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INSIDE TODAY

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High praise for rescue efforts as storm sinks tour boat

TOURISTS have heaped high praise on all those involved in the rescue of 30 people from a sinking dive boat and the safe recovery of 425 others after a severe storm left a flotilla of tour boats returning from the Similan Islands stranded at Koh Ta Chai.

Full story on [Page 3](#)

Foreigners arrested in ATM scam

TWO Frenchmen and a Tunisian national have been arrested in Phuket for using ATM card skimmers and withdrawing money from unsuspecting victims' accounts.

Full story on [Page 3](#)

Seawalkers deny tearing apart corals

A NEW company branding itself as an "eco-tourism" project has denied allegations that it tore asunder 200 square meters of live corals in order to create a walkway for tourists on the sea floor.

Full story on [Page 4](#)

RESIDENTS SICK TO THE STOMACH FROM RAW SEWAGE

By **Irfarn Jamdukor**

POLLUTED water with a stench so overpowering it is making people physically ill has become the bane of residents along the banks of the Bang Yai Canal in Phuket Town.

"People vomit and get serious headaches," said Samkong resident Lek Bumrung.

"Dirty water is released into the canal at odd intervals, day or night," she said. "But each time it happens, the stench gets stronger."

"Untreated wastewater is being dumped into the sewers in Rassada, just before Samkong, then

it travels through the sewage system to the main treatment plant at Saphan Hin, where it is treated before being released into the sea," said Phuket City Municipality Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Thawatchai Thongmang.

"We contacted Rassada Municipality, asking them to stop the release of untreated wastewater into the system, but we have yet to receive any response," he said.

The water in Bang Yai canal has been tested and some of the results were off the scale.

The average biological oxygen demand (BOD), a key indicator of water quality, measured 54. The BOD standard average is about 34, said

Chakkrit Songsaeng, Phuket City Wastewater Treatment Chief, who tested the water in the canal where it flows under Yaowarat Bridge in Samkong.

The suspended solids (SS) average weighed in at 44, nearly double the accepted average of 24 and exactly double the industry standard of 22.

But it was the grease and oil ("G&O") reading that outstripped all other pollutant readings of the Phuket Town canal.

Bang Yai Canal in Samkong oozed a reading of 19.6. The average is about 0.4, Mr Chakkrit said...

Continued on [Page 4](#)

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This Week



Business

Don Freeman breaks down Thai inflation for expats. **Page 9**



Property

Thailand's up-country condo market not over supplied. **Page 12**



Technology

Mourning the death of Windows and traditional PCs. **Page 32**



Gardening

Discovering hidden treasures in your own garden. **Page 36**



Pets

Did you know that dogs can be used as rescue swimmers? **Page 38**



Sport

The Digby looks ahead to the Bahrain Grand Prix. **Page 43**

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Monday



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Tuesday



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Thursday



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Convicted sex offender deported from Phuket

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

BRITISH national Hugh Glass, 57, wanted for multiple sex crimes involving children, was arrested on April 11 while walking along the beach road in Phuket's key tourism town of Patong.

Col Chayawut Jansomboon of the Immigration Police in Bangkok led officers to arrest Mr Glass on Thaweewong Road at 3:30pm.

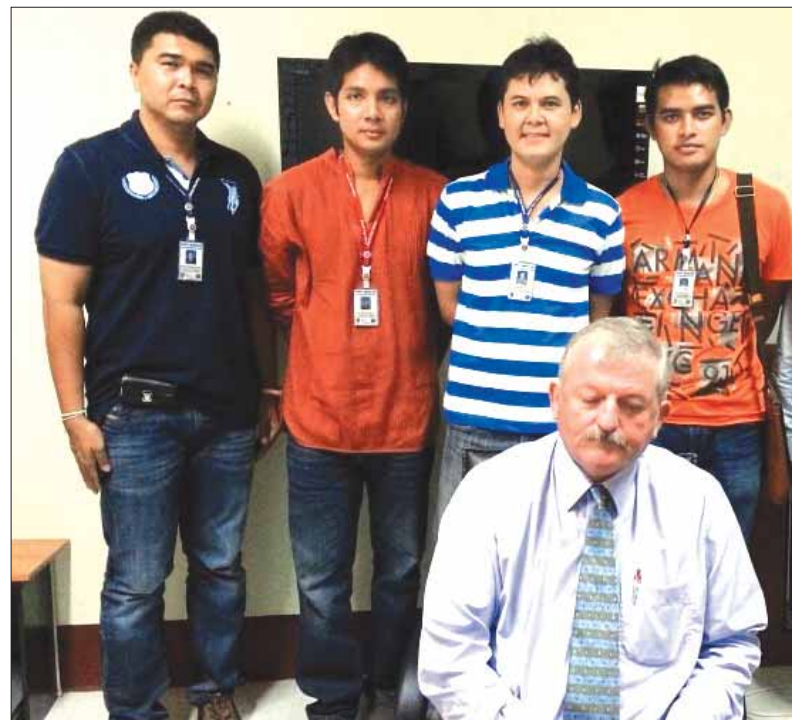
The arrest followed a meeting between Jonathan King of the UK-based Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and Royal Thai Police Immigration chief Lt Gen Pharnu Kerdlarphphon in Bangkok.

At the meeting, Mr King presented Gen Pharnu with evidence that Mr Glass had served a prison sentence in Malta after he was found guilty of sexually assaulting a child.

Once it was proved Mr Glass had been previously convicted of a sex crime, Gen Pharnu ordered that his permit to stay be revoked and that the UK national be deported and handed over to the British authorities.

Mr Glass' criminal record stretches back to 1974 when he received a suspended sentence for sexual assault.

Arrested for repeat offenses in the United States in 1982, 1989 and 1990, Mr Glass was handed down a total of 20 years in prison. However, he was released from prison in the US on November 11, 1998.



Hugh Glass's criminal record of sexual assault stretches back to 1974.

Mr Glass resurfaced in Malta, where in 2006 he was sentenced to six years in prison for sexual assault of a child.

Released after four years behind bars there, on April 9, 2010, Mr Glass found his way to Thailand where he started working in hotels, Lt Col Chidchanok said.

"Our most recent records show that he arrived in Phuket on February 18 this year," he added.

Phuket Immigration officer Capt Angkarn Yasanop told the *Gazette* that police were currently

investigating reports that Mr Glass had sexually assaulted two boys from New Zealand when the order came from the top to move in and arrest him.

The boys were in Patong on holiday with their parents in April last year when the alleged attack occurred.

"After the family returned to New Zealand, the boys told their parents they were sexually assaulted by Mr Glass, who was working at the hotel where they were staying," said Capt Angkarn.

Police release graphic YouTube CCTV video of gold shop gun-down

IN AN effort to identify an armed robber of a Phuket gold shop, police have released a graphic video on YouTube composed from CCTV footage of the man entering the CP Gold Master & Jewelry store and shooting dead one of the customers.

The shop's CCTV security cameras show the robber parking his motorbike to the right of the shop's main door. He enters the store at about 6:10pm wearing a face mask, helmet and carrying a black bag. Immediately on entering the building the robber steps behind the counter and pulls out a gun. The video footage presented on YouTube then shows the man gunning down Apichet Chookliang, 32, who was approaching the gun man in an effort to stop the robbery.

In addition to releasing the video, police will be plastering Phuket with wanted posters, said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat.

Police originally had two prime suspects in the case, but have al-



The man entered the shop wearing a helmet and mask. Image: YouTube

ready dismissed one of them.

"We are continuing to collect evidence and gather information from witnesses. We know the motorbike used by the robber was a Honda Dream, but we are still determining its color," explained Maj Gen Choti.

Police continue to urge anyone with information that might lead to the arrest of the killer to contact the nearest police station or call the Phuket Provincial Police at 076-212046.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Russian boy saved from drowning in Nai Harn lagoon

A RUSSIAN boy about 9 years old almost drowned on April 10 at the notorious Nai Harn lagoon, which claimed the lives of two children last year.

The Russian boy was pulled from the lagoon at about 5pm and rushed to hospital, explained Nai Harn chief lifeguard Julia Nontree.

Staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town confirmed the boy was safe and had been discharged from hospital care.

Mr Julia urged parents to keep a close watch on their children playing in the water.

"We have already seen several children come to play in the lagoon without their parents present," Mr Julia said.

The lagoon at Nai Harn has proved lethal for children playing without adult supervision.

Six-year-old Supathanwa Choophuek was pulled from the lagoon by lifeguards on February 5 last year, but was pronounced dead on arrival at hospital.

The death of Supathanwa followed that of Methee Khunsuinh, 7, who was pulled unconscious from the lagoon on January 1. He died four days later in hospital.

— Saran Mittrarat

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Rough seas sink Similan dive boat

Passengers, crew safely evacuated within minutes of alarm being raised

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A DIVE boat with 30 people on board sank within minutes of being struck by a succession of large waves in a freak storm in the Similan National Park on Tuesday.

The 24-meter boat, named *Little Princess*, sank about seven kilometers off Koh Ta Chai, off the Phang Nga coast.

All passengers and crew were safely evacuated from the boat after the captain and tour leader raised the alarm, Stefan Kaesweber of Khao Lak Scuba Adventures told the *Gazette*.

The only injuries reported were of two Thai staffers, who suffered superficial injuries and were the last to leave the boat after ensuring it was clear of all passengers and crew.

"In the morning, we had two dives off Koh Bon. The conditions were normal, not really fantastic weather, but not bad weather," explained Vivi Bernarbi who was on board the *Little Princess* moments before the boat sank.

As the dive boat headed toward Koh Ta Chai, another boat radioed that a big storm was on the rise.

"We could see the sea conditions worsening and we were taking on board some water. We tried to go back to Koh Bon, but it was even worse," Ms Bernarbi said.

Realizing they were caught in the storm, the captain sought shelter on the leeward side of Koh Ta Chai, she added. Within minutes the waves rose from one meter to four and five meters.



Those from the *Little Princess*, as well as hundreds of others, were rescued by the navy. Photo: Royal Thai Navy

As the boat turned around to head back toward Koh Ta Chai it was struck by three large waves, causing it to take on water and dip port side. The captain quickly raised the alarm and passengers grabbed life jackets and buoyancy control devices – and began to jump ship.

"We were really lucky that God was with us. It was so unexpected because a speedboat can easily capsize, but a boat as big and strong as the *Little Princess* – it was really unbelievable. I've been at sea many times and I would have never thought we could sink, but

it happened," Ms Bernarbi said.

"Once in the water, we all stayed together and tried to give everyone courage... The experience was like the [movie] *Titanic*... I could see the boat, maybe the last three meters going down, it went so fast... it went so, so fast," she recalled.

Fishing vessels in the area quickly rescued everyone from the water and a deployed emergency raft, bringing them to one of the dive boat's sister vessels.

"We could see that some of them could not even swim, but they were jumping into the water to try and

help us," Ms Bernarbi explained.

In response to the SOS calls from the *Little Princess* before she went down, the Royal Thai Navy dispatched the HTMS *Pattani*, which brought everyone originally on board the sunken boat, as well as 425 others stranded on Koh Ta Chai, back to the mainland. Many of the tourists needing rescue from the island had arrived by speedboat.

The Royal Thai Navy was greeted at the port by Khao Lak Scuba Adventures's support team, which had flip-flops and towels ready in addition to minibuses that quickly transported their guests

and staff to a four-star resort in Khao Lak.

The support team, complete with doctors and psychologists, provided assistance to our staff and customers rescued, Mr Kaesweber said.

Psychologists are part of the team to deal with any psychological effects caused by the incident, and the variety of nationalities on the team will ensure that those involved can receive support in their native tongue, Mr Kaesweber explained.

"I really have to say the organization of Thailand Khao Lak Scuba Adventure, the navy, the fisherman, everything was so amazing," chimed in Ms Bernarbi. "I am very impressed. I don't know if any European country would have been so well organized," the Italian said.

Guests, who were refunded for the trip, are now being assisted in securing new passports from their embassies in Bangkok, Mr Kaesweber said.

"The owner and manager are extremely grateful to the boat crew together with all the guests who did a very professional job to evacuate the boat with no loss of life," he added.

The *Little Princess* now rests at a depth of about 70 meters.

"I have no idea how much the boat is worth, but it is quite expensive because it was a proper boat fully maintained throughout the season," he added.

Attempts to locate and salvage parts of the ship will be carried out next week by a professional technical diving team, Mr Kaesweber said.



The three men accused of fraud hear the charges against them.

Fraud gang busted

TOURIST Police arrested three men on April 14 for operating an ATM fraud scam in Phuket.

The foreigners were French nationals Mahamond Mhoussin, 22, and Zaidi Ganzouai, 29, and Tunisian national Ramzi Adjemi, 31.

"When we arrested them, they had 27 items related to ATM card fraud, including a laptop computer with an ATM data card reader and 70 fake electronic cards coded with account information for withdrawing money," said Tourist Police Division 5 Superintendent Yotsavee Pornperaparn.

Police also found 7.5 grams of cannabis and about 6,000 euros and about 134,000 in baht in cash.

"The gang withdrew cash from ATMs in many areas across Phuket so they could go shopping and they changed the money they stole into euros," Col Yotsavee explained.

– Irfarn Jamdukor

Songkran road toll climbs to one

PHUKET'S run of zero road fatalities during the Songkran Seven Days of Danger holiday period ended early Wednesday morning when 75-year-old Phuket native Jingiang Jamreunnam died from injuries sustained in a motorbike accident.

Mr Jingiang was riding an unsafe motorbike when it collided with a pickup truck near the Pearl Hotel in Phuket Town at 8:30am on Tuesday.

He suffered a serious head injury and died at 3am Wednesday, according to staff at Vachira

Phuket Hospital.

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office (DDPM-Phuket), which collates all road accident statistics during the campaign, reported two other accidents – both also involving motorbikes – between midnight Monday and midnight Tuesday.

Police manning static checkpoints on Tuesday reported stopping and checking 4,302 vehicles, during which 502 people were caught committing traffic offenses.

– Irfarn Jamdukor

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CANAL VILLAGE
LAGUNA SHOPPING

Seawalking company denies coral damage

By Namsai Wongsaree

ABOUT 200 square meters of coral have been damaged off Khai Nai island in Phang Nga, say local marine officials, in order to create a pathway for tourists to walk on the sea floor.

The manager of the seawalking company at the site, however, has defended his business, telling the *Gazette* it is environmentally friendly and did not damage any coral.

Seawalking – walking on the sea floor while wearing a helmet supplied with oxygen from a boat above – was banned in local areas from 2007 until the law forbidding it lapsed last year.

Phuket marine officials learned of the damaged coral from locals and dove at the site on the east side of Khai Nai island on March 22. The group included staff from the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) and the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC).

“We found that over 200 square meters of medium-quality corals had been destroyed,” said Dr Nalinee Thongtam, senior marine specialist at the PMBC.

“Coral reef had been cut to create a flat walkway,” she said.

Dr Nalinee photographed a metal railing set in the cleared pathway for tourists to hold on to.

The cut coral was piled on top of living coral, protected sea clams had been relocated, and the support boat was anchored by rope to coral, said Dr Nalinee.

“At least two laws were broken,” she said.

It is illegal to destroy coral and the metal bar and roped coral contravene marine regulations that do not allow fishing areas to be altered, she said.

Dr Nalinee told the *Gazette* that the case has been reported all the way up to the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

“It is now very important for all governmental organizations to cooperate and fix the damage,” she said.

A beleaguered Somporn Teerin, the manager of J&J Marine, the seawalking company at the site, told the *Gazette* he had received complaints from all sides and asked for the chance to explain himself.

“‘Eco-tourism’ is what we call our seawalking package,” he said.

“No coral was destroyed. The coral that we removed had been

dead for three or four years already. The walkway where we put the metal bars is a natural coral-free water channel,” he said.

Mr Somporn took exception to the claim that 200 square meters of coral had been disrupted.

“The metal bar is only one inch thick and six meters long, so it is irrational to claim that we are the reason the 200 square meters of coral has been destroyed,” he said.

As for the boat being anchored by rope to coral, Mr Somporn said “I consulted with specialists who told me that wrapping ropes underneath coral is safe for them.”

Mr Somporn said he had also consulted with local leaders before starting his business.

“This business will be beneficial for the locals as well; we will be providing employment for them,” he said.

Mr Somporn said that he is expecting to start the first seawalking tour this week after documents filed with the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment have been completed.

When asked by the *Gazette* about the seawalking already in progress, Mr Somporn said, “It must have



Seawalking has reportedly started on the east side of Khai Nai Island in Phang Nga. Local marine officials are scrambling to stop it. Photo: PMBC

been a safety drill.”

Dr Korn Sirinam, Parliament’s Adviser to the Committee of Land, Forest and Law Enforcement, visited the site on March 29.

“We went seawalking for 30 minutes, and I saw that no harm had been done to the sea ecosystem because the area is small, approximately 10 square meters. There is

also a sand walkway for tourists to walk along and observe corals and sea animals,” he said.

“But I also suggest that the agencies should be strict with the rules and take care of potential long-term consequences,” he added.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Water most foul

From page 1

...While local residents suspect the culprits are industrial factories upstream, Mr Chakkrit points the finger at the slew of new communities that have sprung up along the canal in Rassada in recent years, namely along Soi Paniang just north of Samkong.

To this, Rassada Municipality Chief Administrative Officer Dechakane Leelanont said that his community was not to blame.

“I assure you the dirty water in Bang Yai Canal is not us,” he said.

“Also, we have not received any request from Phuket City Municipality asking us to stop releasing untreated wastewater into the canal,” he added.

An officer at Rassada Municipality’s Public Health and Environment Department, speaking anonymously, agreed with Mr Chakkrit, saying that the likely culprit was the hundreds of houses that had been built along Soi Paniang in recent years – many without septic tanks installed.

The officer also verified it was not industrial activities along the canal that were polluting the water.

“Almost all factories in Rassada have installed tanks to treat their wastewater before releasing it into the canal, but there are some communities along Soi Paniang that still have not installed septic tanks. That is affecting the water quality,” the officer said.

Jarun Nongsook, an engineer at the Phuket Provincial Industrial office, agreed. “The dirty water affecting Samkong residents is from raw sewage from the Soi Paniang area being emptied into



Chakkrit Songsaeng

the canal... It is not from the private factories in the area,” he said.

Mr Jarun explained that water-quality tests had found the bankside factories free of blame.

“The BOD average was 9.8, compared with the standard average of 20. Also, the suspended solids average was 9.6, compared with the standard average of 30,” Mr Jarun said.

“The pH average of the water was 6.73 and the G&O average was 4.8, all within the normal parameters,” he said.

“The water the factories release into the canal is clean,” he said.

Meanwhile, Phuket City Wastewater Treatment Chief Chakkrit is already considering installing wastewater treatment plants to ensure the canal’s water quality remains at safe levels.

However, the project is likely to cost upwards of 60 million baht. “We are aware of the problem and we are trying everything we can to solve it. We expect our project to be approved so we can resolve this issue to help local residents,” Mr Chakkrit said.

Temple hearing begins at ICJ

A HEARING at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the sovereignty of disputed land on the Thai-Cambodian border around Preah Vihear temple has begun at The Hague.

Phnom Penh has warned that the hearing could jeopardize friendly relations between the two countries and affect future cooperation, reported AFP.

In 2011 Cambodia requested that the court interpret its 1962 judgment on sovereignty of the temple, which it awarded to the Cambodian side.

The court is set to rule on the sovereignty of a 4.6-square-kilometer patch of land adjacent to Preah Vihear, which has caused deadly border clashes that have killed a number of soldiers and civilians in recent years.

Thailand accepts Cambodian ownership of the temple itself, but claims the 1962 ruling had no bearing on the demarcation of the border.

The dispute can be traced back to the early 20th Century, when France and Siam, as Thailand was then known, demarcated the border between the two powers.

A French map included the

AROUND THE nation

temple in Cambodia, despite its location on the top of a hill that is difficult to access from the South.

Cambodia's main argument is based on the boundary line defined on the French map.

Thailand's main argument is that Thai troops withdrew from the area only after the ICJ 50 years ago deemed the area to be under the sovereignty of Cambodia, but that Thailand maintains the ICJ has no authority to interpret the boundary line as it is not the subject of the operative clause of the judgment.

Thai Ambassador to The Hague Virachai Plasai said Cambodia was trying to have the court rule on the boundary line, which he said was beyond the scope of the original judgment.

"The two countries had no disagreement about the 1962 judgment over the past 50 years until recently, when Cambodia



Foreign Minister Surapong Tovuchukhaikul (right) greets his Cambodian counterpart Hor Namhong before the hearing begins. Photo: EPA

changed its position [in reference to the area adjacent to Preah Vihear]," Mr Virachai explained.

Cambodia asked the ICJ to rule on the boundary line 50 years ago but the court rejected the request,

he said.

The request for interpretation this time could be regarded as an appeal to the court on the issue, but the time for appeals in the case is long over, he said.

HRW slams prosecution of activist

HUMAN Rights Watch has slammed the prosecution of British migration activist Andy Hall, who is being sued by a fruit company for lifting the lid on its alleged abuse of Burmese migrant workers.

"Criminal charges against Andy Hall reflect an attempt to stifle serious reporting on alleged abuses by one of Thailand's top fruit processors," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch. "Freedom to investigate abuses by corporations is critical to ensure compliance and accountability under Thai law and human rights standards."

The Natural Fruit Company brought the defamation case against Mr Hall, 33, after he published a report on its activities for Finnish NGO FinnWatch.

The report alleged that the company had committed serious labor rights abuses, including poor working conditions, unlawfully low wages, confiscation of workers' official documents, use of child labor, and excessive overtime.



The carcass of a slain pregnant elephant lies inside Kaeng Krachan National Park in Phetchaburi. Photo: The Nation

Panel to probe national park elephant slayings

A PANEL has been established to probe the mysterious deaths of several elephants in Kaeng Krachan National Park in Phetchaburi Province.

The investigation follows the discovery of two headless female elephant carcasses, one this month and one in March.

One of the elephants was pregnant when she was killed.

Park chief Chaiwat Limlikhit-aksorn is also under investigation.

"Sometimes Chaiwat was too serious in his work, and this led to conflict between him and local people," said Chote Trachoo, permanent secretary of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, who heads the team of officials investigating the causes of the animals' deaths.

"However, I'll find the real cause of these crimes," he added.

Manopat Huamuangkaew, director-general of the National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Department, said, "If he is found to be working inappropriately, he will be transferred to another area, but if not, he will remain working there."

Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has paid close attention to the elephant killings in Kaeng Krachan and has instructed Chote to report to her on the issue, permanent secretary Chote said.

About four elephants have been found slain in the area since last year. Most of them were found dead near Padeng Reservoir.

Farmers who are angry at the pachyderms for damaging their crops, poachers and "influential people" have all been identified as possible perpetrators.

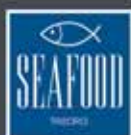


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In brief...

Putin foe Navalny defiant as trial opens in Russia

PROTEST leader Alexei Navalny accused the Russian authorities of laying trumped-up charges against him at the start of his trial on Wednesday. He alleged that the trial is part of a clampdown on the opposition by Vladimir Putin.

The anti-corruption blogger was calm and defiant in a 40-minute appearance in court in Kirov before Judge Sergei Blinov adjourned proceedings until April 24 to give the defence more time to prepare its case.

Navalny, 36, could face 10 years in jail if convicted of stealing 16 million roubles (14.8mn baht) from a timber firm in Kirov in 2009 while working for the liberal regional governor.

France tops EU DNA tests for horsemeat in beef

FRANCE found more cases of illegal horsemeat in beef products than any other European Union country, results of official DNA tests ordered in the wake of the scandal showed, with more than 1 in every 8 samples testing positive.

The European Commission said that for the EU as a whole, just less than 5% of all beef products tested had come back positive for horse DNA. But the figures showed that of 353 tests carried out in France, 47 tested positive for horse DNA, giving a rate of more than 13%.

Africa's richest man plans to build refinery in Nigeria

AFRICA's richest man, Aliko Dangote, plans to invest up to US\$8 billion to build a Nigerian oil refinery with a capacity of around 400,000 barrels a day by 2016.

Dangote said the country's ability to import fuel would soon be challenged. "In five years, when our population is over 200 million, we won't have the infrastructure to receive the amount of fuel we use. It has to be done," he said on Tuesday.

Boston mourns blast victims

By Stephanie Simon and Tim McLaughlin

NEIGHBORS gathered around a chalk rainbow on a sidewalk outside 8-year-old Martin Richard's home while friends of Krystle Campbell, 29, posted notes on Facebook, all grieving on Tuesday for two of the people killed in Monday's bombing at the Boston Marathon.

The third fatality was a Chinese citizen whose identity was not being made public at the request of the victim's family, the Chinese Consulate in New York said in a statement late on Tuesday.

The victim was a Boston University graduate student killed while watching the race with friends near the finish line.

Martin, who was a Little League baseball player, lived in the working-class neighborhood Dorchester with his parents Bill and Denise, sister Jane, 7, and brother Henry, 10.

The boy's mother and sister were seriously injured in the blast. "Very happy, happy-go-lucky," said Jane Sherman. Martin was afraid of her dog, a Rottweiler, she said, but he always gave her a cheerful greeting. "An outgoing, wonderful kid. This is a horrendous loss."

Marchell "Tiny" Watson and Margaret Admirand recalled the Richard children playing soccer and hockey on the lawn, chalking the sidewalk with rainbows and butterflies, and dressing in costumes for Halloween.

"Can't you just see them up



MAIN: Mourners embrace while taking part in a vigil for bomb victims a day after two explosions hit the Boston Marathon. TOP RIGHT: Martin Richard, 8. LOWER RIGHT: Krystle Campbell, 29. Photos: Reuters

there kicking the ball on the lawn?" Watson asked.

"And their little sister running after them," Admirand said.

Campbell's friends remembered her outsized personality.

"I am shocked, stunned, and besides myself," one friend wrote on Facebook.

"You will be missed Krystle Campbell, but your big smile and twinkling blue eyes will live forever in our hearts and minds."

"Everybody that knew her loved her," Campbell's mother, Patty, said choking back tears during a news conference. "She was always smiling. You couldn't ask for a better daughter."

"I can't believe this has happened," she added. "This doesn't make any sense."

The bombs ripped through the crowd at the finish line of the Boston Marathon, shattering the annual civic celebration on the Patriots' Day state holiday while tens of thousands of people packed the street to cheer on the runners.

Many runners were heading for the finish when a fireball and smoke rose from behind cheering spectators and a row of flags representing the countries of participants.

The two explosions came moments apart some four hours and nine minutes into the race, long

after the world-class runners had finished but around the time average contestants were arriving.

"I saw people who looked like they had their legs blown off. There was a lot of blood over their legs. Then people were being pushed in wheelchairs," said runner Joe Anderson, 33.

Many of the victims were gravely injured. Some suffered shrapnel wounds and amputations and will require repeat operations in the coming days, said Peter Fagenholz, a trauma surgeon at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Doctors at the hospital treated 29 patients, including eight in critical condition, he said. — Reuters

Bomb investigators continue hunt for clues

INVESTIGATORS on Wednesday continued their search for the person or group responsible for planting two bombs at the Boston Marathon finish line that killed three people and wounded more than 100 in the worst bomb attack on US soil since September 11, 2001.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) led a battery of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies on the case, while critically wounded victims of Monday's blasts fought for their lives and others contemplated a new life as amputees.

The two devices using gunpowder as the explosive were packed with ball bearings and other shrapnel to maximize injuries.

Authorities suspect whoever perpetrated the



Boston Marathon runners continue towards the finish line as one of the two explosions erupts. Photo: Reuters

Boston Marathon attacks carried heavy bombs made from pressure cookers in nylon bags or backpacks.

Boston's WHDH television showed a picture of an unattended, light-colored bag on the ground at one of the bomb sites before the explosion. The bag was gone in a picture from a similar angle taken after the blasts.

No suspects were in custody and there were no claims of responsibility. No one has been arrested in the bombing.

A White House official said the case would be treated as an act of terrorism but it had yet to be determined whether the attack came from a foreign or domestic source.

President Barack Obama on Tuesday vowed to catch whoever was responsible for the "act of terror". — Reuters

Capriles distances himself from violent protests

VENEZUELAN opposition leader Henrique Capriles distanced himself from post-election street violence after seven fatalities threatened to turn the South American OPEC nation's vote dispute into a full-blown crisis.

Capriles had planned to lead a march on the National Electoral Council (CNE) on Wednesday to demand a recount after official results gave a narrow win to Nicolas Maduro, the chosen successor of late socialist leader Hugo Chavez.

But the opposition leader cancelled the rally on Tuesday, saying



Capriles supporters protest on Tuesday. Photo: Reuters

the government had plotted to "infiltrate" it, start trouble and blame it on him.

"To all my followers... this is a peaceful quarrel. Whoever is involved in violence is not part of

this project, is not with me," Capriles told reporters. "It is doing me harm."

The government said seven people were killed on Monday and accused Capriles' supporters of attacking ruling Socialist Party offices and people celebrating Maduro's victory. Maduro earlier accused the opposition of trying to trigger a coup d'etat.

About 135 people were arrested and more than 60 hurt during Monday's violent clashes, including one woman whom a mob tried to burn alive, officials said.



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Autoexpress remains in driving seat

DEMAND on the island for imported luxury cars does not look like it will subside any time soon. Saksri Kerdphol, GM of Autoexpress, Phuket's premier, foreign automobile dealership and service provider, gives a brief update about local market trends. This is followed by some customer testimonials.

Phuket Gazette: What is the current state of the auto luxury import market in Phuket, Thailand and overall?

Saksri Kerdphol: The market in Phuket, as in the rest of the world, has been affected by the [global] economic crisis. We still have good sales figures but they have dropped compared to 2011 and 2012.

Can you describe your customer base, in terms of demographics?

Our customers are mostly from Phang-Nga, Nakhon Si Thammarat, Krabi and Phuket. Our clientele include successful Thais who desire an up-scale automobile to reflect their success. Our expat client nationalities range from Russian and Swedish to British and Americans.

What is your current best seller? Why?

The Mercedes Benz is the most popular car for both local and expat customers. I think Mercedes has always had a reputation for fine quality and for being a sign of success.

Can you outline Autoexpress' future plans, campaigns or activities

Our future plans are to expand our current customer base throughout Southern

Thailand, by offering customers a comprehensive sales, service, and post-sales experience. We also plan to get even more involved in the sponsorship of events and charities throughout Southern Thailand to express our thanks to our community for their support.

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIALS

"I prefer to keep my business in Phuket and Autoexpress were the first company to offer the type of car I'm interested in. My first impression of the company was positive. They were very professional and I felt that I could trust them. As for my expectations of a car dealership, I think there should be a back-up and service package offered to customers. My experience with Autoexpress has been all good so far. I chose a Porsche Cayenne Hybrid. It's a perfect car for Phuket driving conditions, and since it's a hybrid, it is better value and [sold] at a lower tax [rate]."

– Peter Joseph Wood, expat

"I purchased a Mercedes CLS 250 from Auto Express... I wanted a sports sedan that was simple to maintain. I am a long-standing client of a sales representative who was at



AT YOUR SERVICE: The Autoexpress sales and service team. Photos: Chris Hudon and S Layne



Autoexpress service reps with an Audi.

one of their other show rooms before moving to Phuket. I was impressed with the sales team and confident in their advice, as well as post-sale service. I expect a dealership to have a diverse offering, service center and be accessible when I want advice or assistance. Autoexpress met my expectations well."

– Fanprot Yukongpan, real estate business executive

"I bought a Benz C 220 CDI, and chose Autoexpress for its convenience in providing service. I was impressed with their product diversity and personal manner of the owners. I value post-sales service the most, and Autoexpress met my expectations."

– Wanida Witayanurak, self employed

"I bought a Benz E 250 CGI from Autoexpress. I knew I wanted a sport vehicle,



YEA BABY: The Mini Cooper is still a popular choice among customers in Phuket.

and Autoexpress staff gave me good advice. They're trustworthy and their staff provided me with information that was in line with my needs."

– Nanthariwal Phromtai, real estate executive

"Even though some of the cars are also available elsewhere, I chose AutoExpress because of the service and knowledgeable team who were ready to solve problems and offer support and assistance at will. The ability to provide information is really important, as is post-sale service, of which I have confidence in the company."

– Dungsiman Karittkamchai, hotel executive

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Ideas bounced around at rubber meeting

A THREE-day rubber industry convention and study-tour event wrapped up in Thalang last week.

The meeting/event, dubbed "Asean Rubber Day 2013", brought together industry experts, operators and researchers from Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives, the meeting was part of a private-public collaborative effort to create greater investment opportunities for the rubber industry, as well as to demonstrate Thailand's readiness to continue to play an integral role in global rubber production and trade.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Cooperatives, Yuthapong Jarassathian, said that the meeting's discussions focused on

ways to develop the rubber industry and exchange research innovations in order to add value to rubber and rubber products.

Participants came from 13 countries, comprising 10 Asean members as well as China, India, and Japan.

"Thailand has great potential in rubber production because of its abundance in raw materials. Continued economic growth in Asia, especially in Japan and India, has led to greater demands for natural rubber and has boosted prices," Mr Yuthapong said.

Thailand is now the world's largest rubber producer and exporter, followed by Indonesia and Malaysia.

The rapid growth of the automotive industry is hoped to

complement expansion in the rubber industry and related businesses.

Rubber exports are estimated to earn Thailand more than 400 billion baht annually; rubber production in Thailand accounts for one third of the global production.

The Board of Investment classifies the manufacturing of natural rubber and rubber products as a priority activity.

Eligible investment projects in the industry can receive benefits such as tax breaks and exemption from duties on imported machinery.

Thailand, Indonesia, and Malaysia – the world's top-three rubber producers – jointly established the International Tripartite Rubber Council.



This year's National Rubber Day was celebrated in Thalang, Phuket.

According to Damrong Jirasutat, director general of the Agricultural Research Department, Thailand currently has a total of 17 million rai of rubber plantations.

– Phuket Gazette and NNT

The not-so-hidden cost of inflation



Finance
By Don Freeman

IF YOU are an expatriate living in Thailand or considering relocating here, high inflation might be a distant memory from as far back as the late 1970s. However, Thailand has much higher rates of inflation than what is seen in most developed countries, and you will need to consider that when you invest and prepare a budget for your Thai living expenses.

When I moved to Phuket in 2008 I did not expect to see such extreme rising prices. In 2008 I could find fresh coconuts at Tesco Lotus for 5 baht, now in 2013, 15 to 20 baht is the lowest I can find. While Phuket can still be less expensive than the US or Europe, prices continue to increase here at a rapid rate.

Understanding Thailand's rate of inflation

The Ministry of Commerce calculates Thailand's inflation rate. From 2000 until 2012, the annual rate has averaged 2.66%. However, during that period of time, inflation in the Kingdom has ranged from an all time high of 9.2% for the month of July 2008, to a record low of -4.4% in July 2009. Those all time highs and lows corresponded with political disturbances within Thailand as well as with the



GOOD SENSE: Don't tap savings, understand inflation. Photo: Images Money

impact of the global financial crisis on the country's economy.

Back in December, inflation in Thailand also hit a 13-month high of 3.63%, in part due to minimum wage hikes along with the implementation of a diesel-tax subsidy to boost consumption after the 2011 floods hit the economy.

The diesel subsidy has since been extended until the end of January, plus there was another round of minimum wage increases at the start of the year. Moreover, such subsidies and wage hikes can vary from province to province – meaning accompanied price hikes leading to inflation would vary around the country.

Be aware of double standards

To further complicate matters for expatriates, Thailand is really two countries, one that is “first world” or well developed (areas like Bangkok, Phuket and Chiang Mai frequented by tourists where the local middle class is concentrated), and one that is much less developed. The cost of maintaining a middle class or upper class lifestyle in “first world” Thailand is not only rising because of large numbers of expatriates and retirees moving to the country, it's also rising as more and more Thais join the ranks of the middle and upper classes as the economy

grows. That means expats living in Thailand who expect a high standard of living may have to contend with a rising cost of living that is much higher than the official inflation rates.

Finally, large numbers of tourists tend to visit Thailand at certain times of the year – usually after the rainy season ends in late November with their numbers peaking around the holidays and remaining high into the early months of the new year, before the weather gets too hot or wet again. This annual high season brings about its own set of inflation as “foreigner” prices for accommodations, food, entertainment or transportation in major tourism destinations like Phuket can rise significantly before falling back down when the high season ends.

Investment strategies for inflation

Given the above inflationary environment, many expatriates living in Thailand may find themselves in a situation where their living expenses are rising at a much higher rate than their net worth or cost of living adjustments to their pensions. Fortunately, there are investment strategies that can help your net worth to keep pace with inflation.

For starters, and over the long term, investing in equities will usually be a better strategy for keeping pace with inflation than investing in fixed income invest-

ments or certificates of deposit in your home country. Moreover, large cap stocks with global operations that give them exposure to much higher growth rates in emerging markets could help your portfolio's long-term returns.

Finally, Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs) not only offer investors a good way to invest directly in faster growing emerging markets, they usually come with much lower fees than mutual funds or the off-shore investment products that are often marketed to expatriates.

After all, given how high Thailand's average rate of inflation has been over the past decade, you will want to seek out investments with the lowest possible commissions and annual expenses to help ensure that their returns will keep pace with the rising cost of living in the country. In my opinion Thailand has the world's best coconuts. Enjoy them while here but expect to pay more in the next few years due to inflation.

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.

Singaporean investor sniffs out tuna ops

AN INVESTOR from Singapore has expressed interest in expanding Phuket's Tuna industry through the establishment of a new commercial longline fishing partnership with local operators.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut, along with Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosut-tirak, last week welcomed the Singapore-based businessman Yong Juang, who came to the island to discuss investment guidelines, regulations and laws.

Mr Yong Juang is one of a number of Singapore-based operators who have expressed interest in investing in the island's tuna fishing industry, V/gov Somkiet said.

V/gov Somkiet added that longline fishing, known in Thai as “Pramong Bed Rao” is a preferred method among Japanese, South Korean and Taiwanese commercial fishery groups.

In early 2011, a Taiwanese delegation from the Singapore-

headquartered firm, Seaspire, met with then-Phuket Governor Tri Aukaradacha to discuss plans to increase the firm's Phuket-based fleet, as to take advantage of a large migration of Tuna from Indonesian waters.

The initial plan was to move as much as 300 of the firm's longliner vessels to port in Phuket, as initially reported by the *Gazette*.

However, according to the company's Phuket website (seaspirephuket.com), the firm currently lists only 50 longliner vessels based in Phuket.

According to the website, the firm catches, processes and exports tuna to Japan, the USA China and South Korea.

Throughout 2012, there were an estimated 3,500 tonnes (3.5 million kilograms) of tuna caught off Phuket, which generated revenue of around 539 million baht, v/gov Somkiet said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



CATCH OF THE DAY: Last year, a total of 3.5 million kilograms of tuna were caught in Phuket's surrounding waters. Photos: SeaSpire Phuket



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PROPERTY Gazette

Two Phuket hotels honored at DestinAsian Reader's Awards

THE JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa was named the Best Hotel in Phuket in the 8th annual DestinAsian Readers' Choice Awards 2013, while the spa arm of the Banyan Tree brand was named Top Hotel Spa in the Asia-Pacific region.

On Phuket's beautiful Mai Khao Beach, the luxury 265-room JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa is set across 68.2 rai of exquisite tropical gardens. Its world-class accommodation and extensive facilities make it the resort of choice for couples and families visiting the ever popular island destination of Phuket.

Conducted from August to October 2012, the DestinAsian Readers Choice Awards 2013 recognizes destinations and brands which provide consistent and unsurpassed standards in excellence and service. Readers were asked to select winning hotels in each category based on their personal experiences with brands which satisfied their needs in terms of luxury, service, style and comfort.

DestinAsian Publisher Ronald Liem saluted the award winners for their commitment in providing the best quality of service throughout the year. "We would like to congratulate all the winners of the Readers' Choice Awards. Each one deserves high praise."

"Phuket offers some of the finest luxury resort accommodation to be found anywhere on the planet. When seasoned travellers who have experienced both our product and that of other resorts name us



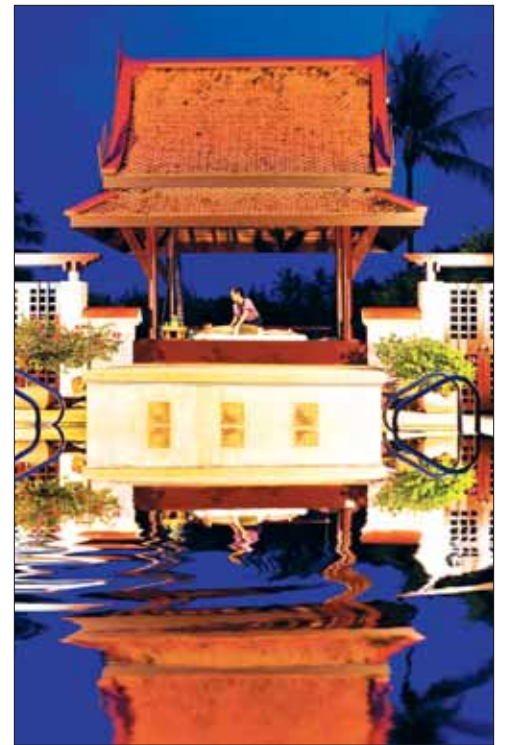
STUNNING: The reflection pond at the lobby of JW Marriott, Phuket at sunset. Photo: Dennis Wong

the best, it is an outstanding and very much appreciated honor," commented JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa's General Manager Tony Pedroni.

Banyan Tree were pioneers of the tropical garden spa and their hotels are staffed with therapists trained at the Banyan Tree Spa Academy in Laguna, Phuket.

Banyan Tree's 60 spas in Asia and across the globe deliver outstanding pampering and the ultimate in rest and relaxation.

On Koh Samui, the Four Seasons was named the Best Hotel, with voters highlighting the spa's outdoor soaking tubs situated in a rain forest. The two-wing Shangri-La hotel on the banks of the Chao Phraya river



Banyan Tree were pioneers of the tropical garden spa. Photo: Banyan Tree

was named the Best Hotel in Bangkok. Buffet dinner cruises aboard the hotel's private riverboat is just one of the many exclusive features offered at Shangri-La.

The DestinAsian Readers Choice Awards 2013 results appear in the February/March 2013 print issue of DestinAsian.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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Bluepoint offers a touch of serenity in one of the last available sea view plots on Phuket's desirable west coast. The multi award-winning condos are surrounded by five stunning beaches and overlook the glittering Andaman Sea. Bluepoint is comprised of just 20 spacious homes all sophisticated in style and designed

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Slave to the bean

I'VE JUST checked out of the emergency room, covered in bandages not dissimilar to those worn by the damaged star of



the movie *The English Patient*, or perhaps more fittingly, *Return of the Mummy*.

Anyway, same same but different said the man outside the sliding hospital door.

My horrific accident that will no doubt result in permanent scars, comes from my down-right addiction to coffee.

One boiling latte, which was filled to the brim by a low-level front-counter attendant, who was far more concerned about her *Lady GaGa*

smartphone ringtone than securing the top on my overflowing cup, is the antagonist in this true-life tale.

My aggressive nature prompts on my mind's movie time to return to the shop, seek out the aimless aggressor and let her crouch in fear as I go into lunatic rage mode. I can nearly smell the napalm in the morning (if you don't get this reference please watch *Apocalypse Now* immediately). But the thought of Brando amped up on too many double espresso's strikes fear in my heart.

Thankfully he is still dead and can't get to the nearest Starbucks. My imagination

continues to froth in preparation for the untimely trapeze fall, but hey, I'm used to working without a net – writing at times with fingers that don't have a clue what letter comes next, as I embark on a long journey with an absolutely empty suitcase.

Beans, beans those magnificent coffee beans. Waking hours are punctuated by that glorious dark brew. Whenever I'm in Phuket, each morning is like some long forgotten religious ceremony from the dawn of time. Huddling over a large cafe latte at the all too familiar Bake, suddenly my inner beast is calm and the world is right

as I slowly sip my way to sanity.

Over the years, my unrequited love affair with coffee has made me miss airplanes, skip important meetings, nearly get divorced and landed me in jail. Take it from me; coffee in jail is no picnic.

Imagine airline coffee, or worse, those glass brewing pots stuck in the hotel buffet line, and of course a cellmate named Big Al. Enough on that subject.

Capitalism struck such a high note with Starbucks; imagine selling a cup of hot water and beans for five dollars or more.

Yet, whenever I walk into a branch, that warm fuzzy feeling creeps up my



Phuket International Airport. Photo: neajjean



THE OTHER BLACK GOLD: Millions of people around the world are enslaved to the invigorating properties of the humble coffee bean. Photo: Niklas Morberg

leg like the neighbor's runaway cat. Purring, caressing and looking for more. Ouch, my ears start to bleed as Ted Nugent's *Cat Scratch Fever* plays on in MP3 land. Ted, oh Ted, you were great before you went over the edge into Tea Party mania. I'm distracted by the cat thing, as I find the furry things annoying, disloyal and basically useless.

A rubber duck has far more personality and a small turtle in a bowl is a better life companion. Just last night, my tablemate to the right talked about how she had her favorite dog stuffed when he died and placed underneath the piano.

Cats on the other hand are surely headed for a purgatory far worse than anyone could imagine – except perhaps a one-hour timeshare sales pitch.

Or standing in line at Phuket International Airport's immigration section for

76 minutes. This is the approximate time I spent last week after disembarking a large charter flight from some place I can't even pronounce.

So the cat is out of the bag, my life's *Jerry Maguire* is complete and the bean has enslaved me in a wicked web of lifelong addiction. Thousands of dollars squandered and countless hours of time wasted sitting silently sipping in innocent bliss. Leave the gimp where he is, damn the torpedoes, I'm going for a triple crown – *tres* as the Spanish say – if only my bandaged hands can fit into my pocket to get out some more money. Where is a cat when you need one?

Bill Barnett is the Managing Director of C9Hotelworks and can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com



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Up-country condo market not flooded

Bangkok-based real estate agency insists that there is not an oversupply of new condominiums in Phuket, Pattaya, Khon Kaen, Chiang Mai, Hua Hin and Cha-ahm

THE head of the Agency for Real Estate Affairs Company Limited (AREA), has rejected reports that Thailand's key up-country condominium markets are currently being oversupplied.

The markets in question include Phuket, Chiang Mai, Pattaya, Khon Kaen as well as the Gulf of Thailand coastline stretch between Hua Hin and Cha-ahm.

AREA President, Dr Sopon Pornchokchai, PhD, said that such reports, which warned of a bubble, were not based on any truth and thus market speculators and observers need not be swayed.

Dr Sopon supposes that such speculation is being fuelled by existing developers who intend to scare new developers from entering the market.

He said that there are two factors suggesting that sales are on the up: the fact that on average, only one in four of all units available are still on the market; and that the time it will take for remaining units to be off the market (sold) is short.

Summarizing the current market situation in Phuket, he said that there are a total of 15,500 units with a total value of about 34.6 billion baht.

"Our research shows that 75% of these have already been sold. These have a combined value of 23.7bn baht, and the monthly turn-over [of new units] in Phuket is about 1,630 units.

"Moreover, [we estimate that] the time it will take for the remaining units to be off the market is only 2.3 months. This shows that the sales outlook is good and thus the situation is not worrisome," he said.

Moving on to Chiang Mai, he said that there are currently 10,700 units worth 23.4bn baht, of which 71%, worth about 16bn baht, have been sold.

The monthly sales rate there is about 2,010 units per month, meaning it should only take about 1.5 months to sell all remaining units.

The leading market, in terms of sheer market size, is Pattaya, which has a total of 122,600 units worth a total of 321bn baht.

About 75% of these units have been sold, which have a combined value of 235,000 baht, he said.

With a monthly turnover of 5,850 units, Dr Sopon estimated that the remaining units will be off the market in just 5.2 months.

As for Khon Kaen, in the heart of Thailand's Northeast region, he said there are 5,500 units there worth 8.95bn baht, of which

78% of the units (worth 6.8bn baht) have been sold. With a monthly turn over of 1,500 units, it will take just under a month to sell off the rest, he said.

Then, Dr Sopon highlighted the Kingdom's second largest condominium market area outside of Bangkok, encompassing the beach-front stretch of coastline from the city of Cha-ahm in Phetchaburi province, to Hua Hin in Prachuap Khiri Kan province.

He said that this zone has a total of 17,600 units valued at about 58.7bn baht. About 75% of these units, worth 45bn baht, were

'Sales have been good because the country's economy is up and thus residents in various regions, whether based up-country or out of Bangkok, in addition to some segments of foreigners, have purchased these [condo] units.'

— Dr Sopon Pornchokchai, AREA

Also, he said that another practice to be careful about is when developers accept down payments without offering any kind of guarantee to clients.

Dr Sopon noted that Thailand's Escrow Act of 2551 (2008 CE) doesn't require a contract be drafted specifically about the down payment, and that since it was up to the parties whether they wanted to be bound by contract, that most developers didn't offer such a contract, and instead used their reputation or track record in place of such a guarantee.

He pointed out that many developers barely survived the last financial crisis and left much of the burden on buyers.

By not having any enforced protection on down payment agreements, smaller developers (who hadn't yet established a reputation) found it difficult to compete with larger developers, he explained.

But more importantly, Dr Sopon said that the lack of mandatory protection increased risk for buyers, particularly in the event that a project fell through.

Dr Sopon concluded that if there were mandatory fair regulations enforced among all developers, it would make all developers focus on developing and improving their brand, and buyers would be more confident in buying, and thus eliminate the risk of projects getting abandoned.

He urged the government to make down payment protection guarantees mandatory between contract parties, and not leave it up to the will of developers.

— Phuket Gazette / AREA



A view of Phuket Town from the rooftop of a new condominium. This same view in a decade will likely have changed dramatically. Photo: Steven Layne



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No cooling measures needed in BKK

Despite caution from the central bank, a real estate services firm says the condo market is looking up

AS CONCERNS of a real estate bubble escalate, the Bank of Thailand (BOT) recently asked commercial banks in Thailand to become more cautious about mortgage lending, particularly to borrowers who are suspected of buying houses or condominiums for speculative purposes.

While the BOT's position is reasonable, as easy lending can inflate real estate bubbles, cooling measures are not needed at this stage, according to Jones Lang LaSalle, a professional services firm specializing in real estate.

"As the Thai stock market has heated up and the baht continues to strengthen, some economists in both the public and private sectors have voiced their concerns over possible bubbles in Thailand's real estate markets. This concern is probably based on an assumption that many people who have made profits from the stock market may invest in the housing or condominium market. However, there haven't been any clear signs of a bubble in Bangkok's condominium market to-date," said Mrs Suphin Mechuchep, managing director of Jones Lang LaSalle.

"A real estate bubble can occur when there is excess demand from speculative buyers and abundant liquidity through borrowing that drive property prices to levels well above their fundamental economic value.

"Bubble conditions can also be caused by developers themselves, undertaking development without proper market studies and planning, leading to overbuilding. However, our monitoring of Bangkok's

core and central condominium market shows that the aforementioned conditions do not presently exist," said Mrs Suphin.

Despite the strong growth of new supply, prices of condominiums in both completed buildings and off-plan projects in Bangkok continue to rise. However, the price increases have been gradual and driven largely by sustained demand expansion, improvements in product quality and offering, as well as rising development costs.

While it is hard to identify the actual percentage of speculators in the condominium market, the consensus is that some condominium projects by leading property developers attract a considerable number of speculators. These projects include those in the upper-mid-price segment located in prime locations, which show high potential to appreciate in price when construction is near completion or is complete.

However, these projects are generally few and far between, as actual profits on changes in condominium prices are unlikely to lure strong speculative demand. Overall, most buyers are end users who purchase the property for their own use and/or investors who look for an income-generating asset as a long-term investment.

On the supply side, most of the new projects are in the mid-price segment (75,000-100,000 baht per square meter), satisfying growing demand from both young, middle-aged and retirement-year buyers adopting a more urban lifestyle. In the luxury segment, new launches have slowed down over recent years, allowing



TOWERING DEMAND: A view of the high density Ratchathewi neighborhood of Bangkok, with the Pathumwan Resort Condo (foreground) and Baiyoke 2 tower (back, left). Photo: Steven Layne

the supply under construction to be absorbed by the market.

Going forward, prices of new condominium developments will continue to edge upward, mainly due to higher development costs, including land that is becoming scarcer to find in locations that are suitable for new development. In addition, new projects tend to offer higher-quality products in terms of both design and construction, which will contribute to higher prices.

"While the BOT's request to commercial

banks to become more cautious about mortgage lending is a sound initiative, we don't think any cooling measures to curb property transactions are necessary at this stage, as there remains no clear sign of a bubble.

"Any measures to curb property transactions could simply undermine real estate demand as the intervention could eventually result in added costs to buyers, for whom affordability is ultimately the key issue," Mrs Suphin concluded.

— Jones Lang LaSalle

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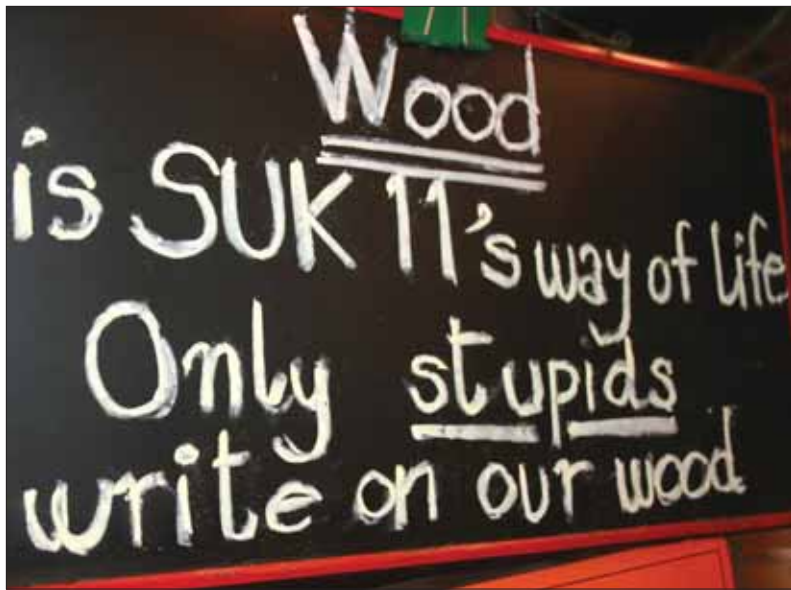
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*The Charm Residence Project: Prorising Co., Ltd. is the owner of the land, the land allocator and the marketer of the project. Its company registration number is 080552010143, with its registered office at 5/41 Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The company's registered capital is THB 56,600,000.00 based on the company's certification document dated 30 November 2012. The company is developing the project to be a residential condominium, comprising three five-storey residential buildings, and one seven-storey residential building, with a total of 245 residential condominium units (and no commercial condominium unit). The company is also developing a residential land allocation project located at Thaveewong Road, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. It is being developed on the land under the deed number 12177, land plot number 6, page search 160, Tambon Patong, Amphoe Kathu, Phuket Province. The area of the land subject to the development has an approximate area of 3 Rai, 1 Ngan and 15.8 square Wua. The company is the owner of the land. The land is encumbered to Kasikorn Bank PCL. The project is currently being developed. Once the buyer pays the full purchase price under the sale and purchase agreement, the company will be ready to transfer the ownership to buyers within 30 days. The development of the project commenced in April 2011, and the development of the common properties and public services in the project should be completed around December 2013. Once the development is completed, the company will register the condominium. The buyers of the condominium units will be required to pay the common area fees, taxes, and other fees as determined by the developer or the condominium joint person, subject to the laws on condominium and the terms and conditions set by the company.



CAN'T YOU READ? Right: Please discharge your sex tourism before entering this building. Above: Don't be a stupid, read the sign.

Sign language



DATE NIGHT? Show her that you really care with a fancy night out.



So that's where the Mickey Mouse club's been hiding all these years.

In praise of sitting



A RECENT article claimed that too much sitting can kill you. It causes heart attacks, diabetes and a bigger bum. The author worried about the health of people who spend all their working days sitting in cubicles in front of computers, then go home to spend their entire evenings sitting in front of TV sets.

Indeed, I have often wondered at the sad lives led by people like those in the comic strip "Dilbert," who work in cubicles. What sort of life is that to inflict upon humans, the noblest creature on our planet? Except for the coffee breaks, you might as well be a rat on a treadmill.

As an ardent sitter, more formally known as a 'sedentary', I found the author's observations disturbing. I spend about 12 hours a day wallowing in my La-Z-Boy recliner in front of the TV set. The remaining 12 hours I spend sleeping. Occasionally, driven by urgent

internal pressures and a need for exercise, I heave my elephantine body out of the recliner and waddle to the bathroom. I regard the La-Z-Boy recliner as the greatest invention since the flush toilet.

Other people have their workstations and playstations; the recliner is my 'lifestation'. Foxes have holes, as Jesus Christ perceptively observes, "birds have nests, and the Son of Man may have nowhere to lay his head" (Luke 9:58) – but old men have the sybaritic enjoyment of the La-Z-Boy recliner.

I would spend my entire day luxuriating in the comfort of this marvelous chair, were it not for the necessity of getting up occasionally to pop open another beer and rip open another bag of snacks. Then, of course, at the end of each hard-fought day, I have to endure the trauma of struggling out of the recliner's warm embrace and falling into bed. Ah, the hardship! It's bound to kill me. This schedule enables me to hone my mind on the rich educational and morally uplifting fare offered by True Visions, our local cable operator.

When, in a single day, I can sa-

vor such cinematic masterpieces as "Teenage Zombie Strippers," "Mongolian Death Worm," and "Texas Chainsaw Massacre 2," I know that our civilization has reached the acme, peak, and zenith of its evolution. Thanks to my sedentary lifestyle, my brain, which might otherwise be wasting its energies devising useless theories of Einsteinian complexity, is more practically employed in eagerly looking forward to the release of "Alien Versus Predator 3."

The writer of the article has a bias against big bottoms. But mine gives me gravitas, provides ballast, and makes it less likely that I'll be blown away in a hurricane. Unfortunately, I cannot see my bottom, which I fondly refer to as my elegantly configured tush. That pleasure is enjoyed only by others. Judging from their awe-struck looks when I waddle past, it must be impressive.

To promote the virtues of the sedentary life, I'm organizing a Sedentary Society. Want to join?

Aspiring sedentaryists can contact the author c/o s.tsow@gmail.com for further instruction in this noble art.



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Seeing through the muck

POLLUTION levels in the Bang Yai Canal strong enough to make residents of Phuket Town's Samkong area physically ill (see page one) should spur authorities in all relevant jurisdictions to work together to pinpoint the source of the contaminants and punish any violators.

Unfortunately, the official response on all sides has been the opposite. Some local officials are firing off knee-jerk denials, claiming that the source of the contaminants are not in their areas of control, while others are using this tragedy as an excuse to call for additional funding for expensive new water treatment plants.

Reports of unacceptably high pollution levels in Klong Bang Yai in Phuket Town are certainly nothing new. In August 2011, residents in the area where the canal passes Satee Phuket School were seen collecting hundreds of dead fish killed in a mysterious "mass poisoning". The cause was never thoroughly investigated, let alone explained, by authorities.

Even in Kata, once considered one of the island's untainted tourism jewels, poorly regulated development and the recent lack of rainfall has turned the canal near the south end of the beach into little more than a fetid open sewer. Similar manifestations of our collective contempt for the environment that sustains us can be found all over the island, and even on the remains of broken coral reefs off our shores (see news, page 4).

Of course the case of Klong Bang Yai long predates Phuket's emergence as one of Asia's premier resort island destinations. The canal and its many tributaries were vital components of the vast tin mining industry that radically transformed the island's natural topography into what we see today. In fact, most of the island's water supply is collected in abandoned tin-mining ponds, while the entire shoreline along Phuket Bay, including all of Saphan Hin, was created by tin mine tailings that have left Phuket Bay's once sandy bottom now covered in several meters of muck.

Klong Bang Yai drains much of Rassada, Phuket Town and virtually all of Kathu into the sea at Saphan Hin, which is also home to the landfill and incineration plant that is the final destination of all the island's solid waste. Rather than use this latest tragedy to seek funding, it is time each and every local administration body in the Bang Yai catchment area take responsibility for enforcing pollution control laws and punishing violators under their jurisdictions, rather than continuing to view the waterway as an open sewer.

Sadly, in many cases this responsibility falls to the same individuals who rubber stamp Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies in exchange for payoffs, and who are probably hoping now that the monsoon rains will arrive in full, diluting the end result of their ineptitude and greed, carrying all the waste out to sea as the public attention turns to more immediate issues such as flooding and landslides.



Cheers to hands-off cops on Songkran

I was in Patong last year for the festival with my son, 15. He loved every minute of it, so did I.

This year was no different from last year, pickup trucks packed with people and water drums, all the streets packed with soaking wet people, all happy and having a good time.

I saw no one behaving badly, not even the drunk ones. The police did nothing to change what was going on. Good on them.

Tez
Gazette Forum

Blame where blame is due

Re: Gazette online, Tour of Thailand official slams into power pole during Phuket storm, April 11

Why do the police so often blame the road or the rain? The road had a curve in it and that caused the accident. It was raining and that caused the accident.

In many countries people drive for several months of the year on snow and ice. If I go off an icy road, it's clearly my fault for going too fast.

Tk
Gazette Forum

Unfair water bills

For nearly five years I have paid a monthly water bill of 85 baht for a water meter outside my house. I am not connected to the mains supply; the meter is there just in case my well runs dry.

At the beginning of April I received a water bill for nearly 22,000 baht, and recognized there must be a leak.

When I phoned the main office in Kathu, I was told I had to report the problem in person.

At the office, I explained that I am not connected to the mains, and was told I had to pay 268 baht to have my meter checked.

Eventually I paid and about

Letters to the Editor

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

three hours later two engineers came to my house, checked the meter and said it was working.

They then asked to check the well to see if I was pumping water into it, then left without looking for the water leak.

If this is the attitude, no wonder Phuket sometimes has problems with water supply. Needless to say I will not be paying 22,000 baht for something I never had or used.

swerv
Thalang

Kudos to immigration

Re: Gazette online, Filipino caught with 7kg of crystal meth at Phuket Airport, April 13

It is hard to comprehend that anyone would be stupid enough to carry any amount of drugs for someone.

Okay, people get desperate for money and will do just about anything, but drugs carry such a huge sentence, or could even cost you your life.

One can't have any sympathy; the rules are clear. Well done to the authorities for stopping any amount of drugs hitting the streets of Phuket!

Richard
Gazette Forum

Had enough of metered taxis

I use Phuket airport about twice a month and have enjoyed the service of the metered taxis since they arrived and never had any issues with them.

However, on my last five or six arrivals, the metered taxi drivers flat out refused to turn the meter on.

I was quoted 700 baht to Rawai, a fare that used to be 450 baht.

The quote came from the kiosk before I even got in the car, so it's not due to a greedy driver.

Both the silver limos and the metered taxis charge pretty much the same now, so what is the point in differentiating between the two?

Marc
Rawai

Parents, watch your children

Re: Gazette online, Russian boy, 9, saved from drowning at Phuket beach lagoon, April 10

I used to go to this lagoon a lot, but I haven't been there for years now because you always end up watching other people's kids instead of enjoying your own.

Parents sit far away and think their kids are safe because you are there. And surely, I will pull them out if something happens, but that does not mean I intend to spend my time watching them.

Tinkerbelle
Gazette Forum

Traffic light request

I was the victim of an accident at the junction of Soi Suksan 1 and Wiset Road.

There is often heavy traffic on Soi Suksan 1 nowadays, made up of residents of the soi and travelers to and from Kata using it as a shortcut to avoid Chalong Circle.

I would like to request the Phuket Provincial Government put a traffic light on this junction because a lot of accidents occur there daily.

A traffic light would reduce the danger of this junction.

Thank you very much on behalf of people in the Rawai area.

Molinari Anh
Rawai

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Speak up if you want to be heard

FIRST PERSON

TRAFFIC jams are a problem for everyone in Phuket nowadays. One of the causes is the First Car project and companies offering very low down payments – 900 baht – for motorbikes. More people can afford to have a vehicle now, so there are more private vehicles on the road, and more traffic jams.

If 30% of vehicle owners used public transportation instead, we wouldn't have a problem with traffic jams.

I realize that it's our job to make public transportation attractive so people will use it.

Right now, I think we do a good job in terms of seats, safety and information.

We provide enough public transport for everyone who wants to use it. In high season and holiday times we boost the number of buses, so people can be confident we will get them to their destinations on time.

During the Songkran period, we test every driver at the Phuket Bus Terminal for drugs and alcohol before every trip, but even in non-holiday periods we conduct random tests on our drivers.

And we do our best to make information easily accessible for travelers.

We don't have information online, but travelers can call us to check bus schedules (076-373193) and check seat availability (076-211480, 076-373259).



Jaturong Kaewkasi, a 41-year-old native of Pattani, has been the Chief Transport Technician of the Phuket Land Transport Office for one year. He has a master's degree in Social Development from Yala Rajabhat University and before coming to Phuket

worked as a transport technician in Bangkok.

Here, he talks about how to convince people to use buses in order to reduce traffic problems in Phuket.

What we need to improve in order to get more people to use buses in Phuket is coverage. Right now we don't have enough routes.

We want to make a more complete network of routes, and we want to use the Downtown Market as a hub, because people are already used to taking buses from the market.

If the old airport bus dropped people at the Downtown Market, they could easily connect to the pink buses or beach buses. To make this convenient, we would create a schedule so people can plan their journey and not waste time. I would like to see this set up within the year.

We hope within five years to improve mass transportation to cover all of Phuket. If we can get support from private investors, the project can go even faster, but I'm not optimistic about this. The pink bus, for example, is not making money.

The public can also do their part to help us improve transportation.

Consider the project to start the new airport bus service. We have faced protests from a group of people who think they will lose benefits.

If people really want to improve the system of transportation, when we have a public hearing they should share their ideas or vote to support us.

I think most people want to improve the transport system but they are too lazy to come and express their opinions. If they do nothing, they will get nothing.

We at the Public Land Transport Office will do our best to make public transportation comfortable, economical and punctual, with routes covering the whole island.

After that it will be up to the people of Phuket to change their own behavior, leave their private vehicles at home and take public transport.



Students enjoy a joke at the teacher's expense during an English class at Ban Sosa orphanage outside Bangkok.

Paradise Lost

Island View

By Chris Hudon

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

THIS is my last Island View for the *Phuket Gazette*, as I will soon return to the USA to study law.

Having been in Thailand for the past two and a half years (I hear old expats scoffing), I have gone from being one of the only farangs around, when I taught in Uttaradit in the North, where local people referred to me as "the farang", to living in Phuket where being a foreigner has an entirely different connotation as part of the tourist machine.

During my time in the Kingdom I've tried my best to search out cultural exchange.

I learned to speak Thai, got a Thai girlfriend, overcame my fear and fought in Muay Thai prize fights, learned to eat spicy food (yes that's a skill, ask anyone), got another Thai girlfriend, became an educator for the first time in my life and experienced firsthand just how hard it is to be a teacher.

I traveled, saw the ruins at Sukothai, the mountains in Chiang Mai, the limestone cliffs of Krabi and Phang Nga, the hustle and bustle of Bangkok, the shady Cambodian border town of Aranyaprathet and much more.

I made friends, I lost friends, I moved, I restarted.

Life in the North was slow and

life in the South has been anything but. My time here has helped me to place people in boxes: hi-so Thais, backpackers, serious travelers, everyday Thais, expats on the run and looking to get lost, and everyone in between.

This country, which has welcomed me time and again, has demonstrated playfulness, duality, tradition, respect, hard work and its rewards, racism and the complexity of a mostly good people. A nation of fearsome warriors with a commonly recognized third gender.

Even as I sit staring blankly at my flickering computer screen trying to reflect upon a torrent of memories, I find myself victim of the oft feverish pace of working-life on Phuket.

A sad notion it is, to leave the Land of Smiles, but they'll not keep me away for long. I leave with a heavy heart, an open mind, and the best thing that Thailand ever gave me – though she shall remain nameless.

Issues & Answers...

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

What is the fate of unsold lottery tickets?

Any idea what happens to unsold lottery tickets? It seems to me there is nothing preventing the main sellers from trawling through the unsold tickets after the draw has been made – that is, there is no electronic record kept at the time of the draw.

George
Phuket

Thida Boonrat, director of the Ministry of Finance Phuket office, replies:

That is correct, there is nothing to prevent lottery-ticket sellers from looking through unsold tickets. In fact, it is their right, since they own the tickets.

Lottery ticket vendors must pay

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

Submit your issue at

www.P PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

the Government Lottery Office up front for the tickets. The tickets then belong to the vendor. There are no refunds for unsold tickets.



Leftover tickets are the property of the vendors. Photo: Gazette Files

Wages, slave driving and work permits

I have been informed by various sources that I must pay each of my employees at least 9,000 baht a month in order for me to maintain a work permit.

If I give them two days off a week, this means I pay them at least 450 baht a day for a five-day week. It seems unfair to require foreigners to pay employees 30% more than the minimum wage, or be slave drivers.

I already pay 650 baht a day to two skilled workers who deserve this wage. They work five days a week and won't work for less. However, paying my other employees this much would force me to spend more than I earn.

The rule is an unfair business restriction and encourages employers to be unfair to the workers. My company was formed under the requirements set

out in the US-Thai Treaty of Amity, so where's the equal protection?

I'm wondering what options I have besides shutting down the company. Can I relinquish my work permit and still own the company on a retirement visa?

Christy Sweet
Layan

Rerkpong Buamart of the Phuket Provincial Labor Protection and Welfare Office replies:

Both Thai and non-Thai employers must adhere to the legal minimum wage.

There are two different types of employment contracts: daily and monthly.

If your employees work on a daily contract, the minimum wage is 300 baht per day.

If your employees are hired on a monthly contract, you must pay them at least 9,000 baht per month. This is regardless of whether you give them one day off a week or two. By law, you are only required to give them one day off per week.

In your case, paying 650 baht a day for your two staff is legal, but you must pay your other employees not less than 300 baht per day as well.

An officer at the Phuket Provincial Employment Office replies:

You cannot be a shareholder of a company on a retirement visa.

Even Americans who have set up companies under the Treaty of Amity must have a work permit in order to be involved in that company's operations.

YOUR Phuket

"The FACE" reception at Rivet restaurant



Pierre Koukjian, artist; and Prakaikaew Na-Ranong, deputy managing director of Indigo Pearl.



Wichit Na-Ranong, managing director of Indigo Pearl; and model Lee Dahlberg, "The FACE" of Indigo Pearl.

Autistic children visit elephant farm



Alongkot Chookaew, director of the elephant farm on Koh Yai, performs for the children.



Sushi sala opens at BAKE



The team behind BAKE's new sushi project. From left: Miguel Kirjon, designer and brand developer; Olivier Gibaud, GM; and Sittichai Jitnatham, F&B executive manager.

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PROPERTY of the week



houseinphuket.com

See page 22

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

**Hospitality
Mgr. Available**

See page 23

JOB of the week



FAMOUS PHUKET

See page 25

BOAT of the week

**SIMPSON
MARINE**



See page 29

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Furnished, 280sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, office, sundeck, 2 pools, jacuzzi, carport. Sale: 3.4 million baht. 18 years left on lease. Or rent: 32,000 baht per month, minimum 6 month contract period. Located within Condo Complex. Tel: 084-716 0502.

4 BED, 4 BATH SECURE VILLA

10 minutes to international schools, 15 minutes to Patong and Central, aircons, pool, sala, fully furnished. 14.9 million baht negotiable. Tel: +61-8-6161 2691, +61-43-592 2900 (English), +61-46-831 5377 (English & Thai). Fax: +61-86-161 2691. Email: donmountford@gmail.com

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

LAND NAI HARN 2,200SQM

Very good access, road, water, electric. Back of Mangosteen Resort, Sai Yuan 9. Price 10.9 million baht (7.7 per rai). Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa@thai-evagroup.com

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF ARAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. For more information please call: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

3-BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE

Chalong complex, secure, 240sqm land. Price: 3.2 million baht. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.



AUCTION

Prime Condominiums in Phuket
Blue Canyon Country Club

8 Condominium Units at Blue Canyon Country Club

- To be sold as one single lot
- Situated in the Homes 2 precinct
- Mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units

MUST BE SOLD!

AUCTION: Thursday 2 May 2013 @ 2.30 p.m.

Contact Khun Parichat 090 698 4923 / Andrew 081 844 2049

www.joneslanglasalle.co.th

URGENT SALE/ RENT



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-476 9612.

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.

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (English & German).

PHUKET TOWN CENTER

House for sale. 252sqm. 5.5 million baht. Contact Jiab. Tel: 087-269 3989.

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

KATA BEACH OCEANFRONT APT

1 bedroom, modern luxury ocean living. Sea view, pools, gym, garden, quiet. 7 million baht. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com Further details, please see our website at www.katasala.com

HOT DEAL! NEW CONDO KATHU

Brand-new 1 bedroom, 36sqm condo, fitted kitchen, huge discount off list price. Only 1.4 million baht. Tel: 084-455 6743 (English), 086-153 0103 (Thai). Email: andywatts81.aw@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE: URGENT



4.9 million baht, 89sq wah (includes furniture). Stone wall around the house & fruit garden. 4 air conditioners, telephone and internet, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 CCTV. Located near the Heroines Monument, towards to Tesco Lotus Thalang. Tel: 080-520 2989. Email: edc9designs@gmail.com

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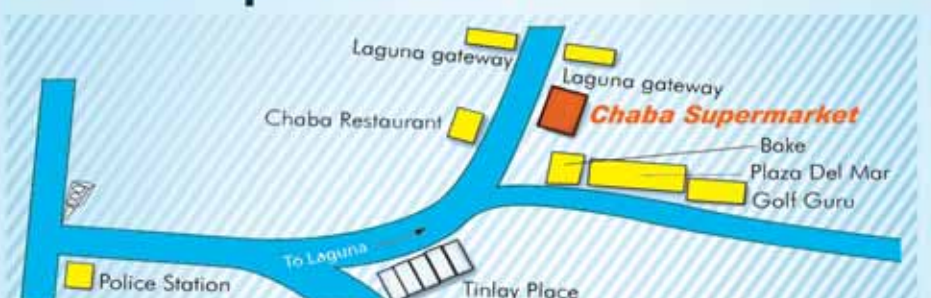
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**See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net**

Properties For Rent

NEW FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE



2-storey house, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 20,000 baht per month, quiet area. Ao Makham Bay, 4km from town, 2km to beach. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at panwagreen.weebly.com

RENT APARTMENT KARON

4 floor, seaview, 130sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 pools, 600m to sea. 1 year contract. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-131 5458.

VILLA AND POOL

Soi NaYa, Nai Harn. Luxury 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Long-term rent: 37,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-396 4007. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. 25,000 baht per month with 30,000 baht deposit. Tel: 086-607 7493.

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-383 0936 (Khun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

NICE 3-BED, 2-BATH HOUSE

Modern, clean and quiet 3-bed, 2-bath house on 320sqm in Thalang, near Heroines Monument. Cable TV, internet. Tel: 081-895 1009. Email: eljefe3@gmail.com

PATONG 1 + 2 BED APARTMENTS

Large pool, maid, security, free WiFi, cable TV. Close to beach, mall and nightlife. From 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

KATA BEACH LOW SEASON

1-bedroom apartment, WiFi, kitchen, jacuzzi. Soi Kok Ta Nod. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

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

APARTMENTS PATONG

Located at Phuket Palace and Patong Tower. 55-66sqm in size and with one bedroom. Tel: 081-892 1621.

RAWAI RENTAL STUDIO

28sqm, aircon, cable TV, fridge, kitchen. 6,500 baht. Negotiable long stays. Tel: 085-757 3240.

PRIVATE PATONG HOUSE



Large enclosed yard with waterfall, swim jet pool, very quiet, clean water, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, furnished. Must see! Tel: 087-882 1963 (English), 088-464 3835 (Thai). Email: benlee53@hotmail.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



Thalang. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 081-396 4264.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE



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

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 aircon bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, furnished kitchen. Near Phuket Zoo. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai), 089-729 8472 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

3 BED HOUSE IN KATHU: 13,000 BAHT

Modern, 3-bed townhouse for rent in Kathu. Only 13,000 baht per month for one year rental. Tel: 084-455 6743 (English), 086-153 0103 (Thai). Email: andywatts81.aw@gmail.com

URGENT RENT/ SALE



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-476 9612.

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.

PRIVATE POOL VILLA AVAILABLE NOW

3 bedrooms, full furnished, located in secure area. Special price now. Tel: 089-472 9870, 086-471 5226. Email: dchaibut@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Big saving 6 months lease, only 25,000 baht per month, has all, near Laguna. Tel: 089-594 4067.

RENTAL APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, studio, 46sqm, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLAS FOR RENT KAMALA

2 villas in modern style, one of 3 bedrooms and one of 2 bedrooms, private swimming pool, big garden, jacuzzi. Contact Francesco. Tel: 085-790 7816. Email: francesco bonta@gmail.com See our website at www.villa cheloni.com



houseinphuket.com

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

RAWAI 3-BED POOL HOUSE 28,000 BAHT

2 storeys, 2 baths, 3 aircon units. Fully equipped, nice and quiet. May - Oct: 28,000 baht per month + bills, internet. Tel: 085-478 8010, 085-478 8216. Email: c9000@gmx.de

PHUKET ULTIMATE SEAVIEW

3-bedroom house with private entrance. Master bedroom guesthouse, pool. 5 minutes to beach and Jungceylon. Tel: 085-237 1007 (English). Email: patrickconnor2929@gmail.com

PROPERTY FOR RENT



3-bed en suite, furnished, with pool, immaculate. Located in Rawai. 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-524 2289 (English & Thai). Email: johngriffphoto graphy52@yahoo.co.uk For further details, please see our website at www.griffinpromedia.com click on search, then enter rawai villa

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Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Anna: 076-388144, 086-4780201, 088-1685032

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The **Gazette Online** is always on top in **Google!**

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

- ▶ Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- ▶ Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- ▶ Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, Java Script, HTML5, CSS, JSON, AJAX, JQuery
- ▶ Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySQL)
- ▶ Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
- ▶ Ability in spoken and written English
- ▶ Ability to work with team
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

GIGONG / TAICHI TEACHER

To facilitate classes in Kata. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

DJ NEEDED

Full time or part time, weekend negotiable. Enjoy sounds like Leomeo, Tiesto and Guetta. Call Adrian. Tel: 081-561 9114 (English & Thai). Email: oat.pada@gmail.com

REAL ESTATE RENTAL AGENT

Thai national, must have car, be professional. 20,000 baht. Salary + commission. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

RENTAL MANAGER NEEDED

Thai national, responsible, spoken English, experience with hospitality. Salary + commission. Tel: 081-165 1797 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Japanese wedding company Sa-mer Wedding at Boat Lagoon. is seeking an experienced accountant. Qualification: over 3 years experience in accounts. Good command of spoken and written English. Good salary based on experience. Please contact us by email: fumiko@sa-mer.com

MAINTENANCE MANAGER NEEDED

Experienced maintenance/facilities manager is sought for a villa on the west coast. Send CV. Email: ggreg@yahoo.ca

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

To teach class of 9-12 children, ages 6-9 years old, must have experience and degree. Start on 22 April, Chalong, 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: buds.span@yahoo.com

COOKS AND MAIDS

Luxury villas in Patong looking for experienced cooks and maids. Live in or live out. Full or part time. Tel: 080-699 2436, 088-760 9841. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

CUSTOMER RELATIONS @ RESORT

Health Resort Customer Relations & Sales Rep. Fluent English speaker & experience required. (Good salary & benefits). Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

TEACHERS WANTED

Chalermprakiat is looking for native English speakers to teach English. A degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Please email your cover letter and CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com For info please contact Clarke.

THAI STAFF WANTED

Bayshore Projects Co Ltd is looking for Thai staff that can work both in bar and front office (receptionist). Tel: 076-345670, 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to manuela@bayshoreprojects.com

HOUSEKEEPER

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

ADMIN & COORDINATOR STAFF

Small dynamic real estate agency based in Chalong seeking Thai female staff. Good command of both spoken and written English. Computer literacy. start immediately. Tel: 086-940 2266. Email your resume to sales@18excelsior-property.com For further details, please see our website at 18excelsior-property.com

AUTOCAD / 3D / ADMIN STAFF

Due to an increase in Lighting Design Projects we require AutoCAD people who have experience in producing architectural / ID / lighting / electrical drawings, 3D renderings and office admin of the same. We are interested to talk with potential employees, freelance individuals or companies who can offer these services. Tel: 081-893 7027 (English). Email: potter.ian@gmail.com

www.AbsoluteWorld.net

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WORLD
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Absolute Sales Co.LTD, is an established global force in Luxury Leisure and Boutique Resort development. We are currently looking for:

Chinese Reservation Officer

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree or higher in Tourism Industry or related fields
- Male/Female, Thai National
- Experience in travel agencies and thorough background knowledge of tourist destinations / hotels in Thailand will be a great advantage
- Good command of written and spoken Chinese
- Fast learner, Service-Minded, Team Worker
- Ability to work well under pressure and handle workload

Interested candidates please submit Current CV, Recent photo, Current and Expected salary with other related documents to: rinky@absoluteworld.net

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext.303 Fax: 076-615240

MARKETING MANAGER

Thai, age above 30 years, related experience. Salary: 30,000 baht + commission. Tel: 087-026 1362. Fax: 076-381717. Email: chalongmarket@hotmail.com Please send email, or call for info.

PILATES & YOGA TEACHER

Wanted qualified pilates & yoga instructor to teach classes at Studio 3 Fitness, Chalong. Thai or foreigner, must speak good English. Tel: 084-985 8161. Email: studio3@fitness.co.th

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- ▶ **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
Tel: 076-290468
Tel: 076-342275

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
Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

KARON

- ▶ **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

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Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

WAITRESS / WAITER / BARISTA

Looking for waitresses, waiters, barista must be hard working and know English, please email your CV to hassan@projectcupcake.ae

PASTRY CHEF / BAKER

Looking for pastry chef / baker must know how to bake cakes and have experience, please email your CV to hassan@projectcupcake.ae

ACCOUNTING BOOKKEEPER

Full time. Start immediately. Accounting degree or equivalent. Drivers License. Experience. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

HOUSEKEEPER

Young lady, good English, intelligent, cheerful. Top salary. Please contact Tiffany. Tel: 089-850 1622. Email: tcdeportes@gmail.com

HOUSEKEEPER SURIN VILLA

Must speak English, 6 days a week, must have happy personality and like cats. Previous work experience in hotel or villa is an advantage. References needed. Tel: 083-103 1330.

THAI STAFF WANTED

Bayshore Projects Co Ltd is looking for Thai staff that can work both in bar and front office (receptionist). Tel: 076-345670, 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to manuela@bayshoreprojects.com

CHINESE SPEAKING STAFF

Chinese/Thai-to-English translators and sales people needed. Must have excellent spoken and written Chinese skills. Apply with CV and expected salary. Email: dreams holdings@yahoo.com

SALESMAN WANTED

We are selling a state-of-the-art pipe system for hot and cold water applications and for A/C systems. Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree
- Able to communicate in English: speaking, reading and writing
- Energetic and enthusiastic with a positive attitude
- Highly motivated, disciplined and hard working
- Experience in working with architects for specifying products The work can be full time or freelance. Tel: 081-374 0494. Email: klaus.bauer@pimatec.com

ARCHITECT

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

SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE

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

LIVE-IN COMPANION

For Thai lady, at Kata. House-keeping and cooking. Contact Noi: 076-330518, Tom: 087-627 3464.

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@intravillas.com

ACCOUNTANT FOR REAL ESTATE

We are looking for an experienced accountant that can handle government officials and tax related issues. A high salary will be given. Tel: 076-341045. 081-459 0152 (English). Contact us at the number above or send your CV to info@phuketcondos-homes.com

AVIATION ADMINISTRATION

Aviation company Thalang needs experienced Thai female working as assistant to Managing Director. English, well organized with computer skills and maintain different Thai government documents. Requires own transportation and deal professionally with Thai and foreign customers. Submit your CV with recent photo to pat@aeroprom.gr.com

COFFEE & ICE CREAM



Vacancies: coffee shop assistant manager, baristas, waiters, bar assistants, experience and English. Tel: 086-276 4914.



Experience Russian Sales Reps.

needed to live & work in Bali for the Karma Royal Group.

Sounds interesting??

Email CV to: ekayanti@royalperspective.com

RECEPTIONIST PATONG

Hotel is looking for a reliable Thai female. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

CUSTOMER SERVICE RECEPTIONIST

Female for villa resort in Rawai. Both of part time and full time. Computer skills are essential. For more information please call 089-289 1502. Email: jittraming@gmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Native Thai with good command of English, computer and administrative skills. Please send CV to forsale.phuket@gmail.com

FOOD STORE MANAGER

Food importer and distributor based in the south is seeking a branch manager. Ideal candidate has minimum 5 years experience in F&B industry and proven management skills. High salary and profit sharing scheme. Tel: 087-264 9695 (English). Email: eb@ebnetwork.it

THAI DRIVER WANTED

Driver for resort. Thai national only. Must speak English. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

STAFF WANTED

Cashier who speaks English and Thai, experience preferred. Tel: 086-987 7339 (English). Email: stanlaysphuket@hotmail.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 a month depending on experience.

- 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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

- Fluent in English
- Able to work to strict deadlines
- A team player
- Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

Ocean Resort Group

is currently seeking candidates for the following positions:

► Guest Relation Officer

Contact Human Resources Department

Phone: +66 (0) 76-314263-69 ext 7732 or

email your CV to hrsunwing@oceanresortgroup.net ,

www.sunwingphuket.com



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If so, the **FAMOUS** team is looking for **YOU!**

We are looking for English speaking & Multilingual Sales Reps

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087 888 0018

or marketing@famousphuket.com

FAMOUS NIGHTCLUB

FAMOUS BEACH CLUB

THAI STAFF

Thai staff wanted for kindergarten, must speak English, enjoy working with children. Tel: 084-442 3671 (English). Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER

We are looking for a customer service officer. Female between 20-35, Thai nationality only. Tel: 082-007 0700 (Thai). Fax: 076-367212. Email: info@phukettravel.co.th For further details, please see www.phukettravel.co.th/recruitment.html

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

SALES & SERVICE MANAGER

ISS Facility Services Co. Ltd are looking to fill this position asap. Reporting to expat management, preferred applicants are Thai nationals, aged 25 years plus, degree educated with good English communication skills. Excellent remuneration package / benefits offered to the right person. Tel: 076-610315, 081-958 6879 (English). Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

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Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Articles For Sale

BOXING MACHINE

Dragon Punch, 2 players. 10 baht per punch. Sale: 85,000 baht. Please call 086-283 9100.

KAYAKS, SEA CANOES

Brand-new kayaks for sale - still in shipping wrapper. FeelFree - Gemini 2-person kayaks include paddles and seats. 25,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 089-044 0623. Email: kayak@worldwidealo.com

MINI LATHE SALE

Sale: 42,000 baht. For more information please send email to Maxphuket@hotmail.de

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Please call 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For more information please email us at info@phuketiw.com

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours
Daily Meetings
Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
081-956 4031
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
Google AA Phuket

Business Opportunities

OTOP BAR FOR SALE

Bar at OTOPI in great location. Contract until Jan 2014. Tel: 084-185 8719 (English). Email: charlie@paddymalones.com.au

PATONG BEACHFRONT HOTEL

For rent. 2 shophouses, 8x20m, 12 guestrooms and sundeck, Taweewong Road, in front of Holiday Inn Express Hotel. Please contact Chuchard. Tel: 076-340191.

DJ PLAZA BAR

For sale: 110,000 baht. Or 150,000 baht with brand-new furniture, 3 tables, 12 chairs. Tel: 084-839 9325.

INBOUND COMPANY FOR SALE

Direct contract with hotels, transfer, and excursions. Contracts for holidays packages in Thailand. Contact Peter. Tel: 081-495 4761.

FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE

A well-established fitness center with a large membership base situated in Phuket Town. Now for sale. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 087-275 3614 (English), 080-698 5021. Email: tradexpat@hotmail.com

RESORT FOR LEASE

In the heart of Patong. 20 rooms well furnished, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. 6-year lease for 6 million baht + rental fee 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-765 0165.

BAR FOR SALE (OTOP)

Very successful bar, over 6 years old. Huge customer base. Fully paid for 2-year lease. Must see. Tel: 081-087 6114 (English). Email: slicky micky@hotmail.com

TOUR SHOP PATONG

Busy beach location with existing clients. Long lease: 180,000 baht. For more information please call 080-690 8978.

PARTNER WANTED

For a new discotheque in Patong, Phuket, Soi Bangla. Best location. Great profit. Opening very soon. Please call 081-895 7597, 081-892 8526.

5-IN-1 BUSINESS FOR SALE

Good location, 1.25 rai. 1). Jungle bar, 3 TVs, 2 pool tables, seating: 65 people, parking: 15-16 vehicles, good business. 2). Beauty salon: fully equipped. 3). Massage 4). Lease-out restaurant. 5). Lease-out indoor pub: fully equipped, stage, seating: 70 people. Available for 8 years + 9 months left on lease. Sale: 5.7 million baht. Negotiable! Contact by sending email to five.business@yahoo.com

NEW BEAUTY SHOP FOR SALE PATONG

Opposite Esso. Newly renovated, 2 rooms + kitchen and bathroom, 2 cutting stalls, 2 hair basins, 1 face massage stall, 2 aircons, ground water pump for washing and drying machine. Rent on 3-year contract: 10,000 baht per month. Price at 500,000 baht, ready for work. Contact Nok. Tel: 080-632 6330 (English & Thai). www.beautycare.asia

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

BISS FLAPPER

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly wired restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

SHISHA & HOOKAHS

For sale. Add hookahs to your bar for big profits. Please sms your email for e-catalog. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

KITCHEN HARDWARE

Secondhand: ovens, sinks, grills and etc. For more information please call 082-283 8250 (English & Thai). Email: phuket@rayadivers.com

RENT GUESTHOUSE PATONG

12 guest rooms, cheap rent, good profit and location, Nanai Road. 1 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

LAUNDRY COMPANY SALE

Laundry capacity 6-700 hotel rooms. Professional machines only 1-1.5 years old. Building with 4 rooms, 2 with aircon. Sold without clients. Monthly rent 22,000 baht. Price: 1.95 million baht. Tel: 089-882 0894 (English). Email: peter@conceptfeel ing.com

SMALL RESORT

8-house resort: 6 houses with 2 bedrooms, living and kitchen. 2 houses with 3 bedrooms, living and kitchen. Tel: 085-789 1773 (English). For more info use email: hakan.sederholm@gmail.com

PROJECTS FOR SALE

Rawai Construction Company, full service company, 7 years, Phuket. Design + drawings, engineering, land for sale. 97/37 Sai Yuan. Contact Ron Kite. Tel: 083-636 7147.

KARON GUESTHOUSE

2 minutes from beach, 5 storeys, 7 rooms. Price: 13 million baht. For more information please call 081-171 9705.

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

COFFEE HOUSE / JUICE BAR

Fully equipped, outdoors and indoors, the latter fully furnished with aircon. Only 50m from Chalong Circle. Parking available. Tel: 081-476 5808 (English), 081-693 2250 (Thai). Fax: 076-388 304. Email: lumpoon7@gmail.com

PRIVATE GUESTHOUSE FOR RENT

Near Nai Harn. A beautiful home for a retired couple in a quiet and secure private park. Living room, 2 bedrooms, modern kitchen, TV, internet, swimming pool, covered car park. Long-term rent: 30,000 baht per month. For more information please call 081-777 3607. Email: bi@inauengroup.ch

MASSAGE SALON FOR SALE

Patong, Nanai. Near Royal Crown Hotel and new Park Condo. Price: 500,000 baht. Tel: 088-009 9585 (English & Thai), 081-970 5145 (English & Thai).

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Full membership, transfer and fees. Price: 595,000 baht. Quick sale. No offers. For more information please call 081-676 0740 (English & Thai). Email: dconbeer@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

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Pool Tables

POOL TABLE BILLIARD - GAMES

Pool tables, billiards, foot-ball, touch screen, and air hockey for rent and profit sharing. All accessories for sell & services. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-797 0202, 085-797 0303. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

1/2 PRICE 9FT POOL TABLE

Professional size pool table for sale. 1.5 years old. Brand new: 140,000 baht. Now sale: 70,000 baht with new felt+transport+installation+light box and all accessories. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

SOCCER / FOOSBALL TABLES

Brand-new "Heavy duty" soccer / foosball table for rent and sale. Suitable for bars and hotels. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-797 0202, 085-797 0303. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

Pets

GREAT DOG NEEDS NEW HOME



We are looking to find a new home for our lovely female dog Milo. She is a 7 year old Baan Kaew Thai breed. Well trained. Tel: 092-074 4023, 089-866 2809 (English & Thai). Email: alex@divetravelasia.com Please watch our video of Milo in action on Youtube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0CLeAh3bhc

LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME

My name is Tiger and I am a young Ridgeback puppy, lovely, energetic and looking for a new home. My owner loves me but is just too busy at work. Please call 080-040 9706 (English). Email: eam@serenityphuket.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

BISS FLAPPER

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly wired restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

Dive Gear

20 NEW SCUBA TANKS

Unused 12-liter scuba tanks with valves, all cheaper than trade. Sale: 6,000 baht. Please contact Will. Tel: 080-595 0458.

Education

LEARN THAI

From an experienced Thai teacher. Tel: 084-447 5257. Email: mike roper2003@hotmail.com

LEARN THAI COOKING AT HOME

Want to learn how to cook Thai food and no time for school? I will come to teach at your home from market to finished dish. Professional and reliable. Please call 081-728 8269. Email: thaicooking@phuket.com

SNUFFLERS

Set of five. Rounded edges with alloy spleen tables. Only 3 yrs old, no glinkle. Can be used without bessors or BRTs but not in tandem with cleester bins. Price new: 4,200 baht each. Will sell now at 12,000 baht for full set. Located Rawai, pics available. Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

Personals

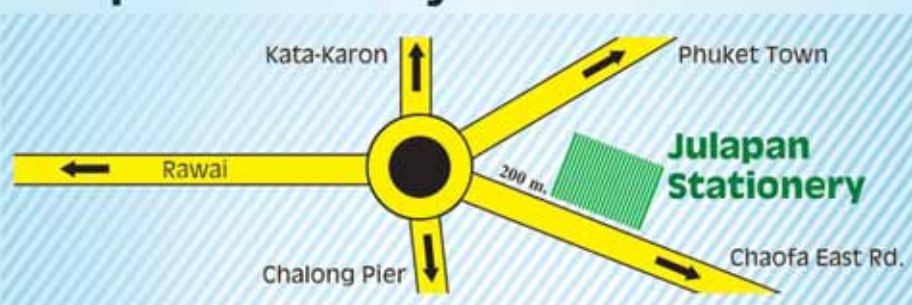
BACKGAMMON

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

EXPAT HEALTH INSURANCE

Expat Health Asia has been designed to focus on medical insurance for expatriates and those who have immigrated to various parts of the world. Tel: 086-793 7337 (English), +65-094-467-445 (English).

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HOBIE 16 + EXTRAS

Hobie 16 with masthead float, two trapeze harnesses, 2 paddles, trolley-road/launching. New sheets and halyards. For sale at 175,000 baht. Quick sale. Tel: 081-560 4390 (English). Email: jacksonrose mary99@gmail.com

NEW KARNIC 1851

Deep V Hull, 90hp lean-burn, 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 999,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

"Carenalunga 21". Hypalon RIB (LOA 24'). Composite construction, strong and fast. 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,795,000 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboats ales.com



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NICE BOAT

26 foot center console. Good condition twin outboards, trailer, and more. Email for more pics and info. Tel: 085-691 1837, 076-054 4141. Email: mangoelsson@hotmail.com

BOAT SHARE

1/4 share in two boats: one Riviera 48 and one Gulfcraft 34. Fully equipped for diving, fishing, touring. Professional management and crew. Boat Lagoon. Tel: 076-271629, 081-895 1724. Email: smuldersos@hotmail.com

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HUNTER 280 (LEGEND) SAILBOAT

1996 Yanmar 2GM20F, Ray Marine, windlass, mooring, ready. 1.25 million baht or offers. Tel: 087-269 3743. (English). Email: davidwarburton@hotmail.com

FISHING BOAT



Thai wooden boat 50ft in good condition. 215hp Hino, radar, fishfinder, radio. Well maintained. Price: 1.8 million baht. Contact Sergey. Tel: 086-953 7005 (English), 085-888 6013 (English). Email: funthai sea@gmail.com



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649,000 Euro

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► Northshore 46 (1987)
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► Yachtika 53 (2000)
449,000 Euro



► Riviera 33 Flybridge (1996)
\$135,000 USD



► Integrity 360 (2011)
11,750,000 THB



► Sunseeker 63 (2011)
1,090,000 Euro

PRICE REDUCED - IMMACULATE



► Sunseeker Manhattan 73 (2013)
2,599,000 GBP



► Gulf Craft Gryx 36 (2008)
\$125,000 USD

THAI REGISTERED



Martin Holmes
Mobile: 081 891 7057
Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman
Mobile: 081 968 1437
Email: marcus@leemarine.com

Jim Poulsen
Mobile: 081 891 3237
Email: jim@leemarine.com

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MOONSOON FOR SALE



28ft, registered for 15 passengers. 200hp V6 Mercury motor, only 240 hours, recently totally restored. Perfect for snorkeling, diving trips, island hopping or water taxi. Navigation system + fishfinder. 5hp spare motor. Boat and motor in very good condition. Located at Boat Lagoon. Priced for quick sale at 330,000 baht. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

JETSKI YAMAHA FZS YEAR 2010

Yamaha Wave Runner FZS, Year 2010 - 1,800cc - 250hp - 100 hours only! Like new. Full service history and Blue Book. One owner from new. I bought it from Watchara Marine Yamaha Phuket, including fully galvanized trailer, 2 life jackets and rope for a wakeboard or donut, water toys. Price: 399,000 baht. Tel: 088-444 7912. Email: brownghost@gmail.com

MERCURY 225 OUTBOARD ENGINE

2 stroke-carburetor model. Checked and serviced. Runs well. 80,000 baht ono. Tel: 080-038 4916.

NEW KARNIC 2052

Deep V Hull, 140hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and marine heads. 1,299,950 baht. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

KAYAK WANTED

Secondhand 2-man kayak. Tel: 088-381 5725.

SY TOSCA 36

Blue Cruiser, excellent condition. Based in Yacht Haven. Antifouling this month (March 2013). Tel: 085-880 1968 (English). Email: salulami04@yahoo.fr Website: <http://sy-tosca36.blogspot.com>

RIVA HULL


10 meters long, marine plywood hull (not completed) for sale. Tel: 081-968 3118 (English & Thai). Email: info@pro carpentering.com

Looking for a boat?
See more classified ads
at www.phuketgazette.net

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

CrypticCrossword

1	O		2	A		3	R		4	G		5	A		6	C		7	B		8	U
9	B	U	C	C	A	N	E	E	R		10	P	R	O	F	U	S	I	O	N		
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15	N	O	M	I	N	A	T	E	S		17	P	O	R	T	E	N	D	E	D		
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26	T	I	D	E		27	I	N	S	P	A	N		28	D	R	O	P	P	E	D	
	A					31	P		G		A			E		R		A		E		
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35	T	E	N	S	I	L	E		36	I	N	M	A	T	E		37	S	T	E	W	
	I		I		F		N		C		I											
38	C	O	C	H	I	N	E	A	L		39	C	H	O	R	I	S	T	E	R		
	A																					



Aircraft Sharing

AIRCRAFT TIMESHARE

Piper Lance available limited to four pilots or companies purchasing 50-hour block times: Based Phuket Airpark. Tel: 085-258 0006. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

Aircraft For Sale

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AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTA 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com



Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub.com, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.

Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Tel: 081-840 8418.



Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS

Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)
Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIb Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

Price: 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com



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PIWC board members 2013



From left: Fran Quinn, secretary; Jureewan Smulders vice president; Carole Dux, president; Maggy Wigman, vice president; Sue Arnulphy, treasurer; and Maria Kranker, member.

Amin Resort Cherg Talay Grand Opening



Teerawat Thumbenchapon, first vice president of Krung Thai Bank (2nd from left), and Amin Khan, MD of Amin Resort (3rd right).

Evolution Cinema Planetarium



Sergei Kovalev, project director of Evolution Cinema Planetarium (3rd left) receives flowers from a guest in celebration of the Planetarium's grand opening.

I-Leaf Eco Smart Town thank you party for customers



Sunirun Ratchatapharock, Mayor of Cherg Talay (far left); and Hasakorn Boonyoung, MD of I-Leaf Town (3rd right) presents a prize to Nong Pich, accepting the award on behalf of her mother, who won the evening's lucky draw.



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The death of Windows

IN THE past week, the Windows world received quite a shock. First IDC, then Gartner – the two biggest names in computer industry prognostications – announced that, for the first time ever, shipments of new PCs had declined, year-on-year from the first quarter of 2012 to the first quarter of 2013.

And the declines were substantial: somewhere between 11 and 14 per cent, depending on whom you believe. There's a lot of baggage behind the numbers – they only measure shipments, they don't count sales, and there's no mention of returns, which are probably huge – but just on the face of it, that's quite a comeuppance for the industry.

I'm not talking about Windows PCs. I'm talking about all PCs – including Macs, MacBooks, and the like. As of this writing, Apple

hasn't disclosed its first quarter sales numbers, but it's clear that even the MacBook market has declined, possibly by 5 to 10 per cent.

Of course, the 800-pound gorilla driving all of this is the tablet and the smartphone. If you combine PCs, laptops, netbooks, ultrabooks, tablets and smartphones, sales numbers are increasing at an enormous rate: the computer industry's never had such a good quarter.

But if you confine your stare to the traditional PC market, things are going to hell in a handbasket. Quickly.

A big part of the blame, in my opinion, is Windows 8. I've written and wailed and moaned and groaned about Windows 8 since we saw the final bits last August. Now that I've seen a leaked copy of the new Windows 8.1, code-named "Blue" I can confirm that things



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

aren't getting better. And I expect the PC market to go down the tubes, in part because of Win8's poor showing. I'm on record as predicting that PC sales (inclusive of returns) will decline 20 per cent or more this year. When I first said that, people told me I was crazy.



It takes notes, pictures, can go online, check emails and receive calls too. It's the Samsung Galaxy Tab II. Photo: samsung.com

Now many of the same people are wondering if things won't actually be worse. They may.

Here's the thing. Tablets – iPads, and increasingly Samsung tabs and competing Android tablets – can do many, many things that people would normally use a computer to accomplish. It's taken the industry three years to finally figure that out (the iPad is three years old), but it's true, and consumers know it's true: why lug around that three-kilo laptop when you can get the same stuff done better, faster, easier and cheaper with a little iPad?

I've been diving into Google Apps and Google Docs lately, and let me tell ya, they can't do everything Word and Excel and PowerPoint can do – not by a long shot – but if all you want is to whip out a memo, run a few numbers, or make a simple

presentation, the free Google Apps will probably do everything that you need.

There's that word: free.

For people accustomed to paying for software (ahem), going from a \$1,000 laptop with a \$200 copy of Microsoft Office to a \$300 Android tablet (or even a \$500 iPad) with \$0 Google Docs just makes a whole lot of sense. Most people have a PC with Office on it anyway. If you really need Office, you can go back to the old dinosaur. But if you don't need to write a book or balance the federal deficit, why bother with the big iron?

But wait a second. Now phones can do most of that stuff, too.

I carry around a Samsung Galaxy Tab II. At first, it felt like a brick. It still feels funny sticking the relative big phone to my ear to deal with a, you know, a phone call. Now, I don't know what I'd do without it.

Jot down notes; run to Wikipedia; check movie playing times; Skype; Twitter; maps with turn-by-turn voice directions; free apps for my bank account; stocks; follow Bitcoin prices; Facebook. And all of my email, contacts list and calendar, right there – synced via Google to my iPad, my PC, and my Mac – on a bloody telephone, wherever I go.

I don't know how I ever lived without it, seriously.

The major American publishers report that last year, 25 per cent of their book sales were electronic. And you can bet that almost all of those books were destined to go to tablets – particularly the Kindle and Nook – or other mobile devices.

The future of the PC business in general, and traditional Windows in particular, doesn't look good. I've been warning people about it for years, but the time's finally come. Windows is done. Get over it. Learn how to use an iPad or an Android tablet (heck, if my two-year-old can do it, so can you).

I've been working with Windows since Windows 286, and Office since Word 1.0 (which predates Office by quite a bit). I've been writing about Microsoft products and the world of Windows for more than two decades. And I'm tellin' ya, the age of Windows is over. Technology caught up with the old-fashioned desktops and laptops. In an attempt to catch up with the modern mobile world, Microsoft welded together their old desktop with a new telephone-like interface, to the detriment of both. Microsoft just heaped dirt on Windows' grave with the travesty called Windows 8 – and they don't show any signs of letting up; Windows 8.1 will



REDUNDANT: PC and Mac markets are facing a decline in sales, as the machines are quickly being replaced by smartphones and tablets like the iPad, below. Photos: Kanaka Menehune and Sean McEntee



probably be just as bad.

If you want to buy a Windows Phone, by all means, do so. If you're tempted by a Windows tablet, though, make sure you know what you're getting before you shell out the shekels.

And if you're thinking about buying a new computer, don't – get a tablet or a better phone. Sure, you're going to want a Windows/Office computer sitting around somewhere, gathering dust, just in case (or an OS X computer, if you feel so inclined). But my days of buying new Windows computers are over, and I suggest you follow suit.

Except, well, I'll reconsider when the new MacBook Air comes out. No sense being pedantic about it...

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.

I'm very happy to announce that we've found a new owner for Sandwich Shoppe Patong, and it will continue just as it is, for years to come. Look for Patong computer clinic announcements in the near future.

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

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

April 20-21, 3pm to 1am:
XANA at Attica presents DJ Celeste Siam

Thailand's very own and Ibiza favorite *Celeste Siam* will be delivering her unique style of Balearic, soulful and funky house at XANA with *Attica*. The *Celeste* event will kick off at 9pm and will follow EssentialIbiza.com's artist, Iain Thomson, and other local poolside DJs during the day from 3pm on. There will also be a beach BBQ, 2-for-1 happy hour from 5-6pm and kids activities to keep the little ones entertained.

April 20-May 4, 7am to 6pm:
Chang ITF Pro Circuit 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

The ITF Womens Circuit is a series of professional tennis tournaments run by the International Tennis Federation for female professional tennis players. The ITF professional tennis tournament, with prize money of US\$25,000, is a high standard tournament which will allow spectators to watch top female athletes from many countries compete. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the "Phuket Today" show. For more information please email: virapol.c@thanyapura.com.

April 27-28, Tennis Clinic for Kids at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club Tennis Courts

Saturday from 4-5pm, and Sunday from 10-11am. The clinics will be led by Mr Roger Cochrane, director of tennis academy and a coach from Peter Burwash International. We will invite some ITF players who can help this clinic in order to inspire and give some useful tennis tips to those kids who will be attending both



sessions. For more information call: 076 336 000.

April 28, 7pm to 1am: XANA with Attica: Paul Oakenfold hits Phuket

Oakenfold is one of the true superstars of dance music. From selling five million LPs to working with *Madonna* and *U2*. A buzz grows across Asia as this incredible act prepares to take to the decks at XANA with *Attica*. Playing from 9:30pm, Oakenfold will be supported by *DJ Jon White* and Essential Ibiza's *Iain Thomson*. Entry is 900 baht at the door, which includes 500-baht in drinks tokens. There is a special local and residents' price of 700 baht (also includes 500 baht drinks). Proof of residency should be shown at the door. For more information, contact Annabel Fox on 66-76-324101 or email: annabel@xanabeachclub.com

April 29; 6pm to 1am: Surf Night at Two Chefs, Kata Beach

Every Monday at Two Chefs Kata Beach (opposite the Boat-house), we are setting up a big BBQ-Buffer, live music and cocktails to die for. Great food, great fun and only 495 baht, with

no extra costs added to your bill. For more information or to make a reservation please visit: twochefs.com.

April 30, 8 to 9:30am: Twinkle Tales Story Time

Every Tuesday, the British International School Phuket hosts a Twinkle Tales reading time in their Primary Library for Toddlers. Come along, listen to a story and read one of the many great books. All welcome. For more information, please contact Donna Stephens at: dstephens@bisphuket.ac.th

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)

May 24, Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing

most popular family-friendly destination marathon. In addition to the full 42km marathon there's a 21.1km half marathon and 10.5km run. Plus families catered for with the 91.5FM 5km community walk and 2km children's race. "Run Paradise" is an apt description, with runners of all ages and abilities on a mainly flat course that takes in rubber and pineapple plantations, beach views, local villages and the tropical lagoons of Laguna Phuket – all in a family-friendly carnival atmosphere.

June 20, 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

The June lunch will be held at 2 Chefs Bistro in Karon. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For more information, contact Carole Dux on: 66-76-316711 or send an email to info@phuketiwcc.com.

July 6-7, 10am to 8pm: Phuket Airshow & Family Picnic at Phuket Airpark

Two full days of entertainment for local area charities. Support this great non-profit event by becoming a sponsor, volunteer, or vendor. More details on navyleaguephuket.org. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV, and the 'Phuket Today' show.

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Informal Sunday morning computer clinics

Do you have a question about computers, Windows, or the internet in Phuket? Need to find out where to get things fixed, or the best places to shop for new computer stuff? Drop by one of our FREE informal computer clinics. Every Sunday morning, starting around 10am or so, a group of computer savvy locals meet for breakfast at the Chalong/Fisherman's Way Sandwich Shoppe, 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road. I'm very happy to announce that we've found a new owner for Sandwich Shoppe Patong, and it will continue just as it is, for years to come. Look for Patong computer clinic announcements in the near future.

Don't be bashful: introduce yourself to the group at the big table, and ask away. You might even find an iPad/iPhone, Android or Mac guru, if you're lucky.

Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.
Contact at 076-282403, Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events. Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

Catch the show at these times

TrueVisions HD Channel 99 8 shows a week - MCOT World Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	Phuket Cable Company (PC) Covers all Phuket. Channel 1 - 19 shows a week Monday - Friday: 10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm. Saturday & Sunday: 10:30am, 9:10pm.
TrueFresview Channel 58 8 shows a week - MCOT World Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm	Rawai Cable Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1 - 28 shows a week Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm. Channel 43 - 8 shows a week Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Go Live!



SMORGASBORD: A selection of offerings, including Wagyu beef, mahi mahi and tuna.

By Leslie Porterfield

THE Banyan Tree buffet is so large – spread across the entire width of the lobby – that reconnoitering and sharing notes with dining partners is advised. One feels not so much in a restaurant, but in a village dedicated to deliciousness.

“Have you seen the desserts?” asked a friend. No, I hadn’t. “They’re behind the roast beef,” she said, “in another room.”

The buffet is so expansive, and the stations so tempting, that it takes awhile to reach the BBQ seafood and meat that is the *pi ce der sistance*.

One stops first to peruse the *foie gras* (seared to order), the Manila clams and mussels, wok fried and served in little clay pots, the pasta, the table dedicated entirely to fresh green vegetables and that alluring roast beef with Yorkshire pudding and baked potatoes.

I thought I’d reached the main event when I saw a large circular display of steamed shrimp and lobsters (the lobster is flown in every week direct from Canada by premium food supplier Jagota) surrounding a tower of ice with lobsters frozen into it. But no, it was just a teaser.

The centerpiece was on a pathway crossing to the other side of the lobby, a long table of Phuket lobster and tiger prawn, mahi mahi, tuna, wagyu rump,

kurobota pork, and then, the still moving Canadian lobsters, exemplifying the buffet’s motto: “Go live”. Behind the table, a small army of chefs wait to cook what I want exactly the way I want it.

Fabio Marigliano, director of F&B for Banyan Tree, told me, “It’s the freshest seafood you can find, cooked as you like it.”

“The concept was to create surprise and discovery”, he added. Passing the freshly shucked oysters, wondering what else was beyond, I did feel I was on an adventure.

I saw a board listing cheeses – Mimolette, Reblochon, Blue Stilton and more, but there was not a cheese in sight.

Directed through an archway to another hidden room, I found the cheese and some of the most gorgeous bread I’ve ever seen. Later, one of my companions pronounced the Stilton “to die for”. Having just finished a second helping of it, I had no grounds to argue.

Our Thai companion chose lobster for her first course, but the three westerners headed to the room behind the roast beef, where we chose from a tapas selection, salad bar and sliced to order meats including *j amon ibrico*, *bresaola*, *coppa di parma* and other yummy treats.

It’s not every day in Phuket that you are offered hummus, ratatouille, or these fine cold cuts. We all chose these for our first



Adriano Canonica and Katia Canonica.



Kishore Reddy, MD of Platinum1, and his wife.



SHELL SHOCK: Prawns and live Canadian lobsters adorn the buffet at the Banyan Tree, Phuket.

course, with a couple of pieces of sushi and sashimi, the fish glistening with freshness.

A diner from Switzerland, Katia Canonica, a resident of Phuket for 11 years, said, “I’ve been to all the brunches and this is one of the best.”

There was one moment of friction, over dessert. I thought the chocolate mousse was the best, but a friend insisted top place went to the mango mousse. Yet another was adamant about the home-made coconut ice cream and the last

supported the Black Forest Cake.

But the squabble blew over quickly, and as we savored our meal to live jazz tunes, a gentle breeze floated in over the lagoon, and before we knew it, three very enjoyable hours had passed.

Only 3,200++ baht per person. One bottle of champagne included per couple. For reservations or more information contact the F&B Concierge on: +66 (0)76 372 400 ext. 5463 or email: fb-phuket@banyantree.com.

Wine awards approach

THE Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards, a national competition now in its second year, recognizes the efforts and expertise of hotels, resorts, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine lists and wine culture in Thailand. The event rewards excellence at both the local and international level.

The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. Online registration for the Awards opens May 1st and ends July 31st, culminating in the announcement of Thailand’s best wine list at a gala dinner in October.

With Thailand as a major worldwide tourist destination, and the growing interest in wine culture, the event seeks to form a cohesive body bringing together industry professionals, media and wine consumers, acting as a vehicle for the promotion of food and wine quality both domestically and around the world.

Jon Hyams, founder of the awards and a Phuket resident with almost 30 years of experience in food and beverage, wine production, importation and distribution and wine sales says: “It is

important that the industry gets behind the awards as a vehicle for improving wine culture in Thailand. With a deeper understanding and a more creative approach to wine and the way in which we communicate this through our wine lists, comes obvious rewards.”

Last year’s winner, The Sarojin Khao Lak, was a surprise to some – scooping three awards on the ‘Best Resort’ list, including Best List in Phuket Region and Best National List. Master of Wine, Peter Scudamore-Smith, who presides over the panel of international judges said, “The range and depth of wines available in Thailand is encouraging.”

All judges agreed that establishments who made their wine list fresh, uncomplicated, accessible to read and encouraged consumers to try wines by the glass were ahead of the game.

Peter went on to add, “Good lists communicate clearly what is for sale and have some connection between their cuisine, its origins and wine from respective regions, which reflect both food style and wine culture.” – *Phuket Gazette*



Fabio Marigliano (left), director of F&B, with Sriram Kailasam, GM, Banyan Tree, Phuket.

Rittidat Kodsan

TUCKED away halfway up Rang Hill, in Phuket Town, is the small office of the National Broadcasting Services of Thailand, Phuket (NBTP), the production house of the town's only national television station, Channel 11.

The 15-year-old station is tiny and quaint – if somewhat run-down. Its setting is made more rustic surrounded by a virgin forest overrun with creepers and towering rainforest trees.

But as the newly appointed Director of NBTP, Rittidat Kodsan will tell you, looks can be deceiving. It is here that quality TV programs are made daily by a professional production team within its purpose-built studios. At the head of it all is Rittidat, who took the helm two months ago.

Khon Kaen-born Rittidat is a seasoned government PR man whose work with the Ministry of Information has spanned more than twenty years. He is an 'all-rounder' who has been a technician, cameraman, news reporter, producer, and finally the policy maker he is today.

As a fledgling cameraman in Sakon Nakhon, Rittidat would find his *raison d'être* when assigned to cover the Royal family's yearly visit to the Northeast. It was the pride and joy he still relishes today.

"As a country boy, it was a great honor to work closely with the royal family. Throughout the 1970s and



1980s, King Bhumipol and Queen Sirikit initiated many agricultural and craft projects in Isaan and we recorded their activities for national television using the old-fashioned 8-mm camera. Some of the clips are still kept at the PR Office in Sakon Nakhon," says a proud Rittidat.

After Sakon Nakhon, he transferred to Phrae. Still working as a civil servant, Rittidat also contributed to the weekly newspaper Matichon and his article on the controversial *Kaeng Sua Ten Dam* won him a Reporter of the Year Award. The kudos stirred in him an interest in local politics and when he relocated to Chiang Mai, he enrolled in a degree course on community development.

After graduation, his professional life took a slight new turn – his later positions were taken up with public relations and radio work. The move to Phuket is his first foray into television.

But there's no doubt that he will live up to the challenge. His long experience in media work and his keen eye as a news analyst will help bridge any gaps that exist

between different media.

"The move to TV is clearly a challenge," says Rittidat. "I am relatively new to its three-dimensional quality. But I will have fun, for sure."

He goes on to explain that there are clear guidelines to follow when producing government TV programs. "We focus on government policies and achievements. Other mainstays include the Royal family and Thai culture. This year we are told to cover issues like compromise between political factions and the upcoming Asean Economic Community. We also promote Phuket as a tourist town and cover cultural events."

However, for a trained community developer like himself, Rittidat would like to see more involvement from the lower rank of the society. "It would be good to know what local communities want from their TV programs. I am also interested in airing more shows on village affairs and happenings."

Rittidat is married with three children aged 16, 15 and 8. His wife is also a civil servant attached to the Ministry of Labor office in Kalasin. The family has been staying apart because of his constant transfers to different regional postings.

But Rittidat is taking it in his stride and says: "It's part of a civil servant's life. But I do make an effort to see my family at least every two months."



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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Treasures in your garden

IF YOU asked a stranger propping up a bar why he lived in Phuket, he would probably reply – in no particular order – the

girls, the climate, the easy, smiley lifestyle and the cheap cost of living. I doubt he would mention the all-too ephemeral beauty of the place, or the sheer convenience of life on the island. Indeed, he might complain that the bars were all too often closed. But that is a myopic view when one considers all the compensatory freedoms, the absence of regulation or restrictive laws of almost any kind.

Take pharmacies for example: their distinctive green and red signs are on display on practically every street. And they dispense almost anything that is medicinal or quasi-medicinal, from *paracetamol* and *valium* to those ubiquitous diamond-shaped emerald pills that fortify the over-fifties. True, they have stopped selling *temazepam*, a powerful sleeping draught that was becoming too notorious for its associations with spiked drinks, unconscious victims, and an escalation in rapes and thefts.

But more bizarrely, pharmacies are now being randomly raided to see what kinds of cough mixture they are selling. Why?

Because certain cough preparations combine with locally grown *kratom* leaves to make, so it is claimed, a concoction that delivers a nice “buzz”.

Of course, the leaves of the *kratom* tree, like the nuts from the betel palm, the roots of the ginseng plant, or the vastly more addictive resin of opium poppy heads, have been used since time immemorial in tropical countries as mild narcotics or stimulants, and long before the advent of pharmaceutical companies, their attendant pharmacies and a world-wide culture of pill-popping.

In fact, these very same companies are now realizing, by virtue of exhaustive research, just how invaluable a resource all these natural remedies are, how right indigenous people were (and still are) to use them, and how crucial these ingredients are in the battle to maintain health and vitality in an aging global population.

There are apparent contractions. For while so many of your garden plants have toxic leaves, berries or fruits, especially



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

members of the vast *apocynaceae* genus, those same chemicals, properly handled and processed, can be used

to treat a wide and ever-growing range of life-threatening conditions, including high blood pressure, heart abnormalities and even some forms of cancer. So not merely relatively simple ailments such as flatulence, indigestion, nausea or skin conditions..

In any case, some of these beneficial plants are not poisonous. Take humble garlic (*kratiem*), long employed as a key flavor in Thai cuisine. Not only a powerful intestinal cleansing agent, it has cardiovascular benefits, thanks to the presence of *allicin*, a substance that promotes better blood flow.

My partner, like so many Thais, has a passion for chili peppers. A meal without the addition of chili powder or paste is no meal at all. When she comes to the UK, you can be sure that, included in her baggage, is her own supply of ground chilies. *Capsaicum* is the name of the active ingredient in these fiery fellows; apparently it not only helps to release *endorphins* which can contribute to a sense of well-being, but also stimulates the cardiovascular system. No wonder she values them.

Now few experts would deny that most so-called “folk” medicines do indeed bestow tangible benefits. After all they have been tested over eons.

Many members of the *solanum* family including *S trilobatum*, a member of the aubergine family which has small shiny fruits and which often grows wild in Thailand, is particularly cherished in India, where it is used to treat asthma and other respiratory ailments. Turmeric, whose tuber is more familiar in fresh markets as a yellow colorant for rice, has a relative called *curcuma comosa* which has been long used by Asian women with gynecological problems.

Every part of the cassod tree (*cassia siamea*) has medicinal uses, the bottle plant is said to treat gout, while even the humble papaya contains a protein digesting enzyme. The list goes on.

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



STIMULANT: The notorious Kratom plant is an ancient, mild narcotic. Photo: Tony Rodd



Turmeric (left) and solanum (right), and some of their relatives, are valued the world over for their many health and healing properties. Photos: Melanie Cook and Joel Abroad



FEEL GOOD FACTOR: Chilis have endorphin-releasing properties. Photo thejustifiedsinner



Garlic is well known for having cardiovascular benefits. Photo sivandsivand

Tip of the Week

Visual evidence

IT IS always a good idea to have photographs of plants you intend to buy. A picture is worth a thousand words, they say. Most plant books have photographs of each flower that is discussed. Alternatively, keep images of flowers you have snapped or retain photographs you have seen on this page.

Knowing some basic Thai words also helps. Here are a few [phonetized] Thai versions: *ton* = tree; *dok* = flower (as in



A garden scrapbook.
Photo: Mag L Halliday

dok bua = lotus); *ya* = grass.

Common flower names include: *pootaraksa* = canna lily; *fueng fa* = bougainvillea; *cha baa* = hibiscus; *boisian* = crown of thorns; *kluay* = banana; *mamuang* = mango; *dok kaeo* = orange jasmine; *mok baan* = wrightia; *yi huup* = magnolia; *thien yod* = duranta repens.

Botanical names [like the last mentioned name] are mostly Latinate and are universally used by horticulturalists. Worth remembering.

Golf event drives new record

The Phuket Oilfield Classic 2013 attracted a record turnout, while raising B2.1mn for charity

THE 5th annual Phuket Oilfield Classic (POC) charity golf tournament attracted more than 130 oil and gas executives from around the world, who gathered on the island earlier this month for four days of golf and entertainment.

After the welcome cocktail party on April 4, teams of four enjoyed a great first day out at the Loch Palm Golf Club in the "team Texas scramble".

Following an evening of fun in Patong, the players reconvened the next day with the "individual stableford competition" at the Red Mountain Golf Club (see results below).

Mark Cameron from organizers, Asian Golf Events, said: "I am really delighted with the turnout this year and as a result of the success of this event, we intend to introduce a Bangkok event and then look for opportunities to expand the franchise across other oil and gas centers around the region."

Various fund raising activities were held in conjunction with this event to raise much needed funds for the completion of the Good Shepherd School for children of migrant workers on the island.

The event itself raised about 400,000 baht in cash for the charity, but one of the sponsors, Mike Loggie from Saltire Energy pledged to underwrite whatever funding was required to complete the project.

His contribution is estimated to be at about 1.7 million baht.

David Pettigrew, director of Asian Golf Events said: "We were overwhelmed by the generosity of all participants and in particular the amazing gesture by Mike Loggie to step in and provide the funds to complete the project."

The POC sprang from the interest of 18 avid golfers, many of whom are involved in the oil and gas industry in one way or another, and who came to Phuket to host the inaugural event on November 14, 2008.

Such was the enjoyment and enthusiasm shared among the companies, especially in regards to the fantastic golf courses played, that it was decided to make the event a yearly affair, and invite many other like-minded oilfield industry golfers.

The rest is history, as the POC has grown to become a regular golfing calendar fixture for the island, country and region.

POC aims to support underprivileged children's charities and organizations on the island, and over the last three years – not including this year – has raised over 1.2mn baht for deserving causes.

Its current charitable focus, the Good Shepherd Learning Center, was set up in late 2010 near Rasada Pier.

Initially, there were no tables or chairs, just a black board and a committed teacher who looked over about 20 children, varying from two to 14-years-old – none of whom had previously received any schooling. There are now 60



POWER IN NUMBERS: This year's POC attracted 130 oil executives.

children taking classes and more on the waiting list.

The project's objective is to provide a learning center to teach Burmese, Thai and English education to the migrant children living in Phuket, so that eventually they can make the transition into the Thai education system.

The next event in the series will

be the Bangkok Oilfield Classic, August 10, this year. The dates for the POC 2014 are set from April 3 to 6, next year.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about the POC, visit asiangolfevents.com; for more about the Good Shepard School, see: theschoolphuket.weebly.com

PHUKET OILFIELD CLASSIC 2013-RESULTS					
Texas Scramble			Star Deli (Scott Puzey, Mark Scheide Bob, McLeod, Mark Souders)		
Longest Drive Loch Palm			Neil Taylor		
Nearest Line Loch Palm			Mark Scheide		
Nearest Pin Loch Palm			Winson Soh		
Longest Drive Red Mountain			Graham Robertson		
Nearest Line Red Mountain			Peter Burnett		
Nearest Pin Red Mountain			Roger Tan		
Individual Stableford Men Winner			Scott Puzey		
Individual Stableford Men Runner-up			Chaiyaprom, Natthachai		
Individual Stableford Ladies Winner			Ms Ying		
Individual Stableford Ladies Runner-up			Ms Keng		

Name	Total	Name	Total	Name	Total
Puzey, Scott	39	Wrightman, Charles	32	Goraya, Shuja	26
Chaiyaprom, Natthachai	38	Cavens, Stuart	31	Tan, Roger	26
Scheide, Mark	37	Hooper, Benn	31	Yongyuth, Khun	26
Sakda, Khun	37	Loong, Victor	31	Padmadisastra, Deni	25
Ying, Ms	37	Phuksataweekul, Wachiragorn	31	Uka, Ma	25
Quek, Eric	37	Poh, Raymond	31	Watkins, Steve	25
Murray, Niall	37	Viet Nguyen, Bot	31	De Graaf, Martine	24
Phattanaabut, Channan	37	Boon Chye, Chew	30	DeJong, Michael	24
Tomkins, Patrick	37	Fisal Bin Daud, Ahmad	30	Omland, Danny	24
Loggie, Mike	37	Grieve, David	30	Andersen, John	23
Nicolson, Rod	37	Khoo, Richard	30	Arnold, Graeme	23
Pettigrew, Simon	37	Lidgard, Andy	30	Chee Yong, Lim	23
Keng, Ms	36	Oh, Alvin	30	Danley, Sean	23
Reseigh, Shelley	36	Poolsilp, Prasert	30	Murray, Angela	23
Cooper, Emma	35	Tan, Harry	30	Robertson, Graham	23
Cameron, Laong	35	Cameron, Mark	29	Taylor, Neil	23
Jarmo, Mr	36	Hamon, Philippe	29	Skinner, Mark	22
Yakop, Mahmod	36	Prince, Peter	29	Reseigh, Andy	21
Cook, Charles	35	Reseigh, Rachael	29	Reseigh, Bob	20
Pettigrew, Simon	35	Selbie, Gary	29	Cameron, Nok	18
Sharp, Martin	35	De Graaf, Theo	28	Gipson, Glenn	18
Ang, Robert	34	Fisher, George	28	Henderson, Paul	18
Burnett, Peter	34	Glascoe, Paul	28	Dumrongthai, Panupun	17
Cooper, Ian	34	Hasmatiali, Daryl	28	Kaotun, Keittipong	17
Linden, Ian	34	Lidgard, Candice	28	Boudallier, Bruce	16
Poh, Mark	34	Marszal, Peter	28	Parker, Denis	16
Scholten, Adrian	34	Nally, Steve	28	TK, Jodie	16
Teo, Patrick	34	Novriana, Agustinus	28	Baker, Chris	15
Wilkinson, Tub	34	Soh, Winson	28	Murray, Danny	14
Lim, Simon	33	Souders, Mark	28	Peldunas, Anthony	13
Ng, Joe	33	Tan, KS	28	Zainul, Zulkarnaen	13
Phunkiang, Pailoon	33	Vose, Darren	28	Constantine, Dave	12
Richardson, Peter	33	Liang, David	27	De Koning, Simon	12
Cameron, Eric	32	Macgregor, Alex	27	Cunningham, David	10
Clark, Brian	32	Murray, Martin	27	Krien, Sascha	10
Hutchinson, Terry	32	Nielen-Groen, Peter	27	Vieghert, Danny	10
Kwek, John	32	Tan, Paul	27	Vieghert, Isla	10
McLeod, Bob	32	Yong, Elvin	27	Agnew, Paul	8
Ooi, Christine	32	Arnold, Lee	26	Kidd, Doug	5
Tan, Colin	32	Boonchu, Prasert	26	Reynolds, Chris	3

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Working dogs

PREVIOUSLY we have looked at the power of canine senses. Most of us are aware of some of the uses these powers are put to: guide dogs for the blind or police dogs sniffing out drugs or explosives at airports. But the role of the humble dog in our lives is vast and they are doing much more than many of us are aware.

RACE AGAINST TIME

In the aftermath of natural disasters such as tsunamis or earthquakes, it's a race against time to get to survivors and bring them to safety. Invariably, these survivors are often buried deep under rubble, possibly immobile or unconscious and need to be located quickly. The immense, bounding image of a St Bernard, complete with miniature keg of brandy around his neck, sent out to rescue stranded skiers is legendary, but only relatively recently have dogs become an essential element in international rescue teams.

Working dogs are able to cover vast areas of inhospitable terrain at great speed in a fraction of the time it would take a human. With their incredible sense of smell, they will pick up scents that we (even with hand-held computers) could easily miss and they can 'scent' a trapped human from as much as half a mile away.

Great rescue dogs often come from particular breeds and individual dogs that exhibit superior olfactory powers. German Shepherds, Border Collies and Labradors are common – but so too are little Jack Russells who, with their much smaller and nimble bodies, can get in and out of tiny crevices.



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell

SPLASHDOWN

Here in Phuket, we are blessed with great beaches and warm open oceans in which to swim, sail, windsurf or simply float on a raft complete with daiquiri holder. However, people very often get into difficulties and as any sailor will tell you, the weather and the seas can turn against you in an instant.

With their incredible strength, power and stamina, water rescue dogs are becoming more prevalent in worldwide coastguard teams. Some of these dogs (such as Newfoundlands) can swim for two kilometers, jump out of a hovering helicopter from a height of around 5 meters (around 15 feet) and pull small boats to shore with their teeth – all before breakfast.

Water rescue dogs undergo a grueling three year training program involving intensive swimming, distance training and of course more specific exercises. Dogs have to be able to swim and drag a human for up to an hour in rough waters, or simply support a victim while their handlers perform first aid procedures. Once the dogs are proficient in the water, they are then trained on how to jump out of the helicopter!

Newfoundlands are well known water dogs and their immense size and strength make them ideal for the task. They also swim in a manner more like breast stroke than the doggy paddle, with webbed feet to enable thrust and thick coats that protect against the cold.

CALMER TIMES

Explosive power, immense strength and superhuman senses are just some attributes that our dogs possess. As well as rescuing earthquake victims, or pulling a stricken boat to safety, some dogs are being used in a service which requires a much, much calmer approach.

The MIRA Foundation is the only accredited center for training guide and service dogs in Quebec. It's also the place where a different kind of dog is being bred to work with autistic children – and the results are astounding.

Autism is a developmental disability characterized by difficulties in social interactions and communication, as well as unusual interests and behaviors. Sufferers are prone to lash out when they become confused or feel uncomfortable, which makes forming friendships much more difficult. Dogs working with autistic children need to be super patient and calm.

A cross between the exceptionally loyal and intelligent breed of Labrador and Bernese Mountain Dog has already proved an excellent assistance dog for the blind and deaf, but the 'Labernese' is also demonstrating character traits necessary for helping children with autism.

Research from MIRA found that the presence of these dogs dramatically lowered levels of the steroid hormone Cortisol, in the 42 children who took part in the study. The findings suggest that with a fully trained assistance dog by their side, autistic children would be able to interact more and venture into the kinds of unfamiliar



IN GOOD PAWS: Rescué dogs normally attached to the police or military are used in peacetime to work with autistic children. Photos: US Army, szapucki



iar situations that would otherwise cause them panic or confusion.

ALL ABOUT THE DOG

So dogs of all breeds, shapes and sizes are being put to work in an ever-growing number of ways, from searching for drugs or bombs, to working with disabled people, to jumping out of helicopters – the list goes on. And while certain breeds have key characteristics which make them more prevalent in cer-

tain areas, a number of organizations are finding the use of street (mixed) breeds to be equally valuable. Indeed one of our two registered therapy dogs here at the Thailand Canine Academy is a mixed breed street dog!

For more information on the roles dogs play in our lives, or to inquire about training classes contact the Thailand Canine Academy on: 089 588 4050, email canineworld@me.com or check the website tk9a.com

Dog of the Week...

Angel & Silver



MY BABY (Angel) and I (Silver) are madly in love and spend most of our days curled up in the corner snuggling together.

A few months ago we were found and rescued from a local animal holding facility. Our owners dumped us there in bad health, since they were going away on holiday and didn't know what to do with us.

Life there was miserable. The holding facility didn't have enough food or space for us. We were both sick and unhappy, when out of the blue someone came and rescued us.

Since then, we have fully recovered from our illnesses and are now very healthy living a life of luxury at Doggie Heaven (DH) in Thalung.

Sadly, we cannot live there

forever, as the folks at DH would like to rescue more pooches who need help finding a loving home.

So please spread the word, we are looking for a loving home!

We are extremely affectionate and would love nothing better than to snuggle up on the couch with someone like you.

Our favorite part of the day is going out for our a walk first thing in the morning before it gets too hot. We are trained to walk politely on a leash and also sit for our food.

As you can see from the photos, we are still suckling and ultimately we would love to be re-homed together because our bond is so strong, although this is not critical.

We are also very fond of children and being loved by a family would be our dream. If you can find a place in your heart and home for us, we would give you so much love in return.

You can make contact with Doggie Heaven rescue center on email: sherin.peace@gmail.com, or you can see more photos of us at: doggieheaven.net.

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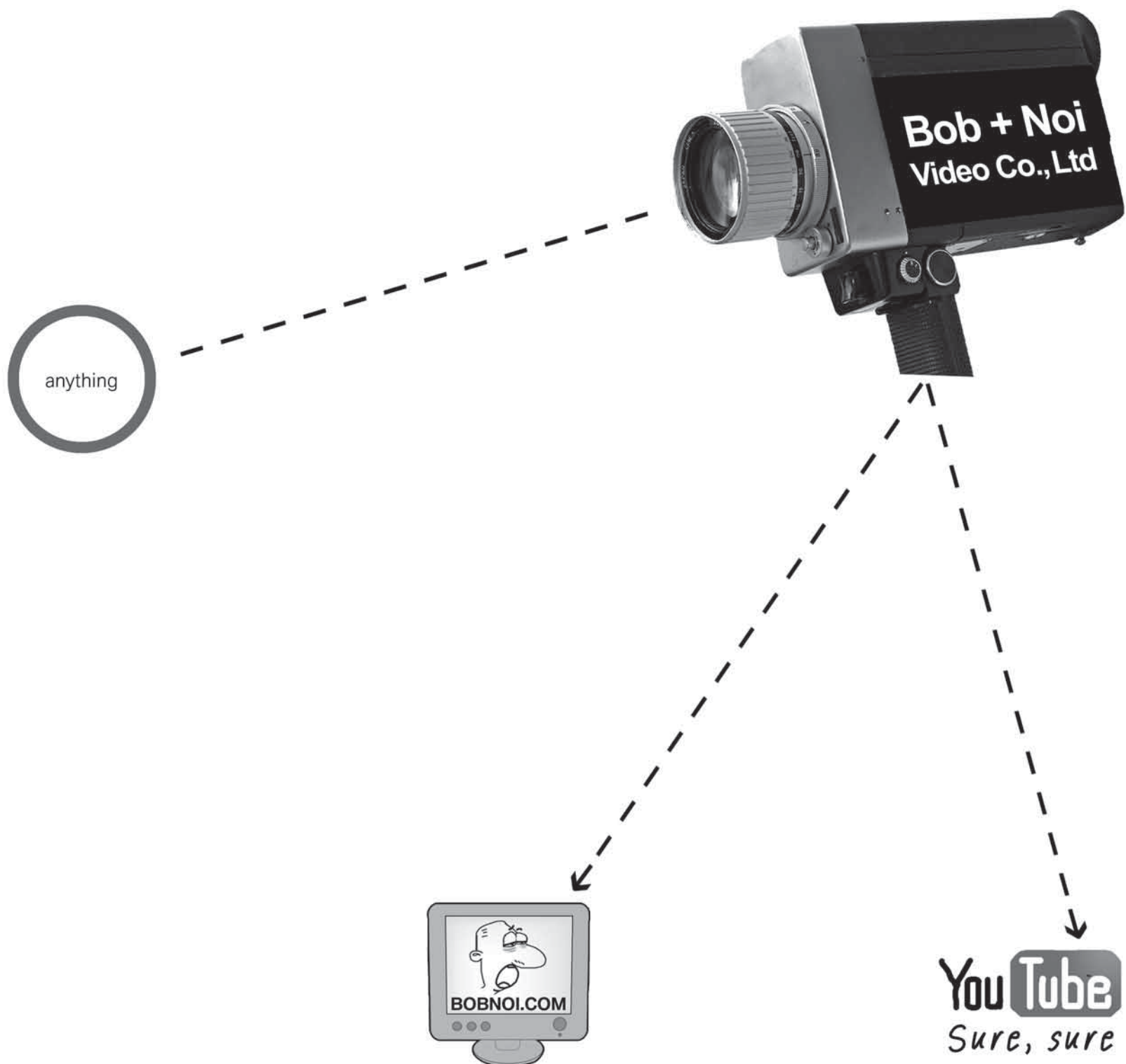
**and in Phuket there's only
one team on the screen!**



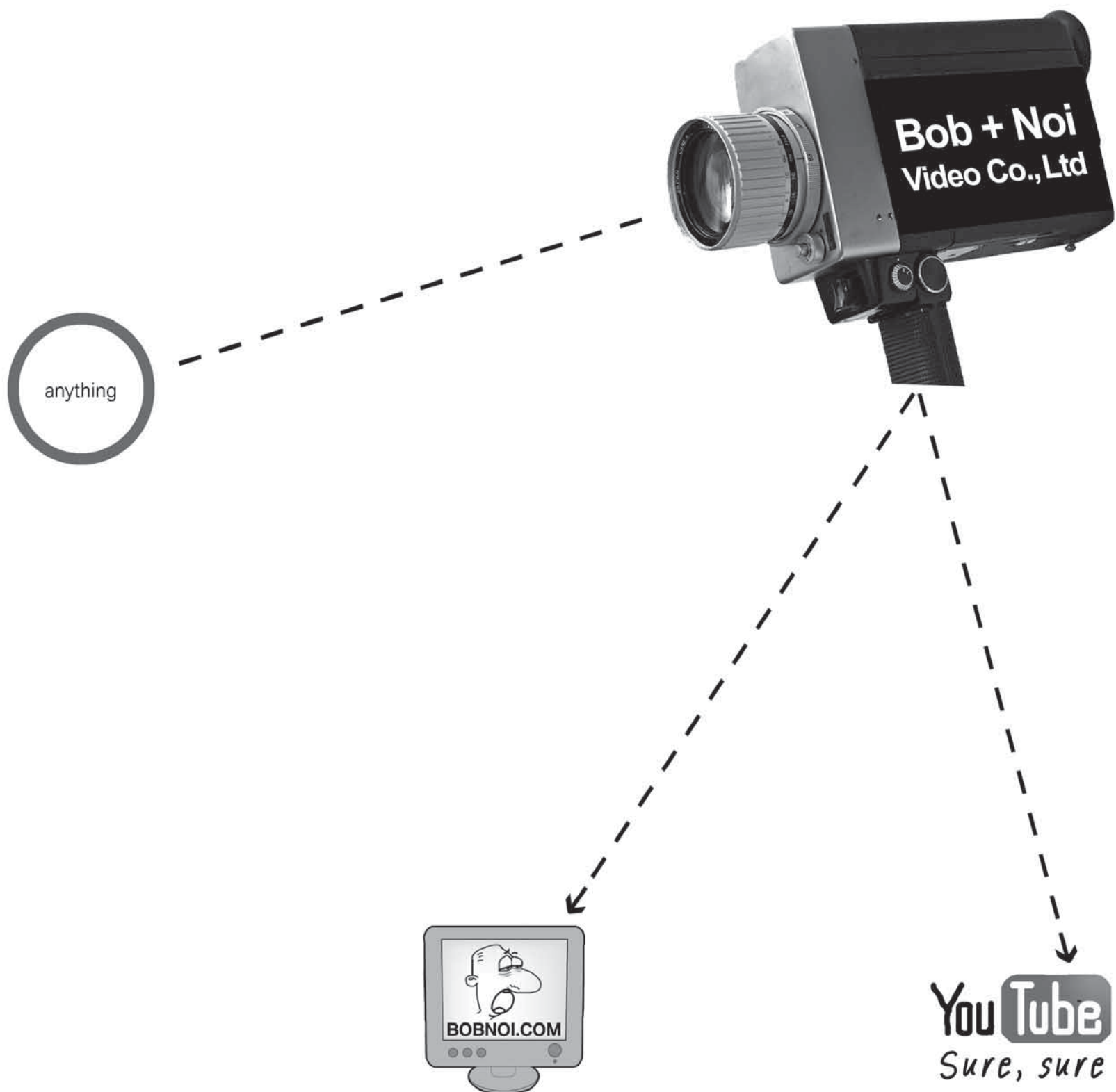
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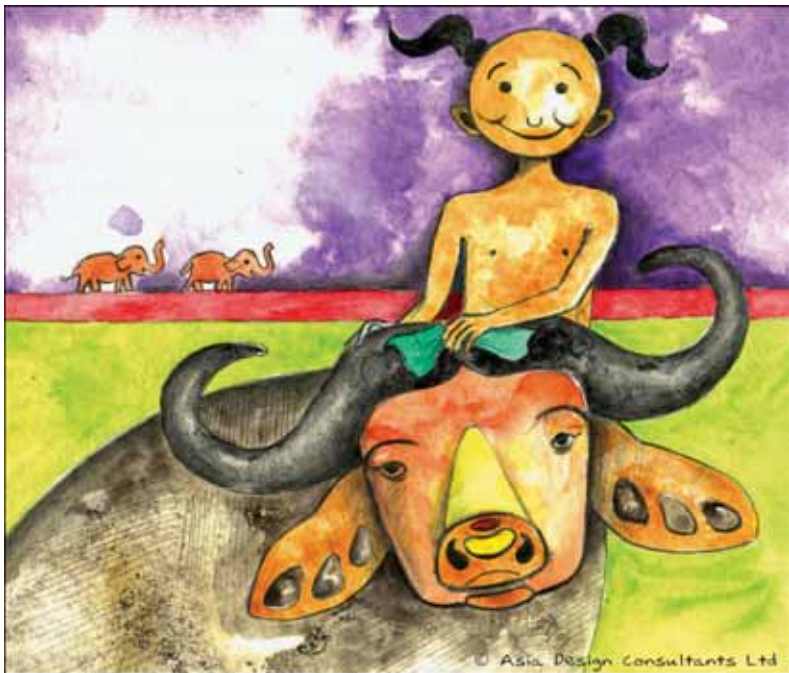
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When you're on "television",
wherzzit GO?
Here?

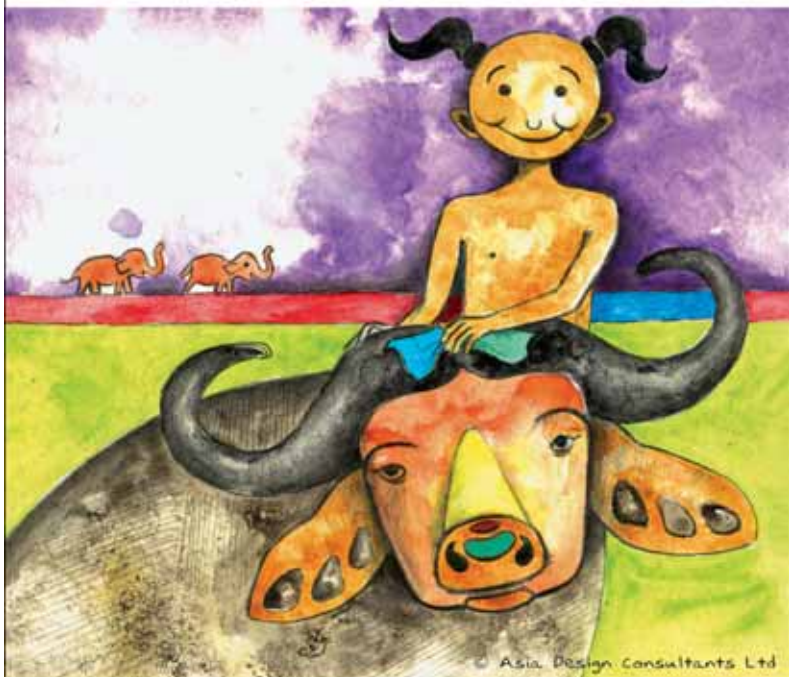


When you're on "television",
wherzzit GO?
Here?





JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Find the 10 differences between these pictures.

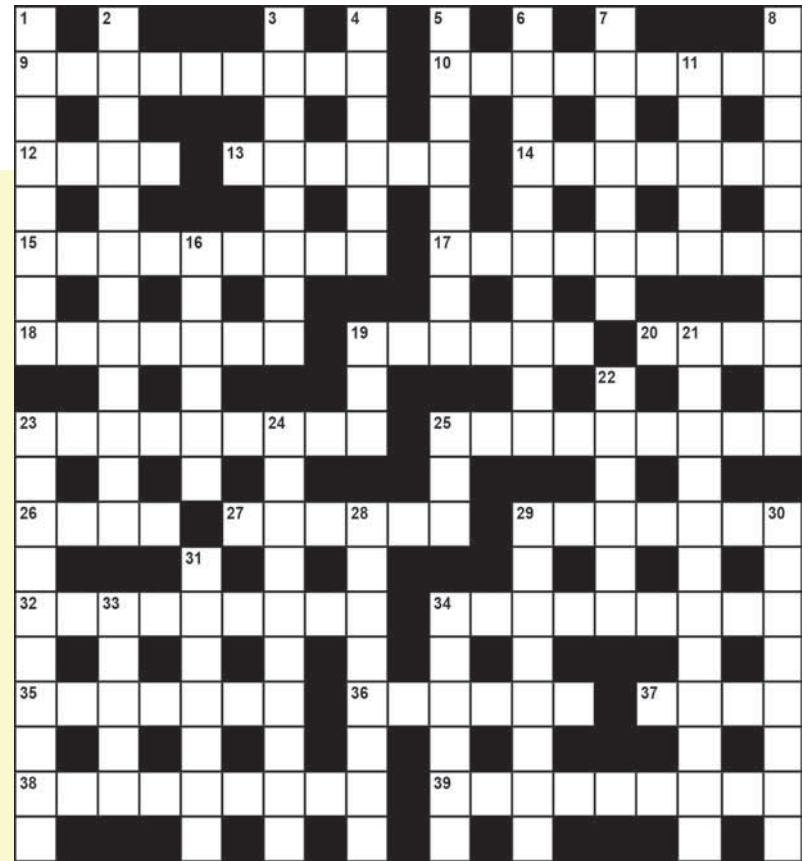


Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See juksadventures.com for more information.

COFFEE break

Across:

9. Possibly can be cure for one who commits piracy (9)
10. Plenty in favor of amalgamation (9)
12. A man has good taste in Thailand (4)
13. Crowd the Spanish students' accommodation (6)
14. Against a chair being arranged for Phuket hospital (7)
15. Names not same in confusion (9)
17. Gave warning that wine finished (9)
18. Not so safe red dog I moved (7)
19. Cite me making something to make one sick (6)
20. Enid changed to have a meal (4)
23. Later, dear, change picture merchant (3,6)
25. Debt collector almost paces around cover for ignoramus (6,3)
26. Movement of the sea affected diet (4)
27. Harness to Boer in snap arrangement (6)
29. Pedro moving around park, departs, left out of the team (7)
32. Terror act showing tool to hold back flesh (9)
34. Acting like a buccaneer, possibly partial, in command inside (9)
35. Shifting steel in, capable of being extended (7)
36. Time an arrangement for a prisoner (6)
37. Wets, cooks the ragout (4)
38. Red dye in a nice loch, unfortunately (9)
39. From rich store come the vocalist (9)



Down:

1. Got boat moved in, little Edward (8)
2. Account care of male medical officer no longer accepted to be put up (12)
3. Concerning stout journalist! (8)
4. Places for fire Royal Artillery maybe gets out of (6)
5. Dessert for a Parish Priest, the French pastry (5,3)
6. Conversation without, at change of religion (10)
7. More masculine meat trader? (7)
8. Volunteer in United Nations gave money to aid (6,4)
11. I laid out an epic poem (5)
16. Is nose put out by loud sounds? (6)
19. Lug from each river (3)
21. Possibly pain a tactic, note, to
- disable (12)
22. Extradite from French harbor (6)
23. Insect far north, note, in southern continent (10)
24. Extended, e.g., then lend freely (10)
25. Daughter in a racket (3)
28. Right, shortly I place untidily around spot (8)
29. No, I'd rate maybe no longer have an allowed quota (8)
30. State of the French pottery (8)
31. Father caught if in command in the ocean (7)
33. Time icon arranged for a pick-me-up (5)
34. Turn up rodents cleaning stone (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Answers on page 29.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Taureans shouldn't count on having everything their way, particularly where personal relationships are concerned. There are signs that certain friends have very different ideas and friction is highlighted where celebrations are concerned. If your birthday is due in the coming week, the stars show that you will be more content with simple pleasures in the year ahead. Romance with another earth sign blossoms, but an air sign is predicted to want more space.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Positive astral energy should help Geminis to overcome problems this week. Your skills in communication are also forecast to persuade people that their point of view could be wrong. Where finances are concerned, the stars encourage you to rethink priorities – it appears possible to cut corners in areas you hadn't previously considered. Romance is glowing this weekend – another air sign admits that you have stolen their heart.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Promises of easy money can be too tempting for those born under the sign of Cancer this week. The stars advise examining propositions from

every angle before even considering agreement. Those involved in a casual relationship with another water sign are forecast to drift further apart, but this could come as a relief. If you are single and seeking, Cupid is ready to encourage an introduction to a fire sign.

LEO (July 24-August 22):

Your energy is scattered this week and plans that have not been carefully made are liable to backfire. Those born under the sign of Leo should streamline responsibilities so they can focus on one thing at a time. Where work and business are concerned, Tuesday and Wednesday are the best days to get your message across. Romance can be disappointing this weekend – flirtation with an earth sign is likely to be a one-way street.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The cosmic climate encourages secrets to be shared this week and this could work in both positive and negative ways. Virgoans who believed that information was safe may have a wake-up call – another earth sign is forecast to be the culprit. Where your love life is concerned, those in a committed relationship with a water sign hear a confession. Fortunate days for finances are Sunday and Monday.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Where work and business are concerned, those born under the sign of Libra are advised to read between the lines this week. What people don't say can be more important than what you actually hear. The stars advise against jumping to conclusions. In the realm of romance, single Librans who have been playing the field could have some explaining to do this weekend. Wear the color lily white to encourage a calmer mood.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Scorpios should be able to settle down during the last week of April, although the stars indicate a final burst of busyness during the next few days. People are predicted to give the run around when trying to make appointments; your best approach is to say which time is convenient and leave the ball in their court. This advice also applies to romance with an air sign who is playing hard to get.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Personal projects are well-starred for those born under the sign of Sagittarius this week. Expect to receive the go-ahead for a money making scheme on Monday or Tuesday when a water sign's support could come as a surprise. Love is in the air this weekend, with another fire sign ready to prove they have left their emotional baggage behind. Finances are more auspicious later in the week – avoid extravagant purchases until then.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Capricorns should be on an even keel this week and your balanced outlook can have a positive effect on those close to you. A fire sign friend appreciates guidance this weekend and another earth sign colleague is finally ready to listen to advice. The atmosphere in your world of work will improve as a result. In the realm of romance, those who have been lost for words should now know what to say.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

A social whirl can mean that Aquarians forget some responsibilities during the last part of April. There are hints that a long lost friend's arrival out of the blue will give you

reason to rethink your life. Those who are footloose and fancy free could need little persuasion to move on. If you are romantically involved, your partner's reaction to the idea of relocation will depend on a creative pitch.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Pisceans who have made efforts to separate their work and personal lives should feel calmer this week. However, there are signs that those involved with a fire sign could become aware of ripples in this relationship. It would be wise to face up to facts, rather than continue to only see the best in this situation. Where personal administration is concerned, the stars support your efforts to tie up loose ends.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Your outlook in the world of work becomes more positive, with some financial gain highlighted to boost your confidence. In the social zone, another fire sign is forecast to ask a favor which clashes with your principles. This weekend is an auspicious time for diplomatic discussions. Romance figures strongly for Arians during the last ten days of April – those who recently took a break from a water sign can have a change of heart.

International Sport

Temperatures, tyres and tactics

BEFORE Shanghai, I predicted correctly that Kimi Räikkönen and Fernando Alonso would be on the podium, but who would be the third driver to join them? In the event it was Lewis Hamilton, but in truth it could have been any driver in the first half of the field.

If only Felipe Massa's car had not had such a problem with the medium tyres; if only Nico Rosberg had not suffered from understeer; if only Mark Webber's wheels had all stayed attached; if only Jensen Button's engineer had got the strategy right to allow him that third pit stop; if only Adrian Sutil had not hit teammate Paul di Resta; if only Daniel Ricciardo had not had to stop for a new nose, and so on.

Strategy was the key to Shanghai, and that has annoyed some old Formula 1 speed heads. But we haven't seen such exciting wheel to wheel racing for ages. Surely no one wants a return to the dark Schumacher days when he won everything just by having the fastest car, and being prepared to do anything to win?

The medium tyre proved very effective at the beginning of the race when cars were pregnant with fuel. This was so important that those who started on the soft tyre pitted to change boots as quickly as possible.

There was an abundance of overtaking, because strategies required drivers to pass as many cars as possible to gain track position before the next pit stop. Button and Vettel opted to run the soft tyres at the end, which was wrong but gave an electrifying duel all the way to the chequered flag.

So, we had the third winner out of the three races for the season; with world champions holding all top five places at Shanghai. The results initially remained



CLASSY: Ferrari driver Fernando Alonso at the Chinese Grand Prix. Photo: Reuters



Formula 1
By The Digby

provisional, pending a series of judgements over the use of DRS (drag reduction system) under yellow flag conditions.

Vettel, Webber, Räikkönen, Valtteri Bottas, Daniel Ricciardo, Button, Romain Grosjean and Max Chilton were all told to explain themselves after the race. But the stewards accepted that there had been a "degree of confusion" relating to the FIA's telemetry system, which has been problematic since appointing a new supplier this season. The telemetry system was partially disabled in Shanghai, so race officials could not centrally control DRS as in previous seasons. This was

compounded by a one minute delay before yellow flag warnings appeared on drivers' steering wheel display units.

Last week I asked several questions. Could McLaren possibly get it together? Well – nearly. Could Force India be a force to reckon with? I think they could, if they stop hitting each other.

Lotus was back to form, and Kimi Räikkönen took second even with a broken nose and wing.

In the Constructors' Championship, it's now Red Bull leading with 78 points, from Ferrari 73, Lotus 60, and Mercedes 52. In the Drivers' Championship, Vettel is on 52, Räikkönen 49, Alonso 43, Hamilton 40, Massa 30, and Webber 26. So it's wide open.

In the Red Bull soap opera 'Milton

Keynes', Webber could be forgiven for feeling paranoid. He was penalized because his team provided him with insufficient fuel during qualifying, so he started from the pit lane, then he was hit by a sister team Toro Rosso, and finally his wheel fell off in the race.

Meanwhile, Vettel ramped up the tragi-comedy by announcing that he feels no need to apologize for his behaviour at the Malaysian GP. "I don't apologize for winning," said Vettel. "I love racing so, yeah that's what I did."

It seems Vettel thinks he, possibly with Helmut Marko, is in charge of Red Bull. Maybe he is.

And so it's on to Bahrain, where Pirelli is providing hard and medium compounds for a circuit dominated by long 300 km/h straights and slow corners. So, brakes will play a significant role. Bahrain demands superb aerodynamics with sturdy low speed traction.

The desert location means track evolution is uncertain, depending on how much sand blows onto the circuit. High temperatures provide a real challenge to cooling systems and tyre management, with heavy demands on rear tyres as opposed to Shanghai where the front left tyre took the brunt of the track attack.

I continue to believe, barring accidents, that three time winner Alonso will triumph, followed by Räikkönen. That elusive third man on the podium could be almost anyone again. JB, Vettel and Massa have all won here before, and Webber, Hamilton and Paul di Resta must all fancy their chances.

Join me by the big screen at the Green Man, Chalong on Sunday at 7pm for the race, and on Saturday at 6pm for the qualifiers.

Cost of relegation from EPL

AS THE English Premier League heads into its last five games of the season, Manchester United are pretty much assured of a 20th league title. Manchester City should finish second. Arsenal, Chelsea, Tottenham and Everton are battling it out for the last two remaining Champions League spots. And with only seven points separating Wigan in 18th place to Southampton in 11th place, eight teams will battle it out to avoid the last relegation spot.

But what will relegation mean to the team that joins the already doomed Reading and QPR?

Leading sports accountancy firm, Deloitte, estimates that a team relegated from the Premier League this season could lose up to 50 million pounds sterling, but relegated clubs will receive 48mn in parachute payments over four years (16m in the first two seasons, 8m in the next two – payments stop if they go back up).

The parachute payments are a measure designed to compensate for the loss of Premier League revenue, but the cost of relegation also entails a drop in ticket, merchandise and commercial revenue. Clubs relegated next season will receive 60m in parachute payments over four years.

Out of the 18 clubs relegated from the Premier League in the last six years, only four have gone straight back up while in receipt

of parachute payments.

All three teams who were relegated last season from the Premier League to the Championship experienced a drop in attendance: Wolves' home attendance dropped 20 per cent, Bolton's nearly 30 per cent and Blackburn's 40 per cent.

Also, a new 3 billion television deal signed with Sky and BT is set to start next year. This deal means the club that finishes bottom of the league at the end of the 2013/14 season will earn around 35mn. To put this in perspective, when Wolverhampton finished bottom in 2012/13 they received about 20mn.

Due to the obvious financial pitfalls of relegation, some clubs decide that the best way to avoid losing money by being relegated is to spend money to stop this from happening.

Last summer, QPR brought in Park Ji-sung, Robert Green, Andy Johnson, Junior Hoilett, Ryan Nelsen, Samba Diakité, Jos Bosingwa and Julio César among others, to help the team climb up the league table.

Sadly, manager Mark Hughes was unable to get the best out of his expensively assembled squad and he was fired in November with QPR bottom of the league. Harry Redknapp was brought in to replace Hughes and in December he was quoted as saying

"There are a lot of players at this club who earn far too much money," he said. "Far too much for their ability and what they give to the club. I don't really want to see the owners have their pants taken down like they have in the past."

In the January transfer window, Redknapp bought defender Chris Samba – rumored to be on 100,000 per week – for 15mn pounds, and striker Loïc Remy – rumored to be on 80,000 per week – for 8mn.

QPR chairman Tony Fernandes has invested heavily in trying to put together a team capable of staying in the Premier League, but when the team drops into the Championship, they may be stuck with their overpaid players as their salaries could scare off interested clubs.

Of the teams fighting against relegation, Aston Villa have the highest wage bill at 75 million as of the 2011/12 season, followed by QPR on 69mn, Newcastle on 65mn and Reading have the lowest wage bill on 34mn. Aston Villa's wage bill is the 7th highest in the Premier League.

Relegation for QPR and Aston Villa could be disastrous because of their huge wage bills when compared to Southampton and Reading who are newly promoted, and thus would be better equipped for a drop back into the Championship.

– Andrew Scott



WRONG MOVE: QPR's Loïc Remy (left) may be playing his football in the Championship next season. Photo: Reuters

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES		
SATURDAY, 20 APRIL 2013 21:00		
Fulham	vs	Arsenal
Norwich	vs	Reading
QPR	vs	Stoke
Sunderland	vs	Everton
Swansea	vs	Southampton
West Brom	vs	Newcastle
West Ham	vs	Wigan
SUNDAY, 21 APRIL 2013 19:30		
Tottenham	vs	Man City
Liverpool	vs	Chelsea
SUN, 21 APRIL 22:00		
TUESDAY, 23 APRIL 2013 02:00		
Man Utd	vs	Aston Villa

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
	TEAM	GD	PTS
1	Man Utd	40	80
2	Man City	30	65
3	Arsenal	29	60
4	Chelsea	28	58
5	Tottenham	15	58
6	Everton	14	56
7	Liverpool	19	50
8	WBA	-1	44
9	Swansea	1	41
10	Fulham	-4	40
11	Southampton	-7	38
12	West Ham	-9	38
13	Newcastle	-17	36
14	Norwich	-21	35
15	Sunderland	-8	34
16	Stoke	-13	34
17	Aston Villa	-24	34
18	Wigan	-20	31
19	QPR	-25	24
20	Reading	-27	24

Adam Scott wins Masters

By Mark Lampert-Stokes

ADAM Scott ended decades of Australian agony when he became the first player from his country to win the Masters with a high-quality playoff victory over Angel Cabrera at a rain-soaked Augusta National on April 14.

Scott sealed the win with a 15-foot birdie putt on the second extra hole, the par-four 10th, before thrusting his arms skywards in triumph, moments after burly Argentine Cabrera had narrowly missed his attempt from 18 feet.

"It's incredible to be in this position," Scott said in the Butler Cabin before being helped into the revered green jacket by 2012 champion, Bubba Watson. "It's an honor."

"I tried not to think about anything today along those lines," Scott added, referring to the lengthy Australian title drought in the year's opening major. "The thing I did well out there was to stay right where I was, stayed in that one shot."

The duo finished the regulation 72 holes on nine-under-par 279, Scott sinking a 25-foot birdie putt at the last for a three-under 69 before Cabrera matched him after hitting a brilliant approach shot to just three feet on 18 for a 70.

It was the fifth playoff at Augusta National in the last 11 years, and the second in a row with American Watson having edged out South African golfer Louis Oosthuizen 12 months ago.

There had previously been eight runner-up finishes by Australians at the Masters, three of them achieved by Greg Norman.

"Australia is a proud sporting nation and this is one notch in the belt that we never got," said Scott,

who led by one shot with two holes to play at the 2011 Masters before South African Charl Schwartzel birdied the last four holes to win by two.

"It's amazing that it came down to me today. There was one guy who inspired a nation of golfers and that's Greg Norman. He's been incredible to me and all the young golfers in Australia."

"Part of this definitely belongs to him," said the Australian, the fourth player to win a major title using a long putter anchored to the body since American Keegan Bradley triumphed at the 2011 PGA Championship.

Scott's victory at Augusta National earned him redemption after he squandered a four-shot lead with four holes to play in last year's British Open at Royal Lytham for South African veteran Ernie Els to land the title.

Twice major champion Cabrera and Scott were both in perfect position off the tee on the first playoff hole but the Australian narrowly failed to hold the green with his approach, his ball



Adam Scott of Australia (left) celebrates winning the Masters with caddie Steve Williams (center) in front of Angel Cabrera of Argentina (right) on the 10th green during a playoff. Photo: Reuters

spinning backwards before settling just off the fringe.

Cabrera followed suit, venting his frustration after squandering a possible advantage when his second shot rolled back off the front of the green to end up a couple of yards below Scott's ball.



Adam Scott (left) receives his green jacket from 2012 champion Bubba Watson of the US after winning the 2013 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club. Photos: Reuters

The Argentine, whose world ranking has slipped to 269th following injury-hit seasons in 2010 and 2011, came desperately close to holing his chip shot, his ball grazing the right edge of the cup.

Scott's chip came up three feet short but both players safely parred to keep the playoff alive.

At the par-four 10th, both players found the middle of the fairway off the tee. Cabrera, playing first, hit his wedge approach below the hole before Scott fired his to 15 feet.

The Argentine, at 43 aiming to become the first grandfather to win the Masters, narrowly missed his birdie attempt, his ball tantalizingly ending up on the edge of the cup after curling from right to left.

Scott and his caddie Steve Williams spent a long time lining up the Australian's putt before he settled. He then stroked the ball

toward the hole, and loud roars erupted around the green when it disappeared into the cup.

"That is how golf is," 2009 Masters champion Cabrera graciously said after he and Scott had walked off the 10th green arm-in-arm. "I had that chip on 18... I could have won it. But Adam is a good winner."

"Obviously I would have been happier if I would have won but he is a great person, a great player. I get along with him. We've been together on Presidents Cups. I'm happy for him."

Australian Jason Day, who made an explosive birdie-eagle start before surging two ahead with three consecutive birdies from the 13th, fell back into third place at seven under after making two bogeys in the last three holes to close with a 70.

Four-times champion and pre-tournament favorite Tiger Woods signed off with a 70 to tie for fourth at five under with Australian Marc Leishman (72).

Woods' bid for a 15th major title, and his first since 2008, effectively ended when he made bogeys at the fifth and seventh, though he rebounded with three birdies after the turn to claim his 11th top-

five finish at the Masters.

"I had my opportunities to finish with some good numbers this week and I felt like I really played well," said Woods. "I played this week the way I've been playing all year, and that's a good sign."

American Brandt Snedeker, co-leader overnight with Cabrera, birdied the first to take sole charge but struggled with his driving and, most surprisingly, with his usually brilliant putting en route to a 75 and a tie for sixth.

Northern Irish world number two Rory McIlroy, whose Masters title bid was derailed by his third-round 79, ended his week with a 69 for a two-over total of 290.

Huge roars echoed around the 18th green well before the leaders teed off after China's 14-year-old Guan Tianlang, the feel-good story of the tournament, two-putted for par to sign off with a 75.

The youngest competitor ever at the Masters, Asia-Pacific Amateur champion Guan had already clinched the silver cup awarded to the low amateur at the Masters after becoming the youngest player to make the cut at a major championship.

— Reuters

London Marathon still on

SECURITY for Sunday's London Marathon is being reviewed after last Monday's explosions near the finish line of the Boston Marathon killed at least three people and injured more than 100.

"We will be reviewing our security arrangements in partnership with the London Marathon," Metropolitan Police chief superintendent Julia Pendry said in a statement.

In Boston, loud blasts were heard and large puffs of smoke could be seen as thousands of people packed the streets to watch runners cross the finish line.

The explosions appeared to go off near where spectators stood behind roadside barriers although one runner was seen collapsing to the ground as he heard the blasts.

"We are deeply saddened and shocked by the news from Boston," London

Marathon chief executive Nick Bitel said in a statement.

"Our immediate thoughts are with the people there and their families. It is a very sad day for athletics and for our friends and colleagues in marathon running."

"Our security plan is developed jointly with the Metropolitan Police and we were in contact with them as soon as we heard the news," said Bitel before adding the London race would definitely go ahead.

Ethiopia's Lelisa Desisa and Kenya's Rita Jeptoo won the men's and women's Boston Marathon, continuing African runners' dominance in the sport.

The results underlined both the strength and rivalry of those two nations' running programs, said Kenyan runner Wesley Korir, who finished fifth.

"It was more of a tactical race, the

Ethiopians versus the Kenyans," said Korir, who won the 2012 Boston Marathon. "Those guys were not fighting for time or anything, they were just racing to beat each other."

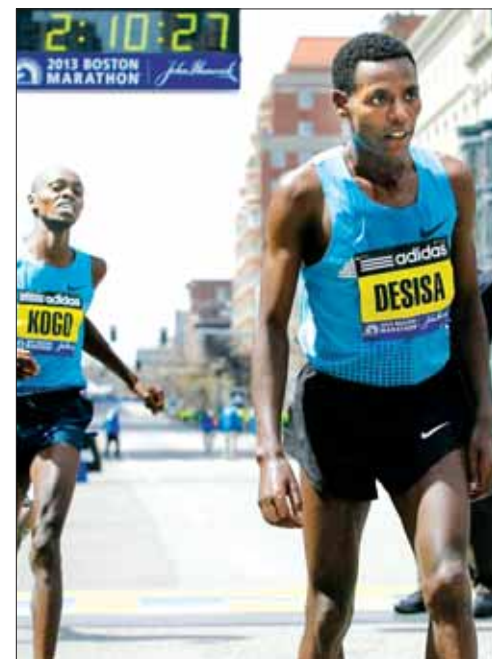
Desisa finished in an official two hours, 10 minutes and 22 seconds, beating countryman Gebregziabher Gebremariam and Kenya's Micah Kogo in a sprint to the finish line.

Jeptoo closed up in an official two hours, 26 minutes and 25 seconds, crossing the finish line more than 30 seconds ahead of her nearest challenger, Meseret Hailu of Ethiopia.

Americans took fourth place in both races, with Jason Hartmann and Shalane Flanagan finishing just off the podium. No American has won since Lisa Larsen-Weidenbach in 1985.

— Reuters

Full account of Boston Marathon tragedy on page 6.



Lelisa Desisa walks after crossing the finishing line at the Boston Marathon. Photo: Reuters



ITF Tennis at TSLC

THANYAPURA Sports & Leisure Club (TSLC) will once again host a round of the prestigious International Tennis Federation (ITF) pro tennis circuit.

The 2013 ITF round, sponsored by Chang (ThaiBev Pcl) and the Sports Association of Thailand (SAT), will consist of two consecutive women's tournaments from April 20 to April 27 and April 27 to May 4.

This marks the fourth occasion that Thanyapura has participated in hosting an ITF event.

"We are delighted to have been selected as the venue for such an esteemed international tennis event.

"We've seen a real showcase of talent during the last four times we've collaborated with ITF and TSLC is practically buzzing with excitement again about the participants this time round," said Thanyapura President Robert Hauck.

The upcoming Chang-SAT ITF Pro Circuit 2013 will feature some of the top female players from around the world who will compete for the total prize money of US\$25,000.

Among the players competing will be Luxsika Kumkhum, ranked 128, Nudnida Luangnam, ranked 200 and Thailand's Nicha Lertpitaksinchai, ranked 330.

Below is the list of international players who may be coming to the ITF round at TSLC.

Olivia Rogowska (AUS), Tara Moore (GBR), Ksenia Lykina (RUS), Ling Zhang (HKG), Lisa Whybourn (GBR), Zuzana Zlochova (SVK), Misa Eguchi (JPN), Melanie Klaffner (AUT), Akiko Omae (JPN), Risa Ozaki (JPN), Alexandra Artamonova (RUS), Miyabi Inoue (JPN), Nicole Rottmann (AUT), Mai Minokoshi (JPN) and Naomi Broady (GBR)

Thanyapura will also be engaged in charity work with local children in honor of the event, coaching them in new sports and giving them the opportunity to train on the same grounds as some of the world's finest athletes.

— *Phuket Gazette*

This event is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTv and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show.

Topper Sail gains RYA



SCHOOL: Sailors at Topper Sail Phuket.



A student enjoys sailing at Ao Yon.

TOPPER Sail Phuket is the first sailing school in Southeast Asia to gain Royal Yachting Association (RYA) approval for dinghy sailing and power boating. The center also offers dinghy, keelboat sailing (day boats), power boating, safety boat and shore-based theory courses.

Topper Sail Phuket can now offer RYA qualifications, which are highly regarded worldwide due to the high standards maintained by the training centers and instructors.

The RYA is the national body for all forms

of boating in the UK and RYA recognized training centers are in more than 44 countries.

As well as offering adult courses, Topper Sail Phuket also has the RYA Youth Scheme. Certificates gained from the RYA Youth Scheme can be used in other areas of study or activities, such as PE at school, or the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award.

Topper Sail Phuket is located on the Southeast side of Phuket at Ao Yon beach near Cape Panwa.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Thai women start strong in Songkhla

HEAVY rain last Saturday night forced the organizers of the 14th Samila-Chang Asian Beach Volleyball Tour Samila Open in Songkhla to adapt the rules and delay the start on Sunday from 8am to 10am. The best-of-three-sets format was retained but the winning score was reduced to 15 points from the usual 21. Deciding sets were played up to 11 points rather than 15.

A total of 46 teams from 14 countries were present at Samila Beach for the opening day's competition, which saw Thailand's women spikers off to a strong start. Top seeds and Asian Beach Games winners Varapatsorn Radarong/Tanarattha Udomchavee of Thailand 1, shrugged off their disappointing fifth-place finish at last week's Khanom Open in Nakhon Si Thammarat, to launch their title defence with a 15-13 15-11 win over Vietnam 1s Truong Thi Yen/Nguyen Thi Mai.

Compatriots Jarunee Sannok/Usa Tenpaksee of Thailand 2 outclassed Hong

Kong 2s Yan Lo Wai/Mei Yeung Yeuk 15-6 15-9, but Thailand 3s Rumpaipruet Num-wong/Khanittha Hongpak went down to Kazakhstan 1s Tatyana Mashkova/Irina Tsimbalova 11-15 12-15.

Australia ladies 1s team, Louise Anne Bawden/Taliqua Shanice Clancy maintained the form that won them the Khanom Open title last week, combining well to thrash Sri Lanka women's 1s Dinesha Prasadani Jayamaha Hitiha-milage/Geethika Lalani Gunawardana Kuda Kottunnage 15-2 15-9 in 16 minutes.

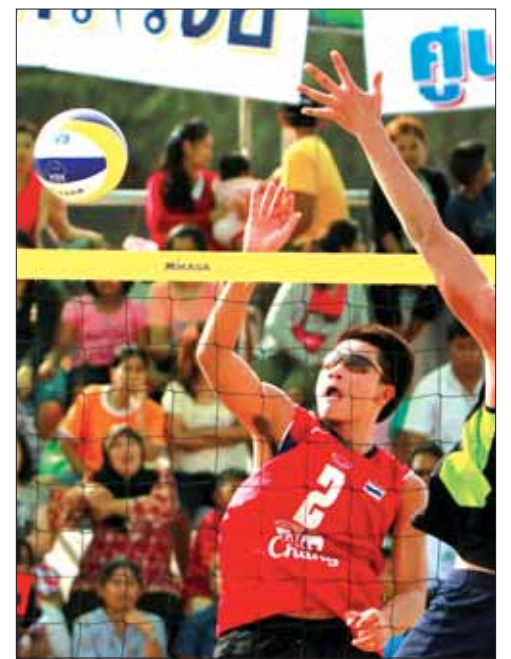
In the men's competition, strong teams remained on course with top seeds Alexandr Dyachenko/Alexey Sidorenko of Kazakhstan trouncing Japan 2s Shinya Hata/Yasuo Nakaya 15-8 15-8 in Pool A, and then in their match after that they brushed off Sri Lanka 1s Pubudu Kumara Ekanayaka Ekanayakage/Asanka Pradeep Kumara Medagedara Lekamalage 15-11 15-13 in the afternoon contest.

In Pool B, Australia 1s Isaac Leonard Kapa/Christopher Bernard McHugh, fresh from their Khanom Open triumph, first crushed Vietnam 2s Nguyen Ngoc Quy/Bui Hai Dang 15-8 15-7 before beating Japan 1s Yoshiumi Hasegawa/Yuya Ageba 15-9 15-11.

Local supporters had something to cheer about when Thailand 1s Sittichai Sangkhachot/Prathip Sukto tamed Sri Lanka 2s Sameera Sandaruwan Bombuwala Dewage/Ashen Jeevantha Fernando Warnakulasuriya 15-8 15-13 in the morning clash, before marching on to stun Australia 2s Samuel John Boehm/Cole James Brandon Durant with a magnificent come-from-behind 13-15 15-11 11-8 in the afternoon encounter.

Thailand 2s Chutipong Sukarayotin/Chanchai Nakprakong recovered from a disappointing 3-15 9-15 preliminary-round defeat to New Zealand 1s Ben Martin O'Dea/Jason William Lochhead by beating Vietnam 1s Nguyen Trong Quoc/Nguyen Thanh Vinh 12-15 15-10 11-7.

— *The Nation*



Action from a men's match. Photo: The Nation

Laguna Golf Club cuts green fees

LAGUNA Phuket Golf Club is offering Thai and expat golfers cut-price green fees of 1,800 baht for 18 holes during the current low season – less than half the usual 4,200 baht visitor rate.

This offer is available until October 2013, but the green fees exclude caddy fee.

Meanwhile, Laguna Phuket Golf Club recently hosted the second match of the 2013 Phuket Pro Challenge, which was won by Shaun Malone.

The Australian – also winner of the Pro Challenge series first match – triumphed against a host of talented local golfers from around Phuket to pick up his 10,000 baht winner's cheque.

Laguna Phuket Golf Club's Assistant Director of Golf Paul Wilson said: "We were delighted to host so many excellent players – thanks go to the Phuket Golf Association for organizing this series of events to promote golf in Phuket."

— *Phuket Gazette*



Thai and expat golfers can enjoy cut-price green fees.

Players wanting to take advantage of the cut price green fees must book in advance and show either a Thai ID card or work permit copy on arrival. Call 076 270 991 or email golf@lagunaphuket.com for more information.

SPORTathlon THAILAND

For more info. Tel: (076) 261-966-7 or (089) 474-1710
108/74 Chalempakiat Rd, T. Rassada, Phuket, 83000
email: ts2@sportathlon.co.th

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DREAM DEBUT: Ben Grimes, number 116, leads a pack of karts during his AMC debut race. Photos: Peter Grimes



Ben finished 5th out of 32 in AMC Round 1, claiming the final place on the podium.

Grimes brothers step up a gear

AFTER completing their rookie karting season at the national level in 2012, Ben and Sam Grimes took a well-earned rest for a couple of months over the New Year and reviewed their options and priorities for 2013.

For Ben, it was about improving on his 3rd place finish in last year's Thai National Championship and consistently competing at the front end of the grid, and to challenge for this year's Championship.

For Sam, who has made the move up from the 60cc Cadet Class to the 125cc Junior Class, where he will compete directly against his elder brother, it is really about gaining experience in the ultra-competitive junior category and seeking continual improvements in speed, lap times, race craft and results.

Over the close season, a decision was made that the boys would compete in the Rotax Asia Max Challenge (AMC) series held in Malaysia, in addition to the Thai Championships. Rotax AMC is without a doubt the most competitive series in South Asia, drawing some of the best drivers from across Asia, in addition to having strong Thai representation.

The year also started brightly when the two brothers were able to secure a sponsorship arrangement with the investment management firm Secure Wealth Management, who are based in Phuket, as well as having sales offices overseas.

A busy year of racing commenced at Sepang in March with Round 1 of the AMC. Both boys were keen to impress early. Sam, was however to have a very tough weekend trying to get to grips with the larger, more powerful kart; although he showed reasonable pace in the practice sessions, he was to qualify 24th in

the 32 kart field and suffered a series of minor accidents resulting in him finishing only one of the four scheduled races.

Ben had a superb weekend. The team set him a target of finishing close to a top 10 position, so it was a little disappointing when he qualified in 19th place, although – and to put the competitiveness of the event into perspective – he was only three tenths of a second off 7th place. In both heats 1 and 2, storming starts lifted Ben up the field to finish 11th and 10th respectively, which placed him overall in 9th place on the grid for the pre-final, where he drove a mature and sensible race to finish 8th. Starting from the 4th row in the final, Ben again drove sensibly and showed excellent race craft to eventually pick up three more places and grab the final place on the podium to finish a highly creditable 5th on his AMC debut.

Round 1 of the Thai Rotax Championship followed and both brothers suffered frustrating weekends, mainly as a result of equipment issues. Things did not start overly well when their new chassis did not make it on time, resulting in the need to use different karts. Throughout the weekend, the team struggled to get the new engines up to speed and both karts suffered jetting problems resulting in Ben finishing 5th and Sam 7th from a field of 10.

The first weekend in April brought another visit to Sepang in Kuala Lumpur for AMC Round 2, with hopes high for another successful weekend. Even more drivers entered Round 2, so in total 35 karts took to the track in what turned out to be a massively competitive and very aggressive weekend of races and incidents.



Sam Grimes gets ready to head out.



CLIMBING UP THE LADDER: Sam, number 117, has stepped up from the Cadet Category to the more competitive Junior Category this season. Photos: Peter Grimes

Ben was again a little disappointed to qualify in 15th position while Sam started to feel more comfortable at the busy home of Malaysia motor racing and qualified a creditable 25th, beating several more experienced racers on only his 2nd time at the track in a junior kart.

The racing, however, started disastrously for Ben when he was involved in crashes in both heats with him finishing well down the field in 26th place in heat 1 and being black flagged for losing his nose cone in heat 2. This put him almost last in 30th position on the grid for the pre-final but a dogged and aggressive drive saw him overtake 17 drivers to finish 13th and set his personal best lap at Sepang, only two tenths of a second off the fastest lap of the day.

Ben had another racing incident at the start of the final when another driver pushed him off the track and onto the grass on the infield, which negated most of the good work he had achieved in the pre-final. Coming out of the first corner in 22nd position, it was an uphill battle for him to regain the places he had lost, but that he did and eventually he

finished a strong 12th to add valuable championship points to those gained in Round 1.

After two rounds, Ben currently stands 5th in the AMC standings, which has given him an excellent foundation for the season.

Sam had a much better weekend than in the first round. He qualified a very creditable 24th and finished the two heats in 17th and 22nd respectively. Starting the pre-final 8 places ahead of his brother Ben in 22nd, Sam maintained his place to finish in the same position, although he slipped a little in a very tight final to finish 27th. He continually improved his personal best lap time and finally broke into the 49s, thereby being less than seven tenths of a second off pole position but admitted at the end, that he had possibly sacrificed final race position for the comfort of actually finishing the race.

The Thai Championship continues at Saraburi on April 27 and 28 and the third round of the Malaysia AMC will be held at the Elite Speedway in Kuala Lumpur from May 17 to 19.

– Phuket Gazette

TPL teams struggle against champions

By Andrew Scott

THAILAND'S two representatives in the AFC Champions League, Muang Thong United and Buriram United, are struggling to make it out of the competition's group stages.

Muang Thong's form in the Champions League is the polar opposite of their five game unbeaten start to the 2013 Thai Premier League (TPL) season.

The current TPL champions are rooted to the bottom of Group F with one point from four games. In their last two games, both against Guangzhou Evergrande from China, who are managed by Italy's 2006 World Cup winning coach Marcello Lippi, they lost 4-0 at home and 4-1 away.

To stand any chance of progressing to the knock out stages, Muang Thong must win their final two games away to Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors from Korea and then home against Japan's Urawa Red Diamonds.

Buriram United find themselves in a better position than Muang Thong after they beat China's Jiangsu Sainty 2-0 in

their last game to pick up their first win of the competition.

Buriram joined Japan's Vegalta Sendai in joint second, two points behind Group E leaders FC Seoul, but still only one point above bottom club Jiangsu Sainty.

Buriram's next game is a must-win home match against Vegalta Sendai, and then their last fixture of the AFC Champions League group stage is away to table toppers FC Seoul.

The AFC Champions League is contested among the top thirty-five clubs from the top 10 Asian leagues. The winners of the tournament get the opportunity to play in the FIFA Club World Cup at the end of the year.

Last year, Brazilian team Corinthians beat Chelsea in the final of the FIFA Club World Cup.

The next round of matches in the AFC Champions League is on April 24. Buriram United host Vegalta Sendai at 6pm and Muang Thong travel to Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors to play at 5pm.



Chonburi's Suphawut Thueanklang (number 9) and Keattiyot Chalaemkhet playing for Thailand at last year's Futsal World Cup. Photos: Steven Layne



Chonburi top AFC qualifiers

THAILAND Futsal Premier League (TFPL) champions, Chonburi Bluewave finished top of the AFC Futsal Club Championship 2013 Zone 2 Qualifiers. The Zone 2 qualifying groups comprised of Asian and East Asian teams, while Zone 1 has West, South and Central Asian teams.

Zone 2 featured two groups, with the top two teams from each group progressing to the semifinals.

In their semifinal, Chonburi beat Australian team Dural Warriors 8-1.

Chonburi convincingly beat Chinese outfit Shenzhen Nanling 7-1 in the final on April 16. Both teams had already qualified for the final stages of the tournament to be held in Nagoya, Japan in August.

With qualification guaranteed, Chonburi rested their star player Kritsada Wongkaeo, but even without him the Thai champions controlled the game.

Defender Lertchai Issarasuwipakorn gave Chonburi the lead in the second minute and they were 3-0 up by halftime. Chonburi's Suphawut Thueanklang's hat-trick in this match took him level at the top of the scoring chart with team mate Kritsada Wongkaeo on eight goals.

Shenzhen scored a consolation goal in the 28th minute.

Vietnam's Thai Non Sam, who beat Dural Warriors 6-3 in the third/fourth place playoff, also qualified for the AFC Futsal Club Championship.

Iranian futsal team Sanaye Giti Pasand Futsal Club won the tournament last year.

When Phuket United faced Chonburi in last season's Thai Futsal Premier League, the Andaman Pearl lost 3-2 at home and 5-1 away. Chonburi won the league by 18 points.

— Andrew Scott

AFC CHAMPIONS LEAGUE								
GROUP E								
Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
FC SEOUL (KOR)	4	2	1	1	7	3	4	7
VEGALTA SENDAI (JPN)	4	1	2	1	3	3	0	5
BURIRAM UNITED (THA)	4	1	2	1	3	3	0	5
JIANGSU SAINTY (CHN)	4	1	1	2	3	7	-4	4

GROUP F								
Teams	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
GUANGZHOU EVERGRANDE (CHN)	4	3	1	0	12	2	10	10
JEONBUK HYUNDAI MOTORS (KOR)	4	1	3	0	8	6	2	6
URAWA RED DIAMONDS (JPN)	4	1	1	2	7	9	-2	4
MUANGTHONG UNITED (THA)	4	0	1	3	4	14	-10	1

Phuket FC maintain unbeaten run

THE ISLANDERS drew 0-0 away against Yamaha League 1 upstarts, Nakhon Pathom United, last Wednesday evening.

Phuket FC now return home to prepare for their next match, this Sunday against the Khon Kaen FC "T-Rex". — Phuket Gazette

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