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Maitri faces taxi threats

■ Illegal taxi drivers demand governor take action to ease path to legalization or face mass protests

By **Saran Mittrarat**

ILLEGAL taxi drivers have threatened Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut that they will stage mass protests if the government does not do more to help them become legal.

The threat, delivered at Phuket Provincial Hall on Tuesday, immediately after the Governor's monthly address to the Phuket media, came only weeks after Governor Maitri was stalked at his Phuket residence by illegal taxi operators working at the airport.

"We need help from the governor to find a way to resolve this problem," said Anan Pluemjit, an illegal taxi driver who used to work from the taxi stand in front of the Hard Rock...

Continued on page 6



Governor Maitri Inthusut calmly listened to the illegal taxi drivers' threat at the meeting. Photo: Gazette file

School hit with mass hysteria

NEARLY two dozen students, fearing they had offended a ghost, became hysterical – screaming and collapsing in spasms – in Patong on Monday.

The temple students were rushed to hospital, where nine were administered anesthesia. Doctors kept three under observation overnight.

Full story on Page 6

Cop arrested for human trafficking

A PHANG NGA police officer was arrested for his alleged participation in the human trafficking of five Rohingya females from a government-run shelter

One of the women claims the officer handed her and her two children over to a Rohingya man who repeatedly raped her for three nights.

Full story on Page 3

Chalong to get underpass, six plans revealed

A VARIETY routes were proposed for the Chalong underpass by the Phuket Land Transport Office.

Full story on Page 5

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This Week



Property

The Bypass Road is set to get a new "Business Landmark." **Page 13**



Business

Phuket FC's turnover and turnout doubled in a year. **Page 17**



Food

DiVine's new brunch comes with a side of fitness. **Page 34**



Charity

Make-A-Wish Foundation brings joy to young girl. **Page 36**



Travel

A trip to Phang Nga Bay uncovers the area's natural beauty. **Page 42**



Sport

Patrick Campbell looks ahead to the upcoming Ashes. **Page 47**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Belgian stabbed by lover out of coma

By Thawit Bilabdullar

THE 62-year-old Belgian expat who was stabbed multiple times by his Thai girlfriend last week is out of intensive care, hospital staff have confirmed.

Ferdinand Salden was stabbed repeatedly by his girlfriend of six years, Yossapa Janthep, 36, during a violent domestic dispute at their Patong home on June 26, and lapsed into a coma after being rushed to hospital by a visibly distraught Ms Yossapa.

According to Ms Yossapa, the dispute happened after she had gone out to dinner with Mr Salden and a friend of his, said Lt Col Jongserm Preecha of the Patong Police.

"After dinner the group made their way to Soi Bangla for drinks. "Mr Salden allegedly became jealous of the interactions between Ms Yossapa and his friend and began to beat her when they got back to his apartment. She responded by attacking him with a thin, sharp piece of metal," said Lt Col Jongserm.

Mr Salden had numerous stab wounds to the chest, neck and leg. Immediately after attacking him, Ms Yossapa flagged down a



Mr Salden's girlfriend hurried him to the hospital after she stabbed him.

tuk-tuk and rushed Mr Salden to Patong Hospital.

"When we arrived at the hospital, we found Ms Yossapa crying in front of the Emergency Room, drunk and still holding the bloody weapon," said Lt Col Jongserm.

Mr Salden lapsed into a coma and was immediately transferred to Bangkok Phuket International Hospital, said Lt Col Jongserm.

"He is recovering and was released from the intensive care unit on June 28, but he is still under close observation," a staffer at Bangkok Hospital Phuket told the *Gazette*.

Ms Yossapa is facing aggravated assault charges, said Col Jongserm.

Additional reporting by Auntika Sivasen

Cop to walk free after shooting man dead

ALL charges against a Phuket police officer arrested for shooting dead a civilian in Phuket Town have been dropped.

Cpl Rachaporn Semaksorn and his brother, Dechaporn, were arrested after witnesses identified Cpl Rachaporn as the man who pulled out a gun and shot 21-year-old Ekkasit Sangangam at point-blank range.

The incident occurred on Phun Pol Soi 11, in the heart of Phuket Town's red light district, at about 2:30am on May 5 last year.

Cpl Rachaporn was discharged from the Royal Thai Police as he faced a murder charge and Mr Dechaporn was charged with conspiracy to murder.

However, Phuket Provincial



Phun Pol Soi 11, where the shooting occurred. Image: Google maps

Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsean Panhya has dropped all charges against the pair.

He declined to explain his deci-

sion to the *Gazette*.

"We have decided to drop the case. We have formally reported this to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut for his acknowledgment, but he has yet to sign his approval and return it to us," Chief Prosecutor Chiengsean said.

During the seven months of investigation, Phuket City Police reported difficulty in obtaining witness statements against the policeman and his brother.

"We understand that this is a difficult investigation due to the fact that the police do not have enough information about the witnesses, not even names," Chief Prosecutor Chiengsean told the *Gazette* last year.

— Orawin Narabal

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Traffick cop caught

Police officer arrested for trafficking Rohingya refugees

By Chutharat Plerin

A PHANG NGA police officer has been charged with human trafficking following his reported involvement in a Rohingya woman being held captive and raped repeatedly for days.

The arrest of Sgt Maj Weerayuth Feuangfu follows a 25-year-old Rohingya woman reporting to police late last month that she was repeatedly raped by a human trafficker on their way to Malaysia.

Sgt Weerayuth has also been charged with abusing his position as a police officer, Kuraburi District Police Superintendent Weerasil Kwanseng confirmed last week.

"He is believed to have been the person who drove the vehicle that collected the reported rape victim and her two children, as well as two other women from the government-run shelter in Phang Nga where the Rohingya refugees were staying," Col Weerasil explained.

This may be the first arrest of a Royal Thai Police officer for human trafficking, he noted.

"Because he is a police officer, his punishment will be double if he is found guilty," Col Weerasil noted.

Section 13 of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act BE 2551 stipulates that any government official found engaging in human trafficking is subject to twice the punishment for any breaches of the Act.

And any officials specifically empowered to enforce the Anti-Human Trafficking Act, but who are found engaging in human trafficking themselves, are subject to thrice the punishment.



Rohingya refugees wait to be transported from the government-run Phang Nga shelter, from which the police officer allegedly picked up three women and two children to be trafficked to Malaysia. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"We are still investigating the human-trafficking network," Col Weerasil said.

"I have been specifically ordered by Phang Nga Provincial Police Commander Chalit Kaewyarat to arrest anyone involved in this case, no matter who they might be," he added.

The Rohingya woman and her two daughters will be transferred to another Department of Social

Development and Welfare shelter for their protection, the *Gazette* was told.

Despite officials openly recognizing for more than a decade that an estimated 100,000 Burmese illegal immigrants live in Phuket, most performing manual labor at below minimum wages, human trafficking to and from the island is rarely investigated.

It was not until 54 men and

women, including an 8-year-old girl, died of suffocation while being transported to Phuket in the back of a refrigeration truck in 2008 that Thai authorities moved to press serious charges against traffickers.

For the 54 deaths, four Thais were sentenced to between three and 10 years' imprisonment. None of the four sentenced were identified as Thai officials.

In brief...

Retired Microsoft expat found dead in luxury villa pool

A RETIRED Microsoft engineer was found dead in his luxury villa pool in Ao Makham on July 1.

The body of American Cliff Bamford, 69, was floating face down in the pool when police arrived at the scene.

"There was blood around his ear – but no trace of a struggle," Lt Anurak Klangnarong of the Wichit Police said.

Mr Bamford was living in the luxury villa with his Thai girlfriend, who left on June 27 to visit family in Nakhon Ratchasima, Lt Anurak said.

Englishman caught years after illegally entering Thailand

PHUKET immigration on Tuesday arrested for illegal entry a British man who had been working on the island as a realtor, a profession reserved for Thais, since 2011.

Richard James Daffund, 44, was picked up by police as he walked along Phuket Road, just several hundred meters from the Phuket Immigration Office.

He confessed that he had entered Thailand illegally in 2011.

Canadian deported over multi-year island overstay

A 64-YEAR-OLD expat from Canada will be deported from Thailand after being caught in Phuket for overstaying his visa by three years.

James H Nelson was arrested in Thung Thong Monday. He will be sent to Bangkok to be deported.

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Water hyacinth Photo: Challyian

Root of problem: Water hyacinths

WATER hyacinths, not native to Southeast Asia, have leaves and hollow stems that project up to three feet above the water.

Blackish roots suspended below the surface create the initial problems, since they impede water flow, and eventually de-oxygenate the water. An invasive plant banned in parts of North America, the water hyacinth is incredibly fast-growing and can double its population in two weeks. Small clumps of water hyacinth are unproblematic; the difficulty arises when colonies are allowed to run riot, to form dense mats, and prevent aeration of the water.

— Patrick Campbell

Pre-emptive strike against canal flower, dengue fever

By Irfan Jamdukor

ACTING early to prevent blockages in the Ban Yai Canal that create stagnant water – a breeding ground for Dengue-carrying mosquitoes – and floods every year, officials took action last week to remove the culprit: water hyacinths that grow rampant in the canal.

“Local residents complain every year that the hyacinths block water flow and cause flooding and bad-smelling water,” said Somjit Limpattawong, Municipal Clerk of Srisoonthorn Municipality.

“We hadn’t received any complaints about the problem this year, but we were concerned that it would happen again, so two weeks ago, we went to inspect the area. We found lots of water hyacinth in the canal, and the water had already started to smell,” she said.

Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) and



Workers clear sections of Baan Yai Canal. Photo: PPAO

Srisoonthorn Municipality staff started the three-day job of removing the invasive plants last week.

Once the water hyacinths have been removed, the water will be

tested and treated if necessary, Ms Somjit said.

Left to grow uncontrolled, water hyacinth can block sunlight from reaching other aquatic

plants and starve water of oxygen, killing marine animals. The plants also create a habitat for mosquitoes.

“It’s especially important to clear the canal since dengue is a concern in Phuket now,” said Ms Somjit.

There have already been 1,193 reported cases of dengue fever in Phuket this year, said Phuket Provincial Health Office Chief Bancha Kakong at a meeting with Patong Hospital Director Dr Sirichai Silapa-acha on Monday.

“The Muang district has the most reported cases of Dengue Fever this year with 535 patients receiving treatment. Not far behind is the Thalang district with 471 reported cases and finally Kathu, which has 187 cases,” Dr Brancha said.

“There are 3.2 times more patients suffering from Dengue this year than last year – making it the highest incident rate in the last 20 years,” he said.

‘Black magic’ blamed for mysterious sexual sounds

AN INCONCLUSIVE police investigation has prompted a Phuket woman to publicly appeal for help in unravelling the mysterious “sex noises” she keeps hearing at her Chalong home.

Onanong Waltham, 46, accompanied by her housemate made her public appeal at the Phuket Press Club on Monday.

“I keep hearing moaning sounds in my house. It sounds like people making love,” said Ms Onanong, a resident at the Land & Houses Park Preuksachart Lake View housing estate, located behind Wat Chalong.

“Also, late at night, my phone rings and I answer it, but all I hear is a man’s voice saying he wants to make love to me. When I call back the number, I get some guy in Rayong province,” she said.

In the belief she was being stalked, Ms Onanong filed a complaint with the Chalong Police.

“They came to my house and even heard the same noises, but



Onanong Waltham

they couldn’t find where the sounds were coming from,” she said.

Ms Onanong now fears her claims are not being taken seriously.

“I now think that someone is using black magic on me,” she said.

Ms Onanong invited the public to help establish the true cause of the moaning and the source of the phone calls.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Going underground

Plans unveiled for new underpass at Chalong Circle

By Auntika Sivasen

THE governor this week unveiled six routes being considered for a new underpass to be built at Chalong Circle, by far the busiest junction in the south of the island.

The new underpass will need to serve about 53,000 cars per day, accounting for about 60 per cent of all traffic in Muang District, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut told the press at Provincial Hall on Tuesday.

"There are terrible traffic jams there every day," he said.

The proposed routes being considered for the underpass are:

1. Two-way between Chao Fa East Road and Wiset Road (to Rawai);
2. Two-way between Chao Fa West Road and Wiset Road;
3. One-way southbound from Chao Fa East Road and one-way southbound from Chao Fa West Road to Wiset Road;
4. One-way southbound from Chao Fa East Road to Wiset Road and one-way northbound from Wiset Road to Chao Fa West Road;
5. Two-way between Chao Fa East Road and Patak Road (to Kata-Karon);
6. One-way southbound from Chao Fa East Road to Patak Road.



Four of the six proposed routes for the underpass planned to go under Chalong Circle. Images: Google Maps

"We will choose the route that requires the least land to be expropriated and which best preserves Phuket's beautiful landscape," Governor Maitri said.

"We prefer to build an underpass – instead of expanding roads or building flyovers – because doing so will have the least impact on communities and the environment," he added.

Governor Maitri also confirmed that the underpass currently under construction at the Darasamuth Intersection, in front of the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall, is on schedule to open to traffic by January 2014.

"The underpass is now 25 per cent complete. It will be ready to use by January, but the roads around the underpass will also

have to be done, which means the entire project will be complete on October 5, 2014," he said.

A public hearing on the proposed underpass at the Samkong Intersection, in front of Tesco Lotus on the bypass road, will be held on July 5, Gov Maitri said.

"The venue for the public hearing has yet to be announced," he said.

New detour to alleviate traffic jams at Central underpass

OFFICIALS are working on opening a new two-lane detour that will allow motorists travelling between Patong and Chalong to bypass the Darasamuth Intersection in front of Central Festival Phuket.

The detour is hoped to ease traffic congestion at the junction, where Phuket's first underpass is under construction.

One end of the detour will be opposite Soi Bang Yai, halfway between Makro and Central Festival, on Wichit Songkram Road.

The other end will be near Soi Na Sua, off Chao Fa West Road, about 300 meters south of the intersection.

"The detour will be two lanes and 1.25km long. It should take about 150 days to complete," said Teeraporn Jirarattanakorn, Director of the Department of Rural Roads Phuket office.

"We already have approval from the Department of Rural Roads for the 9.8million baht budget," Mr Teeraporn said.

"As soon as they distribute the money, we'll begin construction," he added.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Struck down by fear

Hospital on mass casualty alert as students gripped by hysteria

By Orawin Narabal

TWENTY-TWO students collapsed to the ground, screaming and convulsing in spasms this week while gathering for Monday morning assembly at Wat Suwan Khiri Wong School in Patong.

Medical staff at Patong Hospital went on "mass casualty" alert as the students were rushed into the emergency ward, and hospital director Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa took command as "Incident Commander" while one of his senior nursing staff took on the role of 'Liaison Officer'.

The cause was quickly identified as mass hysteria brought on by the students believing they had incurred the wrath of a ghost while on a Scout camping trip to Khao Lak over the preceding weekend.

Victims of mass hysteria need instant attention, Dr Sirichai explained. "All the students were hyperventilating, which leaves the body depleted of oxygen. This can induce or exacerbate a host of medical problems," he said.

They also need protection from themselves. "Without care and supervision, they might injure themselves. If they are near a street, they might wander into the path of traffic; or they might hurt themselves by knocking their head on a wall or even use a knife to cut themselves," Dr Sirichai said.

Dr Sirichai's first orders were to allocate the students – 21 girls and one boy, all aged 12 to 15 – individual cots so they were visually separated from each other.

This reduced the likelihood of the effects being prolonged.



Hospital staff watch over one of the students struck down by the hysteria outbreak. Photo: Patong Hospital

"All of the students were in shock. We calmed them down and aided in slowing their breathing," said Dr Sirichai.

To calm the students, hospital staff held their hands and talked to them about general topics. "We asked them questions like where they live, how old they are, how many brothers and sisters they have, what they like to do in their free time," Dr Sirichai noted.

"However, we had to give anesthesia to some of them because they could not calm down. They could not stop crying," he added.

All but three students were discharged from hospital on Monday.

The three remaining were kept in overnight for observation.

Only one girl, Phittinan "Nonny" Fritch, a-12-year old Mattayom 1 student, remained in hospital on Tuesday. She was one of the students administered general anesthesia.

"When I woke up, there were teachers and monks in the hospital room where I was staying. The monks were chanting. I felt calm, but some of my friends were still crying and shouting," she said.

Isolation is a critical first step in treating hysteria victims, confirmed Dr Ruangsit Netnuanyai, the resident psychiatrist at Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town and the only psychiatrist dedicated to serving all government hospitals on the island.

"The first step is to separate them and let them rest. After they feel relaxed, the behavior will disappear by itself," he said.

Mass hysteria is usually the result of stress brought on during a shared experience, but the physical manifestation of the stress is

often not realized until the victim sees another person suffering, Dr Ruangsit explained.

"The victims do not realize the stress they are suffering until they see other people exhibiting it by their behavior. Then when they see someone starting to shake, cry or shout, they do the same," he said.

The underlying stress of hysteria may linger within its victims, and avoiding psychological triggers is vital to preventing recurrent incidents, Dr Ruangsit noted.

"The students might still be affected by what happened while on the school camp. They might still be tired from their ordeal," he said.

Dr Sirichai advised that the students affected by the incident should not return to Khao Lak, but otherwise they should be fine.

However, he added, "The teachers at the school should ask the students how they felt about the camp, the activity and what happened to them, and let them express their thoughts freely."

Lifeguard budget boost denied

IN THE aftermath of Phuket's deadliest beach weekend and the first-time-ever forced closure of sections of beaches by lifeguards last weekend, the Phuket Lifeguard Club's contract with the local government has been renewed, but only for 10 months.

"The contract was renewed on June 28 and will last for 10 months," an officer at the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) Tourism Department told the *Gazette*.

The new contract stipulates that an additional five lifeguard watch stations be established along Phuket's popular west coast as proposed in May.

The additional watch stations will be at Kata, Kata Noi, Karon, Patong and Kamala beaches.

"It is very important that the longer beaches that have strong currents such as Kata have the additional lifeguard watch stations. In the past the stations have been too far apart," the officer said.

Despite the increase in the number of stations being manned, the budget has remained the same. To balance the lack of an increase in the budget for this essential life-saving service on the island, the PPAO has agreed for the contract to be only for 10 months.

Though last weekend's dangerous super moon period has passed, Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan re-iterated his warnings about rough surf during the southwest monsoon.

"Please swim only in the areas where yellow flags are posted or check with lifeguards on duty before entering the water," he said.

– Orawin Narabal



Mr Prathaiyut



'The school should not take them back to Khao Lak, as this may trigger memories of this incident'

– Dr Sirichai Silapa-archa, Director of Patong Hospital

Phuket governor unfazed by illegal taxi threats of protest

From page 1

...Cafe in Patong.

"If not, we will return next week with more drivers than were present for the tuk-tuk protest last week," he warned.

By Wednesday, the governor had a meeting arranged with relevant departments to find a balance to the power struggle between illegal "black plate" taxi drivers and their legal tuk-tuk counterparts.

"Whether the black plate taxi drivers will stage a protest or not, I will invite the relevant departments to have a meeting to find a way to help them," Gov Maitri said.

The tuk-tuk protest last week prompted a police crackdown on illegal taxi drivers across the island, explained Mr Anan on Tuesday.

About 100 tuk-tuk protesters claimed that the illegal drivers were stealing their jobs.

"We do not have enough money to pay the monthly installments on our tuk-tuks and to cover living costs. Our incomes have fallen because many illegal taxis are stealing work from us," said protest leader Sakol Srisompoch.

"Illegal taxis charge 500 to 1,000 baht per fare, and pay 200 to 300 baht to police who stop them. We want police to throw the book at them and fine them 2,000 baht each time," Mr Sakol said.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karachedi complied, and police started to throw the book at illegal taxis.

"Police are arresting us and making sure we are charged double. We cannot afford to keep paying these fines," Mr Anan said.

Police have been arresting and charging illegal taxi drivers for both using a standard vehicle as a taxi and with driving an illegally modified vehicle to serve as a taxi, he explained.

"Now I have nowhere to go. I am no longer allowed to work at the taxi stand at the Hard Rock Cafe, and no other taxi stands want me to work at their taxi ranks either. They say their taxi stands are full," Mr Anan said.

Money is the critical issue, he explained. "We do not have the money to make our cars meet the qualifications necessary to

be legally registered as taxis. Our cars are too old and we cannot afford to sell them and take on new loans to buy new cars," Mr Anan said.

"Also, we must have first-class insurance for our cars to be registered as taxis... We simply cannot afford it," he added.

"We have tried to negotiate with the Phuket Land Transport Office to find a way to make us legal, but we were told to wait. How long do we have to wait?" Mr Anan asked.

Phuket Governor Maitri politely stood his ground.

"I want hardworking people in Phuket to be able to live together in peace. I promise to find a way to help," he said.



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THE DECK

Project Owner : Anawat Limited. Company's registered no. 0105546144865. Head office : 475 Sri Ayudthaya Road, Thanon Phayathai, Raythaw, Bangkok, 10400. Registered capital(THB) : 10,000,000.00, Paid up capital(THB) : 2,500,000.00 (as of date 3 Jun 2013). The President : Mr. Sreetha Thavisin. The Project : The Deck, land title deed no. 15589, approximately area 5-0-40 Rai, located at Rat-U-Thit 200 Years Road, Patong, Kathu, Phuket Province, as a Condominium of 7 storey(ies), 2 building(s), total of 270 unit(s), (for residential: 270 units, and for commercial: - units). The land has not yet been transferred to the project owner. The land and building will be mortgaged and processed to submit the building permission. Construction will be started in Jan 2014 and expected to be completed in Mar 2015 which will later be registered as the condominium. The unit owner shall pay sinking fund, common fee, tax and other fees as prescribed by the Project Owner or the Condominium Juristic Person subjected to the Condominium law. *Company's conditions apply / Featured photography in the advertisement consists of photography with simulated atmosphere and simulated graphic. Should you have any questions regarding any photography, please contact our customer service staffs or visit our projects' site. Call 1685.

Sansiri encourages iodized salt consumption to help boost IQ of children



The truck was hit with two explosives. Photo: The Nation

Deep South peace talks in danger

PEACE talks between the government and an insurgent group active in the Deep South appear to have hit a dead end after the insurgents made demands the Thai side considered “unreasonable”, according to a prominent security analyst.

Meanwhile, the Army is fuming after insurgents in Yala pulled off one of the deadliest attacks on security forces since the beginning of the insurgency in 2004.

Eight soldiers were killed and two injured when their truck was hit by a powerful roadside bomb in Krongpinang District on Monday, *The Nation* reported.

The attack will put further strain on the peace talks underway in Malaysia between the National Security Council and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN).

Don Pathan, a security analyst based in Yala, said the BRN was making demands it knew the Thai government could never meet.

PM's shuffle causes row

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has made a dramatic Cabinet reshuffle as her embattled government comes under a barrage of criticism over its rice-pledging scheme.

Among the significant changes was the demotion of controversial Deputy Prime Minister Chalermsak Yooamrungsri to Labor Minister, leading the outspoken politician to launch a stinging attack on his own party's government.

The firebrand politician, who formerly had responsibility for security issues including the Deep South, claimed he had been stabbed in the back by Taweewee Sodsong, head of the Southern Border Provinces Administration Centre (SBPAC), *The Nation* reported. Mr Chalermsak said Mr Taweewee had encouraged his ouster after the pair had a conflict.

Mr Chalermsak said the government was facing strong criticism over its rice-pledging scheme, portraying the political opposition as posing a significant threat against a weak administration on the verge of crisis.

He claimed the government was opening doors to a fresh conspiracy to overthrow it and it was not impossible that “Thaksin Shinawatra's political party” would be dissolved again.

Other Pheu Thai MPs joined in the grumbling, claiming that Mrs Yingluck had brought too many “outsiders” into the Cabinet who had not been voted for by the people.

Meanwhile, Ms Yingluck herself has taken over the Defence Min-



Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's Cabinet reshuffle has caused some interparty scuffling. Photo: The Nation

AROUND THE nation

istry portfolio, a move she claimed was intended to “enable the government to support the army”.

She denied the change had anything to do with the upcoming

army reshuffle, scheduled for October 1. Army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha is due to retire in October next year.

Ms Yingluck ruled out reports that Mr Chalermsak was upset with his transfer to the Labor Ministry, saying that the veteran politician, with his knowledge of law, would work towards labor integration in Southeast Asia.

Ms Yingluck and the new Cabinet posed for a photo at Government

House on Sunday, though Mr Chalermsak was notably absent.

The group were then sworn in by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej at Siriraj Hospital, where the monarch has been receiving treatment for the last few years.

Ms Yingluck told media she had chosen her ministers entirely on the basis of “suitability”, noting that the government had been in power for two years and it was time for a change.



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Farmers force Govt flip-flop over price for rice-pledging

THE Government has made a u-turn over its decision to reduce the rice-pledging price from 15,000 baht per tonne to 12,000 baht after coming under pressure from farmers.

The National Rice Policy Committee decided Monday to give in to farmers' demands, *The Nation* reported. Last week, farmers' groups held protests in the capital against the price reduction, which they say was announced suddenly and without their consultation.

Finance Minister Kittiratt Na Ranong said there was room to accommodate the change based on Agriculture Ministry data indicating a second-crop rice harvest of just 2.9 million tonnes. The price will hold at 15,000 baht per tonne for the remainder of the 2012-13 season.

Mr Kittiratt said the decision on next season's prices would take into account the global market and foreign exchange market rate moves.

The price would be announced some time ahead of the next harvest year, so farmers will be able



Rice prices have been restored to 15,000 baht per tonne. Photo: The Nation

to make a decision if they want to grow more rice or switch to other crops that could generate more cash, he said.

The government has accumulated huge stocks of rice which it has bought from farmers. It had hoped that by withholding stocks from the global market it could cause global rice prices to rise.

Instead, competitors such as Vietnam and India stepped in with output of their own.

The scheme is believed to have generated losses of about US\$4.4 billion.

The previous Commerce Minister, Boonsong Teriyapirom, has been replaced in the recent Cabinet reshuffle.

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Asean calms Spratly spat

China warns Philippines of 'counterstrike' as US starts war games

By Stuart Grudgings
and Manuel Mogato

CHINA has agreed to hold formal talks with Southeast Asian nations on a plan to ease maritime tensions following the Philippines accusing the Asian giant of causing "increasing militarization" of the South China Sea, one of Asia's naval flashpoints.

The rebuke by Philippine Foreign Minister Albert del Rosario at a regional summit in Brunei last Sunday came a day after China's state media warned of an inevitable "counterstrike" against the Philippines if it continued to provoke Beijing.

Friction between China and the Philippines over disputed territories in the Spratly Island area has surged since last year due to several naval stand-offs as China asserts its vast claims over the oil and gas rich sea.

The heated rhetoric came as both China and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) claimed progress in efforts to create a mechanism aimed at defusing naval tensions.

China agreed to hold "official consultations" on a proposed Code of Conduct (CoC) governing naval actions at a meeting with Asean in China in September, a step that Thailand's foreign minister hailed as "very significant".

The two sides had already agreed to hold the foreign ministers' meeting, which will follow a special Asean ministers' gathering on the South China Sea issue in Thailand in August.

"We agreed to maritime cooperation to make our surrounding sea a sea of peace, friendship and cooperation," Chinese Foreign



US Navy sailors and Marines disembark a landing craft as part of the recent Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) Philippines 2013, held near the hotly disputed area in the South China Sea. Photo: US Navy

AROUND THE region

Minister Wang Yi told reporters.

But Wang stressed that any progress on agreeing the new framework would be dependent on countries following a confidence-building "declaration of conduct" agreed in 2002 which it accuses the Philippines of violating.

"Both China and other coastal states in the South China Sea are making efforts for a stable South China Sea. I believe any activity taken by individual claimant coun-

tries to go against the trend will not enjoy the support of the majority of countries and will not succeed."

In the latest stand-off, the Philippines accused China of encroaching on its territory after three Chinese ships converged just five nautical miles from a small reef where the Philippines maintains a small military force.

This month the Philippines moved more troops and supplies to the reef, which is within its 200-nautical mile economic exclusion zone. China, which does not recognize the zone, condemned it as an "illegal occupation".

Del Rosario said the "massive" presence of Chinese military and paramilitary ships at the Second Thomas shoal and at another reef

called the Scarborough Shoal – the site of a tense standoff last year – was a threat to regional peace.

"The counterstrike statement is an irresponsible one. We condemn any threats of use of force," Del Rosario told reporters after a meeting of Asean foreign ministers.

He said the ministers discussed China's occupation of the Scarborough Shoal, which is 124 miles off the Philippine coast.

The worsening dispute came as Philippine-ally the United States, which says it has a national interest in freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, shifts its military attention back to Asia. US Secretary of State John Kerry joined the summit in Brunei on Monday.

– Reuters

In brief...

Cambodia reverses ban on foreign radio broadcasts

CAMBODIA has quickly reversed a ban on foreign media content on local radio stations after protests from broadcasters, the public and the United States, which had expressed concern about the flow of information ahead of a general election next month.

Prime Minister Hun Sen, one of the world's longest-serving leaders, has total control of local television and most radio stations. His Cambodian People's Party is expected to win the July 28 election.

– Reuters

Indonesia haze leaves 10,000 sick

THE heavy smog from forest fires that engulfed Riau province on Sumatra for weeks may have started to fade, but the region's problems are not yet over as the disaster has left at least 10,382 residents suffering from acute respiratory infections, the Riau Health Agency said on Monday.

About half the patients were reportedly children under five years of age, the agency said.

– Jakarta Post

13th century wreck found off Vietnam

THOUSANDS of antiquities from an ancient sunken ship have been discovered in Binh Son district in Vietnam's central province of Quang Ngai, Vietnam's state news agency reported on Monday.

More than 4,000 artifacts, including coins and ceramics, were recovered undamaged, and are believed to date back to the 13th century.

– Xinhua

Myanmar unrest re-ignites

RIOTERS torched two houses in a coastal town in Myanmar's Rakhine State in the latest violence between Buddhists and minority Muslims, a government spokesman said, but a resident said security forces had restored order on Monday.

At least 237 people have been killed in Myanmar in religious violence over the past year and about 150,000 people have been displaced. Most of the victims were Muslim and the most deadly incidents happened in Rakhine State, where about 800,000 Rohingya Muslims live, according to the United Nations.

In the latest flare-up, about 50 people gathered outside a police station in Thandwe on the west coast on Sunday after hearing a woman had been raped by "a man of another religion", government spokesman Ye Htut said on his Facebook page.

While the Thandwe riot was



A soldier walks among debris after a riot between Muslims and Buddhists in Lashio. Photo: Reuters

relatively minor, similar incidents in the past have led to larger and more deadly confrontations.

The rioters set two homes on fire after police asked the crowd to disperse.

"The Myanmar police force is working to reveal the offenders

and take action according to the law," Ye Htut said.

Three Muslims were injured in the fire, Ye Oo, a police deputy corporal in Thandwe, told Reuters by telephone.

Ye Htut said police had blocked roads into and out of the town, which has the closest airport to Ngapali beach, one of Myanmar's most popular beaches for tourists.

The United Nations said 140,000 people remain displaced in the state after clashes in June and October last year.

Two displaced people were killed and six wounded on June 27 when security forces used gunfire to disperse a crowd that had gathered at a military base in Kyein Ni Pyin, a camp for displaced persons in the Pauktaw area of Rakhine State.

Muslims make up about 5 per cent of the 60 million people in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

– Reuters

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Sansiri encourages iodized salt consumption to help boost IQ of children

In brief...

Top Vatican bank managers resign after cleric's arrest

TWO top managers of the scandal-plagued Vatican bank resigned on Monday following the arrest of a high-ranking cleric with close ties to the financial institution, in the latest of a string of embarrassments for the Holy See.

Director Paolo Cipriani and deputy-director Massimo Tulli stepped down three days after the Vatican was rocked by the arrest of Monsignor Nunzio Scarano, who is accused of plotting with two other people to smuggle 20 million euros into Italy from Switzerland.

Mexican politician killed in bloody run-up to elections

A MAYORAL candidate in a northern Mexican municipality was shot dead on Monday, the third attack on a politician in less than a week and the latest incident in the run-up to Mexico's first elections since last year's presidential vote.

Ricardo Reyes, a candidate for the leftist Citizen's Movement party, was running for mayor of San Dimas municipality. He was killed around midday in Tayoltita, a rural mining town in the north-western state of Durango, a party statement said.

It is still unclear who or what groups were behind the three separate attacks.

Germany says US 'Cold War' behavior unacceptable, if true

THE German government said on Monday if media reports of large-scale US spying on the EU were confirmed, it would be unacceptable Cold War-style behavior between partners who require mutual trust to forge a new transatlantic trade area.

Germany wanted an EU-US free trade deal which would foster economic growth and job creation, said Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman, Steffen Seibert. But he added: "Mutual trust is necessary in order to come to an agreement."

Snowden needs 'world's protection', says Venezuelan leader

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro said on Tuesday that Edward Snowden, the former US spy agency contractor, deserved the "world's protection" for divulging details of Washington's spy programme.

Mr Snowden, wanted by Washington on spying charges for revealing the secret US electronic surveillance programme Prism, has applied for political asylum in more than a dozen countries in his search for safety.

The 30-year-old is in legal limbo in the transit area of Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport, unable to leave the airport or fly on to a hoped-for

destination in Latin America because he has no legal travel documents.

On Monday, he broke a nine-day silence since arriving in Moscow from Hong Kong, challenging Washington by saying he was free to publish more about its programmes and that he was being illegally persecuted.

But while countries lined up to deny his asylum requests, Venezuela, part of an alliance of leftist governments in Latin America, said it was time to stop berating a man who has "done something very important for humanity".

US President Barack Obama, embarrassed

by the affair, has made clear that granting him asylum would carry costs.

In a statement released by WikiLeaks on Monday, Snowden accused the Obama administration of deception in a campaign to prevent him from finding political asylum and of "leaving me a stateless person" by revoking his US passport.

"Without any judicial order, the administration now seeks to stop me exercising a basic right," Mr Snowden said. "A right that belongs to everybody. The right to seek asylum."

— Reuters

Millions gather to support army ultimatum to Mursi

AROUND THE world

By Alexander Dziadosz

WHEN military helicopters monitoring Egypt's protests whirr over downtown Cairo, storekeepers and shoppers stop talking and crane their heads to catch a glimpse.

The talk is largely of the army anyway. In a dramatic re-entry into politics on Monday, the armed forces gave President Mohamed Mursi 48 hours to meet the demands of millions of protesters to yield power or face an imposed solution.

As those hours ran out on Wednesday when the *Gazette* went to print, the rhetoric was getting hotter and neither side showed any sign of flinching.

The army ultimatum has bred relief among many Egyptians, weary of what they see as President Mursi's clumsy, power-grasping rule, and who see the army as the only national institution capable of getting a chaotic revolutionary transition back on track.

It has also revived mixed memories of the 17 months the armed forces spent running the country after the 2011 uprising that toppled Hosni Mubarak. Their



Millions gather early in the week to support the army's threat of removing President Mursi. Photo: Reuters

rule was marked by violent protests and, watchdog groups say, flagrant human rights abuses.

Senior members of President Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood have called the army's warning a "coup" and in an impassioned speech early on Wednesday, the president warned Egyptians not to let democratic legitimacy and their revolution be stolen from them.

Watching the address on a cafe television on Tahrir Square, where anti-Mursi demonstrators gathered

to celebrate the army's move, Mutwali Sayed Mutwali retorted that President Mursi's defiance was risking bloodshed: "He wants to kill his people? He wants to turn it into another Syria? We will tell him no, Mursi."

Farther from the square, Ahmed Fatouh, 33, a downtown shop owner, said the army statement took him off guard – he thought it was through with politics – but it was probably for the best given Egypt's deep economic

and political malaise.

"The military returning is a tough thing," he said. "But it's better for the country in these circumstances."

A 60-year-old man standing near a clothing shop said Egyptians had "learned their lesson," and would choose their next president carefully after President Mursi was pushed out. "We trust the army," he said. "A new phase is about to begin."

— Reuters

Probe launched into deaths of 19 elite American firefighters

FIRE investigators in central Arizona launched a probe on Monday into how wind-driven flames closed in on and killed 19 specially trained firemen in a tragedy that marked the greatest loss of life among firefighters in a US wildland blaze in 80 years.

The precise circumstances surrounding Sunday's deaths of all but one of a 20-member elite Hotshots firefighting team remained unclear a day after they perished while battling a blaze that has destroyed scores of homes and forced the evacuation of two towns.

But fire officials said the young men fell

victim to a volatile mix of erratic winds gusting to gale-force intensity, low humidity, a sweltering heat wave, and thick, drought-parched brush that had not burned in some 40 years.

The doomed firefighters had managed to deploy their personal fire shelters, tent-like safety devices designed to deflect heat and trap breathable air, in a last-ditch effort to survive that ultimately proved futile, officials said.

Still, conditions faced by the Hotshots, a ground crew that fights flames at close range with hand tools and serves as the shock troops in a firefighting force, were

typical for the wildfires they are trained to battle, fire officials said.

Standard safety protocols followed by such crews appeared to be in place, and investigators are trying to determine exactly what went wrong in this instance, they said.

"It had to be a perfect storm in order for this to happen. Their situational awareness and their training was at such a high level that it's unimaginable that this has even happened," Prescott Fire Department spokesman Wade Ward told ABC's "Today" program.

— Reuters



The team of US Hotshots. Photo: Reuters

PROPERTY Gazette

‘Business Landmark’ in the works on Bypass Rd

KEEP your eyes on the look-out – Bypass Biz Town, currently under construction right smack along the middle of one of the island’s most lucrative roads, is poised to be Phuket’s latest and greatest “Business Landmark”.

Building on previous successes, reputable developer Boat Development Co Ltd, is fulfilling a much-needed real estate niche with its latest project, touted to be Phuket’s first development to offer a combined retail and commercial office building with units for sale and lease.

Estimated to be valued at just under a billion baht (upon completion of all three of its planned phases), the development will be ready to occupy by late next year.

Indeed, its superior location offers plenty of incentive and promise to investors and tenants seeking maximum exposure and convenient access to city amenities – whether residential, commercial, retail, cultural or other popular attractions.

Officially known as Chalmphrakiat King Rama IX Road, the Bypass Road presents great potential for business on the island. The island’s busiest thoroughfare already boasts a number of Phuket’s prime shopping centers and supermarkets; among them Central Festival, the Index Living Mall, HomeWorks, Tesco Lotus, Big C, as well as Makro, which is just a block west along Wichit Songkhram road en route to Patong.

In addition to these, the prime traffic artery is home to a number of renowned out-



STAND OUT: The new development will be hard to miss along Phuket’s busiest road.

lets and showrooms including the Premium Factory Outlet, Gems Gallery and the Pornthip food gift center, among several esteemed automobile dealerships and service centers – Toyota Sure, TSL Auto and AutoExpress.

The strong preference shown by developers, businesses and investors is not surprising to any keen speculator, considering that the Bypass Road is the primary route connecting the northern and southern parts of Phuket, not to mention one of the preferred routes for accessing the island’s main tourist areas of Patong, Kata, Karon, Nai Harn, Chalong Bay and Cape Phromthep.

Highlighting the upward transition of the neighborhood is the construction of many large projects to commence this year, including a huge expansion of Central Festival; Boon Thavorn Store; The Mall Department store and numerous condominiums.

In the heart of it all will be the island’s new Business Land Mark – Bypass Biz Town.

What will make the development stand out from the crowd, as well as create a promi-



CHARACTER: The unique project will be valued at just under a billion baht once completed.

nent visual landmark to the lucrative road-side, is the developments facade, which will be centered around a unique and aesthetically-appealing sculpture and water fountain.

Situated between Underwood Art Factory and Sangchai hardware store, the mixed-use project will also be accessible from Pracha Uthit 3 and 5 roads (the route east and parallel to the Bypass Road), and a stone’s throw to the residential neighborhoods and hospitals.

The development will include both commercial and residential zones comprising cutting-edge-design commercial units with residential space, as well as “Smart Home-Offices”. Prices in these zones will start from 6 million baht.

As for the residential zone, this will be known as Nautica Villa @ Bypass Biz Town,

with the focus on “modern resort lifestyle”. Prices for units in the Nautica Villas will start from around 2.4mn baht, with the more spacious X-Villas starting at 5mn baht.

The project is expected to generate a lot of buzz in the investment community, especially if the developers’ track record is any indicator; Boat Development is best known for its rapid off-plan sell-out successes with various projects, including the Boat Lagoon marina in Koh Kaew, Samkong Park, Boat Plaza and Grand Boat Plaza close to Phuket Town, as well as Boat Avenue in Cherng Talay.

As the latest, Bypass Biz Town also looks to be the greatest.

For more information, please contact the project’s sales representative on 081-086-1881



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Preserving Phuket's old streets

By Kanyawarat Pramprasert

AS SPRAWL and congestion take full-hold of our island, Phuket city municipality planners and engineers strive, yet struggle, to preserve the last remnants of urban historical heritage, yet continue to face a number of obstacles obstructing the way ahead.

Indeed, the narrow streets in Phuket's Old Town district are currently undergoing a drastic makeover. The electrical wires that currently hang precariously up and down the streets are on the immediate list to soon be moved underground.

Phuket Municipality, along with the Provincial Electrical Authority (PEA), ToT Pcl and CAT Telecom Pcl, have undertaken the project to help restore the Old Town's historical charm, mostly in an attempt to maintain, if not increase tourism appeal.

The first phase of the city beautification initiative took place on Thalang Road and Soi Romanee with work finishing over a year ago. The second phase has already started on sections of Krabi, Dibuk, Phuket and Thepkasattri Roads.

However, Mr Kriangsak Chuchatpong Phuket city municipality director of engineering told the Gazette that construction on Yaowarat road, which is in the second phase, has stalled.

"We cannot install [tap into the] main power [grid] underground [in that area], and have [instead] been considering two [access or

routing] points, around Soi Soon Utit and Phang Nga road... We're also waiting for the decision [approval] from the governor and contractor.

"The [underground grid] project will run from the junction of Yaowarat and Debuk roads, to the fountain traffic circle, and we expect to proceed in October, 2013." Meanwhile, the third phase, which has no set start date yet, will cover parts of Phang Nga, Rassada, Yaowarat and Dibuk Roads.

Beyond these efforts to bury

along narrow streets in old city centers. He noted that the narrow streets in Japan are very similar to the ones in Thailand, especially Pahurat, Bang Lampoo, Sampang and Yaowarat in Bangkok.

But, unlike "Old urban Japan", he said the old center of Bangkok tends to be ignored, while improvements to infrastructure and development ideas tend to focus around newer areas such as, Silom, Ratchada Pisek, Rama 3, Bang Na, Srinaka-rin and Pin Klao.

These areas of Bangkok have followed a more modern western design with wider streets.

Bangkok is a city that is expanding outwards from its old center and this development destroys the surrounding environment, according to Dr Sophon.

Before the city started sprawling, Bang Mod was the best location to grow oranges and Bang Na was the best area to harvest rice. Now these areas are full of buildings.

Old city centers in Japan are developed to become the commercial hub of the city and high density buildings are built, whereas in Bangkok people move away from the old center instead of trying to develop it.

And as Phuket planners and developers continue to compete and contest where the island's "next center" will be, perhaps it is wise to continue to improve, perfect and build on our existing treasures.



JAPAN: This narrow street in Osaka is an example of good city planning. Photo: Luke Ma

cables, we need not lose sight of the greater picture. Treading steadily along the path of city beautification, planners can also look for inspiration in other island based cities.

Dr Sopon Pornchokchai, president of Agency for Real Estate Affairs (AREA), recently conducted research on the narrow streets found in cities in Japan, and made comparison to those in Bangkok and elsewhere in Thailand.

Dr Sophon believes that a city should maintain and encourage the improvement (of aesthetic appeal)



Old Phuket Town's electric cables will be buried. Photo: Pimwara Choksakulpan



BANGKOK: Yaowarat Rd in the old center of Bangkok has been largely ignored in favor of developing new areas of the city. Photo: Milei Vencel

ASEAN real estate strong

THE economies of the ASEAN markets continue to out-pace the rest of the world by a significant margin. While Singapore remains the commercial and financial hub, emerging markets are making headway across Southeast Asia (SEA) as the continued global economic recovery and growth in the region increase liquidity and reduce debt, growth prospects in real estate assets across the region will attract global investors.

Despite a slight slowdown during the first quarter of 2013 in some SEA markets, such as Indonesia and Thailand, economies across the region anticipate growth for the remainder of the year.

Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam are expected to grow between 4.5 and 5.5% driven by strong domestic demand.

Chris Fossick, managing director, Singapore and Southeast Asia at Jones Lang LaSalle, said, "This growth translates to robust domestic investment into commercial property, driving demand for office and logistics space. Increased consumer spending will boost demand for expanded retail formats, which

in turn will support the developments of retail malls and the subsequent accompanying infrastructure in emerging markets. We are now starting to see increased transparency in the real estate markets of these economies which will ultimately spur regional growth encouraging investment," he said.

While economic growth drives corporate activity across SEA, businesses are making changes to accommodate growing workforces and modernized office spaces in new, emerging markets.

Existing companies seek space to accommodate expansion and new businesses and industries demand a share in the markets, demand for offices will spike and vacancy levels are forecasted to reach historic lows by 2014.

Backed by increased domestic demand, office market rents and capital values, Thailand's real estate market has demonstrated recovery since the end of 2012, rising 15.2% year-on-year in the first quarter of 2013. Meanwhile increases of 1 to 4% in office rents were seen in some other emerging SEA markets, such as Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok

Thanks to improvements in

SEA economies and international trade, ASEAN industrial and logistics markets have reached historic highs and show no signs of slowing, as trade volumes are predicted to increase by 130% over the next 10 years. Real estate will have a critical role in driving trade and industrial growth across SEA markets. Many have already experienced rates increase as a result of improved foreign investment and a tighter supply base. As foreign investment continues and more borders once blocking global trade open, most developers will seek new markets in the SEA region that will boost competitiveness and emerging markets' growth.

In Thailand, the local retail market also enjoyed renewed interest from international retail brands looking to capitalize on resilient domestic demand and overall rising affluence in Asia. Leasing activity was strong, largely driven by newcomers and expansions by international brands with retail rents in Bangkok growing 4.1% y-o-y and capital values rising by 3.4 y-o-y in Q1 this year.

- Phuket Gazette and JLL

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Boom in budget hotels

THE changing regional and domestic tourism landscape is creating a lot of business opportunities. More budget hotels are opening, with investors out to cash in on the rising number of middle-class and solo travelers, thanks to the tourism boom and economic prosperity.

Most operators agree that this hotel segment has good prospects. Thailand is a key tourism destination in the region, with Bangkok as a hub. The growing number of low-cost carriers are also spurring the arrival of a large number of foreign tourists.

Travelers' behavior is changing too. Tourists are getting smarter. Many are looking for good value-for-money accommodation. They have no need for facilities beyond daily life or to create an "extreme trip" during their stay.

Investors have caught on to this trend also. The cost of building budget hotels is lower than for five-star hotels, which also means a faster return. In general, a premium hotel takes from seven to 10 years to break even on investment. More importantly, only a few players share that bigger cake in the market.

Patrick Basset, Accor Group's senior president for Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and the Philippines, said there are currently only 30 properties branded as economy or budget hotels across the nation, providing standardized service. So the outlook for the sector is bright and will have more new openings. Accor also wants to focus on this segment.

Accor currently runs nine Ibis and one Ibis Styles economy hotels. Next year, it

will open a new Ibis Styles in Krabi, and in 2015, it will open an Ibis Bangkok Impact.

On average, its hotels charge 1,300 baht for rooms in these hotels per night. Accor launched the new Ibis family last year – Ibis, Ibis Styles, and Ibis Budget as a "premium economy" product line to offer more variety in design and comfort for guests to choose from. But the Ibis Budget brand has yet be launched in Thailand.

Accor has run economy hotels in Asia since 1990 and now has 121 Ibis hotels in 11 nations in the Asia Pacific and 119 hotels in the pipeline. Worldwide, there are 1,634 Ibis hotels.

In Thailand, Basset said the company plans to continue expanding the Ibis network to serve rising demand, especially from middle-class tourists from China, Russia, and India looking for modern, full-serviced accommodation that offer value-for-money rates.

Central Plaza Hotel, operator of Centara hotels and resorts, has jumped into this market under its COSI brand. It is the first Thai economy brand to compete with international chains. The first COSI will open in early 2015. And by 2020, it hopes to operate 30 properties under this brand in major cities around the country and across the region.

Tune Hotels, established by Tony Fernandes, founder of Malaysia-based AirAsia low-cost carrier, is also looking for locations across the country for new openings, along with a rising role of his low-cost carrier. Under its concept, it does not provide extra facilities such as spa,



CHEAP HOLIDAY: The new Tune Hotel in Patong, illustrates the trend towards low cost hotels aimed at middle-class holiday makers in Asia. Photo: Tune Group

swimming pool, or fitness.

Aticha Pasaprates, country head in Indochina for Tune Hotels, said new openings would be in prime areas in tourism destinations such as Bangkok. They would aim to get close to mass transport, entertainment, shopping areas, and beaches.

Tune in Bangkok is close to the Skytrain, while another in Patong is near entertainment and shopping.

There are four Tune Hotels in Thailand: Pattaya, Bangkok, Patong, and Haad Yai. A fifth is due to open in Silom next year.

– The Nation



BUDGET ROOMS: The no-frills Ibis Siam in central Bangkok. Photo: Alexi Kostibas











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Save us from safety savings

DYING in an airplane crash is not exactly my idea of heading off into the hereafter with a veritable big bang. Much less trying to escape from a burning plane about to explode in a widescreen Bruce Willis *Die Hard* epic.

But perhaps let me wind this back a little to pre-Grantville.

Last Thursday, a last minute business meeting came up in Jakarta and glancing at the clock which had just hit 2:38pm, I knew my fate was sealed. My secretary confirmed this over the next hour of frantic calls and even more frenzied online searching for flight options.

Less than twenty-four hours to go and, needless to say, dealing with airlines might even be worse than trying to get a taxi from Phuket International Airport to anywhere on the island for less than a mighty sum of cash. Actually nothing is worse than Phuket unmetered taxis, but let's just say the airlines are master managers of taking the last hundred baht off of you in your own hour of need.

A number of options were at hand but the conclusion came out



Last Call

By Bill Barnett

the same – AirAsia is just so damned cheap that it was hard to resist. Being an all too frequent traveler I understand the Phuket to Jakarta flights are on the airlines' Indonesia affiliate. There would no doubt be a delay, a completely trashed plane, but again it was half the price of the other options. My fate was sealed.

To answer those who believe me to be a cynic or unrepentant narcissist, yes, my worst fears were realized. The plane was late, and the seat pocket in front of me contained what appeared to be a half-eaten piece of chicken. At least I think it was chicken.

Up into the air our feisty bunch bounced, as the aroma of Burger King filled my inner space, to the crunchy sounds of french fries eaten by the group of three in the seat behind me. Never mind, there are worse things in life than wiffy fast food smells.

With the plane leveling off, and most of the beverage selections being sold out, though I did score a lukewarm Pulpy Orange, I was told the ice had run out. Later the crew roamed the aisles like that guy on Discovery Channel's *Dirty Job* and snatched trash out of passenger's hands. They managed to miss what I still think must have been the lone piece of chicken.

Down came the lights, and the flight attendants massed at the rear of the plane for a sleepover, while I journeyed to the front restroom. Passing by the emergency exit, I had to step over filled up garbage bags. "Isn't blocking emergency exits with large items against any international safety standard?" – I thought to myself. Later, making a second trip to wash my hands before landing, yes, the bags were still there, taking up the space for over half of our two-hour plus flight.

I had to reflect, was I jeopardizing my own safety just to save money? Was I taking the cheap way out? It certainly seemed that way the next day when I tried to find a



CUST CUTTING CHOICES: Fancy a juice, water or parachute? Photo: xcode

way to send my photo of the onerous bags to AirAsia management in order to alert them about my concerns over air safety. Of course, as anyone who has ever tried to contact a low-cost airline knows, it is next to impossible. It's a dead-end and some hour and a half later, I realized my good-intentioned-but-doomed mission had failed.

Certainly there is the argument that low-cost anything comes at a price of poor service. Did you ever try to send a burger back at McDonald's or talk to the manager at a 7-11? We have come to accept that low-cost or cheap products have an inherent downside that if things go wrong, you simply walk away as 'it was just so cheap.'

I checked around the Internet about how to actually complain to AirAsia, but I clearly am not alone in my angst. These days the only real leverage any traveler has is threatening to write a bad TripAdvisor report, but this has no weight with the airlines, as the online review site is strongly focused on hotels and restaurants.

What is clear in the age of low-cost travel is that customers are never right and no one really gives a damn.

You could argue that AirAsia

is not exactly a shining example of greatness and I'd be the first to agree. Still, I've watched Tony Fernandes on *The Apprentice Asia* and have to wonder where does the "brandspeak" end and the promise to customers kick in? Maybe in the next life, which could come all too soon if I try to make an emergency exit over those garbage bags.

It's interesting how the low-cost airlines have embraced social media driven, high-velocity sales.

Yet, searching high and low, I can find a hundred ways to "Like" them or send them high-five photos of great trips. But when I have a problem waiting to be addressed, the passage becomes a maze of unsolvable conclusions.

So you might ask, will I stop flying AirAsia? The answer is no. It is just so cheap that I can't resist the bargain. Would I take another option at a similar price? Yes. Low-cost flying is a great development of the past few years, but make no mistake, it does come at a cost to passengers. Hey, Tony, are you listening?

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



As airlines cut back on costs, some are concerned that safety standards will also get cut. Photo: Doug Caribb

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Bulging breast market

IN THE latest drive to promote the island's medical tourism industry, Bangkok Hospital Phuket (BHP) recently held an innovative "boob job" seminar.

Entitled "Breast Augmentation Using Contour Profile Gel Implant Live Surgery Workshop", the seminar was held on June 28 and attended by some 25 cosmetic surgeons from Asia Pacific countries, especially Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Dr. Narongrit Havarungsri, BHP director, said: "Breast augmentation is popular among women world wide, as breasts symbolize and convey femininity, [and also because] surgery technologies have fewer side effects [than before]. "Dr Narongrit noted, "Each year, more than 1,000 people, mostly

foreigners, visit [our] hospital for breast augmentation. Australians and Russians are the biggest client group for this service."

The one-day seminar included a live demonstration of a new breast augmentation technique that utilizes contour profile gel implants.

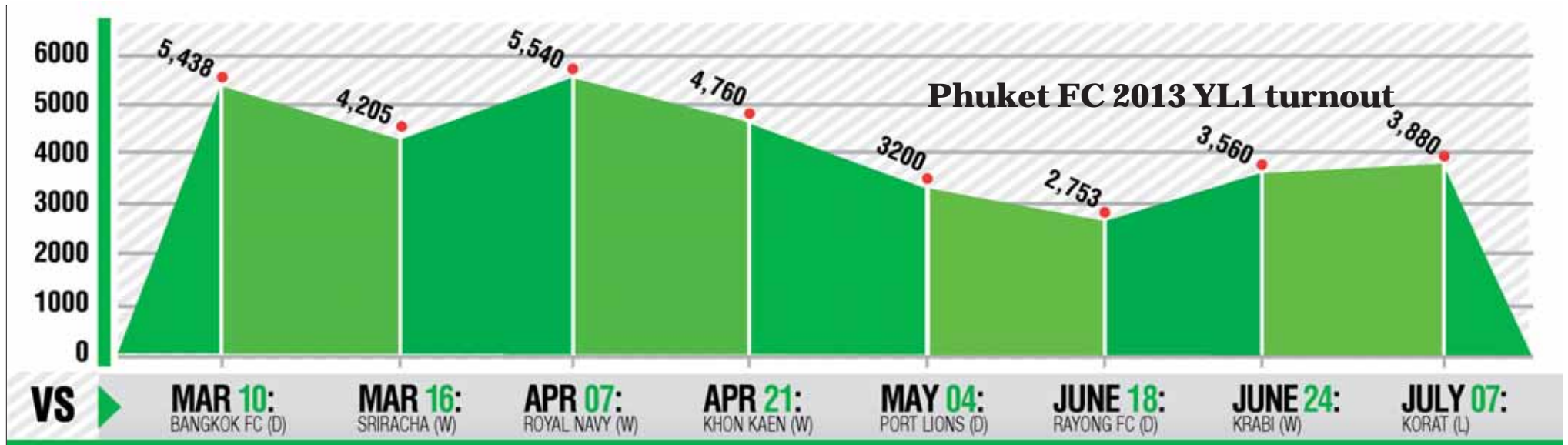
The seminar was the second (first seminar in 2012) in an ongoing series of events organized by BHP to exchange medical knowledge and promote the hospital to become a medical tourism hub.

The next planned is the "Phuket International Symposium in Colorectal Disease", set for December 8-10, 2013, followed by a conference about cancer in February, 2014.

– Kanyawarat Pramprasert

Footy club turnover doubles

Average home-match turnout for Phuket FC grows nearly two-fold in past year



DWINDLING BUT NOT DOWN: Although turnout figures this year appear to be declining, total home-match fan turnout has doubled when compared to the same period last year.

By Steven Layne

TICKETING and merchandising revenue for the island's pro soccer club, Phuket FC, doubled year-on-year, while the club's fan turnout has swelled by 93% during the same period.

Now at the mid-season point, business seems to be booming for the island's pro soccer club, at least compared to this time last year when fan support for the club was dwindling.

But thanks to strong financial reinforcement by primary sponsors, Kata Group, Phuket FC's prospects are looking up this year round.

Out of the 18 clubs in the Yamaha League One (YL1) – Thailand's 2nd-tier national soccer league – the club enjoyed the second highest home match turnout.

However, it came in seventh in terms of revenue turnover, and second-to-last for its fans' per-head spending average.

According to preliminary statistics for the 2013 season's first 17 of 34 scheduled matches, a total of 33,336 fans bought tickets to attend Phuket FC's first eight home matches at Surakul Stadium, held from March through June, this year.

In the first half of the 2012 season, the club sold only 17,275 tickets for its first nine

matches, equating to only 1,919 fans per match.

This year, average match turnout has more than doubled to 4,167 fans per match, which is second only to Nakhon Ratchasima FC (Korat) who averaged 7,603 fans per match.

Phuket FC's highest turnout for a match so far this season was on April 7, against Royal Navy (Phuket won 1-0), which had an official attendance of 5,540.

The club's lowest turnout so far was on May 18 against Rayong FC (a 2-2 draw), with 2,753 tickets sold.

By far, Korat is the YL1's most popular team, as measured by both turnout and turnover.

Earning an average of just under 600,000 baht per match, the Isan-based club sold tickets to 68,427 fans for its nine first home matches – that's twice as much as the team with the second highest turnout, Phuket FC.

But unlike Phuket, Korat maximized its fan base's per-head spending, churning out a whopping 5,384,280 baht from ticket sales (about 4.3 million baht) as well as merchandising (1.08mn baht), or 78.6 baht per fan – the league's 12th highest or 7th lowest average.

This is compared to Phuket FC fans' average spending of 62.9 baht per-head – the league's second lowest average,

ahead of just Bangkok FC (44.29 baht)

However, due to having a relatively larger fan base (2nd highest in the league), the Islanders were 7th out of 18 clubs in gross turnover, earning just over 2mn baht from ticketing (about 1.6mn baht) and merchandising (429,260 baht).

From its eight first home matches, the club made on average, just over 262,000 baht per match – 142% more than last year's 108,500 baht per match revenue

The YL1 team with the highest fan spending average was table toppers Air Force United, who earned over 3.5mn baht from ticketing (2.05mn baht) and merchandising (1.5mn baht), or 147.9 baht per-head (24,036 spectators so far)

In addition to Air Force, five other clubs had fans' per head spending average higher than 100 baht. These were Trat (143.1); Port Lions (133.6); Nakhon Pathom (133); BUCU (121.7) and Ayuthaya (112).

It should be noted that the above turnout figures may not include all match attendees (children and students who were admitted for free), nor do the turnover figures include all of the clubs' sources of revenue (rewards, sponsorship, advertising and broadcasting).

2013 DIVISION I SEASON TURNOUT & TURNOVER						
	Club	Spectators	Ticket Sales	Merchandising	Revenue	Per Head
1	Korat	68,427	4,297,266	1,087,014	5,384,280	78.69
2	Phuket	33,336	1,668,300	429,260	2,097,560	62.92
3	Ayuthaya	33,282	1,944,420	1,785,840	3,730,260	112.08
4	PTT Rayong	29,557	1,479,790	694,770	2,174,560	73.57
5	Bangkok	26,323	749,791	416,001	1,165,792	44.29
6	Air Force	24,036	2,053,350	1,503,752	3,557,102	147.99
7	Khon Kaen	23,521	1,317,160	490,752	1,807,912	76.86
8	Trat	21,606	995,559	995,559	3,092,189	143.12
9	Nakhon Pathom	18,524	847,520	847,520	2,465,046	133.07
10	Saraburi	18,301	1,016,648	721,884	1,738,532	95
11	Krabi	17,142	1,209,515	179,500	1,389,015	81.03
12	Navy	16,203	960,070	189,001	1,149,071	70.92
13	Port Lions	14,079	1,368,180	512,953	1,881,133	133.61
14	Rayong FC	12,175	946,370	217,380	1,163,750	95.59
15	Si Racha	9,727	651,610	290,000	941,610	96.8
16	Rayong Utd	4,813	384,370	81,210	465,580	96.73
17	BUCU	4,569	103,406	103,406	556,206	121.73
18	TTM	3,976	252,540	1,485	254,025	63.89
	Total	379,597	21,006,825	10,547,287	35,013,623	

Shrunk duty sought by shrimp head

PRESIDENT of Thai Shrimp Association Somsak Panee Tatayasai has led a team of shrimp farmer representatives to submit a petition to the European Union ambassador to Thailand, asking for an extension of the Generalized System of Preferences, or GSP, privileges on processed maritime products.

The GSP, which reduces export taxes from 20% to 7%, was granted last December and is due to expire in January of next year.

However since the end of last year, the local shrimp industry has been severely hit by Early Mortality Syndrome (EMS), which has reduced the nation's shrimp output by as much as 50%. Mr Somsak estimated that this year's shrimp export figure would only be around 250,000 tons, down from the usual 500,000 to 550,000 tons.

He expected that the EMS issue would soon be addressed and the output level would return to normal in 2014, since the Department of Fisheries and the private sector have been working around the clock on the issue.

The EU has granted the privileges to Thailand before, in 2004 when the shrimp industry faced a similar predicament.

According to Somsak, the shrimp industry is one of the most important players in the country's export sector. It provides more than 1.5 million jobs to locals, who would be affected if the authorities are oblivious to the GSP issue. – *National News Bureau of Thailand*



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Shooting for island justice

THE failure of police to bring to justice the man who shot and killed 21-year-old Ekkasit Sangangam in the heart of Phuket Town in early May last year will come as little surprise to veteran observers of Thailand's criminal justice system.

A low-ranking officer assigned to the Patong Police was arrested and charged within minutes of the shooting, which took place on Phuket Town's infamous Phun Phol Soi 11 (see page 2). Also arrested was his brother, who was charged with conspiracy to commit murder.

Despite having all of the initial indications of being a "slam dunk" case, police were either unwilling or unable to gather sufficient evidence for the Prosecutor's Office to try the case in court.

It is of course impossible to know with certainty what actually transpired that night, but the lack of transparency and unwillingness of the police and Public Prosecutor to comment on the details of the "investigation" is disturbing in itself – and will do little to overturn widespread public perceptions that members of the law-enforcement community effectively live above the laws they are sworn to uphold.

At last report, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut had yet to sign off on the document sent to him by the Prosecutor's Office indicating its intent to drop the case. This means there is still time to re-investigate and try to collect more evidence that might lead to a trial and possible conviction.

It might not be easy getting people who were in the red light district in the early hours to testify, but as past investigations into murders of foreign tourists have shown on many occasions, the course of justice can run very swiftly when the police are under pressure to make arrests or finesse confessions.

Sadly, and as many cases involving alleged misdeeds by officials in the past have shown us, the opposite also appears to be true.

Those entrusted to enforce the law should be held to a higher level of accountability than the average citizen, not lower. In fact, our laws embody this notion. Prison terms for human trafficking convictions are twice as long for government officials than civilians, and three times as long for officials whose job is to prevent the illegal movement of people in the country (see page 3).

To our knowledge, we are the only news outlet to follow this particular case to what some cynics might refer to as its "inevitable conclusion". For the sake of maintaining public trust, we hope that Governor Maitri will not sign off on the case dismissal without first ordering a re-investigation, or at least issuing a clear statement as to why the officer suspected should be once again free to walk the streets with impunity.



Rooting for taxis over tuk-tuks

Re: Gazette online, Phuket tuk-tuk drivers protest illegal taxis, June 26

I think the tuk-tuk drivers are a joke. They represent a group who basically steals from tourists by charging high prices.

I hope they lose and these "illegal" drivers can challenge the tuk-tuk drivers to make the price more competitive.

When I come to phuket, I usually walk.

Charlie
Bangkok

does get finished.

Keep up providing the good reads. (Cannot wait to get back there.)

Steve Crampton
Cairns

Solve the Koh Kaew jams with no parking

Re: Gazette online, Koh Kaew u-turn lane lengthened to relieve congestion, June 27

Why not use two per cent of the budget to make all parking illegal (paint curbs red and put up signs) and then enforce it.

A huge contributor to the congestion issue is the illegal parking on the west side of the road, reducing 3 lanes to 1 1/2.

Andaman golfer
Gazette forum

Red light at home on human trafficking

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Human trafficking is Thailand's failure, June 30

These illegal workers get stuck in a work trap with very low pay. Maybe pressure should be put on their home governments first.

If Myanmar and other countries want to move forward, then they have to make domestic changes.

Patrick
Gazette forum

Landscape on fire

Re: Gazette online, Monsoon wind to spare Phuket from Indonesian haze, June 26

[The haze problem] is the direct result of our requirement for palm oil.

Official figures show that more than half of Indonesia's rainforest, the third-largest swath in the

world, has been felled in a few years and permission has been granted to convert up to 70 per cent of what remains into palm or acacia plantations.

This is one of the fastest, most comprehensive transformations of an entire landscape that has ever taken place.

Sebastian
Gazette forum

Waste of court time

Re: Gazette online, False start for Phuket murder trial of Swedish man, June 28

This is ridiculous, with too much money and time wasted because the investigator could not call in advance and inform the court that he would not be showing up.

Many people show up and they also have to arrange for the transportation of the accused from the prison.

Unless he has a very good excuse, will the investigator pay for all those costs? Or will it be the tax payer who pays for his possibly arrogant behavior?

The court could have done other work if the investigator had shown respect for it.

Mj
Gazette forum

Tear the hotels down

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Gazette Thailand News: Illegal resorts slash forests; June 29

If these resorts take national park land, then they should be dismantled and made to fix the forest. No excuses.

Plus, these resorts should be fined millions of baht to stop others from doing the same.

The natural forest is part of the attraction of Phuket as well.

Terry Crofts
Gazette forum

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Fine swimmers who ignore red flags

Re: Gazette online, Singaporean tourists saved at Phuket's Surin Beach, June 25

Institute a 10,000 baht fine for entering the water against the red flags; 30,000 baht for a rescue.

Pass the law, post the signs in six languages and rake in the cash.

But make sure the flags match the conditions. I have seen red flags on days when the water is a millpond.

William
Gazette forum

Compliments to Bill

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Property Watch: Big bang of luxury, June 25

I read [Bill Barnett's] piece with the delightful Lexus photo. Very enjoyable read for an Aussie in Cairns who just likes keeping tabs on fabulous Thailand.

Being 60 and working with Cairns Regional Council, it is always fascinating to watch the evolution of Phuket.

What an amazing kaleidoscope of culture, crime, innocence and mayhem. Yet it all seems to work somehow.

I cannot wait to see the artwork that is Phuket – if it ever

Keeping Chinese tourists safe by certifying guides

FIRST PERSON

AROUND one million Chinese tourists come to Phuket every year – they represent the biggest single group of tourists – and there have been many accidents and deaths of Chinese tourists while they were here. Their safety should be our top priority.

The things that can influence tourists' safety are guides, tour companies and the tourists themselves, and I think the most important element is guides.

There are currently about 200 legal Chinese-speaking Thai guides in Phuket. That's not enough to serve all the Chinese tourists who come here, so tour companies have a couple of tricks to get around this.

They either hire a Thai who can speak Chinese but has not been trained as a guide, or they let a Chinese citizen guide the group and have a certified Thai guide who cannot speak Chinese go along in case they are stopped by police.

In the first case, the untrained guide can speak Chinese but may not have enough knowledge to guide the tourists safely. In the second case, the two guides may have communication problems.

Right now there are about 400 illegal Chinese-speaking Thai guides in Phuket.

It seems like the government is just trying to catch these illegal guides. This is not a real solution; it's a waste of time. The guides pay a fine and keep working. The real solution is to help these illegal guides become legal by providing them with training.

I've already suggested this to



Chaifu Saelee, 43, is a Chiang Mai native with a diploma in tourism from Srinakharinwirot University in Bangkok. He worked as an interpreter for two years before joining Phuket Huang Tai Tour as a guide. He now is a guide with Phuket Super Holiday Travel.

Here, he talks about how to increase safety for Chinese tourists in Phuket by helping illegal guides become legal.

government officials. I led a protest to meet the governor and ask him to open a tour class to certify Thai Chinese-speaking guides. He said he would do it a long time ago, but he hasn't yet.

Lack of available training is a real problem. There's no educational institution in Phuket that has a course focusing on Thai Chinese-speaking guides. There's a guide program at Prince of Songkhla University, but you need a bachelor's degree to take it and it's in English. You can study Chinese, but only as a second language, not to become a guide.

It won't be hard to solve this problem if all the parties work together. The Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket office should coordinate with educational institutions to help illegal guides get the training they need to be licensed as legal guides.

And the police should diligently check tour companies to make sure they are complying with guide laws and not hiring Chinese citizens as guides.

Finally, there's the issue of the tourists themselves. Chinese tourists are notoriously hard to control. If they want to do something, they do it, even if their guide has told them not to.

But I'll tell you this – when I'm guiding Chinese tourists, I only have to say things once. When we first meet, I tell them straight out, if they travel with me, they have to do what I say.

I hope the government sees the importance of opening a certification course for Chinese-speaking Thai guides in Phuket.

Just a small mistake or misunderstanding can result in harm or even death to a tourist. I don't want that, and I don't want tourists to have a bad impression of Phuket tourism.

'I led a protest to meet the governor and ask him to open a tour class to certify Thai Chinese-speaking guides. He said he would do it a long time ago, but he hasn't yet.'



The coveted fluid replenishment tray at the PRBC. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

It doesn't hurt to give

ON THIS lovely island renowned for its wonderful spas, the place I've felt most pampered is not one.

It's the sleek and modern PRBC, the Phuket Regional Blood Center, next to the employment office, staffed by professionals delivering five-star service to those of us who give about 45 minutes of our time and about 10 per cent of our blood.

The center is immaculate and the equipment more high tech than I've ever seen, with scales that oscillate as they weigh the blood being drawn and tubes that seem to magically clamp shut.

And there's never any waiting: you fill out a screening questionnaire, get weighed, have a finger pricked for a blood test, then someone brings you a glass of water and it's off to a comfortable reclining chair to be tucked in with a sheet lest the air conditioner prove too chilly.

The nurses are the so-experienced-it-doesn't-hurt kind and it's all over in about 15 minutes. The only thing left to do is replenish your vital fluids in the refreshment area. This is my favorite part.

An attendant brings over a clear plastic tray about six inches long, which holds a box of Milo drink, a glass of sweet punch, a small piece of foil-wrapped cake and a Band-Aid.

Nothing on this tray would appeal to me at any other time, but there at the PRBC, as a gesture of thanks and best wishes for my recovery, they are delicious.

Island View

By Leslie Porterfield

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

They don't take just anyone's blood at PRBC, but then again, no blood center does.

Among those they refuse are first-time donors over 55; anyone over 70; those who lived in the UK for more than six months from 1980 to 1996; and men who've had sex with men.

If you are 60 to 70, you need a doctor's approval, and after getting a tattoo, you must wait six months.

If you plan to donate, don't drink alcohol in the 24 hours before you go, or take anticoagulants or aspirin in the three days prior.

It's easy to find a time to go, since the PRBC is open every single day of the year. To save lives, and to pamper you.

For more information, visit them at 38/193 Rattanakosin 200 Years Road in Phuket Town or call 076-251178.

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

Work Permit Fees?

Do employers have to pay a monthly fee for work permits?

Jim
Phuket

Ratchadarat Poolsawat, an officer at Phuket Provincial Employment Office, replies:

No. A work permit costs 3,000 baht, plus 100 baht processing fee. There is no other charge.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

Who is responsible for trash at Surin Beach ?

I visited Surin Beach over the weekend for some surfing, and I must say how disappointed I was with the general condition of the grass area in front of the car park.

On both days the areas were littered with plastic bags, foam-food trays, wrappers, beer bottles, broken glass and so on, which was hardly surprising, as I could not find a garbage bin anywhere.

It is amazing that such a beautiful location is left in such a state.

Who is responsible for keeping this area clean? Is it the local government? Is it the beach vendors?

Phuket Bodyboarder
Phuket

A Cherng Talay Municipality Public Health Department officer replies:

We are responsible for clean-

ing the area around Surin Beach.

We do not have bins on the beach because we joined the campaign "Beautiful roads without bins". The aims of the campaign are to keep the beach beautiful and encourage local people to help take care of the beach.

The bins were done away with because they are not attractive and make the beach less beautiful. There are no bins along any of the main roads in the Cherng Talay Municipality. However, there are bins on small roads in the area.

Locals are supposed to collect the garbage on the beach and throw it away elsewhere.

The restaurants and food vendors on the beach have their own waste bins, so tourists who buy food can take their garbage back to the vendors.

The garbage you saw could have come from the restaurants and beach vendors who might have collected it and not disposed of it properly.

In general, I believe that the system works. Our officers pa-

trol around the beach to collect garbage at 8:30am, and we usually don't find much.

If you see garbage around a public area, please let us know and we will send our team to clean it up. Contact us at 076-326066.



Unsightliness is a matter of opinion. Photo: epSos.de

YOUR Phuket

TABLESPOON CAFE'S GRAND OPENING



From left: Mr. Theerasak Phonngarm; Mr. Thanaptat Nuansakul; Mr. Louis King; Mr. Wichakom Topungtiem; and Ms. Yupaporn Kaewsawee - the shareholders of the Tablespoon Cafe during the grand opening at Central Festival.



CELEBRITY CHEFS WEIGHT LOSS BATTLE

The Celebrity Chefs also had a chance to have their first bicycle ride with New Zealand Triathlon Coach Chris Pilone. (From left) Director of Sports Academies, Craig Johns; Shanghai Chef Eduardo Vargas; Hong Kong Chef Harlan Goldstein and Chris Pilone, New Zealand Triathlon Coach, Olympic Gold Medal Triathlon Coach - Hamish Carter 2004 and multiple medal-winning coach for athletics and triathlon.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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

July 6 - 12, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week

 **Baan Yamu**
Residences



See page 23

JOB of the week


POINT YAMU
BY COMO

See page 27

WHEELS & MOTORS of the week



MB CLK

See page 30

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

Thailand's Leading Property Site
 **DDproperty**
.com



See page 25

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

– your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.
Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're **REAL**.

Properties
For SaleURGENT 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.

THIDA HOUSE
SALE 27 MILLION

Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m by 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. Tel: 081-535 7585, 084-119 4262, 081-356 9754. Email: pee cho74@hotmail.com

QUICK SALE 2.9MB

Land & House Chalong, 260sqm land, 3 bedrooms complete with furniture, 24hr security. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

PERFECT SEAVIEW
VILLA

In Rawai, built 50m from the beach, 3 bedrooms, 3 ensuite bathrooms, large rooftop, terrace, pool, jacuzzis, sundeck. Good and secure location. 25 million baht. Tel: 081-691 6778. Email: Evaprogress@yahoo.de

1.5 RAI NEAR
LAGUNA PHUKET

2,400sqm in Chong 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: claudbaltes@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

HOT DEAL - CONDO
AT THE POINT

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

3 BEDROOMS,
CHALONG

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

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

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.

HOUSE IN PHUKET
VILLA 5 FOR SALE

46sq wah, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 aircons, carpark. Only 3.5 million baht. Tel: 081-787 7675.

D CONDO 1, KATHU

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

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

NEW APARTMENTS
612,000 BAHT

Bayshore do it again. Be first! Get the best unit, starts at 612,000 baht. Building 98% completed. Contact Paul. Tel: 083-643 7127 (English).

LAND NEAR
MISSION HILLS

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

NEW CONDO: URGENT
SALE/RENT

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



AUCTION

Prime Condominiums in Phuket
Blue Canyon Country Club

8 Condominium Units at Blue Canyon Country Club

- To be sold as one single lot
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- Mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom units

MUST BE SOLD!

AUCTION: Wednesday 31 July 2013 @ 2.30 p.m.

Contact K. Nice 089 891 5855 / Andrew Langdon 081 844 2049

www.joneslanglasalle.co.th

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.

CONDO FOR SALE



30sqm. At Kathu. Fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Sale: 1.4 million baht. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com

LAND AT
CHERNG TALAY

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

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

PRIVATE SALE OF
HALF A RAI

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

D CONDO KATHU
PHUKET

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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

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

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LAND NEAR KATA
CENTER

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

D CONDO KATHU
PHUKET

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

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

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.

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in these pages are

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at www.phuketgazette.net**

Properties
For RentTHE HERITAGE
SUITES

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

SEA VIEW LAND
FOR RENT

7 rai of waterfront flat land. Chanote title. Rent or sale. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

STUDIOS FOR RENT

At Rawai and Patong, fully furnished. 7,500 baht. Contact Kim. Tel: 085-757 3240.

HOUSE AT PRIME
PLACE VILLAGE

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

APARTMENTS &
VILLAS FOR RENT

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

HOUSE FOR RENT



Chuan Chuen Lagoon, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished and aircon, direct access to BIS. 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 1732.

KATA BEACH
OCEANFRONT APT

Luxury 5-star 1-bedroom apartment, pools, gardens, gym. Very quiet area. Available now for long term. Email: asiasail@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.katasala.com

2-BEDROOM
APARTMENT PATONG

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

1 BED BUNGALOW
RAWAI

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

KATA OCEAN VIEW
CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 19,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com

KATA BEACH
FURNISHED APTS.

Kitchen, WiFi, TV, aircon & fan. 6,000-15,000 baht monthly. Tel: 086-595 8512, 081-970 4638. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA
FOR RENT

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

URGENT RENT/
SALE

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

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

LUXURY VILLA
FOR RENT

Magnificent 4-bedroom pool villa on the west coast of Phuket, above prestigious Kata Beach. Exceptional opulence throughout. Long & short-term rental. Please call 080-690 5248, 087-283 8884 for enquiries. Email: lil@ladolcevitare.com.au

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

HOUSE WITH POOL
IN PA KHLOK

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

STUDIO APARTMENT
IN PATONG

Living room with kitchenette, separate bedroom and bathroom, aircon, UBC ready, free WiFi, quiet location, western standard, nicely furnished. 11,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

SEAVIEW POOL VILLA
FOR RENT

4 bedrooms, 4 showers. Close to town, BIS and KIS. 125,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-895 3628.

PATONG CONDO
PRIVATE RENTAL

2 bedroom apartment, fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, gym, swimming pool, parking, 800m to Patong Beach, available now. Tel: 085-069 0938 (English). Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE
IN TOWN

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

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.



houseinphuket.com

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

COZY HOUSE NEAR
NAI HARN

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

3 BEDROOMS
CHALONG (BK)

Fully furnished, 2 aircons, good location, long term only. Available on 30 July 2013. Contact Tina. Tel: 085-935 0095.

SAVE 5-STAR VILLA

Has all, 28,000 baht per month, 5 months on lease, private pool, near Laguna, quiet luxury resort living. Tel: 089-594 4067.

HOUSE FOR RENT/
SALE

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

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Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.
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**ENGLISH SPEAKING
MAID**

Housekeeper required to look after 4-bedroom pool villa and family of 4 people (including 2 children). Located at Nai Thorn Beach. Good salary, health insurance and benefits offered. Tel: 087-881 0003. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

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

**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
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The following positions are open in our school:

- Qualified Thai Teacher
- Cook
- Cleaning lady

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**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

**TEFL QUALIFIED
TEACHERS WANTED**

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

**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

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.

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@asiapacific-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

**TELEMARKETER
WANTED**

To work in S.E.A. Air fares and hotel paid for. Selling investment package. Tel: 092-183 8081 (English). Email: smithdan426@gmail.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

**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

**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

**COORDINATOR
WANTED**

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

**FRONT DESK STAFF -
SAMUI**

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

**NATIVE ENGLISH
TEACHER**

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

WORK WANTED

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

**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.

**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

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

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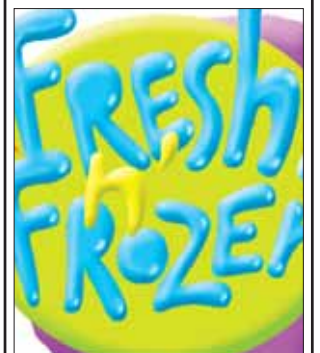
**Call for more information: 076 - 362400 Ext. 4402 or 4406
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Club Asia Fitness requires 2 Fitness Instructors and 1 Sales Consultant. Thai National who must be able to communicate in English. Tel: 080-698 5021, 087-275 3614 (English), 089-126 5671 (Thai). Email: coco_ivy@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.clubasia.phuket.com

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Tel: 076-280400
Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

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

Tel: 076-344521-2
Tel: 076-290468
Tel: 076-342275

PHUKET CITY

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

Tel: 076-232398
Tel: 076-258369
Tel: 076-255425

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RAWAI

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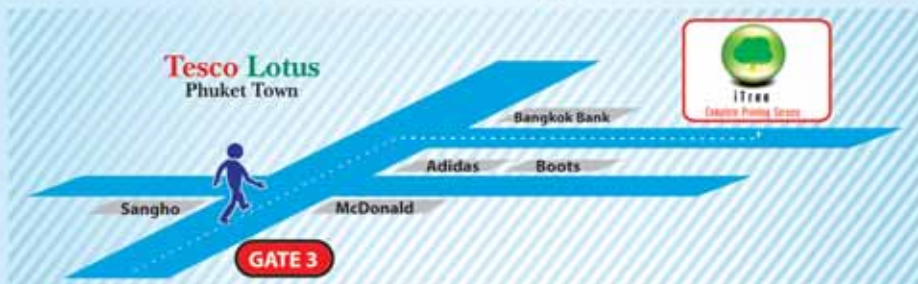
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applicants must:

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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

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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

**Now Searching for Talented Pre-opening Team Members**

Scheduled to open November 2013, Point Yamu By COMO, is a new luxury resort in Phuket. Located at the headland of Cape Yamu on the East coast of Phuket, the new COMO resort will feature 106 luxury rooms, suites and villas, a headline Italian restaurant, Thai restaurant, Central Bar, lobby lounge, COMO Shambhala Wellness Retreat and Meeting facilities.

The resort will set a new benchmark for unparalleled service, refreshing designs, innovative cuisine and a holistic focus on wellness. We are now inviting dedicated candidates with good English communication skills (5-star hotel pre-opening experience a definite plus) to join our Pre-opening Team in the following positions:

Activity Cheque/Library Supervisor Nanny Guides Supervisor Watersports Inauguration/Instructor Guide Engineering Administrator Shift Supervisor Mechanical Supervisor Building Supervisor Landscape Supervisor Electrician Electrician and Mechanical Staff Carpenter Painter Sound Technician Pool Staff Finance & Administration AP Supervisor Income Auditor Purchasing Officer Stockkeeper Receiving Officer	Front Office Guest Service Supervisor Guest Service Agent Bell Captain Bellman Airport Representative Call Centre Retail Receptionist Driver Food & Beverage Service Restaurant Supervisor Bar Supervisor Room Service Supervisor Senior Service Attendant Service Attendant Butler Bartender Beverage Service Attendant Order taker Hostess	Food Preparation (Kitchen) Chef de Partie Demi Chef de Partie Baker Chef de Partie Demi Chef (Pastry) Commis, I, II, III Ice Cream ParLOUR Butcher Steward Supervisor Steward Housekeeping Housekeeping Coordinator Linen Runner Staff (Houseman) Floor Supervisor Public Area Supervisor Laundry Supervisor Room Staff Pool Attendant Public Area Attendant Seamstress Laundry Staff Linen Room Staff Uniform Room Staff Florist Supervisor Florist	Human Resources HR Officer Canteen Supervisor / Chef de Partie Demi Chef de Partie (Canteen) Commis U.I.II (Canteen) Steward Information Technology IT Officer Spa & Fitness Spa Supervisor Spa Receptionist Therapist Supervisor Fitness Trainer Spa Therapist Spa Attendant Security Security Supervisor Security Officer
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Come meet us in person on July 14th between 830am - 5pm at Phuket Rajabhat University. Please bring along your resume, relevant certificates and a recent photograph. If you are unable to attend, please send your application together with your resume and a recent photograph to: Director of Human Resources, Point Yamu by COMO Phuket, 222 Moo 7 Tambon Paa Klok, Amphur Thalang, Phuket or email (in MS Word) to careers.pointyamu@comohotels.com

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

DRIVER WANTED

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

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- ▶ Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySQL)
- ▶ Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
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- ▶ Ability to work with team
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

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Email: jim@leemarine.com

Mark Heath
Mobile: 081 787 9408
Email: mark@leemarine.com

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SUNSEEKER YACHT FOR SALE



Sunseeker Caribbean 52ft, 1992. Located in Ao Po Grand Marina. 2,700,000 baht. Tel: 087-626 0495. Email: dan.soft.studio@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://gen2gdk.com/jitlada/>


RIVA HULL

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

JET-SKI: YAMAHA SUPERJET 2012

Stand-up PWC, used 1 season. Sold at Watchara Marine Phuket (275,000 baht). Will sell for 195,000 (fixed price). Tel: 093-760 2730 (English). Email: peter2014@hotmail.se

SEA RAY 175 SPORT



December 2010 with trailer. Price: 720,000 baht. Tel: 084-628 2616. Email: g.j.huber@gmx.at

BOAT YARD OPENING

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ONAN 12KVA MARINE GENERATOR

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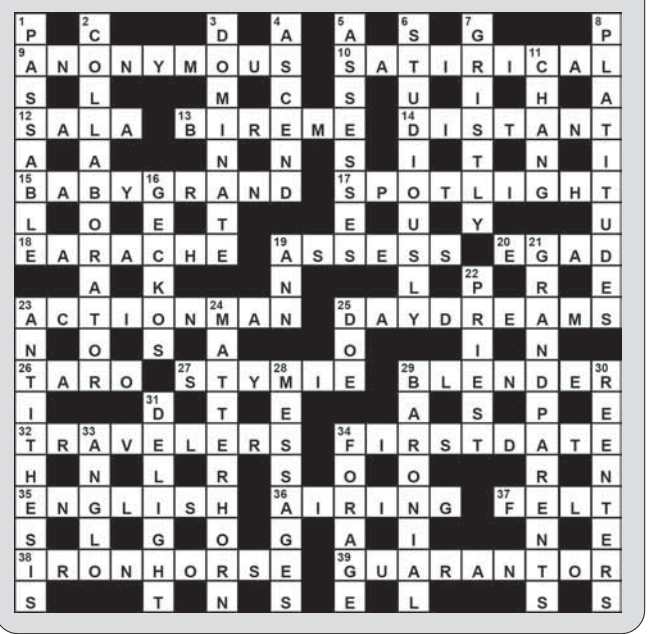
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If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter

TECNAM P-92

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

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



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

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

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

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

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Previous Registrations:
N4798W – USA
N479GE – USA
I-ECCE – Italy
G-BVNL – UK



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Specs:

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

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

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

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



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A photograph of three women posing together at night. The woman on the left has long, wavy blonde hair and is wearing a bright pink halter-neck top and large gold hoop earrings. The woman in the middle has dark hair pulled back and is wearing a black tank top. The woman on the right has long, wavy brown hair and is wearing a white strapless top. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is dark with some blurred lights and a sign that says 'CLUB' visible.

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A sporty Sunday brunch

By Leslie Porterfield

NOT too many Sunday brunches offer a side order of Zumba, Muay Thai, or Pilates. But Thanyapura's brunch comes with a chance to work off the calories using a day pass to their world class sporting facilities and group fitness classes.

But before that comes the food.

Some of it comes direct from Thanyapura's own organic farm in Surat Thani – chickens and eggs; some is locally sourced – tiger prawns, Phuket lobsters and blue crab, and in their desire to serve only the best, some of it comes from much farther afield.

"The sirloin, tenderloin, rib-eye, lamb leg and rack, and strip steak all comes from Australia," says Chef Sathaporn Bootmeechai, formerly of the Banyan Tree.

"And the oysters are from France," adds F&B director Sereymony Or.

The brunch also serves Canadian lobsters and Wagyu beef.

The team's concept of "selection and presentation" rescues the buffet from the short order assembly line it can sometimes become. Steaks are cut only when ordered, grilled, then artfully

arranged with sides – a swirl of pureed potatoes and glowing orange cubes of roasted yams. Fresh lobsters are split, grilled, and served with sauces that perfectly complement their sweetness: tangy-sweet miso honey sauce and tart coriander chutney.

Service is superb. The wine is kept flowing and the multiple plates that accumulate at buffets are swiftly cleared away.

The friendly Mr Sereymony stops by to ask us to sample some special ground pepper. "Smell this," he says, grinding a bit. The aroma

is huge. "It's kempot pepper, from Cambodia," the native Cambodian proudly says.

The enthusiastic team has diners' pleasure foremost in mind.

"We don't want guests to have to wait for food," says

Chef Sathaporn, "so while their order is being cooked, they can sample already made dishes."

But diners beware: these dishes are so yummy you may not have room for your grilled food once it arrives. The risotto was perfectly al dente, creamy, with earthy flavored mushrooms; the tender chunks of veal in slow cooked osso bucco were rich with a deep dark unami taste. There are also



LAKSA-LICIOUS: Filled with fresh seafood and noodles



PERFECTLY COOKED: Succulent slices of duck served with fresh vegetables. Photos:Thanyapura

snapper with truffle cream sauce and peppered duck breast.

But maybe living in Asia, you'd rather have Asian food. Then you shall: fresh sashimi and sushi, shrimp in tamarind sauce, snapper with garlic and pepper, or laksa – plump morsels of seafood in a spicy soup tempered by coconut milk, with artfully cut vegetables.

If you're a traditionalist, there's a salad bar, steak and salmon tartare, those Fine de Claire French oysters, firm and sweet, and four choices of pizza to start with.

Then maybe another glass of wine? Or, if you prefer, something non alcoholic, perhaps one of Thanyapura's healthy booster drinks, like "Rouge Melon", a delicate blend of watermelon, honeydew and strawberry, or "Purple Pleasure", a robust mix of

beetroot, apple, and pineapple.

Dessert is cleverly served in miniature sizes, and again plated and decorated to order. My favorites were the vibrantly tart lemon pie capped with a spiraling cone of sweet meringue, the dark chocolate black forest cake, and the coffee mousse.

If the most exercise you can imagine at the end of your meal is lying still in the kiddie pool, consider saving your sport club pass for another day. It's good for a full week, and is transferable too.

Brunch at Thanyapura from July 14
Sundays from 11:30 to 2:30.

Buffet with non-alcoholic drinks –
Adults: 1,800 baht. Kids: 900 baht
Buffet with free flow wine and
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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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 vender. For more information please visit the website at: navyleaguephuket.org. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *PGTV* and the 'Phuket Today' show.

Jul 6, 2013, 7pm - 9pm Wine Tasting at Wine Lovers Phuket
Wine testing on Saturday, 6 July. 2013. Five glasses of wine from South Africa. Free tapas buffet and live music. Meet wine lovers, have a chance at a lucky draw and more. Only 499 baht. Location at Fisherman Way Business Center Rawai. Please reserve your ticket by contact Khun Gumrai calling the number +66-76-384663 or send an email info@wineloversphuket.com or visit the website: wineloversphuket.com

July 17-21, 2013, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek.

Four days of world-class yacht racing combined with four nights of magical, beachside parties at the 5-star Cape Panwa Hotel. Raceweek will welcome a large multinational fleet of boats to the 10th Anniversary edition. Over 30 boats are already signed up in six classes, and more than 400 sailors will be taking part.

Jul 18, 2013, 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@phuketiw.com, mobile phone: +66-76-316711 or visit the website : phuketiw.com

Jul 27 - 28, 2013, 6pm - 2am, Seafood & Prawn Extravaganza
On Saturday the 27th of July 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". For more info, Call +66-76330065, Email katacenter@twochefs.com or visit website twochefs.com

Aug 12, 2013, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday
Her Majesty Queen Sririkit's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom and is also Mother's Day.

Sep 19, 2013, 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 B500 and guests B650. Contact info@phuketiw.com or Carole Dux 076-316711

Oct 8, 2013, 6pm-10:30pm, Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards 2013

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise amongst the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The Wine List of the Year Thailand 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 opens 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@winelistoftheyear-thailand.com

Oct 17, 2013, 11:30 am - 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: 650 baht. Register at info@phuketiw.com. Contact on +66-76-316711.

Oct 23, 2013 Chulalongkorn, Memorial Day
Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

Nov 13-16, 2013, 5am-6pm, Phuket International Sport Fishing 2013

Registration will be on 13 November from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are 13-16 November. 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

Nov 17, 2013, Loy Krathong Festival

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month, which usually falls in November. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the river's Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. "Loy Krathong is not a public holiday."

Dec 16-18, 2013, 6pm 11:30pm, Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is an invitation only event for superyacht owners, captains and their VIP guests. This year's event takes place December 16-18 at Kata Rocks. Call 0817-974100 or asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com. The annual Rendezvous is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, *PGTV*, and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show.

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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.

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	

Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
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	

Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
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.	

Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
Rawai Cable	Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon.	
Channel 1 - 28	shows a week	
Monday - Sunday:	10:30am, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.	

Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
Channel 43 - 8	shows a week	
Monday:	05:10am	
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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 4,609 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Dreams do come true

By Anthika Muangrod

TERMINALLY SICK nine-year-old, Pakjira "Aom" Jamlongpan has never seen Thailand's Andaman coast before. Now her wish to swim in the sea was finally about to come true.

"Life is precious, so do your best today as you don't know what is going to happen tomorrow," was the sentence echoing in my head as I waited for her at Chalong Bay pier.

Pakjira was born in Ayuttaya where she's been undergoing medical treatment at a local hospital since she was one. Her mother, Mrs Somjai Kleedech, disturbed by her symptoms – abdominal distention, yellow skin (jaundice), pale eyelids, lips and nails – got her checked up. The doctors diagnosed thalassemia – a serious blood disorder. From that day, Aom had to go to the hospital every six months. As she got older, the visits became even more frequent – every three months, every two months, every month. Recently her anemia became so severe that she has to see a doctor every 2-3 weeks. Over time, the symptoms became more visible – growth failure and deformed face bones to name just a few.

Aom and her parents arrived at the pier with the Make-A-Wish Foundation Thailand team. Once everybody was ready for the journey, the speedboat departed the pier heading for Coral Island located just three kilometers southeast of Phuket. Aom was clearly stunned by the beautiful landscape. Her parents told me, she swam in the sea once before, in Bang Saen. But this was the first time she had seen the beautiful Thai Andaman coast.

After a 15 minute boat trip we arrived at the picturesque shore of Coral Island. The most high-tech cameras couldn't do this place justice. The water was perfectly clear, the sand powdery-soft under our bare feet, the lush, green mountains and all shades of blue in the sea – all made for a stunning view.

Some of the staff members head for another part of the island to set up a surprise for Aom – a lovely pink Sala, a color that she likes like any other little girl. Meanwhile, we played with her on the beach. As I cradled her in my arms, I was shocked to discover how light she was – much lighter than an average 9-year-old girl.

Soon after, a crew member covered her eyes with a blindfold and Aom's stepfather, Mr Somkuan, carried her to the Sala. It was exceptionally charming just like a wedding decoration – the pink cloth billowing in the sea breeze, perfectly matched bouquets of red roses and white orchids lining the entrance, white sand, clear blue sea – It was magical.

The blindfold was finally removed and an adorable flower chaplet was placed on the girl's head.

"It's all yours," someone announced. Aom was speechless. Amazed by the beauty of the scenery, she bowed to show her appreciation and gratitude.

Somebody called for a group photo;

everyone beamed at the camera and the flash went off. After a short photo shoot, the team took Aom to the sea where she went swimming, snorkeling and kayaking. The staff also brought her a bowl with a beautiful clown fish (Nemo) and starfish for her to enjoy. Upon seeing the fish, Aom smiled and then started playing with a hula hoop.

While watching her swim with her parents, I had a chance to talk to Miss Panyada Wongsombat, a nurse from Pranakhon Si Ayuthaya Hospital, who was in charge of Aom's care during the trip.

"Her blood intensity is just 19-22 per cent, lower than the standard 25 per cent of children with thalassemia. That's why Aom needs to have a blood transfusion every 2-3 weeks. But the procedure affects the iron levels in her body and has a negative impact on her bones. She cannot grow properly. Normally, children



BROADENING HORIZONS: Here, Aom experiences snorkelling for the first time in her life.



MEMORABLE: Aom and her parents at Coral Island where her wish to swim in the sea came true.



STUNNING: Little Miss Pakjira finally realized her dream of swimming in the Andaman sea.

with this type of thalassemia (beta thalassemia Hb/E) live no longer than 10 years and Aom is now 9 years and 10 months old," Miss Wongsombat said.

Her parents are forced to travel up to 100 km on a motorbike to get their daughter to the hospital. Before returning to Phuket, I also had a chance to talk to them.

"Today we are happy. We are grateful to all the organizations that made this happen. I am thankful and overwhelmed," said Mrs. Somjai Kleedech smiling.

"Thank you very much for everybody's warm welcome and making our daughter's wish come true," Mr. Somkuan added.

Aom could enjoy the beauty of the Thai Andaman coast thanks to the support of Make-A-Wish Foundation Thailand – a non-profit organization that grants wishes

to children with life threatening medical conditions. Hope, courage and strength are often the only weapons such children have against their sickness.

"What we all expect from this activity is to give Aom more strength. Today, not only Aom is happy, but also everybody who helps make her wish come true," Natacha Kerdyod, Wish Coordinator from Make-A-Wish Foundation Thailand said.

"I made that wish because I love the sea. I had so much fun and when I go back to school, I will tell all my friends and teachers about this day," Aom said happily.

Pakjira "Aom" Jamlongpan's wish was granted thanks to the support of Make-A-Wish Foundation Thailand, Blue Energy, Hilton Phuket Acadia, Nikom Marine Tour and Hello Phuket.



MAGICAL: The pink Sala decorated with flowers arranged to be a "wow place" for Aom.

Make-A-Wish

MAKE-A-Wish Foundation International was founded in 1980. It started in Phoenix, Arizona with a little boy who suffered from leukemia. He had a wish to become a policeman. With the support of the local police department, his wish came true. The boy spent one day as a police officer, flew in a police helicopter, received a custom-tailored police uniform, and was sworn in as the first honorary DPS patrolman (Arizona Department of Public Safety) in the state's history. Sadly the boy has since passed away, but his wish became the inspiration for the world's largest wish-granting organization.

Thanusak Phungdet

HAVING recently turned 50, Thanusak Phungdet is being contemplative. He is taking stock of his achievement and looking back at the long, hard road he has taken to become a prominent Phuket businessman and entrepreneur.

As Managing Director of JD Pools, Thanusak is also known in his capacity as President of the Phuket Real Estate Association, having served as its vice president for many years. A firm believer in giving back to society, Thanusak has been involved with a few local NGOs, among them Rotary Club of Andaman (Past President 2007-2008) and Phuket Chamber of Commerce (Vice President). All these while developing and maintaining the swimming pool construction company he has built more or less from scratch.

"The last 16 years of my life has been hectic," he says, and we can see why. From a local company installing swimming pools in Phuket residential homes in 1997, JD Pools has expanded many times over, and all due to the insight and hard work of its owner.

Before JD Pools, Thanusak ran a construction company. He observed that installing pools was simpler, but far more lucrative than building houses, and promptly switched over to the new line of work.

"At the start, my client base was expats only. Now more and more

THAI
gallery
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

Thais are subscribing to the idea. It's a lifestyle trend, a desirable feature that will add value to your house whether renting or selling," says Thanusak whose company has installed no less than 10,000 pools during its lifetime – a staggering figure by any standard, and Thanusak is justly proud of his achievement. It was him who, using new technology, streamlined pool installation and maintenance, once considered an expensive and complicated matter. The company now uses recycled PP plastic to mold any shape and size of pools. Its installation is easy and required placing finished units into the dug out ground without having to build a complicated support structure using an increasingly expensive and rare material like wood.

So impressed with this new technology, Thanusak is keen to become a manufacturer of molded pools and has recently set up a large factory in Thalang that will supply to twenty dealers or so in Thailand.

He also explores overseas markets and has been traveling widely to the Middle East, China, Russia, India and Southeast Asia.

"I am very proud to be the first

manufacturer of molded swimming pools in Thailand. Apart from creating many jobs for the locals in Thalang, we'll do away with having to import material, help with recycling plastic, and cut down on using wood as structural frames."

Looking pensive, Thanusak adds: "For me, it's all about building a sustainable enterprise. Of course it's also about looking after the family and myself and also creating a reasonable profit. But it's never purely about money. I could have charged any price when there were only a few pool companies around, but I never did. It's more about building a strong foundation. That has always been my aim, and it has been a long time coming, a road fraught with many ups and downs, great hardship, and problems with competition involving court cases. But I am resolute and unwavering and take it all in my stride."

Today, as his effort is bearing fruit (he even talks about franchising), Thanusak seems relaxed. Being 50 may mark yet another turning point in his life, "I just want to spend more time with my family now and leave the business side to my capable team. The hard work is not over yet but at least I now have a firm foundation on which to progress."

Thanusak is married to Rungrat Srisuk. Together the couple have two children aged 19 and 16.



About Thai Gallery

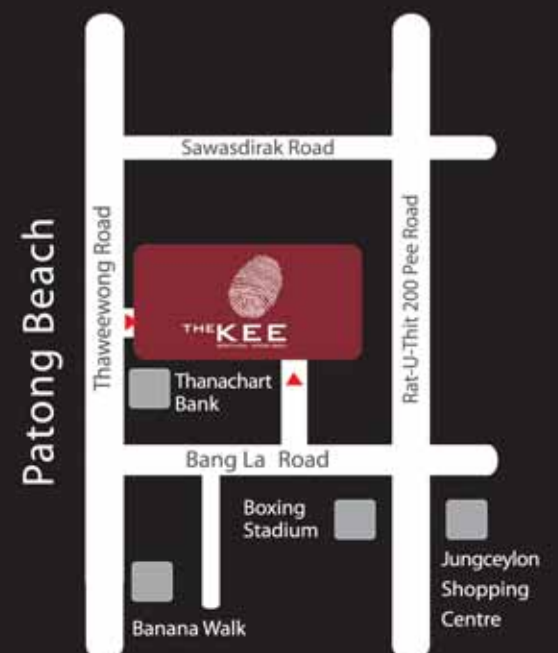
The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an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

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ALIVE: Some of the rescued dogs being looked after at a shelter in Nakhon Phanom. Photos: Bianca Peace



The author, 10-year-old Bianca Peace with her new, adopted dog.

MY NAME is Bianca Peace, I am 10 years old and I wanted to share something that I think is very important and must be stopped. At Phuket International Academy (PIA) our end of year project was on a topic of our own choice, but it needed to be about something global, so I chose to explore the dog meat trade in Thailand, because I have a huge love for dogs, just like my mum.

Before I share my sad experience with you, I want to tell you what the dog meat trade is, just in case you've never heard of it. In the North of Thailand there has been a trade of dogs being sold for food. Sadly this has been happening for many years and is still going on today.

These unlucky dogs are captured violently from the streets by smugglers (who are usually Thais) then squeezed into very small chicken crates, loaded onto trucks, many crates at a time and driven to the Mekong river where

they are smuggled across on boats to Laos and then on to Vietnam.

This can sometime take several days and the dogs are so tightly packed into these cages that their bodies and limbs are broken due to the rough handling of the cages.

They get no food or water for such a long time and many of them die before they are even sold. The dogs that do arrive at the destination alive are then sold to local markets where people often torture them further and sometimes skin them alive and cook them up to eat for dinner. These people often believe that pain inflicted on the dogs makes their meat more tender.

After doing a lot of research on the internet, I found out there are several dog shelters in different parts of Thailand which are kindly supported by the Soi Dog

foundation. This organization has rescued thousands dogs from ending up on the dinner plate and now the dogs are living in various shelters in Nakhon Phanom,



The dogs successfully smuggled become food.

Khemmarat, Buriram and Thong Pha Phum.

I asked my mum if we could take a trip up to Nakhon Phanom in the Northeast of Thailand to

visit one of these shelters. It was a very very sad experience, seeing hundreds of very skinny, sick dogs with no place else to go. Of course if they go back on

the streets, these smugglers will capture them again and this time they will probably be eaten.

So, sadly they have to spend the rest of their lives with hundreds of other dogs in a shelter where the risk of catching distemper or some other deadly disease is very high, because there are so many of them living in cramped conditions.

This was a very, very sad trip and I saw much pain and sadness as I helped treat some of the sick dogs in the doggie hospital. I tried my best to go around and tend to them all, but I spent a lot of time just crying and feeling helpless.

I feel that this awful trade must be stopped! We fell in love with a

couple of lucky dogs and my mum and I decided to adopt them and fly them back to Phuket (thanks to Nok Air, who did this free of charge).

The two dogs were very happy to come to our home, but there are still hundreds of dogs there that would love to be adopted and find a real loving home.

If you would like to adopt a dog rescued from the dog meat trade please send me an email. (*see below for details*)

I will personally choose a beautiful dog for you and send you some photos and inform you about his or her personality.

I want to visit this shelter again and I keep thinking about how I can help more of these dogs have a better life. Maybe you can help me make this happen?

Email: biancapeace@gmail.com, Sherin.peace@gmail.com, or visit doggieheaven.net.

Dog of the week

HI, MY name is Oreo and I am a lucky dog as I was rescued from the dog meat trade in Thailand.

Thank goodness I was rescued from being skinned alive and served up on someone's dinner plate. I am about 2-3 years old and a very handsome male Thai/mixed breed. I like to be top dog of the house and get all the attention, so I would prefer to be adopted by a family with no other pets.

If you are interested in adopting me I would love to join your family. I make a great guard dog who would love you forever.

I can be adopted into the USA, Canada, UK or Thailand.



For additional information on adoption or see other dogs, contact: Sherin.peace@gmail.com or visit doggieheaven.net.



GRIM: The cages used to transport captured dogs can get cramped, with little space to move.



BILIMBI: Smooth, glossy green and borne most of the year round the end of small branches. Photo: Manoj Kumar Karipot



CARAMBOLA – MA FUEANG: Yellow-green to orange. Photo: De DeusXFlorida

Bee's knees multi-purpose trees

TODAY it is the turn of several small trees, which not only bear unusual and edible fruit, but will double-up as ornamental and shade-generating presences in your tropical garden.

Baccaurea motleyana is more familiarly known to Thais as *rambai* or *mafai farang*. In common with the other trees on parade today, it is primarily grown for its fruit. But its short trunk, wide crown and large shiny evergreen leaves (brown and hairy underneath) make it an ideal shade tree. Although it grows wild in parts of Thailand which means it will adapt readily to more cultured surroundings it is grown commercially for fruit which contain a whitish pulp and up to five seeds. The size of golf balls, they are green when unripe, and pinkish or yellow in color when mature. Oddly, they grow in large strands directly from the trunk as well as from branches. Velvety in texture, they vary in taste from sweet to sour and can be eaten raw or cooked. They are made into jams, chutney, even a sweetish wine.

The *bilimbi* is less popular in Thailand than it ought to be. In the Philippines, it is encountered everywhere as a front yard specimen, but despite the fact that it

grows well in Thailand, it is less common here. A pity since it is an interesting and unusual tree with a branching habit, attractive pinnate leaves and fragrant, five-petaled flowers.

But the tree's claim to fame, again, lies in its highly unusual fruits, which resemble small cucumbers about



BACCAUREA MOTLEYANAIS: The fruit more familiarly known to Thais as *rambai* or *mafai farang*. Photo: Yeoh Thean Kheng

two or three inches long (hence its name cucumber tree). They are, smooth, glossy green and are borne most of the year round at the end of small branches. Extremely rich in nutrients, especially ascorbic acid, the fruits are much too sour to be eaten on their own, though a few hardy souls take them with salt. Widely used in Southeast Asia in chutneys and curries, pickling reduces their acidity. Their skin is thin and delicate so care needs to be taken when



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

gathering them. Now introduced to the New World and Australia, the *bilimbi* is a sound choice for a Thai garden because it is low-maintenance and enjoys a spell of dry weather. It is normally grown from seed.

The *bilimbi* is related to another exotic sounding tree, the *carambola* (*mafueng*) which seamlessly takes us from "B to "C" on our alphabetical journey. Actually its full botanical name is *Averrhoa carambola*, but it is usually referred to as the star fruit tree. The small clusters of flowers, reddish or purple, are similar to those of the *bilimbi*, but the fruits are very distinctive yellow green to orange, five-angled and up to five inches long. If you cut a section through one, it will assume the shape of a star. Unlike the *bilimbi*, the fruit can be eaten straight off the tree. The leaves are blue-green on their undersides, up to four inches long and are sensitive to both touch and light, folding at night or if handled.

You will probably have difficulty finding potted saplings for your garden, but the star fruit, like the *bilimbi*, grows easily from seed and since the fruit itself is so readily available, this should present no difficulty. Just buy a ripe fruit and save the seeds.

The star apple or *Chrysophyllum cainito* is another multi-purpose tree. Commonly cultivated as a

dooryard presence, it has amazingly spherical green fruit up to eight centimeters across which can be eaten when fully ripe. The tree has an attractive shape, with leaves which are shiny above and brown and silky below. Known as *aphoen* in Thailand, it appreciates a warm, humid climate. With regular feeding, it will crop well.

Tip of the Week

Seed Banking

MOST plants reproduce by seedling. Seed banking involves collecting and storing these seeds. It is labor-intensive and best done by experts, but it is an insurance policy (cf. zoos) when plants are threatened with extinction.

For example, 12 species are now known to be extinct in the wild. Collected seeds, kept in optimum conditions, will remain fertile for a long time. Seed banks also offer a reliable source for the restoration of depleted habitats.

An organization known as the Mill Seed Bank Project is based in the UK, and has so far stored seeds from some 24,000 plants and estimated 10% of the world's floral population.

Native flowers worldwide are threatened not only by loss of habitat to farming and development, but by climate change and the spread of invasive weeds.

If you encounter an unusual plant why not try to harvest a few seeds yourself.

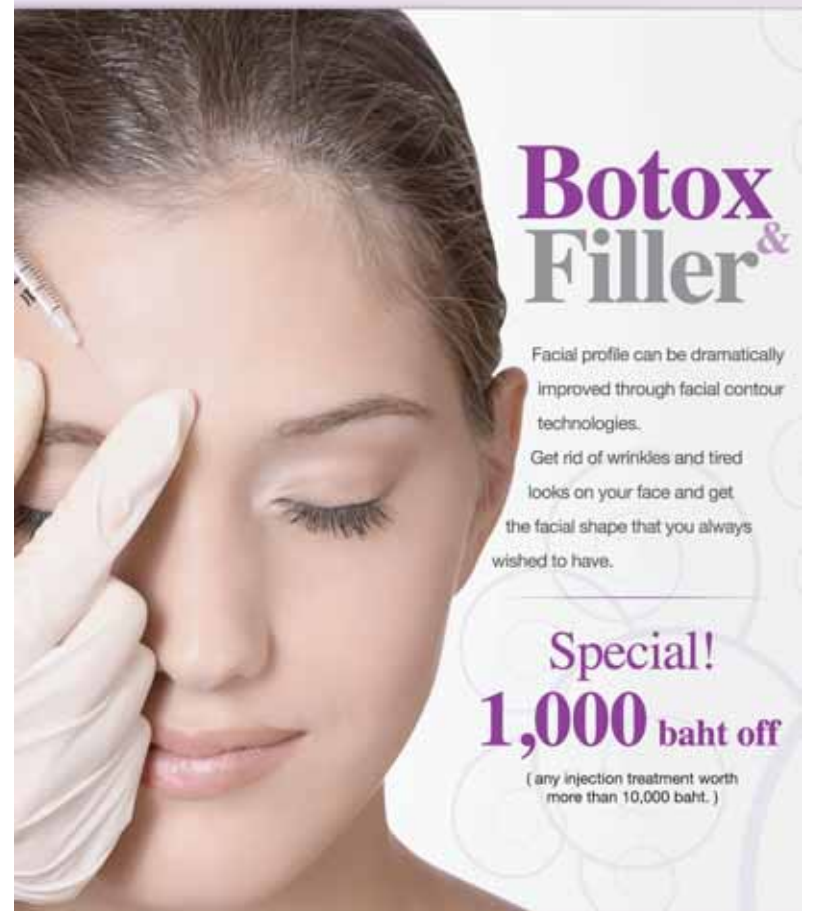


There are more than 15,000 endangered plants. Photo: Howcheng

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A slow death by flashbacks



A man wearing Ghana's flag. Photo: Stig Nygardt (Inset) Ghana Must Go. Photo: Pesky Library
Below, Ghana's capital city, Accra stretches along the Ghanaian Atlantic coast. Photo: Guido Sohne.



Books

By James Eckardt

WELL-bred, highly educated and cosmopolitan, a new generation of African women writers – chief among them, the Nigerian novelist Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – has recently claimed their right of place in the publishing world.

The newest entrant to this elite club is Taiye Selasi. Half Ghanaian, half-Nigerian, born in London, raised in Boston, a graduate of Yale and Oxford, living in Rome now. Taiye Selasi has recently written her first novel. *Ghana Must Go* (The Penguin Press, New York, 2013, 318pp) was the slogan the government used to expel millions of Ghanaians from Nigeria and has nothing to do with the plot.

The plot itself is painfully thin. The novel opens as a surgeon named Kweku Sai collapses of a heart attack in the garden of his home in Accra, Ghana. Sixteen years before, he had left his wife and four children in Boston and took a second wife in Ghana. Unbeknownst to him, his first wife Folasade, Nigerian-born, is in Accra too, taking over the home of an old family friend. Her four children fly in from the US for the funeral and consign their father's ashes to the sea. End of story, except for 300 pages of interminable flashbacks and flashbacks looping inside flashbacks, as the six members of the family clumsily retell their individual tales. Such a cumbersome reliance on a single literary trick is enough to give the flashback a bad name.

It doesn't help that the novel is grossly overwritten. On the morning that he drops dead, Dr Kewku Sai had left his slippers in the bedroom which prompts this reverie: "Battered slip-ons, brown worn to the sides. Like leather pets with separation issues, loyal, his dogs. And his religion, what he believed in, the very basis of his morality: mash-up cosmopolitan asceticism, ritual, clean lines. The slipper. So simple in composition, so silent on wood, bringing clean, peace and quiet to God's people the world over, every class and every culture, affordable for all, a unique form of protection against the dangers of home, e.g., splinters

and bacteria and harm caused to wood, i.e., hand-scraped oak floorboards fifty dollars per square foot . . ."

This meditation on slippers goes on for another excruciating page.

More lush verbiage is expended on the nurse Ama, his simple second wife: "To live in a house with a woman who is happy, who is consistently happy in her resting state – happy? And who is happy with him, not as a response to one thing that he did and must keep doing if he wants her to remain happy, churning the crank, ever winding the music box, dance, monkey, dance! – but whom he makes happy, has made happy, and who's miraculously stayed happy?"

His first wife, Folasade, was not so simple, a rich girl from Lagos, who gave up her law studies to marry the poor boy from Ghana who becomes a renowned surgeon in Boston, so renowned that only he is chosen to perform an impossible operation on a dying Cabot, and who becomes the scapegoat for the rich man's death. He is expelled from the hospital, loses a fortune in legal fees to have himself reinstated, all the while leaving the house each morning dressed as if for work. The final shame – in a melodramatic scene of being cast out of the hospital by security guards – causes his flight back to Ghana.

There is a touch of chick lit here as his four fabulously beautiful children become fabulously successful as a surgeon (Olu), a painter (Kehinde), an academic (Taiwo) and a scholarship student at Yale (Sadie). They catch a flight together for Accra where each of their inner conflicts will be resolved.

There is a final confrontation between the most troubled daughter Taiwo and her mother on the beach at Accra which leads to . . . another flashback, this one is 15 pages long.

There are times when Selasi's overwrought style works well, as when the youngest daughter Sadie catches the spirit of African drumming and leaps into a traditional tribal dance. But mostly it's a hard slog, with the author trying much too hard to impress.

Movies for a rainy day

AS THE rainy season gets under way, the *Gazette* has compiled a list of movies currently playing at SFX Coliseum Cinema at Central Festival from July 6 for those wondering what to do if it's another wet weekend.

Last Summer: Three youngsters are haunted by the spirit of their teen-idol friend who died under mysterious circumstances.

Scripted by writer Kongdej Jaturanrasmee, the story is told in three acts, each handled by one of the three directors: Saranyoo Jiralak, Sittisiri Mongkolsiri and Kittithat Tangsirikit, and focusing on one of the three young actors.

Man of Steel: Another origin tale, essentially combining the first two Christopher Reeve Superman movies of the 1970s and '80s, but recasting them in a darker tone. Christopher Nolan was drafted as a producer to give Superman the same dramatic weight as Batman in *The Dark Knight*. He gets help from

comic-book writer and *The Dark Knight Returns* screenwriter David S. Goyer. The director is Zack Snyder, a hero to comic-book fans thanks to his slavish devotion to the page in his graphic-novel adaptations of *300* and *Watchmen*.

Journey to The West: Conquering the demons: Stephen Chow directs this fantasy as a loose comedic re-interpretation of the Chinese novel *Journey to the West* by Wu Cheng'en.

Odd Thomas: Anton Yelchin (Chekov in the new "Star Trek") is a young man with clairvoyant abilities. When he isn't serving up flapjacks at his small town's greasy spoon diner, he's dealing with supernatural beings that only he can see. The movie is directed by Stephen Sommers (*The Mummy*, *GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra*) and is based on a novel by Dean Koontz.

World War Z: An apocalyptic zombie movie based around United Nations employee Gerry Lane



Haunted youngsters. Photo: Nation

(Brad Pitt), who travels the world in a race against time to stop a pandemic that is toppling armies and governments and threatening to decimate humanity itself.

– *Phuket Gazette/Nation*

Read more about movie schedules at phuketgazette.net/movies or call the cinema on 076-209000.

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Go Eco Phuket gets going

World's largest reef, beach cleanup planned in honor of HM the Queen

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

AFTER hosting the world's largest underwater cleanup last year, local marine conservation group Go Eco Phuket and the Thai Government are joining forces again this year to break last year's record by garnering support from over 1,000 participants for the reef and beach cleanup in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's 81st birthday on August 12.

The day after Her Majesty's birthday on August 13, Phuket's dive community, supported by the Royal Thai Navy, Marine Police, Marine and Coastal Resources Conservation Department and local government bodies are joining together in a mass effort to raise the world's awareness of the importance of marine and coastal ecosystems.

Last year's event saw PADI dive centers across the island and over 500 participants at the event. This year, not only PADI but also SSI and CMAS dive certifying agencies will be participating, as all three prominent dive groups join together to put the marine environment ahead of business.

"The main difference this year is that it is much more all-encompassing, you now see SSI's side of the table, and we are looking at contacting CMAS about sponsorship," said one of the event organizers, Kerry Leach. "It's completely open this year. And the thing is, the PADI dive centers have welcomed this because they know we need maximum support. The whole idea is that we are working together on Go Eco

Phuket, and now we are, finally."

The Royal Thai Navy again will be providing protection to the dive boats by posting at least one ship at each island being cleaned up.

Last year, the Royal Thai Navy vessel off of Koh Racha Noi was able to commandeer the assistance of a fishing vessel in order to hoist a discarded fishing net weighing 4.5 tons from the bottom of the sea floor after divers spent nearly two days disentangling it from the reef system.

To ensure that diving vessels are protected during the cleanup, the Marine Police have requested that all diving boats leaving the popular diving departure point of Chalong Pier partake in the event or stay in the bay for the day.

Go Eco Phuket, which is still a loosely knit group of dedicated individuals and dive centers, has been jumping through the

bureaucratic hoops necessary to become a non-government organization recognized by the Thai government.

"It's going to be a legal foundation where we have some authority in advising the government. We can't change laws until we are legal," Ms Leach said.

"We know it's difficult to police [the sea], said Ms Leach, referring to the prevention of illegal fishing in national parks.

"Every year we are told that 'yeah, you pour money into the Similan National Park, but it goes into the wider national parks budget. So this is where we are trying to make a difference, Ms Leach said. "We can police it a little from our side, and take some of the pressure off the government.

The long-term goal of the foundation will be to mobilize divers



HEAVY BURDEN: Members of the Royal Thai Navy, local fishermen and Go Eco Phuket participants strain to haul the 4.5 ton fishing net removed from the waters of Koh Racha Noi during the inaugural event last year. Photo: Karrie Adams

from across Thailand to return the surrounding reefs to a clean, healthy state.

"We have a strong dream of making the reefs of Phuket and the surrounding islands clean, pristine and sustainable, and making sure they belong in the top diving destinations in Thailand and the world," Tony Andrews, Thailand's West coast PADI Regional Manager and Project AWARE Ambassador, said at the inaugural event last year.

This event will again be the biggest reef cleanup in terms of number of participants, Ms Leach said. However, the record is an unofficial one.

Go Eco Phuket has a bid placed with Guinness World Records to set an official record. Unfortunately a previous bid to have the record based on the number of participants has been turned down. Now Go Eco Phuket is shooting to secure the record based on the largest number of

PADI Project Aware certifications issued at a single event.

The local government is sponsoring a variety of events running up to the cleanup, which include a Recycling Costume Contest on July 18 and a bicycle ride from Sarasin Bridge to Chalong on July 21 as well as an after party to be held the day after the cleanup.

All are welcome to join the free event, though space is limited, Ms Leach said. To join the event email

goecophuket@gmail.com.

Divers who need to rent equipment will be asked to make a donation of 200 baht to Go Eco Phuket. The funds will go toward future projects, which may include a shark release project, installation of more moorings at popular dive sites and the sinking of several decommissioned Royal Thai Navy vessels to promote wreck diving in the area and relieve pressure on current dive sites.

Put your money where your mouth is!

THE best way people can show support for Go Eco Phuket, in addition to participating in the many events held over the year, is to make pledges, Kerry Leach said.

Go Eco Phuket is currently attempting to raise the 200,000 baht needed to establish itself as a foundation.

The funds will be used for the Go Eco Phuket Dive Against Debris cleanup in addition to many other conservation projects.

Go Eco Phuket supports financial transparency and is happy to share with donors where their money is going.

Pledges and donations can be made to Krungsri Bank, Karon Branch account number: 5471094957

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Jaunt to Phang Nga Bay



ELEVATED COMMUNITY: Koh Panyee is a village built on stilts above the water that has its own school, hospital and even a football pitch. Photos: Mark Knowles

By Mark Knowles

CAUGHT up in the daily routines of living and working in Phuket, it's all too easy to forget that you have some of the most amazing natural attractions in the world right on your door step.

Phang Nga Bay, with its towering limestone cliffs, swathes of tidal mangroves, isolated island beaches and abundant bird life is one such attraction.

So when my brother visited me recently from Australia, it was the perfect excuse to get out on the water and explore the bay. We booked a tour to "James Bond" island with one of the plethora of local tour companies offering affordable day trips to various parts of the bay.

Early the next morning we were in the tour van as it weaved its way through Patong's streets picking up other passengers before heading north to Ao Por Marina where our boat would depart.

Once aboard our guide for the day, an affable young man, soon picked up the microphone and began to describe what the day held in store.

The first stop on the tour would be the famous James

Bond island. Then a spot of sea canoeing followed by a visit to the small fishing village of Koh Panyee. Finally we would cap the day off with a swim at Naka island.

As we motored towards James Bond island, the crew brought up trays of delicious Thai breakfast snacks, like sticky rice with banana and sweets rolled in coconut, which made the perfect accompaniment to our cups of coffee. As we approached one of the many uninhabited islands, our guide began to whistle in the hope of attracting the resident sea eagles which are accustomed to flying down to the passing tour boats to grab an easy meal

of raw chicken thrown by the guides. Alas, we had no luck, the eagles remained aloft, circling above us at a distance, not willing to come down and let us get a closer look.

Soon, we pulled up to our first destination and were taken by longtail boat to spend half an hour on the famous James Bond island. As we had been warned by friends, the island was, of course, very crowded with other day trippers and many stalls selling jewelry made from shells and other souvenirs.

But the island is nevertheless remarkably beautiful and we took the obligatory picture of ourselves standing in front of Koh Tapu – the iconic column of rock that featured in the 1974 Bond film *The Man with the Golden Gun*.

Before long we were back on the boat and heading to our next stop, where we would jump in inflatable kayaks to explore some of the rocky caves and tiny inlets in the bay. Gliding along in our kayak, which was paddled by a local guide, was a very relaxing experience and dangling your feet in the water is a pleasant relief from the heat. We passed under a limestone cavern, inaccessible at high tide, with our heads just inches from the rocks. Once

through, we passed by some dense mangrove forests twittering with bird life and explored several tiny shallow inlets which are all but cut off from sunlight by the towering cliffs enclosing them.

If you get a little thirsty in the hot sun, simply ask your guide to pull up to one of the vendors on a longtail boat selling ice-creams and fresh coconuts.

After the kayaking, we headed to what was probably the most fascinating part of the day, the tiny village of Koh Panyee.

As you approach Koh Panyee, the first thing you notice is the glowing golden dome of the village mosque which serves as a

beacon to passing boats.

The village was founded in the late 18th century by nomadic Malay fisherman, who because of laws restricting foreigners from purchasing land in Thailand, built their dwellings over the water on stilts. Home to over 1,600 people, Koh Panyee has its own school, hospital and even a football field, all built over the waters of Phang Nga Bay. Most of the residents still earn their living from fishing, but in recent years, increasing numbers of tourists have provided a second source of income when they stop to have lunch or buy handicrafts from the locals.

When we arrived there were dozens of other tour boats from all around the bay docked there, unloading hundreds of passengers to eat at the many seafood restaurants. We took a short tour of the village, visiting the school and browsing through the stalls which had many homemade local snacks and treats on offer, as well as the usual t-shirts and sarongs.

I stopped to watch some children using small nets to catch garfish between the stilts which support their homes. Regretting that I could not stay longer to watch the villagers going about their daily lives on this amazing floating settlement, we were ushered back onto the boat for

the final leg of our journey.

Back aboard the boat, we were presented with a fabulous buffet lunch, all prepared by our guide's sister in a tiny kitchen below the deck. On offer were a range of Thai dishes such as chicken with cashew nuts, fried rice and stir fried vegetables – all of them delicious. I can't think of a nicer place to enjoy lunch than sitting on a boat as it glides through the pristine and unique landscape of Phang Nga Bay. Just magical.

After finishing lunch and having a pleasant siesta snooze stretched out on the bench seats of the boat's supper deck, we arrived at Naka Island for our afternoon swim at the beach. Soon after disembarking the boat and arriving at the beach we began some leisurely beach combing, spotting several hermit crabs, some the size of golf balls

which we showed to some of the children on the beach. We also found a dried seed pod and a length of bamboo and began an impromptu game of beach cricket as other tourists looked on bemused.

All too soon, it was time to get back on the boat, where plates of fresh dragon fruit, pineapple and watermelon awaited us for consumption during the short ride back to Ao Por.



Children playing football at Koh Panyee's school.



The iconic James Bond island.

Secrets of Sabah

Make sure you pick up next week's edition of the *Gazette* to read Mark Knowles' story about his journey to the remote Malaysian state of Sabah on the stunningly beautiful island of Borneo.

Mark discovers the rich heritage of the island's fascinating tribal cultures and travels to the highest peak in South East Asia – Mount Kinabalu – set in the heart of a massive National Park teeming with rare and exotic plants and animals, many found only on this incredibly bio-diverse island in the heart of Asia.



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Shortage: Calling all clean, foreign blood donars

THE Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC), often called upon to save the lives of Thais and foreigners, is low on stocks of blood type A Rhesus-negative

"As this is the beginning of [the Thai school] semester period, we got blood [donations] from students that makes us have sufficient stock of blood as we maintain a daily minimum stock

of 200 units of A, B and O blood types," said PRBC acting chief Pornthip Rattajak.

However, "A Rhesus negative blood is the [common] blood [type] of foreigners. Phuket is a tourism destination, so we need to keep [a lot of] it because we use it for tourists almost everyday. We maintain a daily minimum of 20 units, but now our stock of A Rhesus-nega-

tive blood is low," she added

"Donors must be 17-70 years old, but if 60-70, must provide written doctor approval. We don't accept blood from [those who have experienced] considerable weight loss, sexual misconduct and promiscuity or [are people with abnormal] sexual orientation, and donors must also have no record of drug use, must be free of any

medication containing aspirin for the three days prior to donating, and must have no history of being HIV positive, [or having] hepatitis B or jaundice. We will not accept blood from those who've lived in the UK between 1980-1996 for a cumulative period of six months or more, or received blood transfusions in the UK from January 1, 1980 to 1996. Donors must wait six

months after having a tattoo or body piercing before donating... Please get enough sleep and avoid high, fatty foods before donating. This is just part of it, for more information please contact us directly," explained Chief Pornthip

– **Saran Mitratat**

For more information, contact the PRBC on 076-251-178.

Mind over matter

Phuket's premier mind mentor to help you blow off steam, conquer the world

AMONG the most advanced and well-versed of Western, Buddhist meditation gurus in the country and region, if not the world, Andrea Capellari is Thanyapura's esteemed Mind Trainer. Teaching meditation regularly to hundreds of students, the Italian-born, highly proficient, intelligent and disciplined Buddhist also leads intensive meditation retreats. The *Phuket Gazette's* Steven Layne recently enjoyed an enlightening lunch with Andrea. Following is the first part of their Q&A session, with more to follow in the near future.

Phuket Gazette: Most people associate training as a physical activity. What exactly is mind training?

Andrea Capellari: The way the mind, and the way the body works and can be trained, is very much the same. The mind and body are trained on a continuous – lets say repetitious [basis]. For the body, you train in a gym, on the track or in a swimming pool. You train your mind in a certain type of environment too – a mental one.

Just as you train your body muscles, so do you train your mental functions.

The physical elements include muscles, joints, metabolism, blood circulation, breathing rhythm and so forth; mental functions are focus, concentration, memory, intuition, determination, resilience, motivation, decision making, planning and goal setting, as well as emotional balance.

If you train your mind and restore mental balance, then anything you do with your mind (mental functions) is going to be improved. Whether a top level manager with decision making or strategy that needs to be planned; a triathlete or Olympic swimmer looking to enhance their endurance or just a house wife who needs to "de-stress" – mind training will prove beneficial.

No matter what you do, the mind is like a control room, so it's better to have it nicely equipped and maintained. The goal is to become more focused, stable, peaceful, quiet, aware and mindful so then you have a range of different kinds of qualities that will be enhanced.

What exactly is stress, and how can mind training help?

Stress is a psycho-physiological state naturally occurring when we face an event that we interpret as surpassing our threshold of comfort. When that happens, the brain activates the sympathetic nervous system (SNS), causing our body to produce and release certain hormones into the blood flow, namely adrenaline and cortisol.

In nature, after the stress has activated the SNS as a survival mechanism, it will be

followed by an opposite and balancing reaction – the arousal of the parasympathetic nervous system (PNS), which activates what can be described as a process of "de-stress". When these two systems work together in sync, we experience a detox process. However, if the SNS is triggered but is not balanced by arousing the PNS, then there will be excessive hormones in your body, which can be toxic for health.

The balancing of these two systems can easily be seen in nature. Following a stressful or traumatic incident, such as surviving a car accident, for example, the first thing a dog will do is run. It will run and keep on running as a way to arouse the PNS, and that's how the dog is able to de-stress.

Another example, in Asia there is an antelope that has its own unique reaction, or defense mechanism to a tiger attack. When most animals realize that there is a tiger nearby, their instinct is to run. But this particular antelope will instead drop to the ground, and all of its muscles will freeze at once.

As soon as its brain realized the threat, it triggered a reaction in the SNS, pumping blood into the muscles and limbs to make them rigid. When the tiger moves in, there is a good chance that it will be fooled into thinking the antelope is already dead, and since tigers prefer a fresh kill, it will then move on. When the tiger's out of sight, the antelope rises up and shakes itself for some time, about 5 to 10 minutes. This is a function of pns arousal.

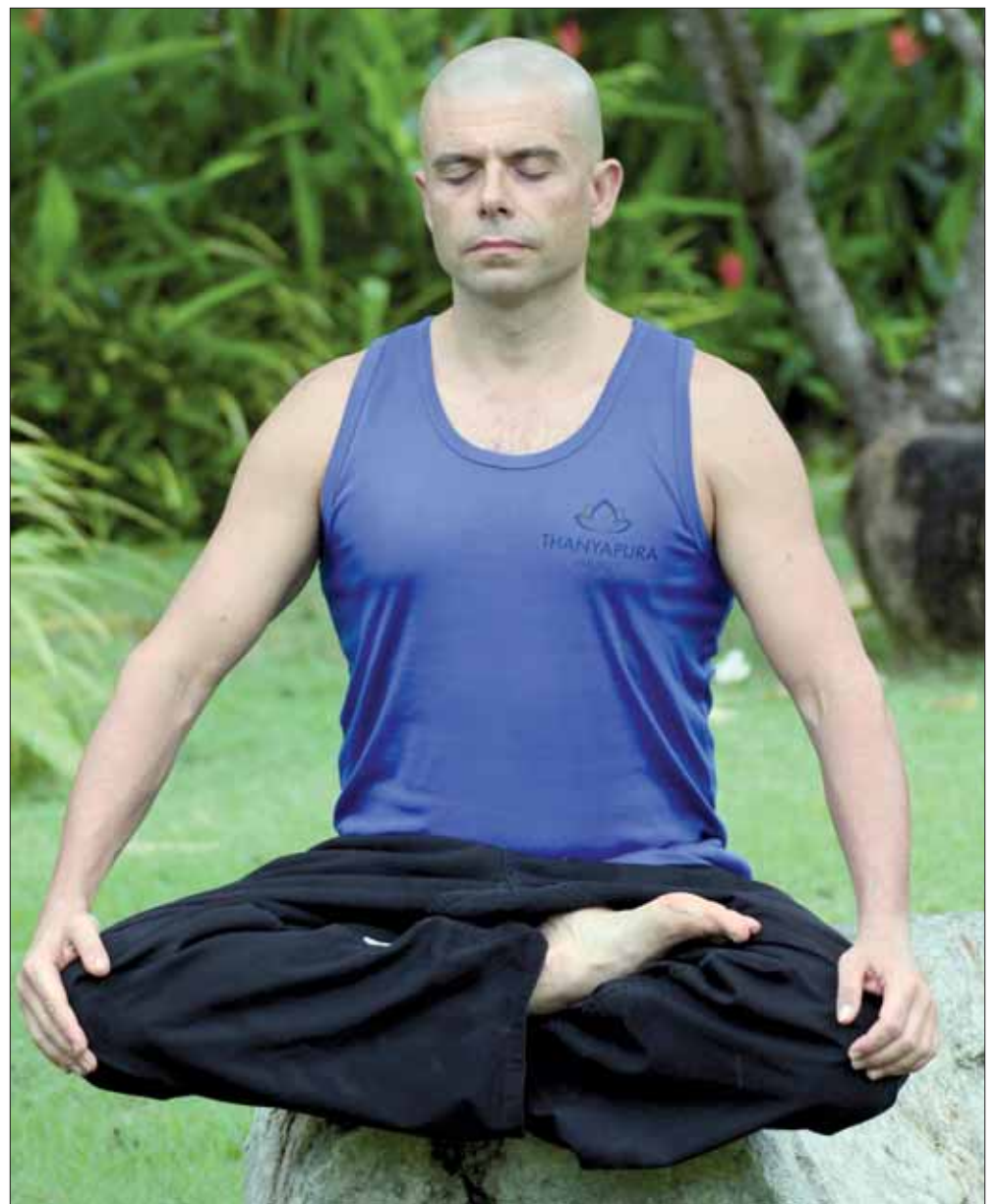
With humans, stress is becoming more common with increased urbanization, congestion and overcrowding. It's like when you put an animal in a small cage, it will quickly become stressed and unless you let it out, will become miserable and its health will decline.

Likewise, humans also need to de-stress, and activate or arouse their PNS. With modern fast-paced lifestyles, most have forgotten, or perhaps never learned how to correctly and effectively do this. The obvious ways are through doing exercise, yoga and other cardiovascular and physical activities.

While the physical arousal is important, one cannot underestimate the mental side. Meditation, through application of correct mind training techniques, is one of the most effective ways to activate and arouse the PNS, compensate SNS arousal and thus de-stress.

Who are your daily meditations sessions (10-11am and 4-5pm) ideal for?

The sessions are open to all Thanyapura members, including faculty and members of TSLC, PIADS parents, students and teachers; patients at the integrated health clinic, as well as guests at our retreat center and Sports



MY MIND TO YOUR MIND: Andrea Capellari is an advanced and well-versed Buddhist.

Hotel. Some members can't always attend regularly depending on their schedules, and we also get a lot of new guests, regularly. Sometimes there are 10-15 people, sometimes only two.

At least for now, I will usually give an introduction to mind training for new members. There are many reasons why people come to meditate. Some want to find mental and emotional balance, others need it for detox and of course many want to de-stress.

We also have a lot of athletes who seek mental reinforcement for their physical training regiment, for example.

Is there any advantage of meditating in a group as opposed to solo?

It depends on the purpose, experience

and expectations of the person meditating. Although professionals, or those who are able to meditate at a higher intensity in terms of frequency and duration, will be able to achieve their goals by meditating solo, this is not necessarily true for beginners who need more guidance and direction.

Until one has reached a certain proficiency in meditation, it is recommended to meditate with other people for the optimal benefit. In a group, there is what we call mutual support. This mutual or collective support can be measured by observing brain activity or brain wave patterns. In group meditation, the brain waves can be shared, and it is possible for a proficient leader to assist a beginner to reach a certain state quicker, and with a lot less effort, by inducing certain brain wave frequencies.

USA 237th Birthday

Air Show & Family Picnic



ฟรี

ฉลองวันชาติอเมริกา 6-7 ก.ค. 56 สนามบินเล็ก ปากลอก

บินพาตโฟน ไดรฟ์ เฮลิคอปเตอร์ กิจกรรมครอบครัวมากมาย



SKYDIVING

FIREWORKS

AIRCRAFT RIDES

CHILI COOKOFF

HELICOPTER RIDES

AMERICAN BEER

AIRSHOW ACROBATICS

LIVE BANDS & MUSIC

HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES

THAI & AMERICAN FOOD

FREE CHILDREN'S GAMES

EVERYONE WELCOME!!!
FREE ENTRY!!!

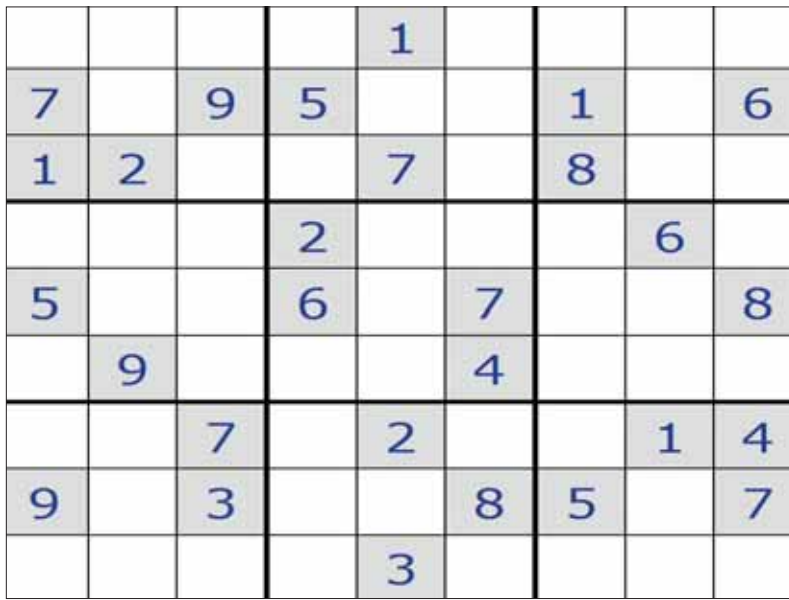
www.NavyLeaguePhuket.org

Air Park @ Paklok July 6-7, 2013

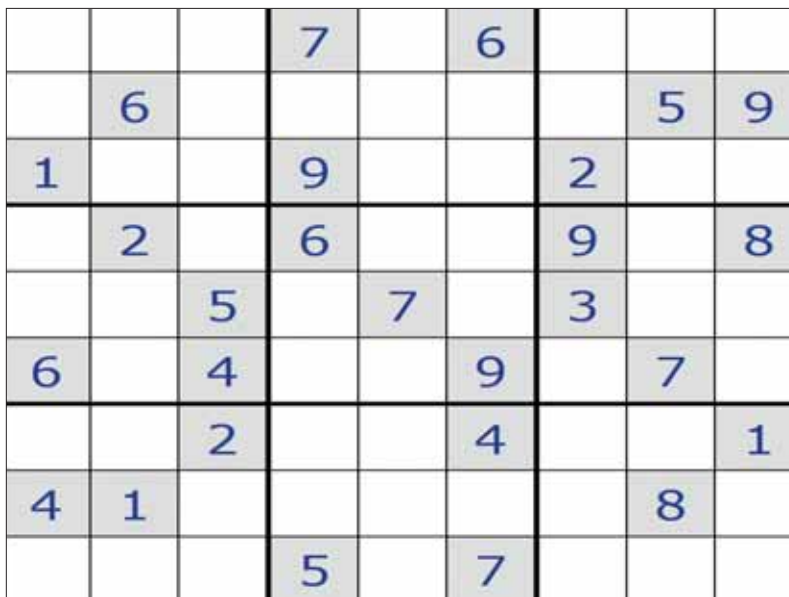


Phuket Gazette

FGTV



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



Your weekly pith:

"There are three roads to ruin; women, gambling and technicians. The most pleasant is with women, the quickest is with gambling, but the surest is with technicians."

— Georges Pompidou

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

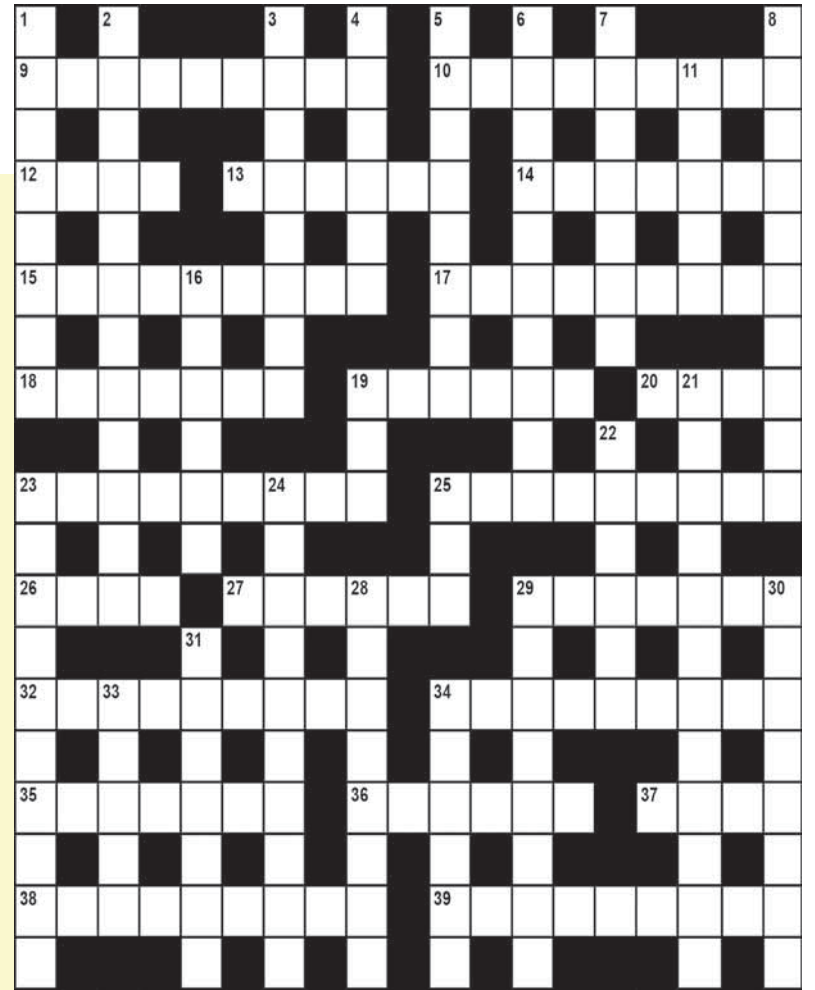
COFFEE break

Across:

9. No, many possibly have nothing on us, being unidentified (9)
10. 'Tis Clara I discovered mocking! (9)
12. Thai pavilion demolished, alas! (4)
13. Two banks involved in this old vessel (6)
14. Stand it off, far away (7)
15. Child impressive in piano (4,5)
17. To focus attention on, notice illumination (9)
18. A cheer a change from a common complaint (3,4)
19. Fool, bend to evaluate (6)
20. For example, nowadays it's an old fashioned oath (4)
23. I can't moan about a boys' toy from the 60's (6,3)
25. Fantasies made as dry absurdity (9)
26. A rot destroyed edible tuber in Thailand (4)
27. Get in the way of Tim? Yes, maybe! (6)
29. Kitchen appliance Ben left in, turning red (7)
32. Crazy art revels for itinerants (9)
34. Fated, stir around to discover initial assignation (5,4)
35. The 'auld enemy' ravaged his glen! (7)
36. First class sound in broadcasting (6)
37. Fingered the cloth (4)
38. Press mount for old steam engine (4,5)
39. Our grant a surprise for the underwriter (9)

Down:

1. Father's expensive fur is acceptable (8)
2. Or at color lab could produce



partner-in-crime (12)

3. Rewrite tome and I come out on top (8)
4. Caught Danes moving out to climb (6)
5. Estimates fool bends (8)
6. So suit duly refashioned in a deliberate way (10)
7. Has grit, sly, maybe tough (7)
8. Past freedoms are clichés (10)
11. Almost suspend large animal in Thailand (5)
16. Grand, note sock damaged common house creatures (6)
19. Woman a new Nationalist (3)
21. Antecedents are splendid fathers and mothers (12)
22. Clergyman a nuisance around

Rhode Island (6)

23. The saint is moving opposite (10)
24. Swiss-Italian summit content with French instrument (10)
25. Female party Egyptian (3)
28. Muddle long time communications (8)
29. Noble one a liberal, befitting a peer (8)
30. Comes in again, runs tango in serene dance (8)
31. Greatly please many, note not ponderous (7)
33. Move along, affix the English (5)
34. In favor of maturity in hunt (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The stars show that Cancerians will be moving out of their home zone more frequently during the remainder of July. Work related travel remains auspicious, but trips with family members can be complicated this week. Those celebrating a birthday this week see more chances of financial gain during the coming year. Love with other water signs is lucky, but a relationship with an earth sign is affected by that person's ties with the past.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Leos can expect the unexpected until the middle of this month. A strange encounter this week can lead to a different work situation with your need for more challenges being well satisfied. Romance should also not be taken for granted. The stars suggest that a partner's summer holiday plans could take the wind out of your sails. Finances are fortunate this weekend; repaying a debt is forecast to become easier.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Money is predicted to be hard to manage until the middle of July. The stars suggest that this may be a result of unpaid bills at the end of last

month. Those involved with a fire sign are advised to keep a closer eye on this person's spending habits. In the realm of romance, an air sign's tendency to cancel arrangements at the last minute can become an issue.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Change is in the air for those born under the sign of Libra. The stars indicate your spirit of adventure will match that of a water sign who is poised to come into your life. The stars suggest that you will meet some opposition from another air sign this week. If this relates to the realm of romance, it is an auspicious time to redefine a rocky relationship.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

It can be a case of if you can't beat them, you had better join them this week. There are hints that Scorpions will have a radical change of heart about something or someone and this should have a positive outcome. Accepting another water sign's way of doing things will result in a calmer atmosphere at work. Where friendships are concerned, accepting an earth sign's invitation makes this a weekend to remember.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

The stars advise that Sagittarians on a guilt trip will realize this is getting them nowhere. Your vulnerable side is about to give way to a more practical perspective, but there are hints that this won't please everyone. Where work is concerned, those who have got stuck at a crossroads receive useful directions from another fire sign. Money matters are luckier towards the middle of the month.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Not everything that is seen on the surface will be a reflection of reality this week. Capricorns are advised to be aware that there can be hidden truths, particularly in the world of work. On a personal level, a water sign's way of apologizing might be hard to accept, but the stars suggest that this person has seen the error of their ways. Best days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Conflicts can be more easily resolved and this trend should continue until the middle of July. Aquarians who have been waiting for the right moment to approach someone they fell out with last month will know when to take action. At work, an earth sign is ready to make an offer, but it won't be on the table for long. Fortunate days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

Hot gossip involving another water sign can spark off trouble in your world of work this week. Pisceans with a burning ambition are advised to wait until the dust settles before pushing forward. The stars are ready to back your attempts to get ahead later this month. This is an auspicious time to fine tune ideas and work on getting finances in better order. Flirtation with an earth sign brightens your weekend.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

The stars suggest that those Arians with too many responsibilities will find a way to streamline commitments this week. An earth sign colleague or friend can hold the key

to helping this happen, with another fire sign giving constructive assistance. Family affairs are well-starred until the end of this month; contact with relatives you have been estranged from falls under the spotlight around the middle of July.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Taureans are advised to listen to their inner voice of reason before splashing out too much cash this week. The stars show that money can be wasted on the whim of a moment. The realm of romance becomes a happier place around the middle of July – a mutual attraction this weekend can give a hint of what the future may hold. Home is a serene oasis for those already committed.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Relationships can be intense until the middle of the month and some Geminis will want to take distance from people whose demands are growing. If this applies to work, a straightforward discussion can prevent problems from getting out of hand. Where love is concerned, another air sign partner's moodiness is forecast to soon pass – the least said, the soonest mended. Lucky days for money matters are Sunday and Monday.

International Sport

England ready for Ashes fight

By Patrick Campbell

EVERY “Pommie” and every “Ocker” knows about the Ashes, the terra-cotta urn supposedly filled with ashes from the bails of the first series ever played between the nations. It is a pervasive symbol of a cricket contest dating from 1882; one of the oldest rivalries in global sport. This summer, if the rain gods allow, the battle will recommence.

The omens are propitious for the home team. They defeated Australia in the last two series in 2009 and 2011. Furthermore, Australia were again humbled in India. Their current 16 man squad contains only five players who have played Tests in England; it has been impossible to replace bowlers of the caliber of Warne and McGrath, or batsmen as good as Ponting and Hussey. Mickey Arthur, the team's South African coach has gone, a presumed victim of team pressure.

Moreover, hard-hitting opener David Warner, enhancing his belligerent reputation by punching Joe Root in a night club, has been sidelined till the first Test. Michael Clarke, the side's best

batsman and scorer of over 2,500 runs since succeeding Ricky Ponting as captain in 2011, has been nursing a persistent back injury. The younger batsmen—Phillip Hughes, Ed Cowan, and the highly rated Usman Khawaja—have yet to make their mark.

On the other hand, England, despite the loss of Eoin Morgan with a broken finger, will be more-or-less at full strength, with Kevin Pietersen back in the fold after a troublesome knee injury. The baby-faced Joe Root has been the find of the year, scoring runs in all forms of the game, and showing an unflappable temperament that belies his twenty two years. The batting looks strong with Cook and Trott always likely to make big scores. Prior is arguably the best wicket keeper-batsman following a superb series in New Zealand where he scored six fifties and anchored England to a draw in a Test that England had looked certain to lose. Anderson, the spearhead of the attack, has been a handful in all forms of the game and is currently ranked seven in the world, one place below Swann.

Yet there are flaws which



OPENER: Joe Root has been the find of the year, scoring runs in all forms of the game. Photos: Reuters

Australia will be keen to exploit. Bell is having a poor run of form, and the middle order has been brittle. Broad whose place in the pace attack is secure as long as he contributes with the bat, has failed to develop as an all-rounder. In tight situations—for example, the final of the Champion's Trophy—he has let the side down. Finn, the quickest bowler, needs to stay injury free.

Indeed, things are rarely straightforward in sport. Australia are invariably gritty and determined when facing the old enemy. If their batting looks thin, the pace attack

is arguably better balanced than England's. When Shane Watson says that “the English quicks are certainly as good as there are in the world at the moment”, one wonders if there is an element of kidology in the observation.

Against Somerset, it was the Aussie “quicks” who took the eye—James Pattinson and left-armer Mitchell Starc skittled the opposition with the second new ball. They will be ably supported by Siddie and new boy Faulkner in the Test match arena. The batsmen, moreover, followed up in

Taunton with fine knocks from a rejuvenated Watson (90)—named as opener for the First Test by new boss Darren Lehmann—and returning skipper Clarke (45). Look out for Chris Rogers; he has scored 19,000 first class runs, mostly in English conditions.

The tourists played a warm-up match against Worcestershire (July 2-5) before the First Test at Trent Bridge on July 10.

As Matthew Hayden has ominously remarked: “Australia are capable of anything when it comes to the Ashes.”



David Warner training.

A global brand looks local

ENGLISH soccer's Premier League put a fraction of its riches into a scheme to support youth sport on Tuesday, seeking to underline a commitment to local communities its clubs are accused of taking for granted.

Flush with cash from a five billion pound television windfall, English clubs face pressure to cut ticket prices and familiar questions about their failure to produce gifted young players for the national team.

But Chief Executive Richard Scudamore defended the 20-club League against accusations it was not doing enough to support teams lower down the soccer pyramid and grassroots sport.

As part of efforts to stay in touch with local communities, the Premier League has teamed up with government-backed Sport England in a 17 million pound scheme to encourage young people to take up a variety of sports.

Scudamore bridled at suggestions that such funding was small change for the Premier League where players can earn up to 200,000 pounds a week.

“There is no other company in this country that gives away more than we give away,” he told reporters at a London school.

“We will give away next year more than 260 million pounds. We will give away 50 million just in raw charitable causes,” he added, surrounded by teenagers showing off their soccer, table tennis and basketball skills.

The larger figure includes money distributed to other parts of the professional game, including “parachute payments” to clubs to cushion the financial impact of relegation.

The Premier League is one of Britain's most successful exports, with overseas TV rights for the next three seasons worth an estimated 2 billion pounds and top clubs like champions Manchester United able to sign sponsorship deals in dozens of foreign markets.

United and title rivals Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal are about to embark on long-haul overseas tours to tune up for the new season and help build their international following.

Back home, some fans argue that the TV windfall should be used to subsidise cheaper tickets to prevent less affluent fans being priced out of going to matches.

Scudamore said it was up to clubs to set their own prices but added they should maintain strong local ties to complement their global ambitions.

“It means making sure that the local people that live and breathe and work around the clubs are able to go and watch those teams, not every week perhaps, but certainly on an occasional basis,” he said.

England has the most lucrative league in the world, but has only won a major international competition once—the World Cup on home soil in 1966.

The Premier League attracts many of the world's top players but critics argue that homegrown youngsters are getting crowded out.

Scudamore said a 320 million pound investment to improve academies for young players was starting to pay dividends.

“There were 210 players qualified to play for England playing in the Premier League



Van persie is one of the top earners.

last year,” Scudamore said.

“We ought to be able to find 11 to take the field to do well,” he added.

— Reuters

Bournemouth get Real in friendly

A CHANCE meeting and a chat between friends has led to star-studded Real Madrid agreeing to play a friendly at English Championship side Bournemouth later this month.

Bournemouth chairman Eddie Mitchell told *Sky Sports* on Tuesday that the match, on July 21, was “down to fate”.

“My son was talking to a friend who knows people at Real Madrid and got chatting about a possible exhibition match,” said Mitchell. “We’ve worked hard over the last three or four weeks to finalize things.”

It will be one of the first games for new Real coach Carlo Ancelotti and his assistant Zinedine Zidane.

Mitchell said Real would bring Cristiano Ronaldo “for sure” to the south coast club for the match which is part of Bournemouth's celebration for winning promotion to the second tier of English football last season.

“The only ones who won't be there are the players who were in the Confederations Cup,” he said.

“I’m over the moon for the supporters. It’ll be a great night for them to see some of the best players in the world and for our players to pit themselves against them.”

Bournemouth are charging 60 pounds (US\$91.02) for an adult ticket to see the game, more than double this season's Championship price, with a five pounds discount for season ticket holders.

International Sport

Explosions, excitement, errors

EVERY man jack in the pub cheered when Sebastian Vettel's transmission failed. The race had suddenly become exciting. The Championship was teetering towards interesting.

Silverstone re-invigorated the season with exploding tyres and Sebastian Vettel's gearbox failure. It was certainly not the parade behind Red Bull that I had feared.

Kimi Räikkönen was let down by his team's inexplicable error in not giving him new shoes under the safety car; they lost a certain second place.

Lewis Hamilton lost a tyre, but was favoured by the safety car to finish fourth, and with his teammate winning, it was a great day for Mercedes.

Webber had a great drive for Red Bull, and was unlucky not to win. Fernando Alonso's third place was a boost for his challenge.

The five exploding tyres at Silverstone were probably a latent possibility all season, which I am guessing is why Pirelli had Mercedes conduct that strange test in Barcelona.

The proximate cause of the Silverstone problem seems to have been sharp edged kerbs on fast corners. But Pirelli listed a series of team-created causes, including: teams mounting the asymmetric rear tyres the wrong way round; and the use of lower than recommended tyre pressures. Pirelli still



RUPTURE: Felipe Massa enters the pit with a puncture during the Grand Prix at Silverstone. Photo: Reuters



insists that the current tyres if used correctly are perfectly safe. Teams are now forbidden to swap the tyres around.

But in any case, Pirelli has announced that the Kevlar-belted rear tyres tested in Canada will be used in Germany, replacing the 2013 steel belts. A new tyre range will be introduced from Hungary combining the 2012 tyre characteristics with 2013 compounds.

The tyres for the Hungary

onwards will have the structure, construction and belt of the 2012 tyre, with the 2013 compounds. This new tyre, as agreed with the FIA, will be tested by the teams and their 2013 cars at Silverstone from July 17-19 using race drivers instead of the previously scheduled young driver test. Pirelli is also asking for regulation changes to give them access to real-time data from teams on pressure, temperature and camber angles.

So it's on to the Nurburgring, one of the most technical circuits where drivers have to manage slow, technical corners. Tyre degradation

is likely to be high as well. Do not expect safety cars. It's the sort of track where Ferrari should do well, and Lotus should also be bullish. Mercedes has its tail in the air, and Red Bull would dearly love a great result, so we are set for a great spectacle. My eyes will be on Fernando Alonso and Kimi Räikkönen, even if Fernando's facial hair seems to be rivaling Lewis Hamilton's for eccentricity.

Join me at The Green Man for the race on Sunday at 7pm. Qualifying at the same time on Saturday. See you there!

F1 DRIVER STANDINGS			
Pos	Driver	Team	Points
1	Sebastian Vettel	Red Bull	132
2	Fernando Alonso	Ferrari	111
3	Kimi Räikkönen	Lotus	98
4	Lewis Hamilton	Mercedes	89
5	Mark Webber	Red Bull	87
6	Nico Rosberg	Mercedes	82
7	Felipe Massa	Ferrari	57
8	Paul di Resta	Force India	36
9	Romain Grosjean	Lotus	26
10	Jenson Button	McLaren	25

F1 CONSTRUCTOR'S STANDINGS		
Pos	Team	Points
1	RED BULL	219
2	MERCEDES	171
3	FERRARI	168
4	LOTUS	124
5	FORCE INDIA	59
6	MCLAREN	37
7	STR	24
8	SABER	6
9	WILLIAMS	0
10	MARUSSIA	0
11	CATERHAM	0

Close encounter of the rugby kind



Kurtley Beale kicks in the last Test: Photo: Reuters

IN A nail-bitingly close encounter, the Wallabies triumphed in the second Melbourne Test. 16-15. A solitary point between the two teams. A series now level at 1-1. Over two games, a total score of 38-37. Some match-up!

Before the game, Lions captain Sam Warburton had referred to "the biggest game of my life." After the final whistle, Wallabies captain, James Horwill was in tears. The tension throughout a ferociously contested match reached a climax as the Lions, defending a six point lead for much of the second half, finally conceded an Ashley-Cooper try from close in, courtesy of a flat pass from James O'Connor. Leali'ilanu's nerveless conversion from wide out gave the home team a one point lead with four minutes to go.

But the Lions, refusing to accept yet another last minute defeat (Wales and England have memories of these against the Wallabies), stormed up-field and won a penalty on half-way. In an uncanny repetition of the first Test scenario, Leigh Halfpenny, who had already kicked all fifteen of the Lions' points, stepped up to win the series. It was not to be. Under enormous pressure, he uncharacteristically left his effort short. Shades of Kurtley Beale in the first Test. As Sam Warburton opined: "We're going through what Australia went through last week."

Poetic justice maybe, though Lions supporters will hardly endorse that view. Coach Warren Gatland was more candid saying: "We didn't look after the ball

enough ... they dominated the turnover in the second half ... that put us under pressure."

Pre-match hype had focused, rather irrelevantly, on James Horwill's initial reprieve from a stamping citing, and on George North's apology for gesturing at Will Genia as he scored. But the more important business had concerned team selection. The Lions made five changes – some enforced – selecting brothers Ben and Tom Youngs (the first sibling double act since the Hastings brothers in 1989), Dan Lydiate at flanker, Mako Vunipola at prop, Geoff Parling at lock and Tommy Bowe on the wing. For their part, Australia installed Beale at full-back and brought in winger Joe Tomane.

In a match that turned on hair-breadths, these selections may well have been decisive. Dan Lydiate had a fine match, constantly involved in the maelstrom of rucks and mauls, but Vunipola, who performed creditably in the loose, was a liability in the scrum where his technique was exposed.

As for the backs, they had few opportunities in a match where the ball was rarely spread wide, as both sides sought to eliminate the handling errors of the first Test. The result was an attritional battle, largely played out between two packs who both asked and gave no quarter.

Attention now shifts to the third and decisive game at Sydney's Olympic Stadium this Saturday. A sell-out is in prospect. There may well be further changes to the teams. Warburton is unlikely to recover

from a hamstring injury which saw him off the field for the decisive final minutes, and Corbisiero will probably return to shore up the front row. Both locks and centers will come under scrutiny. For the Wallabies, captain Horwill may yet be censured.

The momentum is with Australia, as is the hand of history. But whatever happens, the final Test will assuredly be a close encounter of the third kind, a battle of epic proportions. There is still everything to play for. As Warburton declared after the match: "We're definitely capable of taking the Test series, we've shown that for two games. It's going to be won by a whisker next week and I hope it's us."

Australia: Beale, Folau, Ashley-Cooper, Leali'ilanu, Tomane, O'Connor, Genia, Robinson, Moore, Alexander, Horwill, Douglas, Mowen, Hooper, Palu.

Replacements: Slipper (for Robinson 60), Kepu (for Alexander 58) Simmonds (for Douglas 53), Gill (for Palu 60), Horne (for Ashley-Cooper 79).

Lions: Halfpenny, Bowe, O'Driscoll, Davies, North, Sexton, B. Youngs, Vunipola, T. Youngs, A. Jones, A.W. Jones, Parling, Lydiate, Warburton, Heaslip.

Replacements: Hibbard (for T. Youngs 68), Cole (for A. Jones 58), Croft (for Warburton 66), O'Brien (for Heaslip 62), Murray (for B. Youngs 53)

– Patrick Campbell

The final Test between Australia and the Lions is on Saturday July 6 at 5:05pm

AFC to inspect TPL stadiums

A DELEGATION from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will visit Thailand later this month to inspect stadiums of the country's top-flight clubs, Thai Premier League chairman Vichit Yamboonruang said.

Vichit said the AFC officials would make the trip from July 14-22 as part of the governing body's evaluating process to allocate places in the continent's elite club competition, the AFC Champions League next season.

Thailand were handed one automatic spot plus a play-off berth for the Asian Champions League's current season.

"They will not visit every stadium this time because some of the venues, such as Muang Thong United's SCG stadium and Buriram United's I-Mobile stadium, have already passed evaluation. They will visit the venues where they have not been before, as well as some stadiums to see whether there has been improvements.

"They'll go to the stadiums of Bangkok United, Chiang Rai United, Suphan Buri, Songkhla United as well as BEC Tero Sasana, which moved to the new ground this season. I believe each of those venues is ready and there should not be any problem," Vichit said.

While claiming that many stadiums have improved considerably, Vichit declined to



THUNDERDOME: Muang Thong United's SCG stadium will not be assessed as it has already passed evaluation. Photo: wikiscg

comment whether the country would get more ACL places.

"There are signs of improvement at many grounds. For example, more stands with all-seat facilities were added at Suphan Buri, VIP boxes were built, while Chiang Rai also

made a lot of improvement. However, I'm not sure whether some of the venues need more improvement. In general, they looked better and we should get more points.

"We should get better scores but I can't say we would get more places because we

don't know how other countries will fare. It also depends on other factors in deciding the quotas for each country such as the world's ranking or the number of FIFA-licensed referees," Vichit said.

— *The Nation*

Thai Tennis player Tamarine's time's up



Tamarine plans to regroup before starting the US hard court season. Photo: Robbie Mendelson

TAMARINE Tanasugarn says she is still enjoying tennis despite age catching up with her. The 36-year-old Thai suffered her latest setback when she was bundled out in the doubles third round at Wimbledon last Monday.

Pairing up with Croatian Dajirija Jurak, Tammy lost to eighth seed Hsieh Su-wei of Taiwan and Peng Shuai of China 6-4 6-4. The end to her All England campaign came 10 days after she failed to make it through Wimbledon singles qualifying.

Tammy has a dismal record in singles this year on the WTA Tour, having never been past the first round. Despite her below-par performances, the former world No 19 says her passion for the game is still high. She plans to take a few weeks off at home in Bangkok before playing both singles and doubles during the US hard-court season.

"I have no other plans but to keep on playing, even in the singles. I still enjoy the game and I find it even more challenging at

this stage," said Tammy, winner of four WTA titles, and now the second-oldest player on the Tour after 42-year-old Kimiko Date Krumm of Japan.

"I will keep competing until my body says no. My age means I have to stay physically strong and fit to keep up with the young players." There was better Wimbledon news for Wishaya Trongcharoenchaikul, who became the first Thai boy in many years to win a match at All England when he ousted Thomas Collautti of Great Britain 7-6 (7-1) 5-7 6-3 in the first round of the junior singles.

"It wasn't a good day for me, perhaps because I was a bit nervous. Luckily I kept my cool and stuck to the game plan. My rival was playing well and put me under constant pressure," said the 18-year-old Davis Cup player. Wishaya played 10th seed Johan Sebastian Tatlot of France in the second round.

— *The Nation*

Man Utd link True

ENGLISH Premier League champions Manchester United claimed that around 70 million people in Thailand watched United's games in the first seven months of last season. The figure was included in a press release the club released to announce a regional partnership with True Corporation Plc.

The three-year agreement makes TrueMove H Manchester United's official mobile partner for Thailand and TrueVisions will be the official MUTV broadcaster for Thailand.

True will also become an official associate match sponsor for the opening tour game against Singha All Stars in Bangkok on July 13.

"When considering our partners, the club likes to ensure the company in question shares many of the same attributes that have

allowed us to grow into the world's most recognized team. True is a company that demonstrated many admirable qualities, itself, crediting courage and the ability to take on new challenges as the key to its success. Manchester United group Managing Director Richard Arnold told the club's official website.

"Since forming in 1990 it has continued to grow with the fast-paced telecommunications industry to become one of the best in its territory, proudly being the first to embrace many new technologies. Our new partnership is set to follow suit and provide our 20 million loyal and passionate Thai followers with exclusive content and footage, bringing them closer to the club they love."

— *Phuket Gazette*

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Big fleet to blow in for Raceweek

THE award-winning Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek is set to welcome a large multinational fleet of boats to the 10th Anniversary edition, held 17 – 21 July, 2013 at Cape Panwa Hotel, Phuket, Thailand.

Over the last 12 months, regattas around the region have experienced a decline in entries, however, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek looks set to buck that trend with over 30 boats already signed up in six classes, and more than 400 sailors taking part.

“The entry line-up for 2013 is looking very strong,” said Mr Byron Jones, managing director of co-organiser Media Business Services (MBS).

“We are already pushing mid-30s and there are a number of boats we expect to register in the coming days. Our aim has always been to put sailors at the center of our decisions, and I believe news of the excellent venue and top quality on-water race management has spread, as we are seeing more chartered boats and international crews taking part this year, as well as retaining strong support from the local sailing community.”

A quality IRC fleet is shaping up, and depending on final entries, class splits will likely be IRC

Racing I, IRC Racing II and IRC Cruising. Leading the fleet in length is the *TP52 Team Premier*, skippered by new owner and circuit veteran, Peter Ahern.

Having taken a hiatus from the Asian yachting scene, Ahern returned to Phuket Raceweek last year on the chartered *Soto 30 Longitude*, and this year he is upping the ante (and size). *Team Premier* is well known throughout the region, having competed in and won many regattas, including the 2011 Phuket Raceweek, that time chartered and skippered by Neil Pryde. This year, the high caliber competition is unlikely to let them have it all their own way.

Up against *Team Premier* will be a newcomer to Phuket Raceweek, the *Beneteau 44.7 Fuujin*. Formerly known as *Ichi Ban*, the boat has been campaigned with much success on the Thai sailing circuit in recent years and at Phuket Raceweek it will be skippered by familiar face, Peter Sorensen. While Ben Copley's *Aquila Reichel Pugh 45 Katsu*, and Kevin Whitcraft's modified GP42 *Wan Ma Rang* – both of which have been scoring podiums recently – make them likely contenders also.

The standard of competition in IRC Cruising class is equally high,

with a number of chartered boats and crew from as far a field as the USA, UK and New Zealand, to line-up against a strong local fleet who are hoping local knowledge will be their advantage.

After success at the Royal Langkawi International Regatta earlier this year, Rob Azzopardi's *Dreamtime* is set to compete against *Venture*, *Eloise*, *Lucky Lady Lucy*, and local stalwart *Linda*, to name just a few, while the all-Thai crew on *Ooh La La* – without regular skipper Patinyakorn Buranrom who is competing in the TRANSPAC – will also be in the mix.

Phuket is home to a sizable multihull fleet, in large part due to the strong local boat-building industry. The multihull-only ACYC Multihull Regatta, a precursor to Phuket Raceweek, is likely to give an indicator of the in-form crews and provide a tune-up for crews heading to Raceweek.

Designed for Phuket and built in Phuket are the one-design Firefly 850 Sport catamarans, and as always a competitive line-up is again expected, including returning champion *Voodoo* and regulars *Twin Sharks* and *The Frog*.

2011 Multihull class winner *DaVinci*, also a Phuket-built catamaran, is back to defend their crown, with Mark Pescott at the



A strong line-up of boats and crews from around the world is expected for the 2013 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek.

helm, and they are up against three other local builds – *Hurricane*, *Java* and *Nina* – as well as the G Force 1500 Schionning design and Australian-built *Mojo*.

Having a genuine Classic class is something unique to Phuket Raceweek and something the organizers have supported and encouraged since the beginning. Entries are already looking good with five having registered to date, including two newcomers, as well as perennial competitor *Seraph*, who at 106-years-old is the oldest in the fleet. All in the Classic class will be racing for the perpetual Seraph Trophy.

Four days of world-class yacht racing in Phuket, Thailand, combined with four nights of magical, beach side parties at the 5-star Cape Panwa Hotel, the 10th Anniversary Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek will take place 17 – 21 July, 2013. – *Phuket Gazette*

Phuket Raceweek is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised Phuket Today Show.

For more information, visit: phuketraceweek.com, [facebook.com/PhuketRaceweekRegatta](https://www.facebook.com/PhuketRaceweekRegatta), twitter.com/phuketraceweek,

Thanyapura flagship Aquatics Academy

THANYAPURA Aquatics Academy has become Asia's first true “one stop shop” for swimmers, with something for everyone no matter their age or performance level, according to Thanyapura President Robert Hauck.

With all major infrastructure completed, experienced and proven coaches secured in key positions, a thriving young swimmers' program – SilverFinz – now in place and growing with a new line of stunning swimsuits, Mr Hauck is confident in Thanyapura's position as an institute of aquatics excellence.

He said innovative work at sport's last frontier – the mind-body barrier – was also being undertaken via Thanyapura's Mind Center, while the cutting-edge Integrative Health

Centre provided the ability to tailor athletes' diet and training regimes from their DNA level upwards.

“Call it timing, synchronicity or gaining critical mass, but Thanyapura's Aquatics Academy is now fully integrated with other key, complimentary facilities and functioning at the highest level.

“We have swimming-specific strength training with leading strength and conditioning coaches in world class facilities. But beyond that, there's a positive effect on a diverse range of people of all ages and abilities, from aqua-babies to overweight executives, Paralympic athletes, autistic children, underprivileged Thai children, rehabilitation from injury, Phuket International Academy Day School (PIADS) students, and even Olympic

Legends,” Mr. Hauck said.

“Thanyapura offers truly interactive coaching,” he continued, “With Olympic coaches working with SilverFinz swimmers and PIADS students. The opportunity exists to perform and improve in the pool 365 days a year, whatever your age or ability.

“It is also gratifying to have finally assembled a coaching team of true professionals who look at the big picture and know swimming inside out and back to front,” Mr Hauck said.

The Aquatics Academy also offers swim training in a non-sporting context as Thanyapura is the only lifeguard, CPR and first aid training facility in Phuket providing certification programs all year round. The lifeguard training

program also offers free swimming lessons to underprivileged children in the community every Saturday morning via the Coconut Club organization.

In addition to the world-class swim training facilities, Thanyapura Sports Hotel – the first in Asia – is now open and has quickly struck a real chord with its first guests, including Olympians and world record holders from leading national teams on high performance tune-up clinics to families and couples enjoying an active holiday together.

The fantastic Thanyapura Aquatics Team includes team: Anna Jones, newly promoted from swim coach to Swim School Manager, and renowned for her work with aqua babies and children with learning disabilities; Randy Simon, head



TSLC SilverFinz team. Photo: TSLC coach, renowned for his leadership, creativity and initiative, and his gentle, confidence-building approach and Chris Gaffney joins the team as Age Group Coach, and is preceded by a reputation as an exciting, dynamic and experienced coach. – *Phuket Gazette*

Bayern Munich coach takes two day camp



FC Bayern Munich coach Timon Pauls coaching the kids. Photos: PSS

LAST weekend, 41 teenage players from seven different Asian countries, including Thailand took part in an Allianz Junior Football Camp at British International School.

The players were fortunate enough to be trained under FC Bayern Munich coach Timon Pauls and Phuket Soccer Schools (PSS) was given the chance to assist the two day intensive camp.

Under the favorable weather,

three coaching stations were formed where groups went through drills such as shooting under pressure, passing in the middle third of the pitch within tight spaces and small sided training matches. This was then followed by 6v6 training matches where teams competed in a tournament.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, please visit: football-for-life.com



The teenagers after the camp.

Sport

Islanders reinforced

By Steven Layne

IN THEIR drive to get promoted to the Thai Premier League (TPL), Phuket FC have regrouped, signing at least nine new players to help them in the final 17 matches of the Yamaha League One (YL1) 2013 season.

The new signings include seven Thais, one Brazilian and one North Korean (see image to left). The team has not made any announcements of outgoing players.

The Islanders were unable to secure a top-five finish in the conclusion to the season's first half, losing at home last Saturday evening to Nakhon Ratchasima FC.

The match was attended by about 4,000 fans, including a contingent of orange-clad die-hards who'd bused it down from Thailand's Northeast, and were rewarded with a single goal, by the visitors' Japanese striker and leading scorer, Yusuke Kato, who converted a corner kick on 64 minutes.

Now with 9 goals this season, Kato is joint fourth in the YL1 golden boot race, along with the Port Lions' Brazilian stalwart Leandro Oliveira and Bangkok's Swede sensation, Carl Watson.

Bangkok FC's Brit, Lee Tuck (12 goals) is on track to claim the top scorer honors for the second year in a row, while Khon Kaen's Argen-

tine Recio Eduardo, along with Nakhon Pathom's Ivorian, Camara Souleymane each have 10 goals.

Meanwhile, Phuket's top scorers – Luiz "Dudu" Purcino (6 goals), Giorgi Tsimakuridze (4), Geoffrey Doumeng (3), Nenebi Sylvestre and Chana Sonwiset (2 each) – are all hoping to regain their rhythm in the season's final 17 matches.

As a result of Saturday's match, Phuket (25 points) and Korat swapped rankings, with the latter having an edge by just a single point.

Although 6th placed Phuket are only 4 points behind 3rd place, Bangkok FC (29 points), competition for the final promotion spot to the TPL is heating up with a handful of teams in the mid table region still in contention.

Meanwhile, the top two teams, Air Force (40 points) and PTT Rayong (36 points) should not have too much trouble maintaining their momentum towards the TPL.

Sixth place Phuket will be challenged for their ranking at home yet again, this Saturday, July 6, with a tough match against 7th placed Big Bang Chula United FC.

Although the BBCU Pink Panthers also have 25 points, Phuket's goal difference of +5 gives them an edge over BBCU (0).

Kickoff will be at 6:30pm at Surakul Stadium. Tickets 100 baht, kids free. See you there!



Top, from left: Watchara Keriamam (Ang Thong); Wacharapong Suthidee (TTM); Sukree E-tae (Chonburi), Aleef Po-ji (Bangkok); Christian Alex (Cruzeiro). Bottom, from left: Chakrapong Somboon (Army); Koset Kertsuk (Si Saket); So Kum-sol (Muang Thong); Chatchai (Rayong Utd).



Luiz "Dudu" Purcino (left) is still Phuket's top scorer. Photo: Steven Layne

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Air Force	17	40
2	PTT Rayong	16	36
3	Bangkok	17	29
4	Port Lions	17	28
5	Korat	17	26
6	Phuket	16	25
7	BBCU FC	17	25
8	Trat FC	17	24
9	Nakhon Pathom	17	23
10	Saraburi	17	22
11	Ayutthaya	17	19
12	Khon Kaen	17	19
13	Krabi	17	18
14	Sriracha	17	16
15	Royal Navy	17	16
16	TTM FC	17	15
17	Rayong FC	17	14
18	Rayong Utd.	17	9

FIXTURES IN JULY	
July 6	HOME vs BBCU (YL1 fixture 18/34)
July 10	Away vs Muang Thong Utd (FA Cup, Round of 16)
July 13	HOME vs PTT Rayong (YL1 fixture 15/34, remaining 40 M)
July 20	Away vs Bangkok (YL1 fixture 19/34)

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