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Phuket Gazette

Bad boy Dennis on the run

A failed assassination attempt that wounded two German tourists leaves police searching for the intended target



INSIDE TODAY

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■ LEGAL TOUR BUSINESS OPTS FOR 'APPEASEMENT' CLOSURE

Taxi mob battles on Russian front

■ Anti-Russian sentiment finds foothold, as taxi mob forces 'Russian' Bang Tao tour operators to close their doors

By **Chutharat Plerin**

GROWING anti-Russian sentiment on the island reached a flashpoint in Bang Tao on Monday when a mob of angry taxi drivers forced the closure of a legally operated tour company.

Targeting the company, Alex Holiday Tour, the mob tore down the company's signs, alleging that it and other "Russian" tour companies were undercutting the prices of local people and making it impossible to survive.

By the end of the day, Alex Holiday Tour, despite being a fully legal business and employing Thai staff, had permanently shut its doors.

"The director closed the business to avoid having any further problems with the locals," Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay Administrative Organization (OrBorTor) told the Gazette.

"Locals explained to me that the Russian-owned businesses were stealing tourists from them, which was having a significant effect on their income," Mr Ma-ann explained.

In addition to offering tour packages and supplying tour guides, these businesses are telling tourists to avoid using local tuk-tuks and taxis, he added.

Continued on Page 3



Ma-ann Samran, president of the Cherng Talay OrBorTor, points to the closure papers signed by the director of Alex Holiday Tours. Photo: Christian Mouchet

'Kamnan of War'



Alleged mastermind behind M16 ambush arrested in Krabi with weapons of war.

Full story on Page 6

Royal Thai Navy re-starts refugee 'help on' policy

AFTER hundreds of Rohingya have already been taken into custody along the Andaman coast this year, the Royal Thai Navy this week resumed its policy to "help on" the open boats the refugees are using to flee the violence in their homeland.

The resumption of the Navy's policy comes as 205 refugees on Monday night were forced ashore Koh Racha Noi, a well-known day-trip destination for snorkellers and scuba divers 25 kilometers south of Phuket.

In light of previous refugees coming ashore having eaten scant meals of uncooked rice and sea water, members of the Navy provided the refugees with food rations and freshwater, before "allowing" them to continue their journey south.

Full story on Page 8

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This Week



Business

Cost of living: Phuket most inflated province in South. **Page 11**



Luxury living

Enjoy the high life at Avista Hideaway Resort & Spa. **Page 15**



Health

New Year's resolutions in our first 'Health with Hayden'. **Page 39**



Explore

Surf's up year round at Phuket's latest attraction 'Surf House'. **Page 40**



Explore

Blazing 'Baz' hits some quieter trails around Koh Yao. **Page 41**



Sport

Phuket FC unveil their squad ahead of the new season. **Page 50**

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Monday



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Swiss student held in Ranong out on bail

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A SWISS national held by Ranong Immigration since December 25 on charges of stealing an officer's camera was released on bail on January 23 after her mother posted bond of 130,000 baht in Ranong Court.

Unaware that her daughter, Tscherina Nora Janisch, 22, was being held in a Thai prison, Elizabeth Maria Janisch initially reported Tscherina as missing when she hadn't heard from her in three weeks.

After she was listed as missing on the travel website Travelfish, her story was picked up by mainstream media across the region.

Ranong Tourist Police officer Cpl Rungroj Somjai read about her in a local newspaper on January 19 and quickly reported to the Swiss Embassy that he had seen her weeks earlier.

The Swiss Embassy then contacted Tourist Police in Bangkok, who informed Phuket Tourist Police, who in turn contacted the Ranong Tourist Police, who found Ms Janisch incarcerated in Ranong.

Ms Janisch, an exchange student studying at the National



Swiss tourist Tscherina Janisch was a missing person until a Ranong Tourist Officer discovered her in prison. Photo: Facebook

University of Singapore, had entered Thailand on December 8 and overstayed her tourist visa by three days.

When she presented herself at Ranong immigration and was asked to pay an overstay charge, she refused and was arrested.

As her arrest was being processed, police say, she stole a camera from an officer. Ms Janisch denies the charge.

Ms Janisch's mother rushed to Thailand as soon as her daughter had been located.

Although initially concerned that officers might be spreading incorrect information about Tscherina, Mrs Janisch told the *Gazette*, "When I arrived in Ranong I realized that I was wrong, as the officers have been very good to me and my daughter."

Mrs Janisch also expressed her gratitude to the judge for granting Tscherina's bail.

She believes the accusation of theft is the result of a misunderstanding between the officers, her daughter and the interpreter.

Motorcyclists' rush to a party leaves one dead, one injured

A BURMESE man working in Phuket was killed and another injured when the motorbike they were riding slammed into a roadside guard rail at high speed near Baan Sapam Mongkol Wittaya school on the night of January 23.

The driver, Zaw Min Oo, 37, died at the scene. His passenger, Myo Aung Chay, also 37, suffered a broken leg and was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Mr Myo told police that the two were en route from Phuket Town to Thalang to join a party with friends, said Phuket City Police Duty Officer Chaleaw Taihoo.

An unopened bottle of liquor was found near the scene.



Failure to slow at a curve led to two casualties. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

"Mr Zaw was driving at high speed and failed to slow down as he approached the Khuan Din Daeng curve, where he lost control of his motorbike and hit the guard rail," Maj Chaleaw said.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

Police tired of Russian tour bus antics

A TRAFFIC policeman on duty in Thalang had a lucky escape on Wednesday morning, diving out of the way just in time to avoid being struck by a speeding wheel that had come loose off a passing tour bus.

Sen Sgt Maj Sayumphu Nhucharoen was directing traffic on the busy Thepkasattri Road at about 8:15am when he saw the wheel coming directly at him.

"I managed to jump out of the way in time, but it hit my motorcycle, which was parked by the side of the road," Sgt Sayumphu said.

The bus, displaying a Pegas sign in the front window, had picked up 32 passengers at the airport and was heading towards a hotel in Kata when the wheel



Sgt Sayumphu points to where the tour bus wheel struck his motorbike. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

came loose.

After hitting the motorbike, the wheel continued at high speed across the street and hit and damaged the wall at Hang Krajok Tungnam Co Ltd, a construction supply store.

Bus driver Manas Worasiri, 50, was charged with reckless driving by operating an improperly maintained vehicle. He was fined 600 baht for the transgression.

"The bus is always checked as required. I do not know why this accident happened," Mr Manas told police.

No passengers were injured in the emergency braking required to stop the vehicle, and by the time other police arrived at the scene, they all had been picked up by another bus.

The only injury was to the wall at Hang Krajok Tungman, and a representative said that that damage was covered by insurance.

"The case is closed," said Thalang Police Officer Niphon Tamsang. — Thawit Bilabdullar



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Sometimes you just want to give up and leave it. Image:Gazette file

Thais, expats vote for car parks to be mandatory

NEARLY 80% of all readers who voted in the latest *Phuket Gazette* online poll have called for all new buildings in Phuket to provide at least some parking spaces as a requirement for being given a building permit.

Of the 590 people who voted in the poll, launched on December 25, more than half (58.3%) voted "Yes. Parking in Phuket is so limited we must force all new building owners to provide it."

A further 21.2% voted "Yes, but only enough spaces to cater to the building's tenants."

In comparison, 5.9% said "No. Phuket has enough parking as most people here ride motor-bikes." and 10% voted "No. Buildings are private property. Whether or not to provide parking is the owner's decision."

A total of 4.6% said they had "No opinion."

Of the Thai nationals who voted, 67% said all new buildings must provide some form of parking space, compared with 86% of local foreign residents who voted that providing parking should be mandatory.

Check *PhuketGazette.net* for the full poll results.

Aussies spill mafia beans in assassination attempt

By Chutharat Plerin

PATONG Police are searching for Danish national Dennis Mark Knudsen, 24, the intended target in the drive-by shooting in Patong last week that saw two German tourists accidentally wounded.

The news follows Australians John Cohen, 32, and Adam Shea, 26, opening fire in Soi Sansabai, near the tourist-popular Soi Bangla, at about 7:30pm on January 22.

Their intended target was a man initially named by police only as "Dannie".

However, police have since confirmed that the man's real name is Dennis Knudsen.

"We have been informed that 'Denny' is a Danish national and that his real name is Dennis Knudsen," Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat told the *Gazette*.

Apparently Mr Knudsen also has identification documents issued in another name [see end of story], he added.

However, Lt Col Akanit told the *Gazette* that Mr Knudsen is wanted only for breaking bail conditions. Police are not looking to question him over the street shooting.

"Since he failed to turn up in court on Tuesday [January 22], the Phuket Provincial Court has notified us that he is now wanted by the court for breaking conditions of his bail," Col Akanit said.

Mr Knudsen was to appear at Phuket Provincial Court to resolve a dispute with Mr Cohen and Mr Shea about a "big bike" worth about 300,000 baht.

He apparently rented the motorbike, but later sold it.



John Cohen (left) and Adam Shea hide their faces after being arrested for the assassination attempt on Dennis Knudsen. Photo: Chaichana Keowkaew

During police questioning, Mr Cohen allegedly said that Mr Knudsen had sent a gang of mafia men to his Phuket home.

"He used to live in Pattaya. I was afraid he would shoot me since he did not show up at court. So me and my friend decided to make a move first," Mr Cohen reportedly told police.

Mr Knudsen was arrested by Pattaya Police on September 20, 2012 on outstanding embezzlement charges. The warrant, number 432/2555, was issued by the Phuket Provincial Court on August 27, 2012.

After his arrest by police in Pattaya last year, Mr Knudsen was handed over to the Patong Police.

"Regardless," Col Akanit said. "Our investigation focuses only on the shooting incident. We have

arrested the two suspects and we have their statements. We are now ready to transfer the case to the public prosecutor.

"The dispute over the [alleged] embezzlement is a separate case to be resolved as a civil matter in the court," he added.

Meanwhile, Mr Cohen and Mr Shea are being detained in Phuket Provincial Prison awaiting trial.

They have both been charged with attempted murder for the failed assassination of Mr Knudsen and with illegal possession of a firearm.

The two tourists injured by the stray bullets fired were taken to

Patong Hospital.

"Johann Baschenegger, 42, and Joseph Woerner, 71, were both shot in the arm," Patong Police chief Chiraphat Pochanaphan said.

Mr Baschenegger arrived in Phuket around midnight on January 21.

"My friend Joseph arrived before me. We were hanging out in front of the hotel when we were both shot in the arm," he said.

Col Chiraphat expressed his concern about how detrimental such an incident could be to Phuket's vital tourism industry.

"The suspects opened fire in the middle of a densely populated tourism area and injured two innocent people. They have seriously tarnished Thailand's reputation and must face the highest penalties under the law," Col Chiraphat said.

This most recent episode of gun violence in Phuket follows Jintana Mahattanapak, the

human resources director at the Hilton Arcadia Phuket Resort & Spa in Karon, being executed by a single gunshot to the head on January 18. She was waiting at traffic lights near Chalong while driving home from work.

**The name was removed by request, as the person whose name is allegedly being used as an alias by Mr Knudsen fears for his own safety.*

See Editorial on page 18



WANTED: Dennis Knudsen.

Taxi mob takes on Russians

From page 1

Pairoj Sahod, president of the Chong Talay Taxi co-operative, also accused the Russian tour companies on Phuket with collusion.

"We heard that the Russian companies are working as a network on the island," Mr Pairoj told the *Gazette*.

"Russian time-share touts drive around the island looking for customers and offer them free tours of Phuket if they listen to a presentation about condos."

"The office staff then takes them shopping and sightseeing, and - as you can guess - they get commissions from the shops," he added.

Running a tour company is not a "protected occupation" in Thailand, but local officials have responded sympathetically to taxi drivers' complaints about Russian companies.

After the tuk-tuk and taxi driver anti-Russian blockade in Kata-



A member of the mob removes the agency's sign. Photo: Christian Mouchet

Karon earlier this month, Vice-Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak ordered an investigation into allegations that Russian operators were using foreign masseuses.

He also called for officials to be stricter in issuing work permits to foreign tour companies.

Despite allegations that the Russian tour counters in Kata-Karon were devastating the livelihoods of local Thai people, officials investigating the complaints found that the tour counters in question were owned and operated by Thai nationals.

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Fire hydrant stakeout nets dealers, meth

PHUKET City police on Tuesday made two arrests and seized more than 2,000 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) and 102.29 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) after staking out a Phuket Town fire hydrant.

Acting on a tip-off, officers surrounded a fire hydrant in Soi Kamnan in Phuket Town, and waited for suspicious activity.

"We arrested Sompol Sunthornkij, 42, and Saowanee Puengpong, 29, after we found them with 600 *ya bah* pills and 100.29 grams of *ya ice* packed in a large plastic bag," Phuket City Police chief Sermphan Sirikong said.

"They were placing the bag next to the fire hydrant, waiting for the buyers to come and take it," he said.

The officers searched the couple's house in nearby Soi Palian, where they found 1,411 more *ya bah* pills.

"Police seized the drugs and their black Honda motorcycle. Both of the suspects were charged with the possession, sale and distribution of a class 1 narcotic," he added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Mob demands transfer after alleged brutality

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

ABOUT 200 villagers gathered on January 24 to angrily demand that the Kamala police officer who allegedly pistol whipped a teenager in an angry mob be immediately transferred.

The boy was reportedly struck across the face by the officer as he joined other teenagers in beating a pair of alleged bag snatcher, who had just been put under "citizen's arrest".

At about 9pm, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat confronted the crowd and assured them that an investigation would be set in motion. By the morning of January 26, Maj Gen Choti told the *Gazette* that the matter was already settled.

"It was all a misunderstanding that night. Villagers gathered at the police station because they believed that one of the officers had used excessive force when pro-



Kamala villagers protested the alleged pistol-whipping of the teenager. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

tecting the alleged bag snatchers from the angry mob of teenagers," Gen Choti told the *Gazette*.

Police were chasing down the bag snatchers when they were

helped by a group of teenagers, who surrounded the thieves.

"However, the teenagers started to beat the thieves instead of just stopping them. Police did their best

to control the situation," he said.

Gen Choti assured the *Gazette* that an understanding was reached between the teenagers' parents and the police.

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Police nab naked BMW joyrider



Police convinced the Italian man to put his clothes back on before photos were taken of him in front of the stolen BMW. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

POLICE arrested an Italian man who stole a BMW that was left running in front of a laundry shop near Phuket Technical College on January 27.

Responding to a report from Surawit Siangdee, 36, that his black BMW had been stolen at 3:30pm, Phuket City Police notified police stations island-wide.

Thalang traffic police spotted the car, with mag wheels and lowered suspension, at traffic lights on Don Chom Tao Road at 6:30pm. The officers stopped the vehicle and apprehended the 46-year-old man, who was reportedly not wearing any clothes at the time of his arrest.

After convincing him to get dressed, the officers took him to Thalang Police Station, Phuket City Police chief Sermphan

Sirikong told the *Gazette*.

"We tried to talk with him, but he wouldn't say anything, he just sat and covered his head," Col Sermphan said.

The Italian's arrest came just 24 hours after Thung Thong Police, concerned for his safety, stopped him from jumping into Bang Wad Dam.

The officers took him to Thung Thong Police station, from which he disappeared a short time later, officers told the *Gazette*.

Police have notified Francesco Pensato, the Italian honorary consul in Phuket, Col Sermphan said.

In the meantime, the Italian has been charged with theft, he added.

The *Gazette* are aware of the man's name but have decided to withhold it.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

Man tortured and murdered in island mangrove forest

POLICE found the bloodied body of an unidentified man who appeared to have been tortured before being murdered in a mangrove forest near Rassada Port, east of Phuket Town, early on January 24.

Pieces of a broken beer bottle and a bloodied piece of wood believed to be the murder weapons were found nearby.

"We found the body tied by the neck to a tree with nylon cord," said Phuket City Police chief Sermphan Sirikong, who was called to the scene at 3:20am.

"We think a group of men brought him here and may have questioned him before they killed him... We believe the motive was a business conflict or love affair," he added.

The man's right ear was partially torn off and there were wounds above the ear, Col Sermphan said.

"He was beaten to death about three hours before his body was found," he added.

The man was 25 to 30 years old, 160 to 165 centimeters tall. He had a tattoo on the left side of his chest and on his left shoulder. He was wearing a copper ring on his right little finger, Col Sermphan explained.

Police believe the man may have been a migrant worker or a crewman on a local fishing boat.

– Chaichana Keowkaow

LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Buddha image moved, not lost

A GERMAN-SPEAKING resident of Phuket raised an alarm earlier this week when he noticed that a Buddha image had disappeared from the pavilion at Kata Viewpoint.

However, Rawai Municipality Chief Administrative Officer Rachen Phuntarakit confirmed to the *Gazette* that there was no need for concern, as the image had only been moved from the scenic view to a more appropriate location at another *wat*.

"We responded to the many complaints we received from the villagers that the Buddha image had been installed at an inappropriate location.

"It was in a public area frequently visited by tourists who lie down and sometimes even fall asleep in the pavilion during the day.

"At night, homeless people sleep in the pavilion, and occasionally teenagers will sneak into the area to talk and kiss," Mr Rachen informed the *Gazette*.

It was unclear to Mr Rachen how the

image had arrived in the pavilion and who had put it there.

"The Rawai Municipality didn't set up the Buddha image. I think whoever brought it here probably came at night, which is why nobody saw them do it," he explained.

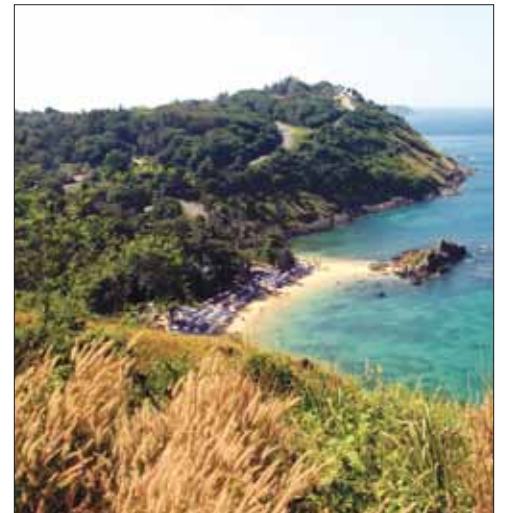
"They could have decided to install it there based on a suggestion from a fortune teller, or perhaps they just wanted to have it in the pavilion so people who are visiting Kata Viewpoint could pay respect to it," he said.

"No matter what the reason is, they should have obtained permission first from the Rawai Municipality to erect the image on public land," he added.

The image now rests in Wat Sawang Arom.

"If they try to put another image there, we'll know who they are this time, because we have CCTV cameras in the area," Mr Rachen said.

– Orawin Narabal



The popular pavilion offers a bird's-eye view of Yanui Beach and Laem Phromthep.



A couple canoodles near the spot where the Buddha image once rested, now marked only with a square. Photos: Isaac Stone Simonelli



'He was a happy soul, happy to be retired, happy to live in Phuket. He got along with everybody,' a friend said of Richard Spraggs. Photo: Facebook

New Zealand yachting drowns in Chalong

POPULAR Phuket sailor Richard Spraggs, from New Zealand, drowned in an early morning boating accident on January 25.

Mr Spraggs, 59, was re-anchoring his boat, *La Zingara*, at about 5am after an overnight storm had pushed another boat too close to his, Capt Chianchai Duangsuwan of the Chalong Police reported.

Mr Spraggs was trying to push the boats apart when he fell overboard. He struck his head on the other boat as he fell into the water, the *Gazette* was told.

"A friend from New Zealand who was on board raised the alarm, shouting to get the attention of other yachters on liveboards at the Chalong anchorage, on the north side of Chalong Pier," one local yachting told the *Gazette*.

"They started a search, and found his body about 30 minutes later. They attempted to resuscitate him and took him to Chalong Pier, where an ambulance was waiting, but he was pronounced dead [at the scene]," he said.

Mr Spraggs was well known among sailors at the Phuket Cruising Yacht Club.

"He was a nice, happy fellow," one PCYC regular told the *Gazette*. "He was a happy soul – happy to be retired, happy to live in Phuket. He got along with everybody."

Mr Spraggs' family and the New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok have been notified of the incident.

Mr Spraggs is survived by his partner Shirley, daughter Stevie and his father.

– Phuket Gazette

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A Scottish tourist drowned at Ao Sane (pictured) the morning after a late-night drinking session with friends. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Tourist drowns after night of heavy revelry

A SCOTTISH tourist on holiday in Phuket drowned early last Sunday morning at the secluded beach at Ao Sane, on the south-west coast of the island.

Police named the victim as Neil Gray, 36.

Mr Gray was swimming at the scenic beach at about 8 am when his friends noticed him signalling that he was in distress, Capt Chienchai Duangsuwan of the Chalong Police explained to the *Gazette*.

"His friends and other tourists at the beach rushed to pull him out of the water," he said.

Mr Gray was raced to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town. However, he was pronounced dead on arrival.

"Mr Gray was apparently on holiday in Phuket to visit his brother, who lives here," Capt Chienchai explained.

"He had no pre-existing medical conditions that we know of. The group woke early to go swimming and snorkeling at the beach.

"However, we were told that he and his friends were up late drinking the previous night, so that may have contributed to his death," Capt Chienchai said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

'Kamnan of War' arrested in Krabi with guns, ya ice

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE raids at a shrimp farm and the nearby home of a sub-district chief (*Kamnan*) in Krabi province, across the bay from Phuket, has turned up an Uzi, a Thompson machine gun, six shotguns, several handguns and two grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Region 8 Police presented *Kamnan* Anan Sanhad, the 55-year-old subdistrict chief of Klong Khanan, at a police press conference on January 28.

Anan is being investigated as the prime suspect behind the ambush that resulted in the death of local activist Paruhas Kongbannuek in July last year.

Also presented by the police were shrimp farm workers Sanya Chaipim, 38, from the northeastern province of Sisaket, and Weerasak Songsaeng, 45, from Narathiwat in the Deep South.

Acting on allegations by local villagers that *Kamnan* Anan was behind the lethal attack on Mr Paruhas, police obtained a search warrant for his home in Klong Khanan, Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Anuchon Chamart explained.

"About 50 officers took part in the raids. Many firearms were found at *Kamnan* Anan's house, including an Uzi, a 9mm handgun and a .357 handgun, as well as ammunition and two grams of *ya ice*," he said.

"He has been charged with possession of a war weapon and corresponding ammunition for such a weapon, as well as illegal possession of firearms. He has also



A variety of weapons, including 'guns of war' were seized by police.



Mr Paruhas was killed in an M16 ambush attack in Krabi last July.

been charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic," Col Anuchon added.

The police investigation also led officers to obtain a search warrant for two other homes in the area.

"At the two houses on the shrimp farm in Klong Khanan we found weapons and ammunition," said Col Anuchon.

The cache discovered at the farm comprised six shotguns, a Thompson machine gun, an 11mm handgun and ammunition for the weapons found, as well as two bulletproof vests.



KAMNAN STYLE: Anan Sanhad (in white singlet) is the prime suspect behind the murder of a local activist last year. He is also accused of organizing arson attacks on villagers' homes. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong

In total, 681 rounds of ammunition were seized in the raids, Col Anuchon said.

"Mr Sanya and Mr Weerasak have both been charged with possession of a war weapon and matching ammunition, as well as illegal possession of firearms," he said.

"The allegations by villagers pointed to *Kamnan* Anan being involved in the murder of Mr Paruhas, and in other shootings.

"It was also alleged that he was behind the burning of villagers' houses over a palm oil plantation conflict," he added.

Mr Paruhas was the leader of a group of locals protesting a palm oil plantation operator in Klong Khanan who had refused to vacate land earmarked by Cabinet for use by local residents, Col Anuchon explained.

"Police requested a search warrant for his house to help determine whether or not he was involved in the alleged crimes," he said.

"All three suspects have been handed over to the Krabi Provincial Court for detention while police continue with their investigation," the colonel added.

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Expert refutes dugong slaughter targets 'aphrodisiac' body parts

AN ENDANGERED-species specialist last week dispelled rumors that the increase in dugong deaths in Southern Thailand last year was due to the mammal being hunted for the alleged aphrodisiac qualities of its body parts.

"We have had no reports of the dugong being poached in the Andaman coast region in order to use their body parts to create a sexual stimulant," said Dr Kongkiat Kittiwattanawong, who heads the Phuket Marine Biological Center's (PMBC) Endangered Species Unit.

However, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of dead dugongs found on area beaches from 2011 to 2012.

In 2011 only four of the vegetarian mammals were found washed up ashore, while 12 were found in 2012.

"The increase in deaths is a serious issue," he said. "It's the



The PMBC regularly tags dugongs. Photo: Earthrace Conservation

highest number we've seen in the last 20 years."

Dr Kongkiat believes the deaths were caused by fishing equipment and boats, as a number of animals were wrapped in nets or had wounds consistent with those ex-

pected from blades of fishing boats.

The PMBC regularly looks for and tags dugong in the Phuket, Krabi, and Trang area. In 2012, 110 to 135 dugong were found at sea; in 2011, 135 to 150 were found.

— *Irfarn Jamdukor*


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Return of the Rohingya 'push'

Navy resumes 'help on' policy after Phang Nga immigration centers overloaded

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Royal Thai Navy this week resumed its policy to "help on" Rohingya arriving along the Andaman coast – instead of taking the refugees into protective custody – by providing them basic provisions and "allowing" them to continue their journey out of Thai waters.

The shift away from taking the refugees into custody was made plain on Tuesday when 205 Rohingya, crammed into two open boats, were spotted off Koh Racha Noi, about 25 kilometers south of Phuket on Monday night.

On hearing the news of the refugees' arrival, Rawai Municipality on Tuesday dispatched a speedboat with basic provisions. The boat departed Chalong Pier about midday, and on arriving at Koh Racha Noi officers on board discovered that a Royal Thai Navy vessel was already there.

About 10 Thai Navy officers checked the refugees and handed out food and water before "allowing" the refugees to continue their journey toward Malaysia.

The *Gazette* received conflicting reports about the refugees: some stated that there were only men and boys on the boat; others claimed women and children were also on board, as has been the trend with more recent Rohingya arrivals in Thailand.

Also on Tuesday, another boat overloaded with a reported 140 Rohingya fleeing persecution in their homeland in Rakhine State in Myanmar was spotted by fishermen off Koh Phra Thong in Phang Nga province.

A Navy escort intercepted the vessel and provided food and water before allowing the refugees to continue their journey south, reports said.

The move to resume "helping on" Rohingya refugees – for years referred to as the "push back"



Hundreds of Rohingya who made the journey in open boats arrived malnourished after surviving on scant rations. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong

policy – follows scores of Rohingya landing in Phang Nga, north of Phuket, over the past few weeks. The huge influx of refugees has taken the Phang Nga Immigration facilities past breaking point.

Authorities were forced to relocate hundreds of Rohingya being held at the Phang Nga detention center to immigration centers elsewhere in Southern Thailand after 179 Rohingya were taken into custody in Khura Buri District on January 23.

"They were at sea for 16 days, hoping to reach Thailand or Malaysia in order to find work," Khura Buri District Chief Mani Pianthong said. "They all are exhausted... They said they had only four meals of uncooked rice and water since they left the state."

The refugees were taken to Khura Buri Community Hall.

Nineteen of them were in need of urgent medical treatment and were immediately placed on saline drips by medical staff.

The children were examined by Public Health Officers, who determined that five should be sent to Phang Nga Hospital to receive treatment for fever, blood in the urine, and possible tuberculosis infection, reported *The Nation*.

"Doctors and nurses were called in to take care of them – some of the refugees have fevers and others have open wounds. Doctors have placed them all on a course of antibiotics," Chief Mani said.

"Officers have to provide them with food, drink and other care before handing them over to Phang Nga Immigration for deportation," he added.

Two days later, 96 Rohingya – 62 men, six women, 14 boys and



The flooding of Rohingya arriving in past weeks has forced officials to use temporary shelters.



MP Prompong Nopparit (standing, in white shirt) reviews the overcrowding in Khura Buri.

14 girls – found shelter along the Khura Buri coast after 25 days at sea. The refugees shared the same harrowing story as the 179 who came ashore before them: days at sea surviving on scant rations of water and uncooked rice.

Of the 96 arrivals, 12 were sick and needed medical treatment.

Refugees were given necessary medical treatment and physical check-ups, as well as food and water. The group was then transferred to the Khura Buri Community Hall, which is now functioning as a temporary shelter until they can be deported, Mr Mani said.

There are now 340 refugees being held at the Phang Nga de-

tention centers, as many of the refugees have already been transferred to other provinces to deal with the sudden influx of potential asylum seekers.

Of the 340 Rohingya, 48 are being held at the Phang Nga shelter for women and children; 180 are at the Phang Nga Immigration detention center; and 112 are at the Khura Buri Police Station.

"The refugees need three meals a day – we simply don't have the funds to support them. So there are donation centers at the local level that are gathering donations and raising funds," Pheu Thai Government Spokesman Prompong Nopparit said during his visit to the Khura Buri Community Hall on January 25.

MP Prompong said he planned to raise the issue of financing the care of the Rohingya with the Pheu Thai Party in hopes of solving anticipated budget issues.

"If they stay here for several months, there will be monetary issues. I believe for now the government and private sector can continue to do their best to provide them with food and look after their health," he said.

State news agency MCOT reported on Monday that the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has sought clarification from a variety of agencies on the plight and options of nearly 1,500 Rohingya migrants currently in Thai custody.

NHRC member Niran Pitakvachara said the Burmese Rohingya Association in Thailand recently petitioned the agency to help prevent the repatriation of Rohingya migrants to Myanmar.

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin and Orawin Narabal.

'They all are exhausted... They said they had only four meals of uncooked rice and water since they left the state'

– Khura Buri District Chief Mani Pianthong

Phuket rallies for Rohingya

THE Phuket Islamic Council is collecting donations at their office in Koh Kaew for the hundreds of Rohingya refugees being held in detention centers in Phang Nga.

The Islamic Council is asking for rice, dried food, blankets and toiletries.

Kitti Islam told the *Gazette* that the council has already received many donations of food and clothes, but more are needed.

"Many refugees don't have blankets to cover them when they sleep, or clothes or things necessary for daily life," he said. "We would like to ask the people of Phuket to make donations to the Rohingya."

Donations are taken to Phang Nga once or twice a week.

– *Phuket Gazette*



The Islamic Council is accepting donations on an ongoing basis. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

Donations can be made at any mosque in Phuket or directly at the Phuket Islamic Council office at the Muslim Wittaya Phuket School on Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew. Hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5pm. Call 076-377546, or Mr Kitti at 087-888 7572.

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Yellow-shirt television station's cars riddled with bullets

AN UNKNOWN gunman sprayed news cars belonging to yellow-shirt TV station ASTV with bullets last week, leading Army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha to deny soldiers had anything to do with the attack.

In recent weeks, soldiers have protested outside the media organization's office after the station criticized Gen Prayuth.

Insisting his men had nothing to do with the shooting, the Army chief urged

police to make arrests soon.

A source from the national security agency who asked not to be named said the agency was still looking at different motivations for the incident, among them revenge against ASTV chief Sondhi Limthongkul and the yellow-shirt People's Alliance for Democracy, political conflict in the run-up to the Bangkok election for governor and an attack on Mr Sondhi due

to personal conflicts.

Opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva urged police to quickly probe the shooting, which he said seemed to be a threat against the media.

Mr. Abhisit said the press had to present facts to the public which might upset some people, therefore society had to protect the media so they could perform their duty with confidence.



Army chief Prayuth denied soldiers were involved in the attack. Photo: The Nation

Somyot jailed for 11 years

JOURNALIST and activist Somyot Prueksakasemsuk has become the second person this year to be convicted of lese majeste, receiving a 10-year sentence that Amnesty International called "a serious setback for freedom of expression in Thailand."

The verdict has been met by a chorus of criticism from local and international rights group, leading the Criminal Court's top judge to make a rare public defense of the decision.

Nevertheless, monarchists voiced strident support for the verdict against Mr Somyot, also a long-time labor activist and red-shirt supporter.

Mr Somyot received a total sentence of 11 years: 10 for breaking Article 112 of the Criminal Code, which governs insults to the monarchy, and one for defamation in a separate case.

The lese majeste charges date from March 2010, when Mr Somyot was editor of the now-defunct *Voice of Taksin* magazine.

Mr Somyot, who has been denied bail 12 times since his jailing 21 months ago, had printed two articles that allegedly slandered

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej and his ancestor Rama I

The four judges ruled that although the two articles never directly mentioned the monarch's name, it could be inferred that the fictitious name "Luang Naruebarn" was in fact a reference to HM The King.

"The character of Luang Naruebarn doesn't exist in reality but it can be construed as to

whom it [referred]," one of the four presiding judges stated. "The intention was to make [readers] understand that the person was

HM The King," said the judge, adding that His Majesty had been falsely linked in the two articles to political violence "contrary to the facts".

Barefoot and in heavy iron shackles, Mr Somyot was composed after hearing the verdict as his lawyers tried to seek bail and appeal the verdict.

Mr Somyot was quickly whisked away after the chairperson of the red-shirt Democratic Alliance Against Dictatorship (DAAD), Thida Tavornsat Tojirakarn, approached to console



Activist Mr Somyot was convicted of lese majeste. Photo: The Nation

him and some of his supporters started to cry.

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and the European Union all criticized the sentence, though the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand (FCCT)

was notably silent.

Some observers claimed Mr Somyot's sentence was more due to the fact that he was a noted campaigner against Article 112 than to any damage to the monarchy's reputation caused by the articles.

Pattaya police bust sex party



The couple hosted group sex sessions. Photo: Pattaya One

POLICE crashed a "swingers" party in Pattaya last week, arresting a Dutch man and a Thai woman for using their resort to host group sex sessions.

Anthony Verloop, 61, and Kannikar Kankhai, 42, were arrested in the early hours of January 27 at the Rama Kian Resort on Soi Thappraya in Chon Buri Province.

According to local reports, police infiltrated the party using a spy, waiting until the roughly 10 couples were nearly naked before making arrests.

The participants, a mix of foreigners and Thais, had stripped to towels when the police announced their presence.

Startled, some of the attendees tried to run away, but only the organizers were arrested.

A variety of sex toys were found at the scene.

— Pattaya One

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In brief...

Suez cities burn,
canal shipping
sails on, for now

EGYPT'S army stepped forward on Tuesday from its new place in the shadows of the fledgling democracy and pledged to defend the state after a week of bloody street violence in cities along the Suez Canal.

It was a measure of the canal's place in Egypt's economy, and the world's, that army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi explained the military deployment ordered by President Mohamed Mursi in terms primarily of protecting a waterway he called a "vital strategic interest" – it handles about a tenth of all global trade by sea.

Australia floods
force thousands
evacuate homes

MASSIVE summer floods have killed four people and forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes across two Australian states on Tuesday, disrupting air and rail travel and coal production.

A deluge fed by the ex-tropical cyclone Oswald dumped more than 200 millimetres of rain in some areas of the Queensland and New South Wales over three days, swelling rivers and swamping towns.

China appoints
new hardline
Tibet Governor

CHINA appointed a new governor, Losang Jamcan, for remote and restive Tibet on Tuesday, naming a hardline ethnic Tibetan in a signal that the government has no plans to ease up on its tight control on the Himalayan region.

North Korea to target US
with nuclear, rocket tests

By Ju-min Park
and Choonsik Yoo

NORTH Korea said on January 24 it would carry out further rocket launches and a nuclear test that would target the United States, dramatically stepping up its threats against a country it calls its "sworn enemy".

The announcement by the country's top military body came a day after the UN Security Council agreed to a US-backed resolution to censure and sanction North Korea for a rocket launch in December that breached UN rules.

North Korea is not believed to have the technology to deliver a nuclear warhead capable of hitting the continental United States, although its December launch showed it had the capacity to deliver a rocket that could travel 10,000 kilometers, potentially putting San Francisco in range, according to an intelligence assessment by South Korea.

"We are not disguising the fact that the various satellites and long-range rockets that we will fire and the high-level nuclear test we will carry out are targeted at the United States," North Korea's National Defense Commission said, according to state news agency KCNA.

North Korea is believed by South Korea and other observers to be "technically ready" for a third nuclear test, and the decision to go ahead rests with leader Kim Jong-un, who pressed ahead with the December rocket launch in defiance of the UN sanctions.

China, the one major diplomatic ally of isolated and impoverished North Korea, agreed to the US-backed resolution and it also supported resolutions in 2006 and 2009 after Pyongyang's two earlier nuclear tests.

The statement by North Korea



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un (left) visits the West Sea Satellite Launch Site in Cholsan county, North Pyongan province. Photo: Reuters

represents on January 24 is a huge challenge to Beijing as it undergoes a leadership transition, with Xi Jinping due to take office in March.

China's Foreign Ministry called for calm and restraint and a return to six-party talks, but effectively singled out North Korea, urging the "relevant party" not to take any steps that would raise tensions.

"We hope the relevant party can remain calm and act and speak in a cautious and prudent way and not take any steps which may further worsen the situation," ministry spokesman Hong Lei told reporters at a regular press briefing.

North Korea has rejected proposals to restart the talks aimed at

reining in its nuclear capacity. The United States, China, Russia, Japan and the two Koreas are the six parties involved.

"After all these years and numerous rounds of six-party talks we can see that China's influence over North Korea is actually very limited. All China can do is try to persuade them not to carry out their threats," said Cai Jian, an expert on Korea at Fudan University in Shanghai.

Analysts said North Korea could test as early as February as South Korea prepares to install a new, untested president or that it could choose to stage a nuclear explosion to coincide with former ruler Kim

Jong-il's February 16 birthday.

"North Korea will have felt betrayed by China for agreeing to the latest UN resolution and they might be targeting [China] as well [with this statement]," said Lee Seung-yeol, senior research fellow at Ewha Institute of Unification Studies in Seoul.

Washington urged North Korea not to proceed with a third test just as the North Korean statement was published on January 24.

North Korea was banned from developing missile and nuclear technology under sanctions dating from its 2006 and 2009 nuclear tests.

A South Korean military official said the concern now is that Pyongyang could undertake a third nuclear test using highly enriched uranium for the first time, opening a second path to a bomb.

North Korea is estimated to have enough fissile material for about a dozen plutonium warheads, although estimates vary, and intelligence reports suggest that it has been enriching uranium to supplement that stock and give it a second path to the bomb.

North Korea has not yet mastered the technology needed to make a nuclear warhead small enough for an intercontinental missile, most observers say, and needs to develop the capacity to shield any warhead from re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

North Korea gave no time-frame for the coming test and often employs harsh rhetoric in response to actions that it sees as hostile.

"The UNSC [Security Council] resolution masterminded by the US has brought its hostile policy towards the Democratic People's Republic of Korea [North Korea] to its most dangerous stage," the commission was quoted as saying.

— Reuters

Brazil cracks down on nightclubs after deadly fire

CITIES across Brazil are cracking down on nightclubs to ensure that they comply with fire regulations after a weekend blaze destroyed a club in the southern university town of Santa Maria, killing 235 people.

The fire was Brazil's deadliest in half a century and the tragedy resonated across the country, with many people demanding those responsible be prosecuted and that the government tighten up on safety.

Police said a flare that ignited the fire and was used by the band for visual effects was meant for outdoor use, the club's emergency exit signs were not working and the only available exit was too small.

Outraged Brazilians blame what they see as lax regulation and corrupt officials for the tragedy. There are fears that similar fires

could break out at other clubs and public venues, especially as the country gears up to host the soccer World Cup next year and the Olympic Games in 2016.

Sensitivity is also growing in the run-up to next month's Carnival celebrations, which feature throngs of unruly revellers in parades and street parties in cities across the country.

"We were all evidently shocked by the Santa Maria tragedy," Bosco Saraiva, the acting mayor of Manaus, a city of 2 million people in the Amazon region, told Reuters. "Yesterday we started a total cleanup."

The campaign featured club inspections and city authorities closed 17 because of fire hazards and expired permits. Americana, a city in the southeastern state of Sao Paulo, issued a blanket order

for all nightclubs to shut down temporarily while new safety standards are discussed.

Brasilia and other cities including Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro have also deployed inspectors. In Salvador, Brazil's third-biggest city, the mayor ordered inspections of all entertainment venues, including Carnival installations now being erected.

Most of the dead were students suffocated by toxic fumes that rapidly filled the club after the flare set fire to soundproofing material on the ceiling. Others were trampled as they stampeded toward the sole exit of the "Kiss" nightclub, whose permits were under review.

Experts say Brazilian safety laws seem sufficient on paper but that enforcement is weak and codes can vary from state to state.



The devastating aftermath of the 'Kiss' nightclub blaze that killed 235 people, most of whom were students. Photo: Reuters

The Kiss nightclub appeared to have no fire escape, no alarm and no sprinklers. Experts said the soundproofing material that caught fire was illegal.

"Inspection in this country is a joke. It's time for that to change," said the owner of several nightclubs in Sao Paulo.

— Reuters

Phuket inflation tops South

The island's mean cost-of-living increase last year was 82% higher than the national average

By Steven Layne

NOT only is Phuket still considered the most expensive consumer province in Thailand, but its annual inflation rate remains the highest in the South – the Kingdom's most inflated region.

Thailand's cost of living in 2012, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), rose by 3.02% from the previous year, while overall inflation in Phuket was measured at 5.5%.

The Phuket Commerce Office, in collaboration with the Phuket provincial government and the Commerce Ministry's Information Office and Bureau of Trade and Economic Indices, recently published the province's Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) report for 2012.

Compared with the national CPI report, which surveys 407 items, the CPI-P monthly report for Phuket surveys 256 consumer goods and services – covering everything from food, beverages, apparel, housing and personal health-care to vehicles, transport, communications, entertainment, media, education, religion, tobacco and alcohol.

DECEMBER, 2012 VS 2011

Using 2007 as a base year (100 points), the CPI national average during the last month of 2012 peaked at 116.86 points, rising 0.45 points from 116.41 points in November, 2012. This represents a month-on-month (m-o-m) increase of 0.39%, and a year-on-year (y-o-y) increase of 3.63%, while the full-year CPI average in 2012 was 3.02% higher than 2011.

The figure is in line with the MoC's initial prediction of an annual inflation rate of between 3-3.4%.

In contrast, Phuket's CPI-P for the final month of the year peaked at 126.3 points – or 26.3% inflation since 2007 – up 0.7 percentage points from the previous month and 5.4 points from December, 2011. This equates to rises of 0.55% m-o-m and 4.4% y-o-y.

December's y-o-y inflation of 4.5% was mainly attributed to a 4.9% increase measured in food and beverage items (f&b), which was calculated from price increases in fruits and vegetables (11.6%); out-of-home consumer foods (5.6%); meat, poultry and seafood (4.9%); in-home consumer foods (3.4%), non-alcoholic (3.1%); rice, flour and flour products (1.3%) and egg and dairy products (0.5%); meanwhile, the Phuket Commercial office reported 1.7% deflation in the food condiments category.

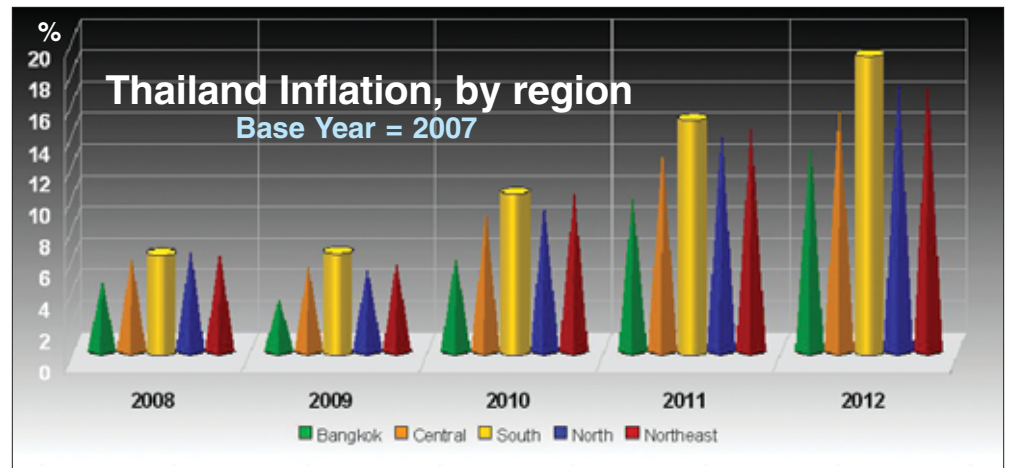
Non f&b items inflated y-o-y by 4.2%, calculated from a 9% jump in clothing apparel and footwear (mens and ladies shirts and student badges); as well as inflation in tobacco and alcohol products (7.8%); packaging, transport and communications – including the price of petrol, public transportation and automobile expenses (6%); housing – including construction materials, labor, utilities and energy (2.4%); personal health care expenses and pharmaceuticals (1.3%); and a 0.5% jump in entertainment, reading, education and religion – a category which includes sporting goods and pet care expenses.

2012 VS 2011, OVERALL

The CPI-P average for the entire year was 124.8 points, up 5.5% from the 2011 average of 118.3 points. The inflation rate was attributed to a 7.8% increase in f&b costs, including fruits and vegetables (14.4%); in-home consumer foods (9.4%); meat, poultry and seafood (8.7%); out-of-home consumer foods (6.8%); food condiments (6%); rice, flour and flour products (4.8%) and non-alcoholic beverages (2.5%); egg and dairy products (2%).

Non f&b items inflated by 3.3%, calculated from rises in clothing apparel and footwear (6.3%); packaging, transport and communications (4.7%); housing expenses (2.4%); alcohol and tobacco (2.3%) and personal health care (1.8%).

Meanwhile the category for entertainment, reading, education and religion experienced deflation by 0.5%.



IT ALL ADDS UP: Average monthly inflation rates shown over a five year period. Southern Thailand remains the most inflated region. Source: Ministry of Commerce; Image: Phuket Gazette

2012 Inflation, Southern Thailand

Province	Benzine 91 (bt/l) ^a	Live pig (bt/kg) ^a	CPI-P ^a	Y-o-Y %
Phuket	44.19	55	126.3	5.5
Narathiwat	44.19	u/a	131	5
Surat Thani	44.05	57	128.3	4.8
Ranong	44.24	59	128.2	4.5
Songkhla	43.56	57	129.9	4.2
Satun	44.19	56.5	129.8	4.1
Nakhon Si ...	44.15	55	130.1	3.6
Trang	44.18	56	127.8	3.3
Pattani	44.14	61	123.8	3.1
Phatthalung	u/a	58.5	121.4	3
Chumphon	44.18	53.5	123.1	3
Phang Nga	44.18	55.5	121.7	2.6
Yala	44.2	63.5	125.5	2.6
Krabi	44.23	60	123.1	2.2

^aDecember, 2012
Source: Ministry of Commerce / Department of Internal Trade

THE HOT SOUTH: This table shows average inflation rates in Thailand's Southern region, as well as prices for two staples. Source: Ministry of Commerce and Department of Internal Trade

Calling all dangerous agri-chem operators

THE Phuket Center for Agricultural Research and Development (PCARD) has sent out a reminder to companies and retailers dealing with dangerous agricultural materials to remind them about the "2013 Dangerous Agricultural Materials Regulators" workshops to be held later this year.

Wisut Maneesong, a representative from PCARD, said that the Area 7 Agricultural R&D office in Surat Thani – which overlooks commercial agricultural matters for Phuket – has designated two workshops as follows: the first to be held on April 4-5 at the Chumphon Goddess Hotel in Chumphon city, with the second scheduled for June 11-12 at the Wang Tai Hotel in Surat Thani City.

Wisut reminded operators to check the permit they were issued by the Agricultural R&D Area 7 office, to see if the five year expiration date has passed or not. If it



The PCARD is just north of the turn-off for PIA. Photo: Streets of Phuket

has, or if the retailer has not yet obtained a permit and needs to attend the required workshop, then they should contact the office to register for one of the workshops.

For more information, the Phuket Agricultural R&D center is located at 166, T. Thepkasattri, A. Thalang, Phuket. Inquiries by telephone can be made by calling 076-621-157 during government hours of operation.

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UK pension transfers: Gibraltar

Retirement Years

Don Freeman

SINCE the QROPS (Qualifying Recognized Overseas Pensions Scheme) legislation was introduced on April 6 2006, an individual transferring their pension overseas does not have to transfer their funds to the same country or jurisdiction as they are retiring to.

This opened the doors for many pension providers in several jurisdictions, predominantly the channel island of Guernsey, to offer QROPS to UK pension members residing in countries throughout the world.

However, the UK's HMRC brought about changes in the QROPS legislation (effective from April 6, 2012) that meant Guernsey no longer qualified as a QROPS jurisdiction. This has led to the rise in popularity of other jurisdictions for QROPS – with Gibraltar being one such jurisdiction.

WHY GILBRATAR

When establishing whether a UK pension member, retiring abroad, should transfer to a Gibraltar QROPS or not, you should first consider the other alternatives – such as leaving your pension benefits in the UK, or using a QROPS in another jurisdiction (such as Malta, New Zealand or even the Isle of Man).

The main benefits to consider from a pension are income, pension commencement lump sum, death benefits and investments.

QROPS INCOME

In a UK personal pension, a member retiring (at the minimum age of 55) would receive a pension directly from their fund, based on the UK Government Actuary Department (GAD) rates or purchase an annuity with the fund.

With a QROPS, on the other hand, a pension member who has been outside of the UK for over 5 complete UK tax years (referred to as the Member Payment Provision Period) can receive a pension at a higher level (typically 120% of what is available in the UK), drawn directly from their fund.

Gibraltar, Malta, New Zealand and the Isle of Man all have QROPS that offer this level of income, however, how (and at what rate) the member is taxed on this income is key as to which QROPS jurisdiction to use.

For example, Malta will pay pension payments gross of tax to any member living in a country that has a Double Taxation Agreement (DTA) with Malta.

Gibraltar, on the other hand, has an automatic withholding tax of 2.5% of the income, regardless of where the member resides. However, if a Malta QROPS member is living in a country currently without a DTA with Malta, such as Thailand for example, there is potentially a 35% withholding tax at source from a Malta QROPS.

The Isle of Man imposes an automatic 20% withholding tax on the pension income for their QROPS members living in coun-

tries without a DTA with the Isle of Man. This a major advantage for a Gibraltar QROPS.

LUMP SUM PAYMENTS

An additional benefit of a Gibraltar QROPS, over a UK pension, is the ability to draw 30% of the funds value as a lump sum upon retirement, after the member payment provision period. This is greater than the 25% lump sum that is payable from a UK pension – which will continue to be the limit no matter how long the UK pension member has lived outside of the UK.

Gibraltar QROPS will also pay death benefits as a 100% lump sum to any beneficiary of the member, upon the member's death – regardless of whether the member has started to draw benefits or not.

This is in contrast to UK pension legislation, where, upon death of a UK pension member who has commenced pension payments, a 55% UK tax applies on a lump sum when paid to the member's beneficiaries.

INVESTMENT

A further attraction of Gibraltar QROPS is the investments. A Gibraltar QROPS can allow virtually any investment that is possible in a UK Self Invested Personal Pension.

This means, first of all, when transferring from a UK pension to a Gibraltar QROPS, the fund can be retained in pounds sterling, which is important as then the fund would not suffer a potential



A ROCK IN A SOFT PLACE: Gibraltar QROPS offer several advantages over those in Malta, New Zealand and the Isle of Man. Photo: Robert Dycke

immediate loss on currency exchange when first transferred.

Gibraltar QROPS may, in some circumstances, allow UK pension members that have already self-invested their pension funds, to move the investment directly from the UK pension to the Gibraltar QROPS without first divesting their funds (this is known as an *in-specie* transfer).

Furthermore, if a UK pension member is making all of the investment decisions on their pension funds, this can continue in a Gibraltar QROPS.

This is an advantage over Malta QROPS, in particular, where the Maltese local pension legislation does not allow 'member directed' investments.

Growth in investments in Gibraltar QROPS can also roll up tax free. Whereas, this is similar to Malta and Isle of Man QROPS, New Zealand QROPS, on the other hand, only allow tax free growth

on specific categories of investments and would tax a member on growth, if the investment falls outside of those categories.

In summary, although Gibraltar QROPS does not work for everyone, it is clear that under the right circumstances, Gibraltar QROPS would be the best option for many people around the world. It is important, therefore, that expert advice is taken before deciding on which QROPS jurisdiction to transfer your UK pension funds to.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com.

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Local officials step up talks, spending for Asean economy

PHUKET officials continue to intensify dialogue, and thus anticipation for the 2015 ASEAN Economic Community (AEC), with the economic positioning for Phuket and the Southern region gradually beginning to take form.

The latest 'AEC – Phuket get ready' talks, held last week at the Phuket Provincial Hall, covered the latest regional economic integration challenges and opportunities.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut, along with Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa and Pichit Boonrot, chief of the Office of Strategic Management (OSM) for the Southern Province Cluster – which includes Phuket, Trang, Krabi, Ranong and Phang Nga – met with a number of community and business leaders from across Southern Thailand.

Participants were briefed on the results of another recent meeting held in Surat Thani, which focused on identifying and tackling economic problems in Southern Thailand ahead of the AEC.

The meeting talked about the planned establishment of a Palm

oil research and development institute; a project directed at stabilizing rubber prices; the proposed establishment of a Southern Thai goods distribution center; and expanding regional transportation networks for both land and sea routes.

CONSULTANTS WANTED

The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) is preparing to spend 12 million baht on improving English communication "potential" of the province's teachers and administrators.

PPAO President Paiboon Upasating said that such funds were allocated in the 2013 fiscal budget, to be used to higher consultants who will advise on developing the English language potential of teachers and administrators.

He said that surveys conducted across Phuket showed that there are not enough child

development centers and schools to support the number of children in Phuket, which continues to grow. Moreover, the number of capable teachers is also insufficient, he said.

In addition to the 12mn baht budget for language consultation, Paiboon added that the PPAO had allocated more than 40mn baht of Phuket's 2013-fiscal-year budget to address such a teacher shortage.

He elaborated that at present, Phuket is bringing in a high number of Filipino teachers and nurses to fill employment vacancies.

"When we open the doors to [the] Asean [Economic Community], there will be a large influx of foreigners.

"Thus, I believe everyone [in Phuket] will truly benefit from the syllabus that we are employing."

– *Phuket Gazette*





NOT JUST FOR STUDENTS: These computer generated images show what dcondo Kuku would look like once completed. A basic unit in this project will start at 1.29mn baht.

Cambridge living at dcondo Kuku

PROPERTY
Gazette

SANSIRI'S latest dcondo development in Phuket – a campus-style resort in Kuku – is selling out fast with pre-sales for the project having reached 50% and continuing to rise, as of the beginning of February.

The development's design concept is inspired by dormitories at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in the UK. Sansiri has previously launched one other campus

series concept in Chiang Mai, which received positive response from the local market.

Suriya Wannabuit, Sansiri's Executive Vice President for Project Management and Marketing, spoke to the *Phuket Gazette* earlier this month in Hong Kong about Sansiri's new dcondo Campus Kuku.

"The concept of dcondo is of a campus, it isn't focused on students. It's for anybody. It is like the area around Cambridge or Oxford universities, anyone can stay there – not just students."

The project, located on approximately six

rai (just under 10,000 square meters), comprises two buildings, each with eight floors. All told, there will be a total of 471 individual units spread across two room types: studio units of 29sqm, and two-bedroom units, spanning 60sqm.

Dcondo Campus Resort Kuku is currently valued at 810 million baht, with basic units starting at 1.29mn baht. Two-bedroom units start at 3.9mn baht, but supply is limited, as there are only 22 of the larger units in the project.

The development will also feature a 2,000sqm public green field area for all

outdoor activities, a 30-meter pool, club house, fitness center, WiFi throughout and a 24-hour security system – complete with CCTV.

Another unique feature of the project is the Mortise Lock system, which has been installed on all units. The purpose of a Mortise Lock is to act as a combination of locks. It is dual action, meaning that it acts as a door knob and a deadbolt.

Mr Suriya said that Phuket people haven't had such a good quality product [as Sansiri is offering] for a while. "Sansiri wants to help show Phuketians what the minimum standards should be," he said

For more information visit: sansiri.com/condominium/dcondo_kuku_phuket/en/



Suriya Wannabuit

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This imagery is for conceptual purpose only and may not be the same as the actual complete project.

Xenophobia strikes out in Phuket



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

WELCOME to the brand new year of twenty thirteen. So far the twenties have been pretty disappointing. Music seems to have taken on an alter personality with televised 'talent shows' now taking us dangerously close to a purgatory known as *karaoke-land*.

There are the movies, but sequels to mega-blockbusters seem to be rolling out faster than one of those greyhounds chasing the magic, metallic rabbit. Round and round we go.

Politics gets a yawn. Terrorism a nigger of anxiety and sports... well, we have Lance to thank for his fabulous great big lie: "I did not dope."

Getting into the fray in Phuket, it seems momentum has turned to talk, news and idle chit chat about all things Russian. Not since the Cold War lapsed into a coma and the Berlin Wall came tumbling down like a poorly built shop-house, have these guys been in the spotlight so much.

It seems there is an outcry against the rising tide of Russian visitors here, doing business and buying property. Cresting on what has been one of the best high seasons ever, the tone is bitter-sweet from the tourism sector.

To frame the picture, as the world economy retracted during the global financial crisis, Asia,

which includes Phuket, boomed. We built up a steady flow of new midscale hotels, for a large part indistinct properties which were vaguely similar, in an Alzheimer's sort of way, and lacking in any real DNA. Personally I call this sector the "same sames."

At the same time, prosperity grew among local citizens who started new service businesses such as shops, restaurants, travel agencies, tour companies and real estate agencies. Mass tourism enabled them to buy new cars, condos and cash flowed in. It must also be said that credit limits have also gone into orbit.

Everyone was prepared for more tourists, but what happened next was a massive wave of 'Russians' (more correctly on a broader scale, Eastern Europeans).

Charter flights filled to the brim, tour buses were jam packed and the beaches were full of the great untanned.

Suddenly there was an outcry from every corner of Phuket: "Too many Russians!" The island was overrun with them. Media reported on growing violence and then there was a taxi blockade over suspected Russian transport drivers; illegal shops and businesses. The police were called in and the ominous cycle of investigation began. My sarcastic self might add a LOL after that last line.

As for these new visitors, after decades of isolation, they just want to bust out and have some fun. Who can blame them?



UNWELCOMING COMMITTEE: Tempers flared at Bangtao Beach this week over alleged Russian controlled businesses staking a claim in the lucrative tourism market. Photo: Christian Mouchet

I've been to Moscow in the winter. Phuket has always been a haven for snowbirds, starting with the Germans, then the Scandinavians and now this emerging mass market. You could add China to the equation though somehow those following that flag have not incurred the wrath of the locals. At least not yet.

Tourism and business leaders are issuing quotes about wanting higher spending visitors, and ranting about "zero baht tourists". The last term is too crazy to even accommodate as I dare you to travel on a two-week holiday anywhere and not put money into the local economy.

Phuket's tourism sector is like a child who goes into a candy store with a thousand baht. The eyes are ultimately bigger than the appetite and when the money is spent and all the ice cream all gone, there are only groans of remorse. The fact

is that the island keeps on building more and more and once you punch the ticket of mass demand, there is no getting off the train.

But let's get back to the angst over all these Russians. For the most part, the entire group is actually made up of a far larger Eastern European market. While I'm American, from a country well known for poor awareness of geography, at least I can tell the difference between Poland, Latvia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan.

Look at Russia, it gave us the Bolshoi, great literature and of course those guys in red. No one is perfect. My own USA has bred an entire culture of gun-toting, Tea Party-supporting, Nascar-loving, country-and-western-music-singing, God-fearing xenophobes. I'm not even going to start poking fun at the Brits, Aussies, Germans or the

French. It's too easy.

In Asia's crowded house, and yes, here in Thailand, which somehow sleepwalks itself from crisis to crisis, moderation and living in a rainbow world of multiculturalism is its greatest strength.

Phuket's welcome mat to overseas visitors and investors should not be rolled up simply because we now have a large segment of Russian tourists.

Moving through 2013, the current spate of xenophobia will no doubt dim in the light of an, as yet unseen, freight train of unanticipated events and circumstances. Our lives today move in what seems to be ten-minute cycles and it seems the next big debacle is never more than a mouse click away.

And Lance, yes, you did dope.

Bill Barnett is managing director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com.



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Sensation of arrival at Avista



BLING: Indulge in exclusive arrivals and aeronautical adventures.

THE newly launched hilltop retreat, Avista Hideaway Resort and Spa, Phuket, has announced a number of escape deals to pamper its guests in every sense.

Avista Hideaway, which had its soft opening last month, is on its way to becoming Phuket's new byword in ultra-luxury escapes, with unparalleled vistas and unrivaled adventures in health, wellness and above all, indulgence.

The 'Flight Sight-Seeing Package' offers five nights in a Duplex Jacuzzi Suite, exclusive airport transfers in your choice of a Ferrari, Lamborghini, stretch limousine, Mercedes Benz E-Class or BMW 5 Series, a private, sumptuous barbecue dinner prepared by a personal chef in your suite, a lavish one-hour Thai massage for two, plus high tea, butler service and – the icing on the cake – a glorious island-hopping trip to Koh Phi Phi by helicopter.

The 'Romantic Hideaway Package', includes three nights in a

LUXURY
living

Club Vista suite, stretch limousine airport transfers, buffet breakfast, romantic dinner with wine, 150 minute 'Glow of Silk' or 'Sun Soother' couple's spa treatment, high tea and evening cocktails.

Or surrender to the pampered side with the 'Avista Wellness Package': seven nights in a Buena Vista suite, stretch limousine transfers, daily buffet breakfast, helicopter island hopping to Koh Phi Phi, plus a seven day, two-person *Ayurveda* program, beginning with a lifestyle consultation with our expert *Ayurvedic* doctor.

Avista Hideaway's suites range from 65-square-meter Jacuzzi Suites with private terrace, lounging area, ornamental garden and organic herb garden, Duplex



Unique experiences and lavish designs combine to provide the ultimate in luxury getaways on Phuket.

Jacuzzi Suites with 140sqm of space, twin private terraces to the expansive 145sqm Tropical Hideaway Pool Suites laid out in a stylish contemporary Thai design and indoor-outdoor living.

According to Avista Hospitality and Investments Group Chief Executive, Ramesh Khendry:

"Travelers are once again going for a bit of excess – or bling if you like – and this is something we are very well placed to cater to at Avista Hideaway. Luxury with a conscience is another buzz phrase.

"It's all about pushing the boat out, and knowing when to row it back in. We don't believe in bling for bling's sake, but there's nothing wrong with a bit of fun and over-

the-top indulgence on holiday, which we are also able to balance with our high-end hospitality and wellness services."

Avista Hideaway Suites offer as standard a 24-hour butler service, Carl Zeiss binoculars in Jacuzzi Duplex suites, champagne breakfast on the house, daily afternoon tea and Sunset Lounge cocktail hour (make that a double – it lasts two hours), minibar refreshed daily, two pieces of laundry done daily, one hour Thai massage per couple per stay, and a special Avista souvenir to remember your stay.

Other services and luxury amenities include high-speed internet, iPod dock, DVD player, 40-inch LCD TV, writing desk and ultra-late 6pm check-out (subject

to availability).

Excursions into well-being include traditional Thai massage in the spa, and an organic garden to serve the resort's kitchens, three swimming pools with bars, a family game room and special touches like Sleep Therapy offered by expertly trained therapists for stressed executives and new parents.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The 150-room Avista Hideaway Resort and Spa, Phuket, is a high-end escape with spacious suites ranging from 55 sqm to 145 sqm with spectacular vistas of the Andaman Sea, access to three separate beaches, butler service and three spectacular swimming pools.

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Property Legal

By International Law Office

SEEKING a perfect home may be an arduous process but the complexities of building a property in Thailand are multiplied without a solid construction contract, as many homeowners and property developers will attest. A crucial part of any good contract is cost assessment and management.

Many problems in construction projects occur because there is no written contract recorded between the parties. Sometimes, a contract has been taken from the internet, which is inappropriate to the circumstances, or a heavily modified standard form of contract is used. However, whatever style of construction contract is used, the danger for the unwary purchaser may lie in what is missing, rather than what is there.

The intricacies of the construction industry and construction law are many and it is important that purchasers seek specialist help before entering contracts. Contrary to most peoples' preconceptions, contractors are not out to cheat their clients, and it is therefore essential that construction contracts are well balanced and not overly onerous upon the contractor, so causing disputes to occur.

Fundamentally, a contract is a legal means of making two parties understand each other, so, theoretically at least, the onus is upon the purchaser to decide upon the project's goals and the means to achieve them. For substantial projects, it is worth considering a quantity surveyor's full service, or, for those with limited budgets, using one to assist at the outset and serving as an advisor consequently.

Professionals, who are trained in construction law and construction accounting can help keep costs within budget without sacrificing form and function.

Two alternative price mecha-



CONTRACT: Essentially a legal means of helping two parties understand one another. Photo: Derrick Coetze

Construction law practice in Thailand

nisms predominate, 'Cost-Plus', and 'Fixed Price'. Cost-Plus means payment of the contractor's bills and invoices plus an agreed mark-up. Fixed Price (lump sum) contracts allow only price increases for construction plan or materials changes chosen by the purchaser, and, whilst essential for small to medium commercial developments in order to cap costs, the plans and specifications have to be as complete as possible and included in the contract. The advantage is that fixed price contracts eliminate negotiations and billing surprises.

An effective contract should include the following:

1. Clearly established terms of payment: Most contracts indicate in-

stallments to be paid on certain dates or linked to milestones;

2. A clearly stated date for completion: If the purchaser makes changes it is reasonable that the parties be clear about the revised cost and a reasonable time extension be given based upon foreseeable delays arising. Equally, the purchaser must avoid the contractor seeking to avoid responsibility for delays beyond his control when in fact the periods of delay ought to be anticipated by an experienced contractor;

3. Liquidated Damages: This means that the contractor agrees to forfeit a fixed financial charge for every day that the 'date for completion', or any agreed extended date, is delayed. This may

be particularly appropriate where the purchaser has a compelling reason to rely upon the date, always provided that the charge is a genuine pre-estimate of loss and not a disproportionately high penalty;

4. Title to Materials and Equipment: Title to materials should pass to the purchaser on the earlier of payment or delivery to site. This is to protect the purchaser against contractor insolvency. The contract should provide that the purchaser is entitled to safeguard the site upon any indication of contractor insolvency and to be granted title to the contractor's equipment. The passing of title is to prevent a liquidator from claiming materials and equipment for sale. On the contractor's

insolvency the contract must automatically terminate so that the purchaser has no further obligation to make payment and is entitled to deduct his losses and damages;

5. Post-construction Liability: Not only should the contractor be liable to repair structural and non-structural defects, but he should also remain liable for latent defects. A method routinely employed to ensure that contractors live up to this obligation is a clause written into the contract allowing the purchaser to retain a small fixed percentage from each installment payment, to be released only when it is established that any defects have been identified and repaired;

6. Dispute Resolution: A well drafted dispute resolution clause ought not only to have the effect of describing what will happen in the event of an impasse, but also have a positive role to play in dispute avoidance. Clauses that promote positive discussion, that the parties are obliged to give notice and attempt to mutually resolve any dispute rather than arbitrate or issue proceedings, are always to be preferred. A clause stating that construction will continue despite the appearance of a dispute is essential;

7. Grounds for Termination: If the purchaser has to contend with repeated breaches for poor workmanship, sub-standard practices, or repeated missed deadlines, he might be entitled to terminate the contract, provided potential breaches are clearly defined in the contract.

Building one's dream home can undoubtedly be both a rewarding and a frustrating experience for a purchaser, but so long as a sound construction contract is in place, containing well written and easily administered clauses, this can help limit any unwelcome liabilities and mitigate foreseeable problems.

This article has been written by International Law Office Patong Beach Co Ltd, a Phuket based law firm. In case of inquiry, please email sam@ilo-phuket.com

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Dusit partners with Chinese firm

DUSIT International has joined with Changzhou Qiao Yu Group, a real-estate and hotel developer based in Changzhou, Jiangsu province, to launch 10 hotels in China.

"This joint venture is a long-term agreement between Dusit International and Qiao Yu Group to both expand the Dusit brands in China and grow Qiao Yu Group's hotel development and management experience," Chen Libin, chairman of Qiao Yu Group, said yesterday.

"We look forward to a very successful future with this newly formed Dusit Fudu International Hotel Management Company."

Dusit International's property portfolio now covers nearly 30 hotels, resorts and residences.

The joint venture also includes two independent investors, Giovanni Angelini and Harris Yang, who have a combined experience of 75 years in the hotel industry.

Dusit plans to grow its brands



Mr Peter Komposch (center), GM of Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket, accepts an award for the hotel.

in China, with five hotel-management agreements confirmed, five developments in the pipeline and several hotel-management agreements to be revealed soon in Jiangsu and Guangdong provinces.

Qiao Yu has grown from a manufacturer of tourist and camping goods to a highly diversified group with more than a decade's experience in building and managing major real-estate and hotel properties in China. Its hotel operations include the Fudu Qingfeng Garden Hotel and Days Hotel and Suites Fudu. Projects lined up for the partnership are three more

hotels in Changzhou, one in Qingdao, Shandong province, and possibly one in Wuxi, Jiangsu.

The cities targeted over the next five to 10 years are Shanghai, Kunming, Chengdu, Chongqing and Hainan. The Dusit Thani and Dusit Devarana resorts are slated to open soon.

By 2020, the Dusit Fudu International Hotel Management Company will have more than 5,000 rooms.

"This is an extremely important milestone in our company's history, as we see China as the best market for hotel management opportunities," said Chanin Donavanik, managing director and chief executive officer of Dusit International.

"We are honored to partner with such an established and reputable company as Changzhou Qiao Yu Group to help successfully realize our expansion plans in the People's Republic of China."

— The Nation

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Arsenal of the Andaman?

THE recent surge in the number of violent crimes involving firearms needs to be addressed by authorities immediately, otherwise Phuket's self-designated sobriquet "Pearl of the Andaman" risks being inadvertently changed to "Arsenal of the Andaman".

Few regular readers of the *Gazette* will have failed to notice an apparent upsurge in gun crime this high season. This is perhaps not unexpected, as the island's population swells with tourists from across the Northern Hemisphere.

Unfortunately, recent events indicate that firearms are far too easy to obtain in Phuket. For locals or hired gunmen, such as those who assassinated Jintana Mahattanakap late last month, it is little surprise that they are able to access firearms. However, the recent trend of even foreigners managing to acquire and use these restricted weapons in public is dumfounding.

In one of the latest shocking incidents, two innocent German tourists in Patong were wounded by stray bullets fired by a tattoo-covered Australian, adding a whole new dimension to the term "farang on farang crime", as the intended target was a "mafioso" from Denmark.

That Phuket is awash in illegal firearms comes as little surprise to most residents, but the spread of illegal firearms into the expat community here seems to indicate that these weapons are increasingly easy to obtain.

Of course Phuket is not the only place in Thailand where firearms are easy to acquire. But unlike the Deep South, where assault rifles are as ubiquitous as *gang som*, Phuket at least has some natural barriers to stymie the flow of firearms onto the island, at least by road. Every land vehicle passing onto the island is subject to inspection at the Tah Chat Chai Checkpoint, yet there are relatively few reports of seizures of drugs, guns and other contraband therefrom, even though these are clearly in abundance across the island.

As only the most idiotic of criminals would ever attempt to board an aircraft with a firearm, this begs the question: where are all these firearms coming from? The *Gazette* is aware that many yacht owners are in possession of illegal firearms, but in most cases these are needed to ensure their safety when navigating international waters and are rarely fired in tourist-dense areas of the island.

Given the current trend in gun-related crime, as well as the fact that we are now in the midst of a police "safety campaign", now is the time for police to not only arrest and charge those caught with illegal firearms, but also to conduct thorough investigations into where and how these weapons were obtained. This is our only hope to reduce the number of firearms on the island or, ideally, eliminate them altogether.

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher, the Editor, the shareholders or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

Volume 20 Issue 5

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Standing up for stutterers

As a fan of Dominick Dunne, I enjoyed your article "Indulging in OJ Simpson" (January 18) about the famous author. Your article told a lot about the fascinating life of Dominick Dunne, but left out the fact that Dunne struggled with stuttering in his early life, as did his famous writer brother John Gregory Dunne. They also had a third brother, Stephen, who stuttered.

In February 2010, for the first time scientists identified "stuttering genes" that account for nine per cent of the cases of stuttering. The story of the Dunne children, in which three out of the six children stuttered, is a strong signal to the genetic basis for stuttering. Two years ago, The Stuttering Foundation published an article in their newsletter entitled "Famous Brothers Did Not Let Stuttering Stop Them", which chronicles both the stuttering and vast accomplishments of the two famous writers. The article is available on the organization's website. The website is also a source of free resources for people who stutter and is accessed by people all over the world.

The movie *The King's Speech* won all the Oscars two years ago and put stuttering in the spotlight, but Dominick Dunne spoke publicly about his stuttering almost 30 years before the movie. Dominick Dunne is an inspiration to all people who stutter.

*Kevork Garabedian
USA*

Providing 'better' news for Phuket

Re: Gazette online, Italian arrested after naked Phuket joy ride, January 28

No big crime has been committed here and no one has been hurt either. I'd rather read a report like this than those relating to heinous crimes.

Letters to the Editor

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

I remember a few years ago, on Fifth Avenue in New York, packed with pedestrians, a man walking with his trench coat wide open, as naked as the day he was born.

*Claude
Phuket forum*

Mob justice will rule

Re: Gazette online, Phuket villagers demand pistol whipping police officer be transferred, January 26

When the Police introduced their "1,000 eyes of the Pineapple" campaign, they invited untrained local people to take the law into their own hands.

People are never going to make a "citizen's arrest", without beating the crap out of the suspect as, once the police opened the door to mob rule, they also opened the door to mob justice.

*Ronaldo
Phuket forum*

Xenophobic madness could be contagious

Re: Gazette online, Taxi driver mob tears down Russian tour agency sign, forces closure, January 28

What next? Oh, the foreign restaurants are taking our business; let's close them down. Alex Tour is a legal, tax-paying company. I wonder what taxes the local taxi gangs contribute. Be careful, all you who are rooting for the mob. You could be next in this xenophobic madness.

*Andre
Phuket forum*

Public transport to send all Phuket's problems packing

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Poll: Thais, expats call for parking spaces to be mandatory, January 29

Parking would be a non-issue in Phuket if there were proper public transport here.

Once again, that lack of this essential service is causing problems in other areas. Officials look for solutions to problems caused by the lack of transport, but all they have to do is address this single problem, and many others will cease to exist.

Currently, most tourists hire a car or a motorbike and have to park it. They would rather use public transport.

*Harry
Gazette forum*

Need to film naughty ones for cash

I agree with the reader who wrote in to say that it isn't deadly curves that kill motorists, it's speed.

So then the question is—how to slow people down? Speed cameras. How to argue for these? Say they make money.

My neighborhood in the United States collected millions in fines from people caught speeding by cameras. Cameras slow people down and they make money.

What's not to like?

*Jamie Mill
Phuket Town*

Save the Rohingya

Thanks for the excellent special on the Rohingya. I hope that it actually makes a difference and isn't just record keeping.

*Tina Swift
Patong*

Gun control still within our grasp

I DO not consider illegal guns to be a problem in Phuket because if they were, gun attacks would occur often, but they rarely happen here. Most criminal attacks do not involve guns. The recent case of the Australian tourists who shot the German tourists in Patong [see news pages] is very unusual.

We have many checkpoints throughout Phuket, and they don't often turn up guns, so if you ask me about the problem of using guns in public or carrying them with the intent of killing people, I would say we seldom have that problem here.

In Thailand, we have a gun control law that allows people who have a good reason to own a gun. For example, someone with a jewelry shop may feel they need a gun to protect themselves and their property. Since we cannot provide them with 24-hour police security, I think it is reasonable for them to have guns.

Guns are not widely sold in Phuket. We have only a few gun shops here. It's not like Wang Burapha in Bangkok, which is well known for having many gun shops.

Generally, possessing a gun is not a problem as long as you have a permit and do not carry it openly. So if you own a gun and leave it at home, it will not be a problem. In my opinion the gun control law clearly identifies who is allowed to possess a gun. The law itself is good.

But there are a couple of points where problems can arise. The first is with the people who have the authority to issue the gun permits: the District Chiefs. They have to be very careful to follow the rules strictly and use good judgment in deciding who should own a gun. For example, someone who used to be involved in drugs or crime or has a mental illness should not be allowed to have a gun.



Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander **Arun Kaewvatee**, 52, is originally from Ron Phibun District in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, a province well known throughout Thailand for gun use. Col Arun has been Deputy Commander of Phuket Provincial Police for a year. Here, he talks about illegal guns and gun ownership in Phuket.



Lock, stock, but smoking barrels not an issue. Photo: Rhys Asplundh

The second problem is with people who get hold of guns illegally. They might buy a used gun from someone who is selling it illegally, or be given it, or even make a homemade gun.

To prevent illegal gun possession, we have set up checkpoints and asked district officers to be stricter in applying the criteria for gun ownership.

As I mentioned before, the problem of illegal gun ownership and attacks on people with guns are rare here, that's why we do not have any special measures to deal with them.

However, after the shooting in Patong, we realized we needed to be more strict about tourists carrying guns in Phuket.

The first step is to be better informed. We're asking every police station to survey their area and give us information about the tourists there: what countries they are from, what areas they stay in, whether there is any history of conflicts or problems with specific groups.

If we find any suspicious issues that might lead to conflict or to the possession of drugs or weapons, we will investigate further.



Saphan Hin's Indoor Sports Complex plays home to more than just the **Phuket United Futsal team**. Photo: Wisuwat Romin

Playing by all the rules

SAPHAN Hin's 4,000-seat Indoor Sports Complex is where Phuket United play their Thai Futsal Premier league home games in front of a vocal crowd of around 1,000 supporters.

In addition to being the home of the Andaman Pearl, the stadium was also used for several different sporting events over the past few months, including Thailand's most significant international basketball tournament, the TOA Thailand Open 2012, as well as the 2012 National Youth Games and last weekend the first-ever Phuket International Choi Yong Seok Taekwondo Championship.

But as Phuket United head coach Suphol Senapeng told the *Phuket Gazette* earlier this month, certain local authorities are making life difficult for those wanting to use Saphan Hin's stadium.

In December, Phuket United were forced to buy polypropylene copolymer (PP) futsal flooring to install on the parquet flooring fitted by Phuket Municipality, who prohibited the team from using the stadium until a new floor covering was put in place.

Phuket Municipality has since banned Phuket United from training at the stadium without giving a reason, which means the team currently has nowhere to prepare before their home games.

Phuket United had the opportunity to play at Fashion Island Stadium in Bangkok, but declined in spite of all their troubles, choosing to remain in Phuket for their fans.

"If we want to make everything much easier we could play all of

Island View

By Andrew Scott

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

our games at the futsal pitch at Fashion Island in Bangkok. To rent the field in Bangkok is about half the cost, 20,000 baht for one match, compared with 43,000 baht to play at the stadium in Saphan Hin. But I would like the people of Phuket to see our futsal team, which consists of local young people. This will encourage children to take an interest in the sport," said Samak Rattanadilokna, director of Phuket United.

The Phuket International Choi Yong Seok Taekwondo Championship also faced challenges from local government agencies. Choi Yong Seok, Thailand's national taekwondo coach, claimed that the Municipality did not support the tournament and made it difficult for organizers to gain funding for the event.

Because of this, the tournament, which attracted 1,500 competitors from Thailand, Korea, Russia, Kuwait and Australia, among others, will not be held in Phuket again. Tournaments such as these should be seen as a great way to attract tourism to the island and open up Phuket as a sporting hub.

Although the facility at Saphan Hin is clearly meant to cater to large sporting events, bureaucracy and backwards thinking is once again holding Phuket back.

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

Rough roads of life

I'm a cyclist in Phuket and I am concerned about the condition of the road near Wat Sapam in Koh Kaew. Since work was done on the hill alongside the road to prevent landslides, the inner lane used by cyclists and motorbikes is full of debris, sand and broken glass, so both motorbikes and bicyclists use the main lanes.

This is really dangerous for us and for the vehicles coming up behind us. Is there any plan to clean that lane?

Ride safe
Phuket

Worrapoj Supakarn, Phuket

Highways Office, Chief of Division 1, based in Sapam, Koh Kaew replies:

We are aware of the dangerous debris on the road near Wat Sapam. It was caused by construction in the area, and is the responsibility of the construction company to clean up once the construction is finished. We expect this to be in early February.

The Highway Department cleans the road periodically with water to get rid of debris, but the rock waste is likely to be a recurrent problem until construction is completed.

We appreciate receiving information about road problems. We can be contacted at 076 212-179.

Why isn't the Surin Beach car park for cars?

It is now impossible to park at Surin Beach due to the near-complete takeover of the car park by vendors and taxis. The entire south side of the car park and half of the north side is occupied.

Who is responsible for policing unauthorized use of the car park and what can be done to return it to its intended use?

GB

Cherng Talay

Jaruk Thongsuwan of the Cherng Talay Subdistrict Administrative Organization (OrBorTor) replies:

This has been a serious issue for

a long time. We know the car park at Surin Beach is not large enough to accommodate the local vendors, taxi operators and offer enough parking spaces for visitors.

Moreover, the vendors who have taken over the car park are local villagers living in the area. They need to use the car park to make a living.

We are currently drawing up a management plan for the car park, which includes adding more parking spaces to the southern end. The plan has yet to be finalized as we need more time.

In the meantime, we have opened two new areas where

people can park their cars. These 2 areas offer enough parking space for an additional 50 to 100 cars. One area is near the pavilion and the other is on your left as you enter the car park from Laem Singh.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

YOUR Phuket

WELCOME DELEGATION OF XI MING, CHINA

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut (center) and Chairman of the Phuket chapter of the Red Cross warmly welcome Mr Xu Ming Yao, and a delegation from Xi Ming province, China, at the Pearl Hotel, Phuket.



SKAL PHUKET GIVES BACK

Skål Phuket hosted the 'Full Monty' at Bliss Beach Club to raise funds for charity. Thanks to all the sponsors and guests, the fundraiser was a huge success.



The official cheque presentation ceremony at a thank you party for those involved in the Full Monty fundrasier, held at Serenity Resort & Residences in Rawai, on January 20, 2013.

PHUKET FAMILY & GOURMET FESTIVAL FOR CHARITY 2013



A great family day with delicious food prepared by chefs from five star hotels in Phuket.

Anand Jagota, CEO of Jagota Brothers Trading Co (left), with Kanittha Prasopsirikul, director of sales for Royal Phuket Marina.

BANGKOK HOSPITAL PHUKET MEDIA THANK YOU PARTY



From left: Watchara Dwongkerd, *Gazette* Intern Irfan Jumdukor (Farn), Dr Narongrit Havarungsi, Hospital Director, *Gazette* Intern Wisuwat Romin (Potato) and Julalak Tivaranusorn.



Photos: Christian Mouchet

WHITE BOX'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!

Discover the new face of White Box, with special entertainment by R&B DJ *Cut Killer Hip Hop*.



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*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

PROPERTY of the week

Zenith
@ Chalong



See page 22

WHEEL & MOTOR of the week

MB CLK 200
for sale



See page 30

JOB of the week



brumaba
OPERATING TABLE SYSTEMS

Brumaba Asia/Pacific

See page 27

BOAT of the week

Boatshedphuket.com
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



See page 31

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Properties For Sale

ZENITH@CHALONG



Detached 2-storey house, 2 beds, 3 baths, 3x7m swimming pool, parking for 2 cars, BBQ garden. In Chalong. Tel: 088-168 5032, 086-478 0201. Email: info@thenetworkproperty.com www.thenetworkproperty.com/phuketproperty-phuketagency/Rawai-Detached-house-with-2-bed-rooms.html

HOUSE IN CHAO FA GARDEN HOME 3

Koh Kaew. 2 bedrooms, 1 minute from BIS. Perfect condition. 2.7 million baht only. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.

REAL 180D STUNNING SEAVIEW LAND

Real 180-degree stunning seaview land, unobstructed, east side, Yamu Hill development. 2 plots of 1 rai each. Chanote title. Price: 5.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 084-625 5090. Email: phuket.turquoise@gmail.com

PALM BREEZE RESORT, NAI HARN

1 bedroom, luxury condominium, 65sqm with veranda on ground floor. Swimming pool, gymnasium, tennis court and more. For sale at 3.5 million baht, fully furnished. Tel: 080-391 8286 (English). Email: aslaferme@hotmail.com

PATONG HOUSE FOR SALE



110sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, diner + furniture, restaurant & bar. Plot fully built so foreigner can own. Must see! Address: 24/7 Pisitkoranee Road, Patong. Tel: 081-124 8051. Email: mingrestaurant@hotmail.com

KHOK KLOY 8.5 RAI LAND



Beautiful land, 11km to beach, 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 750,000 baht per rai. From owner. Tel: 089-290 6579.

1/2 RAI IN RAWAI

Soi Saliga, dead end of the road, 100m to the beach. 4.5 million baht. Tel: 080-530 6880. Email: rawai.steen@gmail.com

URGENT: MAI KHAO BEACH LAND

Quick sale, negotiable price. 2 rai of land on Mai Khao Beach, Chanote title. Exquisite location with breathtaking sunset right on the beach. Tel: 086-682 0288. Email: atjittanonta@yahoo.com

GOLF VIEW VILLA FOR SALE

Near British International School. 4 bedrooms + maid's room. 17 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com For further details, please see our website at phuketimmo.net

SAI YUAN 4-BED POOL VILLA

Fully furnished house for sale. Pool and water well. Quiet location. Price: 10.5 million baht. Email: info@saoirse.cz See details, photos or contact us at saoirse.cz

WOULD YOU LIKE TO ENJOY?



Only 9.8 million baht from German private vendor. Tel: 089-868 6842. Picture choices and further information please see www.flickr.com/photos/thai stylevilla

HEIGHTS KATA FREEHOLD CONDO

Foreign-freehold 2-bed unit, 195sqm, near gym & pool. Fully furnished. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruet Village at Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Good location and entrance from bypass road. Built 2 years ago. Tel: 084-627 7001.

GOLF VIEW LAND FOR SALE

Near BIS 1,020sqm, ready to build. 5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 7211 (English). Email: julien@phuketimmo.com

LUXURY PANORAMA SEA & ISLAND VIEW



For sale. 3-storey villa, 1 rai, Yamu Hills, 560sqm, living area, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 kitchens, infinity pool. Sale: 34.7 million baht. Tel: 089-582 8401. Email: pbbrown@gmail.com

HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 5.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

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Phuket Boat Lagoon
info@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

KRABI, AO NANG

3 plots of land, each 420sqm, each 850,000 baht. House plan with building per meter. 2 bedrooms, pool. Email: axelmay@gmail.com

2 NICE CHEAP CONDOS

Renovated. Freehold. Both rented out. Tel: 088-846 3467 (English). Email: sellingcartel@hotmail.com

3 GORGEOUS LOTS, CLEAN TITLES

For sale or long lease. 2 lots on island beachfront (bungalow/housing-estate) and 1 big mainland mountain-property all in very quiet, secure, well maintained locations, near Krabi. Must see. For further details, please see our website at sackenheim.net

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

For sale: two freehold Apartments 85sqm. Unit, 151sqm. Unit Swiss Quality in Tropical Surrounding The Phuket Golf Residences Kathu



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Mobile: Alain 091-0408869 (English, German, Thai)
Email: agogniat@loxinfo.co.th
www.phuket-golfresidences.ch

PHUKET VILLA CONDO PATONG



New condo. 1km to beach, near Bangla Rd and Jungceylon, 1 bed, 1 bath, fully furnished. 3.9 million baht for 42sqm and 3.8 million baht for 44.5sqm Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

HOUSE CHALONG

Fully furnished, 400sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, 4 aircons, 8x2m swimming pool, jacuzzi, car park for 2 cars, lake view. Price: 6.2 million baht. Tel: 082-809 2873.

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

2 UNITS PATONG PARADISE COMPLEX

Good location, central walkway. Only 19.95 million baht. Contact William. Tel: 090-153 6720.

RENOVATED VILLA

Chalong, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, pool. 4.750 million baht. Tel: 082-420 7052. stayonphuket.com

LAND FOR SALE

Nai Yang. 2,630sqm. Chanote. Price: 9.5 million baht. Tel: 089-724 1140.

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

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For rent. Unfurnished, 2 bedrooms, 1 aircon, kitchen, fridge, stove, telephone, TV. 8,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-281 4535 (English), 080-626 7245 (Thai).

UNIQUE APARTMENTS

Set in the hills overlooking Chalong with stunning views, with shared pool. Studio and 1-bedroom apartments with bathroom and basic cooking. All with a private balcony/veranda offering great living space. Rents from 7,000 baht per week, 18,000 baht per month + electricity and cleaning. Tel: 089-071 0169 (English). Email: nigelburt51@gmail.com

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 Chermg Talay. Tel: 089-470 7488. Email: nattamon.m@gmail.com

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Single house (74sq wah) with lovely garden for long-term rent in Soi Parichart, Land & Houses Park. It has 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, 24 hr security + clubhouse facilities. Price: 25,000 baht per month or special price of 20,000 baht per month without furniture. Contact the owner. Tel: 081-867 6466 (English & Thai). Email: bow.jariya@gmail.com

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Serviced apartment. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

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In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

2 & 3 BED PATONG APARTMENTS

Big pool, gym, parking, maid, wifi, security. From 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

CONDO IN KATHU FOR RENT

30sqm, 5th floor, kitchenette, parking, fitness room, 8,500 baht a month. Tel: 086-332 2638. Email: jaques.carl@yahoo.com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

2 bedrooms at Kalim Beach, Patong. Also 1 bedroom at Central Phuket Town, kitchen, lounge, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

BANGLAAREA BUILDING

Bangla area shophouse huge. 6m frontage. 14m deep x 4 floors. Rent 150,000 baht per month + 1 million key money pay in advance. Suite bar/restaurant etc. Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

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2 baths, 2 aircons, walled garden, fully furnished, 28,000 baht/month long term. Tel: 080-533 7669 (English), 087-470 9257 (Thai). Email: franapat@gmail.com

SURIN CONDO

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GOLF VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, 1-bedroom condo for rent, Chalong, long term: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800.

BEAUTIFUL THAI HOUSE, NAI HARN



Common pool, 2 bedrooms with furniture, modern kitchen. For rent from 15 February - 15 December 2013. Price for long term, please ask owner. Tel: 086-277 8166, 083-388 8036. For further details, please see our website at www.phuketqualityhouse.com

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 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.

1-2 BED VILLA FURNISHED RAWAI



Shared pool, WiFi, parking, available on February 7. Daily 1 bedroom: 1,000 baht. Daily 2 bedrooms: 2,000 baht. 200m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

CHALONG BEACHFRONT POOL VILLA

Seaview, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 2 lounges, pool, internet, cable TV. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104.

KOH SIREY DETACHED VILLA

4 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, maids quarters. Beautiful property. 100,000 baht for long term. Contact Dennis. Tel: 085-994 0364.

HOUSE FOR RENT

Phuket Country Club. 4 bedrooms, swimming pool, security cameras, electric gate. 65,000 baht for long term. Contact Dennis. Tel: 085-994 0364.

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, pool, 5 bathrooms. Bungalows, houses and apartments also available in Bang Tao. Tel: 081-538 2110, 087-279 6532.

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 15,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com

KUTA GOLF

2 bedrooms penthouse: 45,000 baht. 1 bedroom penthouse: 35,000 baht. Contact Dennis. Tel: 085-994 0364.

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All staff needed for new beach bar on Surin Beach. Competitive wages, good hours and a fun place to work. Please e-mail your resume. Everyone considered. Email: jessezurn@hotmail.com

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Experience as executive assistant/PA to MD for over 3 years - native Thai, excellent command of English, good computer and internet skills, own and drive personal car, great administrative skills and secretarial work, ability to "manage" situations make decisions. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai). Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.boatlagoon-yachting.co.th

SMALL BUSINESS LOOKING FOR

Thai male/female wanted to work in our office. Must have good English (speaking and spelling) and good computer skills. Job involves talking with clients, recording, keeping, and doing quotations. University degree desired, but not required for right applicant. Thai male wanted to work in Phuket. Must have good English (speaking and spelling). Job involves mechanical/electrical engineer work within the marine industry, preferably with experience. 076-239 112. Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

ACCOUNT MANAGER

Experience as account manager for over 5 years - native Thai, and with excellent command of English - experience dealing with foreigners would be helpful. Tel: 081-979 9911. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachting.co.th

ADMIN MANAGER

Admin at cable ski required. good spoken English, water sports experience. Good salary. Tel: 082-938 7748. Contact Kiki. Email: phuketwakepark@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE REPS NEEDED

Phuket Condos & Homes, one of Phuket's leading Real Estate Agencies, are now looking for new property consultants to join our success team. You should have experience in Sales and have your own car to be able to apply for this position. French and Russian speaking is a plus. Tel: 076-341 045, 081-459 0152 (English). Email: andres@phuket-condos-homes.com Please contact us by mail or call for an appointment

WEBSITE / SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER

Bayshore Group is looking for Web or Software Programmer/Developer (Java, C) (number sign).NET Requirements:

1. Have good knowledge of OOP and RDBMS with past working experience.
2. Good understanding of current web and software technology such as HTML5/CSS3, Ajax, MVC, etc.
3. Ability to code in Java or C (number sign).NET as well as Ajax, JQuery.
4. Good understanding of frameworks and IDE in Java or C (number sign).NET
5. Fluent English. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Please send CV to f@bayshoreprojects.com

RUSSIAN STAFF

Russian manager requires. Good spoken English. Responsibilities: marketing, management, PR, translating. 25,000 baht per month + premium. Contact Kiki. Tel: 082-938 7748. Email: phuketwakepark@gmail.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF (4 POSITIONS)

Phuket Wake Park is looking for Chef of Thai Cuisine, Cook / Waiter, Operator of Cable Ski Line, Cashier. Tel: 084-889 4942 (English). Send CV to office@phuketwakepark.com

STAFF WANTED

Receptionist, good written and spoken English is a must. Word and accounting experience is a plus. Must have a friendly outgoing personality. Salary: 12,000-20,000 baht depending on experience.

- Office admin, good computer skills, Excel, and accounting is required. Good written and spoken English is a must. 15,000-22,000 baht monthly depending on experience level.

- Office manager, must be proficient in Excel, written and spoken English. Prior experience required. Salary: 25,000+ baht monthly depending on experience. Please send your resume to smartbusinessphuket@gmail.com

WEBSITE PROGRAMMER

Solid HTML and CSS coding experience with knowledge of JavaScript and PHP. Design and English skills are an advantage. Start immediately. We are located in Karon. Tel: 085-758 3780 (English). Email your CV to shotham.hari888@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.paroot.com

COOK, MAIDS, DRIVER

Villa staff needed. Live in or live out. Pay negotiable plus good tips. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

CONSTRUCTION MANAGER

Or civil engineer with experience. Any nationality. Established company. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa.rtn@gmail.com

ANDAMAN CRUISES COORDINATOR

Looking for coordinator who is responsible for working with crew to organize the cruise, manage bookings, provide administrative assistance. Excellent benefits provided. Tel: 076-316 537, 081-370 5689. Email: hr@twinpalms-group.com

THAI ADMIN WANTED

Organizing paperwork, documents and computer-based information. Taking care of inventory and stock levels. Providing secretarial support to the Director. Basic accounting. Dealing with customers. Tel: 085-331 0295. Email: m.hill@phuket.soccerschools.com

ESTATE / RENTAL MANAGER

Intira Villas is looking for a Thai person with a happy and positive attitude. Must be able to communicate in English and Thai, both in speaking and writing. Experience in management and rentals. Tel: 081-472 4925 (English). Please send CV and salary requirement. Email: jonas@intiravillas.com

HOUSEKEEPER

For 6 months in Australia. An aussie man with 2 young daughters require help of young Thai woman to assist housekeeping. The candidate must have an English skills, passport preferably, age between 25-35, enjoy children. Contact Jum Tel: 087-095 9274.

SENIOR ARCHITECT

Phuket-based architectural practice urgently requires a senior architect to oversee design of luxury villa and hospitality projects. Proficiency in written and spoken English required. Please send CV and expected salary to: info@imedgeconcepts.com

MANAGER - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Experienced manager required to manage 30 private residence in Krabi. The manager is responsible for managing all teams for maintenance, housekeeping, office, rental and security. Operate all property in a 5-star manner for both owners and guests. Applicants need to have strong leadership skills, excellent command of English, hotel and/or property management experience. Applicants will be required to have their own car and driving licence, and to be able to work both in Krabi and Phuket. Tel: 081-968 3140 (English), 081-797 3401

(English & Thai). Please send CVs to: manager@engchuan.com, www.engchuan.com, www.krabisunset.com and www.krabihideaway.com

COOKS, MAIDS, MANAGERS

Luxury villas looking for cooks, maids and managers. Live-in and live-out positions available. Tel: 080-699 2436. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE

Swedish/Finnish speaking tour guide wanted for cruise boat. Tel: 087-897 1761. Email: lotta@lamoet.com

NEGOTIATOR

We are looking for well-qualified and motivated individuals to join our dynamic Residential Sales team in Phuket.

The ideal candidate will be:

- Thai Female Thai nationality.
- A Bachelor's degree holder.
- Fluent in spoken and written English.

- Service oriented, with good communication skills and able to work with demanding international clients.

- Computer literate (MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Office Access, email and the Internet).
- Fast-learning, enthusiastic, hard working and dedicated.

Candidates must have their own transportation and be willing to work in the Patong area.

We offer great opportunities for candidates, including new graduates, who are looking to grow with the Company and develop their skills in sales.

Qualified applicants please send your resume to phuket_hr@cbre.co.th

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- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

Tel: 076-282254
Tel: 076-280400
Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

Tel: 076-344521-2
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PHUKET CITY

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

Tel: 076-232398
Tel: 076-258369
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CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

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Singer, guitarist would like to meet musicians who are interested in playing at Irish Bars. Contact Andy. Tel: 084-840 9258.

ASSISTANT NEEDED

Rus Thai Business Group Company Limited requires Thai female, fluent in spoken and written English, good computer skills. Tel: 085-690 6052. Email: office@rt-pro.ru

SHOP ASSISTANT

Modern picture gallery (located in Central Festival Phuket East) is looking for female who can speak English fluently, be active, creative, likes design, experienced in sales. Salary+ commission. Tel: 088-753 7493 (English). Please send your CV by email: zateya2005@mail.rugallereyakartin.com

BOUTIQUE SALES STAFF

Quality fashion store looking for female sales assistants in our Patong branch. Must be Thai aged 25-35, friendly, good spoken English. Tel: 089-020 0128 (English). Email: barufashion@ymail.com Please email your details and photo.

GUEST HOUSE STAFF

Reception - assistant manager who speaks English and Thai. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

CHEF REQUIRED

Small international restaurant in Kalim Seeks for independent working kitchen chef with experience in preparing Thai and international dishes. Tel: 080-555 2377 (English & Thai). Email: 55inkalim@gmail.com

STAFF FROM PHILIPPINES

Bayshore Projects Company is looking for Filipino staff. Must be female. Contact Mariane. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

SALES CONSULTANT REQUIRED

Club Asia Fitness requires a Sales Consultant. Applicants should be fluent in English and a Thai national. Excellent remuneration offered. Tel: 080-698 5021.

SPA STAFF AND MANGER NEEDED

Newly remodeled spa and massage parlor hiring staff for immediate Start. Competitive salaries and accommodation offered! Tel: 083-391 0291. Email: kamal.mail2000@gmail.com

SALES & ADMIN JUNIOR

We are looking for young and energetic sales & admin staff. 20 to 25 years old. Good computer skills & English command a must. Thai national only. Call for an appointment now! Tel: 076-325419, 085-619 0380 (English & Thai), 081-400 4678 (English & Thai). Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.oriental-living.net

RECEPTIONIST / ACCOUNTANT

Two Chefs are looking for a receptionist / accountant You should be able to speak well English and have a good sense of responsibility, as you will be the one that our customers, both foreign and Thai are going to contact. You are also going to help with our internal accounting. Salary starts at 12,000 baht plus benefits but can be more depending on experience. Tel: 087-276 6796. Email: jon@twochefs.com

NEED CAPTAIN FOR YATCH

Looking for Thai and foreigner captain. Tel: 076-37796, 081-893 4122. Fax: 076-377962. Email: koy@watermarkgroup.eu, hr@watermarkgroup.eu

RESTAURANT MANAGER

New restaurant, Surin Beach, needs front of house manager. Must be fluent in English, have experience in managing large restaurant, will be responsible for management of bar and wait staff, including high-level training, recruitment. Good salary plus generous incentives. Tel: 076-325 755.

ADMIN & COORDINATE STAFF

Small real estate agency based in Chalong. Seeking Thai staff. Excellent in both written and spoken English. Computer literate, photoshop skills with advertising design is advantage. Outgoing personality, can work under pressure. Start immediately. Tel: 086-940 2266. Fax: 076-374270. Email your resume to sales@18excelsior-property.com

LAW FIRM SEEKING A THAI LAWYER FOR TRANSACTION & COURT APPEARANCES**Requirements**

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Please contact us Tel: 086-960 6609.

Email: thailawyerapplications@gmail.com

STAFF WANTED

Rawai Pub requires Thai Bar and Kitchen staff. Tel: 081-396 8707. Email: kanthasin@gmail.com

RESERVATIONS ASSISTANT

Full time. Western. Must have excellent written English, organizational and computer skills. Self motivated / good communicator. Send CV to phuketbookings@gmail.com

SITE ENGINEER

Will work for Bayshore Projects Co.Ltd. Thai Nationality: Minimum 5 Years experience in residential development. Must hold national diploma in civil or structural engineering. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

LOOKING FOR STAFF

Aroi-Corner Restaurant in Rawai is looking for staff. Waitress and bartender with experience. Working hours: 3pm-11:30pm, one day off, good salary. Contact 084-442 8330. Khun Peter. Email: hp.sch ranz 56@gmx.ch

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THAI TEACHER

Wanted full-time Children's Thai Teacher for private residence. Good salary based on qualifications and experience. Tel: 081-929 6975. Please call for more info or send your CV to cherngtalay@gmail.com

MARKETING REPS NEEDED

EZYSTAYS looking for marketing representative. No experience required, full training provided, work permit and good income. Email: leoinphuket@gmail.com

ARCHITECTURE

Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Tel: 081-788 1639. Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

WHITEBOX

Restaurant manager with strongly experience Thai or foreigner and 2 Russian hostesses. Tel: 076-377961, 081-893 4122 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-377962. Email: koy@watermarkgroup.eu



Brumaba GmbH, an operating table manufacturer, founded in 1978 and based in Germany is present all over the world. To meet the increasing demand for our products and services, we are looking for professional candidates to fill the following position at our new subsidiary Brumaba Asia/Pacific in Phuket, Thailand.

International Coordinator Brumaba Asia/Pacific: Junior Position Job description:

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- (b) Coordinate the promotion and display of products at all conventions and exhibitions in the territory where Brumaba Asia/Pacific attends
- (c) Review and verify customer complaints
- (d) Handle all dealer returns and credits with the assistance and approval of Brumaba Asia/Pacific
- (e) Perform any other administrative functions and responsibilities requested by Brumaba Asia/Pacific

Preferred candidates are expected to be:

- (a) Thai Nationality with excellent knowledge of written and spoken English and Thai
- (b) University graduates in Marketing or Engineering, handling sales and marketing function
- (c) Ability to work in an international and multicultural environment
- (d) Fluency in PC skills, negotiation, communication, interpersonal, coordination and presentation skills
- (e) Dynamic, assertive, with positive attitude
- (f) Target-oriented, with flexible approach without losing principles of work

How to apply: Interested Thai Nationalities, please apply with sending your application to, brumaba@truemail.co.th (Ms. Kantika.)

Applications, treated in strictest confidence, shall include a personal letter, CV, names of referees, photo and current package.

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Jewelry Sales

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LOOKING FOR STAFF

Small new bar in Patong is looking for staff and 1 chef. Tel: 076-344510. Email: istihkt2555@gmail.com

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With experience and knowing English. For more information please contact Maxim. Tel: 089-728 2037.

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Phuket Town, 30 seatings, TVs, music, furnished, living. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sale: 470,000 baht. For more information please contact Phil. Tel: 085-297 4002.

BAR FOR LEASE SURIN BEACH

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40/30 seated restaurant with bar and pool area. This business is located in beautiful setting and has every last detail to open next day. Also 3 bedrooms, and living area included. Price: 500,000 baht. Contact Steve. Tel: 088-097 1200.

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LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP

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UW Housing Equinox with Panasonic GS120 Mini-DV with 2 batteries, remote, charger, wide angle, box pelican. Package for sale at 15,000 baht. Tel: 084-527 2172 (English). Email: johann@div-and-cruise.com

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Ultimate exercise bike. 8,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 089-020 4331. www.rowbike.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

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Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

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Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com
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Beautifully maintained Wauquiez cruising yacht. 41ft. Price: US\$199,000. Can be seen in Phuket. Contact Robert. Tel: 087-632 8259 (English). Email: caminata40@hotmail.com. Specs and photos at www.wauquiezforsale.blogspot.com

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SAILBOAT FOR SALE
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FREE 30FT YACHT
I am willing to give away my Thai registered 10m 30 ft. yacht. All books are available and in order. It is moored in Ao Chalong. All I ask is that I can use it when I am in Phuket 4-5 times per years just for 2 days each time. The boat is called Tabata and is located about 500 meters due east of the yacht club. Tel: 087-273 8162 (English & Thai). Email: mmarrston@infocon-tech nology.com

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Excellent condition. Year 2008. 12 seats, wc. Sale: 3.4 million baht. Tel: 086-273 0742. Email: yacht@elas.si

BOAT FOR SALE
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55 FT CRUISING CATAMARAN
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at www.phuketgazette.net

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S
CrypticCrossword

COFFEE break

1	S	2	T	3	S	4	D	5	C	6	B	7	S	8	P								
9	A	C	C	U	R	A	T	E	10	T	O	O	11	O	U	T	L	E	T				
12	H	E	R	N	I	A	13	I	N	S	E	C	T	S	14	I	N	R	E				
15	N	I	A	T	E	S	C	L	16	N	E	C	K	T	I	E	S						
17	S	T	A	F	F	D	A	N	C	E	18	I	R	E	T	19	F	O	U	R			
20	O	F	F	E	R	E	D	21	O	G	R	E	S	S	22	O	G	R	E	S			
23	I	E	24	C	O	M	P	A	R	T	M	E	N	T	A	L	I	S	E	D			
25	A	P	R	S	E	26	I	R	27	T	U	R	N	I	P	28	E	V	E	R			
29	N	E	E	30	C	I	L	S	31	B	L	U	B	B	E	R							
32	A	B	E	R	R	A	N	T	33	I	N	O	N	E	S	E	N	S	E				
34	O	E	R	L	R	R	G	M	35	E	N	D	E	A	R	36	C	L	U	B			
37	T	A	N	M	N	E	M	O	K	38	R	E	A	S	O	N	E	D	39	D	E	E	S
40	S	E	P	T	I	C	P	L	A	41	R	E	A	S	O	N	E	D	42	S	N	R	R



INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY OLYMPIAD

Thanit Tontivit, president of the Rotary Club Phuket (center), invited Na-Wat Sawasthong, winner of the 9th International Astronomy Olympiad, to speak about the Olympiad to students and members of the Rotary Club, Phuket at the Pearl Hotel, Phuket.



ROYAL PLACE GRAND OPENING PHASE 3 PROJECT

Third fromleft: Manassanan Tiansawangkun, CEO of VS Group, Phuket and Chai-anan Soothikul, mayor of Kathu, with Phatcharasri Benjamas, a television presenter.

BOAT PARTY

As the sun slowly set across Chalong Bay, people on the 'Fistpump Party Boat' began to dance. The boat didn't return until well after dark, with fists pumping at a canopy of stars. Later still, water lapped the shore near 02 Beach Club, as the night continued with dance music.



DJ RED D

DJ Red D literally rocked the house at Diamond Beach Club Phuket.

Photo: Christian Mouchet

CHEVROLET THAILAND'S INAUGURAL ONE WORLD FUTBOL PROJECT CARAVAN

Chevrolet Thailand's inaugural One World Futbol Project caravan recently visited the SOS Children's Village in Phuket to hand out dozens of its "indestructible soccer balls" to resident children. The balls are made from a rugged material that cannot be punctured or crushed, and thus will never go flat or need to be pumped up. This year, Chevrolet plans to give away 5,000 such balls across Thailand.



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Broadcast 8 times a week* on TrueVisions channels HD99 and 58, to 1.9 million subscribers. Phuket Today is also aired on local and regional television networks – even as far away as Rangoon.

So, who's behind the show? Clockwise from top left:

Nattamon Mee – Trained to be Thailand's first woman astronaut, Khun Mon gave it all up to produce Phuket Today.

Action Girl Presenter Kiranee – Used to wrestle wild crocodiles for fun, but now gets her kicks in front of the Phuket Today cameras.

Tech Heads Pu and Chai – When not attempting to crack the DaVinci Code, these two keep our super-computers from leaking oil.

The PGTV Car – Recently signed a multi-million dollar deal with Michael Bay to appear in three more Transformers movies.

Tara – The official Phuket Today dancing coach.

Isaac – The world's first TV presenter to insure his smile for \$10 million.

Kristi – Advertising and promotions manager. Joined Phuket Today in search of the perfect recipe for bratwurst.

Mr Kai – Mild-mannered video editor by day. Super hero by night.

Khun Aoi – PGTV's business development executive. Flies herself to work in her personal helicopter gunship.

Mr Lee – The only cameraman to successfully determine the purpose of the squiggly buttons on the side of our cameras.

The Man in the Hat – No one has ever discovered exactly what he actually does. So he must be quite good at it....

Got talent? Call Kristi: 080-690 2564

*See show times on page 35

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

February 2, 6:30 to 10pm:

Legendary Tim Raue returns
Trisara is welcoming back Germany's most acclaimed chef, Tim Raue. Recently awarded his second Michelin Star, Tim returns to Trisara for the third time in February. Inspired by Asian culinary art, his cuisine enchants with an unexpected twist. Aperitif & Canapé at 6:30pm and dinner at Trisara Seafood at 7:30pm. 5,500++ baht per person with wine pairings. Dress Code: Smart Casual. Seating: Long Table. Reservations essential. Contact Trisara Events on: 66-76-310100

February 3-4, 6:30 to 10pm: Baan Kata Arts Fest at Mom Tri's Villa Royale

You are invited you to join the Baan Kata Arts Fest 2013 at Mom Tri's Villa Royale. Sunday February 3 and Monday February 4. On February 3 there will be an opening exhibition of paintings by Mom Tri Devakul at the VR Gallery, and on February 4 ML Usni and his ensemble will perform a classical concert at Villa Royale. Tickets for the concert are 500 baht each. Contact Sylvie on: 66-76-333 5368.

Feb 8, 15, 22; 7 to 11pm: Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken, mouth-watering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For reservations contact Jaspal Singh on: 66-76-286464.

February 25: Makha Bucha Day (Public Holiday)

Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third lunar month, commemorates the Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only seven

months after the Buddha began his teachings. It is also the date the Buddha delivered his Fundamental Teachings – just months before his death.

March 14, 10am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club AGM and lunch at Le Meridien Phuket Resort & Spa

The annual general meeting will take place at 10am, to be followed by lunch. All are welcome but non-members cannot vote. Come to both or join us for the lunch at 11:30am. Members: 500 baht, non-members: 650 baht. For more information email: info@piwc.com

March 15, 5:30 to 10pm: Global Battle of Bands

The Global Battle Of Bands (GBOB) is coming to Thailand! In its 9th year with 40 countries participating, it is the largest such competition in the world. Bands must perform original songs. Thailand will have regionals in Phuket, Pattaya, Chiang Mai and Bangkok. National finals will be in Bangkok in June, and world finals will also be held in Bangkok in Decem-

ber. Valuable prizes are given to national winners and the world winner receives a package worth US\$100,000 and a world tour contract. It's an amazing opportunity for young bands. Entrance to the show is free, so don't miss it – March 15th. Location yet to be announced. Please check back for updates! This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV.

April 13 to 15: Songkran Festival

Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival. Also known as the 'Water Festival'. Held during the driest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country pouring – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – of water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

May 5, Coronation Day

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 6, Substitution for Coronation Day (Public Holiday)

enment and the passing away of the Buddha. Miraculously, these events fell in the same month and on the same date in the Buddhist era.

May 24, Arsarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged in all Thai Buddhist temples.

August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

Her Majesty's Birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 17, Loy Krathong Festival

Traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup, which will be floated in a canal or river.

December 5, 2013: His Majesty the King's Birthday

His Majesty's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

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Chanut Nawnarong

FOUNDER and MD of Infinity Communications and Consultant, Chanut Nawnarong's dream was to become a TV news reporter. She became fascinated by the world of media while working as a student trainee for ITV in Bangkok.

"TV was a fast moving world and my time there was exciting and fruitful as I learned the tools of the trade from many top journalists," she says.

But the economic downturn in the late 1990s meant that Chanut, a graduate with a degree in communication arts, had to take a different career path. She turned to public relations and worked for a Bangkok-based international PR agency, a job that, according to her, proved no less challenging than being a news reporter.

"It was a whirlwind of a job in which I worked long and hard. I had to keep abreast of every single aspect of social, economic and political trends that would have repercussions on the lifestyles of people. I read about 20 printed media a day to educate myself about consumer demand."

Her illustrious client list includes the likes of the Singapore Tourism Board, Emirates Airlines, United Airlines and many international hotel chains. As a result of her stressful job, working long hours and travelling a lot, Chanut was, in her own words, on the verge of suffering burnout.

But while holidaying in Phuket,



her boyfriend suggested she look into PR business opportunities here. She heeded his advice, gave up her job in Bangkok, established Infinity Communications and Consultant in Phuket, and hasn't looked back since.

Although the company has been around for five years now, Chanut admits that beginning in Phuket was a brave new world, entirely different from the Bangkok mentality she knew so well.

"At first, I was blown away by the prices of properties here. There was this marine business worth millions of dollars. And on the road, people drove way too fast!" she exclaims.

Being a marketing and publicity expert, Chanut realized soon enough that Phuket was a different ball game. "While my customers in Bangkok were concerned about being known within Thailand, here companies want to reach a wider, more international consumers."

"The marketing model that I knew from my Bangkok days had to be turned upside down."

Having tailored her products and services to suit 'the Phuket temperament', Chanut has won the trust of many well-known

clients across the board, ranging from property developers, hotel businesses and sports enterprises.

But business success constitutes only one part of her life. Recently, Chanut has developed a strong interest in a physical activity considered far-fetched by some; she has taken up marathon running.

It's all started when she was promoting The North Face 100 Thailand event in Amphawa, central Thailand. For fun, she did a trial run for 10 kilometers and became hooked once she found her fitness level. Subsequently, she started to take part in a few events, including the Phuket Marathon in June last year. Chanut trains regularly and her aim now is to take part in Phuket's new triathlon at the end of this year.

In many ways taking up long-distance running has been a new turning point in her life.

"This is something I do for myself as opposed to being driven by work demand. Training with weights and running make me fit and my brain has become less fuzzy. I think I have achieved a work-life balance, which has now become important for me," says the petite 5'1" Chanut.

What of the future?

"Turning my company into a global enterprise serving international customers are my aspirations. I am getting ready for AEC (Asean Economic Community)," says the 36-year-old Chanut.



About Thai Gallery

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

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Proceeds donated to Phuket Marine Biological Centre and 3rd Area Naval Command, Royal Thai Navy, to support ongoing sea turtle conservation and disabled turtle rehabilitation programmes.

Enjoy 20% discount at Thai Market Buffet Dinner afterwards.

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Oh, Happy day...

The first Phuket Family & Gourmet Festival by Jagota held at Royal Phuket Marina was a fun-filled charity event that had something for everyone, young and old.



CLOWNING AROUND: RPM Sales Director Kaniittha Prasopsirikul (center).



VIP SEATS: Enjoying the performances were (from left) Anand Jagota, Event Organizer and CEO of Jagota Thailand Ltd; Democrat MP Raywat Areerob and RPM GM Mert Ulusoy.



AUSSIE IMPORT: Blues-rock trio Vdelli rock the docks.



TOP DOG: Thai band Moderndog got the crowd on its feet.



LEGENDARY PERFORMANCE: Phuket's own teenage band Legends of Siam put on a fine performance.



SUCCESS: Organizers Anand Jagota and David Hamilton share a moment.



TARGET AUDIENCE: Some of the underprivileged children, who will receive support as a result of the event, enjoying a puppet show. Photos: Marc Mulloy

Reality check: New Year's resolutions

SO JANUARY 1 has quickly passed and I wonder how many of you are still on track with your new year's resolutions?



Health with Hayden
By Hayden Rhodes

The good news is you still have time to create lasting goals and redeem yourself if you've all ready fallen off the wagon!

First, a 'Reality Check': Staying motivated and committed toward accomplishing your dreams is often tough. It doesn't matter if you want to earn more, lose weight, create abundance or reduce body-fat, we all know that life sometimes gets in the way. Life as we know it, is deeply rooted in our subconscious, and it is our subconscious that indirectly, directs our lives.

You see the inspirations that pop into your mind at the beginning of each year often melt away as your subconscious directs you back towards habitual routines. These routines are based on daily thoughts that have been the basis of who you are and what you have been doing for years and years and years.

Needless to say that thinking and acting the same way year-in year-out engrains deep patterns in your mind. And those patterns, my friends, keep taking you back into your own little comfort zones. That means new action rarely lasts. In fact, what usually happens with New Year's resolutions is, by the time February comes around, your normal routine has sideswiped any New Year's resolutions so that in one year's time, the exact same resolutions reappear. Crazy huh?

So what is the secret to achieving any health or wealth goal? How does one stay motivated and plant new seeds into

the subconscious mind? Here are a few reminders to keep you moving forwards.

1) Get Real. Life will get in the way. There will be highs and lows, ups and downs. There is effort involved when it comes to making a positive change in one's life. The ideal circumstances are never going to appear. Conditions will never be 'just right'. If you can't make time now, you never will. Understanding this early on helps one persist through the struggles that will arise. For persist you must.

2) Goals will only be accepted into your mind if they are congruent with your values. Resolutions that you truly value will bring more meaning, motivation and power. Ask yourself, what is really valuable to me? What do I really want? Why is this important to me? Jim Roan once said, "the bigger the why, the easier the how". Focus on the 'why' and build a strong and valid reason to make change in your life.

3) Jim was a smart bloke, he was also fond of saying, "For things to change, you have to change". In order for you to change I suggest starting with SMART Goals: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time orientated. "I'm going to lose weight" will quickly be swept away because the mind cannot grasp it. "I'm going to lose 5 kilos by May 31st 2013" ticks all the



FEEL THE BURN: A woman works out her arms on a pulley machine. Photo: Cherry Point

SMART boxes. Note that SMART goals begin to really have power when they are steps along your path to bigger dreams.

4) Back up your SMART goals with action. "That's obvious" you mutter under your breath. Yet very few people actually live with solid integrity and do what they say and say what they do. Just have a look around. Actions speak louder than words.

5) Break your big dream into smaller chunks that you can get excited about. Once

a big dream is broken down into smaller pieces it becomes easier to focus and achieve and thus keep you excited.

6) START. This is the hardest thing for most of us. You've got to take the first step because you are the only person living in your shoes.

Hayden Rhodes is the Functional Diagnostic Nutritionist at RPM Health Club. Follow Hayden on Facebook/RhodesToHealth.

In brief...



Photo: Super Fantastic

Adults from 19-64 years old should complete at least 150 minutes of physical activity every week. Those who are overweight are likely to need more activity than the recommended minimum in order to lose weight. This activity should be combined with dietary changes and reduced caloric intake.

In brief...



Photo: Maria Ly

Energetic dancing, whether at a class or home alone with your headphones on, is great fun and good exercise. If you enjoy what you're doing you're more likely to stick with it and exceed your 10-minute target. For a 60 kilogram person, 10 minutes of energetic dancing burns around 65 calories.

Committing to a new healthy lifestyle

MODERN life can make it easy to eat and drink more than we realize and do little physical activity. The result is often weight gain. To lose weight, we need to change our current habits. This means eating less – even when eating a healthy, balanced diet – and being more active.

Drastic fad diets and exercise regimes that result in rapid weight loss are unlikely to work for long, because these lifestyle changes can't be maintained. Once you stop the regime, you're likely to return to old habits and regain weight.

Instead, choose diet and physical activity changes that you can make a part of your daily routine, and stick to for life.

Here are four actions you can do today that will start your journey towards a healthy weight:

1) If you haven't already, check your BMI (Body Mass Index) by using a free online healthy weight calculator. If your BMI is in the overweight range, aim to achieve a weight that puts your BMI in the healthy range. If it is in the obese range, aim to lose between 5 to 10 per cent of your starting weight.

2) Now take the next snack you plan to have and swap it for something healthier. Many common snacks, such as sweets, chocolate, biscuits and crisps, are high in fat and sugar and supply extra calories that we don't need. Today,

swap your elevenses or mid-afternoon snack for a piece of fruit, a fruit bun or a slice of malt loaf with a low-fat spread. Aim to do the same every day: you've adopted your first weight loss habit.

3) Try to swap drinks that are high in calories for drinks that are lower in fat and sugars. Swap a soda for a sparkling water with a slice of lemon. Don't forget that alcohol is also high in calories, so cutting down could help you to control your weight.

4) Last, think about your breakfast tomorrow morning. Can you make it healthier, using the foods you already have at home?

– nhs.gov



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Go with the flow... riding



WAVE MACHINE: A member of the Singaporean pro team (above) cuts back during a demo. Photo: Chris Hudon

By Chris Hudon

BEFORE a band of bronzed onlookers – clad in board shorts and tiny black dresses, sipping their drinks and dancing to Phuket House Mafia – professional indoor surfers from Singapore christened Phuket's first wave pool at Surf House.

That's right. Never again do surfers have to stow their boards for the high season, now you can have it all.

Surf House Phuket is the brain child of Kata native Khun Wallop and Finnish expat Jannen, owner of Raya Divers. The new venue is operated in partnership with Quiksilver, Roxy and Chang beer.

Khun Wallop grew up surfing in Kata and says this new concept will incorporate man-made surf with traditional retail and F&B.

Inside the Surf House is the new Quiksilver and Roxy retail outlet store, a DJ booth and an upstairs

VIP lounge, plus a restaurant and bar. Surf House employs 40 staff members and bills itself as an all-in-one social experience.

"We term ourselves as 'a playground'," says General Manager Joe Ang. "We built this place for everyone. This includes all demographics from children to adults, local Thais, foreign residents and tourists. If you want to surf there is a surf machine, if you want to shop there's a retail shop, if you want to dine then we have a restaurant that serves both Western and Asian cuisine."

Located across from Kata Beach, which has some of the island's most consistent waves, the venue can host up to 200 people and is surrounded by more surf shops than any other place on Phuket.

The major downside to surfing in Phuket is that waves are seasonal, a product of monsoon winds that drive large swells on-shore.

It could be said that waves are

possible to surf roughly five out of every twelve months here. Then, the season changes, winds die down, water clarity increases, and the Andaman Sea becomes like glass – encouraging millions of people to flock to Phuket.

Surf House officially makes it possible to surf year-round – albeit for a fee.

The centerpiece of Surf House Phuket is its unique 'Double FlowRider' surf machine, which pumps water over a vinyl surface at a speed of 30 kilometers per hour. Riders are encouraged to be creative and can choose between stand up riding on a flowboard, kneeling or lying down on a bodyboard.

The sensation of flowriding is indeed much like that of surfing a wave, but the mechanics are not exactly the same. The weight distribution is a little more on your back foot than in surfing making it feel more like skateboarding.

Picture riding a wave in the ocean. Generally, once you stand up on a wave, the rule is to pick a direction (left or right) and turn quickly to avoid being swallowed up in the curl. With flowriding, there is no need to make this initial turn and the result looks something like snowboarding on water.

In fact, many of the tricks performed by pro riders at the opening demonstration were transplants from other board sports, including kick-flips/turns, ollies, noserides, grabs and grinds.

Most people will be able ride a flowboard with a little practice – but the first time is usually pretty hilarious to watch. The juxtaposition of gargantuan strong men falling head over heels next to petite teenage girls having no difficulty whatsoever was worth attending the opening in and of itself.

Flowboarding is fast gaining popularity in the Asia-Pacific region, says GM Joe Ang, who is



Photo: Christian Mouchet



Photo: Orawin Narabal

from Singapore where the sport has recently taken off. Joe believes that Surf House Phuket is poised to expand that market here.

Owner Khun Wallop notes that for the past two years competitions and championships have been held annually. He adds that Surf House Phuket intends to host top level competitions in the coming years.

"Outreach to local children is also very important to us as it shows children a positive way to live their lives," says Khun Wallop. "I see many kids with potential in the surfing community here and I hope Surf House Phuket can be a positive breeding ground, not

just for the next generation of surfers, but also for role models, who younger kids can look up to."

The opening party on January 26 was attended by several hundred people and included free flowboarding, a pro-rider 'flow show', Polynesian fire dancing and live music.

Surf House Phuket is located across from Kata Beach.

Turn into the main entrance to the beach, next to the Kata Beach Resort, and bear right after you reach the parking lot. Open daily from 10am to 10pm.

For more information, please visit: surfhousephuket.com.



Photo: Christian Mouchet



BROMANCE: (From left) Khun Wallop, owner, Jannen, owner and Joe Ang, General Manager. Photo: Orawin Narabal



SABAI SABAI: Koh Yao Noi, from outside the Sabai Corner. Photos: James Hembrow



A farmer and his herd of buffalo.

The power of Yao

THIS week we head off Phuket to a quieter parallel universe called Koh Yao Noi where time seems to stand still and the cycling is relaxed and easygoing.

For even the most party-loving souls, Phuket is becoming frenetic, crowded and often stressful. If you are a cycling aficionado this is especially true as pedaling around Phuket is always challenging and sometimes downright terrifying.

Many cyclists head off the main island to find quieter areas which offer undisturbed rides that often have the additional benefit of taking them closer to the real, undeveloped face of rural Thailand.

Koh Yao Noi and Koh Yao Yai are a pair of large islands in the middle of Phang Nga Bay equidistant from Phuket and the Krabi mainland, which remain bucolic and charming, with very few cars or trucks to disturb your quiet cycling meditations.

In 2002, Koh Yao Noi gained worldwide attention after receiving the World Legacy Award for Destination Stewardship from Conservation International and *National Geographic Traveler* magazine for the eco-friendly home-stay programs offered by its local residents... it's that sort of place!

The islands are only about 50 minutes away from Phuket by a 'long-tail boat' ferry which leaves from Bang Rong Pier almost every hour during the day from 8:30am,



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

until the last boat at 5pm (both ways). To get to the pier, take route 4027 east from the Heroines' Monument, then turn

right at the sign for Bang Rong and follow the road along for a few kilometers.

You can take your bike on the boat which makes a short stop on Koh Yao Yai, then crosses to Koh Yao Noi's Manoh Pier only eight minutes away.

As soon as you disembark you'll be struck by the quietude, lack of traffic and unhurried pace of life. Cycle straight ahead off the pier and follow the road for three kilometers until taking a left at the T-junction.

It is almost impossible to get lost on the island as there are so few roads! The main ride is a loop taking you parallel to the west coast, then across the island to Baan Nam Jued village and then Thakhao Pier on the east coast with its dramatic vistas of the Phang Nga's Bay's soaring limestone karts topography. The east coast road hugs the ocean firstly running beside Thakhao Bay Beach, then Klong Jark and Pasai Beaches – a delightful stretch of flat, easy, scenic cycling.

Sabai Corner at the southern end of

Klong Jark Beach is the perfect place for a good meal with hammocks under the beachside shade trees in which to laze as you digest your lunch and count the abundant blessings of Koh Yao.

This road circling the island is mostly paved concrete, but sometimes becomes just a track and there's plenty of opportunity for taking detours off the main drag through rubber plantations, or over a buffalo-strewn hillside to factor in a bit of "off road" action.

The beaches are mainly on the east coast, while the west coast is blanketed in rice fields and lined with mangroves. Hills are few and

far between and the main ride is around 20 kilometers, but you will undoubtedly want to take detours off the main circuit to explore forgotten by-ways and tracks, so a full day's pedaling is achieved.

Koh Yao Noi does not have any particular landmark or stunning view point, however while biking around you'll discover a place that has changed very little in 20 years, aside from a few more motor-bikes and the new 7-Eleven and ATM machine of which the locals are inordinately proud!

The mainly Muslim villagers are very friendly and you'll be greeted all along your ride by hearty encouragement, bright



Just me and my girl (above), and our brief coconut stop (inset).

smiles and high fives.

There's plenty of accommodation too from home-stays with the locals, to charming beachside cottages, to luxury resorts. Other activities available on the island include agricultural demonstrations (rubber and fishing), kayaking, hiking, snorkeling, swimming and some of the local shops have sea kayaks for rent. If you stay a night, your hotel or bungalow will certainly offer these, as well as day trips to the amazing "Koh Hong" – the stunning rock formation facing the island.

A great way to visit Koh Yao is with James Hembrow's "Amazing Bike Tours" (amazingbiketoursthailand.com) who offer a full day excursion with pick up, transfers, excellent bikes and meals and great group camaraderie and fun. And Bicycling Baz is very grateful to James Hembrow for the photos illustrating this article.

Happy and safe riding!

For all island info and bookings see coyao.com



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Putting the pieces together



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

IN THE past three editions of Live Wire, I've taken you through a detailed list of the internet packages currently available in Phuket and a description of what kinds of packages – “3G,” ADSL, Fiber, etc – most people will want. Last week I warned you about the truly awful experience one reader had with the new TOT 3G (they call it a “3.9G”) package.

This week, I'm going to start tying it all together, describing what kind of wireless internet I'm using, and how you may or may not want something similar. Next week, I'll talk about the land lines that I've chosen for my new digs in Kathu, and how and why I chose them.

Yes, I mean “lines” – in Phuket, if you need reliable internet, you must have at least two different lines, from two different providers. But more on that next week.

My wireless hardware situation is pretty normal: I have a Galaxy Note II, which is a cross between an overgrown phone and a shrunken tablet. My wife has an iPhone 4S. In addition, we have an iPad 2 with 3G capability, a Kindle Fire, and a handful of older phones.

Right now, I have three 3G accounts, all with TrueMove-H – one for each of the phones, and one for the iPad. Although it

would be possible to tether the iPad to one of the phones, and use the phone account for internet access on the iPad, I'm glad we decided to get a 3G enabled iPad. It's convenient to be able to pick up the iPad and not worry about whether one of the phones is within tethering distance.

Our use of TrueMove-H is largely historical – a living demonstration of the fact that, once you've chosen an internet provider, it's a big hassle to change. All three of the devices run on TrueMove's most expensive 3G package: the TrueMove-H Net (i) package at 899 baht + VAT per month. Although it's advertised as “unlimited,” that 899 baht buys me up to 5 GB of data at 3G (actually, HSPA+) speeds, over TrueMove's network, which is owned and operated by CAT. If I go over 5 GB in any month, the phone or iPad gets throttled back to a very, very slow speed.

I've had a TrueMove account for many years. When we bought the iPad 2, TrueMove had the largest discount of any of the three 3G ISPs at the time (TrueMove, DTAC, AIS), so we bought the iPad from TrueMove. When my wife was looking for an iPhone,



OLD NEWS: Whatever you buy, keep in mind that 4G will soon become the industry standard. Photo: Jason Tester

she already had an account, and phone number, at DTAC. But TrueMove had a better deal on the iPhone we wanted, so we bought the phone from TrueMove.

My wife moved her number from AIS to TrueMove (a process I described in the Live Wire from December 31, 2011).

TrueMove, DTAC and AIS generally offer the most popular new phones with a discount, if you agree to set up a new phone number with them, and pay for the new number for 6 to 12 months.

If I were starting out fresh with a new phone, I'd compare the monthly charge for CAT's 3G service, which is currently 790 baht + VAT for “unlimited” up to 4 GB, and see if any of the three main 3G service providers (TrueMove, DTAC or AIS) offer enough of a discount on a new phone to make it worthwhile. For example, if I bought a new phone from DTAC I'd probably end up paying 100 baht more per month than if I just bought the phone at a phone shop, and used the cheaper CAT service.

The trick, of course, is that I get stuck with a new phone number (which doesn't have to be used in the new phone!) for 6 to 12 months.

Is your head spinning yet?

All of the 3G services (or 3G+ or 3.9G or whatever they want to call them) work about the same. In real world use, as we've seen time and again at phuketinternetspeed.com, 3G in Phuket is fast enough to sustain a video Skype connection, and YouTube videos usually play OK. The ISP's claims of 26 Mbps or 42 Mbps or 56 Mbps are nothing but advertising malarkey, with absolutely no

semblance to the real world. Real 3G download speeds in Phuket are closer to 0.4 to 0.8 Mbps. And your location – proximity to a 3G tower – makes an enormous difference.

That may change, though. AIS, for example, announced just last week that it's building out a new 3G network on the 2.1 GHz frequency. The frequency, in and of itself, doesn't mean much. The key factor is that AIS's 2.1 GHz network will be different from its current network – the one owned and operated by TOT. I'm holding out hope (against all experience) that AIS will build a much faster “backhaul” on this new network, and connect it to a relatively unthrottled connection to the internet backbone. If that happens, we'll see the effects first at phuketinternetspeed.com.

When I buy another tablet, I probably won't pay extra for 3G. (Warning: as I predicted two

months ago, Apple in Phuket now calls its network capable devices “4G” – when there isn't a single 4G signal available in Phuket.) In the future, I'll probably tether my new tablets to a phone. That not only shaves 3,000 to 4,000 baht off the purchase price of the tablet, it saves another 800 to 900 baht per month for the extra 3G connection.

My next wireless purchase will probably be a MyFi box – the little portable box not much bigger than a deck of cards that connects to the internet over 3G, then lets you share that internet connection with any device that supports WiFi. MyFi boxes are pretty cheap now – a few thousand baht – and they work very well indeed.

One final wireless note: when you go shopping for phones, tablets, 3G connectors (USB dongles, MyFi boxes, whatever), be intensely aware of one fact. 3G is on its way out, all over the world. Unless Thailand completely

screws up 4G – I'd ballpark it at a 70/30 chance, given the self-flagellation we saw with 3G – you're going to want to replace your 3G equipment with 4G in a couple of years.

Why? 4G really is that much better – and in two or three years from now, you're going to have plenty of uses for a faster line. As I described in the August 11 Live Wire, in the real world, 4G runs three to five times faster than 3G. Of course, it'll be up to Phuket's ISPs to create the infrastructure that will support those higher speeds, so our results may well vary.

I don't want to leave the topic on a dyspeptic note. The fact is that wireless internet access in Phuket has made breathtaking advances in the past three or four years. Granted, our 3G isn't as fast or reliable as Singapore's or Hong Kong's – or even Cambodia's. But it's usable, and getting better.

Starting this month, a German-language group holds informal computer clinics at the Sandwich Shoppe in Patong on Sunday mornings, at 11:00. Sehr gut! Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10am at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, drop by and ask one of the assembled gurus. It's always free. 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/SandwichShoppes.

Encouraging Thailand's tech startups

THAILAND is not known as a fertile breeding ground for internationally acclaimed tech stars. Not to suggest that the Internet and mobile revolutions have bypassed Thailand. Bangkok was recently named Facebook capital of the world, with as many as 9 million users.

The Land of Smiles certainly boasts success stories in other industry segments. A prime example from the food sector is Red Bull, whose visionary founder Chaleo Yoovidhya created a highly successful international business selling energy drinks. Red Bull now dominates the world energy-drink market with an estimated 40 per cent market share.

This begs the question: why Thailand has yet to produce a globally recognized tech company? While there is no shortage of resources, one of the key issues seems to be the lack of proper education in computer science. Unlike some other countries in the Asian region where computer science is a standard part of the national curriculum, Thailand has yet to implement similar measures.

The success of companies like Samsung is no coincidence, given the fact that South Korea is a pioneer



A Thai Mark Zuckerberg is out there now. Photo: Guillaume Paumier

in computer science education, teaching children as young as six the basics of technology.

Singapore's open-door policy of allowing non-Singaporeans to start tech companies has made it a tech leader in Asia. Similarly, Thailand could greatly benefit from allowing direct investment from international tech companies. It would both develop the expertise of the Thai workforce as well as showcase innovative technology from Thailand to the world. Mark Zuckerberg famously started Facebook out of a school dorm with minimal investment. By comparison, Facebook is currently worth more than double that of gas and oil conglomerate PTT, Thailand's largest corporation. To one day proudly be able to recount how a now wildly successful Thai company was started from the humble beginnings of a shophouse, it's vital that we lay the foundation for start-ups to thrive today.

Ville Kulmala is the chairman of Mobile Monday Thailand and also lectures at Rangsit University about mobile and electronic commerce. Twitter: @villekulmala

It's a sign



FLAPPE? Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli



Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli



CAT HEAVEN: This must be the world's largest cat litter tray. Photo: Marc Mulloy



When English insults had class

These glorious insults are from an era before English language insults got boiled down to using four-letter words. Enjoy.

The exchange between **Winston Churchill** and **Lady Astor**: She said, "If you were my husband I'd poison your tea." He said, "If you were my wife, I'd drink it."

A member of Parliament to **Disraeli**: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."

"That depends, Sir," said **Disraeli**, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

"He had delusions of adequacy." – **Walter Kerr**

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire." – **Winston Churchill**

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure." – **Clarence Darrow**

"He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary." – **William Faulkner** (about **Ernest Hemingway**)

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it." – **Moses Hadas**

"I didn't attend the funeral, but

I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."

– **Mark Twain**

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends."

– **Oscar Wilde**

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend... if you have one."

– **George Bernard Shaw** to **Winston Churchill**

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one."

– **Winston Churchill**, in response.

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."

– **Stephen Bishop**

"He is a self-made man and

worships his creator."

– **John Bright**

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."

– **Irvin S Cobb**

"He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others."

– **Samuel Johnson**

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."

– **Paul Keating**

"In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily."

– **Charles, Count Talleyrand**

"He loves nature in spite of what it did to him."

– **Forrest Tucker**

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?"

– **Mark Twain**

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork."

– **Mae West**

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."

– **Oscar Wilde**

"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts... for support rather than illumination."

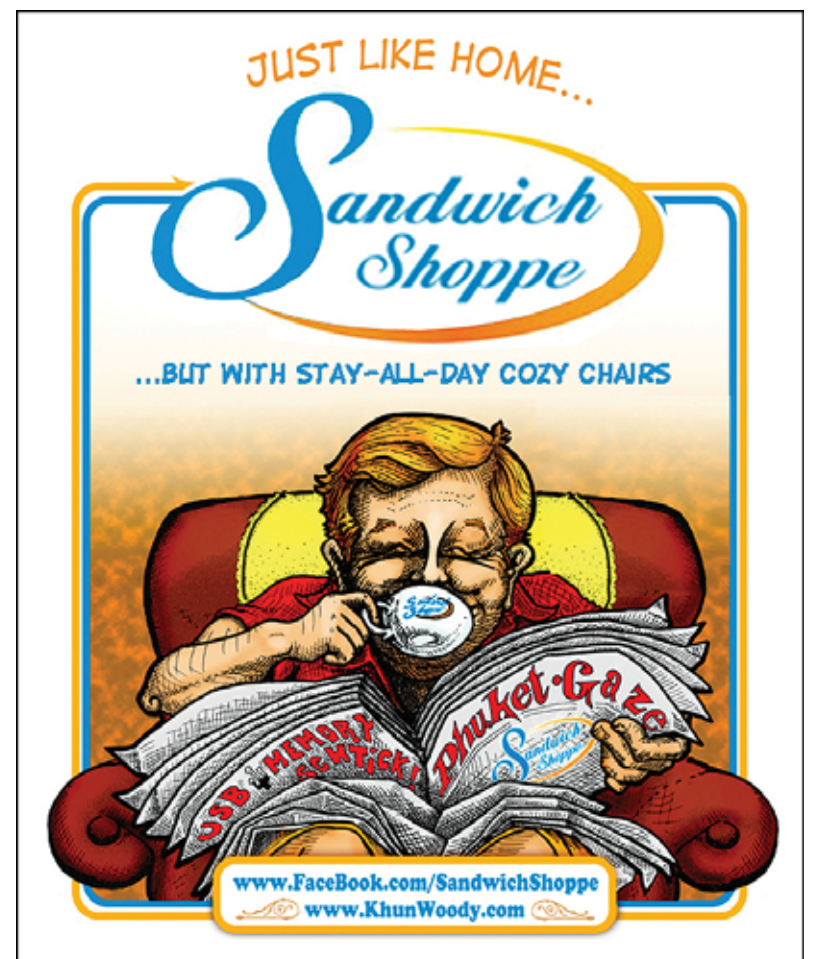
– **Andrew Lang**

"He has Van Gogh's ear for music."

– **Billy Wilder**

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it."

– **Groucho Marx**



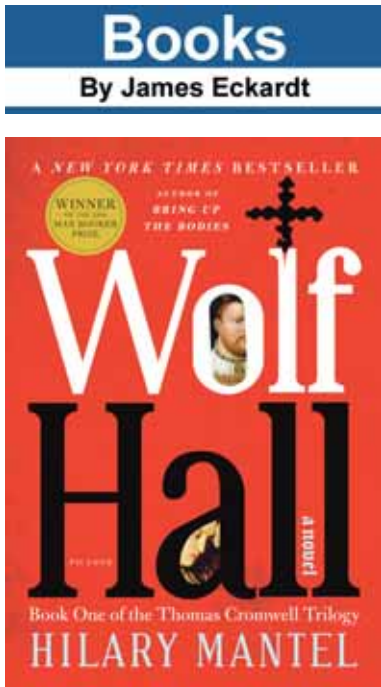
Another man for all seasons

HILLARY Mantel was a 56-year-old English novelist of indifferent success, when she sat down to write a novel about Thomas Cromwell, the chief adviser to Henry VIII. As she recounts in a recent profile in *The New Yorker*: "I was filled with glee and a sense of power, a sense that I knew how to do this... I knew from the first paragraph that this was going to be the best thing I'd ever done."

The reader shares her exhilaration, as did the judges of the Man Booker Prize, who awarded her novel *Wolf Hall* (Fourth Estate, London, 2009, 652pp) the coveted prize in 2009. Amazingly, she won it again just three years later for her sequel *Bring Up the Dead*.

Wolf Hall opens with 15-year-old Thomas Cromwell slithering like an eel on the cobblestones of his household courtyard. He has been knocked on the head and now is being kicked into oblivion by his father Walter: blacksmith, brewer and brawler, town drunk of Putney, on the outskirts of London.

Nursing his wounds, Thomas takes off for France to enlist in any war that will have him. He is next seen at the age of 40, the trusted henchman of Cardinal Wolsey, Lord Chancellor to Henry VII. Here is Mantel's thumbnail portrait: "He is a man of strong build, not tall... It is said he knows by heart the entire New Testament in Latin, and so as a servant of the cardinal is apt – ready with a text if abbots flounder. His speech is low and rapid, his manner assured; he is at home in courtroom or waterfront, bishop's palace or inn yard. He can draft a contract, train a falcon, draw a



map, stop a street fight, furnish a house and fix a jury. He will quote you a nice point in the old authors, from Plato to Plautus and back again. He knows new poetry, and can say it in Italian. He works all hours, first up and last to bed. He makes money and he spends it. He will take a bet on anything."

Mantel is clever in keeping the details of Cromwell's youthful adventures vague. We learn through Cromwell's sporadic memories that he has been a soldier in France, an accountant for banking families in Florence and Venice, a wool merchant in Antwerp, a lawyer in London. The year is now 1527 and Henry VIII, besotted with Anne Boleyn, is determined to put aside his first wife, Katherine of Aragon, aunt of

Holy Roman Emperor Charles, in favor of producing a male heir from the new queen. Anne Boleyn's ambitions lead to Cardinal Wolsey's downfall, though Cromwell stays loyal to him till the end.

All these characters – King Henry, Anne Boleyn, Cardinal Wolsey, Queen Margaret – are vividly drawn as are scores of others – nobles, ladies in waiting, ambassadors, secretaries – who swirl around the central crisis of the English court. Thomas Cromwell soon joins them in the thick of it.

His ambition is parallel to the King's: to wrest control of the church from Rome and plunder the rich monasteries of the countryside. Those of noble blood, often fops and fools, look down on Cromwell's lowly origins, but the King depends totally on his astute advice on everything from finance to political tactics.

Cromwell's main antagonist is the new chancellor, the great scholar Thomas More. The two share a complex friendship, but More's dedication to principal and the papacy leads to his doom on the chopping block. Cromwell is reduced to both anger and grief.

Anne Boleyn is crowned Queen of England and Cromwell proceeds with the plan to transform the Kingdom. "Here, at the close of 1533, his spirit is sturdy, his will strong, his front imperturbable. The courtiers see that he can shape events, mold them. He can contain the fears of other men, and give them a sense of solidity in a quaking world: this people, this dynasty, this miserable rainy island at the edge of the world."



HIGH SOCIETY: A portrait of Thomas Cromwell, protagonist in Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, by Hans Holbein the Younger. Photo: The National Portrait Gallery London



Historical novelist Hilary Mantel. Photo: Chris Boland; distantcloud.co.uk

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Turning over a new leaf



NEVER FINISHED: Mature plumerias will provide shade and structure in any garden. Right: Acalypha or Jacob's coat has attractive marbled-patterned leaves. Photos: tanetahi, Li Chieh Pan

ANY New Year's resolutions about gardening? Plenty. Everywhere in the garden I see Nature's perfection and my imperfections. Mistakes a-plenty. Why, is there a gap in that flower bed? Ah! Because the multicolored *acalypha* I once put there succumbed to mildew and was never replaced. Why is the grass so threadbare near the fish pond? Because the area is now in deep shade, something Malaysia grass abhors. Don't stand and look. Go and get a local variety.

Gardening is not an exact science, and it requires lots of attention. No garden is ever complete, nor should it be. That's part of its charm.

Which brings me – like the ill-starred *acalypha* – to foliage plants. Most of us, brought up in cooler climes, formerly regarded foliage plants as essentially decorative adjuncts to the garden.



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

Shrubs such as laurel and its relative the bay, small trees such as holly or cypress (*cupressus*), even neat hedges of box or privet, these were part of the average garden furniture because they provided evergreen vistas not merely in summer, but more importantly in a winter world largely stripped of color and foliage.

Leaves are inherently attractive, the more so because they come in a range of shapes, sizes, textures and hues. Their aesthetic appeal lies largely in this variety, a variety multiplied in the tropics where there is every conceivable kind of leaf available to the discerning horticulturist. And evergreen shrubs and trees are not

the exception, but the rule.

In terms of sheer opulence, consider the *alocasia*. A tropical monster, the elephant ear is aptly named, a collection of huge ribbed, fan-shaped leaves that sprout from succulent, forearm-sized stems. They look very jungle and exotic, with their vivid green leaves reach up to five feet across. However, they will not flourish in the average garden unless there is a ready supply of moisture and shade. Essentially, they are denizens of the forest understorey.

Almost as massive are the leaves of the fan palm (*licuala*), a low-slung plant, which again has no trunk to speak of, but possesses huge, undivided leaves, neatly crimped like a lady's skirt. In the right conditions – and Rang Hill has a fine collection – the dark green fronds can be four feet across.

Palms indeed, are probably the

most popular tree to be cultivated for their attractive fronds. Typically tall and statuesque, often with beautiful smooth boles, palms form a dramatic silhouette when set against a tropic sky. But unless you choose a low-growing variety such as the fan palm or the clumpy golden palm (*dypsis*), you will get little in the way of shade. Maybe some protection from salt-laden winds, but not much from the sun.

And that is the other main reason for growing foliage plants in the tropics. Not merely attractive in their own right, they will give other more vulnerable brethren much needed shelter from the blistering noonday sun.

This utilitarian function becomes much more important than in temperate climates. Indeed, if you are planning a garden for a new property in Phuket, where the

surrounding land has probably been stripped by earth-moving equipment, the first requirement may well be to plant mature trees such as *plumerias* that will provide some shade for the grass and for the shrubs that will come later.

The *acalypha* may well be one of the first to arrive. It is not a big shrub – maybe a meter or so in height, but it will tolerate direct sun, and its leaves are so colorful – in marbled shades of bronze, yellow, green, orange and red – that it deserves its common name of Jacob's coat. Moreover, the leaves are plentiful and add year-round color to any garden.

A good starter, but mind the mildew.

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

Tip of the Week

Garden pests: ants in your plants

THE biggest nuisance in the garden? For me, it's ants. They are the commonest insect – in fact they have colonized the planet. They live everywhere, under your lawn, inside your flower pots, even in trees.

They are a nuisance to us because soldier ants sting if provoked. Their stings contain formic acid, and can become painful and inflamed if you are allergic to the toxin. If red ants make a nest in one of your



Ants and aphids. Photo: Martin LaBar

broad-leaved shrubs (look for tell-tale discolored leaves), cut off the affected branch and stamp the nest underfoot.

Ants are a nuisance to plants because they are partial to honeydew excreted by sap-sucking insects such as aphids and mealybugs, and stop other predators such as ladybirds from attacking them. The affected plant may then fall victim to a secondary infestation of mold or fungus.



EXOTIC: Alocasia, or elephant ear, has large, ribbed, fan-shaped leaves. Photo: Jeevan Jose

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

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

COFFEE
break

- Across:**
9. Account assistant clergyman makes precise (8)
10. To nothing as well (3)
11. Exhaust let out a mess (6)
12. That woman back in a rupture (6)
13. Insignificant creatures in cults (7)
14. Regarding ire about the North (2,2)
15. Employees cavort in company hop (5,5)
17. Tick seen to be possible for menswear items (8)
18. Put forward maybe for feed (7)
19. Turn out for a number (4)
21. Go back about second small man-eating giantess (6)
24. Complained matters unrea-

- sonably pigeon-holed (17)
27. Leaf over one page to find vegetable (6)
29. Always the day before, right? (4)
30. Fat, so cry! (7)
33. Not usual, sailor differing from the normal (8)
35. Particular interpretation could be none is seen (2,3,5)
36. Young animal left in association (4)
37. A river sailor, one a Northern Saudi for example (7)
38. Possibly need a right to make lovable (6)
40. Putrid pest placed in charge (6)
41. Thai fish from the Port of London Authority shortly (3)
42. Worked out dare nose out (8)
- Down:**
1. If I scent rearranging one chapter to do with the study of natural phenomena (10)
2. Go round malformed runt (4)

	1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8	
9									10				11			
12							13								14	
15			16								17					
18								19	20				21		22	
							23									
	24				25											26
27	28							29					30	31		
											32					
33			34						35							
36					37								38		39	
40								41				42				

3. Thai, are you well? I see a bad outcome! (5,3)
4. Rebellious daughter note may be faint (7)
5. Focus on extract, of fruit for example (11)
6. Educational establishment almost no longer with us! (4,6)
7. Severe constriction at the center (6)
8. Look smaller second to none (8)
10. State new flavor (5)

16. No charge, being not a slave (7)
20. Old boy, see about being too fat (5)
22. Amusing to irritate about little sibling (7)
23. Good man, palm trees can substitute for some roadside furniture! (6,5)
25. Look, ape a prance around! (10)
26. Doctor, note saints creator is a clothier (10)

28. Not secured, United Nations ran away (8)
31. Faithful follower I name, leg off! (8)
32. Scornor gets into traps (7)
34. Money back for groove in timber (6)
35. Different air in Slavic girl (5)
39. Act or make an entry (4)
- Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers in page 31.**

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

A situation that Aquarians thought they could take or leave becomes important in the world of work. The stars suggest that you will need to prioritize in order to make this happen. Where personal relationships are concerned, your idea of being a responsible partner appears to be clashing with that of a fire sign. Those celebrating a birthday in the coming week are forecast to have a more positive outlook in the year ahead.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Compromises are well starred for Pisceans as February commences and there are signs that this will be to your advantage in the world of work. The stars advise that an air sign will take some understanding on Monday or Tuesday, but this person's motives are honest. In the realm of romance, those who have been feeling like a fish out of water should have more luck in love this month.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Arians who take sides within the world of work could end up being caught between a rock and a hard place. Sitting on the fence is the ideal place to be until the atmosphere

has calmed down. The stars indicate that lost objects can come to light during the first week of February. This can also apply to opportunities you thought had passed; an air sign is forecast to come back with another offer.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

Security is highlighted to become stronger for those born under the sign of Taurus during February. There are hints that a boost to your finances will come as a result of a creative endeavor. Where personal relationships are concerned, your talents at solving mysteries can help give another earth sign friend peace of mind this weekend. In the realm of romance, you could decide to give a fire sign an ultimatum.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

February is forecast to be a fulfilling month for Geminis, with focus on work projects being achieved to your satisfaction. The stars suggest that this will be due to streamlining, which could leave a fire sign feeling left out. There could be temptation to spend more than you can afford on a luxury item. It would be wise to ask yourself just how much you really need this.

YOUR
horoscope
By Isla Star

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Cancerians are forecast to enjoy life more in February. Those who felt down at the end of last month should find reason to perk up this week. The stars suggest that this could involve sudden success with a money making scheme. It may be necessary to enlist more support if you want this project to grow and another water sign has the right skills. Sizzling days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

February gets off to a shaky start and this is not an auspicious week to plan ahead too much. What appears logical to Leos is not likely to be viewed the same way by others and trying to force issues will only set you back. On a personal level, an air sign's inflated ego can cause cracks in a friendship this weekend, but the stars suggest that this will be a temporary situation.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Virgoans' talents for facts and figures come in useful during February. The world of work is well starred as long as your approach is practical. An air sign could try to encourage you to see a potential project from an emotional point of view early next week and this would result in disappointment. In the realm of romance, playing your cards right can mean that another earth sign finally gives in.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Feedback can be hard to take this week, but the stars advise that Librans can learn a lot from what others have to say. A water sign's words may help you towards success at work and an earth sign only has your best interests at heart when they comment on a relationship that you know deep down is going nowhere. February is a more fortunate month for finances.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

February is a month to take a break from all the hustle and bustle and treat yourself. The stars suggest that tired Scorpions will see their confidence boosted by some pampering. Work matters are forecast to simmer down this

week and you should start to see ways of delegating more. Another water sign can take some of the load from your shoulders, but a fire sign is about to set their sights elsewhere.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

The world of work is better starred for those born under the sign of Sagittarius. As February commences, there are hints that patience will pay off where a new job is concerned. If you are self-employed, contacts that were forgotten from last year are predicted to become relevant again. Love is in the air this weekend – flirtation with another fire sign can now be taken to the next level.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

There are many reasons to be cheerful this month for Capricorns. Friends and family are likely to be more encouraging where your desire for change is concerned. Your experience at work plays an important part during the first half of February. Increased responsibilities can mean that you have less time for socializing, but financial gain compensates. Those who are single and seeking romance start to see that a water sign's interest is genuine.

International Sport

Djokovic defends for three-peat

By Nick Mulvenney

NOVAK Djokovic came up with his best tennis when it mattered most, to reassert his grand slam dominance over Andy Murray on Sunday and become the first man to win three successive Australian Open titles in the professional era.

The Serbian world number one played 171 minutes of cat and mouse with his British rival before pouncing when the US Open champion blinked, with Djokovic racing away to a 6-7 7-6 6-3 6-2 victory.

There was no ripping off of the shirt and no victory roar like the Rod Laver Arena witnessed last year, but there was no disguising Djokovic's delight at claiming a fourth title at Melbourne Park.

His three successive titles were a first since Roy Emerson won his fifth straight in 1967, and with four Australian titles he has matched Roger Federer and Andre Agassi, the latter being on hand to present him with the Norman Brookes Challenge Cup.

"What a joy, it's an incredible feeling to win this trophy again. This is definitely my favorite grand slam. I love this tournament. I love this court," said Djokovic, who lost to Murray at Flushing Meadows in September.

"Every tournament, especially the major tournaments, is very special [but] winning three in a row, it's incredible."

The similarity of playing style meant the match, although studded with some brilliant rallies, was not the classic that fans have come to expect from grand slam finals in the golden age of men's tennis.

So little separated the two 25-year-old



SERBIAN SUPERSTAR: Novak Djokovic poses with the Australian Open trophy. Photo: AFP

baseliners, however, that two hours and 51 minutes of the contest had passed before the first break of serve.

Crucially, it went to Djokovic and 49 minutes later he was celebrating his sixth grand slam title.

For Murray, hampered by a badly blistered toe, distracted at a key moment by a white feather and physically compromised by his four-hour semi-final against Federer, it was a third final defeat in four years in Australia.

The Scot took some solace from the fact that this match was a much tighter affair than his defeats by Federer in 2010 and

Djokovic in 2011.

"There's going to be some obvious reasons for me feeling a little bit better," said Murray, who was hoping to become the first Briton to win the title since Fred Perry in 1934.

"The last few months have been the best tennis of my life. I made the Wimbledon final, won the Olympics, won the US Open. I was close here as well. It was close.

"I know no one's ever won a slam the immediate one after winning their first one. It's not the easiest thing to do and I got extremely close."

Djokovic needed nearly six hours to beat Rafael Nadal in last year's final and few were betting on a pre-midnight finish after the first two sets on Sunday took 133 minutes to get through.

The Serbian's aggression gave him a slight edge in the first set and he claimed five break points only for Murray to save them all and then scoot through the tiebreak 7-2.

Murray took the momentum into the second set, where he won the first seven points to earn his first three break points but he fluffed his chances and Djokovic saved his serve.

"After that I felt just mentally a little bit lighter and more confident on the court than I'd done in the first hour or so," said Djokovic.

A white feather which drifted down from the birds nesting in the rafters distracted Murray when he was serving during the tiebreak and he double faulted on his way to losing it 7-3.

"At this level it can come down to just a few points here or there," said Murray. "Probably my biggest chance was at the beginning of the second set, I didn't quite get it.

"When Novak had his chance at the end of the third, he got his."

Djokovic opened the key third set game with a brilliant winner that just caught the back of the line at the end of a 36-shot rally.

He closed it out to go 5-3 ahead when Murray smacked a forehand into the net tape and then won seven of the next nine games to claim the title.

"I didn't expect an easy match," said Djokovic. "You never get the grand slam trophy in an easy way. You have to earn it."

— Reuters

Football clubs told to cut losses

NEW laws should be introduced to force football clubs to clean up their finances unless they adopt European rules to curb spending, a group of British MPs said on Tuesday.

The call adds to pressure on the 20-team Premier League to implement Financial Fair Play (FFP) measures, which European football's governing body UEFA has already introduced for leading teams across the continent.

New television contracts are expected to generate more than five billion pounds over the next three years for the Premier League, the world's richest in terms of revenue.

However, clubs often struggle to translate cash into profit because as much as 70 per cent of their income is paid out in wages.

A report into football governance from Parliament's Culture, Media and Sport Committee did not expect that trend to change.

"We see little evidence that clubs will spend significant amounts of the funding available from the latest broadcasting rights settlement on increasing their sustainability rather than on players' salaries and transfers," it said.

Raising concerns over debt levels in English football, it called on the Premier League to

follow the example of the second-tier Championship and adopt FFP rules to rein in losses.

"If they are not enforced, then we consider that legislation will be required to impose some financial discipline on clubs," the report added.

The committee, comprising MPs from the three main political parties, criticized what it called a "disappointing" response to its initial inquiry into how the game is run.

It stepped up its calls for



Manchester City celebrate winning the EPL.

reform of the Football Association (FA), English soccer's governing body, to reduce the influence of the Premier League. Legislation should be introduced to shake up the FA if there was no progress within a year, it added.

Although the report is not binding, Sports Minister Hugh Robertson welcomed its findings.

"We have been clear that we want the football authorities to carry out the reforms they promised by the start of the 2013-14 season – most notably around improved governance and diverse representation at the FA, the development of a licensing system and greater financial transparency," Robertson said.

"If football does not deliver then we will look at bringing forward legislation," he added.

The FA, Premier League and Football League said they were continuing to work towards final approval and implementation of the reform proposals.

"Significant headway has already been made on many of these proposed reforms, not least on sustainability and transparency," the organizations said in a joint statement.

"The remaining reform proposals are the subject of consultation within the game and we are confident that the necessary progress will be made."

UEFA'S FFP rules pose a challenge for English clubs funded by wealthy benefactors such as Russian Roman Abramovich at Chelsea and Abu Dhabi's Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan at Premier League champions Manchester City.

Premier League clubs are due

to discuss FFP at a meeting early next month, mindful of the need to ensure that the latest television windfall is not squandered.

Arsenal, Manchester United, Liverpool and Tottenham have all argued for the wholesale adoption of the UEFA model, saying that the top teams in the Premier League have no alternative.

Others are more resistant to a system that they argue would prevent a smaller club from challenging the elite.

A number of British football clubs have failed financially in recent years but have been able to relaunch with new backers.

— Reuters

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES		
SATURDAY, 2 FEB 2013	19:45	QPR vs Norwich
SATURDAY, 2 FEB 2013	22:00	Arsenal vs Stoke
		Everton vs Aston Villa
		Newcastle vs Chelsea
		Reading vs Sunderland
		West Ham vs Swansea
		Wigan vs Southampton
SATURDAY, 2 FEB 2013	00:30	Fulham vs Man Utd
SUNDAY, 3 FEB 2013	20:30	West Brom vs Tottenham
SUNDAY, 3 FEB 2013	23:00	MAN CITY vs LIVERPOOL

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Six Nations rugby kicks off

UNCAPPED England center Billy Twelvetrees could be handed his debut in the Six Nations opener against Scotland at Twickenham on February 2, after being retained in coach Stuart Lancaster's 23-man squad.

England will be without the injured Manu Tuilagi for the tournament opener and Lancaster has preferred Twelvetrees over Jonathan Joseph, who has been left out.

Twelvetrees would start at inside center with Brad Barritt switching to outside.

The explosive Tuilagi has failed to recover from an ankle injury, although the Rugby Football Union (RFU) said on Tuesday he would remain with the squad for treatment.

England's Squad:

INTERNATIONAL Sport

Forwards: Dan Cole, Dylan Hartley, James Haskell, Joe Launchbury, Courtney Lawes, Joe Marler, Ben Morgan, Geoff Parling, Chris Robshaw, Mako Vunipola, David Wilson, Tom Wood, Tom Youngs

Backs: Chris Ashton, Brad Barritt, Mike Brown, Danny Care, Owen Farrell, Toby Flood, Alex Goode, David Strettle, Billy Twelvetrees, Ben Youngs.

Scotland's interim head coach, Scott Johnson, named the following team to play England

Scotland's team to play England:



England and Scotland's rugby union team captains Chris Robshaw (L) and Kelly Brown. Photo: Reuters

15-Stuart Hogg, 14-Sean Maitland, 13-Sean Lamont, 12-Matt Scott, 11-Tim Visser, 10-Ruaridh Jackson, 9-Greig Laidlaw, 8-Johnnie Beattie, 7-Kelly Brown, 6-Alasdair Stokosch, 5-Jim Hamilton, 4-Richie Gray, 3-Euan Murray,

2-Dougie Hall, 1-Ryan Grant

Replacements: 16-Ross Ford, 17-Moray Low, 18-Geoff Cross, 19-Alastair Kellock, 20-David Denton, 21-Henry Pyrgos, 22-Duncan Weir, 23-Max Evans.

— Reuters



Woods roars back

TIGER Woods withstood a late bogey, double-bogey, par, bogey wobble in strengthening winds to end a week of dominant golf by clinching his 75th PGA Tour title by four shots at the Farmers Insurance Open on Monday.

Six strokes in front overnight at 17 under with 11 holes to play in the fog-delayed final round, Woods kept his closest challengers at bay as he signed off with a level-par 72 on a cold, sun-splashed afternoon at Torrey Pines.

The 14-times major champion briefly moved eight ahead before his unexpected stumble in increasingly difficult conditions over the four-hole stretch from the 14th but he parred the last to post a 14-under total of 274.

Defending champion Brandt Snedeker dropped one shot in the five holes he had to complete on Monday, carding a 69 to tie for second with fellow American Josh Teater (69).

"It got a little ugly towards the end," Woods said greenside after removing his cap and raising both arms skywards to celebrate his seventh victory at the event.

"We played nine holes in just over three hours, and three of them are par threes. I started losing my patience a little bit, and that's when I made a few mistakes.

"But all my good play before that really allowed me to afford those mistakes. I'm excited the way I played all week. I hit the ball well, pretty much did everything well this week and built myself a nice little cushion."

Woods triumphed in a third different PGA Tour event for a seventh time, having already recorded seven wins apiece at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational and the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

His 75th career victory on the US circuit put him seven behind the record 82 piled up by Sam Snead, the only player ahead of

him in the all-time standings.

"A win always makes it special," said Woods, who clinched the most recent of his 14 majors in the 2008 US Open at Torrey Pines. "Does it feel good? Yes. Does it give me confidence? Absolutely. I'm excited about this year."

The first Monday finish in 61 editions of the Farmers Insurance Open was played at a painfully slow pace, Woods and his two partners having to wait on virtually every tee before they could proceed.

Having started the day with a commanding six-shot lead after seven holes, Woods safely parred the short eighth to maintain his advantage.

Though he pushed his drive well right of the fairway at the par-five ninth, taking a free drop after his ball ended up by a fence, he recovered well to par the hole and reached the turn in three-under 33.

Former champion Nick Watney, who had birdied the ninth



SAND WOOD: US golfer Tiger Woods hits from a sand trap. Photo: Reuters

to move briefly five strokes off the pace, slid backwards with bogeys at the 10th and 12th to hand Woods a seven-stroke cushion.

As the winds began to strengthen, Woods conjured a magical sand shot at the par-three 11th from an awkward stance with both feet outside a greenside bunker, his ball settling a foot from the hole for a tap-in par.

A two-putt birdie at the par-five 13th put Woods eight strokes clear but he then faltered with a bogey at the par-four 14th where he found rough off the tee and a greenside bunker with his approach.

Worse was to follow at the par-four 15th where he ran up a double-bogey after hooking his

drive into a hazard via a tree and losing his ball. He missed a bogey putt from 10 feet to slide back to 15 under.

Woods also bogeyed the 17th, coming up short with a five-iron approach to end up in a greenside bunker, for his lead to be trimmed to four before he comfortably parred the last.

Watney, winner here in 2009, bogeyed four of his last nine holes for a 71 to finish in a tie for fourth at nine under with fellow American Jimmy Walker (71).

Three-times champion Phil Mickelson closed with a 70 to share 51st place at level-par 288, a distant 14 strokes behind Woods.

— Reuters

Warne blasts Cricket Australia

CRICKET Australia (CA) chief executive James Sutherland has defended the organization following a scathing attack aimed at them by spin great Shane Warne, who panned the board in a series of Twitter rants.

Sutherland added that he was prepared to meet with Warne and discuss the 43-year-old's criticism of CA's player rotation policy and his claim that "rubbish" decisions were turning Australian cricket into a "big joke".

After venting his initial anger on Monday, Warne reiterated his views a day later.

"As I said last night, we need cricket people running the team and who understand cricket and what's required at the top level, not muppets," he tweeted on Tuesday.

Warne questioned the logic of

having former rugby union international Pat Howard as the board's high performance manager but Sutherland threw his weight behind the former Wallaby back.

"I have every confidence in Pat Howard and his team, and what they're doing," Sutherland told local media on Tuesday.

Australia won all three tests in a recent series against Sri Lanka but were held 2-2 in the subsequent one-day internationals after resting skipper Michael Clarke for the first two matches.

The hosts, however, lost both Twenty20 internationals and were left debating the merits of a controversial rotation policy CA has introduced to manage injuries and the workload of their frontline players.

— Reuters

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Sport

New Laguna triathlon

CHALLENGE Family recently announced a partnership with Asia's longest running triathlon, Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT), and in so doing, revealed its commitment to developing a series of half and full distance events throughout the region.

LPT has been attracting the sport's legends to the stunning tropical island for two decades. In 2013 it will celebrate its 20th anniversary with the launch of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest.

Debbie Dionysius, assistant vice president of destination marketing, Laguna Phuket, said she was delighted that Phuket will host the first Challenge Family triathlon in Asia.

"We feel it's fitting that our popular and iconic race should be the debut Asian Challenge event, and we're confident in the potential of our Challenge partnership to further expand its global popularity among professional athletes and age groupers alike," she said.

Two-time world champion, Chris McCormack, who was in Phuket last December to compete at LPT and launch the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest, said the synergy between Challenge and

Laguna Phuket Triathlon was clear.

"Challenge Roth is the oldest race in Europe; Challenge Penticon the oldest in North America and now we have Challenge Laguna Phuket, the oldest race in Asia – that speaks volumes to me about the importance Challenge Family places on the legacy of our sport," he said.

A key element of the Challenge Family's expansion into Asia is the appointment of Murphy Reinschreiber to the Challenge Family team.

With over 20 years of experience delivering triathlons in Asia, Murphy Reinschreiber is tasked with overseeing the development of Challenge Family races across the region.

"I've been fortunate enough to be involved with Laguna Phuket for every step of its triathlon journey, including its move to Challenge," he said.

"The values that have endeared the Laguna Phuket races and Challenge Roth to their participants over the years will be apparent at all Challenge races in Asia. The lesson I've learned working in Asia is that triathletes expect high quality event experiences that extend beyond the start and finish



Two-time Ironman world champion, Chris McCormack. Photo: S. Layne

lines. Challenge races will meet these expectations – our DNA from Roth and Phuket assures it."

The Challenge Family global series of long distance triathlons currently features 13 races throughout Europe, North America, Asia and Australasia. Challenge Family races are known for their excellent athlete race experience and commitment to the communities in which they take place.

—Phuket Gazette

For further information on Challenge Laguna Phuket, visit challenge-phuket.com. For further information on Challenge Family, visit challenge-family.com or facebook.com/ChallengeFamily or follow on Twitter @Challenge_Family



Niña (right) takes an early lead during a race at the regatta.

Langkawi Regatta

LIGHT on wind but bolstered by a strong contingent from Phuket, Hong Kong and Singapore, the 11th Royal Langkawi International Regatta registered a respectable 40 yachts.

Among the Phuket attendees were Commodore of Ao Chalong Yacht Club Mick Kealy aboard *Dreamtime*; ex-ACYC Commodore Grenville Fordham aboard *Niña* and Phuket Cruising Yacht Club Captain Brent McGinnis aboard *Overdrive*. A total of fifteen yachts and multihulls made it down to the event from Phuket.

Notable Phuket winners were Rob Azzopardi on *Dreamtime*, Niels Degenvkolw on *Phoenix*, Peter Wilcox on *Mojo* and Malcolm Hone on *Prima Donna*.

Neil Pride broke his drought this year after 11 years of competing at the event, winning the President's Cup on *HiFi*, with one race in hand, holding off Frank Pong on *Jelik* and Steve Manning on *Walawala 2*.

A great time was had by all, on and off the water, and a larger attendance is expected for the 12th Langkawi Regatta, scheduled for January 13-18, 2014.

Winners: President's Cup; *HiFi*, Racing; *Phoenix*, IRC; *ATM*, Sportsboats; *MYA/KFC*, Sportsboats under 25; *Mojo*, Multihull Racing; *Prima Donna*, Multihull Premier; *Dreamtime*, Bareboat; *Fortissimo 8*, Club; *Eveline Ocean Rover*, *Chantique White Sail*. —Phuket Gazette

Taekwondo tourney proves a knock out



The taekwondo tournament transformed Saphan Hin Sports Complex.

THE inaugural Phuket International Choi Yong Seok Taekwondo Championship was held at the Saphan Indoor Sports Complex last weekend, starting with the mandatory Gangnam Style dance.

The event attracted more than 1,500 competitors from Thailand, Korea, Russia, Kuwait and Australia, among others. Traditionally held in Bangkok, the organizer, and Thailand's national taekwondo coach, Choi Yong Seok, says he wanted to branch the sport out to Southern Thailand.

"Every week in Bangkok there is a sports competition," Choi Yong Seok told the *Gazette*. "But in Southern Thailand, they have very few competitions. Phuket is famous for tourism but not nearly as much for sports activities."

A Korean national, Choi began working with the national team in February 2002 and coached Yaowapa Burapolchai to win Thailand's first Olympic medal in taekwondo, when she claimed bronze in the women's 49kg division at the 2004 Athens Games. Four years later in Beijing, Buttsee Puepong got silver in the same class.

Choi splits his time between


coaching the national team and lecturing classes in sports science at Kasetstart University in Bangkok. The national coach is currently training Thailand's taekwondo team for the World Championships to be held in Mexico in June of this year, followed by the SEA Games in Burma in December.

The opening day of the 1st Phuket Taekwondo Championship featured primary school children. On the second day, it was the turn of juniors and seniors and the competition culminated in a team round between participating taekwondo clubs.

This may be the first and last time the event is held in Phuket as Choi Yong Seok encountered a number of problems organizing the championship. He says:

"When I met officials for Phuket City they were very interested [in hosting the competition] and they said the event should be held in Saphan Hin. I want to do it next year, again in Phuket, but we have had no support from Phuket City government for funding or anything, and Phuket is very expensive. So next year I don't know if it will be Phuket or another city, like Chaing Mai or Pattaya," he said.

—Andrew Scott



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	24		Arwut Nuchet	DF	19		Sutee Sakdiwong	DF	26		Sakareya Kolae	DF	3		Tongchai Keungkhu	DF		17		Moudourou Swa Moise	DF	2		Daroonglit Si-la	DF	MIDFIELDERS	28		Worawit Khluwongnam	MF	32		Geoffrey Doumeng	MF	11		Ya Gin Chun	MF	
	22		Boas Chun	MF	4		Kritsada Sakaew	MF	8		Kornprom Jaroanpon	MF	21		Niran Phunthong	MF		25		Narakorn Wisetthana	MF	10		Giorgi Tsimakuridze	MF		STRIKERS	6		Poramut Krongborisut	ST	7		Dudu	ST	9		Watcharapong Jun Ngam	ST
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Chonburi Sharks devour Phuket Pearl

PHUKET United signed three new promising Thai futsal players last week: Pivot Piyapan Rattana, right winger Kitipong Sonzuwan and left winger Thawit Kingkao.

Transferring from Thai Port FC, Piyapan was part of the national squad that finished as runners up in the Asian Futsal Championship last year.

Kitipong (from CAT FC) and Thawit (from Bangkok FC) were part of the national squad that played in the last FIFA Futsal World Cup in Bangkok.

The players first game for the Andaman Pearl was in the Thai Futsal Premier League (TFPL) match against runaway table toppers Chonburi TOS RBAC FC, who brushed aside Phuket

United 5-1, on January 26.

Played at the Chon Kanyanukoon School in the heart of Chonburi city, the match was both side's 16th of a 30-fixture season.

Going into the game, the Chonburi 'Sharks' were ranked first in the league with 43 points from 13 victories, one draw and a loss. Meanwhile, the Andaman Pearl were in fifth place with 27 points from their nine wins and six losses.

No doubt tired from travel and intense FA Cup competition, having narrowly lost their quarterfinal match to Lampang United two days earlier, Phuket were vulnerable without home support.

Chonburi broke the deadlock two minutes into play. Winger

Kritsada Wongkao took a strike with the full force of his right foot, a shot which was blocked by Phuket's keeper and deflected towards Anukul Mini, who followed up to score.

Tanathon Santhanabrisit scored Chonburi's second, before two more goals in the final minutes of the first half – by Nattawut Madyalan and Kritsada Wongkao – extended the home side's lead to 4-0 by half time.

Four minutes into the second half, the shark feeding continued.

Chonburi's Supawut and Kritsada showed fans why they headlined the national squad at the Futsal World Cup last November in Bangkok.

Boxing out the Phuket defender

in the middle of the court, Supawut skillfully laid the ball off for Kritsada to score at the far post, bringing the score to 5-0.

Phuket's Nattapong finally found the back of the net in the 34th minute.

Neither side was able to score again in the remaining six minutes.

The result put Chonburi 8 points ahead of the current second placed TFPL team, Bangkok FC.

Despite this defeat, Phuket retained their fifth place standing. The Pearl return to the capital to play 2nd place Bangkok FC on February 2.

The Andaman Pearl's next home match will be played on Wednesday, February 6, against CAT FC.

– Steven Layne



NEW TALENT: Kitipong Sonzuwan.



Thawit Kingkao. Piyapan Rattana.

PSS warm up for International Tournament



Martin Hill takes training at RPM.

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) continued their International Tournament preparations with training matches against Para FC and Thalang FC at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) on January 26.

In their first match, the PSS Under-8 team were a bit nervous and this showed with a strong Para FC team claiming a 2-0 win.

The PSS team then started to show more confidence and

managed to score in the second match through Jamie A but eventually went down 1-2. In the final match, with all players trying their hardest, they were rewarded by claiming a point in a 0-0 tie.

The Under 10s were separated into an A and a B team against their Para FC counterparts. The A team kept a clean sheet through some resolute defending with Joe H scoring a well finished team move to secure a 1-0 victory. The B team

then played against Para FC and went down 0-1. The A and B teams were mixed up in the final match and the PSS players managed to finish the day with a 1-1 draw thanks again to another Joe H goal.

The Under 14s welcomed Thalang FC's A and B teams as well as Para FC in a 4 team training tournament.

In their first match, the U14s played Thalang B team and comfortably won the game. They played

a well-organized Para FC team in their second match, but PSS managed to defend well and held on to win the game 2-1. The U14s final match was against Thalang FC's A side. Jakk S popped up inside the box to flick in the winner for PSS with 5 minutes remaining.

With only one more week of training matches left before the tournament at TSLC, there is still space for one team at U12 level.

– Phuket Gazette



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