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Phuket Gazette



Too early to worry about MERS?

Island takes basic precautionary action in face of lethal virus

INSIDE TODAY

June 29 - July 5, 2013 PhuketGazette.Net In partnership with The Nation

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Killer rips force beach closures

■ ISLAND'S DEADLIEST SURF — FOUR KILLED IN FOUR DAYS

By Chutharat Plerin

SECTIONS of Kata and Karon Beaches have been closed for the first time in Phuket's history after extraordinary super moon currents intensified those of the dangerous monsoon, leading to four drownings in four days — the island's deadliest half week.

"This is the first time we have ever had to rope off the beach to prevent people from entering dangerous sections of the water. Some of the rip currents run strong across 20 to 30 meters of the beach," Phuket Lifeguard Club President

Prathaiyut "Nut" Chuayuan said.

Those still interested in getting into the water are allowed to enter at areas that are not roped off. However, Mr Prathaiyut advised against it.

"I suggest that nobody swims at the beaches right now," he said.

Though the ropes are helping some tourists realize how dangerous the surf is, with four dying in as many days within the past week, people are still sneaking past the ropes to swim.

"We roped off areas at Karon and Kata beaches. We will see if other beaches need them," Prathaiyut told the *Gazette*.

The deadliest period on Phuket's beaches last

weekend, which also saw lifeguards rescue at least 30 people from the surf at Kata and Karon alone, comes as an emergency extension to the lifeguards' contract to patrol the beaches fast approaches its deadline on July 27.

For years the Phuket Lifeguard Club's contract with Phuket Provincial Administration Office (PPAO) has ended as the dangerous southwest monsoon season takes hold. This year the PPAO has asked for more lifeguard stations to be provided. However, additional funds for the club and its members have not yet been guaranteed.

Full story on Page 8

Senator looks to army for justice in land encroachment

POL Col (Rtd) Sontaya Sangphow paid Phuket a visit last week to gather information to provide to the senate in hopes of garnering support for the use of Internal Security Operations Command units to tackle the 'big guys' behind land encroachment issues plaguing the island.

Full story on Page 2

Airport staff nicks tourist cash at x-ray

A STAFFER at the Phuket International Airport has confessed to stealing AUS\$900 from an Aussie tourist's bag while it went through the x-ray machine.

Full story on Page 3

Thai skipper sets sail for US yacht race

The *Gazette* interviews Mr Patinyakorn Buranrom, who is set to become the first Thai sailor to skipper a yacht in a major international yacht race when he competes in the Transpacific Yacht Race (TRANSPAC) from Los Angeles to Honolulu aboard Sansiri in July.

Full story on Pages 50

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This Week



Property
Planned Phuket airport expansion to ease overcrowding. **Page 14**



Business
New cafe in Kathu brings Swiss coffee to the island. **Pages 17**



Arts
Artist Map Abday talks about her distinctive paintings. **Page 36**



Environment
A burning issue: the island's piling trash problem. **Pages 40-41**



Explore
Ricardo Mereu explains the basics of rock climbing. **Page 44**



Sport
Phuket FC finally claim valuable win away to Rayong Utd. **Page 51**

Saturday



33 - 24

Sunday



34 - 23

Monday



34 - 24

Tuesday



35 - 24

Wednesday



35 - 24

Thursday



35 - 24

Airport bus set to start Patong run by July 15

By Chutharat Plerin

Despite the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) chief's demands on June 20 that the Phuket Airport Bus "hop on, hop off" service needs to be in gear and serving tourists by July 1, the bus owner says things might not be in motion until July 15.

"The bus owner told me that he needed another month for his public relations and marketing campaign. He said that the bus service could be launched on August 1," PLTO Chief Terayout Prasertphol said. "I said, 'No, what are you waiting for?'"

The pair seem to have found a compromise with July 15.

"We are sorting all things out to have the buses ready to launch as soon as possible. I cannot promise it will be ready on July 1. But I can say the buses will be in service by July 15," Prakob Panyawai, the bus company owner, said.

The PLTO has already issued the necessary licenses to the OS Car Rent and Tour Ltd Partnership for their service.

"It has taken months to get to this point; I want to see the buses on the roads as soon as possible. Once we have the Patong route, we can expand the service to



The airport buses have already passed PLTO inspections.

include routes to Rawai and Kamala," Mr Terayout said.

The last stop for the initial route will be the Baan Zan Market in Patong. The buses will be at the market for 10 minutes before departing and will not be allowed to pick up people from

anywhere else in Patong.

"We will work on our marketing to let people know that we are about to launch the service," Mr Prakob told the *Gazette*.

"We will start the service with six buses and just go from there," he said.

Senator wants army to catch land encroachment 'big guys'

A MEMBER of the Thai Senate is looking to call in the armed forces to wage war against the "big guys" behind land encroachment in Phuket.

Pol Col (Rtd) Sontaya Sangphow was in Phuket on June 21 to arm himself with information in order to pitch his suggestion to fellow senators in Bangkok.

"We are concerned that District Officers are 'unable' to arrest the big guys behind land encroachment."

"We are also concerned about the safety of the officers carrying out the investigations," Col Sontaya said.

"Phuket officers are working hard to arrest those encroaching on protected public land, but so far only small businessmen have been arrested. The big ones have yet to be caught."

"Therefore, other departments must be called in to assist. I would suggest the Internal Security Operations Command [ISOC] be involved," he said.

ISOC, which reports directly to the Prime Minister's Office, is renowned as the Thai military's agency for national security issues.

Where state emergencies have been decreed, such as in the Deep South and Bangkok during civil unrest, ISOC acts as the central command for coordinating Thai



Col Sontaya wants protection for officers as they investigate powerful land players.

military actions.

Col Sontaya currently serves on three senate committees, including the Senate Committee on Justice and Police Affairs.

He announced his suggestion to call in ISOC at a meeting with officials from the Kathu District Office, led by District Chief Veera KerdSirimongkol, at Patong Municipal Office on June 21.

"We are following up the Kathu District Chief's investigations and seeing what arrests have been made so far," Col Sontaya said.

"We will report information gathered from this meeting to the Senate to help push for the necessary budget to resolve this problem," he said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Australian who jumped from Patong balcony dies at hospital

THE Australian Embassy has contacted the relatives of a 25-year-old Australian man who succumbed to his injuries around midnight on June 24 after having plunged from the third floor of a Patong building earlier that afternoon.

A food shop vendor along Soi Kepsap 2, off Sai Nam Yen Road, contacted Lt Col Jongserm Preecha of the Patong Police when she saw the Australian, Joshua John Smits, standing on the balcony of the building threatening to jump.

"The man was in a manic condition when we arrived," said Col Jongserm.

"We tried to negotiate with him and get the basket crane from Patong Municipality to lower him down, but we didn't have time."

Mr Smits jumped, hitting his head on a low cement wall before landing on the ground, said Col Jongserm.

According to the food vendor, Somporn Sangkeaw, the Australian had gained access to the third-floor room of the apartment building because a housekeeper was cleaning it.

— Ifarn Jamdukor

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Airport security staffer arrested for stealing \$900 from Aussie

POLICE arrested a baggage security worker at Phuket International Airport on June 20 after she was found to have stolen AUSD\$900 from an Australian tourist's carry-on bag while it was passing through the x-ray machine.

Tah Chat Chai Police arrested Uraiwan Yhobkhaan, 34, from Ranong, at her rented accommodation in Sakoo at about 9:30am.

"Australian tourist Andreas Paolo Clappis reported the money missing to airport security officer Montri Perphol at about 5:50am,"

said Lt Col Theerawat Leamsuwan. "He said it went missing while his bag was being scanned by the x-ray machine."

Ronnarong Joonsawek, Security Director at the airport, called in all staff who were on duty at the time the money went missing, Col Theerawat explained.

Ms Uraiwan failed to return to the airport, so police went to her rented room.

"She confessed to having stolen the money and was charged with theft," Col Theerawat said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



Ms Uraiwan confessed to the theft.

In brief...

Helmetless driver dies from head trauma in crash

A HELMETLESS motorbike driver from Phuket Town died on June 19 after losing control of his motorbike and hitting a utility pole in Thalang.

"Kongkai Ngamtong, 26, flew off the motorbike and smashed his head against the pole nearby. He died instantly," said Thalang Police Officer Narong Muangdong.

Chinese national arrested at airport for multi-million baht fraud scam

BANGKOK Immigration Officers at Phuket International Airport on Tuesday detained a 55-year-old Chinese national who is believed to be behind a multi-million-baht international fraud.

Liu Benyue was taken into custody at the airport by Bangkok Immigration and Chinese authorities. He is accused of setting up a clothing company to import cheap clothing products from Cambodia and then failing to deliver the goods to customers.

Heroin overdose suspected at gas station death

AN UNIDENTIFIED man died shortly after taking a hit of heroin in a Phuket gas station on June 19.

"We found the yellow straw he used to take the heroin still in his mouth," Maj Sakol said.

Other drug paraphernalia was also found in the toilet stall.

Body of tortured, executed man dumped near school

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

A MAN found tortured and executed a short distance from a Phuket school was involved with drugs despite having a clean police record, Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Yongyuth Kongmalai said.

Because of his clean record, police originally scrambled for a motive in the slaying of Niwat Si-urai, 37, whose body was found dumped near British International School on June 21.

Police believe Mr Niwat was killed eight hours before his body was found by 52-year-old local resident Chalerm Bootnadee.

"I was jogging at about 6am when I saw something in the grass. I went over to see what it was, and I was shocked to find the body of a man. I called the police immediately," Mr Chalerm said.

Police believe several people were involved in the crime and that Mr Niwat was killed elsewhere earlier his body was dumped beside the lagoon.

"Mr Niwat's hands were tied behind his back with a black shoe-



Locals stand outside the roped off area just several hundred meters from the British International School.

lace and his head was covered with a black-red sarong," Lt Col Yongyuth explained.

The body showed signs of the man having been tortured.

"There were many cuts on the body; most were about 10 centimeters long. There was a deep cut

above his left eyebrow and cuts on his upper lip. His upper teeth were all smashed," Col Yongyuth said.

No potential murder weapon was found, but officers did record car tyre tracks found at the scene.

"We found a Nokia mobile

phone about 30 meters from the body," he said.

"The exact motive for the murder has still not been confirmed," Col Yongyuth said.

Additional reporting by **Irfan Jamdukur**

Russian wanted by Interpol arrested in Rawai

RESPONDING to a written request from the Russian embassy in Bangkok, Phuket Immigration last night arrested a Russian national wanted in his home country for "illegal transportation of drugs, committed on a large scale".

The request stated that Anatoliy Gural had been wanted by Interpol since November 2011, and provided details of a false passport he was using to travel.

"Mr Gural entered Thailand under the name Danil Safronov," said Capt Angkarn Yasanop of Phuket Immigration.

"Our informants found out that he was living in a rental house in Soi Kokyang in Rawai, so we went to his house and asked to see his passport. He claimed he had sent it to another country to get a visa stamp.

"We took him to the Phuket Immigration Office for further questioning and found out that he

used a fake passport with his own photo to enter Thailand on April 1," said Capt Angkarn.

"We charged him with producing a fake passport and using it," he said.

Mr Gural, who hails from



Anatoliy Gural


Artem in the Russian Far East territories near Vladivostok, was taken to Chalong Police Station to have the charges against him processed.

Phuket Immigration notified the Russian Embassy in Bangkok, which has expressed its clear intent to have Mr Gural escorted back to Russia under guard of Russian Police officers.

— **Orawin Narabal**

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Birthday fight ends in stabbing death at Chalong 'police bar'

POLICE have arrested one suspect and are searching for four more after two men were stabbed in a fight at a live-music venue near Chalong Circle early on June 20.

One of the men died; the other is expected to recover from his wounds.

Officers received the report of the stabbing at 3am. When they arrived at Saraphanpleng bar on Patak Road, about 300 meters from Chalong Circle, they found the body of Udom Sritar, 37, in a pool of blood under a table.

"We found a deep stab wound at the base of his skull and three more in his chest," said Lt Wuthiwat Leangboonjinda of the Chalong Police.

"One of Mr Udom's friends, Chaiyan Maikarn, 40, had also been stabbed in the chest. He was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital," he explained.

According to witnesses, Mr Udom, a brother of Capt Prasert Sritar of Chalong Police, was attending a friend's birthday party at the bar. As he and his friends were drinking, Mr Chaiyan became embroiled in an argument



Police inspect the scene, the Saraphanpleng bar near Chalong Circle.

with five men at a nearby table, said Lt Wuthiwat.

They soon started fighting, and when Mr Udom saw Mr Chaiyan being beaten, he tried to stop the men, but they stabbed him several times with a pointed chisel.

Mr Udom pulled out an 11mm handgun and fired at the men once. His shot missed and he fell to the floor and died.

"Four of the men fled the scene. One, Sitthichai Thingsiri, 32, was left behind," Lt Wuthiwat said.

Mr Sitthichai told police that the fight started because of unfriendly looks on both sides.

He identified two of his friends, named by police only as Mr Na and Mr Nu, as being involved in the fight.

He said Mr Nu stabbed Mr Udom, Lt Wuthiwat said.

Police have charged Mr Sitthichai with assault causing death and are looking for the four other men.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Too early

MIDDLE East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) was first identified in Saudi Arabia in September last year. More than 70 people have since contracted the disease; 40 of them died.

MERS spreads more easily than its relative, the notorious SARS virus, and is clearly more likely to kill. But is it too early for Phuket authorities to worry about MERS? The *Gazette's* Chutharat Plerin reports.

THAILAND's Public Health Minister Pradit Sintavanarong on Monday ordered all health offices in key tourism areas to be on the alert for MERS.

Mr Pradit said Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Chonburi, Phuket and Khon Kaen were ordered to be on especially high alert, with laboratory systems to be set up in the Medical Sciences Department's 14 centers nationwide for fast and accurate diagnosis of the disease.

The move follows the rising incidence of MERS, which was first identified in Saudi Arabia in September last year. Since then, however, MERS has been found in Middle East patients in Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Tunisia.

Cases have also been reported in France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy. One of the two MERS patients in France died, as did two of the patients in the UK.

The virus – which induces the same symptoms as the common cold: fever, coughing and shortness of breath, but more

severe – has so far baffled scientists. World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Dr Margaret Chan has called MERS the single biggest public health threat and acknowledged officials were "empty-handed" regarding prevention measures.

"We understand too little about this virus when viewed against the magnitude of its potential threat," she said in Geneva last month.

the PPHO's Disease Control Group specialist.

"We have yet to receive specific instructions from Bangkok, but we have already instructed hospitals and even local community health clinics to be on alert for anyone with extenuating symptoms of influenza and report any such cases to us," she said.

Of particular concern are the thousands of Thai Muslims who will travel to Saudi Arabia to perform the Hajj in September and October, Ms Areeya said.

"Until we receive new instructions from Bangkok, we are maintaining our standard practice of having Hajj pilgrims receive in-

fluenza and anti-meningitis vaccinations before they depart for Mecca.

"We have also asked the Phuket Islamic Office, which organizes the Hajj charter flights, to warn pilgrims about MERS before they leave and to recommend they seek medical assistance if any of them experience unabated symptoms of influenza," she



'We understand too little about this virus when viewed against the magnitude of its potential threat'

— Dr Margaret Chan, Director-General of the World Health Organization

added.

Pamphlets in Thai, English and Arabic will be handed out to warn Hajj pilgrims of the dangers of MERS and what symptoms to be aware of.

"We have also told officers at the airport to report any passengers who appear to be suffering from a severe cough or are having difficulty breathing," Ms Areeya said.

WATCHFUL EYE

In accordance with Mr Pradit's call for Thai health officials to be on alert, Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) chief Bancha Kakong was to attend a two-day meeting in Bangkok on Wednesday and Thursday (June 26 and 27) to come up with appropriate measures to prevent MERS from arriving in Thailand.

However, the Health Office has already taken precautionary steps, explained Areeya Panchaipoorn,

DON'T PANIC

Despite recognizing that 8 million foreigners passed through Phuket Airport during the past year and that four flights a week now arrive direct from the Middle East, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office Director Chanchai Doungjit said it was too early to be worried about MERS.

"We are aware of MERS. It was raised at the regular monthly meeting between AOT [Airports of Thailand] and the Phuket TAT

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to worry about MERS?



Scientists are baffled as to where MERS originated and how the highly lethal disease spreads. Photo: CDC

office. They said they are ready to take any action if needed, but so far no new security measures have been implemented," he said.

Mr Chanchai added that he was not yet worried about the growing number of European travellers who arrive in Phuket via the Middle East. "Passengers who are transiting [in the Middle East] cannot leave the airport, and hence cannot mix with the general

population, meaning they have a much lesser chance of contracting the disease," he explained.

"Also, I have faith the CIQ [Customs, Immigration and Quarantine] officers at the airport will catch any infected people arriving in Phuket," he added.

"The virus may be spreading, but there is no need to panic. MERS has not reached epidemic levels and we are already looking

at what steps we can take to stop it from arriving here... As we have seen in the similar SARS situation in the past – no SARS was found in Phuket. Our health officials dealt with that situation competently.

"I am not worried about MERS because I am confident that Phuket officials can prevent MERS from arriving in Phuket," Mr Chanchai said.

MEMORIES OF SARS

According to the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) in 2003, the height of SARS cost the Phuket tourism industry an estimated 2 billion baht a month. The number of tourist-arrivals in Thailand in May 2003 was down a reported 76 per cent compared with May 2002.

By May 27 that year, the chief of the Phuket Social Security Office reported that about 14,000 workers had been laid off from Phuket hotels in the wake of the tourism industry downturn brought on by SARS. That figure did not include the number of jobs lost in supporting industries.

The Phuket Health Office even petitioned the central government for 400 million baht to help Phuket's tourism industry to recover. Cabinet's reply was blunt: "No". Phuket was on its own in coping with the recovery.

CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

Regardless of the devastating effect SARS had on Phuket's tourism industry – without a single SARS case being reported on the island – PTA vice president Bhuritt Maswongssa this week told the *Gazette* he was neither concerned

with MERS nor was he worried about its effect on the industry.

"I have heard about it, but not in detail. I can't really comment as I don't know much about it at this time... But from what I have heard, I'm not worried. At this stage, I don't think MERS will stop tourists from coming to Phuket," he said.


Mr Bhuritt even doubted that the 2bn baht per month in lost revenue in 2003 due to SARS was an accurate figure.

Charan Sangsarn of the Phuket chapter of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, however, was more cautious, although he had not heard of MERS.


"Thank you. I hadn't even heard of this. I will now look into it and see how it may affect us and what we can do to protect ourselves."

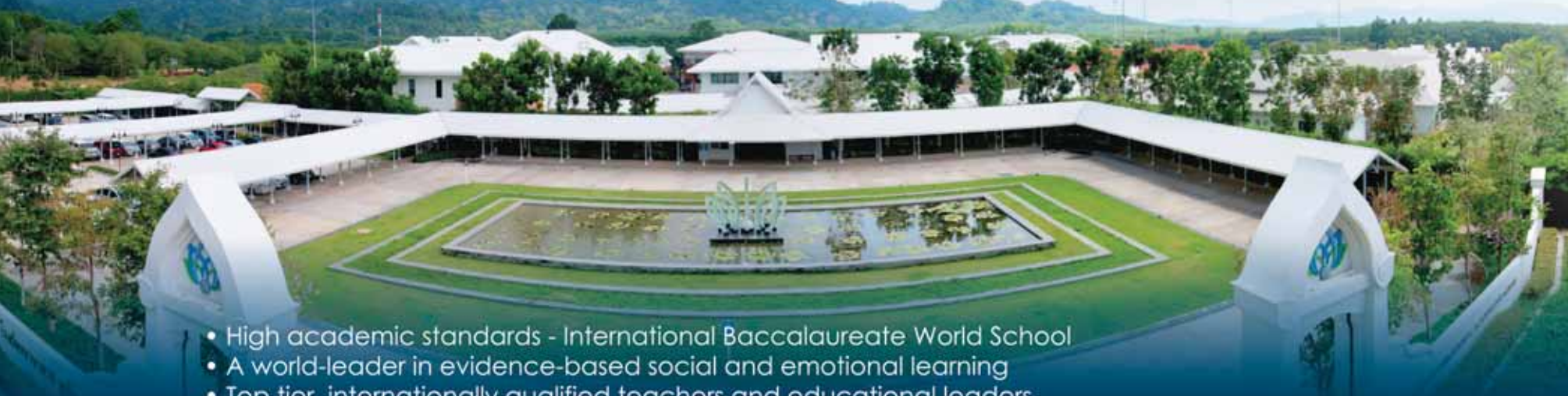
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Human trafficker may face Rohingya rape charges

POLICE are looking to move forward with rape charges against a suspected human trafficker who allegedly raped, for three consecutive nights, one of five Rohingya who escaped the Phang Nga Shelter for Children and Family last month.

However, the alleged rapist, Koreemura Ramahatu, 26, is facing only human trafficking charges so far, confirmed Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Chalit Kaewyarat.

Due to complications, the first rape test given the woman provided inconclusive results, said Khao Lak Police Inspector Pipat

Thongruang. Nonetheless, police are still looking to press the rape charges.

The 25-year-old woman, given the pseudonym "Mrs A" by police, fled the shelter with four others on May 27 with a Rohingya man who had visited the shelter two days earlier, an officer of Phang Nga Shelter for Children and Family said.

"Two of the women had already left when the man picked up the other three by motorbike and transferred them to another vehicle, which was seen by our staff," said the officer. "We immediately informed the authorities, but they were

unable to find the women."

The trail went cold until May 30 when a committee member of the Phang Nga Islamic Council was contacted by a man in Malaysia asking for help.

"The man told the committee member that he was the husband of Mrs A and had promised to pay a total of 50,000 baht to have his wife and daughters smuggled out of Thailand," said the shelter officer.

However, there were complications in the payment that led to a conflict between the human trafficker and the husband.

"The trafficker allegedly threatened to

abuse the man's wife and his two daughters, who are 9 and 12 years old," said the officer.

Mrs A and her daughters were found beside a road in Kuraburi by Teerayut Fuengfoo of the Phang Nga Provincial Police.

"I was on duty when I saw them next to the road. There was a man with them. However, as I approached he fled into the woods," Sen Sgt Maj Teerayut said.

The man who escaped on foot into the woods, Mr Koreemura, was arrested and charged with human trafficking by the Kuraburi Police on June 19.

— *Irfan Jamdukor*



Mosquitoes can spread dengue fever. Photo: John Tann

PPHO issues warning over dengue deaths

WITH three recent deaths from dengue fever in Phuket and 59 deaths nationwide this year, the Phuket Public Health Office (PPHO) last week held an emergency meeting to renew their efforts to stymie the spread of the disease this rainy season.

The meeting comes in the wake of Public Health Minister Pradit Sintavanarong urging all hospitals to diagnose their patients carefully, as the national number of infected persons climbed to about 49,000, reported the National News Bureau of Thailand.

"People of all ages need to be aware of the dangers of dengue fever... We have free dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) clinics in every government hospital," PPHO chief Bancha Kakong said.

— *Saran Mitrarat*

Uniform causes dealer to give up submachine gun

A FENDER bender last week in Phuket Town sent a drug dealer fleeing the scene, leaving behind a large stash of drugs and a submachine gun.

After the small collision in front of the downtown market on Ranong Road, both drivers stepped out of their vehicles to negotiate. One of the drivers was still in his municipality uniform.

"The drug dealer mistook the long brown pants, white shirt and black suit jacket of the municipality worker's uniform for that of a police officer and took off running with a handgun," said Phoom Semmaworanon of the Phuket City Police.

Phuket City Police arrived at the scene and searched the man's car. In the trunk they found an Uzi submachine gun; shotgun shells; other ammunition; 50 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine); 4,580 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills and a laptop, Lt Phoom said.

Also inside the car, police found a key to a room in a small hotel on Songkhla Road.

"At about 1:30pm Deputy Com-



Police found over 4,500 *ya bah* pills, 50 grams of *ya ice* and a submachine gun in the drug dealer's car.

mander of Phuket Provincial Police Witon Kongsudjaik led an armed Phuket Special Operations Unit to the hotel and surrounded it," said Lt Phoom.

Police accessed the room with the key, but there was no one inside.

"Police took evidence found in the room back to the Phuket Pro-

vincial Police station. We now have the name of the suspect, but we cannot reveal it to the media at this time," Lt Phoom said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Fisherman grabs Siamese crocodile



A man who went night fishing in central Phuket on Tuesday thumped something on the head, which he thought was a monitor lizard. But when he got the sacked reptile to his house, he discovered he had manhandled a meter-long Siamese crocodile and brought it home on his motorbike.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Lucky mutants usher in lottery luck, twice

VILLAGERS in two provinces at the opposite ends of Thailand are celebrating the births of mutant piglets this month – after successfully using the lucky swine to divine winning lottery numbers.

The first queer porker was born on May 15 in a village in Lamplaimat District in Buri Ram Province in the Northeast.

The animal had five legs, two tongues and fangs sticking out of its mouth. Its feet, rather than having trotters, were capped with five eerily human toes.

The second mutant arrived in the world at 11:25am the following day in a village in Nakhon Sri Thammarat Province.

It had two heads, two mouths, two tongues and three eyes.



In both cases local villagers flocked to see the mutants in order to divine lottery numbers.

And in both cases, several villagers chose the winning numbers of 687125 on the lottery draw of May 16.

Those who won made sure to prostrate themselves in front of the bizarre corpses to acknowledge their role in bringing them good fortune.

— *Sanook*

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Beach death toll breaks records



A lucky tourist at Surin Beach.
Photo: Gazette reader

Not their day to die: swimmers saved at Surin

IN A dramatic rescue, Phuket lifeguards pulled two Singaporean tourists out of heavy surf to safety at Surin Beach on June 22.

"The lifeguards were kept busy by the three-meter tides with waves reaching up to two meters combining to make swimming conditions hazardous," an eye-witness told the *Gazette*.

"Red flags were flying, but the guards patrolled the beach throughout the day, verbally warning beachgoers of the treacherous conditions," he said.

At 2:15pm, lifeguards spotted two swimmers struggling against a flash rip current.

The Singaporean tourists were being pulled swiftly out to sea.

"Four lifeguards immediately entered the sea from two locations on the beach, reached the swimmers in distress and towed them back to shore through the heavy surf – one victim was so weak he had to be carried out," the eye-witness said.

The men, both 25, were given medical assessments on shore, with one of the men experiencing serious respiratory difficulty.

Oxygen was administered and an ambulance summoned, and vital signs and findings were telephoned ahead to Thalang Hospital.

A lifeguard accompanied the victims to hospital. One of the men, Albert, remained hospitalized at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

At last report, he was in good condition and expected to make a full recovery.

– *Phuket Gazette*

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

DANGEROUS surf on Phuket's beaches claimed four lives in four days from June 20 to June 23, the highest death rate since lifeguards started patrolling the island in 2007, Kanyarat Senrung of the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) confirmed to the *Gazette*.

Part of the blame for the exceptionally strong rip currents lashing Phuket's west coast has been placed on the moon, which on June 22 and 23 was as close to the earth as it can be, a phenomenon called "supermoon" that occurs about once every 14 months.

When the moon is this close, it causes extreme tidal changes.

"The more dramatic changes between high tide and low tide causes water to move faster than normal and currents to be stronger," Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan said.

"The effects of the supermoon combined with rough seas due to the monsoon season is causing very dangerous conditions for swimming."

Lifeguards at Phuket's popular beaches have been urging tourists to beware of the dangerous surf and rip tides brought on by the return of the annual southwest monsoon since as early as June 3 this year.

But only part of the blame can be assigned to the water. Some of the responsibility lies with the swimmers themselves, all of whom ignored red flags to enter rough surf, Mr Prathaiyut said.

Having lifeguards on the beach, swimming with a buddy and staying in shallow water did not guarantee safety for those who died.

On Thursday, June 20, a Belgian and a Russian drowned within half an hour of each other. The Belgian, Laurent Jacques Leopold Wanter, 43, was swimming with his wife off Laem Singh Beach north of Patong at 3:30pm when they were both dragged out to sea. Their screams for help were answered, but only Ms Wanter was successfully rescued. Mr Wanter was pulled unconscious from the water and resuscitation efforts by lifeguards failed to revive him.

The Russian man, Aleksandr Poleshchenko, 29, was standing in



Beachgoers watch as a lifeguard at Kata Noi Beach heads out to check on a swimmer. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

knee-deep water near Loma Park in Patong when a big wave struck him and he disappeared from sight. His brother, who was swimming in deeper water, said "I screamed for help from beach guards. They recovered his body, but he was already gone." The brothers had been scheduled to fly home the following day.

Two days later, Indian visitor Ramesh Chand Singhal, 49, travelled from Mai Khao Beach, where he was staying, to Kata Beach to enjoy the waves there. He too ran into difficulties in the water.

"He was pulled from the water unconscious, given CPR and rushed to Patong Hospital, where he was pronounced dead on arrival," said Lt Sathaporn Seenoon of the Karon Police.

The last life lost to dangerous surf over the weekend was that of Thai youth Peerapol Nunak, 18, who was pulled out to sea at Layan Beach by a rip current. His stepfather, Thawat Penjan, reported that Mr Peerapol and his six friends had ignored the red warning flags on the beach.

"His friends were able to swim

back to shore, but my son could not. I heard him calling for help and saw him waving his hand," he said.

Kusoldharm rescue divers, lifeguards and about 50 others on the beach searched fruitlessly for Mr Peerapol as darkness fell. Lifeguards on jet-skis recovered his body the next morning, 200 to 300 meters offshore in the area where he had gone missing.

Another Russian tourist, Kho Khay Gym, 31, was rescued from Karon surf earlier the same afternoon. As this issue went to press, he remained comatose at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

"Tourists ignore our warnings," said Uten Singsom, head of the Kata-Karon Lifeguard Club.

At Kata-Karon beaches alone, lifeguards pulled more than 30 tourists from the water over the weekend, he said.

So busy were the lifeguards at those beaches that they did not have time to record all the rescues performed.

"As soon as we pulled one tourist out, we had to run to help others," said Mr Uten.

"We have red flags and warn-

ing signs in Thai, English, Russian, Chinese, German and Korean posted along the beach to warn tourists. I see tourists stop and read the signs, then walk straight into the water," said Mr Uten.

"I understand they come to Phuket to swim at the beach, but if they really want to swim they should go in where lifeguards are on duty and be careful of dangerous rip currents," Mr Uten said.

Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat made a public appeal for safety.

"We would like to warn everyone not to swim or play in the water at the beaches because there are strong winds and dangerous waves up to three meters high," Maj Gen Choti said.

Lifeguards, not authorized to stop swimmers from entering the water when red flags are flying, are seeking help from those who are.

"We plan to ask the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization to help us coordinate police assistance," Mr Uten said.

Additional reporting by Thawit Bilabdullar

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Boating accident kills Chinese tourist

A CHINESE tourist bled to death after being severely cut by a speedboat propeller at Phi Phi Island on June 19.

Chen Peng, 37, jumped from the boat when the engine was on and the propeller slashed Mr Chen's legs and stomach, the speedboat's owner, Chairang Weerakij, told police.

Mr Chen was taken by speedboat from Pileh Bay to Phi Phi Hospital and immediately transferred to Phuket Provincial Hospital, said case investigator Charan Nabpetch, who received the accident report at 1pm.

Mr Chen was pronounced dead at 3pm at Phuket Provincial Hospital.

"The speedboat captain, Thanawut Sutthirak, told us that he had taken 11 tourists from Phuket to Pileh Bay on a day trip," Lt Col Charan said.

The speedboat, *Jandara 1*, was anchored so tourists could play in the water. It was close to four other speedboats.

"A big wave came and pushed all the boats together and pushed the stern of our boat close to some rocks. The captain was afraid the boat would hit the rocks, so he decided to move it," Mr Chairang said.

"The captain told the tourists that he was going to move the boat and they should stay inside. They agreed to stay," Mr Chairang said. "Then he started the engine and for some reason, two men jumped out. The captain heard screaming, so he turned off the engine to see what had happened."

Police are continuing their investigation, Col Charan said.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Jet-setting monk did not pay official visit to Phuket, if he came at all

IF RENOWNED monk Luang Pu Nenkharn was in Phuket, it was not on temple business, Chatpawit Jinapong, Director of the Phuket branch of the National Office of Buddhism, confirmed on June 21.

"I must be informed of any high-ranking or well-known monks coming to Phuket on official business, and I was not told that he is coming here," he said.

Luang Pu Nenkharn is wanted for questioning after being filmed on board a private

jet while sporting brand-name sunglasses and a Louis Vuitton bag.

Officials at Phuket International Airport said they could not confirm whether or not Luang Pu Nenkharn was on the island.

"We cannot release the names of any people on flight manifests," one officer said.

Luang Pu Nenkharn's followers denied all allegations against their revered spiritual leader, including a picture allegedly showing him lying next to a woman.

Disciple Pattaradej Sopongpanich said that there was nothing wrong with Luang Pu Nenkharn riding in a private jet, since someone else had arranged the trip for him.

"He was on the jet because he was invited to carry out rites in Phuket," he said.

Followers had given Luang Pu Nenkharn the expensive Louis Vuitton bag, he added.

— Chutharat Plerin

Additional reporting by The Nation



Luang Pu Nenkharn. Image: YouTube



Mr Phongsak after he calmed down.

Road rage leads to armed standoff

AN ANGRY drunk man waving a loaded pistol caused residents of Soi Paniang near Samkong, Phuket Town, to call police on June 24.

About 30 officers arrived at the scene at 8:30am to find that the man had exchanged the loaded gun for nunchucks.

Phongsak Pitchayaphan, 46, was reportedly angered that a child had run out in front of his car while he was driving along the street.

He narrowly missed the child. "We blocked the street with two trucks and started talking to him. He calmed down and put the nunchucks down," Maj Rattaket Munmuang of the Phuket City Police explained.

Police found a loaded .38 handgun in the glove compartment and charged Mr Phongsak with carrying a gun in a public area and drunk driving.

"We took him to the police station. He was drunk but had not used drugs," Maj Rattaket said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Burglar enjoys holiday before getting caught

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE ex-con responsible for six robberies at Rock Garden Estate in Rassada was arrested by police on June 21 after several days of high-living in Haad Yai with the proceeds from the fenced goods.

"Weerapat Pikulthong, 36, was released from Phuket Prison on May 11 after serving two years for robbery.

"He couldn't find work, so he decided to become a thief again," said Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan. "He confessed to choosing the houses in Rock Garden Estate because there was no security guard at the estate."

When Mr Weerapat broke into a house on June 14, neighbors saw him and tried to stop him, but he escaped by jumping out a window and running up a nearby hill.

"The neighbors followed him, but it started raining heavily, so they were forced to go back home," Lt Col Prawit said.

Mr Weerapat's motorbike

remained behind at the crime scene. His image had also been captured on the CCTV cameras at the housing estate.

About three and a half hours later, he came down the hill, bought a change of clothes at a nearby market, and went home to pick up the stolen goods he was keeping at his house in Saphan Hin.

He then took a bus to Haad Yai, where he sold the goods for several hundred thousand baht, police said.

He stayed in Haad Yai after that, spending the money on nightlife until he was almost out of money. Then he came back to Phuket and checked into a hotel, police said.

On June 20, an informant told police that Mr Weerapat was at a hotel near Wichit Sangkaram Temple on Narison Road. Police quickly arrested him and charged him with robbery.

"Officers searched the suspect's house in Saphan Hin, but found only two laptops, which they seized as evidence for the investigation," Col Prawit said.





Mr Weerapat sold his loot to pay for a nightlife vacation in Haad Yai.



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A photo of Mr Akeyuth at his funeral. Photo: The Nation

Police maintain motive in tycoon killing was theft

POLICE investigating the murder of business tycoon Akeyuth Anchanbutr insist that theft was the reason for the killing and have ruled out other motives.

However, Mr Akeyuth's family and lawyer believe there may have been a political motive for the murder, noting that the deceased had conflicts with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her exiled brother Thaksin.

Key to their concerns is the killers' admission that they dropped the victim's valuables in a river. They say this was not consistent behavior with the motive of the killing being theft.

Among such items was a Buddha amulet worth 20 million baht.

Suwat Apaipak, Mr Akeyuth's attorney, has released a list of 13 points of suspicion regarding the murder. Police say they can answer every point.

Last week, the House committee on police affairs held a meeting on the case, said *The Nation*.

Mr Suwat told the House panel that he had learned that a group of men dressed like military and police officers were seen at the mouth of the soi in which Mr Akeyuth had dinner before he was abducted.

But Wang Thonglang Police chief Sanhakij Bamrungsuksawat told the House panel that police had checked security-camera footage and found no trace of such a group of men.

Thailand must prevent human trafficking: US

THAILAND is not doing enough to eliminate human trafficking and remains a source, destination and transit country for victims of forced labor and sex trafficking, a new report by the US State Department has warned.

If the Kingdom fails to do more to address the issue it faces automatic relegation to Tier 3 in the US rankings of countries' anti-trafficking efforts next year. Countries in Tier 3 are subjected to sanctions, including the withholding of foreign aid.

For 2013, Thailand was placed on the Tier 2 Watch List for the fourth consecutive year.

The State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons Report 2013 noted that the Thai government "does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking" and "has not shown sufficient evidence of increasing efforts to address human trafficking compared to the previous year".

"The government ... in 2012 reported investigating 305 trafficking cases, versus 83 in 2011, but initiated prosecutions in only 27 cases during the year and obtained only 10 convictions," the report noted.

Most human trafficking victims in Thailand are from Myanmar, it said.

"The majority of the trafficking victims identified within Thailand are migrants from Thailand's neighboring countries who are forced, coerced or defrauded into labor or commercial sexual exploitation... conservative estimates put this population numbering in the tens of thousands of victims," the report noted.

Shortly after the US report was released, a Thai woman was found housing 13 Burmese



A 2010 anti-human trafficking sticker. The US says Thailand is still not doing enough. Photo: Thomas Wanhoff

AROUND THE nation

women, four under the age of 18 – allegedly lured into sex work at a Ranong guesthouse.

Chonthipaporn Palosilpa, 32, was arrested at DD Guesthouse and faces charges of procuring a girl under 15 and others under 18 for prostitution and molestation, as well as a charge of harboring aliens, reported *The Nation*. Ms Chonthipaporn denied the charges.

Anti-Human Trafficking Division (AHTD) police identified the guesthouse as a source of human trafficking after a tip off and arrested Ms Chonthipaporn during

a sting operation, which involved an AHTD officer agreeing to pay for sex with the two of the Burmese women, including a 16-year-old, AHTD chief Chawalit Sawaeng-phuet said.

A meeting of Ranong's anti-human trafficking committee on July 1 is expected to help authorities to get tougher in checking entertainment venues to prevent and suppress human trafficking and prostitution, Maj Gen Chawalit said. Ranong and Myanmar's Kawthawng province recently signed an Memorandum of Understanding for joint anti-human trafficking efforts.

In addition to the human trafficking for Thailand's sex trade, the US report focused on the "significant portion of labor trafficking victims within Thailand" that are exploited through commercial fishing, fishing-related industries,

low-end garment production, factories and domestic work.

The practices on Thai fishing boats were cited as particularly worthy of concern.

Citing another report from an international organization on the issue, the State Department noted that "Burmese, Cambodian and Thai men were trafficked onto Thai fishing boats that traveled throughout Southeast Asia and beyond, where they remained at sea for up to several years, not paid, forced to work 18 to 20 hours per day for seven days a week, and threatened and physically beaten."

Of the 49 surveyed migrant fisherman trafficked aboard the Thai fishing vessels, 58 per cent reported witnessing a fellow fisherman killed by boat captains in instances when they were too weak or sick to work.

Pheu Thai slashes rice prices, faces backlash

THE Phue Thai administration is facing a huge backlash over its decision to reduce the price it pays for rice from 15,000 baht to 12,000 baht per tonne through its controversial rice-pledging scheme, which has amassed losses of over 260 billion baht, *The Nation* reported.

The National Farmers Council (NFC) condemned the decision, saying the new price was intended to "bully" farmers.

Charin Singdee, head of the NFC's Sing Buri office, said all 80,000 NFC members would stop "acting as a shield" to protect the Yingluck Shinawatra government if the rate was not raised back to 15,000 baht per tonne.

Angry farmers were set to gather in Bangkok on June 25 to

protest the policy.

The government's coalition partners have also joined in the criticism of the price reduction, calling on Phue Thai to review its decision.

Chart Thai Pattana, the second-largest coalition partner, said the move would severely affect many farmers.

The party was short of excuses or explanations to give to angry farmers because the government had no convincing argument to cut the purchase price, said Chanchai Prasertsuwan, a Chart Thai Pattana MP from Suphan Buri.

Chart Thai Pattana's main support base is in the rice-growing Central Plains.

The rice-pledging scheme had already attracted its fair share of



The Phue Thai rice-pledging plan drew criticism from opposition, now base supporters are lashing out. Photo: The Nation

controversy. Through the scheme, the government has compiled huge stockpiles of rice that it has bought from farmers at rates well above international prices.

Prime Minister Yingluck

Shinawatra said her Cabinet had cut the rice-pledging price in order to maintain financial and monetary discipline, but insisted that the price could be adjusted if the world-market price of rice increased.

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Residents evacuate their homes in Riau province on Sumatra amid one of Southeast Asia's worst air pollution crises on record. Photo: Reuters

Indonesia burns

By John O'Callaghan
and Chris Nusatya

RESIDENTS in Riau province on Sumatra were evacuated from their homes on Monday as Indonesian planes waterbombed raging forest fires and investigators scrambled to determine the cause of one of the worst air pollution crises in Southeast Asia.

Officials arrested eight people and Indonesia's environment minister cited eight domestic firms suspected of being responsible for the blazes that blanketed Singapore in record levels of hazardous smog.

Among the Indonesian firms suspected of starting major fires were parent companies of the Malaysia-listed Sime Darby, the government said. A senior presidential aide also blamed units of Jakarta-based PT Sinar Mas Agro Resources and Technology (SMART) and Asia Pacific Resources International (APRIL).

"We will take legal action [against] whoever they are," Environment Minister Balthasar Kambuaya told reporters. "Any companies from Indonesia, Malaysia or Singapore... they will be legally processed."

But Indonesia's Forestry Ministry, which is leading the investigation into the forest fires, warned about naming suspects and jumping to conclusions too soon.

"We have to be very careful in any legal action. We have to really find out what happened, why the fires happened, and so on. This could be due to negligence too," said Hadi Daryanto, the ministry's general secretary.

Under Indonesian law, any company or person proven to be involved in an illegal forest fire could face up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to 5 billion rupiah (US\$503,800).

Sime Darby and APRIL said there were no fires in any of their operating areas in Indonesia.

SMART said they had a "zero burning" policy and that most, if not all, the fires raging in and near their concessions were caused by the local community.

Singapore warned that the "haze", which fuelled health fears and raised diplomatic tension in Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia, could last for weeks.

Indonesia deployed military planes to fight the blazes on Sumatra from illegal burning that typically takes place in the June to September dry season to clear space for palm oil plantations. The fires are unusually widespread this year and the smog was the heaviest in Singapore's history.

On the sixth day of the thick smoke, Singapore's pollution index eased to "moderate" with readings as low as 77. It hit a record of 401 on June 21, a level considered potentially life-threatening for the ill and the elderly.

Despite the improving conditions, the streets of the city-state were far less crowded than on a typical Saturday when people shop, meet in outdoor cafes and have fun at the park.

The Ministry of Education advised public schools to cancel all activities planned for the holiday month of June.

The cost of the smog for Singapore, a major financial centre and tourist destination, could end up being hundreds of millions of dollars, brokerage CLSA said in a report.

Malaysia declared a state of emergency in two parts of the southern state of Johor last Sunday as smoke from land-clearing fires in Indonesia pushed air pollution readings to twice the level considered hazardous.

Air quality in the capital Kuala Lumpur and in several surrounding areas worsened into the "unhealthy" zone. As of Wednesday, the air quality was "unhealthy" in 17 areas of Malaysia and "very unhealthy" in one area.

— *Jakarta Post / Reuters*

AROUND THE region

In brief...

Singapore refutes US ranking on human trafficking

SINGAPORE authorities on Tuesday criticized a United States report on human trafficking, saying it "continues to present inaccuracies and misrepresentations" about the republic.

The US report (see page 10) charged among other things that child sex trafficking occurs in Singapore. It also said that the Singapore government investigated more than 400 leads, "yet it only substantiated 21 trafficking cases during the year".

— *The Straits Times*

Philippines military flexes muscles in Spratly islands spat

THE Philippines came under fire last Friday as China condemned what it called the "illegal occupation" of a disputed coral reef in the South China Sea, and vowed to protect its sovereignty after Manila moved new soldiers and supplies to the remote location.

The Philippines is accusing China of encroachment after three Chinese ships, including a naval frigate, converged five nautical miles from an old transport ship that Manila ran aground on a reef in 1999 to mark its territory.

— *Reuters*

Vietnam, Thailand smooth relations

VIETNAM Communist Party General Secretary Nguyen Phu Trong held talks with Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra in Bangkok on Monday, focusing on promoting bilateral relations to a strategic partnership.

Last year, two-way trade between the two nations topped US\$8.6 billion. Thailand has about 300 direct-investment projects in Vietnam with total registered capital of US\$6.12bn.

The two leaders agreed to establish a strategic partnership based on political relations; defence and security ties; economic co-operation; socio-cultural relations; and regional and international co-operation. — *Viet Nam News*

UNESCO moves to list Myanmar's Inle Lake

THE United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has started making surveys to enlist the Inle Lake as a biosphere reserve for conservation and sustainable development, according to officials.

"The nature of a biosphere reserve is to cooperate in solving livelihood issues of the locals while making conservation works. Entrepreneurs, local residents and volunteers have to work together," said Sein Tun, administrator of the Inle Lake Wildlife Sanctuary.



Rowing on Lake Inle. Photo: Doron

The wildlife sanctuary, located between Pinlaung and Pehkon townships of Southern Shan State, covers of 247 square miles and is one of the largest wetlands in Southeast Asia. Established in

1985, it is also an Asean heritage site and one of Myanmar's top tourist destinations.

According to official records, the sanctuary has 12 species of mammals, 287 species of birds, 59 species of fishes, 94 species of butterflies, 25 species of amphibians and three species of turtles.

In recent years, the Inle Lake has been gradually degrading due to impacts of deforestation, over-use of chemical fertilizer and insecticides, and shrinking of the surface area of the lake during dry seasons. — *Eleven Media Group*

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In brief...

‘Critical’ Mandela leaves country in state of resignation

SOUTH Africans adopted a mood of sombre resignation on Monday to the inevitability of saying goodbye to former president Nelson Mandela after the 94-year-old anti-apartheid leader's condition in hospital became critical.

Madiba, as he is affectionately known, is revered among most of South Africa's 53 million people as the architect of the 1994 transition to multi-racial democracy after three centuries of white domination. However, his latest hospitalization – his fourth in six months – has reinforced a realization that the father of the post-apartheid “Rainbow Nation” will not be around forever.

Ten car bombs kill 39 in Iraqi capital

TEN car bombs exploded across the Iraqi capital on Monday, killing nearly 40 people in markets and garages on the evening of a Shi'ite Muslim celebration, police and medical sources said.

The violence reinforced a growing trend since the start of the year, with more than 1,000 people killed in militant attacks in May alone, making it the deadliest month since 2006-07.

Asia driving global arms trade – study

ASIAN powers are outpacing the United States to become the biggest spenders on defense by 2021 and are fuelling an “explosion” in the global arms trade, a study showed.

The global arms trade jumped by 30% to US\$73.5 billion between 2008 to 2012 in spite of the economic downturn, driven by surging exports from China and demand from countries like India, and is set to more than double by 2020, defense and security consultancy IHS Jane's said on Tuesday.

Snowden Moscow?

US steps up pressure on Russia as whistle-blower stays free

By Jeff Mason
and Thomas Grove

THE United States increased pressure on Russia to hand over former US spy agency contractor Edward Snowden, who Washington believed on Wednesday to be in Moscow waiting for news of an asylum request to Ecuador.

Mr Snowden, charged with disclosing secret US surveillance programmes, left Hong Kong for Sheremetyevo airport on Sunday, starting a cat-and-mouse chase that has frayed ties between Washington and Beijing and threatens US-Russia relations.

The American would need a Russian visa to leave the transit area of the airport. The 30-year-old has not been spotted by journalists camped out there.

President Vladimir Putin, who is not shy of celebrating people who challenge Washington, has ignored US requests to send Mr Snowden home, but may want him to stay in the airport to avoid being implicated in helping a fugitive.

The US State Department said diplomats and Justice Department officials were holding discussions with Russia, suggesting they were looking for a deal to secure his return to face espionage charges.

Jay Carney, a spokesman for the White House, said it was Washington's assumption that Mr Snowden was still in Russia.

Russian officials say they can do little to fulfill the US request to expel him if he is still in the airport transit area and not on Russian territory.

Mr Snowden, whose exposure of the surveillance raised questions about civil liberties in the United States, flew to Moscow after being allowed to leave Hong Kong, even though Washington had asked the Chinese territory to detain him pending possible extradition.

Mr Snowden, until recently a contractor with the US National Se-



An electronic billboard in Hong Kong shows Mr Snowden, who had already left for Russia. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE world

curity Agency, had been expected to fly to Havana from Moscow on Monday and eventually go on to Ecuador, according to sources at the Russian airline Aeroflot.

But he was not seen on the Aeroflot flight that landed in Havana on Monday evening. Seat 17A had reportedly been set aside for Mr Snowden, but reporters aboard said it was occupied by another person. It was not clear whether the plane had a section in which the American could have been concealed.

Julian Assange, founder of anti-secrecy group WikiLeaks, which

is assisting Mr Snowden, said on Monday that Mr Snowden had fled to Moscow en route to Ecuador and was in good health in a “safe place” but did not say where he was.

Ecuador, like Cuba and Venezuela, is a member of the ALBA bloc, an alliance of leftist governments in Latin America that pride themselves on their “anti-imperialist” credentials. The Quito government has been sheltering Mr Assange at its London embassy for the past year.

With Mr Snowden's whereabouts still a mystery, the US may face prolonged embarrassment from a young American leading the world's lone superpower on a global game of hide and seek.

US officials said intelligence agencies were concerned that they did not know how much sensitive material Mr Snowden had in

his possession and that he may have taken more documents than initially estimated.

US officials reserved most of their criticism for China for helping Mr Snowden leave despite the arrest warrant. China, in turn, has expressed “grave concern” over Mr Snowden's allegations that the United States had hacked Chinese computers.

“It is possible that the United States would be attacked because terrorists may now know how to protect themselves in some way or another that they didn't know before,” Mr Carney said. “People may die as a consequence to what this man did,” US Secretary of State John Kerry told CNN.

But to his supporters, Mr Snowden is a whistle-blowing hero who exposed the extent of US surveillance activities.

– Reuters

Australia seeks Triton superdrones for Indian Ocean security

RISING Indian Ocean rivalries as China seeks to safeguard key energy lifelines loom behind an Australian push for a US\$3 billion fleet of maritime superdrones, which will likely boost intelligence sharing with the United States.

With elections looming and pressure for budget savings, the purchase of up to seven MQ-4C Triton unmanned aircraft has emerged as rare point of bipartisan agreement between Australia's Labor government and conservative opponents, but both sides are reluctant to discuss their wider strategic aims.

“There's not a lot of new money in our policy, (but) we are going into Broad Area Maritime Surveillance, the Triton,” said conservative defense spokesman David Johnston, who is likely to become defense minister following the elections on September 14.

The Triton, under development by

Northrop Grumman, is the size of a small airliner with a 40-meter wingspan. It can cruise at 20,000 meters for up to 30 hours, sweeping a distance greater than Sydney to London with 360-degree radar and sensors, including infra-red and optical cameras.

Both the government and opposition say the world's most expensive and advanced Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) will be used mainly to combat asylum seekers arriving in fishing boats from Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and which have become a hot political issue in Australia.

“But it is not about detecting leaky boats. You don't need to spend billions of dollars to do that. This is about maritime security and surveillance in the Indian Ocean,” a senior Labor insider with close knowledge of defense planning said.

“This is a force multiplier. It's better to think of Triton as a mobile satellite we can



The MQ-4C Triton UAV fleet will be used for maritime patrols. Photo: Northrop Grumman

steer around the Indian Ocean,” said the source, who declined to be identified because of sensitivity around what will be an Asia-first military purchase.

The US Navy is still testing the Triton and has plans to buy 68, with the first due in service in 2015. Several will be based at Guam, the key US base in the western Pacific, as part of a repositioning of forces in

the Asia-Pacific as China's strategic clout expands into the South China Sea and beyond.

Critics of the US “pivot” have warned that sophisticated drone and UAV aircraft could be destabilizing as Asian militaries seek to modernize with new submarines, warships and aircraft, including Lockheed Martin's F-35 fighter.

– Reuters



LAP OF LUXURY: The view from the roof terrace and pool area. Photos: Aqua Villas



The unique glass bottom 12-meter infinity-edge swimming pool from below.

Aqua Villas: East coast luxury

By Andrew Scott

LOCATED down a quiet soi in Rawai, 150 meters from the beach, Aqua Villas will have nine luxury private villas with three or four bedrooms. The custom built four-storey tropical villas, ideal as holiday homes or permanent residences, will be designed to envelope owners in a totally unique tropical living experience that brings them closer to the natural seafront surroundings.

Each of the villas will come with a private roof terrace featuring a unique glass bottom 12-meter infinity-edge swimming pool; its drop off view across the Andaman Sea, is the centerpiece of each villa. The pool's glass bottom breathes life into the homes as refracted sunlight gently moves around



the rooms beneath it.



Spacious interior.

The spacious open plan living and dining area on the second floor will open out to a wrap-around terrace. The master bedroom will take up the entire third floor and – as with the two bedrooms on the ground floor – will be en suite. The larger bedroom on the ground floor will come with a private garden and terrace.

Sensual stonework, glass and rich-tone

Asiatic hardwood complete the back-to-nature opulence of Aqua Villas, which when complete, will come with the option of an exclusive two million baht modern-oriental style furniture package, creatively put together by expert interior designers to provide luxurious comfort throughout the villas.

The Western kitchen will be equipped with modern stove and burner, oven and hood, microwave and refrigerator.

A 15,000 baht per month common area fee payable one year in advance covers the developments 24 hour security, garbage collection, street lighting and maintenance of the common areas.

The developer's first project on Phuket

was the soldout AW1 Villas on the hillside in Patong. After the completion of the collection of hillside pool villas in 2010, a change of pace and quieter location was sought for Aqua Villas.

Close proximity to the beach in Rawai and sea views were the key criteria for the developer and it's these two factors, along with the design and price, that helps Aqua Villas stand out from other



CGI of the nine villas.

pool villas in the area.

Aqua Villas is scheduled to be completed in February 2014 and the nine villas will range in price from 16.9 to 22.9 million baht. All units will be 426 square meters, but some will have a bigger garden.

For information, visit: aquavillasphuket.com.



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



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Expansion progress to ease overcrowding



NICE VISION: When the expansion project is completed in 2015, there will be 25 docking bays. Photos: Gazette file

THE Airport Authority of Thailand (AoT) has accelerated the construction of a temporary terminal building at Phuket International Airport (HKT) in order to ease passenger overload ahead of the next tourism high season.

Quoted in a recent report by *BangkokBizNews*, AoT Board Director, Mr Sitha Tiwaree announced that the construction schedule of the temporary terminal had been tightened due to increased over-crowding at the airport in anticipation for the next high season, which begins around October-November.

As part of the first and second of four phases for the 5.8 billion baht expansion project, the temporary terminal building and five of the 10 planned aircraft bays should be operational by September, which would bring the total to 20 by the year's end, the director confirmed.

When completed, the terminal will be able to accommodate an increased number of passengers, while also increasing profits for AoT.

The new temporary terminal is expected to help the airport increase its income by up to 30%. This would see the airport's annual income rise from about 1.8 billion baht, up to 2.4bn baht.

In a recent update by the *Gazette*, entitled *Head of airport expects arrivals to exceed 10.5mn* (published in the *Gazette* business section online on April 29), Phuket International Airport Director Prathuang Sornkham said that profit in 2012 rose to 1.85bn baht, up 300mn baht from 2011.

He also said that he expects profit to be around 2bn baht by the end of 2013, most of which will be generated by passengers and airlines.

Mr Prathuang explained that

such profit derives from rental fees and taxes paid by airlines and other retailers based at the airport, but does not factor in the spending or expenditures of tourists once they leave the airport.

Also quoted in the *Bangkok-BizNews* update, AoT Acting Director, Mr Pongsak Semson said: "The temporary terminal will be built on one floor [sized] between 4,000 to 5,000 square meters and located near the airport electricity [power] station."

"There will also be added check-in counters and two areas of about 1,000 sqm for use as office space by AOT. Once the second phase is complete, the five aircraft bays will be ready to handle more passengers in the high season."

The existing airport was designed to handle six million passengers annually, but in recent times has seen as many as 12



HKT's capacity is six million passengers but this will soon double.

million passengers per year. The project is expected to help manage this dramatic increase in passenger numbers.

In total, the project will cost about 5.791bn baht and is expected to be completed in 2015.

Despite multiple attempts by the *Gazette* to get confirmation from AoT about the expansion project's progress, Mr Prathuang was unavailable for comment.

However, the *Gazette* was able to contact a reliable source inside Sino-Thai Engineering and Construction Public Company Limited, the main contractor for the expansion project, who confirmed that construction of a temporary terminal is underway, and that overall progress is on schedule for the target completion of 2015.

The source outlined the expan-

sion project's phases as follows:

1. Expanding the runways and taxiways; adding 10 new aircraft bays bringing the total to 25 by 2015.

2. Building a new office building, maintenance building, 5-storey car park; temporary terminal building, cargo building and fire station;

3. Building a new permanent international terminal building next to the old terminal; renovating the old international terminal building to become the new domestic terminal.

4. Building a new elevated departures/drop-off road in front of the international and domestic terminals as well as roads for passenger arrivals and other passenger transit roads around the airport.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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House prices up in most markets

USING inflation-adjusted figures, a survey by the Global Property Guide reveals that house prices rose in 28 of 42 global markets that published housing statistics for the first quarter.

Nominal house prices rose in 30 markets, and fell in only 12. Inflation is particularly high in several countries with large annual increases in nominal house prices including India, Brazil, Turkey and South Africa, so the two sets of figures are very different.

The Asian housing markets remain buoyant. In Hong Kong, prices surged 20.14% year-on-year (y-o-y), far higher than the 2.11% y-o-y increase seen during the equivalent period of 2012.

In Delhi, prices rose by 7.61%, from y-o-y increases of 6.05% in the fourth quarter of 2012, 5.31% in the third quarter, 6.23% in the second and 24.41% in the first. House prices also increased in Beijing (5.92%), Greater Taipei (3.24%), Makati central business district in Manila (2.34%), Tokyo (2.12%), Indonesia (2.04%), and Thailand (1.48%).

Only Singapore saw its house prices decline, by 0.58%. The



A house in Belgium. Photo: Joe Thomissen

survey found that the US housing market had risen strongly.

The S&P/Case-Shiller seasonally adjusted national home price index soared 8.31% during the 12 months to the end of the first quarter of 2013, the biggest y-o-y increase since the first quarter of 2006. Over the same period, the US Federal Housing Finance Agency's seasonally adjusted purchase-only house price index rose by 4.93%, its fourth quarter of year-on-year gains.

US consumer confidence is at a five-year high, construction activity is picking up, and foreclosures and delinquency rates are falling. More European housing markets are showing signs of recovery.

In Turkey, house prices rose by

8.13% in the first quarter, in sharp contrast with the 1.55% y-o-y decline seen in the first quarter of 2012. In Denmark, house prices also increased by 7.01% y-o-y, after annual growth rates of 6.84% in the fourth quarter of 2012 and 3.25% in the third quarter and declines of 4.12% in the second quarter and 5.52% in the first quarter of last year.

Other strong European housing markets included Norway, with prices rising by 4.75%, Estonia (4.2%), Poland (3.24%), Sweden (3.11%), and Switzerland (2.42%). The Middle East's housing markets remain strong. Dubai is the world's best performer. Its house prices soared by 28.02% in the first quarter of 2013, in sharp contrast with the 1.01% y-o-y decline seen during the same period last year.

Likewise in Israel, the average price of owner-occupied dwellings rose by 6.34%, after y-o-y increases of 4.12% in the fourth quarter of 2012 and 3.14% in the third quarter, and declines of 0.46% in the second quarter and 3.33% in the first quarter of 2012. All these figures were adjusted for inflation.

— *The Nation*

Just how real is real?



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

IT'S Wednesday and far too early in the day for an epiphany. I've just been online trying to book a trip to Nirvana and even my trusty sidekick Jimmy Zen can't help. No leap of faith here, no walking on water, just an aisle seat on the big bus.

In the whole wired world of travel, more and more hoteliers are becoming conflicted over online reviews. Jerry McGuire summed it up best with the line "we live in a cynical world, a cynical, cynical world, and we work in a business of tough competitors."

Without a doubt it's a jungle out there. But I, like so many people when contemplating my weekend trip to Nirvana, jump up out of bed, fire up the laptop and click into TripAdvisor. What trendy accommodation lay waiting for me in this relatively unknown cosmic destination? Would there be free Wi-Fi or would I need to call down by telepathic communication for a midnight club sandwich?

Needless to say, in many ways like the techno giants of Apple, Microsoft, and now Samsung,

the ubiquitous world of online reviews has changed the way we live (and travel). In the old days your first stop would be to pull out a map, but now we want instant karma, and to snag out the long tail of personalized recommendations. Yes Uncle Sam may be listening in but who the hell cares, let him find out his own place in the sun.

And yet, just as I often reluctantly search out a Starbucks

case hit the media in which ACCOR's Australian Communication Director Peter Hook was suspended for allegedly writing over 100 pro-company reviews under an alias.

A recently published study by Cornell University's Hospitality School on how social media impacts hotel performance showed a parallel between rises in favorable online review and market share. There it is in black and white, this stuff really does matter.

For detractors of Trip Advisor there are emerging options as Triptease.com and Gogobot.com which look to offer different, non-legacy, experiences. Another interesting site, KwikChex, is seizing an opportunity to lead the space in online reputation and internet defamation. Here proof of quality is meant to assure customers that what they read online is credible and real.

Sure there are other players in the space, personally I book at Agoda for hotels and have never bothered to fill out the online review despite the promise of 500 rewards points. What's keeping me on the sideline? It's hard to say, but perhaps the brand universe for the moment remains the giant Mr Big. Sure this can all change, as MySpace can tell you.



MIDNIGHT SNACK: Does the hotel have club sandwiches? Check TripAdvisor. Photo: Geoff Peters

on journeys abroad, I am drawn into the lair of TripAdvisor, often before I've even booked an airline ticket. Next stop oblivion? Yes, count me in, is there a designer hotel available for all of eternity?

TripAdvisor has many detractors though, who point out their suspicions about fake reviews and hotel driven comments. Just a few months ago a high profile



WATCHING YOU: The TripAdvisor owl mascot shares the love. Photo: Iscari0t

For travelers the internet is a golden age for information and we have never had it so good, be it finding out the best seats to book on an airline, ranting about burnt waffles in Barcelona or trying to book a trip to Nirvana.

We indeed live in an imperfect world but certainly shifting through what's true, false or just plain gray is no easy task.

If anyone has a better suggestion, let me know, but for now, online reviews, well, they keep me coming back for more.

Now how about a great little Mexican restaurant south of Nirvana?

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



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How to legally own Thai land



By David Mayes

I THINK there is a common misconception in Thailand, that is often reinforced by many long term expats, who are always very eager to give their opinions to newcomers.

It goes like this: As long as you remain a foreigner in this country, you will always have to use one of the available loopholes to secure your right to use a piece of land and will never have full proper legal protection as it is illegal for you to own land outright.

If you become a Thai citizen however, you can legally own land and will have the full protection of Thai law.

Hold on, you say. "I can't get Thai citizenship. I don't want Thai citizenship even if I could get it." I have heard both of these more times than I can remember, yet the truth is that you can in fact get Thai citizenship, and if you intend to live out the rest of your life here, you surely do want it.

I am not saying it is easy, it is in fact quite difficult and there are lots of hoops to jump through. Don't think for a minute that Western countries such as the USA or the UK don't make immigrants jump through hoops to get naturalized.

Compared with the intensive tests the USA requires, learning to read and write Thai at a basic level and sing the national anthem is a walk in the park.

The main reason given for not wanting Thai citizenship is that if

you give up your Western passport you have to apply for a visa to go on holiday to most developed countries. Compare this to the hassles associated with renewing your visa every year, checking in every 90 days, skirting the law to own property, not being able to obtain a mortgage, being restricted from certain professions that may match your skill set and passion in life, and missing out on all of the other privileges citizenship brings, and it doesn't seem like that big of a deal to me. In fact, I already have to apply for a visa for my wife any time we go somewhere together anyway, and it is usually pretty simple. I can actually count on my fingers the number of times in the last decade we have had to do it.

I have spoken with several people who have obtained citizenship to verify that the Thai lawyers I have spoken with weren't misleading me, and they all agreed that it was very straightforward process if you tick all of the boxes.

Most people get overwhelmed trying to learn the Thai alphabet and quit. From there, they assume citizenship is out of the question. Thai actually has a very straightforward writing system (purely phonetic unlike English) and it can be mastered relatively quickly if you try.

I realize many retirees here are in their later stages of life and to avoid ticking all of you off, I completely understand the difficulties of attempting a new writing system so late in life. I also under-

stand many of you intend to stay for a while and then move on to greener pastures – so this article will not be useful for everyone. For those of you in your fifties, forties, or even younger, I am sorry but there is no excuse other than laziness for not learning Thai; especially if you have been here for any substantial amount of time with plans to stay indefinitely.

Anyway, I will hopefully be applying for citizenship next year, when I will have finally ticked all of the boxes that will allow me to lodge my application. It will be a long process but I intend to share it with my readers, and hopefully it will eventually end in success. I may have mentioned before that I am an "Ironman" competitor, which if nothing else, is a test of stubbornness; so I think I will have the gumption to stay the course no matter how many curve balls get at thrown at me along the way.

I believe that Thailand does in fact want us here, contrary to what I so often hear from fellow expats, but it only wants to naturalize citizens who respect the Kingdom and the culture. I hope I will inspire some of you to attempt to do the same, and if not, stay tuned for the second best way to secure the rights to a property in Thailand.

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

Industrial real estate demand on rise

THIS fiscal year, the Industrial Estate Authority of Thailand (IEAT) has forecasted sales and rentals to cover between 3,600 to 3,800 rai (1,440 to 1,520 acres) of land in both its own and privately owned industrial estates.

The 2013 Thai fiscal year began on October 1, 2012 and will last until the end of September, this year.

IEAT governor Veerapong Chaiperm said last week that sales and rentals of all industrial estates in the first three quarters rose 13.3% on year to 3,267 rai (1,306

acres), of which 27 rai (10.8 acres) were in the IEAT's properties, down 25%, and over 3,000 rai (1,200 acres) in privately operated properties, up 13.8 %.

The surge in sales and rentals indicated rising demand for investment, he added.

The leaders in sales and rentals were Asia Industrial Estate with 944 rai (377 acres), Amata City with 757 rai (302 acres) and Hemaraj Eastern Seaboard Industrial Estate with 667 rai (266 acres).

Most of IEAT's sales and rentals came from its industrial park in Songkhla in the South.

The IEAT and private operators altogether manage 48 industrial zones with 88,308 rai (35,323 acres) for sale and rent, of which 74,577 (29,830 acres) have been sold and rented.

Two industrial estates were set up this year – Hemraj Chonburi's second project with 637 rai (254 acres) to serve the auto parts industry and Kabin Hi-Tech Industrial Estate on 1,066 rai (426

acres) in Prachin Buri.

The IEAT has a policy of sporting the creation of more industrial zones ahead of the full realization of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Developers have already submitted plans for 28 projects on 14,163 rai (5,665 acres) with estimated costs of 21.25 billion baht. The projects are expected to lure investment of 891.75bn baht and employ 529,200 workers.

Of the 28 new projects, 18 on 1,924 rai (769 acres) are SME

estates with a development cost of 2.89bn baht.

The zones are expected to draw business investment of 576bn baht and create 340,200 jobs.

Six projects are in the Northeast with 9,799 rai (3,916 acres) and development cost of 14.70bn baht.

They are expected to draw business investment of 303.75bn baht and create 113,400 jobs.

The last four new projects are logistics parks in Chiang Rai totalling 2,440 rai (976 acres).

– *The Nation*



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HARD LEARNED LESSONS: The floodwaters that inundated the Rojana Industrial Park in Ayutthaya Province in 2011 have since receded, while demand for more industrial real estate has bounced back. Photo: USMC



SWISS PLEASE: The cafe is the premier stockist of the Chicco d'Oro coffee products in Phuket.

Caffe' Chicco d'Oro

A Swiss sip of homely bliss

By Anthika Muangrod

OPERATORS of hotels, restaurants, cafes and especially Swiss expats wanting a taste of home, can now purchase Caffe' Chicco d'Oro and many other imported food products from Switzerland in Phuket.

Patty Bamert together with Samai and Fredy Reutlinger, have recently opened their 'Caffe' Chicco d'Oro' coffee and bistro shop in Kathu, serving the popular Swiss coffee brand of the same name as their new shop.

The business is strongly committed to the hotel, restaurant and cafe (HORECA) market and also aims to provide private retail customers a chance to sample the delicious coffee from Switzerland as well as many other high quality products such as jam, bread, cake, cookies, sausages, cheese and wine.

Other than these, the company also sells coffee machine for private use and for restaurants.

Their flagship brand Chicco d'Oro coffee is imported by Thai subsidiary of the Valsangiacomo family company, which is

the biggest coffee company in Switzerland; producing 20 tons of roasted coffee per day and exporting to 27 countries. Formed in 1949, the long-standing company's 64 years in the business ensures customers can trust in the quality and taste of their coffee.

The trio are aiming to make their coffee shop a meeting point for Swiss expats living in Phuket, but also want to attract all customers to visit and taste their aromatic coffee and delicious range of Swiss food and drinks.

"We would like to make our shop a place that everyone enjoys coming and meeting with friends. We sell good and delicious Chicco d'Oro Coffee. This shop is very clean, cozy and central. We have plenty of parking, so it's easy to stop by and we also have free WiFi," said Mr Fredy.

"Customers can eat in or take out, we offer friendly service and we love meeting new friends and are thankful for their comments and advice."

Espresso Correto Grappa is one of the cafe's special menu items; it's a mix of fresh roasted espresso coffee and fine grappa from



Mrs Patty Bamert (right) partnered with Mr Fredy Reutlinger and his wife Samai (not pictured).



INVITING: The interior of the cafe is spacious, with a relaxed atmosphere and comfortable chairs.

Italy – something you can rarely find in Phuket and perfect for those adventurous people seeking a new taste for their coffee.

The trio, who both manage and own the cafe, revealed that their inspiration for starting the business was their love of coffee and high quality food from Switzerland, and that they wanted to introduce great Swiss products to everyone on the island.

"Our purpose is to fulfill the needs of customers; provide high quality products from Switzerland and to meet our customers' high expectations every time," said Mrs Bamert.

"This is a place where people can meet interesting people that speak the same lan-

guage and that they feel comfortable with. People can sit down and discuss anything and enjoy a cup of Chicco d'Oro coffee at the same time."

Centrally located in Kathu, on the road to Patong not far from Bangchak (the one with the green leaf logo) petrol station, the coffee and bistro shop is in a new townhouse with a big yellow Chicco d'Oro sign.

"Just stop by and enjoy a good coffee with us and find out what else we have to offer," Fredy added.

For more information, call 076-510 913 or visit chiccoandmore.com

Thai smartphone growth 'off the hook'

SMARTPHONE sales in Thailand more than doubled in the first four months of 2013, a report by one of the world's largest research companies reveals.

The GfK Thailand office reports that communication consumer electronics went from being just one in every five handsets less two years ago to more than two in five or 42% of overall volume sales in the last 12 months. Growth momentum started picking up at the beginning of 2012 with consumers in the Kingdom spending over 24.8 billion baht (US\$800 million) on smartphones in the past year.

Although basic feature phones continue to make up the larger proportion of consumers' handsets purchases in the country, demand has been progressively waning, with sales volume dropping by over 11% compared to the year before.

Revenue for the segment has correspondingly lunged by around 38% during this same period, accounting for just over 15% of the

total handset market compared to 40% previously.

"Consumers demand for handsets has been growing successively every quarter since the second quarter of 2012, inflating the volume and value of the market considerably by 23 and 61% respectively in the past 12 months. "This growth's been purely contributed by smartphones, which registered the greatest spike of 24% in volume sales in the first quarter of the year over the quarter before," highlights Wicht Purepong, MD, GfK Thailand.

Intensified demand of smartphones is generally seen across the country but the fastest growth was reported in the Northeast [Isaan] of Thailand. Sales units across the combined its 17 provinces more than quadrupled (344%) compared to the year before, far exceeding the momentum in the central and western regions, which reported only 17 and 11% growth.

"Although Isaan is the largest in

term of population and size, it is the least developed and has the lowest average income in Thailand; and the low wage has propelled some of the natives here to head out to other parts of the country to find better paying jobs," explained Purepong.

"However, the establishment of new industrial estates after the heavy flooding of 2011 has attracted the labor force back to Isaan, fueling higher demand in this case, for smartphones, since mid 2012."

Another reason for the strong growth registered in Isaan is the availability of more smartphone models which matched the lower purchasing power of the local population.

"While the average price of a smartphone costs 9,300 baht (\$300) in the most affluent area of Bangkok and vicinity, it costs around 7,133 baht (\$230) in Isaan.

"In the last year, basic feature phones still made up the dominant segment but this trend will soon be reversed with smartphones contrib-



The new generation have embraced smartphone culture. Photo: M Knowles

uting to a larger proportion of volume sales in the next year. We anticipate the adoption of smartphones to be further expedited to rake in at least 70% growth in value ... in the next year," Mr Wicht concluded.

– GfK



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Human trafficking Thailand's failure

FEW issues are more tragic and complex than human trafficking. Recent warnings by the US that Thailand faces relegation to Tier 3 status (see page 10) in the US Trafficking Persons Report for 2013 should serve as a wake-up call to all of the government agencies that should be working together to bring human traffickers to justice, but are failing miserably.

Knee-jerk reactions in Bangkok to the US warning will likely be similar to that which followed the International Monetary Fund getting involved in bailing out the Thai economy after the Asian financial meltdown that began in 1997: neo-colonialism – you are not our boss, and so on.

The US annual Trafficking in Persons Report does seem to harken back somewhat to a Cold War mentality; surely this is the type of research that should be conducted by the United Nations, not one of its member states.

That said, when the US issues warnings, Thailand tends to listen, especially when those warnings come with the real possibility of economic sanctions.

Whatever a person thinks of the messenger, the message itself really should be heeded because human trafficking is everywhere in Thailand, and in no part of the Kingdom is it more “in your face” than right here in Phuket. Illegal migrants, mostly from Myanmar, do almost all of the heavy lifting here in jobs that many Thais won't do: fishing, rubber tapping, domestic help and construction.

We owe them a lot; we give them so little. We even have a whole generation of young Burmese who were born and have lived their entire lives on the island, but enjoy no rights whatsoever. Chances for a good education are almost non-existent.

The issue of human trafficking casts into the spotlight all of the baffling inequalities among people that are part and parcel of the human condition.

Perhaps the only way to view it in a more positive light is to put it in historical context; to consider how far we have come in the past 100 years, at least where human rights are concerned. It's hard to believe that slavery, which has been around since the dawn of man, has now been legally abolished in virtually every country. Women's rights and the legal end to many forms of discrimination have come in leaps and bounds; the US has a black president, while Thailand has its first female premier.

We are heading in the right direction, and fast: tackling human trafficking in all of its forms is the right place to continue this effort and there is no better place or time to start than here and now. Lives hang in the balance.

If we can improve the lives of the poorest and most disadvantaged among us, the world will be a better place for one and all – that's a fact.



Swimmers' safety a multilateral job

Re: Gazette online, Chinese tourist drowns off Phuket, June 18

I am sorry for all of those who have friends drown here but I see so many poor swimmers in the water when they should not be. We surely cannot expect there to be lifeguards everywhere.

I watched a group of tourists stand and watch as their friend got dragged out at Surin. It seemed none of them could swim or understand the power of the water.

I would suggest that their respective countries provide some education and it not be the responsibility of the host country. It is the ocean and it is dangerous.

I do not read of many Thais drowning and I observe them looking after each other at the beach. Teach some common sense.

Larry
Kamala

It's not the video that caused the problems

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Police defend action over Russian gun threat YouTube video, June 21

Gen Choti has his head in the sand. What about the recent massive protests against Russian tour operators and Russians in general? This most certainly does more harm to the relationship than a video about a personal dispute.

The police need to make a serious point here by giving the maximum penalty for the guy with the gun. Take this seriously. Factual videos aren't the problem.

Bill
Gazette forum

Cost of a real helmet

Re: Gazette online, Helmetless Phuket motorbike driver dies from head trauma, June 20

Unfortunately, most of the helmets worn here wouldn't help anyway.

Letters to the Editor

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

Most helmets sell for 300 to 1,000 baht and are really nothing more than “brain buckets”.

A helmet that will offer some degree of protection will cost 3,000 to 6,000 baht, and can easily go up to 15,000 baht.

Since so few are sold, it's very difficult to find one that fits properly. Try finding a 3XL open face, or any 3XL for that matter.

Jim
Gazette forum

Put crocs on guard

Re: Gazette online, Gone fishing: Man snags Siamese crocodile at Phuket pond, June 20

The Siamese crocodile should be released in mangroves to deter greedy land-grabbers from destroying them.

Whistle-Blower
Gazette forum

Lives more valuable than protectionism

Re: Gazette online, Chinese killed by speedboat at popular Phuket day-trip destination, June 20

This story is a real tragedy because it is simply a case of miscommunication.

As long as the authorities do not allow foreign guides, these tragedies will continue to occur.

In activities such as boating and diving, the instructions and commands must be clearly understood.

But as of this moment the Thai authorities will arrest any foreign workers they consider to be guides.

Sherlock Holmes
Gazette forum

Hazardous airport bus stop in Patong

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's new Airport Bus inked to start July 1, June 20

The Ban Zaan market must be the most dangerous point in Patong to cross the road. More so with luggage in your hands.

A traffic island in the middle of the road would improve safety a lot.

Eddy Torremans
Gazette forum

The road to riches

Re: Gazette online, Gaping hole in Patong street blocked off, partially filled, June 19

This ‘road’ is a complete embarrassment and Patong Officials should hang their heads in shame.

It has been a work in progress of one sort or another for over six years now. Maybe if all the funds allocated to it had gone toward the construction it would have been completed by now. As we all know, “where there are roads, there's gold” in Phuket.

The continued “repairs” to the Patong-Karon road are another example.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

Phi Phi problems

Re: Gazette online, Chinese killed by speedboat at popular Phuket day-trip destination, June 20

I tend to avoid Phi Phi Island as it is flooded with boats that threaten snorkelers' lives and make a horrible noise as well... and the smell of gas is unbearable. Because of all that, this piece of paradise has become a true hell.

Access to Phi Phi should be limited, because now the chaos there is over the top.

Ewa Tobis
Facebook

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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

Volume 20 Issue 26

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Refugee runaways: shelters aren't jails

FIRST PERSON

WHEN the Rohingya children ran away, the first thing my staff feared was me. They were afraid I would blame them. But I don't blame them at all. We did our best to take care of them and worked 24 hours a day to look after them. We are not guilty that they have all run away.

The responsibility of taking care of these children is not just ours, it is the responsibility of the province and the government as well.

I didn't want them to run away, nobody did. But our shelter is not set up to detain people. This is an open house for people who are in trouble and who need help from us and choose to live with us.

At our shelter, we generally take care of children and women with domestic problems.

We don't do anything here to prevent people from running away because we are not a detention center. Our mandate is to provide accommodation and food, and give people a place to stay that's better than the one they left.

We have 10 people working here, including two men. We can't have the men on night duty every night, so sometimes women have to be on night duty. The point is, we don't have enough staff to stop people from running away.

The Rohingya children were a special case. They are refugees under age 18, and according to Thai law they cannot be detained as prisoners.

This is kind of a Catch-22: the government can't detain them so they send them to us,



Jiranun Cheamcharoen, 46, from Ratchaburi, received a BA from Thammasat University and an MA from Ramkhamhaeng University. She has been a social worker since 1991 and the director of the Phuket Shelter for Children and Families on Koh Sireh for four years.

Here, she talks about the difficulties of housing Rohingya children and what action she took after they ran away from the shelter.

but we're not set up to detain them either. The only thing we can do to keep people from leaving is treat them well.

In any case, we accepted the Rohingya children into our home and treated them the same way we treat Thai people who live with us.

We provided them with a bed, three meals a day and the items they needed for daily life. I played football with them even though we couldn't communicate because of language differences.

As with everyone else who stays here, we recorded the names of the children and photographed them. We keep case information on everyone in order to try to figure out the best way to help them. Most of the Rohingya children who ran away were over 15 years old.

Of course I am worried about them. This is not their country and they do not speak our language. Where can they live? What if one of them is injured in an accident?

I didn't stop caring about them after they left. When we realized they were gone, we contacted the police and immigration and asked for help in searching for them.

My staff and I asked around this area to see if anyone had seen them. We asked imams to let us know if they saw them. We don't have the authority to make them come back, but we can call the police and ask them to do that.

What else could I do? I am open to any suggestions. We are happy to work with other private or official organizations. If anyone wants to send people to "guard" the shelter, I am willing to have them join us.

We wanted to help these children, but at the same time I know that living at our shelter was not their goal. I don't know where they would rather be, I just know that no matter how hard we tried, they didn't want to stay here.

It's really beyond our ability and authority to fix the problem and satisfy everyone.

Memories of Mario

Island View

By Steven Layne

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



Life Mario's way. Photo: Chris Schrier

HAVING grown up in the 1980s and 1990s in a middle-class American suburb, much of my outlook on life was admittedly influenced, if not framed, by an ingenious team of Japanese programmers and script writers.

Indeed, the original Nintendo Entertainment System (launched in the US in 1985) provided an invaluable framework for the formation and development of some of the critical cognitive reasoning and problem solving skills that continue to serve me well.

While my dad in particular didn't see such value in my childhood gaming obsession (this is the same dad who used to walk 10 miles to school in five feet of snow without any shoes – you know the one), I on the other hand will remain forever grateful for the life-long lessons that I gained from the hard-headed Italian brothers, Mario and Luigi.

Not to mention Ninja Gaiden's mysterious yet skillfully cunning Ryu; Zelda's young yet ever-determined hero, Link; the logically thinking snake duo, Rattle and Roll; the versatile problem-solving gorilla, Donkey Kong; and the city boy warrior class Lee brothers, AKA Double Dragon.

And I certainly can't forget the "no-looking back" and "nothing can stand in our way" contra duo of Mad Dog and Scorpion, among a number of other protagonists born on a Tokyo drafting table.

Fast forward to the busy adult I've become today on this bustling and ever-sprawling island we call Phuket. Although I've long lost touch with the gaming world and all its 21st century advances and intricacies, my childhood Nintendo lessons are more applicable than ever before.

Nintendo kept it simple: games have levels full of obstacles that become more challenging as one progresses. At the end of each level, and eventually the game,

there's one final challenge, typically embodied in an ultimate antagonist – the "Big Bad Boss" – the most famous being the Mario Brothers' number one enemy, King Bowser Koopa.

And as I tread and limp through this difficult "Level Phuket", the obstacles blocking my path seem to get more challenging with time.

This potential paradise is being held back and down by some ferocious "bosses" indeed – ignorance, greed, environmental degradation, unchecked petrochemical dependency and excessive materialism among the biggest of them.

But like Mario, I've got a hard head, and my eyes fixated firmly on the prize. That's not to say I won't be exercising mindful caution as I proceed, as it's not likely I'll be granted a second life to try again should I fail before my time's up. Meanwhile, see you all in the Bonus round.

Issues & Answers...

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

Visa runs by plane?

I know that you can take a bus for a visa run. My question is: Can you take a plane and can you recommend a company to me?

John Heath
United States

Jaree Makchan, owner of Thai Visa Run Co Ltd, replies:

Our company provides a visa run package by plane to Penang for 15,000 baht.

The visa run takes three days and two nights, and the price includes flights, hotel, taxi transfer between the airport and hotel, and two breakfasts and dinners.

Lunches and the visa fee are not included in the package, but we take care of processing the visa for you.

If you have any questions, call us at 076-528577 or check Phuket-VisaRun.com

A staffer at KBV Phuket Visa Run Co Ltd replies:

We have a visa run package of three days and two nights to Penang for 15,000 baht.

That includes the cost of the flights, hotel (Banana Boutique Hotel) taxi transfer to and from the airport and breakfasts and dinners for two days. Lunch and the visa fee are not included in the package. We will take care of processing the visa for you.

Please call us at 076-313110 or see KBV-PhuketVisaRun.com

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Passports and identity theft

I have provided signed photocopies of my passport face page and my current visa page to a Thai government office to be issued a driver's license, a work permit, getting a phone line, buying a car, getting married and so on.

My fear is that signed photocopies of a passport's face and visa pages can be used inappropriately, or illegally, for many things, including transferring land ownership. Identity theft is a serious crime in the US but barely rates a mention here.

Can I refuse to provide signed copies of my passport to a government official? Does the US embassy even allow me to provide such signed copies of my passport? How can I protect myself?

DA
Chalong

Werapong Khaokhawong, Conciliation Officer at the Rights and Liberties Protection Department, Phuket office replies:

You cannot refuse to provide signed photocopies of your passport to any government official who requests it.

As a safeguard, below where you sign and date the photocopy, write the sole purpose the signed copy is to be used for.

To protect against your signature being used illegally, cross one line through your signature and another through the sentence explaining what the copy is to be used for.

You should not provide your signature in clear space on any photocopies of official documents.

The signed copy can then only be used for the purpose required and only by the office you have

provided the signed copy to.

This is the best way protect yourself from corrupt officials.

Walter Braunohler, Spokesman, US Embassy Bangkok, replies:

The US embassy in Bangkok recommends referring to the respective Thai agency and its guidelines in fulfilling any request for documents.

However, we also remind everyone to heed common sense to prevent identity theft whenever signing any documents – for instance, if you sign and date a photocopy of your passport, write the purpose for which the signed copy is to be used for; refrain from writing your signature in clear space; and other similar precautions.

YOUR

Phuket

RENAISSANCE GLOBAL

DAY OF DISCOVERY



From left: Mr. Nathanon Rattane, F&B Attendant; Sitthiporn Srichaimoon, F&B Attendant; Mr Goetz Bauer, General Manager of Renaissance Phuket Resort and Spa; Richard Charles Jonathon Taylor, Event Management Trainee.



Mr Goetz Bauer (left), General Manager of Renaissance Phuket Resort and Spa and Ms. Willasinee Tiyakote (right), Sales and Marketing Voyager hand the Renaissance Phuket Resort and Spa's gift voucher to their guest.

CHIVAS DINNER AT THE KEE SKY

LOUNGE & RESTAURANT



Khun Surasak Somnam (right), The KEE Resort Managing Director



(From left) Lillian Carpenter, Mr Teera Weerawan, Chivas Master and Dalinjit Laosonthorn, Chivas Brand Executive



Ms. Willasinee Tiyakote, Sales and Marketing Voyager



Manthapatak Wongvivat, Sale of Phuket Teaintong company.

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BOAT of the week



See page 31

PROPERTY of the week



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AUCTION

Prime Condominiums in Phuket
Blue Canyon Country Club

See page 23

WHEELS & MOTORS of the week

Fortuner
For Rent



See page 30

JOB of the week

LaGuna
HOLIDAY CLUB

See page 27

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Properties For Sale

KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



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

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.

VILLA IN BOAT LAGOON

Modern decoration, 4+1 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, pool, fully furnished. 616sqm, 32 million baht. Tel: 076-238948, 089-873 8050 (English & Thai), 081-353 9730 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-273466. Email: sale@phuketpropertytrip.com

D CONDO KATHU PHUKET

29.9sqm. Ready to move in October. Price: 1.070 million baht. Tel: 081-893 7068.

3 BEDROOMS, CHALONG

Land & Houses Park. Land: 260sqm. Furniture, garden, parking, 24hr security. Quick sale. Price: 2.9 million baht. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

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2,400sqm in Cherrng Talay, Chanote title, gentle slope, highest point of Pasak 8, access via public dead-end road. Can be divided. Agents welcome. 8.5 million baht. Tel: 089-875 9609 (English), 087-418 5924. Email: claudebaltres@gmail.com

LAM RU VALLEY PHANG NGA

14 rai of prime land bordering the mountainous region of Khao Lak and Lam Ru National Park where tourism is a major industry. The land is an ideal location to develop a high end Eco Resort. Nor Sor 3 Kor Land Title. Tel: 088-768 3944 (English), 081-893 3646 (Thai). Email: senna@cscoms.com For further details, please see our website at www.rightmove.co.uk/overseas-property/property-39265192.html

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

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.

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

AO PO LAND 1.5 RAI SEA VIEW

Chanote title. Private access from beach front road. 400m from Ao Por Grand Marina. 10 million baht. Tel: 080-698 0141 (English), 082-277 5971 (English & Thai). Email: roscomclean@yahoo.com.au

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

SEAVIEW KARON

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

Condo in Patong for Sale/Rent



87 sqm. beautiful condo with 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee machine, toaster etc., bed sheets, towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. quick sale for 4.9 MB or long term rent 27,000 a month. CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

KARON GUESTHOUSE



For sale. 7 aircon rooms. 2 minutes walk to beach. 13.5 million baht. Tel: 081-171 9705. Email: atetayap@yahoo.com

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.

NEW HOUSE

Selling a new house at Siri Village, Pa Khlok. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, living room, garden and car park. 2 aircons, curtains and 1 furnished bedroom. Tel: 088-760 6083 (English & Thai). Email: theeighthcat@hotmail.com

ALLAMANDA (LAGUNA)

Residences/ Phuket Condo unit, half of a deluxe twin house, fully furnished and equipped, set direct on the picturesque lagoon with balcony right over it. 3 bedrooms each with shower/ bathroom roof terrace. Long-term rent or sale. Tel: 090-487 8084. Email: utaipan@yahoo.com

URGENT SALE!

3-storey shophouse. Permsab Village (Manik). Tel: 092-129 7292.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE FOR SALE



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

HOUSE 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

4 RAI CHANOTE TITLE CHALONG

Land situated just off Chao Fa East Road in residential area. No brokers or agents. Please email senna@cscoms.com for details.

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

HOUSE IN KAMALA



For sale. 2 houses on land. 1 ngan 89sq wah. Chanote title, near mountain, peaceful and safe, 10 minutes from the beach. 5.5 million baht direct from owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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.

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makhom. 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.

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

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.

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Luxury apartment, pool, WiFi, cable, maid, 100sqm, 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkreal estate@aol.com

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Great value accommodation, available for short and long term. Daily from 900 baht or 14,000 baht per month. Contact us for your enquiry by: info@resavaholidays.com www.resavaholidays.com

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House and room for rent in Chalong. Please call 089-728 3976 for more information.

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Quiet ground-floor unit, private patio, share pool, tennis, quality estate. Weekly: 9,000 baht. Monthly: 18,000 baht. Available now. Tel: 090-071 7163 (English).

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B.L. APARTMENT

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1 BED BUNGALOW RAWAI

Aircon, WiFi, kitchen, TV, quiet. 8,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricohailand@hotmail.com

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Fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, car park, 13,000 baht per month for long term rental. Tel: 089-373 0455 (English & Thai), 084-051 1955 (English & Thai). Email: sornin_s@yahoo.com

KATA HILL-1 BEDROOM

Fully furnished: terrace, kitchen, bath, aircon, internet and cable TV. Price: 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

PLAYBOY'S PENTHOUSE BANGLA

Playboy's only apply. Nocturnal hunters required to tenant this spacious 2-level play pen, in the heart of Patong's wildlife area, Bangla. 1,500 baht a day + electricity. Minimum 1 year contract. Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.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

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

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Fully furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Gym and pool. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 1558 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.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

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KATA BEACH FURNISHED APTS.

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3-BEDROOM HOUSE IN TOWN

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RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

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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

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.

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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
The Network property office



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

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

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

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

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

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

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: eltor borjor@gmail.com

TEFL QUALIFIED TEACHERS WANTED

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

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

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

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.

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

STAFF WANTED

Cashier, Waiters, Thai cook, Cleaner. Location: Kata-Karon. Tel: 081-895 5852 (English), 089-401 8506. Email: vladim1r@me.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

COORDINATOR WANTED

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

EVENT/PR MANAGER

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

MARKETING & GUEST RELATIONS

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

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

VILLA MANAGER (LIVE IN)

Manage house team, house-keeping, F&B, repair, excellent in English, leadership, service minded, own car with license. Tel: 087-881 0003. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

Experience in villa management, guest relations, maintenance, housekeeping & staff supervision, own car with license, Thai only. Tel: 087-881 0003. Email: hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

FRONT DESK STAFF - SAMUI

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

MAID / HOUSEKEEPER

Expat (American) requires an experienced housekeeper/maid with good English and Thai speaking ability. Cooking experience a plus and can be live in or live out. Experience letters and recommendations from previous employers are a must. Top notch salary will be paid for the right person! Contact Robert. Tel: 089-765 3126.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

ACCOUNTANT

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- ▶ Some fluency in spoken and written English

Good salary for the right candidate. Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to fon@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

WORK WANTED

Thai lady, speaks English, experienced, cook, maid, babysitter, can live in, looking for part-time job. Contact Taew. Tel: 081-084 2708.

HOUSEKEEPER WANTED

Thai trainee housekeeper, English speaking, start from 10,000 baht, nice increase and work place. Tel: 081-787 9774. Email: phukettreasure@gmail.com

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

CHINESE-SPEAKING STAFF

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

- ▶ **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

CHERNG TALAY

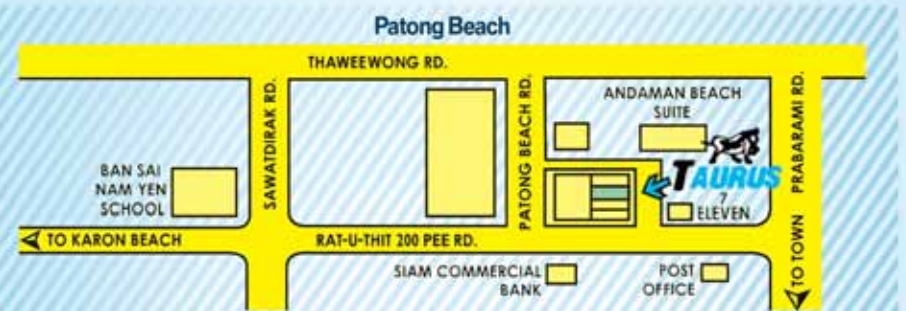
- ▶ **Chaba Supermarket** (at the Laguna gateway) Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

KARON

- ▶ **EuroStyle Tailors** (Luang Por Chuan Rd) Tel: 076-396911

Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel

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

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

**TELEMARKETER
WANTED**

To work in S.E.A. Air fares and hotel paid for. Selling investment package. Tel: 092-183 8081 (English). Email: smith dan426@gmail.com

STAFF WANTED

Cashier, English speaking, location: Patong. Tel: 086-987 7339 Email: stanleysphuket@hotmail.com

**EXPERIENCED CS
STAFF WANTED**

Native English Speaking Customer Service Agents needed for Internet fashion retailer. work permit. high salary. 5-day work week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-289472. Email: rawai@me.com For full details click here: <http://bit.ly/ROwNBD>

TELESALES JOB

Mature, motivated, English speaking individual, ideal for retiree. Base salary+ commission. Tel: 087-269 9206. Please call or email to office @faramond.com

**NATIVE ENGLISH
TEACHER**

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

**OAK MEADOW
SCHOOL**

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

F&B MANAGER

Serenity Resort & Residences Phuket is a leading upmarket resort in Rawai with 65 rooms, suites and pool residences. We are now looking for a Food & Beverage Manager (Thai or expatriate) to oversee our East 88 Beach Lounge. Candidates must have hotel F&B management experience. Tel: 076-371900, 081-846 9981 (English). Send application with CV, recent photograph and cover letter to: Urs Aebi, General Manager at gm@serenityphuket.com For further details, please see our website at www.serenityphuket.com

SALES STAFF WANTED

Can assist with visas & permits. All nationalities. No experience necessary but a good idea. Must be very well presented and enthusiastic. Minimum commissions paid 35% of property values sold! Visit www.farang-living.com/careers and send your CV.

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

- ▶ Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- ▶ Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- ▶ Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, 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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

**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

**SALESPERSON
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

THAI DRIVER WANTED

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

**ASSISTANT BRANCH
MANAGER**

Phuket Pool Tables is looking for a new assistant branch manager to join our latest branch at Cherng 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

LaGuna HOLIDAY CLUB

Laguna Holiday Club, Thailand's premiere vacation ownership company is currently seeking passionate and experienced candidates to be part of our team...

Assistant Sales Manager (T/O)
Previous timeshare experience, knowledge of sales techniques and sales closing ability.

Outside Personal Contact Team Leader
To supervise all operations & processes in marketing team, excellent communication skills, and experience in timeshare is beneficial

Telesales Agent
Thai telesales consultants for an exciting career in the tourism industry. Ideal candidates will enjoy calling potential guests to book vacations at our resort, and earn highly attractive commissions. Proficiency in English and other languages e.g. Mandarin, is highly desirable.

Send your CV to career@lagunaholidayclub.com or sirmab@lagunaholidayclub.com

Call for more information: 076 - 362400 Ext. 4402 or 4406
www.lagunaholidayclub.com

PROMOTERS WANTED

Popular bar for young "Farangs" looking for dynamic people to do promotion. Residents and travellers welcome to apply. Tel: 081-958 5394 (English). Email: collinniemi@gmail.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

**ESTATE / RENTAL
MANAGER**

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

DRIVER WANTED

Speak some English. Full Thai driving licence. Good salary + bonus Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.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

**WORK CS @
HOLYCLOTHING!**

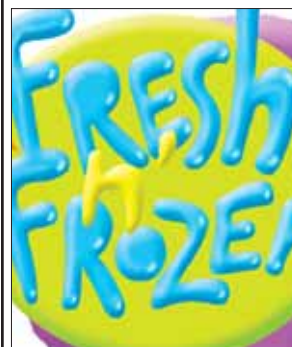
Customer Service Agents needed for internet fashion retailer. Are you CS experienced, Thai, hard working, computer savvy and fluent in English? 25K+ Per Month. 5-day work week. Work on Macs. Tel: 076-289472. Email: grahamkay@mac.com For full details: www.holyclothing.com/htmlx/work.html

**SALES & ADMIN
JUNIOR**

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

DESIGN STUDIO

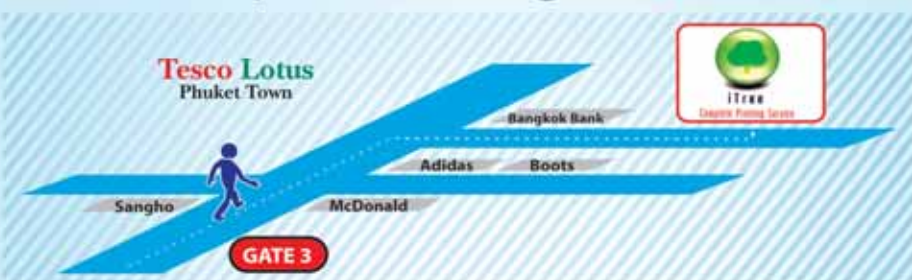
Looking for an ambitious and organised person to join our team. Successful applicant will help with general office administration and the planning of photography shoot. Applicant must have an excellent command of English. Contact manager. Tel: 083-035 9632. Email: photomorphimages@gmail.com

**COFFEE & ICE
CREAM**

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

Live in Town?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at iTree Complete Printing Service



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with
Khun Nan: (076-255425)

GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they're **PAID!** Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneously and **FREE** - in the **Gazette Online!**

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for a JOB?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Articles
For Sale

Business Opportunities

**NEW DIVE
COMPRESSOR-BAUER**

New Bauer Poseidon PE 250 P31. Electric and/or petrol. Includes new Honda petrol engine, custom stainless steel flywheel, 2 filling valves and a custom metal stand. 325,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 089-044 0623 (English & Thai). Email: info@worldwidealoha.com

JACUZZI FOR TWO

New at half price 45,000 baht. Shower box, new at 2,500 baht. Tel: 089-594 4067.

ATT. INVESTORS

10 beachfront apartments are being offered at a total sale price of 19.95 million baht. Each apartment measures 60sqm including the sea view balcony. Each apartment is priced between 4 - 5 million baht if sold individually. Tel: 089-839 8255. Email: info@lantaestate.net

**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.

**GUESTHOUSE +
RESTAURANT**

Small guesthouse, 4 rooms + restaurant in Karon for sale. For more information, please call 076-396075, 082-270 6385 (English & Thai). Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

**BUSINESS
FOR LEASE**

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.

**SPORTS BAR
IN KARON**

Newly renovated, trendy sports bar in Karon, Phuket. This bar comes fully equipped with three large plasma TVs, pool table, two bedrooms and website. Tel: +44-20-8688 4544. Email: nm.win dowcleaning@hotmail.co.uk

TOURIST SUBMARINE

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.

**BAR FOR SALE
BANGLA AREA**

Stunning lounge club over 2 floors, new fit out. Stylish, private venue, fully air-conditioned, ready to open. Own the best bar in Phuket. Tel: 087-881 7600 (English). Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

**GUESTHOUSE
CENTER OF PATONG**

14-room guesthouse for sale in center of Patong Beach, 5 minutes from beach and 15 minutes from nightlife. Fully furnished, 1 apartment with 1 bedroom for accommodation and 2 shops for rent on ground floor. Tel: 076-290496, 083-526 4485 (English & Thai). Email: yohan_n@hotmail.com

**GUESTHOUSE +
RESTAURANT
FOR RENT**

4 storeys: restaurant on the first floor, 7-room guesthouse on the second to fourth floor. 10 minutes from Patong Beach. Tel: 076-345604, 084-189 3509, 089-971 3301.

RESTAURANT

For sale. Steve's tasty burgers for sale. 800,000 baht o.b.o. For quick sale. Contact Steve. Tel: 089-918 3718. Email: steveastray@hotmail.com www.steveostastyburgers.com

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact: realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

**GOGO BAR /
NIGHTCLUB**

For sale in Bang Tao. Needs slight alterations. Comes complete with kitchen and all furniture, website and marketing package. 1 million baht or nearest offer. No business like this within 20km. Fantastic business opportunity. Contact Lee. Tel: 081-787 9767. Email: woodlee1976@hotmail.co.uk

**MASSAGE SHOP
PATONG**

Good location, fully equipped with high end furniture and stock. 4 Thai massage beds and 3 oil massage beds. Cheap rent price: 400,000 baht. Tel: 087-073 4233. Email: judgedread73@hotmail.com

**KARON
GUESTHOUSE
FOR SALE**

Estimate 14 years old, Chanote title, 5 storeys, 12 rooms, laundry, sala, bar, net profit 2 million baht. Sale: 12 million baht. Owner retiring. No offers. Tel: 081-728 1862 (English), 081-370 8733 (Thai).

**RESORT
FOR LEASE**

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

**PATONG BEACH HOTEL
AND RESTAURANT**

Built in 2009, near Simon Cabaret, 20 minutes walk to the beach. Fully equipped, 16 rooms. Key money 3.5 million baht. Monthly rent: 80,000 baht, long-term contract. Licenses for food, alcohol and tobacco. Training for web contracts and channel manager included. Contact Michael for viewing (English, Italian and Thai). Tel: 084-058 2210. Email: scotdragon@yahoo.it

**FITNESS CENTER
FOR SALE**

A well established fitness center with a large membership base, situated in Phuket Town, for sale. Price reduced to 8 million baht. Tel: 087-275 3614 (English & Thai), 080-698 5021 (Thai). Email: coco_ivy@hotmail.com

**SPACE FOR RENT
BANGLA**

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

**SPORT BAR AND
GUESTHOUSE**

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

**2 BUSINESSES
FOR SALE**

Good location, Rawai area. 1) Restaurant: 40 pax, leased for 8.5 years. 2) Indoor pub: fully equipped, stage, 70 pax, 8 years and 6 months left on lease. Sale: 2.9 million baht - negotiable! Lease money pays rent. Tel: 087-244 1322, 087-892 6204.

**GUESTHOUSE / BAR /
RESTAURANT**

Prime location guesthouse, 5 minutes to beach, 2 minutes to Jungceylon Shopping Center. 6 rooms, great figures. No Warrie Bar, price negotiable, ideal retirement with income. Tel: 084-053 4365 (English), 087-896 5219. Email: striker_1957@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE KARON

5 luxury rooms. Cafe bar. Recently undergone a major refurb. 6-year lease contract (paid in full). Low rent. Excellent location. 2 minutes to Beach. 5.5 million baht o.n.o. For more information, please call 081-891 9461.

**BEAUTY SHOP
FOR SALE**

Sale: 490,000 baht (negotiable). Fully equipped, with customers and equipment: 2 foot massage chairs, 1 massage bed, 3 hairdressing stations. Price includes Thai Co Ltd. For more information, please call 090-154 6115 (English). Email: djanila_nuz@mail.ru

**RESTAURANT
FOR SALE, CHALONG**

Chao Fa Road, fully equipped, kitchen, nicely decorated, 2 living rooms, 3 year lease. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sale: 1.4 million baht. For viewing please call 084-845 4743.

Bulletins

**Alcoholics
Anonymous**

If you want to drink
that is your business
If you want to stop
that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town,
Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763

081-956 4031

email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

SPONSOR A CHILD

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



Don't miss out!

Sign up for the

Great Burnin Bum

Chili Cook-off today

Go to

www.navyleaguephuket.org

And click on Chili Cook-off!

Would you like to keep up on what's happening
in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre?
Let us share it with you - every week!

TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd
T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000

YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE
for a full year - 52 issues!

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐

☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)

☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)

☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____

To ensure clarity,
please *airmail*.
Do not Fax!

Business Products & Services



DINO DAYCARE CENTER

Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Outdoor activities.
- Skill development activities.

CALL NOW:
082-539 8252 (Thai).
081-868 7676 (English).

WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House.
At Chalong. Please call
081-476 5808.

BUDS INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN

Phuket's oldest international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brand-new purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1.5-8. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Tel: 076-384638, 080-624 7060. www.buds-phuket.com

TRICK ROPING LESSONS

Showing and teaching the art of western cowboy rope tricks. Tel: 084-447 5257. Email: mike-roper2003@hotmail.com

TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoo. Please call 083-362 4144.

LOSE WEIGHT FEEL GREAT!

Organic, delicious, nutritious fruit & vegetable juice detox programs. From 5,000 baht. Delivered To Your Door. Contact Larry. Tel: 083-345 5540. Please see our website at www.weight-watchdetox.com

TENNIS FROM 300 BAHT

Female ITF player available for professional coaching hit ups, cardio, all ages your place or ours. Tel: 090-706 6674, 090-071 7163.

FOREX TRADING

Make money from home. Join our online room and get free one hour session. Book now. Tel: 090-071 7163. www.fxlivetraderoom.com

Club Memberships Available

LOCH PALM

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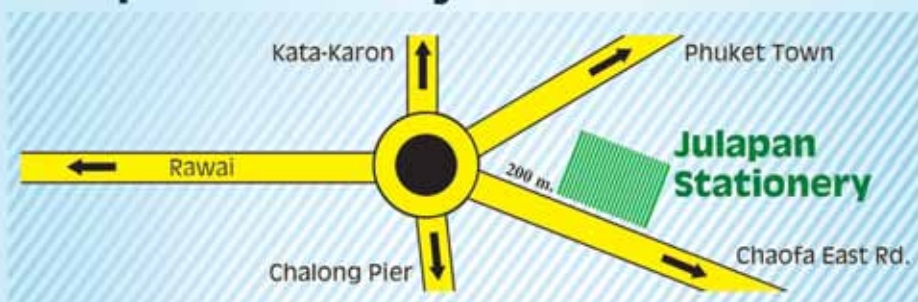
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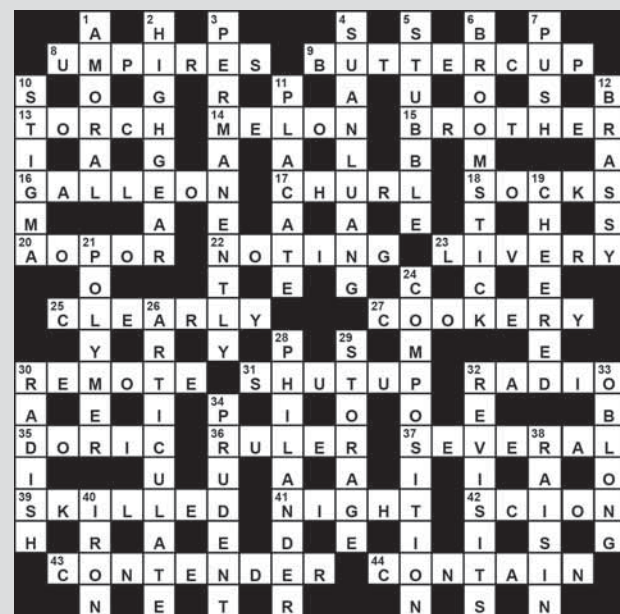
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SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S**Cryptic Crossword****COFFEE break**

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AMAZING THAILAND GRAND SALE 2013

Grand Opening at Central Festival Phuket



From left: Panat Pookpho Store General Manager at Central Department Store; Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut; Suchada Borsub, Director, Marketing Information Technology Group at Tourism Authority of Thailand; Wilaiporn Pitimanaaree, The General Manager and Marketing Director of Central Festival Phuket.

SKAL DINNER NIGHT



Lyndon Ellis, General Manager Anantara Vacation Club Mai Khao; Claude Sauter, General Manager Panwa Beach Resort, Phuket A Marco Polo Hotel; Brice Borin, General Manager the Regent Phuket Cape Panwa.



BIKINIS & MARTINIS MAGAZINE LAUNCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! TO CHATCHANEE ITTINANTHAWAN



Khun Cheurchan Panvikarn (center), Marketing Manager of Phanason Group with her team bring the birthday basket to Khun Chatchanee Ittinanthawan (right), Managing Director of Phanason Group.



HUGS FOR CHEF DAVID THOMPSON AT NAHM AT PARESA DINNER



From left Cristy Baker (Soi Dog Foundation), Chef David, Yupares Nimkarn (Paresa owner), Donna Toon (F&B Director Paresa)

Last call for fun!

NEXT weekend's (July 6-7) Air Show and Family Picnic looks set to be the biggest event of its kind ever to be held in and over Phuket. The two-day extravaganza will feature amazing aerial displays and tons of fun activities for the whole family. The event will celebrate the USA's 237th birthday and also the fact that this year marks 180 years of official Thailand-US relations. President of the Navy League Phuket, Pat James said that final preparations are underway and that over 45 volunteers would be on hand over the weekend to help with organization, security and safety. "Nothing of this scale has ever been held in Phuket," he reiterated. So if you want to experience the most spectacular Air Show this island has ever seen, make sure you get down to the Phuket Air Park next weekend and bring the whole family for a fantastic day out. Be sure to get there early too, because the first 100 people to enter each day will go into a draw to win prizes, including free American beer and food, as well as plane and helicopter flights.

PARAMOTOR FLIGHTS

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. His demos and flights will be ongoing all day on both days.

AEROBATICS

Famous stuntman Les Vorosmarthy, will execute a death-defying aerobatic show in his beautiful, red Extra 300 aircraft. 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 the plane ride of a lifetime with Les himself.

ATV RIDES

The team from ATV Phuket will be offering all-terrain ATV rides which include an initial training session, before setting riders loose on a 25 rai course for a thrilling ride. Tickets can be purchased for 10, 20 and 30 minute rides.

SKYDIVING

American skydiving instructor Corey Parker is set to lead a number of tandem skydives with novices Corey hopes to do about four to five 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.

CHILI COOK-OFF

The great Burnin' Bum Chili Cook-off will see the island's top chefs go head to head to create the tastiest chili in Phuket. The chili will be judged on flavor, heat factor and aftertastes and will go on-sale to the public after judging is completed. So if you want to taste some of the best American style chili this side of Texas, get down and grab yourself a bowl.

SCENIC FLIGHTS 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 airplanes, as well as a Robinson 44 helicopter. Tickets to go on the actual plane and helicopter rides can be purchased for a nominal price, much less than they would normally cost. And remember, the first 100 people through the gates each day will get the chance to score a free plane ride!

RC COMPETITION

All day long, on both days, the Radio Control (RC) Aircraft Club of Phuket will be competing for airspace, and are set to give inspiring shows and demonstrations of the latest and greatest that model-sized, yet fully functional aircraft, have to offer. The best of these Phuket RC craft will be put through a test course with prizes to be awarded to the winners.

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 as high as 100 feet, where they can safely enjoy views and take pictures of Phuket down below.

CHILDRENS' ACTIVITIES

There will be loads of fun-filled activities for the kids to enjoy on both days of the event. All activities will take place under supervision and include: Swimming in the lake, a 30-meter-long slip and slide, bouncing castles, facepainting, kayaking on the lake, carnival games, clowns and much more. There will be a large family picnic area and Las Vegas performer Ricky Zen will also be MCing the events throughout the weekend, dressed as Captain Jack Sparrow from the Pirates of the Caribbean movies.

AMERICAN FOOD

In addition to the Chili Cook-off there will be plenty of American food favorites such as burgers, sausages, traditional American style BBQ – and you can wash it all down with some popular American beer. There will also be stalls selling the ever-popular cotton candy and pop corn.

CHARITY

All funds raised from the 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 displayer, and all other inquiries, go to navyleaguephuket.org

MUSIC

Local Phuket blues outfit Black & Blue will take to the stage on Saturday evening to play a host of fabulous tunes, including classic soul hits, rock-n-roll anthems and of course some mellow blues riffs. Don't miss this fantastic high-energy performance by this fabulous five-piece ensemble.

FIREWORKS

A spectacular fireworks show will kick off each evening after sunset at about 7:30, right in the middle of the runway. Everyone in the airpark will get a close up view of the dazzling 15-minute display so don't miss out!



WHAT'S ON in Phuket

June 28, 8pm-11:30pm: Hint of the Blues at The Green Man
Black n Blue will play at the Green Man Chalong with a set of 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

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

Please help Lamburg, The Rider Pony, to celebrate his 19th Birthday with free pony rides, (riders under 60 kilos), ice-cream, cake, and with fizzy-wine cocktails for parents (limit two). RSVP to info@phukethorserescue.com or call 084-842 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 4, 6-10pm: Fourth of July 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 6-7, 10am to 8pm: Phuket Airshow & Family Picnic at Phuket Airpark

Two full days of entertainment to raise money for local area charities. Support this fantastic non-profit event by becoming a sponsor, volunteer, or vendor. For more information a please visit the website at: navyleaguephuket.org. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show.

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 prayer.

July 27-28, 6pm-2am: Seafood and Prawn Extravaganza at Two Chefs

At Two Chefs Bar & Grill, Kata Center, we are serving a large international seafood buffet, including some Scandinavian specialties. All you can eat for only 695 baht. Our house band will entertain you until the late hours, and we'll have happy hours on selected drinks all night. So come and try our buffet "fit for a king". Come for the food and stay for the fun! For more information call +66-76330065, send an email to katacenter@twochefs.com or visit twochefs.com

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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. For more information contact info@phuketiwc.com

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

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a national competition recognizing the efforts and expertise among 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

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

October 17, 11:30am-2pm: Phuket International Women's Club lunch at Cape Panwa Hotel

Another new and fascinating location for our October lunch, the

historic Panwa House at the Cape Panwa Hotel. As usual, booking is required but all are welcome. Members: 500 baht; non members and guests: 650baht. Register at info@phuketiwc.com

October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

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

November 13-16, 5am-6pm: Phuket International Sport Fishing Tournament 2013

Registration will be on November 13 from 5pm onwards. Prize giving party on the 16th. We hope you will join us for another great tournament! For more information see: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com

November 17, Loy Krathong Festival

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth month of the Thai lunar calendar, which usually falls in November. A *Krathong* is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away on a canal or river. The idea is to pay respect to the river's Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. Loy Krathong is a public holiday in the Kingdom.

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Forum and informal Sunday morning computer clinics

Computer problems? Internet problems? Software problems? Hardware problems? Questions about phones or tablets or phablets, social software, antisocial software, or where to get the best deal on internet packages, TV channels, or phones?

A solution may exist!

Go to thephuketforum.net and post your question as a 'New Topic' in the Tech Forum. The assembled local gurus – featuring "Mr. Live Wire," Woody Leonhard's friend from the States – may well be able to solve your problem, pronto.

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.

Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

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

Catch the show at these times

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

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

A moment with Map Abday



MAPPING EMOTIONS: (Above) Based on a photograph, 'Blue Mountain' conveys the majesty and timeless beauty of mountain scenery. (Below) Map's painting 'Summer Wood' interprets the color and beauty of summer time.



By Anthika Muangrod

ART is the expression of human creative skills and imagination, typically in something that can be experienced visually, such as drawing, painting or sculpture. Such works are appreciated primarily for their beauty or emotional power.

Indeed, many people try to define what art is, but its meaning is constantly evolving, and the concept of art means different things to different people. For local artist Map Abday, art is in *everything* she can see.

"Art is not just about drawing or painting, but in everything around you, even in the clothes you wear," Map says.

Map was born in Southern Thailand and throughout her life, even as a very young girl, she has seen the world through its colors. Map studied Art at Thaivichitsilp Art School in Bangkok and also at the Poh-chang Art Institution – a long-standing art school which was established over 100 years ago by Thailand's King Rama VI.

After her studies, Map began working as an interior designer for La Scala and traveled extensively in Spain, France and Italy. It was during this time that she decided that she wanted to dedicate her working life to art and to becoming an artist in the true sense. Since that time, she has defined the success of her art in her own terms, unrelated to the critical or financial approval of each piece.

Map works in the medium of acrylic paint on canvas and takes her main inspiration from nature. She is fascinated by the universe – the miracle of nature, mountains, natural surfaces of ancient rocks, old castles, patterns of shells, art from around the world, layers of leaves and even interior design or great pictures in advertising or magazines. She truly loves textures. Map's inspiration also comes from her favorite books *Above the World*, *Inside Our Body*, as well as Buddha image magazines, which contain pictures of old Buddha images that have been buried under the ground for years until their color was changed by natural oxidation.

Map previously worked in an expressionist style, which is a kind of semi-abstract painting. She has been doing abstract painting for more than 13 years now.

"If someone had told me that to understand how to splash colors, create character, fragmentation and combine colors perfectly would take about 10 years, I would have quit long ago. Luckily, no one told me that," Map says with a laugh.

Nikola Tesla, a forgotten genius known for his contributions in the creation of modern alternating current electricity is Map's favorite scientist, and you can see symbolic aspects of Tesla's work in her paintings. This electric symbolism often takes the form of thunderbolts.



Creative artist Map Abday

"From matter to energy, from realistic to abstract," Map Abday describes her very first painting *Blue Mountain*. It is Based on a photograph where you can see a mountain, road and meadow. Map's painting is an abstract interpretation using similar colors. When you study the painting thoughtfully and change your vision to emotion, you can see the a shared tone in the two pictures: feel the mountain, imagine the blue sky reflecting the mountain, the rocks and meadow are represented in 18 different shades of blue. Map has changed the realistic to the abstract and given the painting a sense of life which is lacking in the photograph.

In addition, Map tries to convey her memory of spring emerging from winter in Canada in her painting *Early Spring*.

This was her first romantic, soft painting, but despite the softness, she conveys the rugged power of nature. The painting has a mix of superimposed colors, which create a gentle, soothing feeling. After a long cold winter, comes spring and trees bursting into life. Streaks of turquoise green represent the trees, the vanilla color of cedar signifies hope and regeneration and raindrops across the painting unify and bring it to life.

"This is the beauty of abstract works, it's the visitors themselves who can think about the picture of their own, who can say what it looks like," Map says.

Natural Poet is also one of Map's works which reveals that nature is the most beautiful, creative, and powerful poet. While, *Summer Wood* is a colorful painting showing the beauty of Summer time which you can see from the mix, blend, and combination of colors on the painting.

"I do want to change people's feelings to inspiration. Actually, inspiration is everything. Without inspiration, you just can't do anything," Map says.

Map is now showing her paintings along with three other artists: John Underwood (sculpture), Hannah Pearce (mixed media) and Adriano Trapani (photography) in their exhibition *Textures* which can be seen at the Underwood Art Factory, located on the Bypass Road from now until July 14. For more information, contact Map on 081 696-3901 or email at info@phuketlifestyle.com

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Thanyapura serves chef weight loss

By Andrew Scott

SUCCESSFUL restaurateur Eduardo Vargas is a man who enjoys the finer things in life, and this includes food. Originally from Peru, he left South America in 1989 to embark on a journey that took him to cooking school in Toronto; Georgetown University, America where he acquired a Business Administration degree; Singapore and now Shanghai as a restaurant owner.

When he moved to Shanghai in 2003, Eduardo weighed 110 kilos. Checking in at Thanyapura to start a weight loss program last week, he weighed 135 kilos. He is the first to admit that he has always struggled with his weight:

"I am big. I have always been big. But when I moved to

Shanghai, I weighed 25 kilos less than now," he said sampling a dish from the specially prepared menu Thanyapura prepared for him as part of his one month stay at the facility.

It is clear that as Eduardo enthuses over his carefully chosen dishes his passion is food. He attributes this food-loving trait to his grandmother back in Peru.

"My passion for food has been with me since I was a child. My grandmother was like Julia Child [a famous American chef]. I learned from my grandmother."

Eduardo's weight loss regime at Thanyapura includes a balanced diet, along with five hours of activity per day, switching between tennis, personal training, swimming and group classes.

For a man who has never tried a weight loss program before, he is embracing the challenge that lies ahead. Eduardo is hoping that after his month long retreat, a lifestyle change will have been instilled in him and that he leaves Phuket weighing 99 kilos.

"The idea here is change my life and get into a routine. I used to sleep at 3am and wake up at 11am. Now I am in bed by 10pm; up by 6:30am and in the gym by 7:30am. You do this for 30-40 days and your life will change."

At the end of his first week, Eduardo – who's been diabetic for 10 years – experienced a drop in his fasting blood sugars in response to his training and diet changes. His results in the fasting test, in respect to glucose levels in his body, started at a

high 9 but after five days his blood sugar had dropped to 6 – a remarkable improvement.

For a man who has owned over 15 restaurants in Shanghai during the last 10 years, ranging from Mexican, Italian, French, Peruvian to a burger joint and who readily admits, "When I go to my restaurants I take off my jacket and jump in the kitchen to cook with my chefs", trying to keep his weight down will be a tough task.

But, Eduardo lost five kilos during his first week and hopefully his early enthusiasm continues for the remainder of the month.

"I have chefs in Shanghai and I plan to try and do this kind of food [same as Thanyapura]. Seeing the food here has been an inspiration for me."



Restaurateur Eduardo Vargas

THE FIRST 10 DAYS OF EDUARDO VARGAS' WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM

DATE	9-10am	10-11am	11-11:30am	12-1pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	4-5pm	5-6pm	DATE	8:30-9:30am	10-11am	11-11:30am	11:30-12:30pm	12-1pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	4-5pm	5-6pm	6-7pm
SAT, 15 JUN	Breakfast Meeting with Jeff and Kays	Club Tour with Jeff	Medical Consult by Dr. Arisara	LUNCH with Jeff, Brian, Eddy, Andrea, Roger	Assessment, measurement with Brian & Eddy	Nutrition Review with Jeff	Group class: Martial Art conditioning by Eddy			THUR, 20 JUN	Group class: Thai Boxing	Tennis coaching with Roger	BREAK	Private Swim with Randy	LUNCH with Break	PT with Eddy	Mind Training with Andrea	Group class: Body Toning by Jome	Tennis Hitting with K. Ball	Group class: Adult Swim	
SUN, 16 JUN			Group class: Exercise Ball workout	LUNCH	Tennis coaching with Roger	Tennis Hitting with K. Ball	Group class: Thai Boxing	Group class: Ab & Stretching by Care		FRI, 21 JUN	Group class: Mat Pilates by Jome	Nutrition Review with K. Jeff	Group class: Meditation class by Andrea	Medical Consult by Dr. Arisara	LUNCH with Break	PT with Eddy		Tennis Hitting with K. Ball	Group class: Martial Art conditioning by Eddy		
MON, 17 JUN	Group class: Thai Boxing by Chai	Group class: Meditation by Andrea	Private Swim with Randy	LUNCH	Tennis coaching with Roger	Tennis Hitting with K. Ball	Group class: Boot Camp	Group class: Spinning by Tim		SAT, 22 JUN	Group class: Boot Camp by Eddy		PT with Eddy	LUNCH with Break	Tennis coaching with Roger	Tennis Hitting with K. Ball		Group class: Thai Boxing	Group class: Martial Art conditioning by Eddy		
TUE, 18 JUN	Group class: Beginner Yoga by Jome	Group class: Boot Camp by Eddy	Group class: Adult Swim: 11-12am	LUNCH	Tennis Hitting with K. Ball	PT with Eddy	Group class: Meditation by Andrea	Group class: Cardio Tennis	Group class: Thai Boxing by Chai	SUN, 23 JUN				Tennis Hitting with K. Touch	LUNCH with Break	Tennis Hitting with K. Touch	Group class: Ab & Stretching by Care	Group class: Boot Camp	Group class: Spinning by Tim		
WED, 19 JUN	Group class: Mat Pilates by Jome	Group class: Meditation by Andrea	Private Swim with Randy	LUNCH	Tennis Hitting with K. Ball	PT with Eddy	Group class: Agility Training by Eddy	Group class: Thai Boxing by Chai	Group class: Spinning by K. Boy	MON, 24 JUN	Group class: Thai Boxing by Chai	BREAK	Group class: Meditation by Andrea	Private Swim with Randy	LUNCH with Break	Tennis coaching with Roger		Tennis Hitting with K. Touch	Group class: Boot Camp	Group class: Spinning by Tim	
TIME	9-10am	10-11am	11-12am	12-1pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	4-5pm	5-6pm	TIME	8:30-9:30am	9:30-10am	10-11am	11-12am	12-1pm	1-2pm	2-3pm	3-4pm	4-5pm	5-6pm	6-7pm

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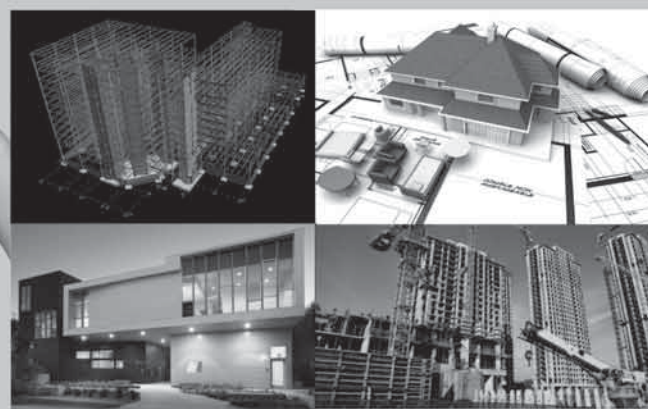
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Bromeliads: a true taste of the tropics



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

I LAST wrote about *bromeliads* more than a year ago, but our focus on the letter “B” prompted a re-think. Apart from their deserved popularity as shade and house plants, I have re-focused my attention on this vast genus of more than 3,000 species for other reasons.

Recently I visited the Phuket Botanic Garden. It has a magnificent collection of *bromeliads*, some more than a meter high and wide. Mostly planted in containers or sprouting from bark-mulched beds, they sport shades ranging from pale green to deep magenta. If ever a plant deserved a place in the (filtered) sun on account of its foliage, the *bromeliad* does.

Many of these plants are *neoregelias*, one of the most widely hybridized. A Thai book on shade plants, which I much value, called *Surath Vanno's Plant Collection*, is the product of a

lifelong fascination with such plants. It has photographs of no fewer than 19 different *neoregelia* cultivars, many with picturesque names. They all grow in the author's nursery. “Tricolor” has striking, curved, leaves which are dramatically banded in green and yellow, “Piccolo” is similar but with pinkish tinges. Red varieties include “Blushing Bride” and “Grace”, while “Charm” has green mottled foliage which shades to pink at the crown. What amazes me about these assuredly tropical specimens is the appearance of these large rosettes of strap-shaped leaves; they are so glossy they look as though they have been sprayed with clear varnish. Excellent water retention of course.

These *neoregelias* are not hard to find. Thais, who know them as *sapparot* find their neat growth and unusual characteristics most appealing. One of my local nurseries has more of these varieties than any other plant. But they are relatively expensive, so you would do well to begin with small potted ones that are suspended, as

most of your orchids probably are, above the ground.

Recently I came across another *bromeliad* in my local Tesco Lotus. I bought one (170 baht) and a customer immediately inquired if it was plastic. It certainly would have passed for a copy. In fact it was real enough with a striking spike of red flowers rising from the crown. The variety? *Guzmania*. Probably a hybrid called *zannli*.

Bromeliads are better than most plants at coping with indoor conditions. For a start they are so-called air plants or epiphytes and require little or no feeding. Just give them what they appreciate in the wild – an initial soaking and a few drops of clean water in their cup. Then let them dry out. Make sure they have a well-draining soil base – for example, coconut fiber – some filtered light and relatively high humidity.

They don't appreciate Stygian gloom or wet feet. Moreover, they won't last forever indoors – no plant in the tropics will – but mine has managed a month.

Soon it will start to turn brown and will need to be taken



BOLD COLORS: Bromeliads come in a huge variety of colors. Photo: Sheila

outside where, hopefully, it will eventually produce small plantlets from the base.

My personal favorite is the *aechmea*, partly because it was the first *bromeliad* I encountered. My prized specimen sat imperiously in my London tiled fireplace and attracted many comments from visitors. In those days it was a rarity. Now they are widely available, a most desirable plant with a distinctive rosy pink spike, so named after the Greek for spear. The curved rosette of long, grey-

green leaves, beautifully striped with bands of silver-grey, nicely complements the rosy pink of the *aechmea's* flower. It's probably a bit hot for the *aechmea* here, but I have seen it flourishing in the shaded area of nurseries. It will naturally do better in the garden – in a shady and well drained spot.

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



NATURAL: Some bromeliads growing in their natural habitat in the Costa Rican jungle. Photo: Geoff Gallice



SPIKE: A red blossom contrasting with the green leaves. Photo: Robyn Jay

Tip of the week

Pots or beds?

It can be hard to be sure which is best for that new plant – a pot or planting it in a bed? If you are unsure about a shrub's needs, try growing new acquisitions in different conditions. Put one in a roomy container and another in open ground. Obviously, you can determine conditions in a pot more readily: for instance, the type of soil, the amount of watering and feeding needed, and the shrub's position in relation to sun or shade. If potted plants tend to do better, it is because they get more attention.

Nonetheless some shrubs, for instance most climbers and rapid growers with large root systems, do better in beds or borders. *Plumerias*, *hibiscus*, *bougainvilleas*, milkweeds, *heliconias*, *hamelias*, *ixoras* and *gardenias* are not really at home in containers. My potted *gardenia* needs daily watering: it produces masses of buds, but most do not fully open. Slow developers and dwarf varieties generally do better in pots, for example: *wrightias*, *euphorbias* and *adeniums*.

Dog of the week

SUGAR was rescued about three months ago from a very miserable life. When Doggie Heaven found her she was covered in ticks and she had a very bad case of blood parasites and suffered from anemia. She was locked up in a filthy and damp concrete cell that was full of other more aggressive larger dogs. After a few days back at Doggie Heaven sanctuary to rest, she was groomed properly and was put on a one month course of antibiotics to kill the blood parasites.

After many baths with some gentle oatmeal shampoo, she now is a different girl. As you

can see from her photo, she is one very happy dog now. Sugar now weighs a healthy nine kilograms and has the sweetest temperament, is very relaxed and easy going. She has a bit of a snort, like a bulldog and when she's out on her walks in the morning, she needs to have a bit of a sit about half-way round, as she is a little unfit and out of breath. But she loves to play at the lake edge with the other dogs.

If you would like to adopt Sugar, come to Doggie Heaven in Thalang, where you can also meet other dogs that are looking for new homes. Please contact Sherin.peace@gmail.com or check out our website doggieheaven.net



LAKESIDE: Sugar enjoys playing by the lake after being rescued by the team from Doggie Heaven

Hurry in for a night of curry

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

GIVEN that Phuket offers very little in terms of flavors from the sub-continent, we pounced on the opportunity to try out one small Indian restaurant recently discovered by a couple of friends way out in Cape Panwa.

Only a stone's throw away from the city center, Cape Panwa seems like a parallel universe compared to the rest of Phuket. Except for a few low rise hotels, the look and pace of this area is still very much 1980s lush, windy roads, sparsely populated countryside, road-side banana stalls and families in *Saleng* (motorized three wheeler).

Situated on highway route number 4129 (Sakdidej Road), about two kilometers from the Phuket Deep Sea Port, and right across from Radisson Blu Plaza Resort, *Curry Night* restaurant feels unassuming and homely. Its top-floor terrace setting is open-plan and can accommodate as many as fifty customers at any one time, and according to Anita, the restaurant's manager, the place can be busy during the high season. Regulars, my friends and I were told, were well represented by staff and guests from the hotels nearby. During our visit on a Saturday, we spotted a large family with children quietly enjoying their meals there.

A member of our group, who seems to believe herself well versed in Northern Indian food, took charge of the ordering at once. For drinks, a *Lassi* is an absolute must – it's a slightly sweet and refreshing shake made from ripe mango and home-made yoghurt.

Starters came in the form of gold-colored *Bhaji*, or

fried onion rings and *Samosas* – a triangular pastry filled with spiced vegetables. *Curry Night* offers three types of fillings for samosas: vegetarian, lamb or paneer – a kind of cheese curd, very popular in India, which they make on site. Both *Bhaji* and *Samosas* were served with

two dipping sauces; chili and tamarind chutneys. The former is made from grinding together bright green chili, mint and coriander leaves, and has quite a kick to it (think spicy Italian pesto). Green chutney proved a roaring success with the Thais while foreign friends loved the milder, sweet and sour tamarind version.

There were also bright red pickled shallots on the side that, when eaten with above snacks, take away any hint of oily aftertaste that often accompanies anything deep-fried.

Then, in a true Indian pick n' mix fashion, using our fingers, we tucked into the mains made up of a delectable variety of curries: lamb *Vindaloo*, *Sag* chicken (a bright green curry sauce made from spinach), prawn *Masala*, *Aloo Gobhi* (potato and green peas curry), and *Bombay Aloo* (spiced potatoes). To accompany the curries, we selected a *biryani* which was beautifully presented (saffron rice with potato and peas) and for breads we chose *Chapati*, and plain and garlic *Naans*. The breads were baked freshly in *Curry Night's* authentic *Tandoor* oven and were light and crispy.

Manager Anita working together with chef Soniya ensures that their creations remain as close to the authentic Indian flavor as possible. Prior to *Curry Night*, both of them have had plenty of culinary experience working in Indian establishments.



GOLDEN: The onion Bhaji were light and fried to crispy perfection.



NAAN: Both the plain and garlic naans were served piping hot straight from the tandoor.



STARTERS: The spicy samosas and onion bhaji were accompanied with tamarind and chili-mint chutneys and pickled red shallots and looked fantastic and colorful and the table.



COLORFUL COMBO: The biriyani with saffron rice, potatoes and peas was beautifully presented and garnished with fresh coriander and fried shallots. Photos: Nanthapa Pengkasem

The restaurant orders its spices from the Indian market in Bangkok, only a small batch at a time, said Anita, because spices tend to lose their fragrance very quickly.

Meat like chicken is sourced from halal butchers around Phuket, and the lamb is imported; but the chef and Anita select their seafood from the fresh market in town.

We have found most dishes to be excellent, except for lamb *Vindaloo*, which didn't have quite the kick associated with this type of curry. But then it was our mistake for having ordered it "medium hot".

The sauce was however, excellent, while the lamb almost melted in our mouths.

Lunch for six including drinks of *Lassi* came to about 3,000 baht. In all, it was a very satisfying meal in a relaxed ambiance. We will surely come back, determined to sample what we missed out on that day: butter chicken, lamb *Rogan Josh* and the famous *Tandoori* chicken.

Curry Night opens daily from 11am to 11pm. Address: 19/15 Moo 8 Sakdidej Road, Cape Panwa, Tel 089 726 4495, 090 030 8952.



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If you care about Phuket and its future, then you do not want to skip this **Special Report**



By Steven Layne

AS YOU begin to read this article, try to recall your consumer decisions and habits today. Did you go to the convenience store? What did you buy? Was it put in a plastic bag? When you were done consuming, how did you dispose of your waste? What about lunch – did you have takeaway scooped into one of those convenient little, white polystyrene boxes?

Now, consider this: Everyday, more than 700 tonnes of consumer and organic waste enters the island's collection and disposal system. This does not include all the litter discarded into the sea, canals, and onto public and private property, roads and parks. When this is taken into consideration, the daily amount of garbage produced and discarded in Phuket is probably more closer to 800 tonnes.

By some estimates, as much as 20 per cent of this gets recycled – but even this is a rather liberal guess.

In a previous article, entitled "Recycling 101: reducing a piling burden" (published in the June 1-7 issue), the *Gazette* examined the

island's recycling infrastructure, systems and processes; Phuket is home to dozens of small and medium scale scrap yard operations and recycling depots that make a living, if not decent business, from buying back junk from individual consumers, as well as independent ma' and pa' collectors and brokers.

Despite this, so much of the massive sum of junk that might have been recycled, never gets a chance, and instead ends up at the repugnant Saphan Hin landfill, where it will ultimately end up feeding the incineration power plant, broken down into deadly dioxins that will be released into the air.

To get an idea of the magnitude of the situation, the *Gazette* recently toured Phuket's waste incineration power plant (WIPPP), situated at the foot of Phuket Town's prime public sports and recreational zone.

"The plastic that ends up here has little-to-no value in the recycle market," says Amornrat Pakornnyudh, a representative of Southern Green Management

Co Ltd, a Southern-Thailand focused waste management solutions firm operating out of Phuket and Haad Yai.

As a somewhat-masked, yet distinctly foul aroma lingers throughout the air-conditioned conference room, Ms Amornrat shares her constructive insights.

No stranger to treacherous

'It simply is not worth it, economically speaking, to sort the rubbish before it is burned...'

– Amornrat Pakornnyudh

smells, Ms Amornrat was based at the WIPPP facility from 1999 to 2009, working for Kumjornkit Construction Co Ltd, a private-sector entity that operated a "final stage" sorting operation.

"In those days, when the old, more deadlier [but now off-line] burner was in operation, the smells were a lot more overpowering," she recalls.

Today's massive bulk – some 600 tonnes that is burnt every day is predominately vegetation, mixed

with glass, wood, fabric and loads of small shopping bags, or what locals refer to as "toong gap gap" [toong means bag, and gap gap is an onomatopoeia derived from the sound of crumpling plastic].

She explains that all this refuse bound for the burner, is typically drenched – either from "consumer malpractice", or naturally from the rain while in transport: this borderline-toxic concoction of spoiled babies' diapers, last night's leftovers, garden and landscaping scraps, rotting vegetables and fruit, is the ultimate brew of fuel.

According to one 2011 composition study by King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok, nearly half, or 48% of the rubbish surveyed at the Phuket incinerator was vegetation. This was followed by plastics – both transparent and opaque varieties (17.4%), fabric (15.8%), kitchen wastes (9.6%), paper (5.2%), glass (3.4%) and metal (0.01%).

"The plastic you see here," Ms Amornrat reiterates, "including shampoo bottles, dairy drink cans

and cartons, the 'gap gap' bags and other wrapping and packaging scraps, is either too difficult to resell, or will require too high a base cost to be viable to collect. Over the years, many foreign parties have come here and declared that an separation campaign is not only viable and possible, but can easily be done.

"But at the end, they all keep their distance as no one really wants anything to do with Phuket's rubbish. It simply is not worth it, at least economically speaking, to sort the rubbish before it's burned. It is extremely difficult to cover the cost of transporting the recyclables, let alone turn a profit."

This mounting economic obstacle specifically applies to Phuket, she notes, "...but not in places like Bangkok, and the Eastern Seaboard, where most of the [final stage] sorting and processing plants are located. In those places, it is a lot more convenient and viable to recycle."

She explains that in Phuket, where tourists outnumber actual residents, there are already three stages of sorting that occur before the island's rubbish even reaches the incinerator.

"Most [plastic] items that tourists consume end up getting recycled from the start, as the [sorting and recycling] campaigns at many hotels have been effective for this group. Next, as soon as the [sorted once] rubbish is out in front [or back], then come the [private] "rot saleng" [private vehicles of individuals who earn income from selling/trading recyclables] who sift through and sort the rubbish a second time. Finally, the municipality trucks come to collect what's left over, where there is one final stage of sorting and salvaging [of] anything that was missed. There's nothing of value left by the time it gets to the incinerator."



HI TECH, LOW MERIT: A team monitors the complex systems at the 14 Megawatt capacity, Waste Incineration Power Plant in Saphan Hin.



REUSE REFUSE: By some estimates, as much as 20 per cent of the island's rubbish gets recycled; the rest doesn't have enough 'market value'.

Waste 101: dousing the burning issue



Ms Amornrat explained that the final stage sorting operation she worked with – which is now redundant – employed about 50 workers, most of whose job was to go through the muck and try to salvage what they could, before it was incinerated.

Asked if any of the plastic salvaged from the landfill could be recycled, she responded without hesitation: “Yes, all of it can be, theoretically. However, it’s just not viable.

“These bags must be collected and separated from the muck, then cleaned and sterilized, before being compacted for packing and shipping. One kilogram of [processed and cleaned] *gop gap* bags will maybe get one baht in the market. Try to imagine a team of four workers, working all day just collecting and cleaning bags – about how hard and tedious it would be just to cover the [Phuket to Bangkok] transport costs...”

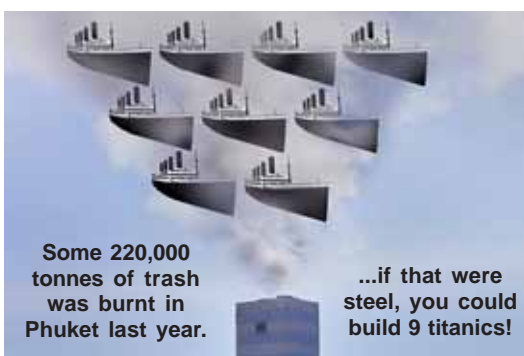
Last year, this supposedly “valueless” aftertaste of modern consumerism weighed in at Saphan Hin at about 220,000 tonnes – that’s 220 million kilograms of rubbish that was ultimately turned into air pollution.

To put this in perspective, imagine that all of that rubbish was instead magically turned into steel. This would be enough steel to build nine titanics! Or, for a massive marvel from our own time, such an amount of steel could provide enough construction rebar to erect five of the world’s current tallest building – the 830-meter-high Burj Khalif in Dubai – and you would still have about 23,000 tonnes of steel left over!

Unfortunately, it’s not steel – it’s smelly, seemingly useless waste that is valued only for its ability to produce a marginal amount of elec-

tricity. But the question remains – can it instead be salvaged and spared from the gigantic burner?

Ms Amornrat thinks it can. “One of the first things that outsiders commonly pitch, especially considering the rubbish’ high organic content, is to make fertilizer. And while composting technologies have continued to improve, the fact is with rubbish, you can’t control the input, so what you get is not always consistent – not without mixing [the piles] with different additives, such as manure, in order to adjust the NPK [Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium] levels.



This is particularly not viable in Phuket as there is not a sufficient supply of manure here. Moreover, by producing agricultural compost and fertilizer, you would end up having to compete with existing fertilizer producers, who already sufficiently supply the market as it is.”

Ms Amornrat proposes instead: “We should look into RDF [Refuse Derived Fuel]; we can produce energy pellets, which could be sold and used [burned] as a fuel in a wide array of applications, including power generation...”

While an RDF plant may seem like a clever solution, “converting waste into energy though a burning process” is already being done as we speak.

Indeed, the WIPP currently supplies Phuket residents with up to 14 Megawatts of power (two of which

are used to operate the facility).

Moreover, as the country’s only island province continues to grow at an alarming rate, the facility is discussing plans with the Phuket municipality to repair the old burner and bring it back online. If carried out, this would increase Phuket’s daily burning capacity by another 250 tonnes per day and provide another 3 megawatts of electricity.

With this direction, it’s only a matter of time before the new capacity is reached – and then what, build a third burner?

Rather than trying to increase our processing – and thus disposal and consumption – capacity; for the sake of our children, grandchildren and all future generations, we should instead develop solutions that focus on how to decrease our wasteful consumer habits and thus overall waste production.

Make no mistake, the heart and soul of such efforts should not be dependent on government budgets, or political canvassing efforts. But rather, it will start with people like you and me – your, my and our friends, relatives and loved ones.

This movement begins with the conscious decision to buy less individually wrapped products; to always ask the clerk not to put it in the bag; please join me in a collective boycott of polystyrene food container takeaway; every single one of those white plastic boxes in Phuket is used only once, and every one of them will be burnt to a crisp, and continue to have dire affects on the environment and public health.

Besides, various studies show that polystyrene containers can leach harmful chemicals into food. Instead, consider food-safe stainless steel or even, reusable polypropylene containers which are denoted by a number 5 in the recycle triangle.



FEEDING THE FIRE: Garbage trucks line up to deliver the island’s consumer waste to the Saphan Hin landfill. By the time the refuse makes it here, there is hardly anything left worth salvaging for the recycle market.

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Traditions upheld at Baba Yaya wedding

THE Peranakan Association and the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket along with local government officials organized a mass "Baba Yaya" wedding ceremony last week at the Blue Elephant restaurant in Phuket Town. The event was held to celebrate over 200 years of local traditional weddings in the "Baba Phuket" style, and to promote the island as a wedding and honeymoon destination.

Baba and Yaya are terms used for the descendants of late 19th century Chinese immigrants to Phuket. Baba is used for male and Yaya for female.

Baba men and Yaya women have a long tradition of getting married in a unique style, and in recent years having a Phuket Baba Yaya wedding has been an increasingly popular option for visitors to Phuket.

The Baba wedding has become an annual event in Phuket and upholding the long ancestral tradition is considered the duty of each new generation.



Colorful traditional dress was worn

There were six couples participating in this year's special wedding ceremony, as well as two honorary couples – Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut with his wife Red Cross president Pavinee Inthusut and Muang District Chief Supachai Pochanukul and his wife, who renewed their wedding vows.

Dr Kosol Tang-Uthai, president of the Thai Peranakan Association

said: "The ceremony was held to conserve the great tradition of Peranakan, which is inherited from generation to generation."

"There is traditional clothing, food and music and the tea ceremony takes place in a Hongyok building, a famous ancient building in Phuket, which acts as the bride's house."

"The Blue Elephant restaurant is a romantic venue for wedding ceremonies and receptions and that is where the wedding party went in the evening, after the tea ceremony and the parade in Phuket Old Town," he said.

Chanchai Duangjit, director of TAT Phuket office said: "TAT has continuously supported the Baba Yaya wedding every year, and we also put this event on the official TAT calendar for June."

"This will help promote the ceremony to tourists and let them know that Phuket is a great destination for weddings and honeymoons with a unique tradition in Thailand," he said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



MATRIMONY: Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut with his wife, Red Cross president Pavinee Inthusut (above). Photos: Tourism Authority of Thailand



A beautiful couple at the ceremony.



The traditional procession wound its way through Phuket Town.

QSI graduates ready for the world



QSI International School Phuket's graduating class of 2013, from left to right, Jasmin Jadick, Aidan Massey, Tei Lim, Kevin Becker, Jim Sae Ear and Jakob Klaic. Photo: Mark Knowles

QSI International School Phuket graduated another group of six secondary students recently. The graduation ceremony was held at Centara Karon Resort on Friday June 21. About 100 guests attended the ceremony, which included several singing and dancing performances by QIS students. After receiving their diplomas, two of the graduating students, Jasmin Jadick and Jakob Klaic gave speeches thanking the school, their teachers and fellow stu-

dents for the support they received during their time at the school. Literature and Writing teacher James Geary, who was also the supervising teacher for the graduating class, praised the student's hard work and dedication.

"They are truly a special group of people and they will be missed on campus," he said.

The six graduates have a diverse range of interests, study goals and career choices which they will pursue in the

coming years. Here is a brief overview of some of those aspirations:

Kevin Becker plans to return to Germany, with hopes of joining the military. Jasmin Jadick also will return to Germany later in the year, with plans to pursue a career in the hospitality business. Aidan Massey will continue his studies during the next few months, to learn about electrical engineering before he begins mining work in Western

Australia. Tei Lim will be returning to South Korea, to begin his studies at university or to complete his civil service duties. Jim Sae-Ear has already begun his studies at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, where he is enrolled in the Aviation Faculty. Jakob Klaic has enrolled as a student at Assumption University in Bangkok, where he will be studying business administration and international finance.

– *Phuket Gazette*

USA 237th Birthday

Air Show & Family Picnic



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Phuket Gazette

FG TV

Rockin' Railay!

By Ricardo Mereu

FOR travelers looking for an active holiday, both Phuket and Krabi offer many solutions, such as snorkeling trips, scuba diving or kayaking, but many travellers have yet to try an experience that is rapidly gaining in popularity – rock climbing!

Krabi and Phang Nga provinces are literally packed with dramatic limestone formations. In the last ten years, spots like Railay Beach and Tonsai Beach have attracted thousands of climbers from all over the world, making this corner of Thailand a climbing Mecca in South-east Asia. Yet the entire region still holds almost limitless potential for veteran climbers looking for a new challenge in uncharted territory.

Rock climbing is one of those activities considered “dangerous” by the majority of international tour operators, therefore, due to the limited availability of insurance, it’s almost impossible to buy a climbing package from overseas or book a climbing course for beginners through a tour operator.

Luckily, in Tonsai and Railay there are now many climbing schools offering professional services to individuals or groups and it’s remarkable to see how many people are now approaching this amazing activity for the first time.

I have been climbing for many years, and I’ve had the chance to climb in many different countries in Europe and Asia.

However, the magical atmosphere that Railay provides compels me to come back whenever I can.

What I love about rock climbing is that it’s generally suitable for everybody and the range of emotions that climbers experience are always the same – elation and satisfaction. But be very careful, it’s heavily addictive. The kick of adrenaline an experienced climber gets from climbing a hard route is a huge part of the attraction of rock climbing, but beginners can, and should, get the same kick on a much easier climb. This adrenaline boost produces

a phenomena that keeps climbers always pushing forward and always looking for kicks. Until the rock kicks you out!

“Move your right feet up on the right, grab that jug with your left hand, come on you can do it!”

“No, I can’t...”

“Yes, come on!”

“No, I’m scared.”

“Come on mate.”

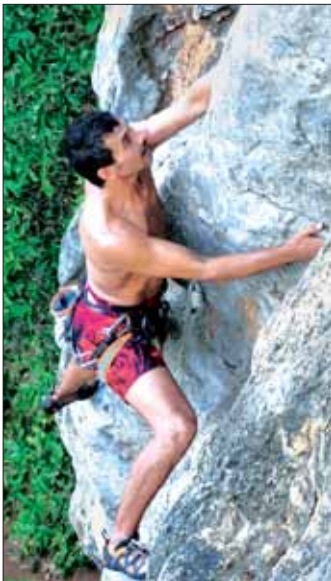
“Woaaaa Yeaaaah!”

“Yeaaahhhh!”

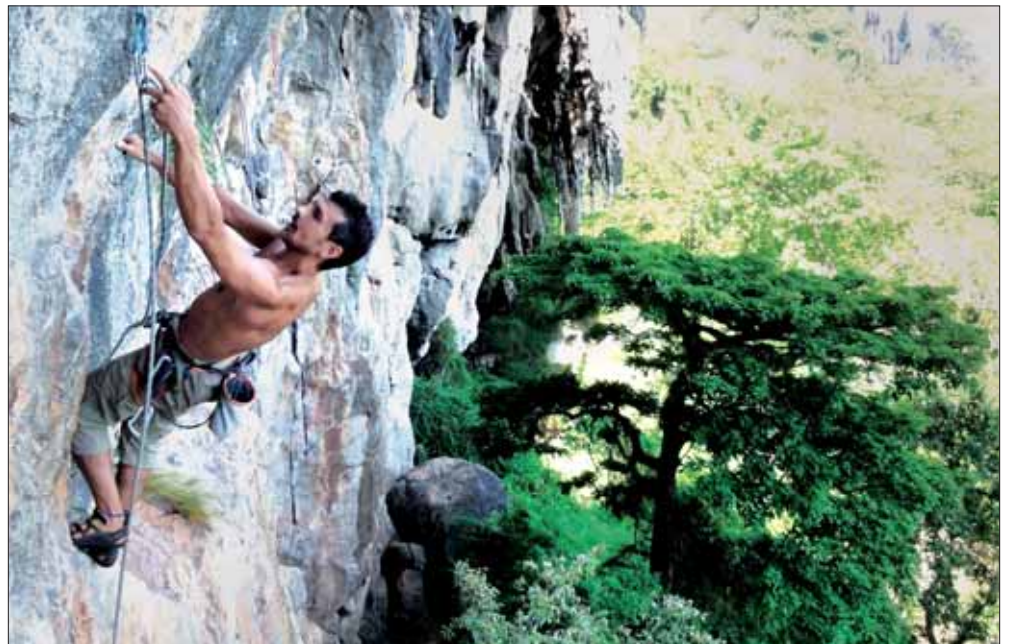
This is what a typical rock climbing conversation sounds like when an instructor is leading a climbing course and encouraging a novice.

Every time I climb and see those beginners having such a good time, it reminds me of the old days when I started climbing, and makes me regret that I didn’t start earlier.

Now for a bit of technical detail. Climbing routes are classified by difficulty using a grading system that is recognized worldwide. The French scale is indeed the most common one and the majority of



REWARDING CHALLENGE: After a hard climb, it's time to rest and take in the view.



KEEP PUSHING: The author tackling a cliff face at Railay Beach in Krabi. Photos: Riccardo Mereu

climbing guide books refer to this system.

The scale starts with the 5 grade and proceeds following a system of letters and plus signs for example: 5a, 5a+, 5b, 5b+, 5c, 5c+, 6a, 6a+ and so on. The hardest route ever climbed has a grade of 9b+ and it was realized by Adam Ondra, an extremely talented 18-year-old from the Czech Republic.

Just about anybody is able to climb the 5 graded routes. In fact, a few years ago I went out climbing with my father who, at the age of 60, climbed his first 5c. Most regular climbers can usually climb up to 6c+, after that the world of 7s starts. From

here on, climbers require excellent fitness, physical and mental strength and specific climbing techniques.

Railay is the perfect spot for beginners looking to try out their climbing legs (and hands). Many sectors have plenty of routes from 5 to 7 which allow everybody to have a challenging and fun time. On Railay West, there is a crag called Thaiwand Wall, where there are some amazing climbing routes overlooking the entire bay – which I guarantee will deliver amazing views.

Being perched dozens of meters above the sea, overlooking a spectacular view, really allows you to get into better contact with your inner thoughts – to discover yourself and understand your fears. Interacting with nature as you rise slowly, hand over hand, your mind feels lighter than ever. The energy flows through your veins, and after a day of climbing, a magic sensation stays all over your body.

Rock climbing is indeed an activity that requires some dedication in order to get better results, however, anybody can try it and have an amazing experience.

The best way to reach Railay beach is to take a long tail boat from Ao Nang. The ticket costs 100 baht each way and boats operate from sunrise to sunset. In both Railay and Tonsai there are plenty of different hotels starting from 500 baht up. There are also scores of locally run restaurants that serve up cheap and tasty meals, perfect for replacing all that energy you used up during your climb.

For more information about participating in a rock climbing experience that will definitely change your life, you can type the magic words “Climbing in Phuket” into your search engine or message me through my personal blog at phuketclimbing.blogspot.com



KOH PHI PHI: Another great climbing destination nearby in Phang Nga Bay.



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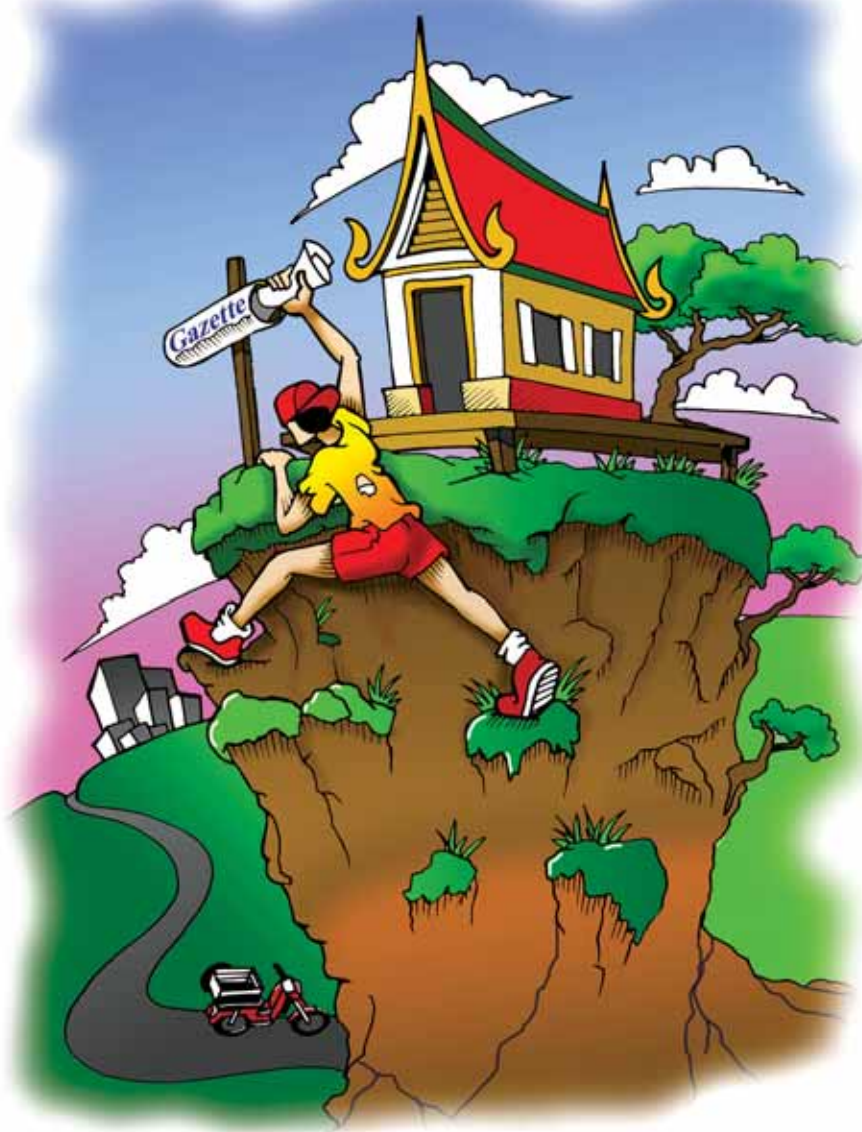


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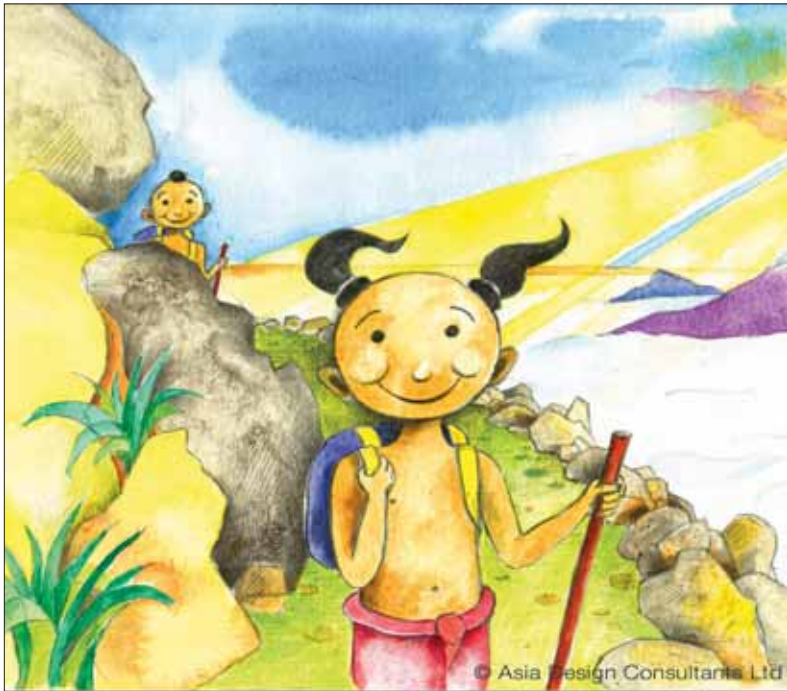
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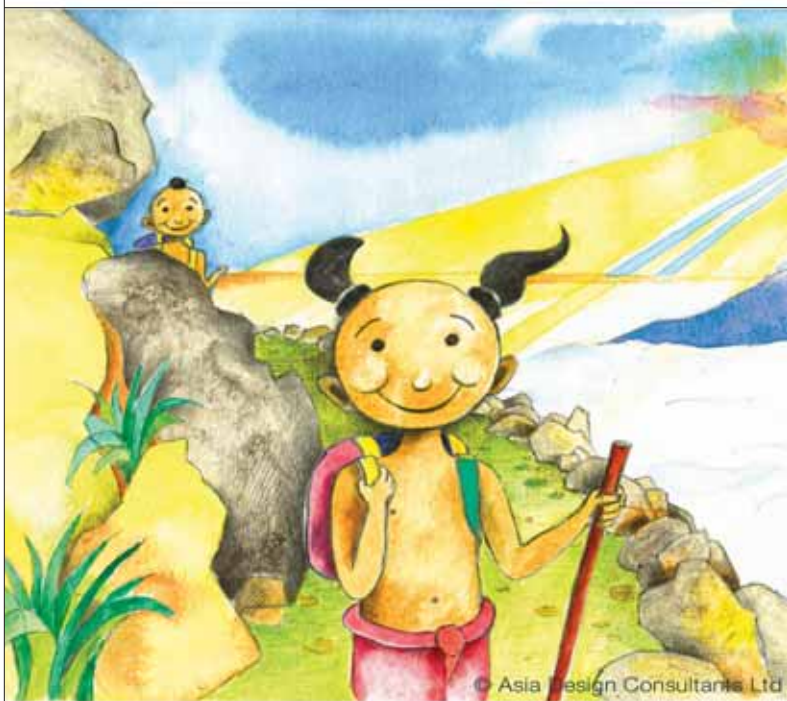
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JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Find the 10 differences between these pictures.



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.

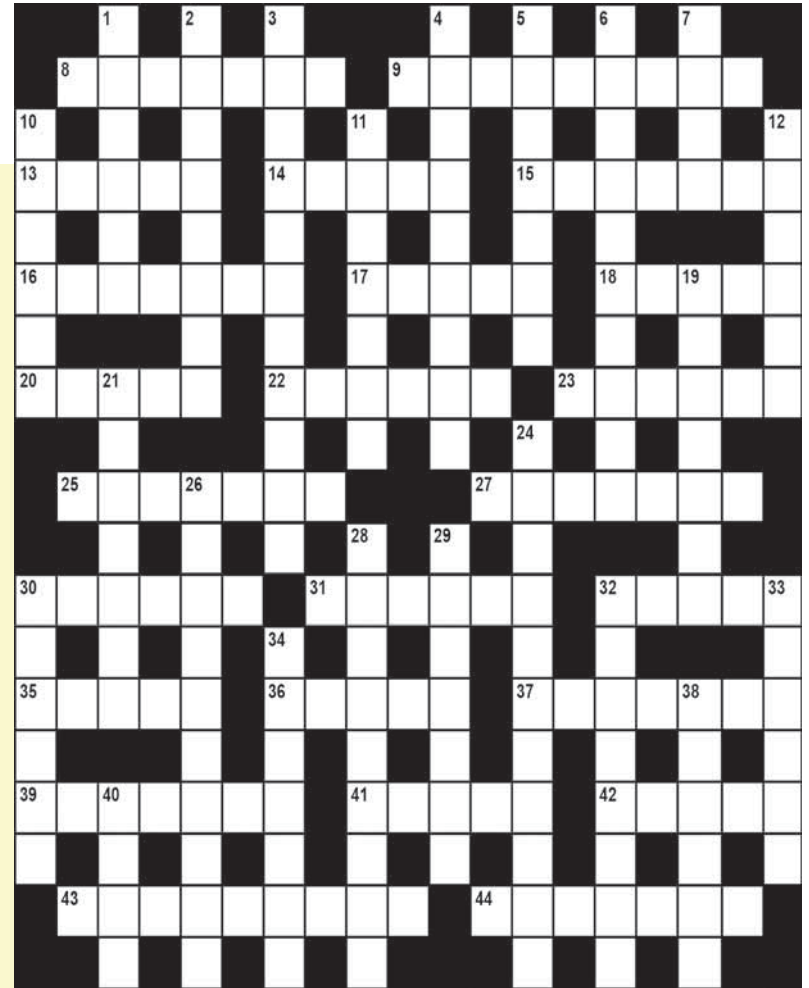
COFFEE break

Across:

8. I'm super sorting out match officials (7)
9. Bravo! Put cruet out for weed! (9)
13. Set fire to right church (5)
14. Lo! Men out for fruit! (5)
15. Mistakenly rob the right sibling (7)
16. Old warship left in gale round North (7)
17. Lurch about, ill-mannered fellow (5)
18. Hits the lowest items of clothing (5)
20. In article, turn page or get Phuket bay (2,3)
22. Taking down nothing, not hard! (6)
23. Stay on railway for uniform (6)
25. Almost left before time, obviously (7)
27. Free crook out East, unknown in chef's job (7)
30. Tore me to shreds being aloof (6)
31. Be quiet in prison (4,2)
32. Road I got wrong in wireless transmission (5)
35. Cord I twisted round early Greek column (5)
36. Decree right for a leader (5)
37. Veers around a liberal individual (7)
39. Clever son dispatched (7)
41. Near time for the dark (5)
42. Wayward con is young member of the family (5)
43. Against caring competitor (9)
44. No, I can't possibly hold back (7)

Down:

1. A message conveyed by a story not concerned with ethics (6)
2. What is selected to go quickly in tall clothing (4,4)



3. Always for each man ten, maybe fifty, year (11)
4. Sung annual rendition out North in park in Phuket (4,5)
5. Bristles in bust-up, Bachelor of Law noted (7)
6. Or mocks bit transformed in sorceresses' transport (5,5)
7. Press turn up, be quiet (4)
10. Stag I'm putting to shame (6)
11. A time in place to make peace with (7)
12. Too loud for British Railways assembly (6)
19. Applauded, raised spirits (7)
21. Past my role perhaps to make substance with large molecules (7)
24. Come out East, put in place

- constitution (11)
26. Eloquent voice (10)
28. Play the field, hinder pal opening out (9)
29. Keeping toe-rags reformed (7)
30. Salad vegetable crushed is hard (6)
32. Calls again on parson. Is it second? (8)
33. Old Boy, ache for the quadrangle (6)
34. Parking turned out wise (7)
38. I ran, is bad for wrinkled old fruit! (6)
40. Press on after one runs (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Those born under the sign of Cancer are forecast to start the month of July in an easy going mood. Events in the second half of June should have relieved financial concerns and the stars suggest that your cautious approach to money matters encourages a healthier bank balance. Those with a birthday in the coming days will have more luck in love during the year ahead. Number four can attract good fortune this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

The world of work is well-starred this week, although you may feel that the month of July gets off to a slow start. An air sign can delay agreement, but you should use this extra time to study the small print. Friendships are put to the test around the end of June and the stars suggest setting firmer limits on how helpful you are prepared to be. Leos' lucky number this week is eight.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The stars indicate that those born under the sign of Virgo will have more freedom to make decisions during July. If this relates to the world of work, a fire sign's inability to

succeed can be your key to promotion. In the realm of romance, answers are now crystal clear for those who have been confused by a water sign's responses. Number seven may bring good fortune this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

An unsettled cosmic climate at the start of July can affect those Librans who are trying to leave a difficult situation behind. The stars show that property matters will be less troublesome towards the middle of the month. Personal problems are more easily solved when you confide in a close earth sign friend. Dazzling days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday. The number six stands out this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Your senses are sharp as June ends, with focus on Scorpios picking up on opportunities for financial gain before others see them. In the realm of romance, a relationship that was on the rocks can be revived after some honest talking this weekend. If you are single and seeking, a fire sign is keen to get up, close and personal. Scorpios can see that number two is important this week.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

A quiet start to the month of July will be appreciated by stressed Sagittarians. Family disagreements are forecast to be resolved, but it will take time for certain relatives to accept your need for more personal space. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, an earth sign is ready to give up playing mind games, but your interest could already lie elsewhere. Number three is fortunate this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

The first half of July is not an auspicious time for borrowing or lending. Some Capricorns can be persuaded to part with more than they can afford, whether this relates to a friend who can't pay their bills or using credit to buy a luxury item. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, your resistance to change is challenged by a partner. Number nine can attract good luck this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Aquarians are forecast to have a lot on their minds as the month of July commences. The stars advise that preoccupation can result in making mistakes at work – rather than struggling to meet deadlines, it would be wiser to request more time. Even if romance isn't your priority this weekend, it will be worth your while to show some quality attention. Your lucky number this week is seven.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Work goes well as the month of July commences, but the stars advise avoiding a hot-tempered air sign colleague to spare unnecessary friction. Dreams can have special meaning for those born under the sign of Pisces during the coming days, particularly where an unresolved personal question is concerned. A red herring can cause confusion in the realm of romance this weekend. Number five can come alive this week.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Arians should have less trouble putting their own needs first as July starts. There are signs that others have been putting unreasonable demands on your time and energy,

but the stars show that you will find a way to stop this. Your determination also extends to the world of work; this is an auspicious month to have your opinions taken more seriously. Number one should be special this week.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

A productive period lies ahead for those born under the sign of Taurus, with fresh energy forecast to make July a month to remember for tangible results. Expect another earth sign to be impressed by your creative talents and a fire sign to make an interesting offer. Romance takes a back seat this week and this could create problems with a new water sign partner. Taureans' lucky number is two.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Those Geminis who have been getting hot under the collar in the world of work can learn something from a calm earth sign colleague. The first half of July is an auspicious time to change your approach to problem solving. The stars indicate that a clash of cultures is a likely cause of trouble in the realm of romance. Number eight is forecast to be important this week.



GIFTED: Ferrari's fate rests on Alonso's astonishing skill and resolve. Photo: Reuters



Kimi Räikkönen is one of Formula One's all-time giants. Photo: Reuters

Tyres, teams and tracks

WE ARE seven races down in a nineteen race season. It is a good time to reflect. Pirelli succumbed to pressure and ran Montreal on intermediates instead of softs on a surface as smooth as a worm's belly. That proved what we all knew; with tyres that do not degrade on a smooth dry track, the fastest car will win. In good conditions, Christian Horner, Sebastian Vettel and Mark Webber are all good enough to keep Newey's great car on track to win. But therein is the problem. TV coverage in Montreal ignored Vettel, because starting first, racing away, and finishing first is dreary. Happily, there were great dogfights down the order, which maintained my will to live.

My Montreal "Man of the Match" was Fernando Alonso, who qualified sixth and finished second, going ahead of Kimi Räikkönen in the Championship. This year's Ferrari is a step up from 2012's, but still cannot qualify well. Ferrari probably cannot reduce the technical gap to Red Bull this year, so the team's fate rests on Alonso's astonishing skill and resolve. Felipe Massa is struggling, with just one podium finish so far.

Similarly, Lotus struggles to qualify, but also races well thanks to good tyre management and a great driver. The car looked bad in the wet Montreal qualifying and little better in the dry race. It seems Lotus has not managed its upgrades as well as Ferrari, and without improvements, I fear they will lose Kimi. They just lost Technical Director James Allison. Allison drove the Lotus vision, and it's hard to find a replacement of his calibre with their budget. But they are promising more for Silverstone; I'm looking forward to it.

Lewis Hamilton drove a blinder in



Montreal, qualifying second and finishing third. His body language, however, still showed a man in a dark place. It could have been the rumbling Tyre Wars episode in Spain but that was Ross Brawn's problem. Or it could be Lewis' own issues. But he has certainly shown that on a glossy dry track even a Mercedes can manage its rear tyres. The FIA met on June 20 to hear the "Tyregate" case, and duly delivered Mercedes a minor slap. So all is back to normal.

McLaren is starting to look like a great aristocratic family fallen on hard times. McLaren is sixth in the constructors' championship, with the budget for a top three team. That cannot be sustained, so they are looking down the end of a barrel, with a colossal shortfall in prize-money to make good unless they can do something. They have promised it for Silverstone. I would love it if I am wrong, and they can do it.

When Ron Dennis ran McLaren, there was a visionary at the helm, and from 1997 to 2006 they had Adrian Newey as their technical lead. McLaren was undone by the "Spygate" scandal in 2007 where, for many, Alonso covered himself in slime. Dennis handed over to Martin Whitmarsh as Team Principal in 2009, and he has yet to win a title. The McLaren increasingly looks like the proverbial camel built by a committee designing a horse. Even McLaren's public reactions are corporate, dull, bureaucratic and repetitive. If McLaren



Lewis Hamilton has been out of sorts off the race track. Photo: Reuters

could get James Allison from Lotus, that could be an answer. But the clever money is on him joining Ferrari.

Force India will be pleased to have had two cars in the points at Montreal. It is now the leading team of the second division, and is pushing for promotion. The car is not on the pace, but is excellent on tyres – in Montreal Paul di Resta amazingly completed 56 competitive laps on one set of mediums. Williams, which must have hoped for a point when Valtteri Bottas qualified third, ended with nothing. Williams is another grand old team wandering in the wilderness.

Pirelli announced that their tyres will remain unchanged. Teams failed unanimously to accept the prototype tested in Canada, so "The tyre construction will remain unchanged, contrary to Pirelli's initial plans", said the Italian manufacturer.

But Pirelli also announced the tyres for the next three races; harder compounds than last year. Silverstone and Hungaroring get the two hardest compounds in the range; Nurburgring gets soft and mediums. Lotus has already

criticized the exceptionally conservative choice, which favors Red Bull and Mercedes. The sound of Pirelli crumbling under pressure is starting to mimic thunder.

Red Bull looks formidable and, having gained from "tyre wars", I fear a return to the dark Schumacher days. And I am not the only one. The mind-numbing Vettel Factor has affected Silverstone, where tickets are not sold out. Fans are voting with their feet.

Given the tyre choices, I dread seeing nothing but Vettel's exhaust pipe for the next three races. The podium in Silverstone looks like being Vettel, Alonso, and Hamilton or Räikkönen. Let's hope I am mistaken. Silverstone is a classic track, the home track for so many teams, and one of the fastest circuits in F1, and there is always the possibility of rain. Let's hope for an upset! And look for something from Force India.

Join me at the Green Man to watch the race on the big screen on Sunday at 7pm. Qualifying rounds are at the same time on Saturday.

No alternative to World Cup

FOOTBALL'S world governing body FIFA has not contemplated an alternative stage for next year's World Cup in Brazil, secretary-general Jerome Valcke said on June 24.

"The World Cup will be played in Brazil in 12 cities," Valcke told reporters. "There is no plan B."

His comments came as this month's Confederations Cup, a dry run for the World Cup, has been played against the backdrop of nationwide protests, with tear gas and rubber bullets being used by police against demonstrators.

Some of the protests have been held near stadiums being used for Confederations Cup matches. The money spent on the stadiums is among the protestors' many grievances.

Valcke also rejected a suggestion from Brazil sports minister Aldo Rebelo, sitting next to him at a news conference, that other countries had expressed an interest in staging the World Cup if Brazil pulled out.

Rebelo said he had read in the media that the United States,

England, Germany and Japan had all put themselves forward.

"I have never received any official offer from any other countries around the world to stage the World Cup in 2014," said Valcke.

Colombia was the last country to pull out of staging the World Cup when it withdrew in 1984, two years before the tournament which took place in Mexico instead. The tournament was on a much smaller scale at the time.

– Reuters

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International Sport

Lions beat Wallabies by a whisker

By Patrick Campbell

THE first Test against Australia on June 22 turned out to be a ferocious confrontation. At times, the pitch resembled a battlefield. Though the Lions held the initiative for long periods, the Wallabies came back strongly in the second half, and were awarded a last minute penalty that would have settled a bruising encounter in their favor. In the event, Kurtley Beale's kick dipped under the crossbar. Apparently he wore the wrong studs. 23-21 to the Lions.

A very relieved team thus retained their record of having never lost at Brisbane's Suncorp Stadium, where 25,000 red-shirted supporters offered vociferous support. But history is not on the visitors' side. The team that won the first Test on the previous two tours – in 1989 and 2001 – ended up losing the series.

The Lions led 13-12 at half time, courtesy of a marvelous George North try in which he collected a kick-off 10 meters inside his own half and beat three defenders to score wide out. "Mr. Reliable", Leigh Halfpenny added two penalties. The Wallabies' spirited response saw debutant wing Israel Folau, an ex Australian Rules player, score two spectacular tries, one from a superbly weighted grubber kick from scrum half Will Genia. In the second half, giant wing Alex Cuthbert, running a decisive angle onto Sexton's pass, powered over for the visitors, but Kurtley Beale, who had taken over the Wallabies kicking duties from an out-of-sorts James O'Connor, twice brought the Wallabies to within two points. In a nail-biting finale, and despite winning a scrum against the head when the Lions threatened their line and then gaining a penalty within the Lion's half, Beale could not deliver the "coup de grace".

The match was remarkable for a number of unexpected features. All four tries were scored by mold-breaking, youthful, gargantuan wings, all between 6' 4" and 6' 6" in height, all in their early twenties, all weighing in at sixteen stones or more. Bizarrely, the Australian effort was hampered by a sequence of injuries, largely self-inflicted. When McCabe became the third Wallaby to be carried off within six minutes, the team were forced to switch wing-forward Hooper to center. Despite this, the Australian effort never flagged, and though the Lions were denied a North try by millimeters, the Wallabies pack finished the stronger. Pre-match talk that the unit would fold under pressure proved wide of the mark. With replacements on, the Lions lost three of their scrum feeds.

In the way of these things, some reputations were enhanced, others tarnished. Will Genia, widely regarded as the best scrum half in world rugby, had a fine game, eclipsing Mike Phillips. Too often tackled in possession, the Welshman's slow pass and inaccurate box kicks will be a concern for the selectors. Fortunately for the visitors, James O'Connor had a forgettable game at fly half, missing penalties that would have won the game, and cramping his centers. It will be interesting to see if he swaps places with Kurtley Beale at full-back, or even forfeits his place in the side. The unpredictable Quade Cooper, another prodigal son and no favorite of coach Robbie Deans, may return as pivot. Captain Horwill, cited for stamping, will play.

Warren Gatland's tactical brain will also have been exercised by one or two issues. Already he has complained of "poor game management." The Lions' back-row balance is not right, although the unit achieved parity



Lions' George North scores against the Australia Wallabies on June 22. Photo: Reuters

in the rucks and won more breakdown ball. Heaslip and Croft, effective at the line outs, are not floor wrestlers. The front row struggled after Corbisiero and Jones departed, and the center combination of O'Driscoll and Davies, two natural outside centers, did little in attack. O'Connell is out of the series with a fractured arm, though Tuilagi and Bowe should be available.

After Tuesday's mid-week game, we shall be in a better position to read the minds of the selectors – and assess the walking wounded.

One thing is certain. A titanic second Test is in prospect.

Australia: Barnes, Folau, Ashley-Cooper, Leali'ifano, Ioane, O'Connor, Genia, Robinson, Moore, Alexander, Horwill [capt],

Douglas, Mowen, Hooper, Palau.

Replacements: Slipper (for Robinson 68), Kepu (for Alexander 58), Simmons (for Douglas 68), Gill (for McCabe 47), Phipps (for Ashley-Cooper 77), McCabe (for Leali'ifano 2), Beale (for Barnes 38).

Lions: Halfpenny, Cuthbert, Davies, O'Driscoll, North, Sexton, Phillips, Corbisiero, T. Youngs, A. Jones, A. W. Jones, O'Connell, Croft, Warburton (capt), Heaslip.

Replacements: Hibbard (for T. Youngs 65), Vunipola (for Corbisiero 52), Cole (for A. Jones 52), Parling (for A. W. Jones 52), Lydiate (for Croft 73), B. Youngs (for Phillips 62).

The Lions play Australia on June 29 at 5:05pm.

Tour de France rides wheels of change

MAURICE Garin, winner of the inaugural Tour de France in 1903, belonged to an era of adventurous pioneers and so-called amateurs in a world without television and little press coverage.

In contrast, the 2012 champion Bradley Wiggins and his Team Sky partners embody modernity and high tech in the multimedia age.

Yet as the race prepares to celebrate its 100th edition, it appears the first and the last Tour winners are not entirely worlds apart.

Garin, a former chimney sweep from the Italian valley of Aosta, was known as a hard-training perfectionist, who took great care of his machine.

The White Bulldog, as the Franco-Italian was known, made the arduous decision to give up wine and even cigarettes to achieve his goal of winning the Tour.

Wiggins, who started his career as a pursuit specialist and won three Olympic golds, went on a strict diet to lose seven kilos in his bid to become a Grand Tour winner.

Both men were brought up across two cultures, prefiguring the globalization of cycling's showcase event.

Like many boys from his valley, Garin left to become a chimney



CHAMPION: Britain's Bradley Wiggins celebrates winning the 2012 Tour de France. Photo: Reuters

sweep in France, ending up in the north of the country where he developed his taste for cycling.

Wiggins was born in the Belgian city of Ghent, one of the strongholds of Six-Day Racing, the cycling discipline in which his father Gary made his reputation as a solid yet maverick track rider.

Cycling has undergone many transformations in the years between the two men's victories and, with all due respect to the 198 riders starting the Tour in Corsica on June 29 – Wiggins will be missing through injury – the 60 brave men who embarked for the unknown in 1903 probably had more merit.

Stages were twice as long, with a 471km ride from Nantes to Paris, and often started at night.

Bikes were gearless, three times as heavy – about 20 kilos – and riders were not allowed to receive any assistance so were forced to carry spare tyres around their neck in case of punctures.

And punctures were common, as roads were covered with gravel and dust, while cobbles were usual in the north.

As a result, riders reached the finish line blackened by soot and dust mixed with their sweat.

Crowd favorite Honore Barthelemy lost an eye in a crash in 1920 and used to remove his

glass one while racing to avoid it being covered in dust.

Last year, the race was halted during a stage in the Pyrenees when tacks and nails were spread over the tarmac, causing havoc in the peloton.

The same thing happened in the second edition of the Tour in 1904, which was so marred by incidents that race founder Henri Desgrange considered canceling the event forever.

Not only were nails an everyday fixture of the race that year, competitors were attacked and beaten up by fans of rival riders and the men who reached Paris in the four top placings were all

disqualified for various offenses, including taking the train.

Unfortunately, as the case against seven-times winner Lance Armstrong, who was last year stripped of his titles for doping, has shown, cheating has also been a feature of the modern Tour.

Founder Desgrange ended the original formula of teams sponsored by bicycle manufacturers in 1930 when it turned out they were making arrangements to earn victory for the best man for their business at the expense of sporting concerns.

The Tour was then raced by national teams, which revived interest in the event and forced the organizers to find new means to fund it, as sponsors no longer paid to enter their riders.

Sponsored teams returned in 1969, just as doping controls became systematic after the death of Britain's Tom Simpson on Mont Ventoux in 1967.

As Wiggins's victory showed last year, the Tour is now much more an international event than a piece of French national heritage. In 2012, 31 nations were represented at the start, compared with five in 1903.

– Reuters

Thai athletes prepare for AIMAG



Dance sports will be one of the highlights at the event. Photo: AIMAG.com

By Andrew Scott

OVER 2,000 athletes from 45 countries, including 116 athletes from Thailand, will compete at the upcoming 2013 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games (AIMAG), to be held in Incheon, South Korea from June 29 to July 6.

AIMAG is a multi-sport event held every two years and regulated by the Olympic Council of Asia. The competition made its debut in Bangkok in 2005 with 37 countries and regions competing.

At this year's event, athletes will compete for 300 medals in 12

sports: billiards sports, bowling, chess, baduk, dance sports, e-sports, futsal, indoor kabaddi, kickboxing, Muay Thai, kurash, and swimming (25 meters).

E-sports is the competitive play of video games and is extremely popular in South Korea, Chinese Taipei and China.

Baduk is a two-player strategy board game that originated in China more than 2,500 years ago and Kurash is a form of wrestling.

Thailand's women's futsal team started three days before the opening ceremony against Vietnam on June 26. They are in

Group A with Malaysia, Hong Kong, Iran, Vietnam.

Thailand's male futsal team, who will share Group B with Malaysia and Bhutan, played three games against Romania, winning two, in a pre-Incheon Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games warm up. Thailand's male team started against Bhutan on June 26.

The 4th 2013 Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games is a test for the 17th Asian Games which will be held in Incheon in 2014. This year's event is the first time that the Asian Indoor and Martial Art Games have been combined.

FAT leadership questioned

FOOTBALL Association of Thailand (FAT) presidential hopeful Virat Chanpanich is aiming to force an end to the power vacuum at the top of Thai football by submitting a letter to the Sports Authority of Thailand (SAT), asking them to enforce the law by holding the pending election for a new FA chief.

After convincing Pattaya FC to withdraw a lawsuit against the association, that had led to FIFA threatening to suspend the FAT, Virat called on incumbent president Worawi Makudi to stop taking Thai football hostage, insisting he no longer had any right to stay in the post.

Virat reiterated his point that, had Worawi respected FAT regulations by holding the presidential election at its annual congress on March 31, there would have been no lawsuit and no resulting threat of suspension from FIFA. Pattaya's court move came from Worawi's attempt to push through a revision of FAT rules in line with FIFA's new statutes.

Virat believes all the trouble stemmed from Worawi's effort to link the regulation change to the election.

"FAT regulations state that the presidential election must be held before the end of the incumbent's mandate. And we complied with those rules for a long time – up until the previous poll two years ago.

"As we know, the stage was set for the election two years ago, but Worawi made an abrupt announcement to call off the vote, citing the duplication of authorisation letters from representatives of two member clubs.

"To abruptly call off the meeting without seeking a majority approval

from members was also an infringement of the law, but we didn't file a suit at the time because we didn't want the FAT to have problems like those suffered by other sports associations in the country.

"He also misled the public by saying he could continue in the post as acting president and conduct the election within 30 days of his mandate expiring. But according to FAT rules, he can do so only in the event of a resignation or being forced to leave the post by a two-thirds majority of members.

"The rules state clearly that the administrative board must hold an election before completing its mandate. And the election must be staged at the annual congress, which is held not later than March every year. But [Worawi] didn't do that at the meeting on March 31.

"Therefore, he cannot legitimately run the association after the expiry of his mandate, on June 16. That means he is also unable to stage an election, because current FAT regulations say nothing about holding the post on a caretaker basis," said Virat.

Virat further revealed that Thai Premier League club Chon Buri FC, who are leading the opposition to Worawi, and have gathered the support of more than 100 FAT member clubs, would submit a letter to the SAT, asking them to address issues concerning the election for a new chief.

However, Worawi argued he could legally stay on in the post and there was no other way to resolve the issue but to approve the amendment to the FAT regulations and then hold the election.

"Article 17 of the FAT statutes states clearly that the incumbent administrative board is able to stay

in the post until the appointment of the new management. There is no power vacuum as Virat claimed," Worawi said June 25 in an interview on *Channel 3's* evening news programme.

"FIFA again stated clearly in a

letter sent to us that we must approve the new FAT rules before we can hold the poll. We can do nothing to change FIFA's decision. We can't find another way to get round that" he said.

– *The Nation*



Worawi Makudi. Photo: Reuters

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FAT presidential candidate Virat Chanpanich. Photo: The Nation

Local to skipper Sansiri in world's oldest yacht race

IN A world first for Thailand, Sansiri PLC recently announced they are supporting Phuket local and member of Ao Chalong Yacht Club Mr Patinyakorn Buranrom to become the first-ever Thai sailor to skipper a yacht in a major international ocean yacht race, the TRANSPAC 2013.

Mr Patinyakorn, an accomplished sailor, will compete in the longest of the two oldest ocean races in the world, which starts in Los Angeles on July 8 and finishes in Honolulu, some 2,250 nautical miles away (4,100km), sailing across the world's largest ocean, the Pacific Ocean.

The TRANSPAC, known to be one of the most challenging offshore races in the world, is a "must do" on international sailors' bucket lists, and Mr Patinyakorn will be representing Thailand as Co-Skipper on the entry Sansiri, together with Rolex Sydney-Hobart Race veteran and former winner and record holder Australian Mr Michael Spies.

At 29, Mr Patinyakorn has already achieved so much and with recent successes in Asia's leading regattas – Phuket King's Cup, Top of the Gulf and Samui – he is an inspiration for many young Thais to follow their dreams.

"Sansiri's aim is to 'Construct a life not just a building', and having seen Patinyakorn become an inspiration to so many other Thais, especially youngsters, we want to support Patinyakorn to be Thailand's first-ever skipper in a global ocean race. Through racing in the TRANSPAC 2013, Patinyakorn is living his dream and making history for Thailand. We hope he can share his knowledge and experience, and encourage many other Thais to follow their dreams too," said Khun Ob-oom Chutrakul, social director of Sansiri PLC.

Skippering the 40-foot *Sansiri* in the TRANSPAC 2013, against 59 boats and some of the best sailors in the world, is a challenge Mr Patinyakorn is relishing.

"I could only ever have dreamed of an opportunity like this when I first started sailing. I have worked very hard getting to the stage where I was competitive and with Sansiri's support I have now enjoyed success at a local level. To skipper a yacht in the TRANSPAC is a wish come true and to be the first-ever Thai to do so makes me very proud," said Mr Patinyakorn Buranrom.

The TRANSPAC dates back to 1906 when it was first launched as a race from San Francisco to Honolulu. However, the devastating Great San Francisco earthquake less than one month before the start meant the adventurous boats taking part that first year had to move and start in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles start is now tradition and the race has been run every two years since.

– *Phuket Gazette*

You can follow the *Sansiri* boat in real time during the TRANSPAC 2013, at: yachtscoring.com.



From left to right: Mr Patinyakorn Buranrom, Sansiri Co-skipper; Khun Ob-oom Chutrakul, Social Director, Sansiri PLC; Mr Michael Spies, Sansiri Co-skipper.

Interview with TRANSPAC sailor



Mr Patinyakorn Buranrom.

LOCAL sailor Mr Patinyakorn Buranrom is set to become the first Thai sailor to skipper a yacht in a major international yacht race when he competes in the Transpacific Yacht Race (TRANSPAC) from Los Angeles to Honolulu.

Mr Patinyakorn Buranrom, who is a member of Ao Chalong Yacht Club, spoke to the *Gazette* about the upcoming TRANSPAC race and his experiences as a sailor.

Phuket Gazette: Why do you enjoy sailing?

Mr Patinyakorn Buranrom: Sailing brings me closer to nature and allows me to travel and exercise at the same time.

When did you start sailing?

I started sailing four to five years ago using my friends boat at Ao Chalong Yacht Club.

What do you enjoy the most about professional sailing?

I enjoy the fact that I compete against other professionals and I am able to learn so much from them, which improves my skills

as a sailor. I am very fortunate, as not a lot of people have this kind of opportunity. I also share the skills I have learned with other Thai sailors.

How do you feel about the upcoming TRANSPAC race?

I am happy, overwhelmed and excited to be a representative of Thailand at this prestigious race.

How are you preparing for the upcoming TRANSPAC race?

I feel I am quite well prepared. I am heading to the USA to start pre race preparations with my team two weeks before the race starts.

What are your plans after the race?

After the race I plan to take my boat from Honolulu across the Pacific ocean to Queensland in Australia. At the end of this year I plan to compete in a race in Australia.

What are your goals for your sailing career?

I want to set up a Thai racing team that can compete in world sailing events like the Volvo Ocean Race. I want to teach Thai people how to sail.

What's your favorite boat to race?

I like the catamaran as you can sleep on the boat, it's comfortable and can accommodate friends if you want to have a party. It's a fast boat which makes it good for racing.

What makes a good sailor?

First, a sailor should be patient; second, a sailor needs to be able to swim. People who are constantly boat sick do not make good sailors and most importantly you have to love to sail. Sportsmanship is also very important.

What's the toughest challenge you've faced as a sailor?

One day before the King's Cup in Kata, a huge storm washed a large number of boats ashore, including mine. I was really thinking about pulling out of the

competition but luckily my boat was fixed the morning of the race. I was an hour late to the start line but still finished 3rd.

What advice would you give someone who wants to start sailing?

Find a local sailing club. I recommend Ao Chalong Yacht Club, and when I get back to Phuket I am willing to teach anybody.

Mr Patinyakorn will be representing Thailand as Co-skipper on the entry *Sansiri*, together with Rolex Sydney-Hobart Race veteran and former winner and record holder Australian Mr Michael Spies.

The first start for TRANSPAC will be on Monday, July 8, with subsequent starts planned for Thursday, July 11 and Saturday, July 13.

– *Anthika Muangrod and Andrew Scott*

To follow the *Sansiri* boat in real time, visit: <http://www.yachtscoring.com>

Grimes brothers' karting season speeds up



Ben Grimes doing what he loves.

BEN and Sam Grimes' 125cc Junior Class karting season continues at a blistering pace. The brothers recently completed two rounds of the Thai National Championship and two rounds of the Rotax Asia Max Challenge (AMC) series, held in Malaysia.

At round two of the Thai Championship in Saraburi, Ben qualified fourth with Sam coming in seventh. An erratic race in Heat 1 caused Ben to finish fifth, followed by Sam in seventh. Ben improved in Heat 2 finishing fourth with Sam again in seventh. The boys suffered mixed fortunes in

the final heat of the day; Ben improved on his fourth place finish, finishing third but Sam failed to finish due to a puncture.

The boys were in a field of 28 racers at round three of the AMC at the Elite Speedway in Kuala Lumpur, but they struggled to break into the top 10. Ben's highest finish was 11th place in Heat 1 and for Sam it was 18th in the Pre-Final.

Back to Saraburi for round three of the Thai Championship, Ben showed strong driving skills in Heat 1 and 2, finishing second. In the Final, Ben encountered some problems at the start and

dropped from second place to be seven seconds behind the leaders in last place. He managed to fight back and finished a respectable fourth, only 1.7 seconds behind the leader. Sam finished seventh in the Final losing out on sixth place in the final stages of the race.

Round four of AMC put the boys in a field of 31 racers at the Elite Speedway. Ben was forced to avoid another driver at the start of Heat 1, which forced him to the back of the pack. He managed to battle his way to a 15th place finish. Sam's radiator and spark plugs were damaged in a collision



Sam Grimes. Photos: Peter Grimes with another driver and he was forced to retire. In the Final, Ben was in seventh after the first lap, but a mistake prone drive, and engine problems, dropped him to a disappointing 15th at the end of the race. Sam finished a credible 18th and set a faster lap than Ben.

– *Andrew Scott*

Sport

Giorgi catapults Phuket back to 5th

By Steven Layne

PHUKET FC seized back their 5th place ranking in the 18-team Yamaha League One (Division 1) with a much needed 1-0 win on the road last Saturday evening to lowly Rayong United.

The match's only allowed goal was scored by Georgian import Giorgi Tsimakuridze, who found the back of the net in the 22nd minute, scoring his fourth of the season.

The goal was set up by an on-target strike by Thongchai Kuenkhonthod; the unmarked Thai winger received a beautiful cross-field pass from playmaker, Geoffrey Doumeng, who broke through Rayong's defense seconds earlier. In a reflex, Giorgi diverted Thongchai's strike past Rayong's keeper, sending the dozens of away-fans into celebration.

Indeed, the

goal made the 30-hour commute for diehard "Hulk" fans all worthwhile.

Phuket looked to double their lead later on but were denied by an offside flag.

Neither side was able to alter the scoreline in the rest of the match.

Rayong United remain in last place of the 18-team league with even more bad news overcoming the team, which was formerly based in Prachinburi province until last year; last Saturday's match against Phuket was to be the last for Rayong United's leading scorer, Brazilian stalwart, Valci Teixeira Junior (8 goals), who announced he would be joining

a Thai Premier League (TPL) team, to be unveiled at a later date.

The Islanders immediately returned home to host TPL side Ratchaburi Mittraphol in a do-or-die Thailand FA Cup third round match, which was played in Phuket last Wednesday, June 26. For the result of that match, check the *Gazette Sports* section online.

Phuket now look to defend their 5th placed standing with a tough home match against 6th placed Nakhon Ratchasima FC – the Swat Cats. The match will be the final match (17) of the season's first half.

This is not counting Phuket's recently abandoned match against 2nd placed PTT Rayong. The first 50 minutes of that match was played to a scoreless deadlock on June 9, but the game was abandoned due to heavy downpours inhibiting safe play. The final 40 minutes are scheduled to be resumed on July 13 in Phuket.

Meanwhile, Phuket will officially kick-start their season's second half promotion campaign on July 6 at home against Big Bang Chula United – the Pink Panthers.

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Air Force	16	37
2	PTT Rayong	15	33
3	Bangkok	16	29
4	Port Lions	16	28
5	Phuket	15	25
6	Korat	16	23
7	Trat FC	16	23
8	Saraburi	16	22
9	Nakhon Pathom	16	22
10	BBCU FC	16	22
11	Krabi	16	18
12	Ayutthaya	16	18
13	Khon Kaen	16	18
14	Royal Navy	16	15
15	Rayong FC	16	13
16	Sriracha	16	13
17	TTM FC	16	12
18	Rayong Utd.	16	9

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE 2013 TOP SCORERS			
1	LEE TUCK	BANGKOK FC	12
2	RECIO MATTHIAS EDUARDO	KHON KAEN	10
3	LEANDRO DE OLIVEIRA DA LUZ	PORT LIONS	9
4	CAMARA SOULEYMANE	NAKHON PATHOM	9

PHUKET FC TOP SCORERS			
1	LUIZ PURCINO		6
2	GIORGI TSIMAKURIDZE		4
3	GEOFFREY DOUMENG		3
4	CHANA SONWISSET		2
5	NENEI SYLVESTER		2

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Bangkok vs PTT Rayong	18:00		
Trat FC vs Royal Navy	18:00		
Ayutthaya vs Khon Kaen	18:00		
SUNDAY, 30 JUNE 2013			
TTM FC vs Krabi	16:00		
Rayong Utd. vs BBCU FC	18:00		
Saraburi vs Sriracha	18:00		
Air Force vs Port Lions	18:00		

Giorgi and Marcio Santos.
Photo: Siam Sports



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