583421 (English & Thai). Email: kjarrukirati@gmail.com

CONDO FOR SALE/ RENT RAWAI



56sqm, good price for long term, nice/clean, 300 meters/beaches. Tel: 086-112 1477 (English & Thai). Email: rawaireservation@ yahoo.com

APTS SPECIAL PRICE: 8,500 BAHT

Funished aircon studios 30-50 sqm. Special rate from 8,500 baht incl WiFi, maid service, kitchenette. Rooftop pool. Tel: 086-282 6221 (English) For further details, please see our website at www.chalongapartment.com

SPACIOUS FURNISHED STUDIO

Walking distance: Beach, Jungceylon, Paradise, Bangla. Available on 1 June 2012. Aircon, hot water, WiFi+satelite TV, DVD Player. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-110 2113,087-353 5786. Email: jongmeyer@hotmail.com

SEAVIEW BUNGALOW

Seaview/mountain view bungalow. Five minutes from Kata Beach. 6,000-7,000baht/month.Tel: 082-492 2237 (English). Email: pandahavoc@live.com

Accommodation Wanted

LOOKING TO BUY

Looking to buy beachfront house with Chanote. Email: a.pueng@gmail.com

LONG TERM RENTAL WANTED

Rawai-Chalong Area, 2-3 bedrooms, with enough storage and a big garage. Fenced property only. Including furniture! Tel: 087-823 7371 (English). Email: holgersaupe 750@hotmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

LUXURY POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Located just outside Laguna, this new three bedroom pool villa is available for long and short term rent. Tel: 081-891 1826, 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-238940. Email: kevinq@loxinfo.co.th

GORGEOUS JUNGLE BEACH HOUSE

Available from 28th June to 30th August. 12,000 baht.Email: travellingbrenda@hotmail.com

Household Items

CLEARANCE 50-80%

Import furniture at Nina Decorative.Tel: 089-729 6244.Email: ninaphuket @hotmail.comForfurther details, please see our website at www.phuket-furniture.com

LG 9.5 KGS

Top loader, 8 months old, motor warranty 9 years and 4 months. Price new: 14,999 baht, best offer near 10,000 baht. Front loader wanted. Tel: 086-273 3095 (English & Thai). Email: p atongman123@hotmail.com



Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Contact Rin. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethome maintenance@yahoo.com

RENOVATION & HOUSE REPAIRS

Renovations. House repairs. Construction. Mold decontamination. English, Swedish, German and Thaispeaking personnel. We always offer free quotations and warranty on work performed. Tel: 083-394 8337 (English), 080-141 4577 (English & Thai). Email: mattias@zionproperty.com

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

Then hand it to any of our agents.

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm. Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Deli Supermarket



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Damrong (076-342275)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're PAID!
Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published
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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

VARIOUS SALES & MARKETING

Sales and marketing roles. Native English speakers or other nationals with fluent English-speaking skills. A proven track record in sales is a must. Send CV & recent photo to Email: careers@ppintl.com

TEFL TEACHERS WANTED

Newly opened language school in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-083 5735. E m a i I: m i c h a e I @misterenglishschool.com

SALES EXECUTIVE

Looking for a Thai lady with spoken and written English and Russian. Tel:081-787 2155 (English & Thai). Email: Jantira@hotmail.com

MARKETING DIRECTOR

CC's, located in the lush hills of Kata, is your home away from home. Currently under renovation but when open, our hotel will have gone through many major upgrades.

We are now looking for a Marketing Director who will be responsible to direct and oversee the hotel's marketing plans. Experience in understanding tourism trends in Phuket is required, as is the ability to adjust marketing plans as required.

You will also need at least 2 years of experience in the tourism industry and familiarity with a variety of the field's concepts, practices and procedures.

Must be self-motivated and able to meet stated goals and objectives. Attractive compensation package offered. Position available now.Tel: 076-333 222, 086-604 1333 (English). Email: sales@ccbloomshotel.com For further details, please see ccbloomshotel.com

JAPANESE STAFF

Wedding coordinator: Japanese female, good English and computer skills. Sa-mer Wedding (Boat Lagoon). Email: info@sa-mer.com Website: www.sa-mer.com

DRIVER BANG TAO

Family need a driver with experience, English skills. Salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 3470.

SALES MANAGER

Developer based in Rawai is now seeking a Sales Manager. The candidate must be a Thai or Foreign Nationals, age 35-45, with perfect written and spoken English. Will be focused on building and strengthening relationships with property agents and direct customers. We require a minimum of 1 year's experience in a similar sales role in Phuket. We offer a basic salary, commissions, and a reward and recognition scheme. Foreign candidates can apply but must have their own company. Knowledge of other languages is considered a plus. Email: angius@villasuksan.com

ACCOUNTANT

Elite Yachting at Boat Lagoon Marina Phuket is looking for a Thai accountant with a bachelor's degree and min 3-5 years experience. Good knowledge of Quickbooks, well organized and fluent in spoken & written English. Responsible for invoicing, payments, VAT, w/t, salaries, income/expense statements for yacht accounts, etc. Interested. Tel: 081-978 6086 (English). Please send your CV to jurg@phuket-yachts.com

NANNY AND CLEANING LADY

We are looking for a nanny and a cleaning lady for our nursery school. Call for interview.Tel: 076-521 550, 084-847 0732 Email: info@smiley-kidz.com

CLUB ASIA FITNESS

Club Asia Fitness - Phuket's leading fitness centre requires an Operations Manager & Sales Consultant. Requirements: Thai national with degree and ability to communicate in English. Please submit your CV to Emai: info@clubasiaphuket.com

OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR - PA

Yacht agency and service company is looking for organized staff to join a growing team. Basic accounts and administration in a busy and friendly team. Office assistants looking to develop careers will enjoy this position. Tel: 076-206 707, 084-844 6246 (English). Email: rogerg@seamarineservices.com

THAI STAFF WANTED

Work on shifting schedule, can speak English, customer service. Good salary with bonus. Patong. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963.

English Language Teacher

Qualifications

- English native.
- Male or Female
- Age between 25-40 years old.
- Beachelor's Degree in education, English language or any related field.
- Able to implement and conduct English languages classes
- Positive attitude

Please submit your updated resume & photo via qam@diamondcliff.com or Contact QA Department 076-340501-6 ext. 3703

Diamondcliff Resort & Spa 284 Prabaramee Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150 www.diamondcliff.com

PROPERTY SALES EXECUTIVE

We are looking for an experienced property sales executive with the following qualifications:

- Thai national
- Preferably female, 25 –
 40 years old
- Excellent command of spoken and written English
- Outgoing and friendly personality
- Self-confident in communicating with foreign nationals
- IT literate with experience in Microsoft Word/ Excel/Powerpoint
- Office skills
- Basic accounting knowledge is preferred
- Ability to adapt to multiple tasks

We offer basic salary and commission on sales. We are based in Rawai. Tel: 087-267 3747. Please send CV to helena@welco metothailand.si

SloCon Andaman Agency Co.,Ltd

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHERS

Brainy House is a private English-language school. We are looking for native English teachers to start ASAP. For children 6-8 years old. We offer excellent compensation. Please send a cover letter and CV to:info@brainyhouse.com Tel: 080-907 7466 (contact Sasi).

RECEPTION STAFF

Responsible Thai female needed for reception at Patong hotel. Monthly salary: 12,000 baht. Tel: 081-892 1621.

PROPERTY SALES EXECUTIVE

Serenity Resort & Residences Phuket is an upmarket residential development with 77 apartments and pool residences located in Chalong bay on the south east coast of the island. We are now looking for an experienced property sales executive with following qualifications:

- Thai national
- Excellent command of spoken and written English
- Preferably female
- Experience in resort style real estate sales in Phuket (no time share!)
- Outgoing and friendly personality
- Understanding of western culture and mentality
- Able to work on weekends if required.

We offer a basic salary and commission on sales plus attractive benefits. Please send your application together with CV and recent photograph to Email: tae@serenityphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.serenityphuket.com

ASSISTANT SITE MANAGER

Developer based in Rawai, Phuket is seeking an Assistant Site Manager. The ideal candidate is Thai National, age 35-40, and with the a relevant qualifications in building, as well as site m a n a g e m e n t experience. Tel: 076-384 6 9 1 . E m a i l : david@villasuksan.com For further details, please see villasuksan.com

ENGLISH HOME TUTOR

Native English speaking female home tutor wanted for assistance with primary level homework and further learning. Must be employed as a teacher in Phuket, flexible hours after school, maximum two hours per day on week days only. Rate negotiable. Email: morganiain@hotmail.com

KARON HILLSIDE HOTEL

Looking for the following positions no English is required: Gardener, Handyman. For the following positions English is required: Bar and restaurant service staff, Reception staff, Night reception. Good starting salary and service charge. Only Thai nationals. Please contact Sandy on 082-281 4394. Email: info@karonhill sidehotel.com

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Thai national. Must have a good command of spoken and written English. Proven sales experience and own car. We provide full training, generous basic salary and unlimited commission potential and bonuses. Car expenses and fuel paid. Working 5½ days with generous holidays. Please send CV to don@ rainwater-solutions.com

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Can connection to very big soft drinkforcompany. Good commission. Tel: 089-593 8303.

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We are looking for a native English kindergarten teacher to join our team to teach 10 -12 children aged 3-6 years. Must have a least bachelor's degree or equivalent. Tel: 076-383150, 084-520 4978. Fax: 076-383150. Email: info@cra vens nurseryphuket.com

SUMMER CAMP TEACHERS

British International School, Phuket are seeking ESL teachers for their annual July English Summer Camp programme. Full programe details on our school are available. Applicants are ideally required to have a recognized education degree and a TEFL qualification. Please submit your applications to Email: ppreez@bisphuket.ac.th Website: www.bisphuket.ac.th

LIVE-IN HOUSE MAID

English couple, no children, need Thai housemaid to live in. Tel: 085-790 2241.

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT KAMALA

Trading company in Kamala. We is now seeking an experienced Senior Accountant. Must know Express software, English, and understand the import business. Salary starts at 25,000 baht transportation + accommodation + BUPA health insurance. Work 6 days a week. Please contact for more information. Tel: 076-322663, 086-773 4538 (English). Fax: 076-322 664. Email:skgf @ skgf.asia

REAL-ESTATE STAFF WANTED



Looking for full-time young Thai staff, fluent in spoken and written English with real estate business experience. Tel: 084-060 7050. Please send an email with a photo to info@moloko phuket.com For further details, please see our website at moloko phuket.com

BOAT CREW WANTED

Looking for experienced crew for 6 months to cruise Phuket / Borneo / Phuket on comfortable 20m trawler yacht. Tel: 082-806 9104 (English). Please send CV to boatjob1234@gmail.com

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We require staff for our operations department in Phuket. Your job is to handle the daily operations for inbound tours into Phuket. You will be responsible for checking all files created by reservations staff, booking guides and transportation and ensuring that all aspects of every tour are handled correctly

It is essential you have a pleasant and out going manner. You must be an excellent problem solver and be good at dealing with people

Ideally you should have a minimum of two years experience with a local tour operator or similar position, or at least have an understanding of the complexities of this important job.

You will be a key person in our team and the right applicant can expect an attractive salary with excellent benefits

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
 Thai national male or female
- Min. 2 years experience in a travel company
- Good written and spoken English
- (German or French speaking is an advantage)
 Good computer skills (Word, Excel, Outlook)

Good attitude, hard working, ability to work as part of a team.

Only those with a genuine interest in joining a professional travel company for long-term commitment need apply

Interested parties are invited to send their CVs with a covering letter in English and a current photo to christophe@exotissimo.com

Applications will be treated in the strictest of confidence

Exotissimo Travel Co., Ltd. Tel: 082-805 57 72 Fax: 076-610 182 Email: christophe@exotissimo.com

British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

• Senior Secretary (Primary School)

Qualifications

- · Thai Nationality
- · A Bachelor's or Master's Degree in business administration, education or any related fields
- Excellent English proficiency & computer literacy
- Experience in working in a multicultural environment and supervising office staff
- Good people skills
- · Detail oriented & good decision making skills
- · Good organization skills and the ability to multitask

• IT Technician

Qualifications

- · Thai Nationality
- · Bachelor's Degree in related computing
- Excellent knowledge of computers
- · Ability to communicate in English
- · Enjoy working with others in a team atmosphere
- · Have a "customer-service" orientation

Benefits: uniform, group insurance, provident fund and etc.

Swim Teacher/ Coach

Qualifications

- Thai Nationality, Good English
- · Coaching qualification to coach Swimming
- Able to work 4 days a week 02.00 pm 4.30 pm

This position is not a regular teacher, shall be payable on an hourly basis.



British International School, Phuket (BIS)

59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200 Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573

E-mail: patcharakornt@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

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Salary 20,000 baht + excellent commission & benefits. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Email: ying@phuket pooltables.com

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Good salary, good English. Contact Carla. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: cc@bayshore projects.com

NEED BABYSITTER

Our son is 3 months old. We live in Rawai. We are looking for someone (Thai or Filipino) to watch our son every day from 9am to 6pm, excluding Sunday (day off). We are looking for a 30-40 year old, English speaking, non-smoker with nurse education certificate. Responsibilities to include homework, preparing dinner and snacks, and other household duties to be negotiated. Contact K. Lek. Tel.086-951 9406.

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Based in Layan

- Thai National
- Female
- Outgoing confident with foreign nationals
- Degree/Tertiary educated
- Fluent English
- Good written English
- Experience of property sales preferred
- IT literate with experience
 - Microsoft word/Excel/Powerpoint
- Reporting to Sales and Marketing Director/Project Director

Please send current resume to angus@landstate.co.th all applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

ASSISTANT MANAGER

 Good English - Thai National

- Bachelor's degree

- Female 25-28 years old

IN PHUKET

Please send resume, photo & expected salary to

svcp@svensonhaircenter.com or call 076-249657-8

Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking candidates for the following positions;

► Assistant Resort Manager

Contact Human Resources Department

Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or

email your CV to hrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net.

www.sunwingphuket.com

▶ Bakery Chef

Hotels Public Company Limited, the owner developer of Laguna Phuket. Laguna Holiday Club is a vacation ownership program that provides members with lifelong access to world class accommodation throughout Thailand and Asia. We are now looking candidates for the positions:

- Assistant Sales Manager
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- Sales Representative
- Explorer Pass Booker
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We are proud to provide an excellent benefits package including: Basic salary, generous commissions, medical

Call for more information 076-362400 Ext. 4405 - 4406 career@lagunaholidayclub.com

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- Outside Personal Contact
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Villa Attendant

A private villa in Thalang is looking for a female villa attendant who can do housekeeping, cooking, service and flower arranging.

Qualification:

- ► Thai female with pleasing personality
- ► Communicate very well in English
- ► Team player, honest and flexible
- Previous experience working in the hotel or villa is an advantage

A very attractive salary is awaiting the right candidate.

Contact person: Khun Tararat **Email:** tah@shangdumail.com **Tel:** +6676 338 490

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Submit your CV with recent photo and a covering letter in English to hr@mystorageasia.com or *call 076 29 29 09* for further information.

Want to know more about MY STORAGE? Visit mystorageasia.com

SALES MANAGER & SALES EXECUTIVE

A reputable tourist magazines looking for 24-45 yrs old, male or female, good personality. Applicants should have relevant experience and be able to speak English

Send resume to ajapply@yahoo.com 086-490 3101, 081-806 2946

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Hotel needs reliable Thai female. Salary: 12,000 baht per month. 2 days off a week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

JOBS FOR HOTEL **WORKERS**

Hiring reception & housekeeping positions now. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English), 086-902 8566 (English & Thai). Email: dshumny @yahoo.com

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Bamboo coffee table for sale. Excellent condition. 110cm square with inset in center (for flower decoration, etc). 10,000 baht ono. Email: beijingmar cher@yahoo.com

7 KW. 3-PHASE WATER PUMP



Barely used (10 hours). Have 2 units for sale. Price: 15,000 baht each. Contact Margy on 089-908 7486.

NEW INVICTA WATCH FOR SALE

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HIX HEAT PRESS DUAL PADS

I am selling my Heat Press Made in USA, like new. I bought it in Bangkok. Paid 125,000 baht, selling 60,000 baht. Tel: 076-283004, 086-742 3437. Email: joelvdo@ hotmail.com

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FURNITURE AND MORE

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CHINESE TEA

Quality Chinese tea for sale. Contact Peter to arrange a free tea tasting. Tel: 082-278 1575.

Articles Wanted

FULL-SIZED USED BATH WANTED

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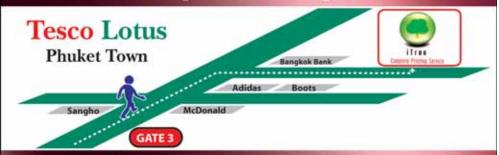
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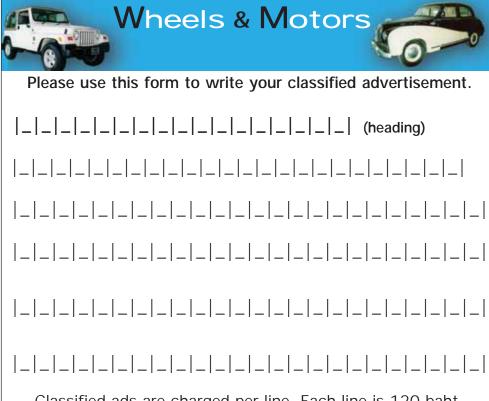
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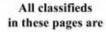
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The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

International Sport

Spain and Germany favored

Football: Euro

BY THE time this paper hits stands, the 2012 UEFA European Cup will have commenced the climax of group-stage play – as some of the world's top sides face their moment of truth.

More commonly known as the Euro, this grandest of footballing events, held once every two years, is being co-hosted by Ukraine and Poland.

When group rounds conclude on early Wednesday morning, local time, (see table to right), only 8 of the 16 finalists will remain to move on to the quarterfinals.

After the quarter-finals 4 sides will continue on to the semifinals and then to the finals where one worthy side will be crowned the 2012 European champion.

As buzz increases, the *Gazette* decided to conduct an in-house survey among its staff of 34 – 76 per cent of whom are Thai and 24 per cent are foreigners.

Staff were asked to choose one team that they think will win. None of our staff are expert sports analysts, mind you, however, the results do provide an accurate, so we think, reflection of which teams have drawn the most attention from the local population

The *Gazette's* majority favorite went to Spain who won 32 per cent of the vote. Germany came in second with 29 per cent, followed by Italy with 11.7 per cent. France and England drew 8.8 per cent each and Ukraine, Holland and Russia each won the heart of one staffer for 2.9 per cent each.

An overwhelming majority of the Gazette's females (most likely swayed by looks) chose Spain (47 per cent), followed by Germany (29.4 per cent), with England, Italy, France and Holland each having one female vote (5.8 per cent each).

A majority of Gazette males sided with Germany at 29.4 per cent. Spain and Italy received 17.6 per cent and England and France each received 11.7 per cent.





7 races 7 winners



Formula 1

By The Digby

THE Canadian GP was a magnificent race for Hamilton. Team strategy was absolutely right, and the driving was superb. The decider was tyre strategy. Vettel and Alonso ran a one-stop strategy for Red Bull and Ferrari respectively, while most drivers went for a two stopper.

The strategic question was whether the time and track position gained by saving a pit stop would outweigh inevitable late-race problems with tyre degradation. Now we all know the answer; it does, but only if you have a very special car.

Hamilton knew he could not one-stop, and used Vettel and Alonso's one-stop strategy to ensure a win. Vettel used his first set of tyres hungrily going for speed in qualifying to gain pole, and in the early laps of the race to protect his position.

So he had to pit early and cede the lead to Hamilton. That left Alonso to deal with. Alonso planned to one-stop, and therefore needed to protect his second place and wait for McLaren to pit in order to take the lead.

So Hamilton was able to stretch his lead while Alonso held up the cars behind him. When Hamilton pitted for a second time, he was able to return to track with fresh boots and easily overtake Vettel and Alonso with DRS assistance and

sheer straight line speed.

So the race was about Hamilton, Vettel and Alonso? Well not quite.

Vettel slid down the order with failed tyres and was forced to convert to a hopeless last minute two-stopper. That left him in fourth. Alonso stayed on his exhausted tyres and came in fifth and this opened a window for two other one-stoppers.

Grosjean's Lotus and Sergio Perez's Sauber, showed what magnificent combinations of man and machine they are, managing to one-stop and come second and third respectively with tyres still looking remarkably fresh.

Rosberg had a reasonable run for Mercedes but Schumacher retired again and I have an ominous sense of d j vu, remembering Stirling Moss and all those retirements in his final 1961 season.

Lotus continued to do everything but win. Grosjean was second; R ikk nen was adequate coming from twelfth on the grid to eighth, and now Lotus has to be looking for pole in Valencia.

Button's lacklustre performance for McLaren is strange. Hamilton is supposed to be the driver who is hard on tyres, but it was Button (last year's winner) who suffered massive tyre degradation, who was lapped by Hamilton and came in a dire sixteenth. He described himself as "confused and very lost".

Ferrari still does not have a winning car, and Massa came in

tenth after a spin.

The other teams were quite unremarkable. But the Drivers' Championship is now wide open, Hamilton, Alonso and Vettel lead, but Vettel is dropping inexorably. There are twenty-two drivers in the chase and Grosjean is firmly in the big league.

Two weeks ago I said that the Montreal circuit was named after the only Canadian to win the Drivers' Championship, Gilles Villeneuve. The circuit is named after him, and Enzo Ferrari's Piccolo Canadese is perhaps the greatest driver ever.

But as a reader has pointed out quite correctly, Gilles never won the Drivers' Championship. He came second in 1979 with very strong late-season showings. He was favourite to win the 1980 Championship but the 1980 and 1981 Ferraris were a disaster and of course Gilles was killed in qualifying in 1982.

His son, Jacques won the 1997 Championship in a Williams. The threat of a Montreal student demonstration was successfully squashed by authorities and my television unhappily failed to show the nude marches.

Ironically, Jacques received death threats from the Montreal demonstrators.

So it's on to a European GP with almost no overtaking opportunities. I know of only four F1 overtakings on the Valencia circuit since the first GP in 2008. Like Monaco, the race is about qualifying and strategy.



Hamilton celebrates after winning the Canadian GP with a solid race.



Sport ___

FC Phuket is no more

Reincarnated as Phuket FC, "The Islanders" prevail in their first game – an away cup match



By Steven Layne

FC PHUKET has finally been laid to rest, and will from hereon be known as Phuket FC - The Islanders – executives announced prior to the start of a league cup match in Sa Kaeo province last Saturday.

Marking the climax of a suspenseful roller-coaster-year in which the club was overshadowed by looming financial uncertainty, the change, effective immediately, will also be seen in the team logo and official kits.

While the image of the Southern Sea Kirin is expected to remain, the words "Phuket FC The Islander" will replace "FC Phuket Football Club 1688" on the bottom of the logo.

Recently appointed club president, Pamuke Achariyachai said, "We changed the name because we want the club to take on a new dimension. The Islander is an ideal name because Phuket is the only club in the Thai league continued on the road to to be based on an island. We are ready to move forward."

Hundreds of spectators at Saturday's league cup match against Division 2 upstarts Sa Kaeo City FC were the first to see Phuket's new black and green striped uniforms – similar to the uniforms of Phuket's premier-league big brothers' Muang Thong United.

Phuket's "fresh start" was complimented with a victory in their league match, highlighted by



REBORN AGAIN: Phuket's current squad have a handful of matches to prove themselves before the season's second half, when team executives are expected to sign a number of new players. Photo: Gazette file.

Football: Thai Yamaha 1

a 34th minute header by Ibrahim Kanoute, converting a cross ball from Niran Phanthong.

The match's sole goal was enough to ensure Phuket advanced to the next round of the national level tournament.

Following the match, Phuket Chonburi province where they are set to resume league play in a mid-week match-up against the Royal Navy FC.

Currently in 10th place of the 18-team Division One league, Royal Navy were relegated from the Thai Premiere League at the end of last season, and have so far proved worthy Division One contenders having won three and drew six compared to four

With a single win, six draws

and also four losses, Phuket dwindle in 16th place but have vowed not to lose any of their final six matches in the first leg of the season.

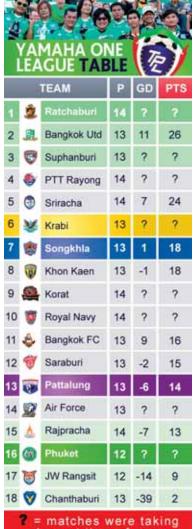
At the time this paper was going to press, Phuket FC were at the Sattahib Naval Base in Chonburi Province resuming league play in an away match against the Royal Navy FC. For the results to that match, check the sports section of the Gazette website.

The Islanders have since returned to Phuket and are now scheduled to play three consecutive home matches as follows:

June 17 vs Bangkok FC June 24 vs Chanthaburi FC July 7 vs Krabi FC

These will be followed by an away match against PTT Rayong on July 18, after which Phuket will return to play Songkhla FC at home on July 22.

All home matches are scheduled to be played at Surakul Stadium and will kickoff at 6:30pm.



place at time of press

Phuket youth champs look on to nationals

TWO Phuket youth football teams were crowned champions in their respective age groups following flawless campaigns in the regional finals last month for the 8th Prime Ministers Cup.

Held in Chumphon Province from May 11-18, the 12-year-olds' finals saw a dominating Phuket side net an impressive 24 goals, while conceding only four. Their results are as follows:

Phuket 8 – 0 Chumphon Phuket 10 – 0 Ranong Phuket 5 – 4 Krabi Phuket 1 – 0 Surat Thani

Dominating the 14-year-olds' pitch from May 5-11, Phuket's teen squad were crowned champs complimenting a hardearned campaign that saw 11 goals scored over three conceded for a final goal difference of 8. Following are their results:

Phuket 1 - 0 Surat Thani Phuket 2 – 1 Phang Nga Phuket 2 – 1 Krabi Phuket 3 - 0 Chumphon

Phuket 3 – 1 Nakhon ST

Both victories have secured the Phuket squads' place in the national level finals which will be played amongst finalists from the other regions of Thailand and Bangkok.



province frome June 23 to 30, while the 14-year-olds' finals will be held in Ang Thong Province from July 7 to 14. As a boost of support, Phuket Provincial Administration Orga-

The 12-year-olds' finals will

be played in Nong Bua Lamphu

nization ("OrBorJor") President Paiboon Upasating praised and congratulated the young footballers at a meeting on June 6 at the OrBorJor office.

"I'm quite pleased with both squads for winning the [Southern] finals. I would like for [you] athletes to continue to train with discipline and humbleness. All of you have gotten this far thanks to your parents and coaches who have taught you well.

"So I want you all to be grateful for this success. I also want to thank parents and coaches for building the Phuket team, as I believe all of the athletes will be our future. Both teams' training and travel budget will continue to be sponsored by OrBorJor," Paiboon concluded.



Sport Sport Phuket Gazette 47 P

Cricket

by Patrick Cambell

KEVIN Pietersen, who has a reputation for dropping bomb shells – and not just while he is at the crease – has announced his retirement from limited overs cricket. Surprising?

Yes, considering the fact that "KP" (as he is known to followers of the game) was voted player of the tournament in England's Twenty20 triumph at the last World Cup. He had a batting average of 62. In a format where team totals rarely exceed 190, that is a stupendous achievement.

Apparently the English Cricket Board does not allow players to choose between playing either one day or Twenty20 formats. It's all or nothing and in KP's case, he is opting for nothing.

But he is also on record as saying that "were the selection criteria not in place, I would have readily played for England in the upcoming ICC World Twenty20." Clearly Pietersen is not one to be tied down, either by the opposition bowlers, or by the dictates of the English game's governing body.

We know about his headstrong antics: his spat with Peter Moores, then the England coach, in India, and his recent tweeting denunciation – which incurred a reported 3,000-pound-fine - of Nick Knight's role as a cricket commentator.

There must be other reasons. In company with several other English Test players including Graeme Swann, he apparently now has less enthusiasm for "one dayers", despite 4,184 runs at an average of over 48 in that format.

It is also evident that, at 31, he feels the need to conserve his energies and, in his own words, "to consider the intensity of the schedule and the increasing demands on my body".

That may well be a fair assessment, but it is worth remembering that other top-notch batsmen - Ponting, Kallis, Tendulkar and Hussey among them – have continued to play limited overs cricket with considerable success until their late thirties.

Perhaps KP has other agendas. The shortened forms of the game demand that players attempt more precarious shots, and even, in Pietersen's case, invent them. Indeed, he is widely known for popularizing the "switch hit", whereby a player changes his stance during the bowler's run-up, and plays as a left-hander.

As a batsman whose supreme gift lies in driving the ball straight and with great power in the "v" between mid-off and mid-on, he knows that contrived and cross-batted strokes are fraught with infinitely more risk than shots played with the full blade of the willow. As Eoin Morgan, a brilliant limited overs player can attest, bringing your unconventional oneday shots to the test arena does not always work.

Money may be a factor. KP will still make himself eligible for the Indian league (IPL), where he plays for the Delhi Daredevils for a reputed fee of 1.28 million pounds. Not bad for six weeks' work.

Certainly, the financial rewards in the sub-continent are far higher then anything he can earn by playing for his country. He is, moreover, a married man with a young family. Those considerations are bound to



BATMAN: Kevin Pieterson at Meadows, Nottingham, England. Photo Nic Redhead

have played a part in his decision-making.

His resolve has polarized expert opinion. Jonathan Agnew of the BBC has defended his decision; so too Geoffrey Boycott, who maintains it is a distant legacy of his treatment by the selectors when they relieved him of the captaincy.

On the other hand, Patrick Collins of The Daily Mail has described it as "resentful", former captain Michael Vaughan as

"staggering". Unsurprisingly, the current England coach Andy Flower says he "tried to dissuade him".

At all events, and unless there is a change of heart somewhere fast, Pietersen is going to be lost to the game of one day cricket. England's most exciting, most enigmatic, most powerful and arguably most talented batsman is going to be sorely missed in the days ahead.

'Clubbin it' the correct way

THERE are always an infinite number of excuses in golf for hitting a bad shot, but few sound more irrational, perhaps, than actually blaming your clubs. But is it really that irrational?

No, strangely enough it is not! Having your golf clubs fitted specifically for your own swing really can have a massive impact on your whole game, and if your clubs have not been fitted to your own personal specifications, you could well be sacrificing critical elements of your swing to try to make up for it.

To get an idea of just how big a part that golf clubs play in your game, just take a look back at Phil Mickelson's win in the 2006 Masters.

He basically had two completely different drivers in his bag, one which produced a draw, and the other which produced a fade, and he did not change his swing at all.

No two people have the same swing, but most golf equipment that is available in the shops has been set up to be suitable for the average person.

In Asia, as most of the population are Asian, they make golf clubs to be suitable for the average Asian golfer. However, most of our students tend not to be Asian, so rarely would shop-

Golf Tips

bought golf clubs be suitable for

If you are using equipment that is set up for somebody else, then you are going to be sacrificing your own swing in an effort to



Phil Mickelson. PhotoEdsupergolfdude

make the equipment work.

Obviously this is backwards to the way things are meant to be. In the ideal situation, your equipment should compliment your swing. Then any problems associated with your shots can be easily targeted as physical prob-

Indeed, "Golf club fitting" has become so crucial these days, most golfing facilities in both Europe and America will be able to help you choose the right clubs by walking you through a session. However, such specialized service

lems and fixed much more quickly.

is still a very new concept here in Southeast Asia.

One of the most important aspects to consider during one of these sessions is "lie angle", which can also relate to the length of the shaft too. It is said that if the lie angle is out by just a few degrees, then your shots could land as far as 40 yards either side of where you were aiming.

Other things that are measured include "Club Head Speed", "Launch Angle", "Club Lie Angle", "Ball Contact Position" and often much more, depending on where you get the club fitting done.

So whether you are thinking about buying a new set of clubs, or would just like to know what golf clubs are most suitable for your swing, then why not book a club fitting appointment with us?

We are here to help you – before you make any wrong decisions. It is certainly better to get yourself properly fitted to begin with, saving all the hassles later on.

Often you may not really know where to start in finding out what you are actually doing wrong; you would be surprised how easily we can correct most problems.

For more information see W: andycombe.com/titleist-club-

Irish Times Race 7: a sole finisher

Sailing

IT WAS A turbulent day for three competitors brave enough to take a chance on the weather for the seventh race of the Irish Times series, held last week off the Ao Chalong Yacht Club.

With only one ultimate finisher, the event had lots of harsh rain, broken gears, underwater dives to free ropes tangled in propellers and all while battling 30-40 knot winds and sizable waves in the bay.

The only one in the group to finish was Ni a, battling to the finish under headsail only to windward and into winds up to

Swimmers had to go overboard to help free at least one boat that otherwise would have been on Koh Phi Phi, compliments of the wind direction.

Back at the club, the presentation was delayed so the Astraeus (The Greek God of Dusk) crew could participate. They got back just before dusk.



7th Laguna Phuket Marathon a winner

THE seventh annual Run Paradise Laguna Phuket International Marathon (LPIM) took place in the early morning hours of Sunday, June 10, with over four thousand participants of varying ability levels taking part.

The event, sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, was divided into five categories: the gruelling full marathon of 42 kilometers, the half marathon of 21km, the 10.5km run, the 5km community walk and a 2km children's run.

Participants ranged in age from as young as 16 years old to some who can claim the title of octogenarian.

One couple, runners Somsak Kaiswong and his wife Yindee, 78 and 73 respectively, have completed over 80 marathons between them.

Some participants wore costumes, the most prominent of which Trent Morrow, aka "Marathon Man". Morrow is an Australian who travels the world participating in marathons while wearing his skin tight blue and yellow suit, replete with flowing red cape.

This event marked Morrow's for the event. 50th marathon and the Sydney Superhero was overjoyed at the experience.

"I loved it", he said. "I really did. I've been doing this since 2008. Each event is unique and offers something different in its own right, but this [race] will always be my 50th and I'm over the moon."

Morrow races for charity and raises funds for poverty-stricken children in countries in Africa. He is a true superhero, but insists that he is just one person of many who are doing great

"Look around you. Look how many people are getting involved. People from all over the world and that is why running is such a great sport. It doesn't cost anything. All you need is a destination and few friends."

Amongst those friends was Vanessa "Na Chatra" Muangkod, the newly crowned Miss Thailand World winner – a Phuket native.

Muangkod led the line for the 5km walk and was full of praise

"It really was a great success. To see so many children in particular turn out for the race and walk was heart-warming,' she said.

Danchai Pankong was the first to cross the finish line in the full marathon at a time of 2 hours 49 minutes.

Pankong, although exhausted, was elated by his achievement.

"I am just happy it's over" he said, clearly tired but grinning from ear to hear.

"I just kept telling myself to keep going and that the training will pay off at the finish line."

Klaus Brachetti, a German citizen who participated in the 21km run said he was overwhelmed by the sense of camaraderie at the event.

"That's what it's all about, isn't it? I finished near the back, but had such a great time and the smiles all around are why we all came."

For a full list of race results go to W:phuketmarathon.com

- Phuket Gazette



IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S: Australian Trent "Marathon Man" Morrow running in the Laguna Phuket International Marathon last Sunday.



BONT VVENUE WALKING STREE

complex in front of Laguna.

" BOAT AVENUE " This new shopping outlet is designed with a modern concept featuring illumination by LED lights throughout the project. You can be both part of this lavish shopping center and own a luxury apartment located at the entrance to Laguna. Complete with parking spaces, a colorful Container Mall and other conveniences.



Project Owner: Boat Development Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Mr Panupong Kritchanarat Registered Capital: 20 Million Baht Location: Laguna area, Cherng Talay Rd, Thalang, Phuket. Financial Institution: Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start: June 2012

PRICE START

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