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Masked faces of dissent

■ Deputy PM incites unrest, thousands protest 'corrupt' Pheu Thai Party policies

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THOUSANDS of anti-government protesters are to converge at Saphan Hin at 5pm this Sunday to rally against the Pheu Thai Party administration.

Protesters will again don white Guy Fawkes masks, obscuring their identity and marking them as supporters of the national anti-government movement "V for Thailand".

"It doesn't matter which particular political point of view you support, everyone who stands against [ousted and exiled former prime minister] Thaksin and [Prime Minister] Yingluck Shinawatra's government are called to join the protest," Apharat Chartchutikumjorn, Pitak Siam coordinator for Phuket, said.

Although the main rally will be at Saphan Hin in Phuket Town, some of the group's members plan to set up smaller rally points across the island, Ms Apharat said.

"We will not be alone. Other white mask rallies will be held in Bangkok at the same time," she added.

Boonsupaa Tanthai, president of the We Preserve Phuket Club...



Continued on Page 5

Masked protesters show up to denounce Pheu Thai Party. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

Island beach 'star system' feels the heat

BANGKOK budget slashes have left the Beach Star Rating project floundering without a single government agency tasked with conducting regular water quality tests at Phuket's major tourist beaches.

Honorary Consuls and Ambassadors tackle the issue.

Full story on Pages 8-9

DSI supercar probe whizzes by Phuket

NO PHUKET registered vehicles were on first list of 488 supercars being investigated by the Department of Special Investigations under suspicion of tax fraud.

However, Phuket hasn't always had a clean record, said Phuket Land Transport Office chief Terayout Prasertphol.

Full story on Pages 3 and 10

Airport Bus plan grinds back into gear

PHUKET transport authorities verbally agreed this week to launch the new Phuket Airport Bus service.

The service is now expected to only offer "hop on, hop off" transportation from the airport to Patong.

Full story on Page 2

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This Week



Property

Self storage firm solves space issues in urban Phuket. **Page 14**



Business

Roughly 25 million tourists to earn 1 trillion baht in 2013. **Page 17**



Pets

Discover which breeds of dogs are proven the most vicious. **Page 36**



History

Learn about early Portuguese influences in Siam. **Page 41**



Events

Grand airshow and family picnic only two weeks away. **Page 42**



Sport

Find out who won last weekend's Laguna Marathon. **Page 50**

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Airport public bus put back into gear

Irfan Jamdukor

THE Phuket transport authorities on Tuesday verbally agreed to launch the new Phuket Airport Bus service on July 1.

The bus service – to start with six buses departing the airport to provide a “hop on, hop off” service to the major tourist beaches down the west coast – was expected to clear its final hurdle and be up and running in March. However, final approval by the provincial transportation committee was delayed.

The committee will meet again next Tuesday to ratify their decision in writing. Phuket Vice Governor and committee chairman Chamroen Tipayapongtada confirmed.

Of the 29 government officers, airport officials and tourism and hotel industry representatives present at the meeting this week, not one person represented taxi or tuk-tuk associations on the island.

“After much discussion today, we have agreed to launch the new bus service in two steps,” V/Gov Chamroen explained.

“First, on Tuesday next week, we will officially approve the new service from the airport to Patong only,” he said.

By stopping the service at Patong instead of running it to Kata, as originally planned, officials avoid direct conflict with the Kata-Karon taxis and tuk-tuks, who threatened a blockade in April if



Buses for the airport service are ready to roll. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

the project was launched.

“You launch the bus, we will definitely block the road,” Sommart Homwan, president of the Kata-Karon Taxi and Tuk-tuk Driver’s “Co-operative”, said on April 5.

Local police, however, said plainly that road blockades would not be tolerated.

“The 24-seat buses will run every hour from about 6am, when the first flight arrives at the airport, to about 9pm,” V/Gov Chamroen said.

“Then, as our second step af-

ter the new service has launched, we will invite every affected party to join a discussion to resolve any conflicts,” he added.

The decision to launch the new service was unanimous, Phuket Land Transport Office chief Terayout Prasertphol explained.

“Every committee member agreed the bus service should go ahead... The new service will benefit the people of Phuket and tourists. They will have more choices in road transport at affordable prices,” Mr Terayout said.

Brit busted for dealing heroin

A PHUKET Marine Police sting operation on June 7 busted a British national with 6.1 grams of heroin smuggled onto Phuket from Koh Samui.

John Cawley, 22, was caught in a Rassada rental room at about 11:30pm in possession of the category 1 drug stuffed into seven plastic bottles, said Phuket Marine Police Inspector Chatchai Sakdee.

The sting operation involved an undercover officer entering the residence as a potential buyer.

“As Mr Cawley began to negotiate with our officer, our team rushed the room,” Col Chatchai said.

Officers collected a bag of heroin, as well as seven bottles that also contained heroin.

“Mr Cawley confessed that the drugs belonged to him, and we made our arrest,” Col Chatchai said.

Mr Cawley was charged with the possession of a category 1 drug with intent to sell.

– Irfan Jamdukor

Hotel manager, truck take 50-meter plunge

A HOTEL manager lost control of his truck at the Khao Khad Viewpoint, plummeting 50 meters down the treacherous hillside on June 7.

Police received a report of the incident at about 4:50pm and rushed to the scene with Kusoldharm Rescue workers to find Korean national Don Yeol Seo alive, but trapped in the overturned vehicle.

“Mr Yeol Seo, 56, was bleeding from his head and suffering what appeared to be internal injuries,” said Anurak Klangnarong of the Wichit Police.

“Rescue workers had to use a rope to reach Mr Yeol Seo, but it was very difficult due to the dense forest on the steep hill,” Lt Anurak said.

A man identifying himself as a friend of the 56-year-old Korean told police that the victim had been driving from Bor Rae District to Ao Yon.

“He worked very hard that day and didn’t have much time for rest,” the man reportedly told police.



The truck hit a decorative rail before rolling down the hillside.

The man added the Mr Yeol Seo worked for one of the hotels in Wichit, but police did not reveal the name of the business.

Rescue workers transported the victim to Vachira Phuket Hospital for treatment. Police plan on questioning him once he is released.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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No Phuket cars discovered on DSI supercar tax evasion list, yet

NO PHUKET luxury cars are on the list of 488 supercars whose owners are being investigated for tax evasion, the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) has confirmed to the *Gazette*.

The DSI on Monday revealed the names of the owners of 488 luxury cars who will be called in for questioning in a nationwide crackdown on supercar tax evasion (see page 10).

However, the officer added that the list was only the first list to be drawn up. Other

lists will be compiled and investigated.

Phuket Land Transport Office chief Terayout Prasertphol said that his office has only registered legal vehicles and that all taxes are fully paid on all vehicles registered in Phuket.

However, he admitted that was not always the case.

"In 1998, Phuket was a target for illegal vehicles, mainly stolen cars, to be registered. Back then, it was popular for Ferrari and Mercedes-Benz cars and Harley-

Davidson motorcycles to be registered here," he said.

"At that time I was the PLTO administration chief, and five owners of Ferrari and Mercedes-Benz cars and Harley-Davidson motorcycles were arrested.

"It took about six years for the case to be finally heard in court, but one PLTO officer was fired and another government officer was sentenced to one year in jail," Mr Terayout said.

"I have received calls from people ask-



Phuket supercars clean. Photo: Gazette file

ing to illegally register cars, but I turn them down," he said.

— *Orawin Narabal*

Loan leads to murder-suicide

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A REAL estate loan gone sour ended in the borrower stabbing the lender to death and then killing himself with the same knife in the conference room of a Phuket Town bank on June 6.

Phonthakorn Teerabenjakul, 51, a local real estate investor, had borrowed money from Piboon Vachwanichsanong, 71, a well-known Phuket businessman and the treasurer of the Tah Ruea Shrine. He used as collateral the title to a piece of land he owned on which an apartment building was being constructed, said Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong.

"Mr Phonthakorn had agreed to pay back the loan on June 5, but was unable to do so," Col Sermphan said. "The men had tried to reach an agreement already, but could not."

They came to the bank to try again with the bank manager's help.

"The plan was to sell the property to two women who were interested in buying it for 38 million baht," Col Sermphan said.

The property was valued at 30.8mn baht, and police believe



Officers outside the bank's glass conference room where a midday meeting failed to resolve a loan conflict, leading the borrower to stab the lender to death and then kill himself with the same knife.

that the men could not resolve how to divide the profit from the sale.

The two men, the buyers and Bank of Ayudhya branch manager

Sophon Udomsab met at midday in the business loan section of the bank. Mr Phonthakorn and Mr Piboon negotiated, but couldn't reach an agreement. Mr Sophon

excused himself to let the men continue their discussion.

"After Mr Sophon left the room, Mr Phonthakorn, who was very tense, jumped up with a knife

in his hand and stabbed Mr Piboon," said Col Sermphan.

"The women saw the whole thing," said Phuket City Police Inspector Yongyuth Kongmalai.

"They said there was no fight between the two men. Mr Phonthakorn stabbed Mr Piboon several times, then stabbed himself," he added.

When police arrived at the scene they found both men lying face up on the floor in a pool of blood, the knife protruding from the chest of Mr Phonthakorn.

Mr Piboon had stab wounds in his neck and on his right leg, armpit and forearm. Mr Phonthakorn had seven wounds on his body.

Following Thai law, Mr Phonthakorn has been charged with murder despite the fact that he is deceased. Only the prosecutor has the authority to cancel the case, said Col Yongyuth.

"We are focusing on the murder case," Col Yongyuth said. "If our commander orders it, we can also investigate the details of the business deal, but for now, that is not our responsibility," he said.

Additional reporting by Irfan Jamdukor

Drunk looking German busted for crystal meth

A GERMAN national whose inebriated driving style caught police attention on June 8 was arrested in Patong after he failed a drug test and confessed to having drugs in his hotel room.

Tarek-Karim Riester, 44, was stopped by Phuket Immigration officer Capt Angkarn Yasanop at about 1:30am.

"When we arrived at the JJ market behind Jungceylon, we saw a man riding a motorbike but he couldn't keep the motorbike straight."

Mr Riester, who did not have his passport on him, was taken to Patong Immigration Office to confirm his immigration status and also to take a drug test.

Mr Riester failed the drug test, he confessed to having *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

He was charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

A shoe not the only clue to 'Cinderella' snatch thief

POLICE have found a perfect fit for the "Cinderella" snatch thief after finding not only a single lost shoe left at the scene, but the motorbike insurance document in the name of the 17-year-old juvenile's mother.

The underaged youth attempted to snatch an Irish woman's purse leading to a motorbike crash and a lost flip flop.

Hannah O'Hagan, 27, was driving a motorbike near Baan Term

Fun Housing Estate on June 7 when two youths on a motorbike started following her, said Lt Preecha Rakjan of the Thalang Police.

The two youths pulled up next to Ms O'Hagan and attempted to rip her bag from her shoulder – the Irish woman fought back, causing the bikes to collide and sending all three of them to the ground.

"One of the thieves, as well as Ms O'Hagan, lost a flip flop during the accident. When the two

thieves stood up to escape, one of them accidentally grabbed Ms O'Hagan's slipper, leaving behind his own," Lt Preecha said.

Unlike a the Cinderella fable, it wasn't the shoe that brought the youth into police custody, it was a moral-minded mother.

The youth has been charged.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*



Ms O'Hagan in shock.

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CGI fails to sell Patong tunnel

Local residents press for alternate tunnel, improvements to Route 4029

By Saran Mitrarat

THE Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT), commissioned to roll out the Patong Tunnel project, has released a video highlighting the preferred route the tunnel will take through the Phuket hills separating the Kathu valley from the beachside resort town of Patong.

The preferred route was chosen after a panel of experts investigated three major factors in the selection process.

Kanok Khemnuk, managing director of Enrich Consultants Co Ltd, which was hired to carry out the evaluation of seven possible routes, explained, "The first category of factors considered was engineering and traffic, in which we considered: the length of the route; the aesthetics of the project; the efficiency of the construction to be undertaken; and safety aspects."

The category was attributed 30 per cent of the total score in the entire decision process, he added.

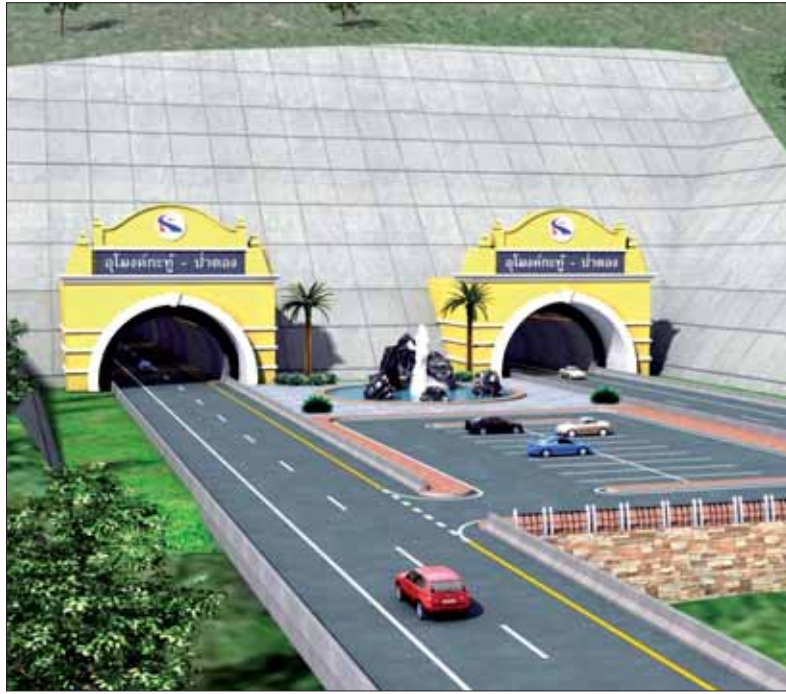
Also granted 30 per cent of the score were economic and investment factors, which included project cost and revenue-generating ability.

"The last factor was the environmental effect. This was attributed 40 per cent of the total score," Mr Kanok explained.

"Route Two is the best choice. It scored 72.49 out of 100 points. This is the route for which we will compile and present an Environmental Impact Assessment [EIA]," he added.

The route chosen and presented at a public meeting last week was the same one that stirred strong opposition from residents of Baan Mon in Patong in April, many of whom will have to be relocated from their family homes to make way for the mega-project.

"We want to focus on traffic and safety. There is no need to build a tunnel. We [Baan Mon residents] have already suggested that it would be better to improve Route 4029 [Phra Barami Road, over Patong Hill]," one local resident said at the meeting.



Local residents face relocation and oppose tunnel Route Two. Image: EXAT

"But if you are determined to build a tunnel, we already suggested Route Seven in order to make the road and tunnel as straight as possible to reduce the

likelihood of accidents," he added.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin pointed out that Route Seven was ruled out by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment as

the route affected a protected water source in the hills.

"I have spent more than 10 years trying to improve Route 4029. The best solution is what you are looking at right now," Mayor Pian said.

Another public meeting is to be held before the end of the month.

"At that meeting we will decide on the exact route the tunnel and approach roads will take. We will also have to discuss with residents how to minimize the impact on them and negotiate the rates for expropriating the properties required to build the project," Mr Kanok explained.

"There will be a final public feedback hearing in August to summarize the overall plan. We expect to propose this project to Cabinet before the end of this year," he said.

"The survey is to be completed before July and we will design the route in detail by May 2014. Construction will start in 2017 and we expect to complete the project in 2018 with a total budget of 6 to 7 billion baht," Mr Kanok said.

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Ms Suvimon and Mr Hasachai are the third dealers to be arrested in connection to a Swedish tourist caught with crystal methamphetamine.

Drug dealer web unravels after May arrest of Swede

TWO gun-stashing drug dealers were scooped up on June 7 in the wake of a drug bust that netted a Swedish national in Karon last month.

Hasachai Khaokhem and Suvimon Chaikhun were arrested when police recognized them from a description given last month by drug dealer Nattharin Dansathaporn, 29.

Mr Nattharin was found based on information supplied by dealer Rungruang Kwanthong, 37, who had in turn been fingered by Swede Jen Peter, 48, and Thai national Kwanpana Thani, 29, who were both arrested on drugs charges on May 8.

Police officers on a routine patrol in Karon recognized Mr Hasachai and Ms Suvimon and asked to search their motorbike.

After finding 1.82grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) under the seat, police accompanied the pair to their room at Patak Soi 1 and discovered three guns and ammunition, said Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Sophon Borirak.

Mr Hasachai confessed that he had purchased the drugs from a friend who lives in Rawai to sell to tourists in the Karon area, Lt Col Sophon said.

Mr Hasachai and Ms Suvimon have been charged with possession of a category 1 drug with intent to sell and illegal possession of firearms and ammunition.

During police questioning Mr Hasachai identified the man who sold him the drugs. Police declined to name the dealer.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Anti-government rallies continue

From page 1

...confirmed that many members of his organization will be joining the rally this Sunday.

"There will be more than 1,000 people there, including many members of the We Preserve Phuket Club," he said.

Already thousands of Phuket residents have donned Guy Fawkes masks and joined the anti-government "V for Thailand" protest against the current administration.

"We are not a mob, we have gathered to let the government know that their management of Thailand has failed," said a statement issued under the name "V-Phuket" during the Phuket V for Thailand protest last Sunday.

The catalyst for the V-Phuket protest last week was the same that drew hundreds of protesters to Provincial Hall two days earlier: the thinly veiled threats of Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi against the people of Phuket concerning the cancelled International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC) project.

"Phuket is next on the list for a convention hall after we finish the one here," Deputy PM Plodprasop said in Chiang Mai. "But I will not allow it to be built. We might build it if Phuket people vote for the

Pheu Thai Party, but if they don't, that building project is not going anywhere," he said.

Deputy PM Plodprasop's comments sparked outrage among Phuket community members, who rallied thousands to protest the current government's actions.

"We need a government that is fair to all of its people. Phuket earns a lot of money for the entire nation, but our ICEC project was cancelled. For Plodprasop to say such a thing is a total disgrace," the V-Phuket statement said.

Anti-Pheu Thai Party spokesperson Jittakorn Bushaba took the stage at Saphan Hin last Sunday. "We are all Thais. We must protect our rights to receive from the government without corruption," he said.

Mr Jittakorn made it clear to the thousands in attendance that the protest was not about toppling the government, but about changing "the management team".

"We have chosen white masks to represent the supporters of Thailand because it is not about yellow shirts or red shirts; it is about stopping the flagrant abuse of power.

"We will not stand by as people seek only personal gain after they have been voted into power by the people, for the benefit of the people," Mr Jittakorn said.

"For 17 months, Yingluck



Phuket Democrat MP Raywat Areerob attacks the Pheu Thai administration at a rally in Phuket Town on June 7.

Shinawatra... has worked only to help those that voted for her and for the benefit of her relatives."

Many of the masked protesters held signs denouncing the handling of the rice-pledging scheme.

As the protesters attacked the rice-pledging scheme on Phuket, opposition leader Abhisit Vejjajiva attacked it at his own press conference in Bangkok, alleging the project had suffered a loss of 260bn baht, and that much of it

was lost to corruption.


The protest last Sunday came just 48 hours after members of the We Preserve Phuket Club stormed Phuket Provincial Hall demanding that PM Yingluck relieve Deputy PM Plodprasop of his position.

"We need a government that will move Thailand forward," Phuket Democrat MP Raywat Areerob said.



Additional reporting by Saran Mitrarat and The Nation.


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Monsoon rains deluge Phuket

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

TORRENTIAL rains brought by the southwest monsoon caused flooding across Phuket last Sunday night and again on Tuesday morning.

The two-hour downpour on Sunday night flooded major streets in Patong, including the party district of Soi Bangla, to depths of half a meter.

"The flooding started at 9pm," said Kathu District Chief Weera Kerdsirimongkol.

"It took about eight hours for all the excess water to drain and for Patong to return to normal," he said.

Patong Municipality workers used pumps to clear water in areas where storm drains were not providing sufficient drainage. Other areas also needed water pumped to clear roads, including the road from Wat Naka to Suan Luang (Rama IX, also known as King's park).

The respite that followed was short lived.

Tuesday morning saw over 56mm of rainfall recorded in Phuket Town in just three hours, from 7am to 10am, and the weather monitoring station at Phuket Airport recorded 14.4mm from 4am to 7am and a further 9.8mm from 10am to 1pm.

The result was more flooding, with access routes to the Patong Hospital and Patong Police Station under water.

Patong Hospital Director Sirichai Silpaarcha confirmed that the hospital's facilities remained unaffected, though heavy vehicles were brought in to make sure any inbound patients could be delivered to the emergency ward.



Flooding in Patong did not stop people from carrying on with business, or at least attempting to. Photos: Mark Knowles/Kritsada Mueanhawong

ered to the emergency ward.

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan said that his officers and those from Patong Municipality were manning pumps to drain floodwater blocking access to the front of the police station.

"If the rain stops, the water will recede and everything will return to normal. In the meantime, police are performing their regular duties as usual," he said.

Flash floods also inundated Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, which runs behind the Jungceylon shopping mall, blocking motorists in small cars from continuing their journey.

Kathu District Chief Veera explained that keeping the storm drains throughout the town clear of debris was critical in helping the floodwater to recede.

"We need to accelerate the drainage of water into the sea as quickly as possible. We have called in all relevant agencies to make this possible. If the rain stops, the floodwater will recede quickly," he assured.

The Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Phuket office (DDPM-Phuket) has issued a flood warning for all areas across the island.

Areas in Patong identified as flooded in-



cluded Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, Rat-U-Thit 200 Pee Road, Ratchapatanusorn Road, Sainamyen Road, Thaweewong Road, Soi Bangla, Soi Sansabai and Laem Petch Intersection at the north end of the beach.

Areas near Phuket Town identified as at risk of flooding included Wirat Hongyok Road, Wat Naka Road and the entrance to Suan Luang.

Local government agencies were told to prepare response teams, pumps and other equipment to provide emergency assistance in case of flash floods and landslides.

Additional reporting by Paramee Poolsawat

Mosquito virus news buzz batted down by Phuket Public Officials

THE news buzz across the Pacific that has worked its way back to Thailand after a Canadian woman was forced to turn to the American Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to identify a mysterious malady has been batted down by Phuket Public Officials.

The 45-year-old Canadian tourist, who visited Bangkok and Phuket, was bitten repeatedly by mosquitoes, reported The Canadian Press. Doctors at her hometown hospital could not identify what was wrong with her, so blood samples were sent to the CDC.

The woman was eventually diagnosed as having contracted



Dr Krit Sakulpat said he is not worried about the Zika virus. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

the Zika virus, which is transmitted to humans by mosquitoes.

The virus, considered exotic in North America, is common in Phuket and not of special concern, public health officials said.

Dr Krit Sakulpat, deputy chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, confirmed that "the Zika virus is common in Phuket and throughout Southeast Asia. It is not a deadly virus."

"The World Health Organization has not informed us of concerns about the virus in Thailand or Phuket. If they do, we will take action," he said.

— Irfan Jamdukor

Three trucks up in flames

THREE pickup trucks burned early Tuesday morning in a fire police believe was caused by a faulty liquid gas (LPG) tank or arson.

Police responded to a report just after 1am that vehicles parked next to each other were ablaze at a commercial building near the entrance to Wat Manik in Srisoonthorn, Thalung.

Firemen took 30 minutes to put out the fire, which appeared to have started in the truck parked in the middle, causing serious damage to the vehicles parked next to it as well.

"The trucks belong to Tropical Landscaping International Company, a gardening service," Duty Officer Kitthiphum Thinthalang of the Thalung Police said.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat said that the initial investigation showed



Police suspect arson or a faulty LPG tank caused the truck to catch fire. Photo: Thawit Bilabduar

that the three trucks were modified to run on fuel carried in the LPG tanks in their beds.

"It is possible that there was a problem with the tank of the middle truck. Otherwise, it may be a case of arson," he said.

Forensic police investigations are ongoing.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

QUEER news

Gunfire over lack of sauce

THERE are few things more irritating in life than not having enough sauce to go with your *khao man kai*, as the actions of one man made abundantly clear.

When Wacharawong Lilasirinu Wong asked for extra sauce at Boss Khao Man Kai in Chonburi and was denied by owner Sakphadung Benchakun, an argument broke out.

Punches were exchanged before a furious 25-year-old Wacharawong left the establishment, returning minutes later in his black Mercedes-Benz – with a gun.

He sprayed the stall with bullets, grazing Mr Sakphadung and causing customers to run for their lives. Then he fled the scene.

On June 1, Chantaburi Police traced Mr Wacharawong to an apartment in Chantaburi's Muang District and arrested him.

The next day, the long-haired suspect was taken to Pattaya Police Station and made to re-enact the attack in front of the media and several of his relatives.

He confessed to carrying out the shooting, claiming he hadn't meant to hurt anyone, only to "teach a lesson" to Mr Sakphadung for his meanness with the sauce.

— Kom Chad Luek

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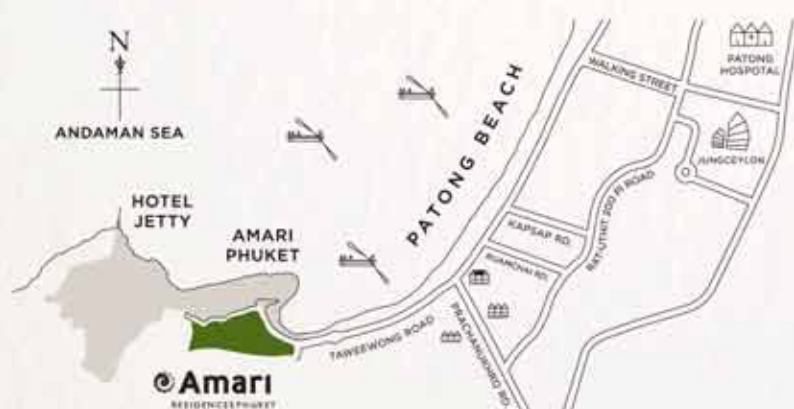


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US Ambassador Kenney showers praise on Phuket

By Orawin Narabal

US AMBASSADOR Kristie Kenney praised an array of aspects of Phuket during her one-day outreach trip to the island on Wednesday.

"I am very thankful for every Phuket police officer. I am aware of how hard your work is, especially as Phuket is a tourism city and you have to take care of not only Thai people, but also foreigners," Amb Kenney said to Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat in front of the press at Phuket Provincial Police Station.

Maj Gen Choti reported that last year 81 foreign tourists died from natural, accidental or self-inflicted causes, including drowning, illness and suicide.

"In 2013, there were 53," he said.

However, he also said that the number of robberies and assaults that foreigners were involved in had risen from 45 in 2012 to 51 in 2013.

Regardless, Gen Choti pointed out, "American people are not among those who cause a lot of problems in Phuket."

Amb Kenney replied, "Thank you for taking good care of American citizens in Phuket. Although



US Ambassador to Thailand Kristie Kenney (left) joins Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut for a talk at Provincial Hall. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

some incidents might have caused a negative image of Phuket in some people's eyes, I totally understand that you did your best and tried your best to help. It was just out of your control."

Gen Choti, Phuket's top ranking police officer, thanked the US Embassy for having arranged training last month for officers on how to prevent credit card fraud.

"The training was very beneficial to us," he said.

After thanking Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut for taking care

of the sailors of the USS *Nimitz* during their shore leave last month, Amb Kenney praised the beauty of the island as a tourist destination, saying that it was a "perfect union between city life and the beauty of nature".

"We will do our best to take good care of American citizens in Phuket. The US Embassy can contact me directly next time for any help," Gov Maitri said.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

Phuket

BANGKOK budget cuts leave Thailand's "Beach Star Rating" system adrift, with no single government body monitoring the key attraction for the Kingdom's vital tourism industry.
The Gazette's Chutharat Plerin reports.

THE Pollution Control Department (PCD) in Bangkok has slashed the budget for the Beach Star Rating project, leaving no single agency tasked with conducting regular water quality tests at Phuket's major tourist beaches.

Instead, for now, local authorities are left to their own devices to monitor, test and report how much wastewater is pumped into the sea surrounding Phuket.

"We have never monitored water pollution at beaches. Our mandate has always been to monitor pollution levels in fresh waterways, such as Bang Yai Canal," Akrawat Hiranphan, the Environmental Expert at the Phuket PCD office said.

"When there are complaints we will go and investigate. We are capable of doing the tests to determine water quality at beaches as we have our own laboratory," he added.

Regular tests of the seawater at Phuket beaches were once carried out under the PCD's Beach Star Ratings project, but now even that project has fallen to budget cuts. Also the responsibility for monitoring environmental pollution levels at the beaches has been passed onto local authorities.

"The beach star ratings were originally intended to be carried out each year, but now there is no budget to carry them out," explained Mr Akrawat.

The PCD star ratings allowed local authorities to nominate beaches in their ambit to be tested and awarded a rating. In doing so, PCD officers from Bangkok travelled the country and conducted hundreds of tests of visual, noise and environmental pollution in order to attribute how many stars a beach should be bestowed.

Other factors considered when determining a Beach Star Rating included beach encroachment and the number of beach umbrellas and sun loungers on the beach.

That project has been shelved. "We don't know when we will be able to start up the Beach Star Rating project again. It depends on whether or not the central government gives us the budget," Mr Akrawat explained.

"However, we are hoping that we might be able to revive the project by December this year," he added.

Indeed, the Phuket PCD office has been asked to start monitoring beach water quality at 56 "beach stations" along the Andaman coast from October on.

"We have yet to be informed exactly where the beach water-testing stations will be," Mr Akrawat said.

Currently, every local government authority in Phuket has their own public health division, which is tasked with monitoring pollution levels at beaches in their area.

"Once a month, they send us a report on the pollution levels of wastewater discharged into the sea," Mr Akrawat explained.

"But they don't have the expertise. Even Patong and Kata-Karon Municipalities do not have the technical abilities among their own officers to carry out water-quality tests; write the reports; and operate and maintain their wastewater treatment facilities. Instead, they hire private companies to do it for them," he explained.

"Ideally, we want to check the water quality at Phuket beaches between December and January. Unlike during the rainy season [May to October], the surf at west coast beaches during these months is very calm, which gives us a clearer reading of the true water quality," Mr Akrawat said.

"Also, December and January are peak tourism months for Phuket, during which there are more people on the island – and hence more wastewater being discharged into the sea – than at any other time of the year," he added.

PATONG

Somyot Singhbarmung of Patong Municipality's Environment Division wasn't overly concerned about Patong not being given a clean bill of health by the PCD's star rating project.

"We're not worried about Patong Beach not being given a rating, as long as we keep our beach clean," he said.

"Our wastewater treatment plant

Hundreds join World Oceans Day

NEARLY 500 local students and other participants joined together at the Phuket Aquarium in celebration of World Oceans Day 2013 last Saturday.

"For this special day we encourage people to become more aware of the problems facing our oceans, and the need for them to take action," Sombat Poovachiranon of the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) said.

To promote the rejuvenation of the oceans around Phuket, dignitaries at the event attached coral frags to cement blocks to be



Governor Maitri (right) takes part in the turtle release celebration.

placed in the water around Koh Khai, following which 29 Olive Ridley sea turtles and 19,999 Sea Bass fry were released.

During the event, Phuket Gov-

ernor Maitri Inthasut called on people to: 1) help others realize the importance of the sea; 2) stop illegal and legal activities that are damaging our coastal resources; and 3) take active steps to improve the marine environment.

"Phuket is a world-class tourist destination and has some of the most beautiful ocean areas on Earth. The people of Phuket must protect this treasure from those who are destroying the corals and overfishing... We also must keep our beaches clean," he said.

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beach ratings dead



A tourist walks barefooted along Patong Beach, which hasn't been given a star rating since 2011.

is working very well. We do not release any untreated wastewater into the sea and we pick up trash on our beach daily," he added.

Mr Somyot explained that the plant, located along Soi Nam Sia (literally "Wastewater Street"), has been upgraded to eight treatment ponds that cope with the more than 4,700 cubic meters of untreated wastewater that arrives each day.

"The treated water, about 2,700 cubic meters a day, is randomly tested by an independent company. Nearly all of it is used for watering public gardens and trees along the sides of the roads, as well as for hosing the streets clean. Only a small amount is released into the Pak Bang Canal [which empties into Patong Bay]," Mr Somyot said.

"The solid waste collected during the treatment process is dried and used by Patong Municipality as fertilizer," he added.

KATA-KARON

Likewise, Wanchalerm Hamesalamard of Kata-Karon Municipality's Public Health Office said that he was not bothered about his beaches not receiving a star rating from the PCD.

"As long as we keep our beaches clean, we're happy," he said.

Mr Wanchalerm said Kata-Karon Municipality had learned its lesson from two years ago, when a German documentary TV crew from the popular travel show "We Save Your Vacation" exposed untreated wastewater flowing across the sand from a pumphouse at Kata Beach, directly into the water where tourists swam.

The Phuket Governor at the time, Tri Augkaradecha, oversaw the public explanation that pumps at flow stations had failed, and the resulting plan by local officials to repair and install pumps where needed to make sure tourists were not exposed to the same sludge again.

"Since then we have made wastewater treatment one of our

top priorities. We have continually upgraded our network of pumphouses, treatment plants and drains to make sure untreated wastewater does not leak into the beach again," he said.

UNDER THE MICROSCOPE

Regardless of local health officials' confidence that beach water in their areas is clean, the news that there is no clear monitoring of pollution at Phuket beaches comes as the Senate Standing Committee for Tourism on Wednesday conducted an inspection of the major beaches along the island's west coast.

Led by Phuket Senator Tunyarat Achariyachai, who is also the chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism, the sortie inspected the beaches at Nai Yang, Surin, Kamala, Patong, Karon and Kata.

The tour was staged the day before the committee and leading Phuket tourism figures were due to meet Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak on Thursday.

Contacted by the *Gazette*, the Honorary Consul for the Netherlands in Phuket, Seven Smulders, revealed that he would be raising the issue of the quality of the beaches and seawater as a matter of great concern for Phuket, tabling the issue at a meeting of European ambassadors scheduled to take place on Friday, June 14, at Mai Khao Beach.

"In 2011, 16 beaches in Phuket were given a PCD beach star rating. The major beaches were part of the survey. All these beaches got either a 4-star [good] or a 3-star [fair] rating," he said.

"In 2012, the major beaches in Phuket were not surveyed. Nine beaches were instead surveyed and most of them got a 3-star rating. The reason given was that in 2012 the authorities wanted to concentrate on the other – not yet surveyed – beaches in Phuket so that data of more beaches would become available," he explained.

The results of the seawater test-

ing are publicized on a website in Thai, which, for now, cannot be accessed due to the website being under construction. The site will not be operational until the end of the year, Mr Smulders explained.

"Is it possible that the new



The water lapping against Patong Beach is no longer an Andaman green.



A pile of rubbish washed up onto Patong Beach during the low season.

website to be released at the end of the year contains an English version so that tourists and other interested parties can have access to the latest update of the quality of the seawater around Phuket?" he asked.

Mr Smulders also pointed out there is a Thai website dedicated to the beach rating, but updated information was not available.

Additional reporting by Auntika Sivasen and Paramée Poolsawat.



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Mr Ekkayuth Photo: The Nation

Cops investigate business tycoon's disappearance

The chauffeur of abducted millionaire businessman Ekkayuth Anchan- butr on June 11 admitted to murdering him, former police spokesman Lt General Prawut Thavornsiri said on his Twitter account.

Two other suspects who allegedly helped the chauffeur, Santiparb Pengduang, are on the run, a source told *The Nation*, without providing details about each person's role or how the murder took place. The known motive so far – according to Mr Santiparb's confession – is that Mr Ekkayuth fired the chauffeur's girlfriend.

Suwat Apaipak, Mr Ekkayuth's lawyer, said that the tycoon was last seen at a restaurant in Bangkok on the night of June 6.

Mr Suwat said Mr Ekkayuth did not show up for an appointment the next day and when one of the friends called him, he said he was busy with a "senior person".

Mr Ekkayuth reportedly called his sister, Supaporn Waenlor, at 9am that day, telling her to give a checkbook to a driver of the family company. The driver was told to meet Mr Ekkayuth at Suvarnabhumi Airport.

When the driver went to the airport, he was met by Mr Santiparb.

Mr Santiparb took the checkbook and returned with three cheques for a total of 5 million baht signed by Mr Ekkayuth. The company driver was told to cash the cheques.

After collecting the cash, the driver returned to the airport and handed the money to Mr Santiparb, who then left the scene in a van.

Mr Santiparb was later found by police in Southern Thailand.

Singaporean lese majeste convict given royal pardon

A SINGAPOREAN man jailed since 2009 on charges of insulting the monarchy has been granted a royal pardon and released from prison.

Wanchai Sae Tan, who was serving a 15-year sentence in Bangkok Remand Prison, was released on June 5. Following his release, he was set to be deported from Thailand.

Mr Wanchai, 63, will be sent home to Singapore, having lived and worked in Thai-

land for several decades.

He was welcomed at the prison gate by his wife and friends before being led away by police to deal with his immigration status.

Mr Wanchai was arrested on April 6, 2009 for handing out leaflets deemed to be insulting to the monarchy during a red-shirt demonstration.

In March 2012, Mr Wanchai was one of

eight lese-majeste convicts who signed an open letter addressed to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra asking for her intervention in getting them royal pardons.

The group composed high-profile figures such as Surachai "Sae Dan" Danwattananusorn, Daranee "Da Torpedo" Chanchaengsilapakul and Lerpong "Joe Gordon" Wichaikhammat.

Joe Gordon, a Thai-born US citizen, was released in July last year.

DSI peeks under hood of supercar scandal

THE department of Special Investigation (DSI) has uncovered a luxury-car tax evasion scam that may have cost Thailand as much as 20 billion baht.

Politicians, their relatives, government officials and celebrities are among the owners of thousands of high-end cars suspected to be involved in the scandal.

The DSI has already named 488 car owners.

The issue came under the spotlight late last month after four supercars in a trailer truck caught fire in Nakhon Ratchasima while they were on their way to Si Sa Ket.

Nobody stepped forward to claim ownership of the vehicles, leading officials to suspect something criminal was taking place.

Imported luxury cars are usually subject to an import tax rate of between 200 and 314 per cent. But auto parts are subject to a much lower rate of just 30 to 50 per cent.

Criminal gangs are believed to be buying second-hand supercars abroad, partially disassembling them and then importing them into Thailand as "auto parts".

Or they import the cars in one piece, paying off corrupt customs officials to register them as parts.

The cars are then fraudulently registered as having been "reassembled" in Thailand.

"We suspect that 5,832 luxury cars have been registered illegitimately in a way that allows buyers



The import rate for luxury cars, such as Lamborghinis, is between 200 and 314 per cent. Photo: The Nation

AROUND THE nation

to avoid paying taxes," DSI chief Tarit Pengdith told the press.

Last week, the DSI carried out inspections of several facilities registered as "reassembling plants".

The DSI found that the plants were actually just godowns, with none of the equipment needed to put together supercars. They also found five luxury cars, as well as more than 24,000 bottles of alcohol, believed to have been smuggled into the Kingdom.

The DSI is focusing its initial investigations on vehicles worth more than 4 million baht each, demanding that their owners step forward to prove they were im-

ported legally.

Mr Tarit said he had already told the Customs Department to block anybody trying to drive a reassembled car out of the country.

"This measure is needed to ensure that nobody will try to hide his or her car in a neighboring country," he said.

An informed source disclosed that records showed some individuals owned dozens of these reassembled vehicles.

Wildlife trade source hit, hundreds of animals seized

BANGKOK police cracked down on an alleged wildlife trade source in Bangkok, seizing hundreds of wild birds and animals.

Included in the haul were 14 white lions, four civets, one leopard cat, two hornbills, and one slow loris, as well as 23 meerkats, 12 peacocks and 17 marmosets.

The owner of the house, Montri Boonphrom-on, claimed the animals were legally imported.

Metropolitan Police Bureau 3 joined with Natural Resources and Environment Ministry in apprehending caretakers at the facility and seizing about 200 to 300 animals and birds.



14 lions were seized. Photo: The Nation

Mr Montri produced import and purchase papers to prove that the animals underwent legal procedures.

Ek Ekkasart of the Metropolitan Police Bureau 3 said the possession of a leopard cat, hornbill, civet or slow loris was illegal and that Mr Montri would face legal action.

Despite the documents presented, police seized all the animals pending a full investigation.

Officials initially charged Mr Montri with having wild animals in his possession without permission, and conspiring to hide and trade wild animals.



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Myanmar defends two-child policy for Rohingya families

By Jason Szep
and Andrew Marshall

MYANMAR's Immigration Minister has expressed support for a controversial two-child limit on a Muslim minority group that opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi and the United Nations call discriminatory and a violation of human rights.

Khin Yi, Minister of Immigration and Population, is the most senior official to publicly support the recently announced enforcement by local authorities of a two-child policy in northwestern Rakhine State for Rohingya Muslims, a stateless minority termed "Bengalis" by the Myanmar government.

"This will benefit the Bengali women," Khin Yi told Reuters.

His comments coincide with mounting international concern over the treatment of minority Muslims in the majority Buddhist country following outbreaks of communal violence that have killed hundreds of people since last year and made more than 140,000, mostly Muslims, homeless.

Continued religious tensions are among the biggest challenges for the reformist government that replaced a military junta in 2011.

Health workers say the two-child policy encourages unsafe abortions in one of Southeast Asia's poorest regions.

Authorities in Rakhine State say they need to impose controls on Rohingya to prevent further unrest. In Sittwe, the Rakhine State capital, apartheid-like policies have segregated Buddhists from Muslims, many of whom live in prison-like ghettos, since sectarian violence in June last year.



A Muslim girl wearing traditional thanaka paste is pictured at a refugee camp outside Sittwe. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE region

A spokesman for the Rakhine State government last month reaffirmed a 2005 two-child regulation in two townships, Buthidaung and Maungdaw, part of a web of restrictions drawn up by the former military government to control a fast-growing Rohingya population.

"The Bengali women living in the Rakhine State have a lot of children.

"In some areas, one family has

10 or 12 children," said Khin Yi. "It's not good for child nutrition. It's not very easy for schooling. It is not very easy to take care of the children."

Asked whether he supported the policy, he replied: "Yes."

Khin Yi said the two-child policy appears to have been implemented on a grass-roots level by the local authorities. "The order is not issued by the central government. It is not issued by the state government," he said.

He said the policy would help reduce problems caused by large impoverished families.

The policy has drawn worldwide condemnation and stoked a growing debate over treatment of Rohingya, who claim a centuries-

old lineage in Rakhine State.

The United Nations has called on Myanmar to "remove such policies or practices". New York-based Human Rights Watch said the law was "violating international human rights protections and endangering women's physical and mental health".

Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi has called the policy "discrimination" that is "not in line with human rights".

A 1982 Citizenship Act excluded Rohingya from Myanmar's 135 recognized ethnic groups, effectively rendering them stateless.

Bangladesh also disowns them and has refused to grant them refugee status since 1992.

— Reuters

In brief...

Nearly 300 garment workers fired over Cambodian strikes

AT LEAST 288 workers who produce clothing for US sportswear company Nike have been fired for taking part in strikes last month that turned violent, according to their union and dismissal notices.

The workers want the company, which employs more than 5,000 people at the plant, to give them US\$14 (432 baht) a month to help pay for transport, rent and healthcare costs on top of their US\$74 (2,291 baht) a month minimum wage.

Dengue fever kills 26 people in Laos

THE Ministry of Health of Laos is urging the public to clear out potential mosquito breeding sites to prevent the spread of the disease. From January 1 to May 31 this year, 26 people have died from dengue and more than 6,000 people have been infected with the virus, according to the ministry.

— Vientiane Times

Coastal erosion ravages Hoi An

THE Vietnamese coastal city Hoi An is facing dramatic erosion along the ancient town's famous coastline, with dozens of resorts in danger of disappearing underwater in the future.

"It's the worst situation of its kind that I've ever seen," said Nguyen Van Hien, the head of the city's natural resources and environment office. "The beach is dramatically disappearing. It stretched out 200m just 10 years ago, but now it has narrowed to 40m. The rest is underwater now," he said.

— Viet Nam News

Sulu sultan decries extradition plot

THE camp of Sulu Sultan Jamalul Kiram III on Monday accused the presidential palace Malaca ang of secretly plotting to surrender the sultan and his followers to Malaysian authorities, citing the previous extradition of Moro leader Nur Misuari from Malaysia as a precedent.

The sultanate's spokesman, Abraham Idjirani, warned that the move would likely trigger "violent results in Mindanao."

"It would mean deception on the part of the government which had signed a peace deal with our Muslim brothers just recently," Idjirani said.

At a news conference at their home on Monday, Princess Jacel Kiram, daughter of the sultan, told reporters the supposed government plan to extradite Kiram and his followers was going to happen soon.

"(All) has been quiet on the Sabah issue until an insider informed us that the government plans to turn us over to the Malaysian government," Jacel said.



Sultan Jamalul Kiram fears being extradited to Malaysia. Photo: Reuters

She said the extradition would have no legal basis since those to be extradited should be facing charges in another country, which at this moment they are not.

Despite the absence of an extradition treaty with Malaysia, the government may use the case of Moro National Liberation Front Chairman Nur Misuari who was extradited from Malaysia to the Philippines in 2001 as a precedent, Jacel said.

Malaca ang, however, advised the camp of the sultan to stop speculating about their extradition to Malaysia in connection with the Sabah crisis in February.

"That's just a claim," presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said in a Malaca ang briefing. "Let's wait for an official statement from us. I don't want to dignify any statement coming from the Kirams."

— Philippine Daily Inquirer

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In brief...

Egypt 'water war' talk raises Ethiopia Nile dam stakes

EGYPT does not want war with Ethiopia but will keep "all options open", President Mohamed Mursi said on Monday, turning up the heat in a dispute over a giant dam Addis Ababa is building across the Nile.

Bellicose rhetoric, including talk of military action by Egyptian politicians last week, had raised concerns of a "water war" between Africa's second and third most populous states.

Syrian army slays 100 people fleeing captured town

FORCES loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad have killed at least 100 people who fled the town of Qusair after it was captured by army troops and fighters from the Lebanese Shi'ite group Hezbollah last week, opposition activists said on Sunday.

Asteroid the size of a small truck buzzes Earth – NASA

AN ASTEROID the size of a small truck zoomed past Earth four times closer than the moon last Saturday, the latest in a parade of visiting celestial objects that has raised awareness of potentially hazardous impacts on the planet.

NASA said Asteroid 2013 LR6 was discovered about a day before its closest approach to Earth, which occurred at 12:42 am EDT about 105,000 km over the Southern Ocean. The 10-meter-wide asteroid posed no threat.

Germans evacuate as dam bursts on Elbe river

THOUSANDS of people left their homes in eastern Germany on Sunday as a dam burst on the swollen River Elbe and swathes of farmland were flooded in an attempt to spare towns, with meteorologists forecasting more rain.

Leak prompts questions over contractor reliance

By Deborah Charles and Ben Berkowitz

THE US government may have to reconsider how much it relies on outside defense contractors who are given top security clearances after a National Security Agency contractor exposed top-secret phone and internet surveillance programs.

Edward Snowden, a 29-year-old systems technician at Booz Allen Hamilton Holding Corp, admitted on Sunday that he divulged details of the NSA's programs to *The Guardian* and *Washington Post*.

Booz shares fell 2.6 per cent on Monday, and peers such as SAIC and General Dynamics fell as much as 1.7 per cent.

"We do need to take another, closer look at how we control information and how good we are at identifying what people are doing with that information," said Stewart Baker, former general counsel at the NSA and former assistant secretary for policy at the Department of Homeland Security.

Mr Baker said Mr Snowden's leaks show the need for the government to tighten up what can be seen by contractors, as well as government employees.

"Are we challenging him, are we auditing him? Are we taking measures to be sure he doesn't have wide-ranging access to stuff that is not relevant to him?" Mr Baker said of a theoretical contractor with wide-ranging access.

Companies like Booz became a cornerstone of the US government's national security efforts after the September 11 attacks. With a massive ramp-up in security operations came the need for organizations that could move quickly to implement new rules, regulations and screening protocols.

But that did not always go smoothly. A notorious example is the company formerly known as Blackwater, which agreed last summer to pay fines for trying to operate in Sudan despite sanctions. The company had previously been a source of strained US-Iraqi relations over shootings there.



US NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden was an analyst with a US defence contractor. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE world

The US government spends more than \$300 billion a year on services that are contracted out, according to Scott Amey, general counsel at the Project on Government Oversight, an independent watchdog that investigates corruption and misconduct in government.

"The government workforce has pretty much stayed the same over the last 30 to 40 years but we've supplemented that with a contractor workforce that has grown dramatically," he said.

More than 4.9 million people had government security clearances as of October 1, 2012, including about 1.4 million with "top secret" clearance, according

to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Nearly 800,000 government employees had "top secret" clearances, versus 480,000 contractors; the remaining "top secret" holders were not broken down.

It is too early to say whether Mr Snowden's disclosures will create momentum on Capitol Hill to review the use of contractors and security clearance policies.

"Whether someone is a contractor does not make them more likely to leak classified information," Saxby Chambliss, the top Republican on the Senate Intelligence Committee said in a statement. "There are very good contractors in the intelligence community right now who serve their country honorably."

Americans are debating whether Mr Snowden is a patriotic defender of civil liberties or the most unprincipled of traitors.

Mr Snowden saw his role more

clearly, saying the US government's powers of surveillance have grown so immense and intrusive that he felt compelled to denounce them, even at great personal cost. He could have remained anonymous but said his message would resonate more powerfully if he revealed his identity.

"The public needs to decide whether these programs and policies are right or wrong," Snowden told the *Guardian*.

Mr Snowden went into hiding in Hong Kong, saying he feared he could be captured by the CIA, another foreign government or Asian organized crime gangs.

Mr Snowden expressed some interest in seeking asylum in Iceland. He checked out of his hotel in Hong Kong on Monday and his whereabouts were not known.

Security experts say the risks of a Snowden-type case grow as the number of clearances proliferates.

— Reuters

Rosenberg Third Reich diary resurfaces

THE US government has recovered 400 pages from the long-lost diary of Alfred Rosenberg, a confidant of Adolf Hitler who played a central role in the extermination of millions of Jews and others during World War II.

A preliminary US government assessment reviewed by Reuters asserts the diary could offer new insight into meetings Rosenberg had with Hitler and other top Nazi leaders, including Heinrich Himmler and Herman Goering. It also includes details about the German occupation of the Soviet Union, including

plans for mass killings of Jews and other Eastern Europeans.

"The documentation is of considerable importance for the study of the Nazi era, including the history of the Holocaust," according to the assessment, prepared by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. "A cursory content analysis indicates that the material sheds new light on a number of important issues relating to the Third Reich's policy."

The diary offers a loose collection of Rosenberg's recollections from spring 1936 to winter 1944,

according to the museum's analysis.

Rosenberg was an early and powerful Nazi ideologue, particularly on racial issues.

He was convicted of crimes against humanity and was one of a dozen senior Nazi officials executed in 1946. His diary, once held by Nuremberg prosecutors as evidence, vanished after the trial.

— Reuters



Mr Rosenberg

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Cape Panwa Hotel to host Raceweek

THE 2013 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek – presented by Mount Gay Rum – celebrates its 10th Anniversary with a strong fleet of boats and international crews taking part from July 17-21 at the five-star Cape Panwa Hotel.

The luxurious Cape Panwa Hotel is an ideal regatta venue with its established international reputation, private beach and pier, and spectacular sailing grounds right on the hotel's doorstep. Following their successful first hosting of the event last year, Cape Panwa Hotel recently extended their title sponsorship and committed to be the home of Phuket Raceweek through 2015.

"We are very proud to continue our involvement with Phuket Raceweek and to extend our sponsorship of the regatta through to 2015.

The synergies of an award-winning yachting event and the Cape Panwa Hotel with its unique location, luxury accommodation and first class facilities, are clear. Feedback from sailors and guests last year was very positive and we look forward to building on that this year and beyond. We want to thank the



organisers of Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek Image Asia and MBS, as well as the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Sports Authority of Thailand, the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand and the Ao Chalong Yacht Club for their superb support," said Ms Tirawan Pangsrivongse, Project Development Manager, Kasemkij Hotels.

An exciting race program on-the-water, combined with the popular onshore social scene, kicks off with a Barbadian-themed opening party and concludes with a lavish ticket-only Gala Dinner hosted by Cape Panwa Hotel.

"This year is a milestone year for the event. We look back at the last nine years in which Raceweek has built a reputation for delivering one of the best regatta experiences in Asia, and we celebrate the 10th Anniversary year, while looking forward to the



Yachts race at a previous Raceweek.



LAP OF LUXURY: The luxurious Cape Panwa Hotel will host Phuket Raceweek until 2015. Photo: Gazette file

next decade and develop on the success of this award-winning regatta," said Mr Byron Jones, managing director of co-organiser Media Business Services (MBS).

Four days of world-class yacht racing in Phuket, combined with four nights of magical, beach side parties has proven to be an award-winning formula for Phuket Raceweek having been voted 'Best Asian Regatta of the Year' at the 2011 Asia Boating Awards. Such accolades have helped to firmly establish the regatta on the Asian yachting circuit and the

event's worldwide recognition is evidenced by an increasing number of charter boats taking part this year, underscoring Phuket's position as a leading sailing and marine tourism destination.

There is no better marketing for Phuket than repeat guests, and the 2013 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek, as well as attracting a growing charter fleet and first-time participants, welcomes back past participants from near and far, including some of the top racing boats in the region, a strong cruising and

multihull fleet, and the best Classic class in Asia.

The 2013 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek looks set to be an exciting curtain raiser for the 2013/14 Asian Yachting Grand Prix Championship.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For additional details about the 2013 Cape Panwa Raceweek, visit: phuketraceweek.com, facebook.com/PhuketRaceweekRegatta, twitter.com/phuketraceweek. The event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show. .



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Space solutions

Local self-storage firm addresses challenges and opportunities posed by rapid urbanization

SURGING land costs and the resulting trend of 'residential downsizing' has been a boon for the island's premier self-storage company, MY STORAGE Self Storage; with its ideally located Patong facility seeing an accelerated demand for its services.

Speaking to the Gazette recently, owners Sukanda Chiaranussati and Robert Akerblom talked about residential market trends as well as their firm's growth and future plans.

"Residential property development is moving towards smaller, urban type apartment and houses, which creates a greater need for residents to store personal belongings outside their homes," says Robert Akerblom, the co-owner of My Storage.

Indeed, with the rise in urbanization, the number of residential 'shoebox units' on the market is swelling, which means that the potential client-base for self-storage space will also be growing.

"Islanders want their living spaces to reflect who they are but don't always have the space to accommodate all their acquisitions. At the same time, they have more interests, hobbies and collectibles," notes Robert, a Swedish national.

Robert's wife and partner, Sukanda Chiaranussati, elaborates: "We've got people storing all types of belongings such as golf sets, diving gear, yachting instruments

and equipment, bicycles and motorbikes, collectibles and furniture, among others... One customer uses her unit as a library, complete with chairs and book shelf."

Popular in the United States for decades, self storage is the perfect solution for residents seeking a safe extension of their space-challenged homes.

"They [clients] don't have that extra spare room, so they fill boxes with belongings, bring it to us and use it [storage units] as an extra wardrobe; some visit the facility a number of times per day," notes Sukanda.



MY STORAGE Self Storage has 264 units for rent and also has moving services.

"We're finding that our customers want to live in the city or beach-side, but the trade-off is that they have to give up the extra space they would have had living in less attractive areas," adds Robert.

MY STORAGE Self Storage opened shop right next to Jungceylon Shopping Center, Patong in 2010. Currently offer-

ing 264 units for rent in a three-story building, with an additional 700 units planned, the facility has high-tech security systems, on-site management and is open seven days a week.

MY STORAGE is Phuket's first and only professionally purpose-built self-storage facility for individuals and businesses. Their services include left luggage, packing and moving supplies, personal and corporate storage, archiving, moving and shipping.

Robert comments about the company's inspiration and market niche: "Self storage in the west is an integrated way of how people organize their lives. The rise in popularity is fueled by a number of social phenomena such as urbanization and an increasing number of SME business launches.

"Managed self storage facilities with clean, well-lit, secure units and competitive rental rates will gradually replace previous alternatives such as vintage warehouses, traditional shop houses and shed lock-ups.

"There are always occasions when you do not have enough space in your house, office, or your business premise to store different types of goods and material. You always wish you could move some, which is not going to be needed for quite some times, and store it safely some other place. The majority of our customers specifically point out that security is very important to them."

Asked what separates MY STORAGE from other similar self-storage offerings on the island, Mrs Sukanda said, "We really try our best to identify what really matters to Phuket-based



AT YOUR SERVICE: MY STORAGE Self Storage owners Sukanda Chiaranussati and Robert Akerblom at their Patong facility.



HOME AWAY FROM HOME: Self storage clients include residents who need an extension of their storage closet, and businesses in transition.

Thai nationals, as well as foreigners... There are no barriers for potential customers to enter a weekly or monthly rental agreement with us, and we believe this is one of the factors driving customers in our direction."

"We know we've built a good product," adds Sukanda, who has worked in the Phuket property sector for eight years. "It's a far cry from the traditional warehouse spaces normally found in these parts

of the world; MY STORAGE is a premium product in all aspects."

"Our customers have other options, but we're confident in our product and we will continue to offer the widest choices for storage units, being the safest and most reliable apart from offering the best services from our great location," she adds.

Its not just the residential base that are reaping the benefits of self-storage, Robert notes: "Startup businesses use our storage units as they are good cost-savers and flexible alternatives to traditional warehouses.

"They can rent smaller units, which match their inventory size. As they grow, their space can grow. Since we offer flexible lease terms with the minimum storage term being just one week, small businesses can also use us as a short-term solution [for] overflow space.

Businesses are also changing their storage habits, he points out. "From a self-storage standpoint, it used to be that SMEs would use storage mainly for documents and items they no longer wanted. They would also use storage as a temporary space when they were in the middle of moving. Today, we're seeing a wider range of SMEs with a wider range of needs."

"With the rising cost of commercial real estate, it makes sense to store things with us, even if you are just starting a business – we offer flexible and affordable solutions catered to your needs," he concludes.

– Phuket Gazette



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Color-blind vision for the future

PHUKET'S coconut-esque social media is simmering over political events in shirt-dom. Red, yellow, white and blue. For those who know me, I am firmly a black shirt kind of guy. Yes indeed, day in and day out I just love those casual tees. In case anyone is wondering, yes, I do have a large drawer in my closet brimming to the top with monotone black t-shirts.

Sure the black tee thing has been done to death, and in many cases, has been quite literally fatal. Just look at the Ramones, who dropped like flies, or Steve Jobs. The MIBT (Men in Black Tees) look to be an endangered species. Yet as I type away on this column, my blackness somehow finds the light of a summer solstice in this world gone mad.

Recent comments made by Thai Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi about the on-off-on-and finally dead Phuket International Convention and Exhibition Center have only deepened the national political divide between the Pheu Thai and the Democrat parties.

No river-high mountain-deep here, it's off into the abyss, like the impossible task of raising the Titanic. In fact you could liken the ill-fated Mai Khao convention behemoth to the Titanic. Call in James Cameron and Leo DiCaprio to sort this out –Terminator fashion.

As we begin the blame game, once again, out comes that old trump card – the lack of environmental approval. Bring in the spoiler – those innocent sea turtles. Just how innocent are they? I see a conspiracy here, remember those elusive ninja clad apparitions who were never found during the Bangkok political crisis

a few years ago? I watch a lot of movies and TV and know all about Ninja Turtles. Could the current debate be an island version of Turtle-gate.

Now I am not going to embroil myself in local politics and weigh in on the great divide – Thailand, like everywhere else in the world, be it west, east, north and south, is lumbering under the crushing weight of big government. Here you have a giant elephant in the room, and the room is a fourteen square meter space at a Tune Hotel. Sure it's cheap and cheerful, but



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

the poor pachyderm can hardly find a place to sit down, much less move. We now know if he tried to make a call for help that Air America would be listening. Mr Obama we know who you are.

But the biggest shame and disgrace for Phuket, which remains one of the leading tourism destinations in Asia, is seeing its mojo hijacked by political greed and envy. Indonesia, which is Southeast Asia's biggest economy, has invested billions into its flagship 'Brand Bali'.

An infusion of billions of dollars in

infrastructure, which will be capped off by the APEC event to be held there this year.

Thailand on the other hand, has massively failed to understand the pulling power of 'Brand Phuket' and has squandered the opportunity to strengthen its image. Pride and prejudice rule in today's house of cards. Singapore gets it. So does Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines. Invest in world class infrastructure and you secure a seat at the table. Don't and you might well be out back washing dishes. Yet, as I find myself here, gazing out on the sunny street, the reality of things sink in. Phuket's convention center, just like the sporadic Bangkok-led land scandals, remain largely the sparring grounds for warring clans from different sides of the political divide.

From hero to zero and back again in 30 seconds – I'm not holding my breath for any resolution by either party, but can only point out that this island needs an agenda which is color blind when it comes to red and yellow.

At the end of the day, the private sector will decide whether a convention center is warranted, and if it is, go ahead and develop it. It's no different in the Western world – leave this kind of business to the professionals and try not to get in the way.

As for the shirts, perhaps let's have a national black tee day to soothe the tortured souls of the few who misguide so many. Maybe even give some to the turtles, after all there just might be something to this Turtle-gate thing.

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



MEANS TO AN END: Infrastructure projects such as the underpass in front of Central Festival lay the foundations for private sector expansion. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

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Phuket still on the map at TTM+ 2013

PHUKET is still a top tourist hub in South-east Asia, with a wide variety of hotels, resorts and hospitality-related businesses representing the island at 13th annual Thailand Travel Mart Plus 2013 (TTM+ 2013), held at the IMPACT Exhibition Hall in Bangkok between June 5-7.

More than 800 delegates arrived from around the region to network with the 420 hospitality related organizations participating at Thailand's largest business-to-business event, which is organized annually by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT).

Phuket-based Internet marketing and booking engine provider for hotels, Wide Discovery Dot Com, reported a very positive response from visitors to the company's booth.

The TAT reported a 16 % jump in international arrivals to Thailand last year to reach a record-breaking 22.3 million travellers, according to Deputy

Governor in charge of Europe and the Americas, Juttaporn Rerngronasa.

The TAT aims to attract a total of 24.1 million international visitors this year, predicting tourism revenue of up to US\$37 billion (1.14 trillion baht). TAT says it will focus more on quality, rather than quantity by employing more effective marketing campaigns that target upper class, high-spending travellers.

"This year's TTM was one of the best yet for Wide Discovery," said Director of Sales and Marketing Ms Nitima Hongyot.

"As Phuket's only provider of custom internet marketing and booking solutions for the hospitality industry, we have seen a significant increase in hoteliers seeking to improve their position in the global market by upgrading their online end-user experience and reach out to more independent travellers to encourage them to book directly on line," she said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



THE POWER OF NETWORKING: Phuket-based internet marketing firm for the hospitality industry, Wide Discovery Dot Com, reported a very positive response from meetings with international buyers and sellers at the Thailand Travel Mart Plus 2013, held recently in Bangkok.

Thailand number one for Kazakhstan tourists

THAILAND is the most favored destination in Southeast Asia for tourists from Kazakhstan, with the number of arrivals continuing to rise due to the friendly service, greater accessibility and affordable prices.

Given the cold climate in the Central Asian country, an estimated 80% of Kazakhs like to enjoy a beach holiday in Phuket and Pattaya, while Krabi was fast emerging as a preferred destination.

Some women travellers prefer Thailand for its spas, and also consider it as an ideal wedding and honeymoon destination.

In 2013, the number of Kazakh tourists visiting Thailand is projected at 60,000, up from 52,000 in 2012, and 42,000 in 2011.

Sergey Jetpyspayev, project manager at Travellab, a travel operator based in Almaty, Kazakhstan, said Thailand, Turkey and Dubai

were the popular countries among Kazakh tourists. Mr Jetpyspayev was in Bangkok to attend the Thailand Travel Mart 2013 Plus. As a buyer, he updated tourism products and services in Thailand with local and regional sellers.

He said that Kazakhs also liked to go to China, but mostly for business. Compared to Dubai, Thailand offers price competitiveness, being 20 to 30%

cheaper for most things, he said.

Thailand was the most favored destination in Southeast Asia because the country is more accessible, with daily direct flights in addition to charter flight service during the winter season.

In comparison, there were fewer flights to countries like Malaysia and Vietnam – twice a week and once a week respectively.

Kazakhs were also interested in

Cambodia and Vietnam but Thailand remained their primary destination, with only short trips to those places.

Groups that visit Thailand range from students to wealthy people. Some had bought villas in Thailand to stay as well.

At present, Kazakhstan has a population of 17 million, with about 1.5 million people going out of the country to travel each year.

– *Bamrung Amnatcharoenrit*

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KResearch: 25.4 million arrivals to be worth B1.14tn

DESPITE the strong baht and disappointing global economic outlook, the Kasikorn Research Center (KResearch) has predicted that the number of international tourist arrivals this year will reach 25.4 million.

KResearch said that Thailand remains an attractive destination due to its value-for-money prod-

ucts and services and the expansion of airline routes. During the first four months of this year, nearly nine million tourists visited Thailand, which represents a 19% increase compared to the same period last year.

The Chinese market plays a pivotal role in the country's tourism business as 1.53 million Chinese

visitors travelled to the kingdom from January to April of 2013, up by nearly 100% from last year. The numbers of Japanese and South Korean visitors also recorded significant increases during the same period.

As for European travellers, their arrivals continued to grow, but at a slower pace due to



Photo: Gazette file

HOT SPOT: About a fifth of all of Thailand's tourists come to Phuket.

economic problems at home.

KResearch estimated that a tourist arrival figure of 25.4 million could be seen in the whole year of 2013, which would generate income of 1.14 trillion baht for the country.

This equates to a per-head spending average of 44,881 baht, or US\$1,473, each.

Meanwhile, the Tourism Coun-

cil of Thailand (TCT) projects the number of foreign arrivals in the Kingdom this year to grow by 17% to 26.08 million, adjusting its previous forecast of 8-16%, citing increased political stability.

TCT projects total spending by foreign tourists to grow 22.9% to 1.18tn baht.

— NNT / Phuket Gazette

PIMEX '14 organizer hyped about January date

THE next Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) is open for business, having been taking bookings since early last month, May 2013.

PIMEX 2014 is confirmed to take place between January 9 and 12 at Royal Phuket Marina and remains a permanent fixture in the island's event calendar as it approaches its 11th year.

"After careful analysis of the last six years, it is clear that in terms of visitor numbers, exhibitor satisfaction and diversity of products on display, early January stands out as a preferred choice," said Andy Dowden, exhibition director.

Visitor numbers were down in 2012 and 2013 when the show was held in March, he notes.

"The way that dates fall in 2013 means that the first weekend will be difficult for organizers and exhibitors alike due to the proximity to New Year," Mr

Dowden explained.

He said that the event has already received strong interest from lifestyle and luxury goods producers looking to participate.

"We are in discussion with major automotive brands as well as high-end liquor companies, and cigar bars, among others who have expressed interest," he said.

"A number of private banks, jet and helicopter brands were VIP visitors at the 2013 show to assess the potential and were introduced to some of the leading exhibitors," he added.

Mr Dowden confirmed that, once again, Paul Poole (South East Asia) Co Ltd is on board to drive sponsorship and partnership channels, while Infinity Communications will be handling Public Relations campaigns in the region and throughout Thailand.

"We are already in discussions

with major regional and local media and will begin a comprehensive region-wide marketing campaign six months out from the show. The full marketing plan will be finalized and available by the end of June," he said.

Mr Dowden noted that discussions are underway to partner with organizations such as METS (Amsterdam), the Turkish Marine industry through the commercial attach , as well as AIMEX and AUSTRADE in Australia.

"To boost the nationwide presence in Thailand, we have met with the organizers of the Ocean Marina Pattaya Boat Show to promote cross participation in both locations and together raise the profile of boating and the marine lifestyle nationwide," he added.

Commenting on the show's social media and web strategy, Mr Dowden said: "We will use

Facebook extensively, and Twitter nearer the event to reach potential visitors, and to support exhibitors and sponsors."

Meanwhile, the show website (see end info) is undergoing a revamp and will carry links to booked exhibitors throughout the remainder of the year, he added.

In addition to all this, Mr Dowden said that there will be a two-day conference organized by the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology, which will be held in co-operation with PIMEX, with additional events to be considered throughout the year.

As for exhibitor space, Mr Dowden said that prices will remain the same for the sixth year running.

"Floor and site plans are complete and booking is now open. We are happy to discuss requirements and locations. We are



Photo: PIMEX media

WOW: Simpson Marine hostesses.

confident we have a good formula to return to a beneficial blend of marine and lifestyle with quality footfall for the 2014 show.

— Phuket Gazette

For more information, contact Andy Dowden, Exhibition Director by telephone on +66 81 892 7670 or email info@phuketboatshow.com or visit phuketboatshow.com

Justice Ministry to help curb debt

THE Ministry of Justice is planning to make the informal debt issue a national agenda after finding that more than 1.2 million people are indebted to loan sharks with some of them forced to repay at an interest rate as high as 360% per year.

A survey conducted by the Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, and the Ministry of Justice showed that the informal debt problem is a complicated issue that deserves the same level of attention as the poverty issue from the government.

Mr. Preecha Thananant, Assistant to the Justice Minister, said at a recent seminar that a center should be set up to specifically look into the informal debt problem and allow integrated efforts by all sectors involved to find sustainable solutions. The survey also revealed



Photo: Tim Moffatt

INSTANT DEBT: Thai ATM Machines.

that loan sharks often forced their debtors to sign an agreement enabling the former to file a lawsuit once the latter fail to pay installments on time.

The survey team suggested that amendments be made to relevant laws to penalize loan sharks who demand an interest rate of higher than 15% per year. Under the proposed amendment, loan sharks will be convicted on the same charge as money laundering, having a jail term of at least 10 years. — NNT

Demand for Thai steel up in Asean

THE Thai steel market is expected to experience consistent growth due to rising demand in Asean.

According to some experts, much of the demand is credited to the government's 2 trillion baht project for transport infrastructure. Speaking recently at the "2013 SEAISI Conference & Exhibition" seminar on "Developing a Competitive Steel Industry in Asean", held by the Southeast Asia Iron & Steel Institute and the Iron and Steel Institute of Thailand, Industry Ministry permanent secretary Vitoon Simachokdee said the Kingdom could witness an expanding steel market, given demand from industries such as the automotive, construction and machinery sectors.

The transport infrastructure project could also drive the Thai steel industry in the next seven years, he said.

Win Viriyaprapaikit, group chief executive officer and president of Sahaviriya Steel Industries, said there would be more room for growth in the steel markets of Asean, given early development steps towards industrialization.

"Asean's steel consumption remains at about 90 kilograms per person per year. This is very low when compared with industrialised countries, where consumption is in the range of 200-500kg per person per year," he said.

Steel demand usually runs in line with per capita gross domestic product. Asean's GDP per capita is expected to grow from US\$3,700 (Bt114,560) in 2010 to \$13,000 by 2030, he said, adding that such a rise could result in demand for steel nearly tripling to 262kg per person per year.

Demand from Asean countries, particularly Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia, is projected to rise from 49 million tonnes in 2010 to 194 million tonnes in 2030, Win said. — The Nation

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Deputy PM adds insult to injury

RECENT protests over inflammatory comments made in Chiang Mai by controversial Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi are just one small reflection of growing national unease with the Yingluck Shinawatra administration.

In an address to the people of Chiang Mai, Deputy PM Plodprasop said the people of Phuket's unwillingness to elect a Pheu Thai Party candidate would cost the island its chance to have an international convention and exhibition center, or ICEC, of the type recently completed in the north.

Mr Plodprasop, or anyone else seeking to win friends and influence people, may consider refraining from intentionally insulting any person or constituency; it seldom ends well at election time.

The comments were probably intended not as an insult to the people of Phuket, but rather as a way of stirring up support for the Pheu Thai Party in its traditional power base. Nevertheless, as a veteran politician on the national stage, Mr Plodprasop should have known better. We already have an ongoing, deadly insurgency in the Deep South; do we really need our leaders throwing more fuel on the fire of regional distrust?

The Pheu Thai Party's political opponents, themselves now donning masks, are looking to put a face on the enemy. PM Yingluck, the nation's first female premier, seems to enjoy a sort of teflon coating that harkens back to the days of US President Ronald Reagan.

Thus Mr Plodprasop's comments – though hardly the first insult meted out by the current Cabinet and not the first related to the ICEC – could not have come at a more ill-advised time for him and his party.

The now-defunct ICEC project, which had funding under the previous Democrat Party-led government, could only have been derailed through failure in the environmental impact assessment (EIA) process, conducted by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP).

ONEP falls under the Cabinet's National Committee on the Environment, chaired by none other than PM Yingluck. A primary reason given for the proposal's failure was that part of the project area was alleged to encroach on a sea turtle nesting site – though there have been no reports of nesting there in over a decade.

Other far more credible excuses in the ONEP's comments on the cancellation of the ICEC were related to the proposed project's "long-term economic viability".

Phuket's booming private sector is planning to build a new mega-project with convention facilities near Central Festival. This is a far better location, literally more central than Tah Chat Chai, which should remain in its existing natural state. Who knows, maybe at some date in the future it will once again be a viable site for sea turtles to lay their eggs.



Airport bus drivers, start your engines

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's new Airport Bus slated for July 1 launch, June 11

Thank goodness the airport bus project didn't just shrivel up and die.

I really commend V/Gov Chamroen and Mr Terayout for not giving up on it. It may not be perfect to start, but in this case, starting is everything. May civility prevail.

Fairely Kathu

Nice taxis cheaper

Re: Gazette online, Governor looks for direct flights between Phuket and Nice, France, June 3

I'd be on it tomorrow if they had one.

Nice is one of the most expensive resort destinations in the world, but the taxis are about 30% less expensive than here!

Brian Hazelton Gazette forum

Thanks for cleaning up Patong Beach

Re: Gazette online, Phuket lifeguards warn tourists of dangerous surf at beaches, June 3

Well done to whoever has cleaned up Patong Beach of the huge logs and tons of rubbish.

In the water there were two plastic bags per square meter. The larger debris (logs/nets/canvas) in the water was a danger to swimmers.

A job well done, and keep it up.

Skip Gazette forum

In this case we can blame the road

Re: Gazette online, Video Report: Phuket slams the brakes on tour bus neglect, June 8

Seeing the photo of the road, I'd say it is the way it is built that gets vehicles out of shape.

Weight and velocity puts the

Letters

to the Editor

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

thrust in one direction while the driver has to oppose it all with a turn.

You would not even see that design on a motocross track. They need to re-design the road.

Spiritrace Gazette forum

Buses need to have safety certificates

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Stop the tour bus insanity, June 9

Putting all responsibility on the driver is not the solution. If he refuses to drive a bus in whatever condition he risks being fired.

Buses need yearly inspections which are documented and accompanied by a certificate valid for one year. The responsibility for having this certificate lies with the tour operator/bus owner.

The certificates can easily be checked on all incoming buses on the Sarasin Bridge.

Chiara Gazette forum

How to catch a taxi

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Coordinate manpower to curtail illegal taxis, June 9

I'm sure your intentions are all well and good, Khun Manaporn, but the talk-talk approach has been tried so many times now and has been proved pointless.

Draconian methods have to be employed when dealing with these thugs. Seize their vehicles for 30 days for a first offense, then 60, then confiscate them.

And have small teams manning mobile VCPs [vehicle check-

points] with no pre-warnings to catch offenders, not the grand affairs you now use.

Randolph Gazette forum

Bury the tuk tuks too

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's most famous beachfront road to get 200-million-baht face lift, June 4

When they dig the trench to bury the electric cables, I would suggest to Khun Pian that he make it big enough to include all the unwanted tuk-tuks as well.

Whistle-Blower Gazette forum

Reserving the right to die at play

Re: Gazette online, Phuket lifeguards warn tourists of dangerous surf at beaches, June 3

People swim in the ocean at their own risk.

The lifeguards can advise people of the risk of swimming in high surf, but should not try to prevent people from entering the water.

Thaisail Gazette forum

Helping the lonely

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police find Swedish expat dead in Chalong, June 10

How very sad to die alone so far away from your country and your family without even someone to make you a cup of tea and ask how you are.

I have to wonder what kind of sad story might be behind her being all alone so far from home. Maybe we should reach out a bit and speak to people who seem alone and lonely.

Yvonne Gazette forum

Phuket Gazette

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Life-saving skills and English to the rescue

FIRST PERSON

IN PATONG, most of our calls are traffic accidents and most of the time the victims are tourists.

I think one reason tourists have accidents is because they are not familiar with driving in Thailand. Even simple factors, such as driving on the left here, causes problems. Many tourists drive on the right in their home country. For this reason I strongly suggest that visitors learn traffic laws and become familiar with how locals driver before they rent a vehicle.

A lot of the accident victims I've treated weren't wearing helmets. Everyone should wear a helmet every time they ride a motorcycle, and use a seat belt when they are in a car.

Another way to stay safe is to not drink and drive. If visitors want to party and drink, I recommend they choose a place near their hotel so that they can walk home afterward.

In my experience, many foreigners with minor injuries don't want to be treated at the hospital. They think they can take care of themselves. However, they really should get checked by a doctor because sometimes there is more to an injury than the eyes can see.

At Kusoldharm, we have two kinds of staff. The "white shirt" staff are those with first-aid training. The "blue shirt" staff are volunteers without complete first-aid training who help us by doing things such as driving and carrying stretchers. The white shirt staff are the only ones allowed to ad-



Juan Burana, 37, came from Surin to work in Phuket in 1995. He has been a Kusoldharm Foundation volunteer since 2003 and has worked as a rescue worker in Patong for the past four years.

Here, he talks about what tourists can do to stay safe and what Kusoldharm can do to improve the skills of their staff and help save lives.

minister first aid, so one of them must always be on standby.

The government provides first-aid training, but we need more. Right now, the course is offered only once a year, and not always in Phuket. Sometimes it's in another province – say, in Trang or Haad Yai, for example.



Mr Juan with his team in Patong. Only white shirt staff have first-aid training. Photo: Saran Mitratat

I'd like to see the course offered in Phuket every year. When it's in another province, we sometimes can't send anyone, because we don't have enough trained personnel standing by here in Phuket. Accidents happen every day.

And I'd like to see refresher courses offered, so we can continually improve our skills. Finally, I'd like to see courses for our volunteers so they can get primary first-aid skills. If we do these things, we will be better able to help people.

We also need more English language training – sometimes when I help a foreigner I can't understand what they want, or can't understand when they describe their pain.

It would be great if we got support from the government with English classes especially for those of us in Patong who have to communicate regularly with foreigners.

We also need to keep in mind that with the Asean Economic Community (AEC) trade regulations coming into effect in 2015, more foreigners will come to Phuket. This is another reason we need to upgrade our English.

If we can communicate well, we can help foreigners more quickly and maybe even reduce the number of deaths.



A practice not to be encouraged, even in trendy videos. Photo: Samsung

Samsung's new gilt trip

Island View

By Damian Evans

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

SO THERE we were – me, my wife and our nearly 3-year-old daughter – sitting down for a family dinner together when the advertisement for Samsung's latest technological marvel came on the TV.

A mother sends her son off to travel the world armed with only his wits, backpack, stunning girlfriend and of course his Samsung S4, reasonably priced at only 21,900 baht – just over the current price of an ounce of gold. Bargain.

As the son and his travel accomplice conquer the "must-do experiences while you're young", mum gets video and photo updates complete with sound bites from her son sent from around the globe, delivered right into the palm of her hand.

The advertisement has certainly hit the mark. The Internet Advertising Bureau in the UK noted the video had more than half a million views on YouTube in March alone.

Since then more than 2 million people have viewed it there.

The attractive and emotive video also struck a chord with my daughter, who shouted "Daddy! Camel! ... Look Daddy! Monkey! at the appropriate visual cues.

And it was the monkey that caught me off guard. The son in the Samsung video was standing in front of a building that appeared to be in Asia, with a baby monkey on his shoulder.

This image may be perfectly presentable in other parts of the world, but if the reports by the *Phuket Gazette* are accurate, tout-

ing such animals for tourist photo opportunities is illegal in Thailand. Just ask the Phuket wildlife preservation officer who occasionally gathers a posse to arrest slow loris and gibbon touts on Soi Bangla. Or ask the Russian couple caught on Koh Kai Nok in March.

Regardless of how clever the ad may be, the commercial my daughter saw was broadcast on Thai TV, and is surely a legal no-no in the Land of Smiles. The offending three seconds of monkey footage should be cut to meet the law.

In fact, Samsung should delete the monkey footage from the video entirely. The last thing anyone would want is a corporate giant inspiring millions of young travellers to break the law here in Thailand and contribute to the unethical profit-making from such animals.

Infant wildlife used in these 'unlawful practices are often poached from their mothers, who are killed in the process. This is not speculation; it is a well-documented fact.

Otherwise, if this is the route we are collectively taking, I can't wait to download my Bangla Slow Loris app so I know where and when I can catch up with the touts – and check the latest peer reviews and prices for photos.

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

Currency choices for retirement accounts

Each year for the past six years my wife and I have submitted joint bank account details showing the requisite 1.6 million baht in our account for three months in accordance with retirement visa application rules.

We also hold a sterling account at the Siam Commercial Bank.

Is there any reason why an account holding British pounds (sterling) held at the Siam Commercial Bank, together with a supporting bank letter confirming the account had held the sterling equivalent of 1.6m baht over three months prior to visa application cannot be submitted in lieu of an account holding baht?

Andrew
Phuket

An officer at Phuket Immigration replies:

To meet the retirement visa requirement, the money can only be in baht, and must be in a Thai bank savings account.

Other currencies, even if they are the equivalent of 800,000 baht per person, are not acceptable substitutes.

If you have any questions, please stop by the Phuket Immigration Office. We can also be reached at 076-221905.

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

Submit your issue at
www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Why do we owe property tax?

My wife and I own a villa in a large Cherng Talay development.

Two years ago we were told by the developer that we had to pay nearly 50,000 baht in housing tax to the local authorities, because even though our house is not rented, we could rent it – and it was a tax on the "possibility" of rental income.

We contacted the local authorities who were a bit vague and passed us back to the developer, who told us the tax is mandatory. Is this so?

Alta lake
Cherng Talay

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co, Ltd, replies:

There are two primary non-agricultural land taxes in Thailand.

One is called the "Structure and Land Tax Act 2478", and the other is the "Local Development Tax Act 2508".

The "Structure and Land Tax" is a tax on non-primary residences such as holiday homes or homes which are rented out.

This tax must be paid whether or not income is earned on the home.

The tax rate is 12.5 per cent of annual rental or yearly assessed value by the Land Department, whichever is higher.

The act does not specify who pays the tax, and district officers often collect it from landowners.

The landowner, how-

ever, may pass on the tax to the person leasing the land from him. This would need to be stated in the lease agreement.

The Local Development Tax is based on the area of land and must be paid irrespective of usage.



Taxes in paradise too. Photo: Sarah_Ackerman

YOUR Phuket

THE REGENT RECEIVED CD FOR IN-HOUSE TV

Brice Borin (2nd left), GM of the Regent Phuket Cape Panwa, and Saitharn Onn-ord, Regent Club Manager met with PGTV's co-producer Nattamon Meesin (1st left) and Manager-Advertising and TV Promotions, Kristi Matzenberger to take delivery of his first copy of the Phuket Today show, which will be featured daily on the luxury resort's in-house television channel.



NOT JUST A YEAR OLDER, BUT A YEAR BETTER!



Happy Birthday to Michael Trocherie (right), owner of Wine Connection.



SAIYUAN ESTATE BY THE ATTITUDE CLUB



Real Estate Director of The Attitude Club Co Ltd, Mrs Kanokpan Pranveerapaiboon (3rd left), handed over 500 bottles of Attitude drinking water to Head of the Blood Recruitment Red Cross Chapter of Phuket, Mrs Lianbee Saelim (3rd right).



Saiyuan Estate by The Attitude Club has expanded their real estate business to include the Russian market. Khun Chonticha, Sales Manager of Saiyuan Estate welcomes a group of Russian agencies lead by Rus Thai to inspect Oriental Essence style and Onyx Essence style, which are projects of Saiyuan Estate by the Attitude club.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online*

June 15 - 21, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week



houseinphuket.com

See page 24

JOB of the week



British
International School, Phuket



See page 27

BOAT of the week

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage



SINCE 1997

EXCELLENT CONDITION

See page 31

INVESTMENT of the week

Be different and boost your exposure

Phuket Pool Tables!



See page 28

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are **PAID!**

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're **REAL**.

Properties For Sale

LUXURY VILLA FOR SALE



Rawai, Saiyuan. 2 stories. Land: 516sqm. 3 bedrooms, ensuite. Large open living, garden, western kitchen, tropical garden with saltwater pool. CCTV security, WiFi, aircon, satellite, parking for two cars. Fully furnished. Price: 16 million baht. Tel: 085-309 4012. Email: firstpalmtreeontheleft@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://luxury-villa.webs.com>

HOUSE FOR SALE

Koh Kaew, Ideal Home, 4 bedrooms, study, playroom and maid's room, large garden, pool. USD \$ 550,000 o.n.o. Email: idwian@hotmail.com

1-BEDROOM NEW PATONG TOWER

Newly renovated spacious 1 bedroom apartment on the Beach Road, central Patong. 7th floor. Good rental possibility. 4.4 million baht. Tel: +45-5239 3777. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

3MB SEA VIEW CONDO

For sale. Must see! Best deals on the island. Please call 086-086 3845. For further details, please see our website at www.homesinphuket.com

LANDAT CHERNG TALAY

1 Ngarn, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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.

SEAVIEW KARON

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 pools, fitness room. Sale: 10.5 million baht. Or rent. No agents. Tel: 086-131 5458.

House for sale in Kathu



330 sqm. (82 sqw.) Single house with 4 beds, 2 baths (possibility to make a 3rd bathroom), office room, large living room, beautiful European kitchen, built-in BBQ in garden, washing area and fully furnished complete with washing machine, oven, 4 air cons, 2 TVs, microwave, oven, various utensils etc., 4.2 MB. CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Chino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approx. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

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 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).

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

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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.

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/ RENT



Special price, modern style, 30sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 pantry. In Kathu, 3km to Patong. Full set of built-in furniture. Ready to move in! Contact Ya. Tel: 081-797 5138.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/ RENT



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

HOT DEAL - CONDO AT THE POINT



Opposite to Big C, one bedroom with nice view includes furniture. 55sqm. Price: 3.5 million. Negotiable. Tel: 082-276 1817, 081-614 5372.

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

LAND SALE NEAR BRITISH SCHOOL

Land at the entrance to the British International School. Lake view, 544sqm. Price: 6,xxx baht per sqm. Tel: 081-691 2446 (English). Email: wut@tarntaraspaspa.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR SALE

Full landscape, 3 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, telephone, internet, kitchen. Located near the Heroines Monument towards Pa Khlok. 53sq wah land. Price: 3.3 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 089-646 4786. Email: fangmaigui@gmail.com

NAI HARN, SEA VIEW LAND

Soi Mangosteen, 20x10m, Chanote, sea view, 2.5 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 082-806 8843 (English), 081-894 2295 (English & Thai).

PROPERTIES FOR SALE

Condo in Kathu for sale, studio, 36sqm, floor 2, aircon, pool, fitness rooms. Price: 2 million baht. Email: soklakov63@mail.ru

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



For sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.55 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE



Chao Fah Garden Home 3 in Koh Kaew near BIS, 10 mins to Lotus. 2 beds, 2 baths, 2 aircons. Nice living & kitchen room, car park, fully furnished. Ready to move in. 2.85 million baht near Boat Lagoon. Tel: 081-541 2025. Email: c.junlarat@gmail.com

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.

KRABI, AO NANG

3 rai. 3 million baht per rai. 2km to Ao Nang Beach. Email: mr.axelmay@gmail.com

2 RAI MAI KHAO BEACH LAND

200m to beach, flat coconut tree land. Fully developed, Chanote title. 6.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-103 6660 (English & Thai). Email: wickiphuket@hispeed.ch

7 BEACHFRONT CONDOS 18MB

Outstanding investment opportunity! 7 studio apartments within beach front development. All 7 apartments are being offered at a discounted price to a total price of 18 million baht for all of them. Tel: 089-839 8255 (English & Thai). Email: info@lantaestate.net

FREEHOLD CONDO PATONG

Good investment, sea view, 5 mins walk from beach. Prices start at 3 million baht. No agents. Tel: 083-394 4402. Email: app_wilawan@yahoo.com

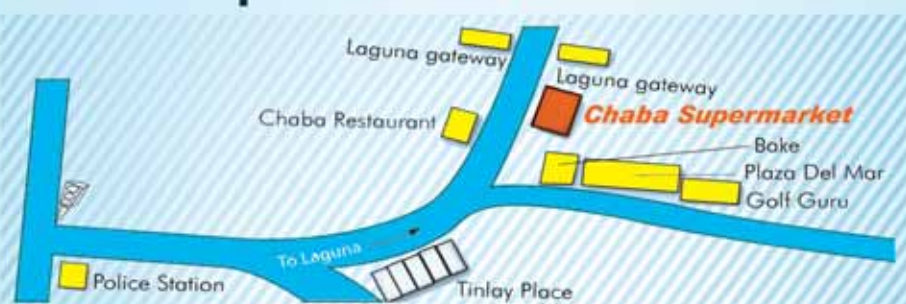
URGENT SALE/ RENT



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

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....because they're real.

Properties For Rent

HOUSE WITH POOL IN PA KHLOK



2-bedroom furnished house with large pool including monthly pool/garden maintenance. 40,000 baht per month long term. Tel: +1-604-542 2520, 081-719 7015 (English & Thai), +1-613-743 5335 (English). Email: adesmot@gmail.com

1 OR 2-BED APTS PATONG

WiFi. Aircon. Pool. Kitchen. Full luxury furnishings. 18,000 baht. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

1-BEDROOM APARTMENT PATONG

Luxury apartment, pool, WiFi, cable. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

CONDO FOR RENT

1 bedroom, at Phuket Palace and Patong Tower. Long-term from 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 1621.

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.

APARTMENTS / VILLAS



Great value accommodation, available for short and long term. Daily from 900 baht or 14,000 baht per month. Contact us for your enquiry. Email: info@resavaholidays.com For further details, please see our website at www.resavaholidays.com

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: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE IN TOWN

Dowroong Villa, newly fully furnished, clean and pleasant. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-326 1350 (English & Thai). Email: nicepeace@yahoo.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 19,000 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

PATONG BANGLA SHOP HOUSE

Large 6m x 14m x 4 floors, aircons + accommodation. Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA FOR RENT

3-bedroom pool villa for long-term rent, located just outside Laguna and 4km from Layan Beach. Tel: 081-891 1826 (English), 081-891 2926 (Thai). Email: keving@loxinfo.co.th For further details, please see our website at www.baanboosakorn.com

2-BED BEACH CONDOS+ POOL

Spacious, kitchen, terrace, large garden, large pool, beach 3 minutes walk. Few left for high-season! Email: resortgm@gmail.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, 24hr security, fully furnished, 46sqm. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

THALANG LUXURY POOL HOUSE

Long-term rent: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.rentpoolhouseinphuket.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: 086-4769612.

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

QUALITY APARTMENT

2 bedrooms in Patong 50 Pi Road. 120sqm. Western kitchen, new beds, curtains, sofa. Minimum 6 months, 20,000 baht per month + deposit. Tel: 089-000 4664.

HOLIDAY RENTAL, BEACH 5 MINUTES

1, 2 + 3 bedrooms, modern, apartments & pool penthouses. Free WiFi, 5 minutes slow walk to 2 beaches + town. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

THE HERITAGE SUITES



Luxury fully furnished at Kathu, 2 bedrooms, 161sqm. 40,000 - 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-895 1400. Email: info@theheritagesuites.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents! Not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

BEAUTIFUL HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully landscaped, 3 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, telephone, internet, kitchen. Located near the Heroines Monument towards to Pa Khlok. 53sq wah land. Long-term rent: 16,000 baht per month. Short-term rent: 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-646 4786. Email: fangmaigui@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 1 air conditioning unit, fully furnished, near monument. Tel: 090-865 6251 (English & Thai), 081-477 6323 (English & Thai). Email: gigi.sama@gmail.com

LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

http://pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm



houseinphuket.com

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

NEW APARTMENTS WITH SEAVIEW

New 1- and 2-bedroom apartments. Long and short term. Sea view, huge balcony, TV panels, WiFi, free parking. Pools, gym, expensive furniture inside. The best choice for living! Email: osa.com@me.com

KATHU GOLF VIEW PENTHOUSE

For rent, 2 and 3 bedrooms on top of a private hill, secure, 190sqm and 330sqm, grand view on Loch Palm Golf, Valley Lake, big pool, fully furnished, maid, long term: 32,000 baht and 65,000 baht. Contact Noi. Tel: 087-269 8492.

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.

CHALONG BEACH POOL VILLA

Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 2 garages. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-470 6104. www.houserentalsphuket.com

Live in Rawai?

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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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Phuket Gazette

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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, JavaScript, 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

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

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Thai citizen, aged 21-40, basic computer skills, good spoken English. Salary is 12,000 baht + big commissions on sales. Tel: 076-333079. 080-698 8335, 082-417 9299. Email: iphone.dez@gmail.com

KG & P1-3 VACANCIES

ELT Phuket International is looking to appoint 2 qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teachers to start immediately. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate such as TESOL/TEFL. Please email a letter of application and CV. Email: eltorborjor@gmail.com

THAI STAFF FOR RESTAURANT

In Kata. Assistant chef, waitress, pizza man, fluent in English. Tel: 084-441 0605.

SALES PERSON WANTED

A new quality condo development in Surin is looking for an on-site sales person for its sales office and show apartment. Must be able to communicate in English, both Spoken and Written and have experience with sales and marketing to an international clientele. Being available soon is a must. Call or email for more details. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

TEFL QUALIFIED TEACHERS WANTED

Full-time/part-time positions available for native English speakers. Tel: 081-083 5735. Email: michael@misterenglishschool.com

RUSSIAN SALES CONSULTANT

Experienced Russian Sales Representative needed for Real Estate. Good command of English and Russian required. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Send CV to c@bayshoreprojects.com

STAFF WANTED

Cashier, Waiters, Thai cook, Cleaner. Location: Kata-Karon. Tel: 081-895 5852 (English), 089-401 8506. Email: vladimir@me.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Thai lady with fluent written and spoken English. A lady that wants a challenge where rewards will be exciting. Good computer and social skills. Based out of Chalong. Tel: 080-695 3933. Email: Beachsando1@gmail.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@phuket-condos-homes.com

TEACHERS WANTED

Chalermprakit 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.

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Phuket Pool Tables is looking for a new assistant branch manager to join our latest branch at Cherno Talay. 20,000 baht + excellent commission. Please send your resume or call us. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

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ApexAsia Group are now recruiting for its marketing & guest relations department to work at one of three hotels in Patong and Karon. Enthusiastic and of smart appearance with good English (written/spoken). Full training will be provided, excellent earning potential. Email Kevin Baker at kevin@apexasia.asia

COFFEE & ICE CREAM



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

THAI DRIVER WANTED

Must have driving licence and basic English skills. Thai national. Salary + bonuses. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

GYM ATTENDANT WANTED

To sit in gym and bill customers. Sell protein shakes. Some English skills required. 12-9pm work hours. Thai National. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

COORDINATOR WANTED

To generate appointments for investments, savings, pensions and tax planning in Phuket. Contact Montpelier Wealth Management. Tel: 087-417 8715.

ASSISTANT CHEF & WAITRESS

ASSISTANT CHEF: must have experience. WAITRESS: must have experience and speak English. Thai nationals only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

Japanese wedding company Sa-mer Wedding at Boat Lagoon. is seeking an experienced accountant. requirements: 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

FITNESS INSTRUCTOR / SALES

Club Asia Fitness requires 2 Fitness Instructors and 1 Sales Consultant. Thai National who must be able to communicate in English. Tel: 080-698 5021, 087-275 3614 (English), 089-126 5671 (Thai). Email: coco_ivy@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.clubasiaphuket.com

NEED COOK (FEMALE) URGENT

Female cook, breakfast, Thai food and Euro. Urgently needed. Contact me on my mobile (as above). Tel: 076-396075, 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

OAK MEADOW INTERNATIONAL

The following positions are open in our school:

- Qualified Thai Teacher
- Cook
- Cleaning lady

Tel: 084-847 0732. Email: intlicense@yahoo.com

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The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is looking for a Thai/foreign national. Successful candidate will have strong written and verbal English skills. Position can be full or part time, based in Patong. Tel: 076-346927. Fax: 076-346927. Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

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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, 085-6190380 (English & Thai), 081-400 4678 (English & Thai). Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.oriental-living.net

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- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282254
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Tel: 076-280400
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd) Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- ▶ Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd) Tel: 076-232398
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd) Tel: 076-258369
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-255425

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- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

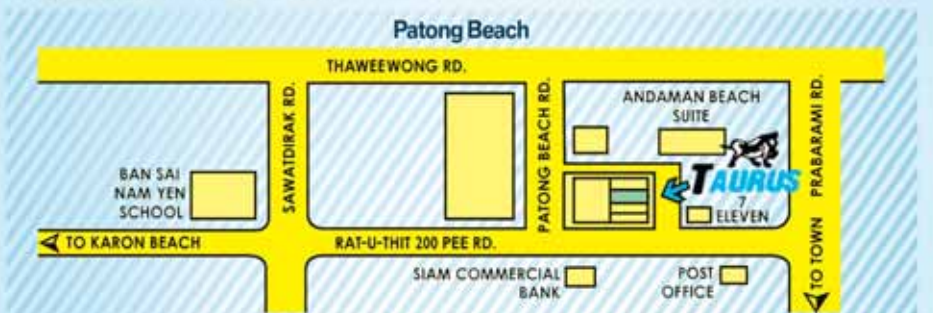
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- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-388144

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**DRIVER 16,000+,
COOK 15,000+**

Private villa. Thailand area. Thai national only. Basic English. Contact Todd. Tel: 089-005 0700. Email: toddplay@hotmail.com

**WEB MASTER/
GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

Must speak/write English, coding and social media is an advantage. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English). Email: alyona@princessyachtsthailand.com

**2 WAITRESSES
WANTED**

Two waitresses to work in restaurant in Rawai. Good English speaking. Thai National. Good Pay. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

**SALES SUPPORT /
ADMINISTRATOR**

Applicant must speak English perfectly and have excellent organizational skills. High salary commensurate with experience. Tel: 080-884 5944. Cover letter and resume to cha@thinkdesignmagazine.com or call.

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

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Experience with luxury motoryacht sales and brokerage of over 3 years; has good knowledge of motor yachts and including some technical background of various brands; good computer skills (excel, word, internet); speaks English fluently, and any other languages would be useful. Tel: 081-979 991. Email: vrit@boatlagoonyachtting.co.th please see our website at <http://boatlagoonyachtting.co.th>

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British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

Swim coach

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- The skills and psychology in teaching pool.
- Responsible and punctual.
- A very calm personality and love of teaching.

IT Technician (possibly Lead IT Technician if suitably experienced applicant)

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science or related fields
- Excellent knowledge of Computers
- Experience working with MacBooks and Windows Server
- Able to communicate in English
- Able to work in a team and independently
- Hard working
- Excellent communication and coordination skills

Teacher Assistant

- Thai Nationality, Bachelor's Degree in related field
- Teaching qualifications and experience in child care / teaching preferable
- Good command of spoken and written English

Art Assistant

- Thai nationality
- Ability to communicate in English
- Interest in the visual arts and the workings of an art department
- Able to work in a team and independently
- Able to use equipment in the design technology area to assist in the cutting and preparation of materials

Security

- Thai Nationality
- Male with previous experience
- Committed to work and able to communicate in English

Please send a short letter of application, Curriculum Vitae, recent photograph and e-mail/fax and telephone contacts of referees to: British International School, Phuket



59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel. 076 335555 # 2113 Fax. 076 335573
E-mail : kojchapant@bisphuket.ac.th , sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th

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Need experienced preschool teacher 10-14 children, start immediately, Chalong, 40hr a week, send resume to phuketteacher@yahoo.com

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ASSISTANT MANAGER

What we are looking for is a great all-rounder as this job has multiple roles. You will need excellent computer skills to manage operations and you will be assisting with the sales and marketing activities of the company. Thai nationality 30 years old with an excellent command of English. University degree or proven experience. People management skills. Outgoing, committed and energetic. Prepared to work in Patong & travel across the island. Email: info@newspaperdirect-phuket.com Find out about us on www.newspaperdirect.com

**DETOX CONSULTANT
WANTED**

English speaking. Nutrition & Detox experience required. Will be trained by us. All nationalities may apply. Start immediately. Good salary + benefits. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

**OAK MEADOW
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Qualified Thai teacher needed. Must speak English. Mon-Fri. Tel: 076-521550. Please email cv to Info@oakmeadowphuket.com

DESIGN STUDIO

Looking for an ambitious and organised person to join our team. Successful applicant will help with general office administration and the planning of photography shoot. Applicant must have an excellent command of English. Contact manager. Tel: 083-035 9632. Email: photomorphimages@gmail.com

**Accountant****Job description**

- In charge of all payable accounts for Service Department
- Prepare monthly report, issue all invoice/tax receipt to collect the money from customer
- Prepare VAT invoices
- Prepare day to day expense vouchers

Qualification

- Thai Nationality Male or Female
- Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- Familiar with computerized accounting system, preferably QuickBooks
- Some fluency in spoken and written English

We offer attractive salary, fringe benefits please submit a resume stating educational background, working experience, expected salary

contact telephone number and a recent photograph to info@leemarine.com.

For more information, please call **076-238 803**

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**FRONT DESK STAFF -
SAMUI**

Plus WELLNESS MANAGER required by Detox resort. Tel: 077-602096. Send CV and photo to fasthealing@yahoo.com

**BAR MANAGER &
ACCOUNTS CLERK**

Seeking an experienced Bar Manager. Must possess fluent English / Thai skills. Position based in Patong. Also seeking Accounting Clerk. Tel: 085-475 8030. (English). Email: brucebenjaminthomas@gmail.com

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Indoor pub. 30,000 baht per month plus damage deposit. Fully equipped, stage, sound system, seating 65 pax. 8 years + 4 months lease. Tel: 087-244 1322, 087-884 8972.

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Great location, facing Bangla Road. 136sqm, ground floor, outdoor and indoor. No key money. Tel: 085-887 7414 (English & Thai). Email: nimirphuket@gmail.com

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A revolutionary underwater tourist activity partner, silent partner or investor wanted for this underwater tourist activity. The only one of its type in Thailand and ready to work in Phuket-Krabi area. Australian designed and built. Excellent returns. For more information and full prospectus, please call 080-038 4916.

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RESTAURANT/ PUB
FOR SALE

In Bang Tao Beach Road, get 10 years contract, great location, 50m from The Best Western Hotel and beach, fully furnished and equipped. Price only 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-893 8590.

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Karon Beach. 9 en-suite rooms and laundry, bar equipped with pool table, 4 screens, kitchen. Tel: 085-795 0875.

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FOR SALE, CHALONG

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Pets



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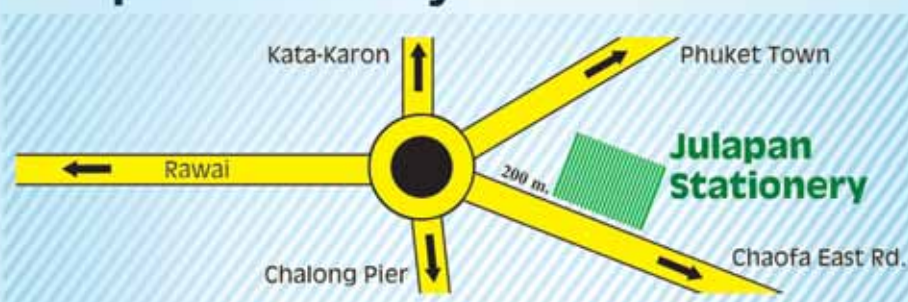
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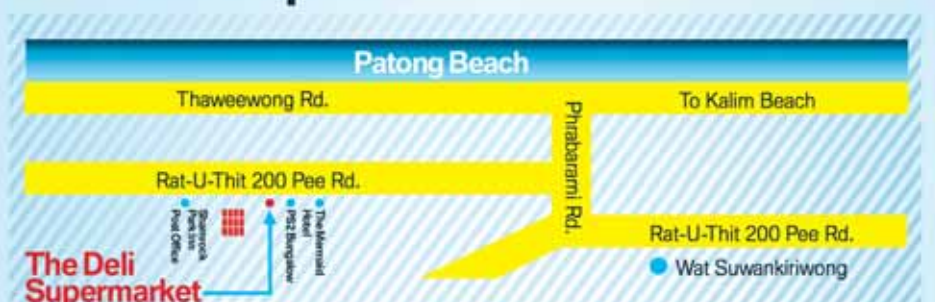
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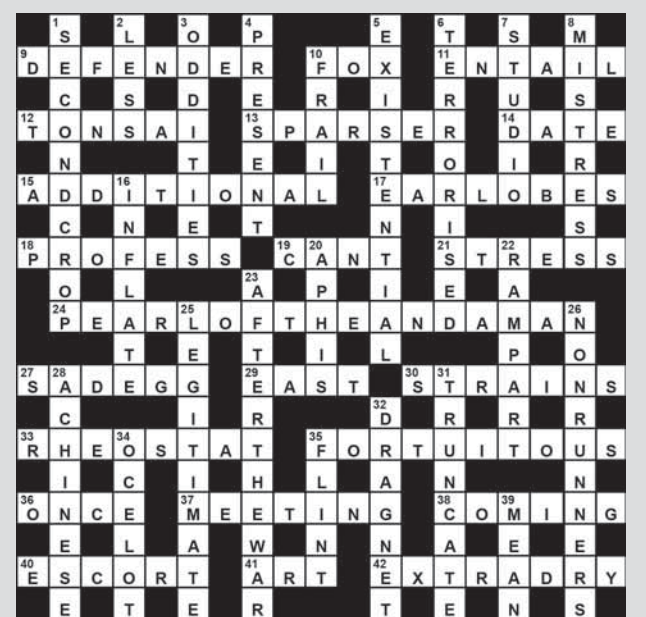
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SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic crossword

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8TH LAGUNA PHUKET INTERNATIONAL MARATHON



Laguna Phuket's Debbie Dionysius and Phuket Today's Tara Sudlow celebrate their completion of the 10.5km run at last weekend's Laguna Phuket International Marathon.



Krittapas " Krit" Sakdidtanon, Marathon Charity Ambassador



HeadStart teacher, Kayleigh Damant (left), completed the 42km marathon to raise funds for fellow HeadStart teacher Richard Allenby (right).

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Off Course: The 19th hole

By Mark Knowles

FINDING somewhere to spend a day with the whole family while keeping everyone happy can sometimes be a challenge in Phuket. Often, kid-friendly activities can leave the adults twiddling their thumbs and wishing they could be somewhere else. The owners of Phuket Adventure Mini-Golf in Bang Tao, Pia and Thomas, have solved this problem by creating a family-friendly venue that everyone can enjoy.

Their unique Adventure Golf course is not your typical 'putt-putt' golf course, but rather a miniature replica of a full-sized 59-par 18-hole golf course, which provides a fun challenge for kids and also lets adults brush up on their putting skills. But golf is certainly not the only reason to visit, their restaurant Off Course provides delicious meals in an alfresco setting.

Thomas says that their aim was to fill a gap in the market in Bang Tao, where family activities were sorely lacking, especially in the evening.

"We wanted to create a family venue where parents could enjoy a meal while keeping an eye on their children."

In keeping with the family

friendly atmosphere, the Off Course menu has plenty of crowd-pleasing favorites such as burgers, pizza, pasta and classic Thai dishes. Thomas says that their pizzas are the most popular menu item and it's not surprising who doesn't

love pizza? Alongside the standard pizza toppings, such as capricciosa and margherita there are some unique 'signature' pizzas such as the Pizza Phuket with chicken marinated in yellow curry powder and a Spicy Phuket with red curry chicken. Thomas and Pia have also injected a bit of their native Sweden into the pizza making.

"We make the pizzas 'Swedish style', with a thin and crispy crust and a blend of good quality cheddar and mozzarella cheeses" he says.

Having tasted the aforementioned Pizza Phuket I can testify that the perfectly cooked crispy base creates a perfect contrast with the tender chunks of marinated chicken – definitely give this one a try.

The other menu favorites include the huge selection of beef, Wagyu beef and chicken burgers with a great variety of toppings. There's a Hot Chili Burger for spicy food fans, a Hawaiian Burger for a tropical twist, and of course, the decadent Bacon and Cheese Burger

for all those meat-lovers out there. All the beef burgers are made from 100 per cent Australian Black Angus gourmet beef and can be ordered in 150 or 200 gram sizes. After tasting Thomas

and Pia's pizza creation, I thought it was only sensible to try their signature Mango Delight Burger, which has a slice of succulent grilled mango, red wine vinegar marinated shallots and fresh lettuce, served with a bowl of



MAGIC MANGO: The Mango Delight Burger, made with 100 per cent Aussie beef, is mouth-wateringly good

crispy shoestring fries and mango-mayo on the side. For those who like the sweetness of pineapple on their burgers, I humbly suggest you try mango next time, it is simply fabulous.

For dessert, the Swedish theme continues, with light and fluffy waffles made to Thomas and Pia's secret recipe. You can choose between the traditional strawberry jam and whipped cream topping or indulge in one with chocolate sauce and ice-cream. There is also cheesecake with raspberry coulis and passion fruit or try a grilled banana with chocolate and crushed cashew nuts.

To keep the little ones happy and well fed, there are a range of fun children's meals with cartoon inspired names such as Shrek's fish fingers and Sponge Bob's hot dog, which are sure to suit even the most fussy eaters. In fact, children's parties are Phuket Adventure Mini-Golf's specialty and no matter how big or small the celebration, they can take care of all the details.

"We can organize everything, if parents want face-painting or jumping castles, they just let us know, we can tailor the party to suit any theme and budget."

We can organize activity leaders or nanny's to take the stress off parents and keep the kids entertained all-day."

We can also do customized staff parties, team-building and other kinds of events for up to 200 people," says Pia.

The golf course is also fully floodlit so it's also perfect for evening events or parties or even just to enjoy a sunset cocktail from their extensive drinks list. So next time you're looking for a place to take the family for a fun-filled day and a great meal, make sure you head to Phuket Adventure Mini-Golf.



CRISPY BASE: The 'Pizza Phuket' adds a Thai twist with yellow curry marinated chicken pieces.



SWEDISH STYLE: Thomas and Pia ready to tee off with a Swedish waffle with strawberry jam and whipped cream (Above). The thin base pizzas are made with super-fresh ingredients (below). Photos: Mark Knowles



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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

The June lunch will be held at two Chefs Bistro in Karon. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For more information, please contact Carole Dux by phone on +66-76-316711; or email: info@phuketiwc.com.

June 21, 6pm-1am: Midsummer celebration at Two Chefs Kata
Celebrate Midsummer Eve at Two Chefs in Kata center. We are serving a large buffet with lots of Scandinavian specials such as our own smoked salmon, pickled herrings, liver pate, pastries from the Two Chefs bakery, and much, more for only 595 baht per person. And of course our famous house band will be there to entertain you until the late hours. Come for the food and stay for the fun! For bookings or more information contact Two Chefs by phone +66-76-330065 or email katacenter@twochefs.com

June 22, 6:30-11:30pm: Chivas Whisky Dinner at The Kee Sky Lounge & Restaurant, Patong
The Age of Celebration. Be a part of an exclusive 'dinner under the stars' experience and embark on a five course east-meets-west culinary adventure and pop culture party featuring a selection of Chivas Scotch Whisky aged 12, 18 and 25 years, plus Chivas Brothers New Malt. Enjoy live entertainment that will take you on a celebration down through the ages. Free car parking available. For bookings phone: 66-83-0978027 or email fb@thekeeresort.com

June 29, 10am-4pm: Lamburg's 19th B'Day. Free Pony Rides, Ice Cream and Cake!
Please help Lamburg, The Rider



Black n Blue play the Green Man in Chalong. June 28 8pm

Pony, to celebrate his 19th Birthday with free pony rides, (riders under 60 kilos), ice-cream and cake, with fizzy-wine cocktails for parents (limit two). RSVP to info@phukethorserescue.com or call 084-482 4581. We're at 51/68 Moo 6, Chong-Talay, Thalang. (Off route 4018, N. Bang-Tao Beach, Layan, Soi 7). Map at: andamanhorsecenter.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 fantastic non-profit event by becoming a sponsor, volunteer, or vendor. For more details please visit navyleaguephuket.org.

This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show.

June 28, 8pm-11:30pm: Hint of the Blues

Black n Blue will play at the Green Man Chalong featuring many

classic soul and rock-n-roll hits, plus of course, some great Blues rhythms. For an unforgettable evening where you can dance or just chill and enjoy great live music. Free welcome drink for the ladies. For more details visit facebook.com/blacknbluemusic

July 4, 6-10pm: July 4th 2013 celebration at Friendship Beach Resort

Please join us for a traditional American celebration at Super Natural Restaurant at Friendship Beach Resort! Location: 27/1 soi mittrapap, Rawai, Phuket. Contact Chef Charlie by phone on +66-89-728 5304 or email him at chef@friendshipbeach.com

July 18, 11:30am-2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

July lunch will be at a new venue. Salt at Surin. All are welcome but registration essential. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. Contact info@phuketiwc.com

July 22, Arsarnha Bucha Day

This Buddhist Holiday, which falls on the full-moon day of the eighth month of the Thai lunar calendar commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his disciples after attaining enlightenment. The holy day is observed by donating offerings to temples, listening to sermons by monks and making prayers.

August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom and is also Mother's Day.

September 19, 11:30am-2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch

September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 baht and guests 650 baht. Contact info@phuketiwc.com

October 8, 6pm-10:30pm: Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise amongst the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The awards promote and reward excellence in these venues and convey this message to the media and wine and food consumers in Thailand and abroad. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opened in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October. Contact Jon Hyams on +66-80-471 8713 or email info@winelistoftheyearthailand.com

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If you need to talk with someone, drop by one of the informal Sunday morning computer discussion groups, starting about 10am every Sunday at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong (about 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road). Consolation, commiseration, and old fashioned help await – for free.

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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.

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Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
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Unchecked aggression

WE'VE all heard stories about aggressive dogs and perhaps you have one of these so labeled canines living next door. Many of



Dog Whisperer
By Russell D Russell

being a yappy, nippy little thing at least, that's what most people tell me.

Second on the list? The mighty Chihuahua.

us have read newspaper articles, here and abroad, depicting vicious attacks on youngsters, or other dogs, by these 'aggressive' or 'bully' breeds. Of course, we all know the breeds I'm talking about: Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Pit Bulls and Rottweilers these are all hard-core, not for the fainthearted, child mauling breeds of dogs – right?

Well, a recent research study released in the Applied Animal Behavior Science Journal in the US into "most aggressive breeds" did indeed identify the top three most aggressive breeds. Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, surely? Not necessarily.

Before we delve in, let me remind you this is based on a US research study, albeit involving over 6,000 owners and over 40 different breeds of dog. I mention this as here in Thailand there is really no animal welfare legislation, and while there are bans on the importing of certain breeds, there seems to be no problem with breeding and selling them here.

In the US, with breed specific legislation acts being brought forward in more and more areas across the country, breeds like Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Doberman Pinschers and other 'scary' breeds are in danger of losing their homes and even their lives. These particular breeds are often touted as being extremely aggressive, but as the research shows, this isn't always the case.

So, which are regarded as the most aggressive breeds then? Well, in third place, is the Jack Russell Terrier. If you think about it, maybe you've had an aunt or a grandmother that used to have one and you can probably recall it

I say mighty, for we are all well aware of the massive heart these little dogs seem to have. Nose to nose with a Great Dane, a Chihuahua ain't backing down.

As for number one? The all time most aggressive breed? The Dachshund. Results from the survey found that one in four Dachshunds had either bitten, or tried to bite strangers and even owners and a similar number had tried to attack other dogs.

"Reported levels of aggression in some cases are concerning, with rates of bites or bite attempts rising as high as 20 per cent toward strangers and 30 per cent toward unfamiliar dogs," says Dr James Serpell, one of the team's researchers, about Dachshunds.

Conversely, the "media darlings of savagery", those Pit Bulls and Rottweilers and so on, actually scored below average in the aggression study, in a similar band with Basset Hounds, Golden Retrievers and Labradors.

The researchers also say that the bite statistics that have been released in recent years are skewed because most dog bites are not reported. Big dog bites are more likely to require medical attention, but this does not mean that those breeds are doing the majority of the biting. While we can all imagine a bite from a German Shepherd or similar being quite traumatic and serious, one should never underestimate



BITE SIZE: Chihuahua's, despite their small size were found to be aggressive. Photo: David Shankbone

the strength and damage a little Dachshund or Jack Russell can do, especially with children and babies around.

How did it come to this? That's a good question and the answer is quite complex.



ENERGETIC NOT AGGRESSIVE: Breeds such as the Staffordshire Bull Terrier are often unfairly stereotyped as being aggressive. Photo: Mark Knowles

Ultimately, a lot of this depends on the owners, how they treat their dogs, how they react and respond to various situations and essentially, what they are teaching their dogs whether on purpose, or unwittingly.

Responsible owners of a Pit Bull, or say, a Rottweiler, are naturally more aware of their reputation for aggressiveness and tend to take more control; possible by enrolling the dog in obedience classes, or seeking help and advice from professionals. For they know it is important to have this type of dog under control.

However, it can often be the case with owners of a Chihuahua, or a Dachshund, to respond with "oh its really cute" when he barks and snarls, "isn't he sweet being all defensive of me". However, in truth, these behaviors can, and occasionally do, lead to serious consequences.

In my time as a trainer, I've met some wonderful loving dogs across all breeds, and equally, met some really nasty ones but one thing is always the same. It's not the dogs fault, but that of their owners. Although in fairness, a lot of the time the owner isn't aware of what they are doing and the longer term

consequences of their actions.

Any dog in the wrong environment, regardless of breed, has the potential to bite, or cause damage, and of course, the reverse is also true. But if you're unsure about your dogs behavior, or you feel they are behaving inappropriately, then seek advice. All too often, we hear those famous words "but he's a lovely dog, really! ". Which I'm sure is true, but 'lovely' dogs are often put down, or re-homed because of a history of biting and aggressive behavior. A simple evaluation could be the difference between harmony in your household, or a serious dog bite.

Still not convinced? Two of my own dogs a Rottweiler and a German Shepherd are American Kennel Club (AKC) Therapy Dog certified and have partaken in numerous canine assistance programs, including a Reading With Dogs program at the British International School Phuket.

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



SURPRISING: Daschunds were found to be the most aggressive breed of dog. Photo: Dan Bennett

Dog of the week

FLUFFY has spent most of her life locked in a concrete cage with no room to move around. Not long ago the team from Doggie Heaven rescued her, she was very sick with liver malfunction, severe jaundice and open wounds on her rump from sleeping on the wet concrete for so long.

Now Fluffy is sleeping on a lovely padded cushion, going for walks on the beach everyday, and best of all, getting some real food and recovering well with the medicine she has been given daily. If you might be looking to adopt a small cute dog, that's full of love Fluffy would be perfect for you!

Doggie Heaven helps place homeless dogs with loving families and is located in Thalang. If you'd like to adopt an animal or want to make an appointment, please contact: sherin.peace@gmail.com or visit doggieheaven.net



Fluffy is looking for a loving home.

Superyacht Rendezvous to rock Kata



RESPLENDENT: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous attracts the finest superyachts. Photo: Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

KATA Rocks, one of Phuket's premier oceanfront developments, has been chosen to become the official host sponsor for the 2013 Asia Superyacht Rendezvous event.

"This is a logical move for two companies that cater to the lifestyles of individuals, to whom luxury, beauty and tranquility are of paramount importance," commented event organizer, Charles Dwyer. "Guests of the Asia Superyacht

Rendezvous will have the opportunity to stay in one of Kata Rock's award-winning Sky Villas, where they can enjoy stunning sunset views of the bay, where their superyachts will be anchored during the three day event."

Held annually from December 16 to 18, the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is host to some of the world's finest superyachts. Not just any yacht can take part. It is

"by invitation only" and mandatory requirements are that each yacht must be at least 30 meters in size.

"Kata Rocks is delighted to be hosting this exciting event" enthused Richard Pope, managing director at Kata Rocks. "It has been wonderful to see the Rendezvous attracting superyachts in increasing size and numbers annually to Phuket. Our Sky Villa design of sleek *louvre*s with tinted glass panels,



Ocean Lofts at Kata Rocks. Photo: Kata Rocks

wrapped around a modern, futuristic design was inspired by superyachts, so it is fantastic that they will be moored directly at our shoreline. We are thrilled that owners of the participating yachts will appreciate our luxurious facilities and enjoy the exceptional levels of service that they are accustomed to."

Launching this October, resort amenities at Kata Rocks include an

oceanfront restaurant and trendy bar, world-class Spa and Wellness Center, 'state-of-the-art' fitness room, lounge, library and boutique. An estimated 120 guests will be comfortably accommodated on the waterfront for the Rendezvous' Gala Dinner. – *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, please visit: asiasuperyachtrendezvous.com or katarocks.com.



Kata Rocks will offer an oceanfront restaurant, bar, world-class Spa and Wellness Center. Photo: Kata Rocks



Each yacht must be at least 30 meters in size. Photo: Asiasuperyacht





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Sok it to me baby!

JUST three hours north of Phuket is one of Southeast Asia's most stunning unspoiled natural resources – Khao Sok National Park. As Phuket becomes ever more febrile and hectic, residents and visitors alike increasingly need to escape to such places of physical, spiritual regeneration.

We reached Khao Sok National Park on a sweltering April day by heading north across the Sarasin Bridge and then up the coastal Highway 4 to Takuapa, then east on the 401 across the Isthmus of Kra en route to Surat Thani. It took about three hours, with our mountain bikes roped to the bed of the pickup, but as we approached the park, it was like awakening in another universe.

You know you are in for something special when the scenery along the route becomes at first dramatic and then simply breath-taking with huge limestone cliffs rising sheer from the verdant rain forest and towering majestically skywards. These are the remnants of the same 250 million year old coral reef that marches on through Borneo, Phang Nga Bay and eventually emerges in Halong Bay in the north of Vietnam. The Earth's tectonic plate collision extruded this coral ever-higher over the eons and indeed continues to do so, albeit at a mere centimeter or two a year these days. A well-marked left turn off Highway 401 takes you onto the little road to one of the world's oldest and most pristine natural rain forests – Khao Sok National Park.

Khao Sok and a few last remaining places like it in SE Asia, represent what renowned environmentalist Thom Henley termed "the geography of hope for the



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

human spirit". Thom's poetically-titled book *Waterfalls and Gibbon Calls* is the Bible on Khao Sok and is well worth obtaining if you venture to these parts. It was here that our cycle adventure really began.

Ditching our gear in one of the rustic wooden cottages at Art's Riverside Lodge, we cycled to the park entrance, paid 200 baht for our day ticket and we were on our way.

We pedaled past the visitor center and across the bridge over the Sok River and followed the left hand fork as it climbed a steep hill into the body of indigenous rain forest. This is most definitely mountain biking territory and the trail abounds in steep, often rocky climbs and descents. It's somewhat technically challenging

local Tesco!

We rode the seven kilometer out-and-back trail, with a cooling dip in the deep pool at the turning point to revive our jellied legs. Sweat poured, gibbons hooted and occasionally hikers cheered us on. It was exhilarating and exhausting in equal measure, but extremely gratifying at ride's end.

We had supper at the famous riverside restaurant at Art's Lodge, which was the first of the many backpacker-style lodges to open near the park. Art's sits on the bank of the Sok River where huge limestone cliffs tower over an outdoor terrace restaurant opposite a monkey swimming pool. The food is good and the environment conducive to the consumption of many beers after a satisfying day's ride and on this score we did not disappoint.

From Art's you can wade cross the shallow river then walk about a kilometer to the local temple called Wat Tam Pantoorat. Here tribes of wild monkeys play tag across the cliff face and in the trees above your head. There are rickety latticed climbing ladders up the face of the cliff, which, if you have a head for heights, will take you to a monks' meditation cave about a hundred feet above ground. It was here the following morning at dawn that we asked forgiveness for last night's Singha-Symphony.

After hiking back to Art's for breakfast, we rode down to the 401 highway and turned left towards Surat Thani for the 58 kilometer run to the town of Ban Ta Khun where after lunch, we turned left for the Ratchaprapa Dam at the southern end of Cheow Larn Lake. This gently undulating road is one of Thailand's most beautiful rides, wending its way through the 900-foot-high karsts



Bicycling Baz rides Khao Sok, one of the best riding routes in Thailand (top). Limestone karsts and verdant rainforest (below). Photos: Baz Daniel



ROMANTIC: Floating cottages on Cheow Lan Lake.

embracing rock jumping and sand surfing, and you also have to bear in mind that you share the path with a bipedal tribal ape known as Homo Sapiens, not to mention elephants, tigers, leopards, gibbons, barking deer, Malay sun bears and scaly anteaters – all of which have also been seen along this trail at various times. This is not exactly your common or garden variety Phuket ride to the

and featuring a stop en route at a little roadside temple to make merit by feeding fish-food to a huge congregation of scaly denizens from a rocky pulpit high above a river pool.

The final climb up to the dam is steep, and by mid-afternoon when we cycled it, we clocked 42 degree heat at road level. Arriving at the dam, the huge vista of the lake opens up before you and the hard, sweaty climb seems totally worthwhile. As dusk gathered, we loaded our bikes onto a long-tail and headed out across the glorious waters for the 40 minute trip to the Nang Prai floating cottages.

Arriving at our basic, but incredibly romantic, floating

billet for the night, we immediately decamped into kayaks and headed out across the limpid waters as a full moon rose over the serrated crests of the vaulting limestone karsts. After a swim we just floated in our kayaks basking in the silence, nursing a cold beer and luxuriating in the feeling of being among the most exhausted and luckiest cyclists in the world.

A great way to experience cycling around Khao Sok is with James Hembrow's Amazing Bike Tours who offer a three day excursion with pick up, transfers, excellent bikes, meals, great group camaraderie and fun. You can find more information at: amazingbiketoursthailand.com, or call 087 263 2031 or 076 23 436.

Vietnam: Mercedes launches bicycles

WITH the increasing demand for urban transportation, Mercedes-Benz Vietnam has just launched a new selection of bikes. The innovative technology and prestige of Mercedes-Benz are ensuring the quality and image of this selection.

These bikes are developed in cooperation with premium bicycle manufacturer ADP Rotwild at prices ranging from 14 million Vietnamese dong (about 20,000 baht) to 161 million dong (237,000 Baht).

The Mercedes-Benz Fitness Bike is enjoying growing popularity. Its big wheels offer a host of benefits for novices and

experienced cyclists alike, as they roll over obstacles with greater ease, and retain their momentum more effectively.

Another star of the Mercedes-Benz Bike Selection is the All Mountain model. With Fox Racing suspension, 30-speed gear shifter and disc brakes, this off-road bike can take on all terrains. The mountainbike weighs just 12.8kg. The Trekking Bike with mudguards, rack and a dynamo light system is a trusty companion on extensive leisure outings.

– The Nation

More information at: mercedes-benz-accessories.com



THE MERC EXPERIENCE: Along with other fast car manufacturers, Mercedes-Benz has just unveiled a range of fitness and lifestyle bicycles. Photo shows Benz trekking bike. Photo: Mercedes-Benz

Bonsai, cacti, palms and ponds



GLORIOUS: Astilbes in vivid shades of orange, deep red and magenta can all be enjoyed at the Phuket Botanic Garden. Photo: Furlined

ONE article could hardly begin to catalog the sheer scope and variety of the Phuket Botanical Garden, with its 15 rai and an army of 30 gardening staff. There are more than 30 independent zones, ranging from Thai inspired mini-gardens to a Japanese style affair complete with miniature pagoda and red rectangular arch; even an English Garden with raised boxes of petunias and pots of busy lizzies (impatiens), all in multicolored bloom. Interestingly, these are two annuals that will cope both with the cool climate of Britain, suitably protected, with the searing heat of Phuket. Other annuals such as African marigolds, capable of surviving both environments, featured in displays elsewhere.

In the Cactus Garden, an array of round, prickly succulents, some the size of basketballs, each carefully labeled, and thriving in simulated desert-like conditions, reminded me of Arizona.

But the stars of the show are Thai inspired. There is a splendid Bonsai Garden with a huge horse and elephant fashioned from living greenery that stand guard over the entrance. Low clipped hedges of box-like evergreens lead the eye to massed plantings of astilbes in vivid shades of orange, deep red and magenta. Here are massive bromeliads, some more than six feet tall and – a real surprise – round beds of ground-hugging wedelia, looking perky with their bright green foliage

and yellow starry flowers.

The tranquil fern garden also had its fair share of massive bromeliads, aechmeas and purplish neoregelias to the fore. This is a particularly impressive zone, landscaped with rocks and statuary, and awash with fountains and waterfalls to provide the necessary humidity. Even the rocks are mossy. Ferns abound everywhere, especially a luxuriant stand of sword ferns (nephrolepis cordifolia).

No Thai garden would be complete without its palms. The area devoted to single specimens [though there are palms galore] was a lawn, carpeted with Malaysia grass. Of course, the tall, statuesque palms allow plenty of light to filter through beneath. This zone provided tangible evidence of that fact: here, the humble oil



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

palm rubbed fronds with a glaucous Bismarck palm, here, foxtails, a spreading phoenix palm and even a traveler tree shared the space with a copernicia palm replete with huge glossy fruits.

Other zones were less foreseeable. There is a butterfly garden – a nice touch – and a vine garden, set in deep shade,

Predictably, it is drained of color save for an irrepressible violet/blue clitoria ternatea and a budding Rangoon creeper.

The Variegated Leaf Garden, fronted by an impressive green and yellow leaved fig was relatively bare, though the Sufficient Garden, where a large shallow pond, looked destined to produce a crop of rice.

A real revelation, however, was the Winter Garden, a sector beneath a plastic dome, which housed, in its air-conditioned atmosphere, the most

extraordinary array of begonias in pots, of a scarlet hue so brilliant that I initially thought they were plastic. It just shows what can be done.

So does the whole enterprise. All right, it has double pricing, a fact which doubtless deters tourists and expats. Sadly, the place was almost deserted. The brochure does no justice to the place, and though there are attractive signposts, there is no map of the Gardens. Visitors would surely pay for one. Labeling was sporadic.

But these are minor cavils. For this is a special place which not only botanists, but journeymen gardeners and anyone interested in Thailand's natural heritage would profit from visiting. It is a work of art, a labor of love, artistically conceived and imaginatively landscaped, which offers intimations of how an undeveloped Phuket might once have looked.

If you missed the first instalment on The Phuket Botanic Garden, I hope this week's account will persuade you to go. It is situated off Chao Fa Soi 48. The right turn into 48 from Chao Fa West is directly next to the offices of TOT. From Chao Fa East, take a left turn at Soi 14. The small brochure gives you a map and there are posted signs.

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



Blue and red bromeliad. Photo: Bill Frazetto



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Back to the bare basics

The island just got a new and highly experienced chiropractor, who is ready to relieve all your back-aches and pain

DR THOMAS Walton is the newest member of the team at Thanyapura's Integrated Health Clinic in Thalung. In addition to being a Chiropractic Sports Physician, Dr Walton, a native of Buffalo, New York, is also a US-licensed Massage Therapist and National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) certified Personal Exercise Trainer, with some 25 years experience in chiropractics.

The *Gazette's* Steven Layne recently had a rejuvenating consultation with Dr Walton, who took the opportunity to shed some light on chiropractic therapy and its purpose and benefits.

PG: Why would visiting a chiropractor be more advisable than say, going for a cheap massage?

TW: Many masseuses are trained to follow the 'cook book', meaning they learn and study a certain massage procedure in which they will apply to everyone. Even as a trained and licensed massage therapist myself, I cannot stress enough that every patient and condition are not the same, and there is never one universal treatment or procedure that can be applied across the board.

With chiropractics, we have to first assess the patient and problem thoroughly before making a diagnosis and before doing any adjustments or giving treatments, which are fully individualized.



Bad posture could lead to premature wear and tear of joints and muscles.

What is the purpose, aim and function of chiropractic adjustments?

The first thing we do is identify if the joints are moving correctly – too much or too little. Chiropractics works best when a joint is not moving enough, or what we call a fixation. If we identify where a fixation is, we can make a chiropractic adjustment to restore the proper motion to the joint. When the joint is moving properly, it can heal since there is no longer increased pressure on the joint which causes the irritation, which causes the pain. So, the purpose is to get the joint to

move properly, so that it can heal. What also happens when we make an adjustment, is it normalizes communication from the joint to your central nervous system, which in effect normalizes messages from your brain and spinal cord back down to the joint and to surrounding areas, whether it be muscular or organ systems. In summary, the adjustment restores proper communication in the nervous system so nerve messages are more efficiently transmitted.

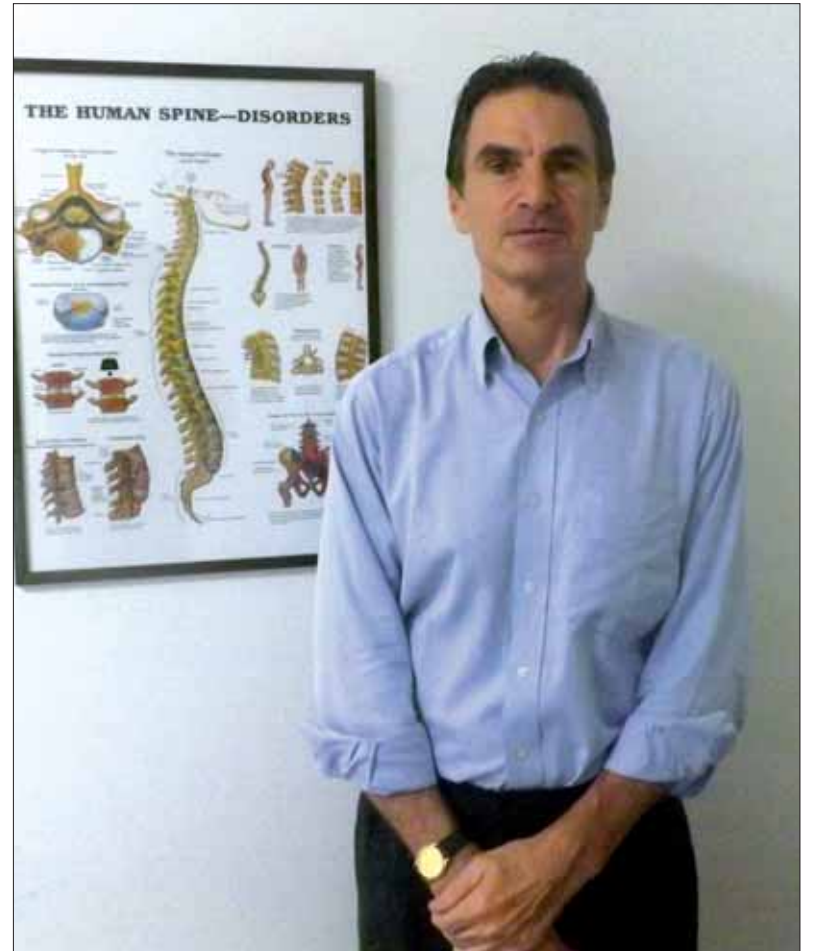
When you make an adjustment, what causes that 'cracking' sound?

We generally don't like the term 'cracking'. For some reason, it's a sensitive note for chiropractors [laughs]... When we make adjustments, what we're doing is gaping the joint by making more space where the joint is, reducing pressure inside the joint capsule, which contains fluid that acts as nourishment and lubrication for the joint. Inside the fluids are dissolved gases, and when we gap the joint and reduce the pressure inside the joint capsule, it allows gases to escape, which is what causes that 'pumping' sound [snaps his fingers].

How quick can one expect results? Are there such things as instant results?

This will depend on various factors, including the patient's injury or condition, history and age, among other things. I always stress that it is the patient's body that heals itself, not the doctor doing the healing. We just help to restore normal function. Through adjustments or treatments, the restored communication function can be realized instantly.

For example, if someone had interference in nerve flow [signal



STAND TALL: Dr Walton has 25 years of chiropractic experience and is a licensed massage therapist and personal trainer. Photo: Steven Layne

transmission] to a weak muscle that is caused by a fixation in the joint, I can do an adjustment that frees the joint and the muscle would become instantly stronger. However, there are many reasons why a muscle can be weak, so we have to take into account the entire picture. Another important factor about healing is time. Even after normal communication function has been restored, the body generally needs a few days to heal itself, much like after being sore after a good work out.

We often hear about good, perfect or normal posture. What does that mean?

I don't know if 'normal' is a good way to describe it. Everyone has certain postures – sitting, standing and lying-down postures. The ideal posture is where the whole structure of your body is balanced – from left to right, and front to back, there's balance. Unfortunately our bodies aren't symmetrical, meaning there are very few people with 'perfect' posture.

The reason why posture is important is because gravity is pulling your own body weight through your posture, to the earth. If you have poor posture, where you have these big imbalances – say you slouch when you're sitting – then gravity is pulling your own body weight through that slouch posture and putting more physical stress on those areas where there's poor posture.

This increased physical stress causes muscles to tighten up, which causes joints to become fixated, increasing wear and tear on the joints while your body parts start to wear out...

What age is considered too young or too old for a chiropractic consultation?

There isn't any such thing. Everything is geared towards the individual person. We have techniques that are very, very gentle and painless which we can use on infant babies.

For example, we can make safe and painless adjustments, using a mechanical device called an adjuster, on babies as young as six months, or an older, fragile person with osteoporosis, for example. I've treated people in their 90s.

As for general practice with my hands, every person gets evaluated; we find out their history to see if there are any risks or dangers; then we do an examination, based upon that we have a diagnosis and can continue with a treatment.

Some people may be scared or intimidated to visit a chiropractor for the first time. Do you have any advice?

As human beings, we're always cautious with new things; we want to make sure we're safe. As a chiropractic doctor trained in the US with 25 years experience, I was trained as a primary care physician so I'm sufficiently trained to diagnose problems; if the problem is not chiropractic related, then I would refer the patient out to an appropriate person; if it's something I can help them with, I will treat them.

I like to treat as gently as possible and be effective at the same time. For me, I like to include some work on the muscles as well as the joints and spine; in general, I try to take a holistic approach.

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Early Portuguese forays into Siam

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

THE Portuguese were the first European power to arrive in the Far-East and established a diplomatic relationship with Thailand, which at that time was known as the Kingdom of Siam. Portuguese diplomatic missions arrived in Siam in the early 16th Century. During that period the Kingdom's capital and center of authority was based in the ancient city of Ayutthaya. Vassal states, based in modern day Laos and Chiang Mai owed their allegiance to the Siamese King who ruled from Ayutthaya.

In the year 1518 the Portuguese sent an envoy, Duarte Coelho, to the court of Ayutthaya. The envoy bore a letter and gifts from the King of Portugal to the king of Siam. The treaty that followed guaranteed the supply of Portuguese guns and ammunition to Siam. In return, King Rama Tibodi II of Siam provided the Portuguese with facilities to settle and trade freely throughout the Kingdom, as well as the liberty to practice Christianity in the Siamese Kingdom.

In 1511, the Portuguese, under Alfonso de Albuquerque set sail from Goa, on the west coast of India, with a force of 1,200 men to attack Malacca, a city-state on the Malay Peninsula ruled by a Muslim sultan. They conquered the city in August of 1511, establishing the first European colony in the Far-East. In their treaty with the Siamese King in 1518, the Portuguese also requested the King to send some Siamese settlers to Malacca to replace the predominantly Moorish traders who had settled there before.

The early years of the Portuguese arrival had proved to be good timing for Siam. Although most Portuguese writings agree that Siam was the most powerful Kingdom in the region at that time, Chiang Mai, its tributary state in the North, had rebelled against Ayutthaya's authority in 1507 and by the year 1510, the Siamese were suffering severe losses in the war with Chiang Mai. In 1513, a Chiang Mai general took the offensive and marched south, invading Sukhothai and Kamphengphet. By 1515, these two Siamese cities fell to Chiang Mai's army and were annexed.

The 1518 treaty with the Portuguese provided King Rama

Tibodi with an opportunity to improve his army and equip his fighting men with modern European weapons. The King imported a considerable amount of firearms from the Portuguese. He also established a Portuguese training corps and hired Portuguese mercenaries to fight on his



SUPREMACY: The Portuguese were the first of many European powers who battled on the high seas for control of the Far East and its invaluable trade. Photo: Antoine Morel-Fatio

side. With the help of Portuguese military advisors, King Rama Tibodi was able to reorganize the Siamese army in 1518, after which he launched a counter-offensive against the Chiang Mai forces, driving them out of Siamese territory and defeating them at the banks of the river Mewang in Lampang province.

Gunpowder, firearms and cannons had been imported into the region long before the arrival of the Portuguese. The Malays in Malacca used cannons in their war against the Portuguese. The Siamese could have acquired them from Indian and Arab traders if they wanted. However, when the Portuguese arrived in Siam in 1511, they never saw the use of firearms in the Siamese army. The reason the Siamese ceased their use of firearms was because they did not know how to use them effectively. Gunpowder weapons, without proper training, can wreak havoc on the side using them. This would probably explain why neither the Siamese, nor the Burmese adopted their use up until the time the Portuguese arrived and trained Siamese troops to use them effectively.

After Coelho's treaty with Siam in 1518, the Portuguese increased their trade with Siam, not just in Ayutthaya but also at several other ports in the Kingdom.

Many Portuguese explorers travelled to Siam and some, like Mendes Pinto, who was an adventurous explorer and writer, travelled extensively throughout the Kingdom and kept a detailed account of his adventures.

Pinto arrived in Siam in the year 1545. His accounts of the country go beyond Ayutthaya and

included a reasonably detailed account of ports in the south of the Kingdom as well. Pinto was one of the first European explorers to mention Phuket in any detail, in his travel accounts. He referred to the island as 'Junk Ceylon', a name the Portuguese used for Phuket Island in their maps. Junk

Ceylon is mentioned seven times in Mendes Pinto's accounts. Pinto said that Junk Ceylon was a destination port where trading vessels made regular stops for supplies and provisions, however, during the mid-16th century, the island was in decline due to pirates and often rough and unpredictable seas, which deterred merchant vessels from visiting Junk Ceylon. Pinto mentioned several other notable port cities in his accounts, including Patani and Ligor, which is modern day Nakhon Si Thammarat.

Pinto first visited Ligor when on a trading mission, under the leadership of Antonio de Faria e Souza. According to his writings, the trading party went with a cargo of Indian cotton textile. When he reached the city, he wrote that it was a rich and



FIREPOWER: Portuguese cannons and small arms were prized by the Siamese army and also used as valuable trading items. Photo: Anton Croos

heavily trafficked seaport in Siam, always crowded with junks from the island of Java and from several other ports in the region. Trading ships came to the city from as far away as Borneo to trade with Ligor. It was the center of regional power in the South of Siam. Their journey to Ligor was not a happy one. According to Pinto's accounts, their trading party was attacked by a band of Moorish pirates on the high seas and they lost all of their merchandise to the attackers.

The Portuguese were arguably the first Europeans to introduce the proper use of firearms into the Siamese army. They also travelled the coastline of the Kingdom extensively and drew many of the early European maps of Siam. The term Junk Ceylon, later used as a common European reference to Phuket Island, also first appeared in Portuguese charts. Later down

the timeline, other European powers, the Dutch, French and British would follow the lucrative trade route pioneered by the Portuguese which would eventually lead them into a fierce competition to become the dominant power in the Far East.

Anand Singh is an avid Phuket Historian. He can be contacted at as.pkt@hotmail.com



SPICE TRADE: Spices were the driving force behind European forays into the Far East. Photo: Miansari66

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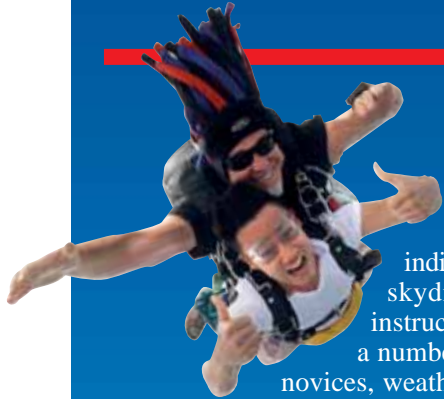
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Ready for takeoff, Phuket

Spectacular air show and family picnic only two weeks away

THOUSANDS from across Greater Phuket – locals and expats alike – will come out to celebrate the USA's 237th birthday with the grandest of family picnics and an airshow scheduled for July 6-7 at Phuket's expansive Airpark in Pa Klok, just east of the Heorine's Monument. With this year also marking 180 years of official Thailand-USA diplomatic relations, a number of exciting activities are on the cards, with a little bit of something for everyone in the family. In addition to an unprecedented Chili Cook-off, and an American style family picnic complete with live music, and authentic American food and beer offered in a carnival-like atmosphere, there will be a number of exciting activities taking place. Pat James, President of the Navy League Phuket (NLP), shared some of the highlights to look forward to.



Skydiving

Corey Parker, an American skydiving instructor, is a very dynamic individual. As an experienced skydiving and scuba diving instructor, Corey is set to lead a number of tandem jumps with novices, weather permitting. A tandem jump refers to when a student skydiver is connected to a harness attached to an instructor. Pat says that such a jump is even ideal for people who have never been in an airplane, much less jumped out of one. "Corey will facilitate a safe process to teach and allow people to experience the exhilaration of free fall and flight. If the weather does not allow Corey enough altitude to safely do tandem jumps, then he'll still do solo jumps." Corey looks to do about 4-5 jumps per day from either a Cessna 172 or from a Piper Lance aircraft. The jumps will take place from noon onwards on both days, in between aerobatics shows as well as several other airplane and helicopter demo flights.



Scenic Rides Over Phuket

In between skydiving jumps and aerobatic shows, guests can opt to embark on a safe and scenic ride over Phuket in a Cessna 172 and/or Piper Lance airplane, as well as a Robinson 44 helicopter. "Once you get up in the air and see Phuket from above, I guarantee that you will see things that you never knew existed – even if you've lived here all your life." Pat stresses that admission to see all the shows and demonstrations is **FREE** for everyone, while tickets to go on the plane and helicopter rides can be purchased for less than half of what is charged on a normal day at Phuket Airpark.



Paramotor Flights

Due to low air speeds and inherent stability, paramotor flight has the potential to be one of the safest forms of aviation, though certainly not the duller! Mark Silverberg, whose Paramotor training school is based out of Hua Hin, will be down in Phuket on July 6-7 to give paramotor rides and demonstrations. "These demos and flights will be ongoing all day on both days, as they don't interfere with our other activities, and don't even need the runway," explained Pat, adding that weather will also be a factor, although not as sensitive to wind and rain as much as hot air balloons, for example.

Aerobatics

Famous stuntman, Les Vorosmarthy, a Kuala Lumpur resident from Hungary, has successfully executed many jaw-dropping aerobatics maneuvers over the skies of Patong and Surin beaches, as well as a few over the Airpark. Come July 6-7, he's set to execute death-defying yet safe aerobatic shows in his beautiful red Extra 300 aircraft. "The fact that he'll have a runway to work with will allow him to get much closer to the ground," explained Pat, noting that Les is one of a few individuals in Southeast Asia who are certified to do aerobatics below the 300 and 500 foot levels. The shows are scheduled for 2pm and 5pm on both Saturday and Sunday (four shows total), each of which will last about 30 minutes. Before and after the shows, Les will be available for photo opportunities. Also, 10 lucky guests will be selected to go on a plane ride with Les. Pat assures that the rides will be safe. "They'll have parachutes, and go up and see what it's like to be upside down."



Hot Air Balloon Rides

From 10am onwards, Hans Lauten will be directing "static line" hot air balloon rides, allowing participants to go up in a hot air balloon to altitudes as high as 100 feet, where they can safely enjoy views and take pictures of Phuket down below. "The static line ensures that a breeze won't blow the balloon out to sea, considering the ocean is only a few hundred feet away from the Airpark," Pat explains, adding that hot air balloons are very sensitive to the weather. "The calm weather is the most ideal time, so those hoping to go up in a hot air balloon have the best opportunity in the mornings and evenings."



RC Competition

All day long on both July 6 and 7, the Radio Control (RC) Aircraft Club of Phuket will be competing for airspace, set to give inspiring shows and demonstrations of the latest and greatest that model-sized, yet fully functional, aircraft have to offer. "They have some great pilots operating many types of RC aircraft, including helicopters, fixed-wing type and motorized, electric jet type aircraft," says Pat, who adds that the best of these Phuket RC craft will be put through a test course and judged accordingly. Not only will the aircraft and their pilots be judged based on their abilities, but on their aesthetic appeal as well, which will be judged by a panel of the Navy League Phuket Board of Directors, who will issue awards and certificates.

All funds raised from this event, including a portion of the proceeds from food, beverage and ticket sales, will be used for charitable initiatives as directed by the NLP. Moreover, there is still vendor tent and booth space available. For information about becoming an event sponsor, vendor or exhibitor, go to:

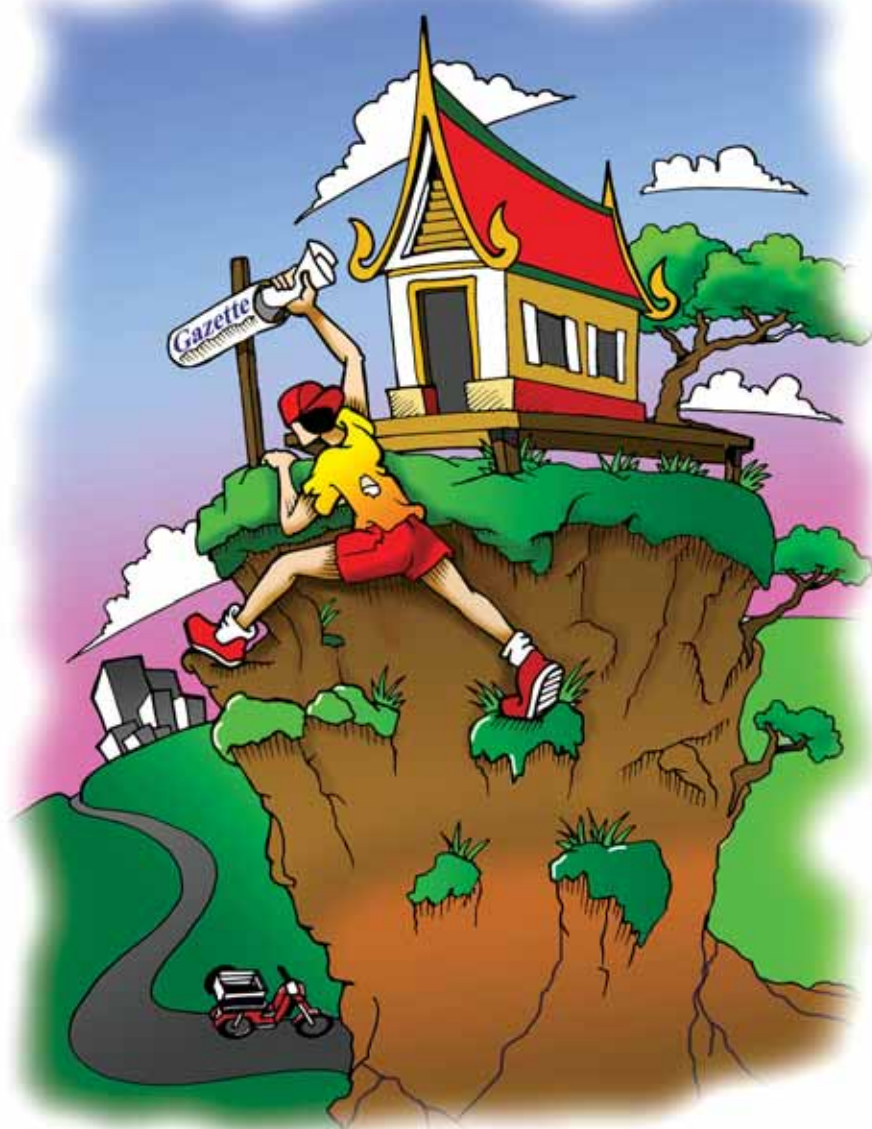
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Family festival funds allocated



DAY OF FUN: Children from local orphanages attended the Phuket Family and Gourmet Festival by Jagota held in January this year. Photo: Gazette File

MEMBERS of the fund raising committee for the Phuket Family and Gourmet Festival by Jagota met recently to allocate the second and final round of funding raised during the inaugural event held in February this year. The festival was a resounding success and raised one million baht to support various orphanages and children focused charities in the Greater Phuket region.

In the first round of funding, 500,000 baht of the money raised was divided equally between ten local charities. The second round of funding distributed the remaining 500,000

baht on a needs basis with several of the charities receiving funding for items such as playground equipment, uniforms, educational material and constructing and equipping a first aid room.

In total the charities involved in the festival received the following funds: Good Shepherd (146,419 baht); Baan Namchai orphanage (100,000 baht); Baan San Fan orphanage (200,000 baht); Children World Academy (110,000 baht); Phuket Sunshine Village (50,000 baht); Home Life Orphanage (93,581 baht); World Vision Foundation (50,000 baht); SOS Children's Village



Members of the Family Festival committee (from left to right) Martin Smetzers, George Des, Kanittha Prasopsirikul, Ian Jamieson, Marc Malloy and Vicki Gregory. Photo: Mark Knowles

(100,000 baht); Phuket Has Been Good to Us (50,000); and Child Watch (100,000).

The committee members also used the meeting to begin planning for the 2014 Phuket Family and Gourmet Festival by Jagota. Jagota General Manager Phuket, George Des, said that they hoped to build on the success of the first event to create an even bigger event and raise even more money next year.

Jagota Brothers trading company is one of Thailand's leading gourmet food importers, which employs 200 people and supply the best resorts, hotels and restau-

rants throughout Thailand.

The inaugural Phuket Family and Gourmet Festival was set up by brothers and directors of Jagota, Anand and Gopal Jagota, with the aim of helping underprivileged children and the children orphaned by the tsunami event. As part of the event children from local orphanages invited to enjoy a fun day out at the festival with plenty of games and food. The event also involved chefs from the top hotels and restaurants in Phuket create delicious snacks with Jagota donated products to sell and raise money.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Laguna's marathon charity effort

FUNDRAISING efforts at the recent Laguna International Marathon exceeded the 100,000 baht target set by organizers, raising a total of 106,841.75 baht for the Laguna Phuket Foundation (LPF).

The success of the fund raising was helped by Charity Ambassador Krittapas "Krit" Sakdittanon, who lead a team of volunteers who sought donations during the marathon weekend. The money raised during the marathon will contribute to the LPF 2013 target which aims to collect one million baht per year to operate its various charitable programs.

Established in 2009, LPF supports educational and social development, marine and natural environmental conservation, and emergency relief.

In previous years, athletes from Thailand and all over the world have raised millions of baht to fund several school rebuilding programs through LPIM and the Laguna Phuket triathlon events.

Laguna Phuket Foundation's current initiatives include Laguna Phuket's "Fully Booked!" Mobile Learning Centre, Survival Swim program, and School Partnership Project components which form the Developing Sustainable Schools umbrella program.

Other ongoing initiatives include the Laguna Phuket Community English Language Center and the Sea Turtle Conservation program.

– *Phuket Gazette*



RUNNING FOR A CAUSE: LPIM Charity Ambassador Krittapas "Krit" Sakdittanon, pictured with local schoolchildren, spearheaded the fundraising efforts over the marathon weekend. Photo Laguna Phuket

See *Laguna Phuket International Marathon 2013 results* on Sports page 51.



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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.

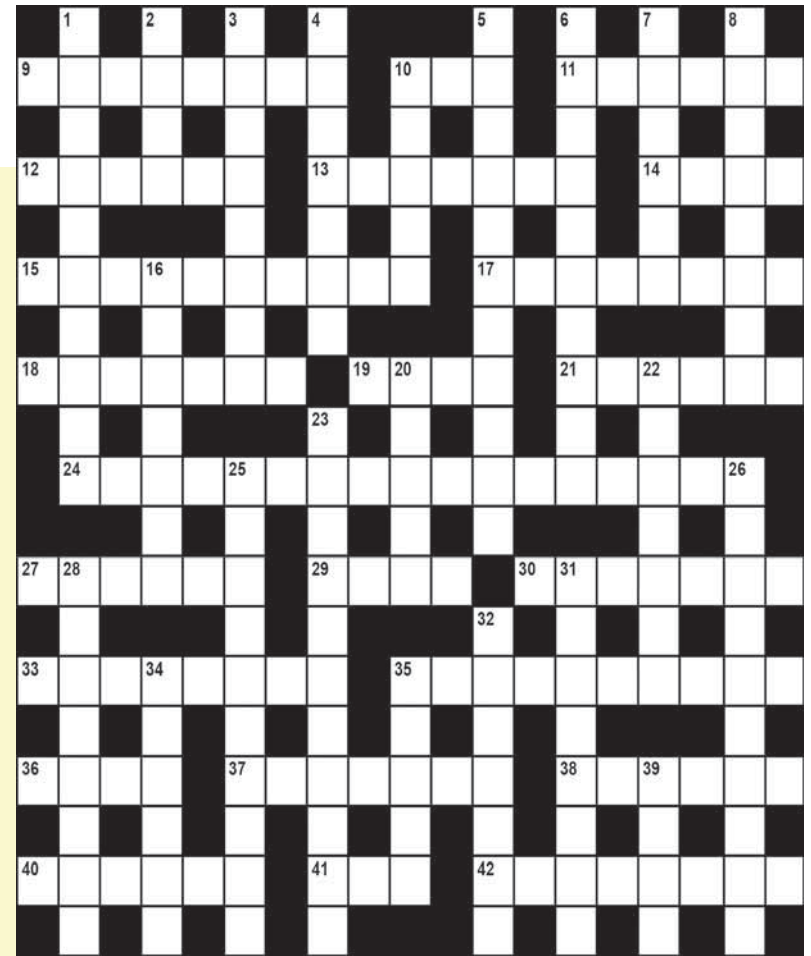
COFFEE break

Across:

9. Defer covering end in protector (8)
10. Return of times to deceive (3)
11. Necessitate moving in late (6)
12. Lots, first class, in bay on Phi Phi (3,3)
13. Spares scattered, right? More scattered! (7)
14. Time of assignation (4)
15. And I'd toil. A result – being on top (10)
17. Lose bare new head features (3,5)
18. Professor, bend to openly declare (7)
19. In short, can not have hypocrisy (4)
21. Emphasize rest working in vessel (6)
24. Half repeat and moan about how Phuket is often described (5,2,3,7)
27. Bagged wandering rogue (3,3)
29. Note, sat outright on the map (4)
30. Varieties' stars in trouble (7)
33. In art, those produce variable resistance (8)
35. Lucky suit out for a change (10)
36. Con out East, formerly (4)
37. Get me in re-formed assembly (7)
38. Anticipated care of Chinese dynasty (6)
40. Rest dispersed covering company guard (6)
41. Skill is a right (3)
42. In Derry, tax for a type of lager (5,3)

Down:

1. After first cut, follow-on growth (6,4)
2. Not as much as the French Saints (4)



3. Mixed up so it died from eccentricities (8)
4. Now page enters, disheveled (7)
5. Being responsible for my actions, I nail sextet indiscriminately (11)
6. Persecuted, sorer, tried new arrangement (10)
7. Workroom rebuilt outside, out East (6)
8. Married, I draw attention to the lover (8)
10. Feeble Father trouble (5)
16. Blow up, left in a mess (7)
20. Tiny insect destroyed a ship (5)
22. Trap ram disturbed in earthwork (7)
23. Possibly thwart fear out East following hostilities (5,3,3)

25. Game title I arranged to be authorized (10)
26. No northern sprinters in withdrawn competitors (3,7)
28. Northern Indonesian a man from mainland Asia! (8)
31. Shorten a turn etc., possibly (8)
32. Police strategy to catch criminals in Trang possibly involves Ed.! (7)
34. Cat, coolest, maybe not saint! (6)
35. Free line in tons of hard stone (5)
39. Intend to be niggardly (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

The stars suggest that Geminis should agree to disagree with certain people. Personal relationships can be shaky during the second half of June and stirring things up will make matters worse. Your communication with other air signs and earth signs should be easiest. If your birthday is due in the coming days, expect to have more control in the world of work during the year ahead. Your lucky number this week is seven.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Promoting their strengths gets those born under the sign of Cancer further than dwelling on weaknesses. With self confidence peaking between now and the end of June, the stars suggest that others will see you in a new light. In the realm of romance, a fire sign's way of showing their interest is likely to blow you away this weekend. The number one can attract good luck this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Leos who are on a mission to change aspects of their working life receive the stars' support this week. A situation that you have been unhappy about can be put in the past when you adopt a more tactful approach.

Romance brings more satisfaction during the second half of June – mutual money matters are less cause for stress. Number six appears special for those born under the sign of Leo this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The stars advise those born under the sign of Virgo to distance themselves from gossip. There are hints that people with too much time on their hands are busy spinning stories about a mutual acquaintance. True friendships should prevail and your impartiality will be appreciated in the long run. Technology is forecast to be tricky on Monday and Tuesday. The spotlight shines on number nine for Virgoans this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Home renovations and improvements are highlighted during the second half of June. Some Librans may be giving in reluctantly to pressure from their partner – the stars suggest that you focus on the positive points of investing more in your home. A trip away from your usual environment can brighten the weekend – a new romantic partner will appreciate being taken on a mystery tour. Number five can bring good fortune this week.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Settling down and finding more stability is highlighted for many Scorpions during the second half of June. If you have been doing freelance work, a tempting offer of full-time employment can be serious food for thought. Those who are single and seeking are forecast to find a suitable soul mate, while others who have been delaying commitment see reason to change that situation. Number three can be lucky this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

A stubborn mood could prevent progress for some Sagittarians. The stars advise remembering that it's always possible to learn something new; even if another fire sign's way of showing what they know is irritating, there are hints that you should pay attention. Where finances are concerned, the astral atmosphere encourages cloudy judgment; putting important decisions on hold until later in the week is recommended. Number two can be fortunate.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Capricorns with creative talents are forecast to benefit from an auspicious cosmic climate during the second half of June. You should feel more confident about showing what you are capable of. Romance can be unbalanced; whereas your feelings about a possible relationship with an air sign are ambivalent, the stars show that this person is as keen as mustard. Tact will be called for this weekend. Number eight is lucky this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

The spotlight shines on work and business matters after the middle of the month. A difficult decision needs to be made soon, but the stars indicate that once this is done, there will be no stopping you. With the air cleared, there are indications that those who put their love life on hold can make up for lost time with someone special. Aquarians' lucky number this week is five.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

A bright and breezy week lies ahead for those born under the sign of Pisces. Finances are well-starred, with profit highlighted to please during the second half of June. A new

hobby can lead to the idea of travel and the stars suggest that this will bring adventures. Romance with another water sign becomes more settled, but a fire sign's interest is short lived. Number four can attract good luck this week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Someone at work appears set on throwing a spanner in the works that Arians have carefully prepared. The stars suggest that you are already familiar with this person's tendency to interfere, and there should be ways of preventing any damage being done. On a personal level, there are signs that your over active imagination can cause ripples in a romantic relationship. The number nine appears important this week.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

A burst of energy enables you to cross some tedious tasks from your list. The second half of June is an auspicious time to catch up with backlog, both at work and at home. The stars suggest that you will be happiest in your own company this weekend, but some friends may be hard to keep at bay. Number one is lucky for those born under the sign of Taurus this week.



Rafael Nadal bites the trophy after winning the French Open.



POWER: Serena Williams hits a return during her final's match against Maria Sharapova. Photos: Reuters

French Open: Powerful pair

By Patrick Campbell

WHEN Serena Williams powered down three aces in the final game to beat Maria Sharapova 6-4, 6-4 at Stade Roland Garros, she cemented her already legendary status in the game. The oldest winner – at 31 – of a Grand Slam in the modern era, the victory was, coincidentally, her 31st straight success. She has now won every Major at least twice, and is not only the current world number one, but arguably the greatest female player of all time.

And this despite a career-threatening injury to her foot, a rare blood disease, a game better suited to the faster surfaces of other

major tournaments and a fragile temperament. After her win she confessed: "At that point [the final game] I was just so nervous [thinking] I'm not going to be able to hit ground strokes."

Maria Sharapova will have taken scant consolation from that post-match confession, as she wondered how she could stem the incessant stream of winners.

The twenty-six-year-old Russian hits her ground strokes with almost equivalent ferocity, but her own serve, which cracks under pressure, lacks penetration, and her lack of mobility around the court was ruthlessly exposed by the panther-like Williams. Afterwards, she mused: "You know she's going

to be able to hit a big serve. If I was built like Serena, I hope I'd be able to serve like that too."

The French Open usually produces its share of upsets, and this year, with blustery conditions and shifts of temperature, proved no exception. In the men's draw, Jo-Wilfred Tsonga beat Roger Federer to raise Gallic hopes of a first French winner in the Open Era, but he then succumbed meekly to Spain's David Ferrer, whose consistency off the ground and terrier-like ability to retrieve, have propelled him into the top echelons of the sport.

But the final was in many people's minds played out in the first semi – between the two best

players in the world. Rafa Nadal and Novak Djokovic would have almost certainly have contested an epic final, but were denied by a quirk of seeding: instead they contested the match of the tournament two days earlier. Nadal, eventually triumphed after four hours and 37 minutes of fluctuating drama, taking the fifth set 9-7. Nadal has lost just once in 60 matches on the red clay of Roland Garros, a feat unlikely ever to be matched.

That left Ferrer to confront his nemesis in his first ever Grand Slam final (his record against Nadal is 4 wins from 23 matches). He played with great heart and was, as always, remarkably consistent off the ground. But Nadal was in

imperious mood, seemingly hitting the lines at will, and ignoring the rainy conditions and interruptions from protesters. He duly completed a straight sets win (6-3, 6-2, 6-3). His eighth French Open title. Yet another record. Like Serena Williams, his claims to sporting greatness are indisputable.

Ferrer was philosophical in defeat, admitting: "He has more power than me with his shots", adding, "I need to play more aggressive ... to finish more points at the net." Easier said than done.

Wimbledon now awaits – with only Novak Djokovic likely to stand in the way of the rampant Rafael Nadal.

World Cup qualifiers taking shape

STRIKER Edinson Cavani scored the only goal as Uruguay put their World Cup qualifying campaign back on track with a 1-0 away win over Venezuela on Tuesday. The Copa America holders, who had taken only two points from their previous six matches, climbed into the fifth-place playoff berth trading places with Venezuela on goal difference.

Chile marked David Pizarro's comeback after almost eight years and Alexis Sanchez's first goal in the World Cup qualifiers with a 3-1 home win over Bolivia on Tuesday.

The victory consolidated Chile's hold on fourth place in the South American group with 21 points from 13 matches, behind Ecuador on goal difference after the Ecuadorians were earlier held 1-1 at home by Argentina.

Argentina took a fourth-minute lead with a Sergio Aguero penalty then hung on desperately for a 1-1 draw away to Ecuador in a World Cup qualifier in the energy sapping thin air of Quito on Tuesday. The Argentines, with Lionel Messi only playing

for the last half hour, had their lead in the South American group cut to three points with Colombia's 2-0 home win over Peru.

Colombia, helped by another Radamel Falcao goal, produced a typically dominant performance to beat Peru 2-0, and move closer to their first World Cup since 1998 on Tuesday.

Falcao converted an early penalty, his seventh goal of the campaign, to give Colombia their fourth successive home win in the South American qualifying group, all of them without conceding a goal.

Teofilo Gutierrez bundled in the second on the stroke of halftime as Peru continued a dismal away record which could ultimately wreck their chances of a first World Cup appearance since 1982.

Colombia, who have won seven of their 12 matches, are second in the nine-team group with 23 points and look almost certain to qualify.

Peru are sixth with 14 points and still have an outside chance, despite taking only one point from their six away matches.

The top four teams in the nine-nation group will go through to the finals in Brazil next year and the fifth-placed side into a playoff against an Asian qualifier for another berth in November.

Argentina have 26 points, Colombia 23 and Ecuador, who dropped their first points in seven home qualifiers at the Atahualpa where visiting teams struggle at 2,800 meters, remain third with 21.

In the final round of CONCACAF qualifying for the 2014 World Cup, Mexico were booed off the field after being held to a 0-0 draw at home to Costa Rica, their third successive goalless draw at the Azteca Stadium.

After scoreless draws with Jamaica and the United States at home and another one away to Panama on Friday, Mexico were under pressure to find their scoring touch but created far too little.

The top three teams qualify automatically for the finals in Brazil with the fourth-placed team due to face Oceania winner New Zealand in a two-legged playoff in November for another place. – *Phuket Gazette/Reuters*



Edinson Cavani. Photo: Reuters

International Sport

Lions Tour: Upping the tempo

By Patrick Campbell

AFTER two relatively straightforward workouts – against the Barbarians in Hong Kong and the Western Force in Perth, the Lions encountered their first real test at the Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane, the setting for the first Test on June 22.

Against the Barbarians, the heat had been enervating, with Welsh prop Adam Jones declaring it “like nothing I have ever encountered before.” Nonetheless, the team had registered a crushing 59-8 win. The first triumph on Australian soil, against Western Force in Perth, was just as conclusive, with the home team paying the price for fielding an inexperienced side with seven players new to Super 15 experience. The result? A 69 to 17 drubbing.

Queensland Reds, on the other hand, were at full strength, with coach Robert Howley enthusing: “It’s great to see the Reds have selected the strongest side possible.” Indeed, this game, dubbed the fourth Test by some pundits, was certainly played at a high level of intensity, a bruising encounter which the touring side did well to win 22-12. Not without cost. Having already lost props Gethin Jenkins and Cian Healy to injury, the encounter saw the outstanding Ulster wing Tommy Bowe off with a broken finger which may end his tour, and a shoulder injury to possible



Lions' George North evades a tackle against the Queensland Reds. Photo: Reuters

Test starter Manu Tuilagi.

Having been superior in all departments against the Force, with Halfpenny converting an astonishing eleven out of eleven kicks, and Brian O'Driscoll scoring two trademark tries, the tourists found the Reds a very different kettle of fish. Playing at a hectic

pace, and prompted by Wallaby fly-half discard Quade Cooper, they initially moved the ball better and made more line-breaks, exploiting a perceived lack of pace in the Lions' backs. But despite a wonderful solo try from winger Luke Morahan, the Reds were second best at scrum, line-out and

ruck. Gray and Parling did their test prospects no harm with four stolen line-out balls, and George North, on for the injured Tuilagi, and a certain test selection, created havoc with the ball in hand. Dan Lydiate topped the tackle count with thirteen and Ben Youngs, who scored the only try, had an assured game. Farrell kicked five penalties and apart from a direct kick to touch with a five man overlap, did little wrong. Captain Warburton, who played the full eighty minutes, made no bones about his ambition to win every game: “There is so much class out there. It is definitely achievable.”

The last “easy” outing of the tour, against a Combined Country Fifteen, saw the Lions win comprehensively by 64 points to nil. The stats tell the story: ten tries without reply and a massive 739 yards gained to the scratch team's 69. Stuart Hogg, in an unaccustomed role at fly-half, played with flair, and possibly edged ahead of Owen Farrell. Justin Tipuric had a big game at open-side. But the second half display, especially the line-out work, was sloppy: the team needs to concentrate for the full eighty minutes. If players take their foot off the pedal against the Wallabies, they will be punished. Two tough encounters await before the ultimate Test.

The Lions play the Waratahs on June 15 at 4:30pm, followed by a match against the Brumbies on June 18 also at 4:30pm.

US Open tees off

WEBB Simpson has an appreciation of golf history and the reigning US Open champion hopes to take advantage of his crack at making some of his own at historic Merion Golf Club this week.

Simpson, who prevailed at brutally difficult Olympic last year by one stroke for his maiden major, could become the first repeat US Open winner in 24 years.

Curtis Strange achieved the feat in 1989, proclaiming “Move over, Ben” after following in the footsteps of Ben Hogan, who had been the previous man to win back-to-back Opens in 1951.

“It doesn’t surprise me,” American Simpson said last Tuesday about how rare it has been to reproduce US Open magic from one year to the next.

“The biggest factor is the courses change every year. They’re at a different venue. Merion is a totally different type golf course than Olympic.”

Olympic will always be treasured by Simpson, but the 27-year-old North Carolinian has had a love affair with Merion since his first visit nine years ago and calls it his favorite course.

“The first time I came here was 2004, before the US Amateur. I came with my dad and a couple of guys. It was November, the weather was bad,” said Simpson.

“We sat in the clubhouse with one of the long-time members. He was telling us the history of the club, Hogan’s shot on 18, the story behind that, a story within the story. I love history.”

Like most of the players,



Webb Simpson. Photo: Reuters

Simpson wishes rain-drenched Merion could be at its best, with its fast-running, tilted fairways sending tee shots into the penal rough and the sloping greens a challenge to proper placement of approach shots.

Still, Simpson expects the grand old course to provide a worthy stage for the year’s second major championship.

“Merion is going to be fun for the viewers, the players and the fans ... because if you go out and you play well, you shoot a good number,” Simpson said.

“Even if you go out and you don’t play well you can shoot a really high number.”

Simpson has not won since his US Open triumph but has been in reasonably good form on the PGA Tour this season with three top-10s in 14 starts, including a playoff loss to Graeme McDowell at the RBC Heritage in April.

Merion’s iconic East Course is hosting its fifth US Open this week, but its first in 32 years after long being regarded as too short to host a major. – Reuters

Shiktar Dhawan leads India into Champions Trophy semifinals

SHIKHAR Dhawan’s classy unbeaten 102 led India to an emphatic eight-wicket victory over West Indies on Tuesday and a place in the Champions Trophy semifinals.

Dhawan continued his impressive form to guide his team to their target of 234 with more than 10 overs to spare in the Group B match at the Oval and confirm Pakistan’s elimination from the tournament.

West Indies made 233 for nine thanks largely to an explosive innings of 56 not out off 35 balls by Darren Sammy who smashed four sixes and five fours in the last four overs to lift his side to a respectable total.

India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni won the toss and put West Indies into bat in overcast conditions.

Chris Gayle struck four powerful boundaries but the West Indies dangerman was out for 21, well caught at first slip by a leaping Ravichandran Ashwin off pace bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

Johnson Charles started timing the ball sweetly and dominated a second-wicket partnership of 78 with Darren Bravo.

Charles hit eight fours and two towering sixes, reaching his fifty from 46 balls before being deceived by left-arm spinner Ravindra Jadeja and trapped lbw for 60.

Jadeja then removed Marlon Samuels lbw and had Ramnaresh Sarwan caught by wicketkeeper



India's Shiktar Dhawan celebrates reaching his century. Photo: Reuters

Dhoni down the leg side to rip the heart out of the West Indies batting order.

Bravo made 35 and his half brother Dwayne 25 but West Indies lost wickets at regular intervals and looked likely to be bowled out for under 200.

Sammy was joined by Kumar Roach with the score on 182 for nine in the 46th over and the former captain launched a withering assault on the Indian bowlers.

He bludgeoned a succession of boundaries mainly straight down the ground and the pair added 51 with Roach not contributing a single run.

Jadeja claimed two more wickets to complete excellent figures of five for 36, his first five-wicket haul in one-day internationals.

India started quickly in reply and openers Dhawan, who made 114 in the opening match of the tournament against South Africa, and Rohit Sharma shared a

fluent century partnership in just 16 overs.

Sharma reached his 50, including seven fours, but he was out for 52 edging spinner Sunil Narine to stand-in wicketkeeper Charles.

Virat Kohli struck four sweet fours before he was bowled by Narine for 22 but Dhawan, who survived two dropped catches, batted beautifully, punishing short balls with wristy cuts and pulls and driving smoothly through the covers.

After a brief interruption for rain with India on 204 for two, Dhawan and Dinesh Karthik extended their third-wicket partnership to 109 to steer India home.

Dhawan reached his second one-day international century with an extravagant cut for six off Dwayne Bravo and Karthik hit the winning boundary to finish unbeaten on 51.

West Indies played South Africa in a must win match on Friday. – Reuters

Phuket on cards for Formula 1

THE Ministry of Tourism and Sports has admitted Phuket could host Thailand's lucrative Formula 1 race in 2015 due to strong opposition from Bangkok residents.

Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) put the skids on the Formula 1 race being held in the capital by banning the use of the historic Rattanakosin Island. The move came after residents and business owners complained that they believe that noise and vibrations caused by a Formula 1 race could damage historic landmarks and Buddhist temples in and around the island.

The BMA issued a law on May 16 which prohibits car racing in historic Rattanakosin, where organizers had wanted to locate the



Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel might race on Phuket in 2015. Photo: Reuters

F1 circuit. The timing of the law raises a few eyebrows as the agreement to host a lucrative night time floodlit street race was agreed with F1 supremo Bernie Ecclestone last year.

Thailand's tourism and sports minister Somsak Phurisisak believes the race could be postponed or forced out of the capital,

possibly to Phuket, Khon Kaen or Nakhon Ratchasima.

Out of the three cities mentioned, Phuket is the only one with the facilities available to accommodate a large influx of visitors to the F1 race. There has been no indication as to where the race would be held if it was to be hosted on Phuket.



F1 fans in Bangkok are likely to miss out on seeing the race. Photo: Nation

Somsak added that efforts to launch a Thailand Formula One Grand Prix would not cease as the committee would look for a new site, focusing their search in the Chaengwattana Government Office Complex and Muang Thong Thani areas of the capital. "In fact many cities have shown an interest in hosting the race. We have no

plans to build a stadium, as the circuit is expected to run through cultural sites," Somsak said.

Mr Somsak concluded that if the International Automobile Federation (FIA), which is overseeing the event, disagrees with the relocation plan, Thailand may need to postpone the race until further notice. *- Phuket Gazette*

Schaefer takes over Muang Thong, Thailand play China

WINFRIED Schaefer quit his role last week as manager of Thailand's national football team to replace Slavisa Jokanovic as manager of Muang Thong United. He lost his first game in charge 1-0 to Bangkok Glass last Sunday.

Schaefer's move to Muang Thong represents a solution to the headache suffered by the Thai Football Association as it sought to end the German's contract following Thailand's poor run of results.

Kiatiasak "Zico" Senamuang has replaced Schaefer on a caretaker basis, with a friendly against China on June 15 set to be the former national striker's first game in charge of the Thailand national team.

The experienced Schaefer also seems a good fit for Muang Thong, after the three-time Thai Premier League champions were overtaken at the top of the standings last weekend by bitter rivals Buriram United following a 1-1 draw at home to Osotsapa.

Schaefer left a message on his Facebook page thanking fans for the support he has received during his time as manager of Thailand.

"The FA of Thailand and me canceled our contract by mutual agreement. I am very sad about this development. I had a fantastic time

with the kindest, good-hearted players. I wish them all the best for the future. I will give you more information soon. Thank you for your support," he wrote.

Citing injury, Muang Thong United striker Teerasil Dangda has pulled out of Thailand's squad for this Saturday's friendly against China.

The 25-year-old Teerasil was one of three players, along with his Muang Thong teammate Panupong Wongsas and Chonburi FC defender Chonlatit Jantakam, who have had to withdraw from the team for the upcoming match in Nanjing.

The absence of the experienced trio presents a headache for caretaker coach Kiatiasak in his first game in charge of the Thai team.

"It's clearly a blow. The three players are key members of the squad. But it would be an opportunity for younger players to prove their worth. This squad is largely made up of young talented players who are likely to make the SEA Games squad for the tournament in Burma at the end of the year.

"Should any one of them perform well, they certainly have a chance to get a call-up for the senior side in the future. I believe we could give them [China] a hard time in the match and it would be a good test for



FRESH START: New Muang Thong United manager Winfried Schaefer. Photo: The Nation

our youngsters, psychologically," he said.

Kiatiasak, however, said that he would leave his job after the China fixture to continue his work as the coach of the under-23 SEA Games squad, as he felt he was not ready yet to coach the senior team.

"I am giving my word that I will leave after the match against China. If you ask whether I would take charge of the team in the future, I cannot give a definite

answer right now. I feel, at this point, that I haven't had enough experience to coach the senior team.

"For me, it does not matter whether the Thai FA decides to hire a local or a foreigner as our next coach. Each decision has its pros and cons. A foreign coach might be good but he may not win over the players," said Kiatiasak.

- Phuket Gazette/The Nation

Lebanese referee accepted sex bribe

A SINGAPORE court jailed a Lebanese referee for six months on Tuesday for accepting sexual favors to fix a football game, a day after two fellow countrymen were jailed for the same offense amid an international investigation into football corruption.

Ali Sabbagh, a Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) accredited referee, had admitted having sex with a woman hired by accused Singapore matchfixer Ding Si Yang, who has denied wrongdoing.

Ali Sabbagh and two Lebanese

assistant referees were convicted of accepting sexual bribes to fix a future match, but no specific game was identified by the prosecution.

He was withdrawn as referee only hours before an Asian Football Federation match between Singapore's Tampines Rovers and India's East Bengal on April 3.

Ali Sabbagh's sentence will be backdated to April 4 when he was detained by police along with assistants Ali Eid and Abdallah Taleb, who were jailed for three months on Monday for accepting sexual favors from

prostitutes hired by Ding.

In Ali Sabbagh's case, prosecutors said he first made contact with Ding in June 2012 at a cafe in Beirut.

Then the three Lebanese met Ding in Singapore on April 2 "to discuss their preference for girls" one day before the match between the Singaporean and Indian teams, the prosecution said.

Ding subsequently arranged for the women to be sent to their hotel rooms in the early hours of April 3, the prosecution said.

- Reuters

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Fun, family, fundraising at LPIM



LPIM 2013 champion Michael Page of the UK (center).

MICHAEL Page of the UK won the eighth Laguna Phuket International Marathon (LPIM) when the annual running festival took to the island's roads last weekend.

More than 4,000 entrants of all ages and abilities from 45 countries competed on a variety of distance courses in an atmosphere of community fun and charity fund-raising.

Page finished the 42 kilometer marathon in a time of 02:41:02, followed by Yasuhiro Saito of Japan in 02:52:01 and Panom Khansamol of Thailand in 02:58:23.



DRESSED TO IMPRESS: Fun all the way at Laguna's family-friendly marathon. Photos: Laguna Phuket

The trophy presentation by Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Rome marketing director Sandro Botticelli represented a partnership with a new sister race – the Italian 10km Igrani Run – by Laguna and sponsored by TAT, which also sponsors the Igrani Run.

The women's 42km race was won by Naomi Ochai of Japan in 03:19:38 with another Japanese, Fumie Terahata, second in 03:27:24 and Ninik Sugawati of Indonesia third in 03:34:48. In the half marathon, Thai TV star and

aspiring marathoner Krittapas "Krit" Sakdittanon – the event's Charity Ambassador – was accompanied by a fundraising team in a 'Charity Caravan' and delighted locals in villages and markets along the course by stopping to collect donations for the Laguna Phuket Foundation.

Funds raised went to LPIM's 'Run for Our Kids' drive, which aims to raise one million baht for the foundation, which will be used to support of local schools and communities

Other personalities who

competed in LPIM – rounded out by a 10.5km run, the 91.5FM Community Walk and a 2km Kids' Run – included Australian 'Couple on the Run' Andrew and Sue O'Brien, who have run some 80,000 kilometers side-by-side at marathons and ultra-marathons around the world; and 79-years-old British veteran Robin Wilson, LPIM's oldest 42km runner and one of the last home in seven-and-a-half hours to chalk up the 400th marathon finish of his running career.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Marathon results

42km Full Marathon

Overall Men

1. Michael Page 02: 41:02
2. Yasuhiro Saito 02:52:01
3. Panom Khansamol 02:58:23

Overall Women

1. Naomi Ochai 03:19:38
2. Fumie Terahata 03:27:24
3. Ninik Sugawati 03:34:48

21km Half Marathon

Overall Men

1. Jackson Kibet Kenei 01:15:45
2. Jaray Jearanai 01:19:01
3. Asle Slettmoe 01:20:51

Overall Women

1. Veronique Messina 01:35:54
2. Laainam Chaipornkaew 01:36:33
3. Kathrin Puff 01:38:39

10.5km Run

Overall Men

1. Giovanni Ruggiero 00:34:24
2. Anan Pomseane 00: 37:48
3. Hiro Hirabayashi 00:38:13

Overall Women

1. Anna Stroh 00:43:31
2. Helen Wright 00:46:32
3. Sirapat Butjeen 00:47:41

Triathlon champs coming to Challenge Laguna



Reigning World Champion Pete "PJ" Jacobs.

REIGNING World Champion Pete "PJ" Jacobs has confirmed he will race the inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket half distance triathlon on December 1 – setting up an intriguing contest with fellow Australian Chris 'Macca' McCormack, the defending title-holder and two-time World Champion, for a slice of the race's 25,000 euro prize purse.

The elite pair will compete at Challenge Laguna Phuket less than two months after the 2013 World Championships in Kona, Hawaii, where they're expected to be among the top athletes vying for the coveted honor, with McCormack bidding for a third title to cement his legendary status and Jacobs defending his 2012 crown.

At Challenge Laguna Phuket they are among a pro field that also boasts World Champion and defending Laguna Phuket women's champion Melissa Hauschildt, together with her 2012 Phuket podium finishers Radka Vodickova and Belinda Granger.

Jacobs is making his debut in Phuket and his duel with McCormack may see him at a disadvantage – McCormack is familiar with the testing course and will also have raced the Laguna Phuket Triathlon a week earlier on November 24, the 20th edition of the legendary race that launches the week-long Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest.

But Jacobs, a three-time top ten finisher at the World Championships before he lifted his 2012 crown, has a record of posting

top swim and run times.

At 31, he's almost 10 years younger than McCormack and is relishing the prospect of racing against him on Phuket's tropical paradise course.

"I'm definitely going to be motivated to stay healthy and in good shape after Kona to race against Macca in Phuket," Jacobs said.

McCormack said: "It's great to have PJ join the pro start list for Phuket. He's an amazing talent and as current World Champion will be the major favorite for this race."

The Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest has drawn worldwide interest with more than 600 athletes now signed up for the 20th anniversary edition of the Laguna Phuket Triathlon, and keen demand for the Challenge Laguna Phuket half distance triathlon. Fields in excess of 1,000 athletes are expected for each race.

The Laguna Phuket Triathlon on November 24 will be contested over a 1.8km swim, 55km bike ride and 12km run. The Challenge Laguna Phuket half distance triathlon on December 1 features a 1.9km swim followed by a 90km bike and half marathon 21km run.

Pros will compete for a total Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest prize purse of US\$ 57,000, with US\$15,000 on offer in the Laguna Phuket Triathlon; 25,000 euro in Challenge Laguna Phuket – and a bonus US\$ 10,000 for the top fastest combined times in both events.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Chris 'Macca' McCormack 2012 Laguna Phuket Ironman champion. Photo: Andrew Scott

LPIM: Testing ground for evolution of species

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

HOMO sapiens have evolved as persistence hunters. We are designed to go the distance, to plod along behind any quick footed antelope on the open prairie until the poor bugger, all sprints and no stamina, gives up the ghost – the Laguna Phuket International Marathon was a testing ground of our evolution.

“We are species of runners,” I, one of hundreds standing at the start-finish line, mumble to myself.

Each runner, no doubt, was giving themselves their own personal pep-talk, laying out a course-attack plan, setting mental goals or reviewing the necessary pace to keep the pack moving. And within that crowd I, an under-trained cubical-junky, wasn't alone.

It is easy in the pre-dawn gray to imagine our ancestors striding out, long smooth steps propelling them forward, their faces calm and determined as they keep some poor grassland creature on the move.

Luckily, we can sweat. As an office worker, sweat seeping through a dress shirt as I rush from one air conditioned building to another is the bane of my so-called-stylish existence. However, sweat is our species' edge on the rest of the Animal Kingdom.

As the 11 kilometer marker comes into sight, everyone on the road, either consciously or unconsciously is grateful for the sweat as it continues to glisten on our skin, soak through our tops and keep us cool.

Though there is no four legged meal at the end of our run, if there

was, it would eventually have to slow its pace to pant in order to cool down. Panting and speed simply don't go hand in hand.

“Keep the pressure up, keep your feet moving,” I mumble in the tropical heat.

Despite our evolutionarily advanced running-cooling system, by the 14-kilometer marker the ice cold sponges being passed out by volunteers felt less like a luxury and more like a necessity.

The mostly silent race made the pounding footsteps of a true predator – a speedy full marathon runner – even more unnerving as they come up behind you. In that brief moment, before seeing a big smile and hearing encouraging words, it felt as if I had switched places with my ancestors' prey, but I have no sprints, no fancy foot work to keep me safe.

It isn't until after the 18-kilometer marker, after the 200-meter marker, after the finish line and after collapsing in the air conditioned awards room that it occurred to me that perhaps, just perhaps, it was unfair to attempt to hold my body accountable to out run anything, let alone an antelope.

Other runners were chatting; smiling, comparing times and totally at ease, I felt was a sudden yearning to join their ranks.

It took millions of years to evolve into what our ancestors were, there is no way a handful of generations of pen-pushers could undo such a monumental achievement. Starting to smile and stretch myself, it became clear, I, like everyone else, am a member of a species of runners.

Islanders and Fire Power washed out

By Steven Layne

THE rainstorm that swept over the island on Sunday night forced officials to abandon the football match between Phuket FC and PTT Rayong. The decision was made more than halfway through the 0-0 deadlock at Surakul Stadium.

Attending the match were several VIP guests of Phuket FC President Pamuke Achiriyachai, including Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut, Mr Pedro Moreira, Cruzeiro EC International Business Manager, as well as towering pro Brazilian midfielder, Cristian Alex of the Cruzeiro EC U-20 squad.

The two pro Brazilian soccer reps are in Phuket to sign an MoU with Phuket FC (see story below)

Meanwhile, power spikes re-

sulting from the nasty weather twice doused the spot lights, halting play and leaving some 3,000 plus fans in complete darkness at the 15,000 capacity stadium off Wichit Songkhram road.

With the lights successfully re-activated both times, and relatively calm weather ensuing during half time, it looked as if play would resume normally in the second half.

However, the June Southwesterly monsoons had different plans, sending strong downpours on to the pitch; visibility and agility became greatly limited, as players struggled to tread through the heavily waterlogged pitch.

Officials finally called an emergency meeting, and the players retreated to the locker rooms, before an announcement was given around 8pm that the match would

be postponed.

The *Gazette* caught up with PTT's skillful Slovakian midfielder, # 9 Jozef Tirer who said, “I was told that we will probably play the second half again somewhere in Bangkok next month... I think we had more chances than Phuket, and it's too bad the rain stopped us. We will be ready for them again,” he said.

Not having gained any points, Phuket fell down into 6th place with 22 points, six points behind 3rd placed Bangkok FC (28 points); PTT Rayong remain in 2nd of the 18-team YL1 with 30 points. Airforce United are runaway league leaders with 37 points.

Phuket's next match is against yet another Rayong based club, Rayong United, on Saturday, June 22. The game kicks off at 4pm in Rayong.

Phuket FC officially sign MoU

PHUKET FC officially signed their Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Brazilian side Cruzeiro on June 12. The Islanders have instantly benefited from this deal taking 19-year-old midfielder Cristian Alex until the end of the season.

Mr Pamuk Atcharyachai, Phuket FC president was joined at the signing by Mr Pedro Morora a member of Cruzeiro's international business communication department.

Pamuk is excited about the link up between the two clubs:

“I feel excited that a world class football team (Cruzeiro) chose Phuket FC to be its one alliance in Thailand and Asia, so Cruzeiro are also excited and confident with this cooperation, which is to support Phuket FC's aim to be a leading football team in Thailand, and in the future Asia,” he said.

Pedro Morora commented: “Cristian Alex is a good football player and he entered into our academy when he was a child so he will be an important football player for Phuket FC and we will be open for another Cruzeiro foot-



Christian Alex. Photo: Phuket FC

ball player to come present their football abilities in Thailand through Phuket FC,” he said.

Phuket also announced that the team might play a friendly game against La Liga side Getafe. The date is yet to be confirmed.

– Andrew Scott



SUCCESS: Kiranee, Tara and Isaac after the marathon.

New artificial footy turf

CHERNG Thalay's first artificial turf football field – paid for by Cherng Thalay Sub-district Administration Organization (OrBorTor) – is scheduled to open on June 15.

“This mid-June, the first artificial turf at Ban Bang Tao School, which is now under construction, is going to open for the general public,” said Ma-ann Samram, Cherng Thalay's OrBorTor president.

Ma-ann explained that OrBorTor has spent nine million baht constructing three buildings worth three million baht each: a basketball court, an artificial turf football pitch and a grandstand.

“Ban Bang Tao School responded to our call and donated spaces in the school to construct the artificial turf for the public,” he said.

In anticipation of Phuket hosting the World Youth Football Championships, Cherng Thalay OrBorTor, with assistance from the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor), is also renovating Surin Stadium.

“In 2014, Phuket is going to be the World Youth Football Championship's host. This competition will be held at Surin stadium,”

“This stadium was rebuilt in order to welcome World Youth Football Championship. The football stadium will consist of the standard football field, grandstand, electric appliances and athlete accommodation. The stadium could support players from 50-70 teams,” Ma-ann said.

– Auntika Sivasen

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