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■ NINE SURVIVORS RESCUED FROM WRECKED MV HOPE

# Hope found

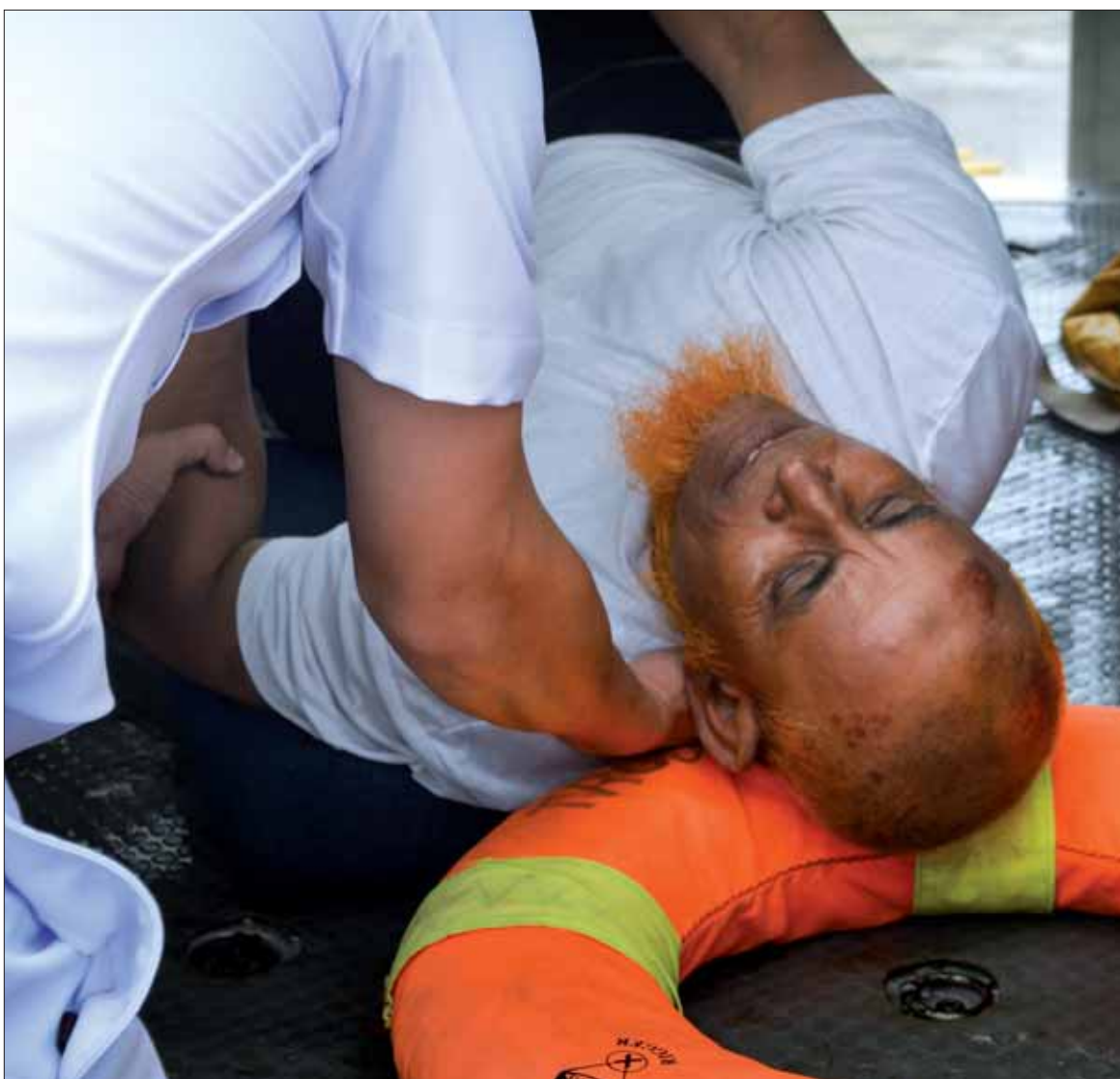
■ Crew thrown  
from cargo ship  
in rough waters,  
eight lost at sea

By **Chutharat Plerin**

RESCUE efforts lasting four days by the Royal Thai Navy and a passing German container ship, the *Buxmoon*, managed to pluck nine sailors from broiling storm seas this week after a Bangladeshi cargo ship capsized south of Phuket.

The fully laden MV *Hope* broached broadside about midnight on July 4 amid high waves and strong winds some 29 nautical miles south of Racha Noi Island. The hull had buckled and ripped open, causing the ship to lurch violently starboard, launching 12 of the 17 crewmen on board into the sea.

The *Buxmoon*, first on the scene after a distress call was sent, rescued five sailors from a life raft. After assisting in the search and rescue, the *Buxmoon* safely delivered 4th Engineer Md Abdul Hakim; Deck Cadet Moklechur...



Continued on Pages 6 and 7

Mr Siddique was plucked from the sea, where he was found clinging to a life preserver. Photo: Royal Thai Navy

**Kathu chief  
denies claims  
of drug, land  
corruption**

LEAFLETS litter the road between Patong and Kalim alleging that the Kathu district chief accepted bribe money from teen drug users and extorted money from land developers.

Kathu district chief Veera Kerdsirimongkol denies the allegations, saying the slanderous messages are being distributed by those who are losing money due to his raids.

Full story on Page 5

**Man accused  
of raping teen  
stepdaughter**

Phuket Police move to secure arrest warrant for Laotian man accused of raping his handicapped stepdaughter, impregnating her.

Full story on Page 3

**We are Bangla!  
300 officers out  
to beef security**

To boost tourist confidence in their safety on the island, 300 officers gathered in Patong's party soi, Soi Bangla, last Saturday night. The show of force is the government's most recent attempt to improve the safety image of Phuket.

Full story on Page 9

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## This Week



### Property

A number of ways to own property in the Kingdom. **Page 14**



### Business

Cost of living on the rise while international trade drops. **Page 17**



### In focus

Find out what Old Phuket Town can learn from Penang. **Page 36**



### Travel

Mark Knowles discovers the secrets of Sabah. **Pages 42-43**



### Fashion

Floral fabrics that can help brighten up a rainy day. **Page 44**



### Sport

Two heavyweight chefs go head-to-head at Thanyapura. **Page 50**

Saturday



32 - 24

Sunday



34 - 25

Monday



33 - 24

Tuesday



33 - 24

Wednesday



34 - 24

Thursday



34 - 25

# Teenager shot in rival gang attack

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A GANG reprisal attack in Phuket Town has left a 16-year-old boy from Rawai in hospital after he was shot in the leg four times by a rival gang of teenagers last Sunday night.

The teenager, given the pseudonym "Korn" by police, was shot multiple times at the Esso gas station on Chao Fa Road, near the busy Slaughterhouse Intersection and Yee Teng Complex, at about 9:20pm.

"When we arrived at the gas station, we saw pools of blood on the ground but the boy had already been rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital by his friends," said Maj Rattaket Munmuang of the Phuket City Police.

"He was shot twice in his left calf and twice in his left thigh," Maj Rattaket explained.

At Vachira Hospital, Korn told police the gang attacked him after he and his friends went to a computer game shop in Soi Pattana 14, off Pattana Road nearby.

"After the shop closed, we sat at the laundry shop across the road," he said.

"While we were sitting there, a



The 16-year-old from Rawai said that although his friends had argued with the gang before, this attack was unprovoked.

gang of about eight teenagers, who we had argued with before, rode past. A little later, they rode back, pulled out knives and started walking toward us," Korn alleged.

"We all ran. I made it to the gas station before they caught up with me. They hit me, shot me in the leg and rode away," he said.

"My friends arrived soon after

and took me to the hospital," he added.

Maj Rattaket said his officers were continuing their investigation on the presumption the attack was motivated by revenge.

"We will collect more evidence and question more witnesses to track down the teen gang," he said.

## Man confesses to killing 'nagging' mother-in-law

A MAN who suffocated his mother-in-law after an argument confessed to the killing several hours after the horrific encounter.

The body of Prayad Phawaphutanon, 50, was found half-clothed and lying on her bed by her 14-year-old son when he returned from school on July 9, said Thalang Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri the next day.

"After finding his mother dead in bed, he called his father and his father reported it to us," Col Sirisak said.

Mrs Prayad's son-in-law Anun Mahasit, 28, confessed to police that he had killed her in a fit of rage after she had insulted him for not having a job.

Mr Anun came under police suspicion after neighbors reported hearing the pair arguing earlier in the morning.

"We assumed that the murderer had to be someone close to the family, since he was able



Mr Anun had tell-tale scratches on his arms that police noticed when they questioned him.

to walk in and out of the house freely," Col Sirisak said.

Mr Anun was asked to come to the station. "We found scratches from finger nails on his arm, and were quickly able to secure a confession from him," Col Sirisak said.

After having sent his wife to work, Mr Anun

said that he walked past Mrs Prayad's house. At the time she was wearing a shirt and a sarong wrapped around her waist and was washing dishes.

"When she saw me, she started to hurl insults at me again about not having a job and about stealing valuables from her house. I was furious," Mr Anun said. "I followed her inside the house - she didn't notice me."

Mr Anun said that once inside, he followed Mrs Prayad into the bedroom. He then ripped the sarong from her waist and wrapped it around her neck, pushing her face down into the bed.

"I pressed her head into the pillow until she was dead," Mr Anun said.

Police made it clear that there were no signs of sexual assault on Mrs Prayad's body.

Mr Anun has been charged for the murder of his mother-in-law, Col Sirisak said.

- **Orawin Narabal**

## Sarong key for police catching up with killer

THE sarong wrapped around the head of a man found dead in a field near a prominent Phuket school last week has led police to arrest a murder suspect.

"This is an ongoing investigation. We believe more than two people were involved in the murder and we don't want to say anything else at this time," said Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Yongyuth Kongmalai.

When the victim was found near the British International School on June 21, the only clue to his identity was the company shirt he was wearing.

"Then someone called us on June 22 and gave us information connecting the sarong on the victim's head with the suspect. He said that he had seen a man wearing a similar sarong walking around Soi Surin 5 early on the morning of June 21," Col Yongyuth said.

The victim's motorbike was located by police in the same area earlier in their investigation.

Police were able to find the man and take him into custody the same day.

"We are going to send the sarong and a DNA sample from the suspect to Songklanagarind Hospital in Haad Yai," said Col Yongyuth.

- **Irfan Jamdukor**

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# Laos border on alert for wanted rapist stepfather

By Irfan Jamdukor

POLICE have alerted immigration officials on the Thai-Lao border to be on the lookout for a Laotian man wanted for repeatedly raping, and impregnating, his 15-year-old handicapped stepdaughter in Phuket.

The 40-year-old man, originally from Laos, has been at large since June 29, when he reportedly confessed his deeds to the girl's mother.

Police have not publicly released a description or a photograph of the man.

The girl's mother reported the alleged crimes to police on July 3. "The mother told us that on June 29 the stepfather admitted to raping the daughter multiple times," said Capt Teerasak.

"The girl can't walk because she had polio, and she is only 15 years old. The mother was furious and kicked him out of the house," he said.

The mother first sought help from Patong Municipality officers, who arranged for a pregnancy test. The test revealed that the girl was



Workmen on the Thai-Lao Friendship Bridge. Police believe the man wanted for raping his handicapped stepdaughter is in Laos. Photo: Mattes

five months pregnant, at which point her mother took her to the police.

Patong Police confirmed the pregnancy with another test at Vachira Phuket Hospital, in Phuket Town, and arranged for social services to help the girl.

The girl's mother and stepfather married when she was five years old, the mother told police. They had been married for 10 years and have two children.

"The stepfather has left the country," Patong Police Officer Teerasak Boonsaeng explained to

the *Gazette*.

Police used a telephone number provided by the mother to determine that the man had gone back to Laos.

"We were issued a warrant for the man's arrest on July 4. We have alerted all police stations in the country, as well as all immigration police, to be on the lookout for him," Capt Teerasak said.

"We believe he will return to Thailand... because he doesn't know that his wife reported him to the police, and he has two children here with her," he explained.

"We will also notify the Laotian police that we are looking for this man," he added.

Meanwhile, doctors have recommended that the stepdaughter's pregnancy be terminated.

Doctors at Vachira Phuket Hospital determined that carrying the pregnancy to term would bring health risks to the girl and the baby, Capt Teerasak said.

The punishment for sex with a minor 15 years of age or younger is four to 20 years in prison, or a fine of 8,000 to 40,000 baht, or both.

## In brief...

### Corpse found by Rawai roadside

THE body of a man was found wrapped in a blanket by the roadside in Rawai just after midnight on July 4.

His skull was fractured as if it had been hit with a hard object, and his face was bloodied and covered with a black plastic bag.

Police believe the man, identified as Anuwat Kathong, 25, had been dead for one to two days.

"He worked at Chalong Pier," said Pol Capt Thada Sodarak.

Local residents saw the blanket tied with telephone cord. When they noticed feet sticking out of it, they stopped to investigate, Capt Thada explained.

### No foul play in Bamford death

POLICE see no reason to open a murder investigation in the death of American-born former Microsoft engineer Clifford Nelson Bamford, whose body was found floating in his villa pool at Ao Makham on July 1.

There were no signs of a fight and there were no signs of violence on his body, police said.

Mr Bamford's girlfriend of 10 years told police Mr Bamford had a heart condition.

Police will decide whether or not to continue their investigation after they receive toxicity tests and the autopsy results, said Lt Anurak Klangnarong of the Wichit Police.

### Russian tourist dies in ICU

KHO Khay Gym, 31, the Russian tourist who was comatose after being pulled from the water at Karon Beach on June 23, has died.

Mr Gym was rushed to Patong Hospital and later transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but never regained consciousness.

"He was pronounced dead at about 7pm on July 2," a hospital staffer confirmed to the *Gazette*.

## Police search for romantic runaway

THE disappearance of Bunyanee Sunparn, 29, is no longer being considered a criminal case, police confirmed on Tuesday.

"After her brother reported her missing on July 1, I checked her Facebook page," said Pol Capt Rattanatorn Bumrunghin.

"I read a conversation between her and her brother, Weerawit Sunparn, that mentioned a man named Serm," he said.

Mr Weerawit told police that Serm was Ms Bunyanee's boyfriend in Phuket.

However, Ms Bunyanee had a longtime boyfriend in Nakhon Sri Thammarat whom she was engaged to marry, he explained.

Mr Weerawit and their parents had come to Phuket at the beginning of the month to take

Ms Bunyanee home for her wedding, her brother told police.

"We were aware that she had a new boyfriend in Phuket," Mr Weerawit told the *Gazette*. "But we thought she had broken up with him and was willing to go back to Nakhon Sri Thammarat to get married."

Ms Bunyanee's fiancé contacted the *Gazette* on July 9 and said, "I thought everything was fine between us...we hadn't argued. I don't know what happened."

Though no criminal action is suspected, police are still looking for Ms Bunyanee and Mr Serm.

"We want to help the family get together and clarify the situation," Capt Rattanatorn said.

— Orawin Narabal

## SNEAKY SNAKE SNARED



Kusoldharm workers this week responded to a 6:30am call to wrangle a five-meter python from under a clothes rack in a carport. The python was released at an undisclosed jungle location. — Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# Missing woman found in pond

## Relatives claim signs of foul play, police say alcohol-related accident

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

RELATIVES of a woman found dead in her car in an old tin mining pond on July 8 believe she was murdered, but police do not agree.

Wattana Itthisan, the 27-year-old owner of Fasai Minimart in Chalong, was found in her submerged car in an old tin mining pond behind Chalong Temple.

"The driver's window was open and the gear had been shifted into the park position. Mrs Wattana's body was found in the back seat," Chalong Police Capt Thada Sodarak said.

"The family believes these elements indicate foul play, but we do not agree," he said.

"We believe that the impact from the crash into the water threw Mrs Wattana to the back seat, after which she lost consciousness and died," he said.

"We also believe that she put the car in park as the vehicle crashed into the pond," Capt Thada said.

None of Mrs Wattana's jewelry – a gold necklace and two gold



A crowd gathered at the pond as Mrs Wattana's car was pulled from the water. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

rings – was missing and she still had her cell phone with her, Capt Thada said.

Mrs Wattana had gone to the Rong-Tium Pub near Chalong Circle with two friends at about 9pm on July 6.

A witness told police that when

Mrs Wattana left the pub, she was drunk, said Chalong Police Superintendent Kittapas Det-intarasorn.

She dropped her friends off at their house about 200 meters from the pond at about 5am. CCTV in the area recorded her car driving in the direction of the pond at

5:15am. Her friends received a missed call from Mrs Wattana at 5:27am.

When she didn't return home, her husband, Pinit Itthisan, 39, started calling relatives. Together they spent the day looking for her, said Capt Thada.

They couldn't find Mrs Wattana, but they noticed tyre tracks leading into the pond and became suspicious that they were from her car.

After midnight on the following morning, Mr Pinit reported his wife missing and told police about the tyre tracks.

Kusoldharm Foundation rescue divers searched the pond until about 3:30am but were unable to locate the car. They returned in the morning with marine police, and after about an hour of searching found Mrs Wattana's blue Honda Jazz about 100 meters from the shore at a depth of about 10 meters, said Capt Thada.

"The car was found flipped over in the pond. The windshield was broken and the front of the car was full of mud," he said.

The car was pulled to shore by a crane and Mrs Wattana's body was retrieved.

"Cause of death will be determined at Vachira Phuket Hospital," Capt Thada said. "We are working on questioning more people and collecting more evidence."

## Body of man swept into sea brought back following day

THE body of a man who disappeared while fishing with friends in Phuket on July 4 was found washed ashore at Kalim Beach, north of Patong, the next morning.

"Villagers called us at about 9am to say they had found a body on Kalim Beach," said Patong Police officer Thawatchai Srimai.

"He has been identified as Jittakorn Kerdrit, 32, from Surat Thani," Lt Thawatchai said.

"There were no signs of violence on his body," he added.

Mr Jittakorn went fishing at Kalim Beach with his wife and some friends, explained police.

At about 5pm, as he was standing on some rocks near the Paradise View Point Restaurant, big waves struck him and pulled him into the sea.



Mr Kerdrit's body is recovered.

When his wife and friends couldn't find him, they reported him missing to Patong Police.

His body washed ashore about 300 meters from where he had gone into the water, said Lt Thawatchai.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Just-arrived American man dies while surfing at Kata

AN AMERICAN surfing at Kata Beach died the day he arrived after falling from his board into the water.

Mark Carroll, 60, hit Kata's surf alone immediately after checking into his hotel on July 8.

"Mr Carroll appeared to have lost consciousness while surfing and fell into the water," said Pichai Wattanawalan of the Karon Police.

He was unconscious but breathing when lifeguards pulled him from the water, said Capt Pichai.

"However, Mr Carroll stopped breathing while being transferred to Patong Hospital. Doctors did their best to resuscitate him, but



Kata Beach. Photo: Gazette file.

were unsuccessful. He was pronounced dead at about 6:30pm," Capt Pichai said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# Leaflet campaign assails Kathu chief

By Paramee Poolsawat

KATHU District Chief Veera KerdSirimongkol has denounced accusations claiming that he accepted cash from drug suspects to overlook test results and that he attempted to extort money from developers by holding their machinery for ransom.

Chief Veera flatly denied the allegations: "I have never sought benefits, money or otherwise, to release drug suspects. It's not true, and all the other things the handbills say are not true."

The accusations were printed on handbills being circulated throughout Kalim, Kamala and Patong. Many of the leaflets were found strewn along the side of the road between Kalim and Kamala on the morning of July 7.

The leaflets, dated July 1, 2013, allege malfeasance by Chief Veera in two specific cases.

"Mr Veera had police set up a

checkpoint to test teenagers for drugs. When some teenagers tested positive, they were asked to pay 8,000 baht to avoid being sent to a mandatory drug rehabilitation program," the handbills alleged.

The leaflets, printed only in Thai, also accuse Mr Veera of seizing a backhoe and three 10-wheeled trucks on Big Buddha hill, but not pressing any charges.

Instead, he asked for about 200,000 baht to have the vehicles returned, the handbills alleged.

The leaflets called for the Ministry of Interior to remove Chief Veera from office by July 31.

"Or else there will be protests to close the road and the Kathu

District Office, and we will do every thing we can to get justice," the writers warned.

Chief Veera remained undeterred by the allegations and vowed to continue his fight against land encroachment and drugs.



Accusatory leaflets like the one at left litter the Kalim-Kamala road. Photos: Veera KerdSirimongkol

"I have even posted one of the leaflets at the Kathu District Office so everyone can read it," Chief Veera said.

"I believe the handbills came from someone who lost out due to my investigations into illegal deforestation and encroachment

on protected forest areas. These investigations have doubtless cost some people a lot of money," he said.

Police at Patong, Thung Thong and Kamala have been asked to identify and arrest those responsible for creating the documents

and distributing them.

"Police have found CCTV footage showing the handbills being thrown from a black car in Soi Kathu Waterfall at about 1am on Sunday... After the car exited the soi we couldn't see where it went," Chief Veera said.



Loss of a lane on the bypass road has caused cars on Thepkasattri Rd to back up as far as the Heroine's Monument. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

## Bypass repairs cause jams

LONG tailbacks on Thepkasattri Road caused by the resurfacing of the bypass road starting at the Bang Khu Intersection in Koh Kaew has forced police to urge motorists to use alternative routes.

"We need to resurface about 1.5km of the [bypass] road," said Phuket Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad.

"The road surface is uneven and broken up so much it looks like crocodile skin," he said.

The effect on traffic has been dramatic.

"During rush hour, the traffic can back up all the way to the Heroine's Monument," said one disgruntled motorist.

Mr Samak said the resurfacing is scheduled to be completed within 150 days.

"But I examined the site today and I don't think it should take that long. By my estimate it should take less than four months," he said.

Traffic police have asked for a

timely finish to the construction.

"We've contacted the Phuket Highways Office to ask them to speed up the work," Sen Sgt Maj Pairote Srathorngin of Phuket City Traffic Police said.

"Unfortunately, the daily rain we've been getting is delaying the construction," he said.

Sgt Pairot has already changed traffic light settings to try to ease delays.

"I ordered the southbound lanes at the Koh Kaew Intersection be given a longer green light during rush hours. This should improve the flow," he said.

Sgt Pairote advised drivers to consider using the road behind the Premium Outlet mall instead of the bypass road.

"Go through the Bang Khu Intersection towards town. At the first u-turn, go straight across. That road takes you behind the Premium Outlet mall and reconnects with the bypass road farther down," he said.

— Saran Mitrarat

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Takuapa Prison, where the suspect is being held. Photo: Corrections Dept

## Rohingya rape suspect handed over to court

THE Rohingya man charged by police with holding a 25-year-old Rohingya woman captive and raping her repeatedly over three days has been handed over to the Takuapa Court.

Kuraburi Police relinquished custody of Korlimula Ramahatu on July 3 after he conducted a reenactment of the alleged crimes a day earlier.

"The suspect denied the rape charge," Kuraburi Deputy Police Superintendent Chalerm Wannasathid told the *Gazette*.

"He claimed he was very religious. He said he would not do such a thing," he added.

Mr Ramahatu on July 2 retraced his alleged steps during the trafficking and alleged rape ordeal.

"We took him to the shelter where he picked up the woman and her daughters, then we headed to the house, about 10 kilometers away," said Col Chalerm.

The house belongs to Mr Ramahatu's relative, he said.

"He used to live there when he was working for Sgt Maj Weerayuth Fuangfu as a palm plantation laborer. Sgt Weerayuth is the person who allegedly picked up the other two Rohingya women from the shelter," Col Chalerm explained.

Sgt Weerayuth is also reportedly the first Royal Thai Police officer to be charged with human trafficking.

The investigation into the human trafficking and rape ordeal is likely to take at least a month to conclude, Col Chalerm noted.

"We need to question the two daughters. That will take time. A social worker, psychologist and the public prosecutor must be present when we question them," Col Chalerm explained.

"I believe it will take at least a month before we can hand the case over to the Public Prosecutor," he said.

Mr Ramahatu is now being detained at Takuapa District Prison.

"He has a right to request bail. Police denied him that privilege, but we no longer have authority over this. It is now up to the court whether or not to allow him to post bail," Col Chalerm explained.

Sgt Weerayuth, however, remains free.

"He surrendered himself to police and acknowledged the charges against him; then he was released," said Col Chalerm.

"However, Sgt Weerayuth must come to the police anytime he is called," he added.

— Chutharat Plerin

# Hope takes

From page 1

...Rahaman; D/fitter Cadet Mohammed Rubel; Oiler Mohammad Osman and GS Saiful Islam to their home port Chittagong in Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, on July 5, a Navy helicopter spotted deck hand Abu Bakar Siddique holding on to a life preserver for dear life in the swirling sea.

The HTMS *Pattani*, deployed to carry out the search over a 20-mile radius, brought on board three more survivors the same day: 2nd Officer Mohammad Mobarak Hossain and Cadets Raeq Fairouz and Mushfiquir Rahman.

"All were found floating on life preservers," said Rear Admiral Prayuth Phutien of the Royal Thai Navy's Phuket-based Third Area Command.

The *Pattani* also recovered two bodies that day, whose identities as of July 10 had not been confirmed by Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Thailand Kazi Imtiaz Hossain arrived in Phuket on July 5 to assist in the coordination of the search and rescue efforts.

As 2nd Officer Hossain arrived by medivac helicopter, Amb Hossain rushed to greet him.

"He seemed very weak, but he said his name. It's a great relief to see the survivors... I also introduced myself to him to let him know that he has not been abandoned," Amb Hossain said.

"We are very grateful to the Royal Thai Navy and the Thai officials who have risked their lives for the survivors," he added.

The Navy on Monday called off



Bangladesh Ambassador Hossain speaks to crewman Mohammad Mobarak Hossain to reassure him he is safe. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

the search for more survivors. Local fishermen that afternoon reported seeing four bodies in life jackets off Koh Rok, off the coast of Krabi.

The Koh Rok Islands, a popular day-trip destination for tourist snorkellers and divers, are located about 100 kilometers southeast of Phuket.

"The crew said the bodies they saw were wearing life jackets, but they did not recover them because they were afraid they would become involved in a crime that had been committed," he explained.

The Royal Thai Navy alerted the local Marine Police and the Thailand Maritime Enforcement Coordinating Centers.

## Survivor recounts ordeal



Crewman Abu Bakar Siddique of the MV *Hope* holds up his hand, shredded by trying to cling to the hole in the ship's hull. Photo: Saran Mitratat

CREWMAN Abu Bakar Siddique lay resting in a ward in Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, recovering from his ordeal of being washed overboard from the cargo ship MV *Hope* amid heavy seas late on July 4.

The MV *Hope* was overpowered by rough seas while en route from Penang, Malaysia, to Chittagong, Bangladesh. The ship was about 25 nautical miles south of Racha Noi Island when the heavy weather began to take its toll.

"About 11pm, there was heavy rain and seas that made our ship shake," he told the *Gazette*.

"Around midnight, the starboard side was hit by big waves and damaged. There was a big hole in the side and the ship started sinking," he added.

There were 17 people on the ship when it started listing heavily.

"There were 12 of us on deck when the ship suddenly tipped. We all went overboard, but the other

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# hit in Phuket storm



Still listing dangerously, the Hope was towed to Langkawi. Photo: RTN



Mohammad Mobarak Hossain is plucked from the sea. Photos: RTN

## LOST AT SEA

**Rajib Chandra Karmaker, Captain**  
**Mohammed Mahabub Morshed, Chief Officer**  
**Kazi Saifuddin, Chief Engineer**  
**Nazam Uddin, 2nd Engineer**  
**Mohammed Sadim Ali, Electrician**  
**Mohammad Nasir Uddin, Deck Hand**  
**Md Ali Hossain, Oiler**  
**Nasir Uddin, Chief Cook**

## Marine Office ducks overloading probe

THE Phuket Marine Office will not be investigating any aspect of the MV *Hope* capsizing south of Phuket, despite eight crewmen still being lost at sea.

According to Phuket Marine Office chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut, the MV *Hope* was not in Thai territorial waters while en route from Malaysia to Bangladesh when the ship foundered – which to him meant that the Thai authorities had no cause to investigate.

“Where the ship capsized was not in Thai waters. We are responsible for only 24 nautical miles from Koh Racha Noi. The actual incident happened on the high seas,” Mr Phuripat said.

The distress signal sent by the ship’s crew – picked up by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority’s Rescue Coordination Center and relayed to their Ma-



laysian and Thai counterparts – placed the ship at 25 miles directly south of Koh Racha Noi.

The decision not to investigate an incident that left a 97-meter cargo vessel adrift off the Thai Andaman coast also follows news reports, which cited the MV *Hope*’s ship registration certificate, that the *Hope* was overloaded by nearly 1,000 tonnes of “ball clay” bound for ceramics factories in Bangladesh.

“The ship’s certificate showed its load-carrying capacity was 5,550 metric tonnes. But according to the information provided to Chittagong Port Authority by the owners, it showed the ship was carrying nearly 1,000 metric tonnes more than its capacity,” reported *bdnews24*.

Regarding the search mission, however, Capt Thammawat Malaisukkarin, Director of the Naval Civil Affairs, confirmed that when the ship was found by the Navy search and rescue team, it was well within Thai waters.

“Even if it weren’t, we would have still provided assistance since we were the closest to it,” he said.

“The ship is now under the care of its insurance company and has arrived at Langkawi, in Malaysia,” he added.

– Chutharat Plerin

However, the Navy did not dispatch any ships or aircraft to recover the bodies. “If we did, by the time we reached the site, the wind and current could have moved the bodies far from where they were last seen,” Capt Thammawat said.

Regardless, Capt Thammawat urged anyone who discovers a body at sea to report it to the Royal Thai Navy’s Third Area Command in Phuket by calling 076-381598 or 076-393584.

“The line is open 24 hours. We will contact the Marine Police or the local Marine Office so they can

make the appropriate arrangements,” he said.

The MV *Confidence*, commissioned by the insurance company responsible for MV *Hope*, towed the stricken vessel to Langkawi – Malaysia’s northernmost island on the Andaman Coast. The vessel arrived on Tuesday.

“The Royal Thai Navy will not be involved in any further efforts involving the MV *Hope* as it is now out of Thai waters,” Capt Thammawat added.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

## on the high seas

five people did not, as they were standing on the other side,” Mr Siddique explained.

“I was in the water. Strong waves kept hitting me and bashing my head against the side of the ship... I tried to grab where the waves had ripped open the hull, but I couldn’t hold on. I cut my fingers on the torn metal,” he said, raising his bandaged hand to show the cuts.

“I didn’t know where my friends were. I couldn’t see any of them,” he added.

“Then I saw a life preserver floating on the water. I grabbed it and held on. I saw the five people who were still on the ship being rescued by another ship, but that ship could not see me,” he said.

The five crewman – Fourth Engineer Md Abdul Hakim, Deck Cadets Moklechur Rahman,

“Then I heard a helicopter sound. At that moment, I knew I would survive”

– Abu Bakar Siddique  
MV *Hope* survivor

Mohammed Rubel, Mohammad Osman and Saiful Islam – were rescued by the German container ship *Buxmoon*, which responded to a distress signal activated by the crew before the ship became overpowered by the waves.

“I lay with my face down on the life preserver and held it tight. That moment I thought about God, because he was the only one who could give me the strength to survive,” Mr Siddique explained.

“It kept raining and the sea was crazy. Then I heard a helicopter sound. At that moment, I knew I would survive,” he added.

Exhausted from his ordeal, Mr Siddique remained grateful.

“The pain in my head isn’t much better, but thank God I am alive,” he said.

– Saran Mitrarat

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## Hajj pilgrims line up for free vaccines

MORE than 200 Muslims planning to make the Hajj this year took advantage of free vaccinations at the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) Hospital last Saturday.

"The Provincial Hospital has partnered with the Phuket Public Health Office to offer free meningococcal meningitis and influenza vaccines to people in Phuket and nearby provinces who plan to travel to Mecca for the Hajj," said Hospital Director Anan Lohapattanabamrung.

"We also gave them free check-ups and advised on how to protect themselves from Middle East Respiratory Syndrome [MERS]," he added.

MERS was first identified in Saudi Arabia, and the overwhelming number of deaths from the syndrome – 38 out of 44 – have occurred there, making public health officials keen to ensure that pilgrims are educated about the disease.

– Auntika Sivasen

# Police sniff out glue-huffing monk on holiday in Phuket

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A MONK who came to Phuket to visit a friend was arrested in Rassada yesterday and charged with sniffing glue and theft.

Police were alerted by villagers at about 6pm on July 5 that a monk was sniffing glue in a pavilion at Pa Aram Rattanaram Temple, near Mission Hospital.

When police arrived at the temple, they found Chaayasit Janpetch, 33, sitting in the pavilion with a glue can and glue in a plastic bag beside him.

In his bag they found a tablet computer, a pocketknife, a mini DVD player and some cash, with a total value estimated at 7,000 baht, said Lt Col Prawit Engchuan of the Phuket City Police.

After Mr Chaayasit confessed that he had been sniffing glue, he was taken to Buddha Mongkol Nimit Temple in Phuket Town to be defrocked and formally removed from the monkhood.

He was then taken for question-



Mr Chaayasit was defrocked and removed from the monkhood after confessing to stealing and sniffing glue.

ing to Phuket City Police station.

"I was a monk for six years, first in Trang and then in Pattani. I came to Phuket on June 29 to visit a friend in Patong," Mr Chaayasit told the police.

After arriving in Phuket, he

went to the temple nearest the Rassada bus station and continued staying there after he was unable to contact his friend. He had no plans to return to Pattani, he said.

Mr Chaayasit confessed to po-

lice that the day after he arrived in Phuket he stole 1,000 baht and a child's schoolbag from a grocery store on Thepkrasattri Road, Lt Col Prawit said.

Mr Chaayasit has been charged with sniffing glue and theft.

## Women flock to penis tree



A TREE that bears a remarkable resemblance to a man's nether regions is setting pulses racing in a village in the northern province of Kamphaeng Phet.

The mango tree, which was found on land belonging to 50-year-old Lot Panthap in a village in Khlong Mae Lai Subdistrict, appears to have two legs and what looks like a penis hanging between them.

Local villagers have been flocking to Mrs Lot's garden carrying flowers and candles to pay their respects to the unusual tree.

In particular, the women of the village rub the tree's penis with white powder, hoping to gain good fortune and divine lottery numbers from it.



The happy women reach out for some wood. Photo: Saree Arayasampun

One person has reportedly won the lottery twice in a row after getting numbers from the tree, which has led to even more people coming to try their luck with tree's knob.

Mrs Lot said she planted the tree – a mango strain Thais call *ok rong*, which means "cleavage" – more than 20 years ago.

She said the tree has had the protrusion ever since it was a seedling, and at first she thought nothing of it.

But not so long ago, one of her neighbors was sitting under the tree when she noticed it bore a remarkable resemblance to the lower body of a naked man.

– Thai Rath

## Washing machine blazes in SuperCheap

TWO fire trucks rushed to the SuperCheap convenience store located about 30 meters from Phuket's renowned Wat Chalong temple last week after being notified of a fire there at about 8:30am.

"When we arrived at the scene we were confronted by flames coming from a staff room on the third floor of the building," said Capt Kraisorn Boonprasop of the Chalong Police.

It took firefighters about 10 minutes to squelch the flames.

"Once the fire was out. We found two rooms had suffered severe damage," Capt Kraisorn said.

"The staff told us that one of them put clothes into the machine to be washed. Ten minutes later they saw smoke pouring through the third floor," he said.

Staff attempted to put the flames out with fire extinguishers, but were unsuccessful, Capt Kraisorn said.

"We expect the fire was caused by an electrical short in the wir-



Staff talk with police officers.

ing of the machine," he said.

The fire caused an estimated 30,000 baht in damage.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# Police flex muscle on Bangla

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

IN A mass show of police strength, more than 300 officers gathered in Phuket's famed red-light district of Soi Bangla in Patong last Saturday in the government's latest campaign to bolster tourist safety on the island.

Led by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut, the officers patrolled the bars with an eye to keeping the peace, on the lookout for any troublemakers.

"Tourists need to have confidence that Phuket is a safe place, so we are staging raids from July 1 to July 15 to boost security," Governor Maitri said.

"The Thai Government wants to increase revenue from tourism, and Phuket is among the top five tourist destinations in Thailand, along with Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Pattaya and Samui," he said.

The show of 300 on Saturday followed 100 officers staging similar raids on Friday that netted at least seven suspects who failed on-the-spot urine tests.

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan separated the officers into four teams.



PREPARE FOR GLORY: 300 to battle Bangla security and safety risks.

They set up a drug-test checkpoint on the beach road and raided nightclubs, internet cafes and karaoke bars.

"Our focus is on drugs, illegal

workers and children under 18 years old working in nightclubs," Col Chiraphat explained.

The random drug tests led to the arrests of seven persons found

to have used narcotics, said Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat.

"Three were at a nightclub on Soi Bangla, and four were at a karaoke bar on Phang Muang Sai Kor Road," he confirmed.

"We are conducting tests on any people we suspect of using drugs, whether they be motorists driving down the road or people partying in a nightclub," he said.

"We are also checking work permits and passports of foreigners," he added.

Governor Maitri welcomed the security boost.

"It doesn't matter whether it's the low season or not, every season must be safe for tourists," he said, "especially since the number of tourists is rising."

Governor Maitri pointed out that from January to June this year, tourist arrivals were up 19 per cent over last year.

"Making Phuket safe will make tourists happy and help to inspire more visitors to return," he said.

Additional reporting by Thawit Bilabdullar



V/Gov Sommai giving blood for Buddhist holiday. Photo: Red Cross

## Vice Governor Sommai makes merit by giving blood donation

VICE Governor Sommai Prijasilpa last week donated blood to help publicize a special blood drive in honor of Asarnha Bucha Day, which marks the day the Buddha outlined the four noble truths that form the basis of Buddhist thought.

The blood drive is scheduled for July 20 to 23.

"We will accept donations from 9am to 3pm at the Phuket Regional Blood Center [PRBC]," said Pawinee Inthasut, the president of the Phuket Red Cross.

On Asarnha Bucha Day, which falls on July 22 this year, Thai Buddhists give food offerings to monks, listen to sermons and walk within temples holding lighted candles. Donating blood is yet another way for Buddhists to make merit.

The four noble truths outlined by the Buddha after his enlightenment were: all life is suffering; suffering is caused by craving; there is a state beyond suffering and craving; and the way to this state is via the eightfold path.

The PRBC is located at 38/139, Rattanakosin 200 Year Road, next to the Employment Office, at Saphan Hin.

— Paramee Poolsawat

## Seminar aims to develop potential of Muslim women

RECOGNIZING the importance of women's role in the family and in society, Phuket officials last week held a two-day seminar aimed at developing the leadership potential of Phuket Muslim women.

The seminar, held on Wednesday and Thursday and organized by the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO), aimed to improve Muslim women's knowledge about their rights, roles and responsibilities, and to encourage them to openly communicate their opinions.

"We see the project as an important way to develop communities and even the nation because women are influential in the success of families," PPAO Vice-President Soratham Jinda explained.

"Women teach their children to follow Islamic law and also counsel and support their husbands," he said.

"We firmly believe that women are the key to effectively developing the institution of the family," he said.

— Irfan Jamdukor



Participants at the seminar for Muslim women. Photo: PPAO

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The detainees were left locked in the cell as the blaze engulfed parts of the building. Photo: The Nation

## Fury over detainee fire deaths

THE GOVERNMENT is promising decisive action after four detainees died in their cell when a fire broke out at a Nonthaburi police station last week.

Deputy Prime Minister Pracha Promnok said officers deemed responsible for their deaths would be punished and the families compensated, *The Nation* reported.

The fire is believed to have started after a transformer exploded in the early hours of July 7, causing a storeroom in the station to catch fire.

The four detainees, who were locked up in the next room, are believed to have died from smoke inhalation.

They were: Jerd Songpoo, charged for illegal possession of guns; Wasant Sornsil, charged with driving under the influence; Wisut Kongyuen, charged with possession of an illicit drug; and Najirapong Wonganan, charged with using a prohibited drug.

Capt Somrak Yensabai said he heard a blast from the room next to the cell before realizing a fire was raging in the station.

He said he could not breathe, so he dashed outside to get help.

The next day families of the victims came to the station to curse officers for failing to rescue the suspects.

Mr Pracha expressed condolences to the grieving families, adding that officers would have to determine whether the deaths were the result of neglect of duty, carelessness or uncontrollable factors.

National police chief Adul Saengsingkaew said those found responsible would be disciplined and prosecuted.

## Pressure mounts against 'luxury living' monk

PRESSURE is mounting on a Si Sa Ket monk who is accused of living a luxury lifestyle and fathering a child with an underage girl.

Luang Pu Nenkhram of Wat Pa Khanti Dhamma hit the headlines last month after footage emerged on YouTube showing him and another monk flying in a private jet.

Since then, an avalanche of damaging allegations have surfaced concerning the lifestyle of the clergyman.

Luang Pu Nenkhram, who is out of the country, is accused of fathering a child after having

sex with a 15-year-old girl, *The Nation* reported.

Despite taking a vow of celibacy, he is also alleged to have had as many as seven lovers and to have fathered a number of other children with them.

Reports have also alleged that up to 200 million baht in donations has been uncovered in bank accounts belonging to his charity.

A joint investigation by the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) and the Office of National Buddhism is said to have uncovered assets including two luxury homes

and 13 vehicles, including a Rolls Royce, Chevrolet, Ferrari, Hummer, Toyota Camry, four pickup trucks and four motorcycles.

After a meeting to discuss the probe with the DSI, senior clergy from Si Sa Ket have decided not to disrobe the monk until "additional evidence is provided".

Weera Daosee, an academic at the Si Sa Ket Buddhism Office, suggested that it would probably take DNA results or the monk's confession to warrant the termination of Luang Pu Nenkhram's monkhood.

## Time magazine calls out 'trashy' full-moon parties

THAILAND's world-famous full-moon parties on the island of Koh Pha Ngan have become an environmentally destructive, crime-ridden "disgrace", according to a damning report last week in *Time*.

The magazine detailed the party's decline from its humble origins in the late 1980s to today's huge, debauched gatherings, in which some 30,000 people descend on Had Rin Beach for an orgy of "tawdry techno, cheap fast food and wasted Millennials".

Beginning in 1988 on what old Thailand hand Joe Cummings called "one of the most beautiful beaches I'd ever seen", the party began to attract intrepid travellers who came for festivities centered on "tents, campfires and music the partygoers made themselves".

"Hippies from across the globe used to quietly gather at this idyllic enclave, drifting in on clouds of marijuana smoke to sit on a beach, strum a battered guitar and simply be," the report said.

In 1989, when Mr Cummings first attended the party, it was still an intimate affair attracting no more than 2,000 people.

But things changed. The *Time* report catalogued the party's alarming array of current woes, which include the trashing of the environment, rampant crime and hard drug use, as well as deaths from drowning, illness and injury.

"In addition to the vast quantities of broken glass and plastic strewn across the sand each month, the island is currently in the throes of a freshwater crisis as it seeks to accommodate an



Cheap buckets of alcohol and hard drugs are commonplace at full moon parties. Photo: Joe Stump

### AROUND THE nation

unfeasibly large number of visitors," the report noted.

"Hard drugs are now part of the scene – as opposed to the relatively benign marijuana and hallucinogenic mushrooms of yore – with ravers these days

seeking out *ya bah* (the local name for crystal meth) as well as ecstasy and heroin."

Among the more recent incidents to soil the party's reputation was the death of 22-year-old British tourist Stephen Ashton, who was shot on New Year's Eve when a dispute between local gangs turned violent.

Ekkapan Kaewkla, 26, admitted to shooting into the crowd and killing the young Briton, later pleading guilty to manslaughter.

Nevertheless, the *Time* report

noted, Koh Phangan's days as a backpacker haven may be numbered.

A new airport is scheduled to open in the fall, putting the island just an hour away from Bangkok and likely leading to an influx of wealthy visitors from the capital.

*Time* pointed out that the party had "certainly passed its hedonistic peak", concluding: "Considering what the full-moon parties used to be, and what they've become, that's no bad thing."

## Bangkok taxi driver hacks American to death with machete in heavy traffic

A TAXI driver hacked an American man to death with a machete in Bangkok following an argument over a 51-baht fare.

Cherdchai Utmacha, 32, confessed to killing Troy Lee Pilkington, 51, on Saturday after the latter got out of his taxi in traffic and refused to pay, *The Nation* reported.

The suspect said when Mr Pilkington spotted the fare had reached 51 baht while stuck in traffic on Sukhumvit Road he accused the driver of rigging the meter.

He got out of the taxi and a loud argument began, in which the American threw his cup of coffee at Mr Cherdchai through the open car window.

The driver told police he got a 16-inch machete out of his trunk intending to "threaten" the American, but claimed the victim attacked him first.

Mr Pilkington, a senior employee of Caterpillar Thailand from California, sustained a deep cut to his head, one stab wound to the left side of his chest and

two cuts to his left wrist.

He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mr Cherdchai said he threw the blade into a canal in Samut Prakan's Bang Phli district before disposing of his shirt as it was covered with blood.

Police arrested him after staking out his apartment on Soi Chalmern Phra Kiat 46 in Bangkok's Prawet district.

He will be charged with murder and carrying a deadly weapon, *The Nation* reported.



Mr Pilkington refused to pay. Photo: The Nation



# Internet giants hit in Singapore sling

By Kevin Lim  
and Jeremy Wagstaff

SINGAPORE's move to tighten regulation of news websites, already under fire from bloggers and human rights groups, has attracted criticism from an unexpected quarter: large internet firms with a big presence in the city-state who say the new rules will hurt the industry.

Web giants Facebook, eBay, Google and Yahoo! have said the revised rules "have negatively impacted Singapore's global image as an open and business-friendly country".

The comments, made in a letter to Singapore's minister of communications and information by the Asia Internet Coalition, an industry body, are the first sign that Singapore's success in wooing major players to its shores is not assured. Google, eBay, Facebook and Yahoo all have a major presence in the city-state.

Google said separately it was concerned about the long-term implications of the regulation - especially for local internet entrepreneurs who it said now faced greater uncertainty and legal risk.

In late May Singapore said websites that regularly report on Singapore would have to be licensed and listed 10 news sites that would be affected, based on criteria such as having 50,000 unique visitors from Singapore each month.

Websites affected by the new licensing regime would have to put up a S\$50,000 (about 1.22 million baht) performance bond as well as take down within 24 hours any story that authorities deemed objectionable.

"Singapore aims to be the fu-



Protesters walk past a mock gravestone during a protest against new licensing regulations imposed by the government for online news sites, at Hong Lim Park in Singapore. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE region

ture, but this regulation looks a lot like the past," Google's Ann Lavin, director of public policy and government affairs, Southeast Asia, told Reuters.

The Media Development Authority (MDA) said the changes would make the rules governing news websites more consistent with those affecting newspapers and other traditional media platforms. But it has stressed there

was no change in its content standards.

"The new licensing framework is not intended to clamp down on Internet freedom," an MDA spokesman said in a written response to questions.

Yahoo's popular Singapore news site was the only foreign website among the 10 listed by the MDA, but critics fear the rules could be extended to cover other websites, including those critical of the government.

A senior official at the Ministry of Communications and Information (MCI) responsible for the ruling, Permanent Secretary Aubeck Kam, told a gathering of the Singapore Computer Society

last week that the rules would not cover commentary sites, and that the government had never ordered removal of content because it was critical of the government under existing regulations.

Singapore has defended the revision to its regulations, and professed surprise at the opposition. Mr Kam said that such concerns would likely be accommodated via consultations with the 10 websites over the wording of the licences.

"There is no need to read signals because we are communicating what we think," he said during a question and answer session at the computer users' gathering. - Reuters

## In brief...

### 44 people shot dead by Malaysian police last year

FORTY-FOUR people were shot dead by the police last year, most of whom were Malays and Indonesians, said Home Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

In a written reply to Lim Lip Eng (DAP-Segambut), Dr Ahmad Zahid said 20 of those killed were Malays while 18 were Indonesians.

"The rest were four Indians and two Chinese," he said, adding that at the same time, 68 cases of killings involving firearms were recorded in the country.

- The Star

### Exile seeks return for Cambodia polls

CAMBODIAN opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who has been living in self-exile in Paris, France, to avoid imprisonment, is seeking a royal pardon from King Norodom Sihamoni for his safe return to Cambodia to join in the election on July 28.

Mr Rainsy, head of the National Rescue Party, is seen as a main challenger to the Cambodian People's Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen who has ruled the country for more than 28 years.

- The Cambodia Herald

### Toxic beer puts family in hospital

EIGHT members of a family, including a 4-year-old boy, were hospitalized in Vietnam's Thai Nguyen Province on Tuesday after being poisoned with take-away beer from a *bia hoi*.

Nguyen Khac Hieu, one of the victims, said the beer was bought at a local shop at noon Monday.

The shop owner is said to have used a discarded canister to store the beer. Mr Hieu later checked and found it was labelled "phosphoric acid" and had hazard warnings on it. - Viet Nam News

## Five days up a tree, man falls into clutches of hungry, angry tigers

AFTER a three-day trek into the Mount Leuser National Park in Tamiang, Aceh district, Sumatra, rescuers on Monday reached five Indonesian men who were trapped in trees by Sumatran tigers.

However, the angry animals had already mauled a sixth man to death.

The men entered the park in search of rare agarwood, which is used to make incense and perfume. They accidentally caught a tiger cub in a trap used to catch deer for food, said district police chief Lt Col Dicky Sondani.

The cub's cries for help attracted seven adult tigers, from which the six men fled to safety by scrambling up trees.

The men alerted local villag-



A Sumatran tiger. Photo: Reuters

ers by mobile phones, but a 28-year-old man was mauled to death after the branch he was sitting on broke.

The five survivors were reported to all be safe, but in weak condition, after surviving by drinking rain water.

- Jakarta Post

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## In brief...

### Former Mexican President Fox urges marijuana legalization

FORMER Mexican President Vicente Fox took his crusade to legalize marijuana to San Francisco on Monday, joining pot advocates to urge the US and his own country to decriminalize the sale and recreational use of cannabis.

Legalization is the only way to end the violence of Mexican drug cartels, which he blamed on America's war on drugs, Fox said.

Mexico's current president, Enrique Pena Nieto, has opposed legalization. But he recently said that he would consider world opinion on the matter, particularly in light of recent voter-approved initiatives to legalize marijuana in Washington state and Colorado for recreational use.

### Two dead, 180 injured in Asiana plane crash

TWO people were killed and 130 were hospitalized after an Asiana Airlines jumbo jet crash-landed at San Francisco International Airport on Saturday morning, San Francisco Fire Department Chief Joanna Hayes-White said.

The Boeing 777, which had flown from Seoul, South Korea, was carrying 307 people when it came in low and hit a sea wall at the end of the runway.

Eyewitnesses and survivors have described a scene of chaos in the aftermath of the crash as emergency responders scrambled to aid passengers fleeing the plane.

### US considers pulling all troops from Afghanistan

THE United States is considering pulling out all its troops from Afghanistan next year, US officials said, amid tension between President Barack Obama's administration and Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government.

President Obama is committed to wrapping up US military involvement in Afghanistan by the end of 2014, but the United States has been talking with officials in Afghanistan about keeping a small residual force there of perhaps 8,000 troops.

## Chinese open fire on Tibetan monks on Dalai Lama's birthday

CHINA'S top official in charge of religious groups and ethnic minorities vowed on Tuesday to step up the fight against exiled Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama, as a rights group reported police shootings of monks marking his birthday.

The comments by Yu Zhengsheng, number four in the ruling Communist Party's hierarchy, appear aimed at thwarting speculation that China's new leadership could take a softer line on the Dalai Lama.

Beijing considers the Dalai Lama, who fled China in 1959 after an abortive uprising against

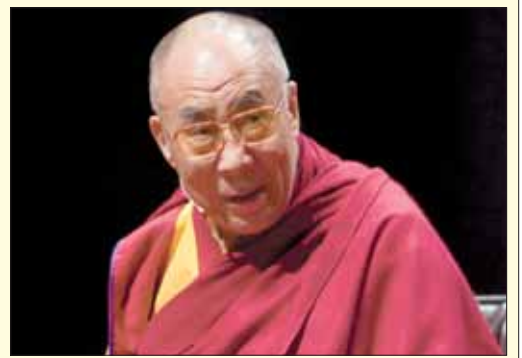
Chinese rule, a violent separatist. The Dalai Lama, who is based in India, says he is merely seeking greater autonomy for his Himalayan homeland.

While Chinese security forces often use heavy-handed tactics to stop protests in Tibetan regions, they rarely use guns.

Officials reached by telephone in Ganzi said they had no knowledge of the incident.

China's Foreign Ministry said it was also unaware of the reports, but said the Dalai Lama was using the opportunity of his birthday to promote his separatist agenda.

— Reuters



The 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama Photo: Kris Krug

# Egypt seeks end to crisis

By Yasmine Saleh and Tom Perry

EGYPT'S interim rulers issued a faster than expected timetable for elections to try to drag the country out of crisis, a day after 51 people were killed when troops fired on a crowd supporting ousted President Mohamed Mursi.

The streets of Cairo were quiet on Tuesday but Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood movement called for more protests later in the day, raising the risk of further violence.

Under pressure to restore democracy quickly, Adli Mansour, the judge named head of state by the army when it brought down Mursi last week, decreed overnight that a parliamentary vote would be held in about six months. That would be followed by a presidential election.

In an important positive signal for the transitional authorities, the ultra-orthodox Islamist Nour Party said it would accept ex-finance minister Samir Radwan as prime minister, potentially paving the way for an interim cabinet.

The stakes were raised dramatically by the bloodshed on Monday, the worst since President Mursi was toppled by the military. The army opened fire outside Cairo's Republican Guard barracks where the deposed leader is believed to be held.

The bloodshed has also raised



A member of the Muslim Brotherhood and supporter of deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi displays spent ammunition after clashes with the army in front of Republican Guard headquarters. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

alarm among key donors such as the US and the EU, as well as in Israel, with which Egypt has had a US-backed peace treaty since 1979.

Officials said troops fired in re-

sponse to an attack by armed assailants. The protesters disputed that account, insisting they were conducting peaceful dawn prayers.

"They shot us with teargas, birdshot, rubber bullets – everything. Then they used live bullets," said a man wounded in the scuffle.

The bloodshed shocked Egyptians, already tired of the turbulence that began two and half years ago with the overthrow of autocrat Hosni

Mubarak in a popular uprising.

However, the Muslim Brotherhood rejected the decree issued by Egypt's interim head of state.

Senior Brotherhood politician Essam El-Erian said the decree by interim head of state Adli Mansour was "usurping legislative power".

The Brotherhood is demanding the military reinstate Mursi as president and has said it will have nothing to do with the military-backed transition. — Reuters

## Post Arab spring plagued by increased corruption: Poll

CORRUPTION has worsened in most Arab countries since their 2011 revolutions, even though anger with corrupt officials was a major reason for the uprisings, according to a public opinion poll released on Tuesday.

The survey by Transparency International, a global non-governmental body which studies bribery around the world, appears to dash hopes that the Arab Spring would produce cleaner government and business in the region.

The Arab public's continued frustration with

corruption may undermine governments' efforts to restore political stability, while hindering economic growth and foreign investment.

Of four countries which experienced changes of government during the Arab Spring, a majority of respondents in three – Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen – feel the level of corruption has risen in the past two years, the survey showed.

In Egypt, 64% said corruption had worsened; in Tunisia, the proportion was 80%.

The exception was Libya, where only 46% said the country had become more corrupt.

Within Egypt, 78% of respondents said the police were corrupt or extremely corrupt. The proportion was 65% for the judiciary and 45% for the military, one of the country's most respected institutions.

The survey was based on interviews with about 1,000 people in each country between last September and March this year.

— Reuters

## Runaway train devastates Quebec tourist town

THREE days after a runaway train derailed and exploded in the downtown core of Lac-Mégantic, many residents of the Quebec tourist town are still waiting for answers about missing loved ones.

With the fires now out and the authorities finally able to access the epicenter of the blasts, the death toll is expected to climb and many of the town's evacuated

residents will finally be allowed back to assess the damage.

For the families of the dead and missing – around 50 people altogether – the recovery efforts will start to bring some closure, though it may still take weeks or even months before all are identified.

"They know their loved ones were there, on the site. Most of them are now waiting for confir-

mation – because that makes it official," said Steve Lemay, the parish priest of Lac-Mégantic, who has been meeting with affected families. "It's clear that they are not waiting for the missing to return."

Quebec police said late on Monday that they had so far recovered 13 bodies from the blackened rubble of what was once the historic downtown strip. — Reuters



The derailed train bursts into flames in Lac-Mégantic. Photo: Reuters





One of the living room designs by Modernform. Photos: Modernform



The "Think chair" aids posture and helps backbone movement.

# Furniture firm sets bar high in Phuket

**PROPERTY**  
**Gazette**

LONG standing property furnishing company, Modernform continues to raise the bar for local real estate, and is confident of hitting and maintaining its "beefy" monthly sales target of 8-10 million baht.

With its 30-year track record in the industry, the Bangkok-based firm has several branches and dealers throughout the country, namely in Bangkok's Central World, Sri Nakarin, Rangsit (outlet), Crystal Design Center and South Pattaya; the firm also distributes its products through authorized dealers in Chiang Mai, Udon Thani, Khon Kaen and Surat Thani.

Its Phuket showroom, which spans 700 square meters and cost about 20 million baht, offers a wide range of furnishing products, aimed primarily at the middle-income market segment.

Modernform's growing portfolio of clients on the island is highlighted by a number of well-branded new developments such as Habitia and Habittown (Sansiri



The showroom is at the Premium Outlet on the bypass road.

Plc); Supalai Park @ Downtown (Supalai Plc), Connex Condo, Phumuntra Condominium, as well as projects with a number of other trusted developers such as Win Pro Co Ltd and the Phuket Thani real estate company.

The firm's director and president, Mr Patana Usanachitt told the Gazette that he is bullish about his firm's prospects: "We import premium and high quality products which are different from our competitors, and we sell products to real estate companies that are prevailing over their rivals," he said.

Among its offerings include top-

quality furnishings and furniture for the home, work space, living room, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen area, dressing room, dining room as well as outdoor spaces.

They also have interior finishings, as well as flooring and synthetic stone materials. Modernform imports furniture fittings and accessories of leading brands from Germany and Italy, among others.

The new Phuket showroom will sell unique bedroom furniture such as the contemporary bed "Posto" which uses different materials to give the bed a modern design; the "Think chair", which aids posture and helps backbone movement by using the bottom of the chair to support the backbone and help keep it naturally aligned.

Moreover, the chair also utilizes a smart technology through what is known as a "Weight-Activated Mechanism" which allows weight level to be set, tailored to the user.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Modernform's Phuket showroom is located at the Premium Outlet (Gallery Plaza), 888 M 2, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-350-471-3 Fax: 076-350-474. Open daily from 10a.m to 7pm.



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# More ways to secure Thai land

By David Mayes

FOR those of you who read my article on obtaining Thai citizenship and aren't going down that road, I promised to come back and write about the other ways of "buying" property in Thailand.

The fact is you can go right ahead and pay for land here, but the law is clear that the land office will not be registering the title in a foreigner's name. I am often asked by people in Phuket about how to secure the land under the property they wish to own, and in my normal line of work, I get to sit down with many people from various walks of life and hear what they have in fact done themselves.

Obviously purchasing a freehold condo is the most straightforward, although if your heirs are not Thai citizens they will have trouble inheriting it from you. Most of you, I would assume, are more interested in buying a house in paradise, and this is where things get much more tricky. Knowing what not to do is almost as important as knowing what to do in this case.

Many people simply find a Thai person they think they can trust and register the property in their name. Others set up shell companies to hold the title at the land office, and some actually form companies that in reality do some sort of business. Some people get a thirty year lease with the promise of multiple extensions. No one way is fool-proof, as I will explain below.

It should go without saying that if you trust putting the title into someone else's name, you

have no legal recourse should they decide to rip you off. I have recently heard about an expat likely losing his property because he put it into someone's name and they borrowed against it to develop a property that didn't exactly turn out as expected. Even your wife or mother in law, or maybe I should say especially your mother in law, may do unexpected things that could see your property taken away from you.

The government has continuously threatened to crack down on the practice of nominee shareholders and companies which are only set up to skirt property laws. It seems to me that the majority of people I have come across throughout the country use this method and the government has never made good on its promise to root them all out. It would still worry me personally that someday there may be a reckoning.

To me it seems that if you can actually have a "real" business here this is ideal and would be a legally acceptable means of owning a property, but of course then you have the risk that business goes bad.

The major problem with the lease method to me is that legally you have rented the property for thirty years. The land office will only register that bit of the contract, the rest of it is technically illegal and if the original seller decides not to give you the next thirty years, it is hard to know if that would stand up in court.

Also, if you die, the lease dies with you, and if the seller dies it is likely their heir could try to claim



**DREAM HOME:** Buying land in Thailand can be a headache for most foreigners. Photo: Love Kittaya



**Purchasing a freehold condo is the most straightforward way for foreigners to own property in Thailand.** Photo: Zcape

the property back after thirty years despite a contract for two additional thirty year extensions.

Since none of the methods are fool-proof on their own, I think a prudent thing to do is to mix them up. I would never get a 30-year lease from the seller, you could instead put the title into the name of

a Thai person you think you can trust and then lease it from them.

Alternatively, you could start a company and then lease it back, giving you a second layer of protection securing your usage rights should something go wrong with the company.

Some use an offshore company

to hold the Thai company so that they can pass shares on to their loved ones to avoid a taxable event in Thailand or any other scrutiny at death. Of course it may be overboard and a little expensive, but at least you can secure the right to use the property even if you can never technically own it.



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## Slower growth forecast for 2<sup>nd</sup> half

THE property market is expected to grow more slowly in the second half of the year, due to the economic slowdown and a fall in purchasing power in a key segment, according to leading developers.

Pruksa Real Estate director and chief business officer Prasert Taedullayasatit said the market would be slower than in the first half of the year for these reasons, and that reduced purchasing power would affect the market for homes costing more than 5 million baht.

However, the demand for homes priced up to 5mn baht will continue to expand because this segment represents real demand from those who buy a property in which they intend to live, he said.

Demand for homes priced up to 2mn baht is also continuing to grow, as buyers in that category are generally not those who decided to purchase a vehicle under the government's first car scheme, he added.

"Our research shows that customers buying a first car have a different lifestyle from people purchasing a home, which put them in a different market and leads us to believe that homes costing no more than 2mn baht will still experience strong demand," said Prasert.

However, the overall market will continue to expand because demand for homes priced up to five million baht is still strong among those in employment and generating a monthly income, he said.

Demand for homes in this price category continues to be largely real, rather than demand for speculative or investment purposes, he added.

Nonetheless, Issara said the overall property market may grow by less than had been estimated early this year, due to reduced demand from speculators and investors for properties costing more than five million baht.

Putting aside the prospects for the second half, top 10-listed developers have recorded presales worth more than 100 billion baht combined for the first six months of the year. Pruksa Real Estate had presales of 23bn baht, more than half the company's full-year target of 35bn baht.

Sansiri's presales came in at 29bn baht, more than half the company's full-year target of 48bn baht.

Land & Houses, meanwhile, achieved presales worth 15 bn baht, exactly half of the company's full-year target.

LPN Development recorded

presales of 15.5bn baht in the first half. The company's full-year target is 20bn baht.

AP (Thailand)'s presales totalled 8bn baht, while Supalai achieved 10bn baht. Their full-year targets are 22bn baht and 26bn baht, respectively.

SC Asset Corp saw presales of Bt6 billion in the first half, representing 40% of its target of 15bn baht for the entire year.

Property Perfect, meanwhile, had presales worth 6bn baht. The developer's 2013 target is 19bn baht.

"Our presales were higher than we had estimated following increased demand for homes costing up to five million apiece," said Pruksa's Prasert.

Supalai managing director Atip Bichanond said the company's first-half presales had come in lower than estimated because it had launched fewer projects during the period.

That said, presales were still higher than in the same period last year, he added.

SC Asset chief operating officer Kree Dejchai said presales in the first half had been close to the company's target, thanks to higher demand than in the same period last year.

— *The Nation*



# Same old game – new players, rules

**CHANGE:** Phuket's real estate window of opportunity is not what it was a decade ago. Life in paradise is not as cheap as it used to be, when it was forty baht to the dollar. Photo: Bill Barnett

IT'S been said that all that glitters is not gold and real estate is an example of the vast wealth that simple plots of dirt can conjure up. But bringing on the bling can certainly attract some of the more adventurous souls out there.

Last week, an image of a Phuket property man's life, who had taken a turn for the worse, flashed up on various news sites across the island. The mug shots with police and the threat of pending deportation are a sad reminder of the personal demons of paradise.

My mind's eye turned back to the Phuket boom years after the new millennium, and I had a hard time reconciling the distant vision of success with the immediate prospect of certain failure.

For the most part, our property sector has taken a predictable course in cyclical growth from an emerging story line, with more entrepreneurs than institutional developers. Phuket has historically been unlike other parts of Thailand in that its tourism and property sectors have a large segment of foreign players. Despite the stories of meteoric rises

from rags to riches, there were no corresponding large-scale defaults of epic proportions. Of course there have been some, which have inflicted considerable pain on naive purchasers.

More than a decade has come and gone since mad dogs and glory saw demand sprint far ahead of supply. Imagine Usain Bolt racing with a hippo. The fix was in.

Today, as we all know, the tables have been turned, the baby has grown into a full fledged adult and the welcome mat while still out, is now dominated by bigger players who have no trouble flexing their toned muscles.

Since the global financial crisis, Phuket's expat real estate players have felt a continued pressure similar to global warming. The seas are rapidly rising and it has been a daily race to sink or swim. Of course, many have had to change course, going from sales into rentals, estate management, online anything or completely different businesses. The world they had known had disappeared and a ransom note was left by the nightstand.



**Property Watch**

By Bill Barnett

In the unique Thai world of "same same but different", everyone in the industry has had to take a reality check, change expectations and tune up or tune out. Sure there are hold-outs wanting the good old days to return. For them, the best advice might be anticipating when hell freezes over. It's been no different for local Thai developers who hear the running of Bangkok bulls over and over each and every night.

Today, there remains money to be made on the island whether you are Thai or an expat, but the goalposts are higher and competition fierce. Sure the highways glitter with foreigners' red license plates but most of these are funded through money from abroad. Things in the property trade are not as easy as they used to be, but for a few, success remains achievable unlike many countries in the West where it's best to just not bother getting out of bed, roll over and cry the entire day.

Life in paradise is not as cheap as it used to be, when it was forty baht to a dollar. Nor

as easy as just showing up, and opening the door with a flood of easy property sales. The vicious competition of new emerging markets, resales, cheap rentals and shoebox condos are enough to make most people dizzy.

In days past, foreigners who traveled to the East had the opportunity to remake their lives, rewrite the book and this remains the case to this day. But one thing for sure is Easy Street is a dead end, and there are no short cuts.

Reality has bitten back and the truth is just like selling dirt. Making money on property here, as in most parts of the world, is a long-term proposition. Certainly there are exceptions, but for the most part hard work, good ideas and dogma are the only things that count in this race. Add in a little luck, but be very wary of getting too close to the edge, it's a long way down.

Bill Barnett is the managing director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through [C9hotelworks.com](http://C9hotelworks.com)



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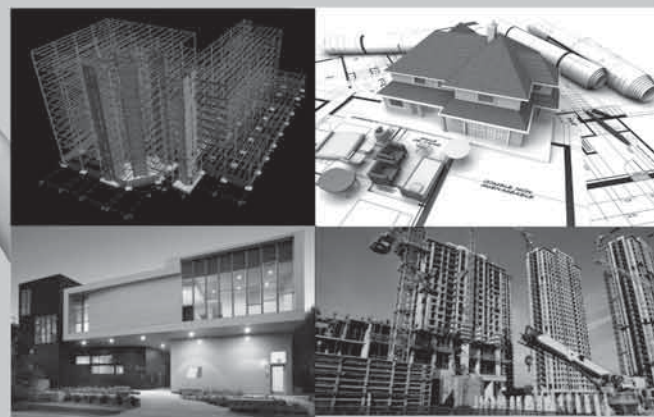
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# Japan aims to lure more Thai, Asean tourists



TOKYO DRIFT: Thai tourists visiting Japan dropped 29% after the tsunami. Photo: YoHandy

JAPAN-bound travelers from Thailand are expected to significantly rise as a result of the visa waiver recently introduced by Japan for those on short-term visits.

Although Japan's tourism industry looks to bounce back after it was hit by a devastating earthquake two years ago and the tsunami that ensued, which claimed many lives, Japan is determined to further boost its tourism industry.

Recently, Japan has announced that Thai passport holders can now enter the country without the hassle of applying for a visa. According to statistics, the number of tourists visiting Japan in 2012 totaled over 8 million, up 34.6% from the previous total of 6.2 million in 2011, when Japan was hit by the earthquake and the tsunami.

The tendency has raised the Japanese government's optimism, prompting it to

set a new target of attracting 18 million tourists by 2016 and 25 million by 2020.

In its new marketing strategy, Japan eyes more tourists from Asean countries, with Thai people on top of the chart, followed by Indians in South Asia, to make up for the decrease in the number of Chinese tourists in 2012.

One of the Japanese government's strategies is to allow Thai and Malaysian passport holders entering the country for a short period without the need to obtain a visa. This policy was announced on the June 11.

Japan has noted with satisfaction a steady rise in the number of Thais visiting the country with 223,200 recorded in 2009 and over 268,400 in 2010. However, the figure dropped by almost 29% in 2011 to 191,209 due to the earthquake and tsunami.

— *National News Bureau of Thailand*

# Expatriate retirement: abroad vs home

IF YOU have been an expat for a good portion of your adult or working life, you may be wondering whether to retire abroad or return to your home country to retire.

However, before you decide to become either a permanent expat or a returnee, you will need to take into account the following considerations:

## Your Retirement Income

The cost of living "back home" may have risen so much during your time abroad that returning on your retirement income will mean a much lower standard of living.

The good news is that inflation tends to be much lower in developed countries than in the emerging markets that are popular retirement destinations, meaning the low interest rates your investments might be getting right now, and for the foreseeable future, may be enough to at least get by on without many worries.

Moreover, not returning home for some nationalities (British) can mean frozen pension incomes.

## Retirement Years

By Don Freeman

### Housing Back Home

Even if you have a good retirement income, returning home to a place like San Francisco or London, where housing has gotten very expensive, may not be financially viable without a large mortgage if you did not maintain a residence in such pricey locations.

And having a mortgage as a retiree on a fixed income is usually not a smart financial move.

### Tax Home Situation

Living abroad for most retirees who aren't US citizens (and thus subject to worldwide taxation) will likely mean significantly lower taxes.

However, taxes may not matter much when making a decision if you will be on a relatively low fixed or investment income while American retirees have 50 states with 50 different tax regimes to choose from.

### Cost of Retirement Visas

Returning to your home country will not require you to tie up potentially large sums of money in retirement visa deposits in

non-home country currencies and pay annual expenses to maintain such visas.

Likewise, there is always the risk of retirement visa rules or requirements changing or becoming more financially onerous — forcing you to leave.

### Standard of Living

If you have gotten accustomed to living in places where expats enjoy a very high standard of living (live-in domestic help), returning home will likely be much more of a culture shock. After all, it's usually only the truly rich in developed countries that enjoy live-in domestic help — something that may become more of a necessity rather than a luxury as you get older.

### Personal Health

The older you are, the more difficult it will be to buy affordable health insurance as there is usually an age cut-off date while government health care programs for retirees rarely cover citizens when they are living abroad.

A possible compromise might be to retire abroad in an inexpensive location close to your home country (Mexico if you are American or Canadian) so that it's possible to easily return to your



PRIME FACTOR: The map charts the world's cities that have costs of living that are cheap (green) and expensive (red). Source: Expatistan.com

home country for a major and expensive medical emergency.

### Climate

Living in places like Thailand where the weather is usually hot and humid, plus there is an annual rainy season, may become harder to bear the older you are while "winter" in the tropics may actually be relatively cold when you consider homes usually don't have central heating of any kind.

On the other hand, if you have spent a good portion of your life abroad in warm tropical climates, you might find returning home

to a northern latitude to be an even more difficult adjustment when you are older.

### Family, Friends, Others

If you have been an expat for many years, you may not have many close family or friends left in your home country who can assist you in any way. That could make integrating back into your home country even more difficult as it might be hard to find a social circle of friends you can relate to as you have no doubt missed out on a lot of events and cultural or political changes while living abroad.

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## Shrimp exports to swell

ACCORDING to representatives from various Thailand-based food export associations, the volume of shrimp exports is expected to increase this year by 40%, while the export value will also swell by 20% due to the appreciation of the baht.

Projections about Thai food exports were presented to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who'd chaired a discussion on July 8 with entrepreneurs from the food export and agri-food industries.

In the meeting, the private sector called for the Government to attend to anti-dumping measures,

with parties agreeing to the establishment of public private partnership (PPP) working groups to overlook rules and regulations of food export supply chain and FTA developments that impact the food industry.

The PM was told that exports of frozen chickens this year would reach 620,000 tons with a value of 79 billion baht. This would equate to an increase of 7% from last year; whereas the value of processed food exports was expected to be valued at approximately 180bn baht, which would be about the same as last year.

— *Phuket Gazette*



# Island inflation 10% higher than country

By Steven Layne

PHUKET continues to outpace most of the rest of the country in terms of inflation, with the cost of living on the island in the first six months of the year, growing at a rate 10% faster than Thailand overall.

Meanwhile, headline (overall) inflation in the Kingdom's two main cities in the North and Northeast was more than 40% higher than the national average.

As measured by the average Consumer Price Index (CPI), Thailand's cost of living in the first six months of 2013 rose by 2.7% over the same period last year, while overall inflation in Phuket was measured at 3.1% during the same period, compared to 6.3% in Chiang Mai and 5.9% in Khon Kaen.

The Phuket Commerce Office, in collaboration with the Phuket provincial government and the

Commerce Ministry's Information Office and Bureau of Trade and Economic Indices, recently published the province's Consumer Price Index (CPI-P) analysis for the first half of the year.

It should also be noted that this year, the Kingdom's central indices office changed its base year – the year used to compare current consumer prices to – from 2007 to 2011.

Prior to such change, from 2007 to 2012, overall inflation in Thailand was measured at about 16%, compared to Phuket, which had a 5-year inflation rate of 26%.

In other words, during the period, the cost of living in Phuket rose about 60% quicker than Thailand as a whole.

Compared with the national CPI report, which now surveys 450 items (previously, 407), the CPI-P survey for Phuket covers only 238 consumer goods and services.

Both lists cover expense

trends for everything from food, beverages, apparel, housing and personal health-care, to vehicles, transport, communications, entertainment, media, education, religion, tobacco and alcohol.

Phuket's average year-on-year inflation of 3% during the first six months derives is highlighted by an average 3.2% price increases for food and [non-alcoholic] beverage items (F&B), namely fruits and vegetables (5.2%), out-of-home consumer foods (4.7%); in-home consumer foods (2.4%) dairy and egg products (3.6%); meat, poultry and seafood items (3.5%); food condiments (1.5%) and rice, flour and flour products (0.2%).

Meanwhile non F&B items on the island inflated by 2.5%, highlighted by consumer goods price and expense rises in alcohol and tobacco (7.8%); clothing apparel and footwear (6%); packaging,

## Inflation in 2013's first half

	Headline	F&B	Non F&B	Core
Thailand*	2.7	3.9	2	1.23
Bangkok*	2.7	3.9	2.1	1.26
Phuket*	3.1	3.5	2.5	2.3
Chiang Mai**	6.3	9	3.9	3
Khon Kaen**	5.9	8.2	3.1	2.5
*Jan to Jun avg 2013 vs 2012		**Jan to May avg 2013 vs 2012		

CENTRALIZED: Bangkok continues to have the country's most stable economy.

transport and communications (2.7%); housing (1.8%); and personal health care (1.4%).

Consumer expenses and prices categorized as entertainment, reading, education and/or religion inflated in Phuket by only 0.7%.

A change from the usual, Phuket has not had the highest

inflation rate in the country so far this year, with the economies of major cities in the North and Northeast this year being affected by a number of economic stimulus initiatives and schemes.

Among the most controversial of these is the government-sponsored rice pledging scheme.

## Trade drops by nearly 60% since last year

THREE-quarters of the way into the government's current fiscal year, the island's export-import industry is dwindling, particularly when compared to last year's benchmark trading year.

Phuket Customs House' records through June 30 show that the value of exports in the 2013 government fiscal year (October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013) so far, is just over 5 billion baht – having plummeted by 58% from this time last year, when over 12bn baht worth of exports were declared.

Likewise, the value of legal and properly taxed imports to the island during the same period also are down, by 59% to 682.2 million baht from 1.67bn baht this time last year.

With only three months to go before the 2013 fiscal books are concluded, the island's trade surplus of exports over imports – currently 4.35bn baht – will not likely come close to matching last year's full-year record surplus of 11.46bn baht (13.54bn baht exports over 2.08bn baht imports).

As usual, the island's top export this year so far – by far – has been raw block rubber, with exports of the commodity currently valued at 2.9bn baht or 58.6% of all Phuket's reported exports, representing a 66% decline, year-on-year

(y-o-y) from 8.6bn baht.

The average export price of rubber (FOB via Bangkok) in July has dropped by about 18% y-o-y now to about 80 baht per kilogram.

Meanwhile, Phuket's second biggest export is fiberboard made from old rubber trees (1.46bn baht or 29% of

exports), down 28% y-o-y from 2.03bn baht.

Other significant exports include sports and leisure vessels (384mn baht or 7.63% of exports); live sea fish (78mn baht) and frozen sea

fish (74.9mn baht).

Topping the island's imports' list, by combined gross value, is chilled sea fish, with imports valued at 253.5mn baht, down 45% y-o-y from 466mn baht.

This is followed by sports and leisure vessels worth 251.4mn baht, a drop of 43.2% y-o-y from 443mn baht.

The only import to show growth during the nine month period was frozen sea fish, with imports this year currently valued at 161mn baht, up 8% from 149mn baht, last year.

Other up-and-coming imports include processed lumber (8.6mn baht) and particle board (2.6mn baht).

– Steven Layne



DRY: Export rubber prices have plummeted by 18% since July, 2012.



Montpelier Wealth Management are holding an

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AND **FREE** buffet lunch at the "Loch Palm Golf Club" at 11.00 am on Thursday the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2013

The Subjects Covered will be:

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# Thanks giving for 4<sup>th</sup> of July

WE WOULD like to extend a most heartfelt thanks to every one of the many volunteer groups who worked together so well to make last weekend's inaugural Phuket Airshow and Family Picnic such a successful charity event.

The splendid festivities, timed to celebrate the signing of the United States Declaration of Independence 237 years ago, had so much going on that it was almost impossible for attendees to take part in all of the fun activities, which included everything from stunt plane performances (see page 38) to pie-eating contests.

While it would be impossible to individually thank everyone for their contributions, a good place to start would be with the US Navy League and one of their key members, Pat James. The lifelong airman conceived the idea to celebrate the 4th of July in the way he remembered celebrating it as a boy growing up in Texas: with an airshow, complete with stunt pilots, a chili cook-off and other American staples.

While the event was easily the largest ever organized by the US Navy League in Southern Thailand, it had an indisputably international flavor, with volunteers from a wide range of countries taking part, including a large turnout by students and staff at the British International School, QSI International School and other such private schools on the island.

Perhaps most heartening of all was the high level of participation from the local community in Pa Khlok.

Thanks also go to media co-sponsor, newspaper *Siangtai Daily* and its publisher Chaowapong Mekkerakul for helping to publicize the event in Thai to local Thai communities across Southern Thailand.

The event also served as a valuable showcase for host venue Phuket Airpark, showing just how much its numerous facilities have been developed since the first event it hosted, on a dusty landing strip back in 2010.

Most importantly, the US Navy League will use proceeds generated from the event to help fund its important "comrel" (community relations) events that are of such great importance in maintaining a positive relationship between local communities and visiting US servicemen and women, who offer to volunteer during their shore leave in Phuket.

We hope that the success of this year's event will help encourage potential sponsors – including the American Embassy and Chamber of Commerce in Thailand and its many member corporations – to help support next year's event, which we expect to be even bigger and better.

We are pleased to be a proud sponsor of this event and others like it which foster positive relationships between Phuket's growing expat and local communities.



## Re-enactments in rape cases are harmful

Re: Gazette online, Rohingya rape suspect handed over to court, July 4

I know that re-enactment is standard procedure, but asking a rape victim to re-enact the rape with the actual offender is a nightmare.

Of course there will be a fight. Did they really expect everyone to sit down calmly next to each other on a boat?

After all this woman has been through, does she get any psychological support? I wonder what happens with this police officer. My expectations for justice are not very high.

Tinkerbelle  
Gazette forum

### Redirect police focus

Re: Gazette online, Phuket raid nets B100mn of pirated goods in Patong, July 4

Have the police got nothing better to do?

When I first came to Phuket in 1995, you could have sold these in the middle of Bangla Road and the police would do nothing.

Now police are only cracking down to make Thailand look good. They forget the money people have to pay back if they can't sell or return the merchandise.

What about focusing instead on the cop who [allegedly] shot a man in Phuket Town and got off?

Robert  
Gazette forum

### Well done, Navy

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Navy helicopter rescues cargo shipman in life raft, July 4

A round of applause for the Thai Navy. It is good to know there is actually somebody to go out there and help you when you are in trouble.

Horst  
Gazette forum

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Confessing would have been better

Re: Gazette online, Canadian expat, 64, faces deportation from Phuket for visa overstay, July 2

Although I think visa runs should be replaced with visiting Immigration and paying a fee (on land runs the Thai government makes no money), for lying to Immigration, he deserves to be deported.

Perhaps if he had been honest and offered to pay the overstay which I think is a max of 20,000 baht, they might have been more forgiving.

Fiesty Farang  
Gazette forum

### Airshow was brilliant

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Airshow & Family Picnic ready for takeoff, July 5

The Airshow was unbelievable. I heard that 4,000 people had visited by 4pm on Sunday. What a wonderful opportunity to see things we normally can't – stunt planes, parachutists, hot air balloons and remote-controlled flying vehicles. Great fun. Many thanks to the organizers.

Suzanna  
Kathu

### Playing with sirens

Re: Gazette online, I&A: Ambulances and the Phuket right of way, June 27

When the EMTs at Chalong Bay get off duty in the evening

they turn on their flashing lights just to drive home! There is no emergency and I would be very surprised if there was anyone in the ambulance but the driver.

This happens every evening, even though it is illegal to run with emergency lights when there is no emergency.

I suspect most emergency vehicles turn on their emergency lights when driving, emergency or not.

William Smith  
Gazette forum

### Normal corruption

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Shooting for Island Justice, July 7

The problem in Thailand is that police corruption is almost an accepted way of life.

I can't count the number of times an officer of the law has tried to extract cash from me for one reason or another.

They have even tried to extort money from my Thai wife because they saw her coming out of our expensive subdivision. They had the audacity to ask if she was married to a farang before asking for money. Epic corruption!

Resident  
Gazette forum

### Ideas for stamping out dengue fever

Re: Gazette online, Phuket dengue numbers highest in 20 years, July 3

Education at the local community level is the answer, not false claims about gifts and searches which have not been seen where we live!

Give the school kids leaflets to take home. Perhaps they could give them out at the police check points as well.

John  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Saving swimmers by not letting them swim

## FIRST PERSON

IT SHOULD be illegal to swim when red flags are posted, and hotels should warn their guests clearly about the dangers of the sea during the low season.

When there is dangerous surf, we post red flags along the beach to warn swimmers, but many of them ignore the flags. Many times when we try to stop them from going into the sea when it is dangerous, they swear at us. Sometimes they even hit my staff.

The authorities should take action against people who do not listen to us. They should fine people who do not obey the rules that are in place to save their lives.

Hotels and resorts should post signs in their lobbies or hotel rooms to warn guests not to swim during the southwest monsoon. I suggested this idea to some hotels, but most of them disagreed. They thought it might chase their guests away.

I understand that they're looking at it from a business angle – and I also understand that a big dream of many tourists who visit Phuket is to swim at our beautiful beaches. But as a lifeguard, I would say that if they come here to die, it's better not to come.

We don't have the authority to stop people from going in the water. We need help with this. We have enough stress in our job without having to fight with people who won't listen to us.

We're under incredible pressure when we rescue swimmers. I always try my best to save them. Even when they disappear in the water, I feel I have to find them. Whether they are alive or dead, I



Phang Nga native **Uten Singsom**, 37, has been working as a lifeguard for 14 years, first at Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort in Patong and for the past three years on Karon Beach. Today, he is the head of the Kata-Karon Lifeguard Club.

Here, he talks about what government and hotels should do to make Phuket beaches safer and stop tourists from drowning.

will not leave them in the water. If they die at sea, I want to at least return their body to the shore.

About two years ago, I rescued a German man by pulling him out of a rip current. It was scary and I almost died.

My friend and I took a jet-ski out to rescue him. The waves were really strong. As we arrived near him, I jumped off the jet-ski and stuck the rescue float under his chest. I tried pulling him out of the strong waves in a safer direction.

He was big and heavy and had been hit so many times by the waves before I got to him that he was exhausted and about to pass out. I asked him to help me swim and tried to go under the waves with him to avoid being hit, but he was too scared and too tired. I had to pull him all the way with my own strength.

The waves hit me again and again and pulled him and me in the wrong direction. I was choking on sea water and felt exhausted. I felt like I couldn't hold on anymore.

At that moment, I even thought about leaving him and swimming away alone, but a voice in my head

told me to try again and I finally made it.

After we got out of the rip current, my friend picked us both up with the jet-ski and took us safely back to shore.

In some cases, after getting people back to shore, I have to do CPR. This part is also stressful because their lives are in my hands. I really want to save them, I want them to survive.

Sometimes as I am about to do CPR, a family member of the person I pulled out of the water comes and says to me tearfully, "Please save my son. Please do not let him die." That puts more pressure on me and makes me very sad if finally I can't save the person.

The last time I did CPR was on June 23, on an Indian tourist named Ramesh Chand Singhal, who was pronounced dead on arrival at Patong Hospital. That day I went home feeling so depressed.

We do everything in our power to help swimmers in trouble. We would like the authorities to keep them from getting in the water in the first place, when the surf is dangerous.



This isn't the only flag swimmers need to know. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

## Enigmatic beach flags

### Island View

By Winston Gunn

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

YOU arrive at the beach ready for a day of sun, sea and sand, but you are greeted by a line of different colored flags lining the shoreline: red, red and yellow, yellow, blue, red and white chequered. Most people, me included, aim for the area away from the red flag as they know what that means. The others are just colored fabric on a stick.

Four swimmers died on Phuket beaches in the period June 20 to 23 and over 30 tourists were pulled from the surf.

Tourists were partially blamed for getting themselves into difficulty by ignoring the warning flags. This spate of drownings and the large number of people rescued from the sea indicate either that people choose to ignore the warning flags or they have no idea what they mean.

Flags are important on beaches to inform users about local information, lifeguard services and potential safety risks. Signs and flags are important not only to people unfamiliar with the beach but also to regular beach users in relation to currents and changing conditions.

However, the flag system used on Phuket, although an international system, is not familiar to all beachgoers.

Some people may never have been to the beach before and some might have been to a beach that didn't have a flag warning system.

How many beachgoers know them all: red means beach closed, do not enter water; red and yellow, patrolled area – the safest swimming area; yellow, warning – potentially dangerous conditions; blue, aquatic activity allowed within the boundary; and red and white chequered, evacuate the water.

Another factor to consider is that people by nature tend to follow the crowd. If someone sees a group of people swimming in an area, they will instinctively think that it is safe and go in the water there, even if these people are swimming in a red-flag zone. It is then up to the lifeguard to move these people out of the dangerous surf area and keep them out.

One way to keep tourists out of harm's way is by sensory overload. Bombard them with safety information that shows them the dangers of the sea and what exactly each flag color means.

This can be done through an inflight video, pamphlets at the airport, hotels, tourist attractions and huge signs at the beaches.

We have an obligation to help tourists enjoy their time safely here and get home alive.

## Issues & Answers...

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

### International money transfer rules

What does the Thai law state regarding foreign money transfers? Does each bank set its own rules and regulations?

I was told by Siam Commercial Bank that I wasn't allowed to transfer a mere 1,000 euros to my foreign account.

Allain Forex  
Phuket

### An officer at the Bank of Thailand replies:

All Thai banks must follow national regulations for foreign money transfers. They can't make their own regulations.

There is no minimum amount set for transfers from a Thai account to a foreign account.

If you would like to transfer

more than US\$50,000 or the equivalent in another currency, you need to file a request with the Bank of Thailand. We will consider the needs of the individual when granting permission.

As for transfers from a foreign account into a Thai account, any amount higher than two million baht requires the bank to notify the Anti-Money Laundering Office to confirm the source of the money.

For more information, contact the Bank of Thailand at 02-3567858-9 or our call center at 02-3567799.



Money in, money out. Image: Nemo

## Property loans for foreigners?

Which bank makes property loans to foreigners? I have been here for three years, and work for a good and steady income. However, every bank has refused to give me a loan, stating that loans are only for Thai nationals. Is there any bank that offers loans to foreigners?

AJ  
Phuket

### An officer at the Personal Loan Department of SCB Head office in Bangkok replies:

Foreigners cannot borrow money from Thai banks according to the regulations of the Thai National Bank. However, you can borrow money under the name of a Thai person or a Thai spouse. If money is borrowed under the name of a Thai spouse, the for-

eigner can be the guarantor.

If you have your own business, which is a registered entity – meaning that Thai nationals own more than 50 per cent of the business, you can ask a Thai partner to be a guarantor. The length of the loan cannot exceed 10 years.

### Gerard Van Paassen, Senior Assistant Vice President – Laguna Property, replies:

Currently, we are not aware that any bank in Thailand is offering foreigners a loan to purchase property within Thailand.

Laguna Property offers a deferred payment on 50 per cent of the selling price with a one, three or five year payment plan.

For a few selected properties

we have a 10 year payment plan, but for a limited time only.

### Nichapat Kaewnarong, Property Consultant, Boat Lagoon, replies:

Yes, foreigners can get a loan with us. They have to make a 50 per cent down payment, and must repay the loan within three years. The interest rate is 10 per cent.

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

Submit your issue at

[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)



YOUR

Phuket

PHUKET AIRSHOW

& FAMILY PICNIC



PGTV cameraman Noppadon "Lee" Waharuk and Corey Parker prepare to take to the air to film one of Corey's skydives over Phuket Airpark. Photo: Mark Knowles



This Zenair, the first plane to be based at Phuket Airpark when the runway opened four years ago, was one of 13 privately owned aircraft delivering scenic flights to more than 120 of the nearly 7,000 people who attended the two-day event last weekend. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli



PGTV Skynews was on duty throughout the weekend for MCOT, True Visions and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show. Photo: Corey Parker



Channel 7 flew in to join the Gazette's 'Phuket Today' show in covering the mega-event. Photo: Mark Knowles



BUBBLES: Even the little ones were able to take part in the gift of flight. There were many delighted kids aboard the planes. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli



Nicki Wihok, a small business owner near Phuket Country Homes in Chalong, enjoys the festivities with her Canadian husband, Dan Black. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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July 13 - 19, 2013 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

## JOB of the week



**See page 26**

## PROPERTY of the week

THE DOME



**See page 24**

## BOAT of the week



**See page 31**

## INVESTMENT of the week

**Patong Hotel**  
For Lease

**See page 28**

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Two-floor townhouse in Phuket Country Homes near Land & Houses Park. 2 beds + 2 baths + fitted kitchen and 3 aircons. Contact Whan for more details. Tel: 089-474 3433 (English & Thai). Email: wpapimpan@hotmail.com

### REDUCED FOR QUICK SALE B4.99M

4-bed, detached. Audio every room, granite kitchen, alarm, home cinema, lighting system, LAN network in Ban Manik. Tel: 086-266 2786. Email: benhobbs.h3@gmail.com

### 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: claudebaltes@gmail.com

### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

### 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.

### PERFECT SEAVIEW VILLA

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### QUICK SALE 2.9MB

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

### 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.

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



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

### HOT DEAL - CONDO AT THE POINT



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

### RAWAI BEACH CONDO-PAY IN 10Y



Condo for sale. 1.1 million baht in 40 trimestrial payments of 27,500 baht. Full Chanote title, ownership forever, brand new, fully furnished, 100m to beach. Email: rawai4@yahoo.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

### 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.

### 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

### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

### 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.

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### HABITIA KOH KAEW



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

### LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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



### AUCTION

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

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

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### 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.

### LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

### HOUSE FOR SALE

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

### 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.

### NEW HOUSE FOR SALE, CHEAP PRICE



Twin house with 2 storeys in Palm Villa, Pa Khlok, 5km from the Heroines monument. Price 2.2 million baht. 35.20sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, car park for 2 cars. Cheaper price than the developer. The house ready to move in October 2013. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

### 3 BEDROOMS, CHALONG

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

### KRABI, AO NANG

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

### LAM RU VALLEY PHANG NGA

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

### KARON GUESTHOUSE



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

## Live in Chong Talay?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Chaba Supermarket



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Na: (076-325586) or (081-3977307)**

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

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All classifieds in these pages are

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...because they're real.



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## Properties For Rent

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### 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

### 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](http://www.oceanic-global.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.

### 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

### STUDIOS FOR RENT

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

### 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.

### 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 NEAR LOCH PALM GOLF COURSE

Newly built in Sabai Village, Kathu. 2 stories, 2 bedrooms & bathrooms, aircon in master room, kitchen, living room. 24 security.

Tel: 086-476 9612

### KATA HILL SINGLE HOUSE

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living, kitchen, 2 aircons, 3BB internet, cable TV and car park. Price 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

### 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](http://www.katasala.com)

### THALANG LUXURY POOL HOUSE

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

### NEW CONDO FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.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.

### CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

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

## THE DOME RETAIL SPACE FOR LEASE

At Destination Patong Hotel and Spa  
3 highly visible retail units available  
Starting from 100 SQM  
Hotline 081-751 4676.  
Email: rinwarra.k@destinationpatong.com



### KATA HILL-1 BEDROOM

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

### KATHU GOLF VIEW FOR RENT

Villa/ penthouse, 3 and 4 bedrooms, pool, 4km to BIS, on top of private hill overlooking lake at Loch Palm Golf Course. Quiet, maid, WiFi, furnished. 1 year: 65,000-85,000 baht. Tel: 087-2 69 8492.

### THE HERITAGE SUITES



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

### LUXURY APARTMENT PATONG

1+2 bed, WiFi, pool, quiet, kitchen, fully furnished. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@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.

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



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

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of **Google** with a **20% discount!**



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

Mail: [AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net)



**See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)**



# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## WEB PROGRAMMER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to [big@phuketgazette.net](mailto:big@phuketgazette.net)

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

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

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:fumiko@sa-mer.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](mailto:info@thailandcamp.com)

## MARKETING & GUEST RELATIONS

Apex Asia 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](mailto:kevin@apexasia.asia)

## KINDERGARDEN IN CHALONG

Thai teacher and Thai cleaner needed. Tel: 084-442 3671 (English). Email: [millingtonjackie@hotmail.com](mailto:millingtonjackie@hotmail.com)

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT

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

## GENERAL MANAGER WANTED

Thai national only. If you are not Thai, please do not apply. Bachelors Degree or equivalent. Or 7 years manager experience. Minimum 4 years in general manager experience. Excellent English skills (written and spoken). Must have ability to hold and control department meetings in English & Thai. Must be able to re-locate if necessary. Must hold a valid Thai driving license. Must have good translation skills. English to Thai, and Thai to English. Please apply by sending CV to [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)



Marriott Vacation Club, Asia Pacific, The leader in the global vacation ownership business, is looking for competent individuals and active professionals to join our team in the following positions

## Vacant Positions

1. Marketing Assistant Manager	Salary + commission
2. Sales & Marketing Assistant Manager	Salary + commission
3. Administrative Assistant	25,000 baht fixed salary
4. Receptionist MVCI	25,000 baht fixed salary
5. Marketing Executive	Salary + commission
6. Sales Executive (Various Languages)	Salary + commission
7. HR Executive	25,000 baht fixed salary
8. Japanese Speaking Marketing Coordinator	Salary + commission

We require proactive, self-motivated and confident people with excellent interpersonal skills. An intermediate degree of proficiency in English is necessary.

Candidates with the above qualifications should submit a resume with a recent photograph to [MVCRecruitment.phuket@vacationclub.com](mailto:MVCRecruitment.phuket@vacationclub.com)

234 Maikhao, Talang Phuket 83110, Thailand  
Tel: 076-338200 Contact: Human Resources Department

## DRIVER 16,000+, COOK 15,000+

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

## NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

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

## 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](mailto:smithdan426@gmail.com)

## FRONT DESK STAFF - SAMUI

Plus WELLNESS MANAGER required by Detox resort. Tel: 077-602096. Send CV and photo to [fasthealing@yahoo.com](mailto:fasthealing@yahoo.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](mailto:info@thailandcamp.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](mailto:hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com)

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

### CHALONG

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

### PATONG

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

### PHUKET CITY

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

### CHERNG TALAY

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

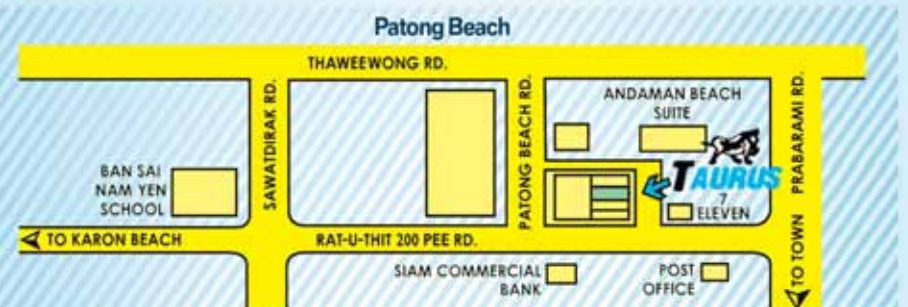
### RAWAI

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

### KARON

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

## Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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



**URGENTLY REQUIRE**

English teacher. Good salary. Tel: 081-957 6092. Email: help2009@hotmail.co.th

**ENGLISH PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Oxford University educated construction manager seeking employment projects in Thailand & SE Asia. Tel: 082-809 3705 (English & Thai), +44-79-7953 8478. Email: grahamross06@aol.com

**DETOX CONSULTANT WANTED**

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

**OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR**

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

**ASSISTANT MANAGER**

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

**EXPERIENCED CS STAFF WANTED**

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

**BAR MANAGER & ACCOUNTS CLERK**

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

**MILLIE'S DAY/ NIGHT CARE**

Looking for 2 teaching assistants/ nannies. 1 cook/ cleaner. Must speak English and enjoy working with children. Tel: 084-442 3671 (English). Email: millingtonjackie@hotmail.com

**CAN YOU COOK?**

Personal villa chef required. Must have experience in international cuisine and fine dining. Open to all nationalities. Tel: 086-282 9449 (English). Send CV to emmajones38@hotmail.co.uk

**WANTED: DESIGNER, WEBMASTER**

English speaking. Thai national with a good understanding of basic design and web technology. Full time job, call today. Tel: 076-239739, 086-690 0444 (English & Thai). Email: Rico@princessyachtsthai.com

**WEB MASTER/GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

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

**WORK CS @ HOLYCLOTHING!**

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

**DESIGN STUDIO**

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

**DRIVER WANTED**

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

**PROMOTERS WANTED**

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

**SALES STAFF WANTED**

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

**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

**COFFEE & ICE CREAM**

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

**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](http://www.oriental-living.net)



Brumaba Operating Table Systems is a medical equipment company founded in 1979. Based in Germany, it has offices all over the world.

To meet the increasing demand for our products and services, we are looking for professional candidates to fill the following positions at our new subsidiary Brumaba Asia/Pacific in Phuket, Thailand.

**■ Assistant Manager (1 position)****■ International Coordinator: Junior Position (1 position)****Job description:**

- (a) Promote and market the products to, and gather feedback on products from, all dental and medical product dealers and distributors, dental and medical schools, private and public dental clinics and government facilities located in Asia/Pacific
- (b) Coordinate the promotion and display of products at all dental and medical conventions and exhibitions in Brumaba Asia/Pacific territory
- (c) Review and verify customer complaints
- (d) Handle all dealer returns and credits with the assistance and approval of Brumaba Asia/Pacific
- (e) Perform any other administrative functions and responsibilities requested by Brumaba Asia/Pacific

**Preferred candidates:**

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

**■ Chief Electrical Engineer (1 position)****Job description:**

- (a) Install, maintain and repair medical equipment
- (b) Provide training and support to Asia/Pacific electrical engineering
- (c) Review and verify customer technical complaints
- (d) Handle all administrative warehouse maintenance

**Preferred candidates:**

- (a) Thai Nationality with at least 2 years experience in electronic and mechanical engineering
- (b) Good knowledge of written and spoken English and Thai
- (c) Ability to work in an international and multicultural environment
- (d) Basic Computer skills

**How to apply:** Interested Thai national, please send your application to, [info@brumaba.asia](mailto:info@brumaba.asia) Ms. Nantawan Tantisriseranee

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

**EVENT/PR MANAGER**

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

**MARKETING & GUEST RELATIONS**

Apex Asia 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: KevinBakeratkevin@apexasia.asia

**NEED COOK (FEMALE) URGENT**

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

**Employment Wanted****ENGLISH PROJECT MANAGEMENT**

Oxford University educated Construction Manager seeking employment projects in Thailand & SE Asia. Tel: 082-809 3705, +44-79-7953 8478. (English & Thai). Email: grahamross06@aol.com

**Live in Town?**  
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**iTree Complete Printing Service**

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

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

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Looking for a better candidate?  
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at **[WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET](http://WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET)**!



Articles  
For SaleURGENT  
MOVING SALE

LED TV. Computer: Vaio, Mac. Aircon. Fridge. Washing machine. Desk, etc. Contact Giorgio. Tel: 081-294 5441.

NEW DIVE  
COMPRESSOR-BAUER

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

Bar &  
Restaurant  
EquipmentRESTAURANT  
EQUIPMENT

We are selling the complete contents of a coffee, gelato shop, including 2 freezer showcases, 1 dessert showcase, 2 group espresso machines, bottle cooler, upright freezer, gelato makers and pasteuriser, together with all furniture and other light equipment. All stock only 12 months old. For more information, please call 087-894 1384 (English & Thai), 089-065 5514 (English & Thai). Email: info@conciergeinphuket.com

## HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact: realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

HOTEL WITH  
RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE

Chanote title, central position, new building, 4 years old, 20 rooms, reception and restaurant fully furnished, lift. 32 million baht negotiable. Please contact Stefano. Tel: 086-279 8175 (English/ Italian). Contact Ning. Tel: 084-840 1566 (Thai).

## Business Opportunities

ENGLISH PROJECT  
MANAGEMENT

Oxford University educated Construction Manager seeking employment projects in Thailand & SE Asia. Please call +44-079-7953 8478 (English & Thai), 082-809 3705. Email: grahamross06@aol.com

MASSAGE SHOP  
IN NAI HARN

Beautiful shop, fully furnished, 2 floors, with small garden. 590,000 baht. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: +35-102-3304 6229, 089-695 9536 (Thai). Email: hellojiky@hotmail.com

MASSAGE SHOP  
PATONG

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

## LAUNDRY FOR SALE

Professional machines, only 2 years old. Wash, dry, iron, roll iron. Reason for selling is expansion. Shophouse with 4 bedrooms. Rent: 22,000 baht per month. Price 1.2 million baht. Tel: 089-882 0894 (English), 089-652 0975 (Thai). Email: peter@conceptfeeling.com

## Bulletins

Alcoholics  
Anonymous

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

## Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town,  
Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763  
081-956 4031

email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

## SPONSOR A CHILD

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

RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE

Steveos tasty burgers for sale. 800,000 baht o.b.o. For quick sale. Contact Steve. For more information, please call 089-918 3718. Email: steveastray@hotmail.com www.steveostastyburgers.com

## TOURIST SUBMARINE

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

PATONG HOTEL  
FOR LEASE

30-room hotel for lease. 160,000 baht monthly. Sale: 4.6 million baht. Tel: 092-374 8254 (English). Email: info@crlc.info

GREAT LOCATION  
NEAR BEACH

Apartment building for lease. 150m from Patong Beach. Tel: 085-994 4199 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-296733. Email: natang8@hotmail.com

BUSINESS  
FOR LEASE

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

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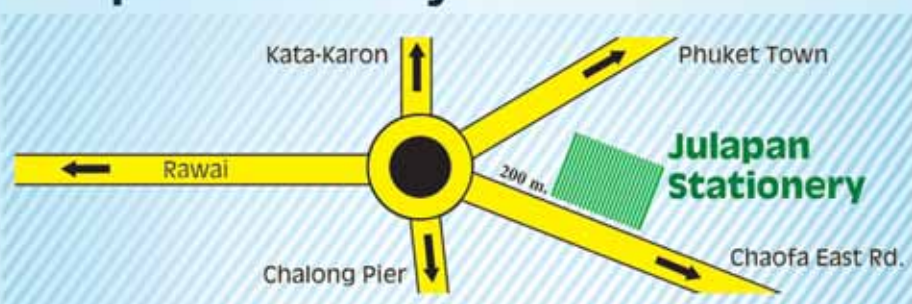
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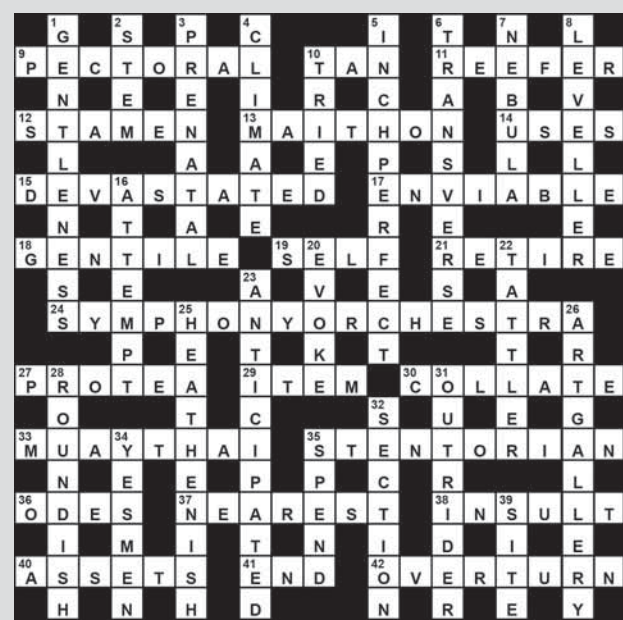
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### SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

### Cryptic crossword



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# JAGOTA LAUNCHES FRESH FROZEN PASTA AT SALVATORE’S



Salvatore Cossu (front), Owner of Salvatore Restaurant and George Des (center), Jagota General Manager Phuket and Jagota team.

# GRAND OPENING OF THE GREEN PLACES CONDOMINIUM



Guests were welcomed by Cherchan Panvikarn (2nd right), Marketing Manager of Phanason Group.

# 4TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY CARNIVAL OF SANAEHA



Stars of the night from left: Khun Yuwaree, Khun Fahsky, K. Khemika and K.Dome

# “HELP SAVE ONE’S LIFE BY GIVING A CHILD A HELMET”



From left: Mr. Wittaya Phoomthaisong, Dealer Development Manager Vespiario (Thailand) Company Limited; Mr. Somchai Buraruck, Patong Deputy Mayor; Mr. Prawit Janyasittikul, Chief Executive Officer Phuket Square Company Limited (Jungceylon Patong); Mrs.Supamat Thammakoranont, Chief Executive Officer Drago Andaman Co., Ltd.



Mr. Christian Schwind (front left), Andaman Cruises General Manager and crew welcomed the German ice hockey star and three-time ice hockey champion of Germany Mr Dominik Bielke (front right) when he visited Andaman Cruises at Ao Por Marina Phuket.



# Top of the list

## A great wine menu deserves a prize

By Maciek Klimowicz

JON Hyams, founder of the Wine List of the Year Awards, says that one of his biggest aims when starting the competition was education.

But this time, it's not teaching consumers about the wine, but rather teaching the sommeliers and waiters how to present their product to you and helping them get rid of their inherited, old and often out-dated habits.

"We're trying to steer away from the more conservative, long and complicated wine list based on regional selections to a layout based on styles of wine. Some of the best lists in the world are short and eclectic with the emphasis on listings by style. We're trying to encourage creativity but also attention to details – correct spelling of appellations, vintages and regions," says Jon.

So basically, it's about letting the wine experts do the hard work, so that you don't have to. A good modern wine list is one that helps you choose a bottle you might like without actually knowing much about appellations, Grand Cru's and vintages, "90 per cent of consumers choose wine by style. So at the end of the day it comes down to describing what it tastes like," adds Jon.

But even if you know your Chardonnay from your Sauvignon Blanc there are still places out there that appreciate a more traditional approach. Georges Ciret, wine director of the Boathouse Wine & Grill which holder of the 2012 award in the Restaurant Wine List

category is a proponent of the the traditional approach.

"I love wine list that is very clear and panoramic. I try to give a clear vision of names, vintages and prices. "I think it's good to work with countries and then

on my wine list, and I consider these wines to be well chosen and matched with the food on the menu, I'd enter." And with the cost of entry of just 1,250 baht, the competition should be fierce.

"There are definitely more wine bars and bistros on the island, offering more wines and wine by the glass than 10 years ago, so the culture is definitely developing,"

says Dawid, who's convinced that

there is great future for the contest."

If you are taking your partner out for dinner to a restaurant or booking a holiday in a resort that has won "Best Wine List Award", you automatically know

specify subdivisions by grapes," he says.

There's no hiding the fact, that some wines are quite pricey in Thailand. But a well designed wine list is an integral part of selling it to consumers.

Especially in a place like Phuket, a holiday destination where most wine is consumed not by locals but by tourists, people who want to relax, chill out and not deal with the headache of choosing the right wine for their meal.

"Guests generally need to be told what's good with the food on the menu. They are on holiday and taking the decision making away from them and masterfully matching food and wine combinations for them on set menu is what luxury resort management and ultimate guest satisfaction is all about," says Dawid Koegelenberg, manager of The Sarojin resort, winner of the last year's Best Wine List in Thailand award.

But it's not only about high-end resorts and five-star hotels. Among the five categories in this year's competition there is one designed for shorter wine lists. "I want to see many, many more players, not just the big resorts and hotels," says Jon, "If I had a backyard cafe on the street corner and I had 20 wines

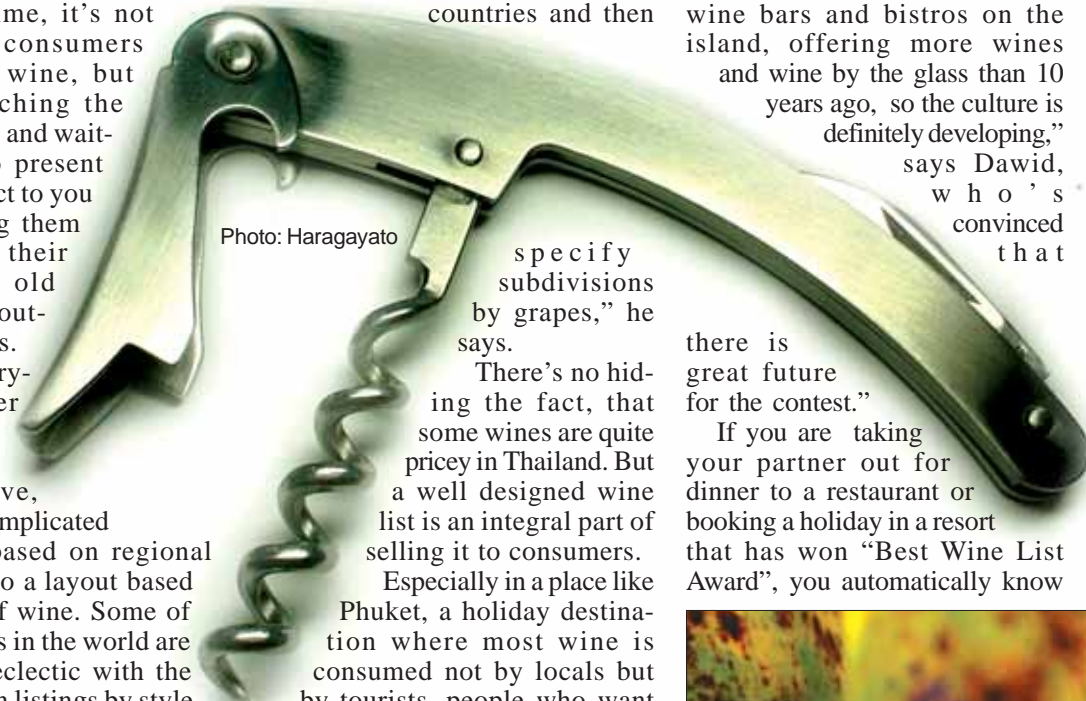


Photo: Haragayato



CORKS: Tough Choice? Easy with a good wine list Photo: Gianni Dominici

If you think your establishment deserves recognition for the quality of its wine list, register to enter the Wine List of the Year Awards Thailand by no later than July 31 at: [winelistoftheyearthailand.com](http://winelistoftheyearthailand.com). The winners will be announced on September 11 in Phuket.



PICK AND CHOOSE: You don't need to know about grapes to choose a perfect wine Photo: John Morgan

## Raise your glass to France!

AS THE French saying goes – *Un repas sans vin est comme un jour sans soleil* – a meal without wine is like a day without sunshine.

And even though there might have not been quite enough sunshine in Phuket recently, there shouldn't be a lack of wine and great food during the Bastille Day celebrations in Patong on July 14.

"*La Fête Nationale*" is celebrated to commemorate the storming of the prison of la Bastille, a flashpoint of the French Revolution.

But even if you're not French (or revolutionary) and you still enjoy *brochettes de boeuf, panier*

*de crudités et ses petites sauces or for t noire* as much as the next guy, you shouldn't miss the French national holiday



Photo: Cyril Plapiet

celebrations organized by the *l'Union des Français de l'étranger* (French Foreign Union)

at Royal Phawadee Village.

A menu full of French delicatessen, acrobatic show, live French music (hip-hop included) and free flowing fermented grape juice from 8 to 10:30pm is what you'll get for 1,500 baht.

For more information see: [14juilletpatong.com](http://14juilletpatong.com).

And if you are busy on that particular day you can always celebrate later at the Boathouse Wine & Grill. A special six-course classic French cuisine degustation

menu, paired with French wines, will be available for the whole month. – *Phuket Gazette*





## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### 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 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary edition. Over 30 boats are already signed up in six classes, and more than 400 sailors will be taking part.

### July 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@phuketiwc.com, mobile phone: +66-76-316711 or visit the website : phuketiwc.com

### July 19, 2013, 7-9 pm, Exclusive Glenfiddich Single Malt Whiskey Appreciation.

Embark on a pioneering exploration of Glenfiddich single malt whiskey where the Brand Ambassador, Mr Matthew Fergusson, will bring you on a magical journey through the world of the 'World's Most Awarded' single malt whiskey, while you enjoy the exquisite range of Glenfiddich single malts – namely 12, 15, and 18 year old. Please reserve your ticket by mail or telephone. Limited space available, only 35 guests at Wine Lovers Fisherman Way Business Center. Contact Khun Gumrai on +66-76-384663 or info@wineloversphuket.com

### July 19, 2013, 7-11 pm, Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal at Karon Sea Sands Resort.

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay

## Phuket Race Week, July 17-21, 2013 at Cape Panwa Hotel



Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort. Contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464 or Email at info@navrangmahal.com

**July 20, 2013, 9 pm - 1 am, Electric Beach Bingo - 'it's bingo, but not as you know it!' at XANA beach club with attica.** Inspired by the youth bingo movement spreading across the world, Electric Beach Bingo will combine getting your groove on with unleashing a guilty pleasure! Dance to the best party tunes in between playing bingo for prizes – from the ludicrous to free drinks. Admission is free and on arrival you will be given the rules, bingo cards and more. Dress code: unusual headwear and wigs are encouraged and may be provided. Contact Khun Annabel Fox directly on +66-76-324101 or via email at annabel@xanabeachclub.com

### July 22, 2013, Arsarnha Bucha Day.

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

### July 23, 2013, Charity Concert for Myanmar Refugees at Grand Balroom, Andaman Embrace Patong.

This is for donating to Myanmar refugees. Please come to join with us. Contact Chompue on +66-84-545-7402.

### July 26, 2013, 7-11 pm, Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal at Karon Sea Sands Resort.

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and

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### July 27 - 28, 2013, 6pm - 2am, Seafood & Prawn Extraganza.

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@phuketiwc.com or Carole Dux 076-316711

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

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

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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.

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**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

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

**Catch the show at these times**

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

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



# Lessons from Penang



**PRESERVATION:** The courtyard of the renovated Cheong Fatt Tze Peranakan mansion. Photos: Leslie Porterfield

By Leslie Porterfield

DESPITE their many similarities – architectural and historical – in terms of modern-day tourism, old town Georgetown, Penang, beats the pants off the old quarter of Phuket Town. First of all, Georgetown got World Heritage status in 2008. You can't get a better internationally recognized advertisement than that. Second, it knows what city tourists want and supplies it in spades: walkability and photo-ops.

Old town Georgetown's streets are not clogged with cars like old town Phuket's are. Where there are no sidewalks, tourists can walk safely in the street in Georgetown. Tourists like to walk. It makes them masters of their fate, and takes away the stress of haggling with taxi drivers or figuring out bus schedules. Most importantly, walking lets tourists take photos easily. And in this day of smart phones and social networking, showing friends where you are is a key component of taking a holiday.

Georgetown provides an abundance of photo-ops, most notably its Sino-Portuguese shop houses.

Penang calls these "heritage shop houses" and understands the treasure it has in them. The government program "Think City" offers funding for the repair or renovation of heritage shop house facades and roofs. Georgetown World Heritage Incorporated encourages owners and business people to protect old town Georgetown by capitalizing on its economic potential. One program they offer is a workshop that helps local designers identify Georgetown's "cultural DNA" in order to make more relevant souvenirs. Another group, Penang Heritage Trust, is a "watch-dog" NGO with a mandate to protect endangered buildings.

But the protection and development of old town Georgetown is not just left up to the government – private individuals are involved in preserving heritage as well. The two



Peranakan mansions that have been renovated and made into museums, and many of the Chinese clan houses are privately owned. And it is private enterprise that has transformed so many historic buildings into hotels – many more of them high-end than we have in old town Phuket.

Though most of the photo-ops are free, Penang understands that tourists are willing to pay to see history. They're willing to pay up to 20 ringgit (200 baht) to go inside those renovated Peranakan mansions, whether they offer an interesting tour (The Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion) or just guides shouting at each other and singing to themselves (Pinang Peranakan Mansion). Tourists will even pay 10 ringgit (100 baht) to see the clan house of a Chinese family – the Khoo Khongsi (where part of Jodie Foster's *Anna and the King* was filmed).

But there's more than just old buildings for tourists to photograph in Georgetown – there's art too. Murals by Lithuanian artist Ernest

Zacharevic are scattered around the old town area and are major tourist magnets. Galleries like Whiteaways display real local art, not souvenir art for tourists. And currently there's a 15-meter high bamboo installation *a la Christo* between the city and town halls – part of Georgetown's annual month-long arts and music festival.

Yet Georgetown is not over-gentrified. Real people and real tradesmen still live there, providing yet more photo ops for tourists, like the banana-filled ceiling of a fruit store, the Indian gentleman in his two-seater green barber's hut, men lined up praying in a tiny narrow mosque, gigantic incense sticks outside a fortune-teller's shop.

Last but not least, there are museums in old town Georgetown – air conditioned museums with interesting, well-labeled exhibits.

All of these sights are within walking distance; the world heri-



Street arts abound in Georgetown, letting tourists do what they do best.

tage zone is just one square kilometer, and the buffer zone around it, which is equally interesting, is 1.5 square kilometers.

Tourists can easily find their way around, with clear street signs, and learn snippets of history by reading informative wall plaques. After receiving world heritage status in 2008, the Penang state government voted to put up these signs and plaques in multiple languages. The signs are in Chinese too. Like Phuket, Penang has recently seen a dramatic increase in number of Chinese tourists, not surprising, since both places figure prominently in Chinese history, having been the targets of so many Chinese immigrants.

Penang spotlights Sun Yat Sen, who planned a revolution during his four months in Penang in 1910, with a museum and walking trail.

Thailand's Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak says Phuket needs to promote high-end tourism. He would do well to follow Penang's recipe, by focusing on history, architecture and art; creating multiple points of interest within walking distance (we need museums in town, not in Thalang and the hills of Kathu) limiting traffic in old town Phuket and encouraging the development of 5-star lodging.

Old town Phuket has what it takes to be just as good as old town Georgetown, and shouldn't be afraid to copy.



A shop house gutted and turned into an art gallery (above), and doors at the Meng Eng Soo Temple (inset).



# Andaman Cruises' new GM

GERMAN born Christian Schwind, a marketing professional with 14 years experience in business management, marketing and PR, has been appointed as general manager of Andaman Cruises, a luxury yacht charter company based in Phuket.

Prior to taking on the role of GM, he was the Managing Director of Andaman Travel an Asia based luxury travel company which helped him gain vital experience for his new position. Before Andaman travel he worked for five years at the European headquarters of the Russian energy company Gazprom as Senior Manager for marketing and PR.

Back at university, Mr Christian studied Business Communication Management with a focus on International Marketing at the University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. During his studies he was a head of PR for the German Communication Award.

Andaman Cruises was founded in 2008 in Phuket and oversees a fleet of eight vessels including many stylish contemporary luxury yachts, such as the 23-meter fly-bridge motor yacht *MY Olympia* and the *MY Mayavee*, a 19-meter motor yacht from the renowned English family of Princess. Some of Andaman

Cruises' high-profile clients include football star Cristiano Ronaldo, UEFA President Michel Platini, Ed Hardy Designer Christian Audigier and German model Heidi Klum.

"Andaman Cruises is a synonym for Phuket's most exciting and stylish contemporary luxury yachts.

"Our company stands for lifestyle and premium hospitality. We are highly appreciated by international stars such as football star Cristiano Ronaldo and top model Heidi Klum. As the new GM, my

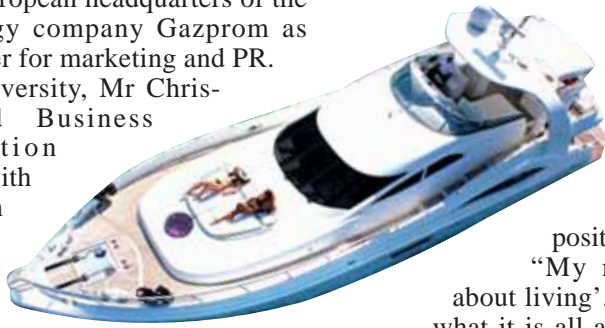
goal is to keep that positive spirit alive," he said.

Christian Schwind is an outgoing character with a very positive outlook on life.

"My motto is 'life is about living'. In my eyes that's what it is all about. That means, you have to fulfill your life with whatever you like; dancing, laughing and communicating and hopefully cruising with us," he said.

When it comes to hobbies, Christian told the *Gazette* that he is interested in music, design, arts and photography as well as sports, but his main interest is people. He said that he relishes the opportunity of meeting new people.

"That's one of the main reasons why I moved to Asia. The continent is on the march and really interesting people



*MY Olympia*, a 19-meter motor yacht.



Christian Schwind, Andaman Cruises' new GM says Phuket is perfect for not being perfect.

are living and working here," he said.

Two of his favorite spots in Phuket are the Catch Beach Club in Surin and Sanaeha located on Yaowarat Rd, Phuket town.

"It's a fascinating place [Catch], that catches me every time because of its unique atmosphere. In addition, I really like to go to Sanaeha, which is a trendy bar located in Phuket Town," he said.

"Phuket offers a fantastic work-life-balance as we are working on a tropical island. For me it was love at first sight, because of its diversity. Phuket isn't perfect and that makes it perfect for me. You can enjoy both, the simple life and the high-end lifestyle. It's like yin and yang – both elements belong together," he added. – *Phuket Gazette*

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# The sky's the limit for Les

By Somchai Huasaikul

ONE of the undisputed highlights during the Phuket Airshow and Family Picnic charity event last week was a series of spectacular acrobatic performances by Les Vorosmarthy, the internationally famous stunt pilot originally from Budapest, Hungary.

The *Gazette* caught up with Les at the Phuket Airpark shortly before his fifth and final show on Sunday afternoon.

"I have been flying aerobatics since 1988, when I was 29 years old. It started as a hobby. I wanted to fly gliders when I was as young as 14, but my parents forbid me," said the 54-year-old.

But there is nothing they can do about it now," he added, with a laugh.

Les' relationship with Phuket Airpark began when owner Suchart Raksangop contacted him for the exotically entitled "Bikini Fly-In" event, held there four years ago.

Married to a mainland Chinese woman from Beijing, Les has three children – 14, 17 and 19 – and all study Chinese at the family's home in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur.

"We didn't want to live in China because for me in China there is nothing to do because I don't speak or read the language. I would end up in an expat society somewhere. This way I can live with the locals in Malaysia. Everyone speaks English and it's a very nice place."

Les comes to Phuket two or three times a year and also has business interests in the US state of California, where he runs a Santa Barbara-based company that manufactures a device used to facilitate doctors conducting

cataract surgery. But his real passion is flying.

"I flew two times yesterday, two more today and have one more to go," he said.

Asked about motivation and mindset while flying stunts, he said there is an element of, quite literally, "winging it" involved.

"I put together a routine, which is based on several elements. Each maneuver in an element, basically. Each of these maneuvers I have flown hundreds of times. So depending on my speed and altitude I decide what I am going to do next."

Les uses an Extra 300 aircraft, which

competitions. There are different categories, and as you move up through the categories more and more maneuvers are involved, and the complexity increases. The categories are Basic, Sportsman, Intermediate, Advanced and then finally, Unlimited. This is organized in the US by the International Aerobatics Club, which has from five to ten contests yearly in my area. So I went all the way to the top level of competition, Unlimited."

However, the pinnacle of his competitive career came in 1998, when he had a chance to represent Hungary in the World Championships held in Trencin, Slovakia.

Asked if aerobatics was as dangerous as it appeared, he said flatly: "It is dangerous. I have lost quite a few friends."

is a German-manufactured plane designed by award-winning stunt pilot Walter Extra.

"This is a standard.

This model is one of the very few planes in the world that can do unlimited, top-level aerobatics," said Les. In one of his most remarkable stunts, the "tailslide", Les lets the engine idle and the craft go into a backwards freefall.

I go vertically up, and then when I reach a certain altitude that is safe for me to recover from I pull back to idle. Then the plane just falls, backwards, until it reaches a certain speed when the air hits the tail in one direction and you flip over," he said.

Asked how he developed these skills, he said: "I did a basic aerobatic training, which includes rolls, loops, spins – a few things. Then, in 1995, I started flying in aerobatic

One of the most dangerous parts of aerobatics is the unnatural stress it puts on the human body. Commonly known as "pulling Gs", Unlimited acrobatic pilots sometimes expose themselves to a perceived weight of as much as eight times the normal gravitational (8G) force we all feel as weight at ground level.

Some other air shows have ended in tragedy when a stunt pilot pushed this envelope too far,



**ALL IN A DAY'S WORK:** Les sits on the wing of his Extra 300 after a heart-stopping performance at the Phuket Airpark last weekend.

passed out and crashed. Les is very familiar with the dangers of the so-called G forces, but is also very experienced in how to deal with them safely.

"You can get a blackout or, more commonly, what we call a greyout, which is when you don't see anymore, but it is only temporary. When you pull Gs you get tunnel vision first. Then the colors go away. Then you see only the outlines of things. Then no picture. If there is no picture you have to immediately release; you need to stop pulling,

otherwise you will lose consciousness," he explained.

Fortunately, strong monsoonal conditions throughout the weekend of the Air Show had almost no impact on flying conditions, he said.

"I have been lucky. So far I have

had no issues with the weather. The only thing I was concerned about yesterday was the presence of some low clouds, but they moved out. Today I actually clipped a cloud with my wing during my performance," he said.

Les has no plans to stop his aerial performances.

"The main reason is that I enjoy doing it. The people like it and I get invitations from all over the place to fly in shows," he said.

Asked what he thought of the nickname "The Mad Hungarian" that had been heard at the Airpark over the weekend, he said with a smile: "It's madness only to the people who don't know what it is really all about."

After that Airshow coordinator Pat James of the US Navy League stopped by to ask if conditions were safe enough for one last show, and with that Les was off once again to his Extra for the final, thrilling performance of the show.

To see Les in action check out this week's *Phuket Today* show on TrueVisions channel 99

## Phuket's first family picnic, airshow a success

THE Airshow and Family Picnic held at Phuket's Air Park last weekend was a roaring success, with organizers estimating that nearly 7,000 people had attended by the time the two-day event closed.

Navy League Phuket President Pat James, one of the key organizers, said the event was the largest of its kind ever staged in Southern Thailand.

"It was a phenomenal success. The whole idea was to educate, entertain and raise funds for community services and we were very successful in all those areas. When you consider this was run entirely by volunteers and a committee, it's absolutely phenomenal; my hat's off to all the volunteers and support crew and to everyone who was involved," he said.

For many people, the opportunity for a joy ride in the sky proved irresistible, and more than 120 of them took to the air in

one of the many airplanes and helicopters available at the event.

In addition to Les Vorosmarthy thrilling shows (above), experienced sky diver Corey Parker also wowed the crowd with several jumps from a helicopter. American style Bratwurst, hamburgers, chili dogs and a host of other American food favorites were consumed in vast proportions, along with plenty of American (and Mexican) beer.

The Great Burnin' Bum Chili Cook-off was hotly contested, with judges sampling a delicious range of chilies lovingly prepared by local chefs and other hot food freaks. After careful deliberation, Joy's Cafe in Patong was crowned Chili Champion of the event. Saranya Chainaphong (Joy) was awarded a belt with a one-of-a-kind pewter buckle designed exclusively for the event by John Underwood of Underwood Designs, while Mouy Vonechay of RNRHostel's batch won the Best

Presentation Award and Euan (Tim) Jayanram with Original Dallas Jailhouse Chile got the People's Choice Award.

The Radio Controlled Aircraft Club of Phuket were also a crowd favorite, with throngs of spectators lining up to watch the miniature planes in action. Coinciding with the event, the Phuket Hash House Harriers (HHH) held their weekly run at the Airpark, with about 100 participants starting at 4pm and finishing about an hour later on the far side side of the runway, out of harm's way.

As evening fell on Saturday, a spectacular fireworks display was staged, before local Phuket band Black & Blue kicked off their set of classic blues and soul tunes to entertain the crowd. Pat James said that the success of the event bode well for the future and that he hoped a similar and even bigger event would be organized for next year, perhaps in the high season to give more tourists a chance

to attend: "The weather was good to us; I'm just happy the event took place, and I'm very proud of the results," he said.

The event was also made a success thanks to Glenn Fleagle from Phuket Sound, Ryan Dorian and Bob Haya with their talented entertainment; Coco the Clown, who gave his best performance ever; Pjae Stanley & Lost Legends Band with amazing Guitarist Colin Hill; Pjae & Lost Legends; Ricky LaZenko from RNREcoAdventures.com who supported the organization of Sound, Musical Entertainment and performed as MC with his fantastically feathered Kasha a charming Moluccan Cockatoo.

The Airshow and Family Picnic was proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show, who were joined by a helicopter-borne Channel 7 crew in providing national TV coverage of the event.



# Raising a rooftop garden

THE CHANCES are you probably have a roof garden of sorts. As Phuket is increasingly dominated by blocks of concrete



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

fashionable in urban centers, especially where people are lucky enough to own a roof terrace. Apart from anything else,

pretentiously known as condominiums, which necessitate the annihilation of all existing vegetation in the area, the chances are that your balcony or roof is the only repository of greenery you are likely to possess.

So why not make the most of it? After all, it is a pleasure to look out on something verdant, colorful and, above all, living. When I designed my house, I included two low-walled areas outside the bay windows where potted plants could be placed. Though the less hardy ones have long since gone, the broad-leafed *dracaenas*, colorful *euphorbias* and *bougainvilleas* are still alive and well. Plants that need little maintenance, they have tolerated my neglect.

Container plants are of course the obvious solution for concrete balconies, but choose glazed containers, place saucers under each pot and try not to over-water. Otherwise, you will stain the sand-wash or tiles beneath.

And don't stop at flowers or potted palms. If you start off with a fertile potting mix, your containers will support herbs such as basil, chives, ginger, chilies and coriander. In fact, growing your own vegetables is becoming increasingly

it means being able to avoid the unhealthy levels of chemical pesticide used in commercial farming. Just for the record, Thailand has 27,126 agricultural chemical brands registered for use, more than any other Southeast Asian country.

Apart from the fresh food benefits, plants reduce the overall heat absorption of a building, help control rain run-off, and offer natural and aesthetic benefits. When surveyed, 80 per cent of Singaporeans voted for more roof gardens to be implemented in the city's plans.

Though Bangkok has relatively few such gardens, chef Jess Barnes shows what can be done. Though his apartment block has a mere 4.6 square meters of viable roof space, it now boasts more than 300 different fruit and vegetable plants, including tomatoes, aubergines, basil, lemongrass and even pomegranates. He reckons it takes 20 minutes daily watering, and 2-3 hours weeding and tidying every week. The aim is to cultivate shrubs with enough foliage to create shade and help retain moisture for the smaller plants, most of which find a use in his restaurant.



**CONCRETE JUNGLE:** Flowers in bloom on a Phuket Town condo rooftop. Photo: Steven Layne

Of course most roof gardens have aesthetics in mind rather than any utilitarian purpose. A while ago I was asked for any suggestions for making the most of an apartment roof space at a property in Ao Makham Bay.

The problem was not the residents' roof, but rather a huge flat rooftop immediately in front of their own condo. Topped with bitumen, it was such an eyesore that spoiled their view of the mangroves and the blue sea beyond. A quick and simple solution would have been lorry loads of pot plants, but in the long term, what was needed was a properly laid, soil enriched surface with all the additional drainage and roof reinforcement. A very costly business.

On a much smaller scale, my daughter decided to cover a flat bitumen roof – an extension to her London house – with a creeping *sedum* or stonecrop, a variety of

succulent increasingly being used instead of grass to create oases of greenery. Sedums have narrow fleshy leaves which hold lots of water: that means they can survive dry spells and, in some cases, even a touch of frost. Moreover, sedums need little in the way of soil in which to anchor their roots.

My personal favorite rooftop garden in Phuket is atop a Royal Phuket Marina penthouse. All around the swimming pool are masses of flowering shrubs, vines, succulents and plants chosen for their sculptural appeal. All are

housed in barely visible, heavy gauge, stainless steel containers. The ambience is so lush and vibrant that even those shy sun birds have taken up residence.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: [dr\\_paccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:dr_paccampbell@gmail.com)



**WILD:** A New York City rooftop featuring a meadow-themed garden. Photo: Jeffrey Zeldman



**A balcony turned vegetable patch.** Photo: H Delicious



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## The good and bad sides of games



A screenshot from the game Recon Elite. Photo: Hentei009

### Positives Negatives

- Games help sick or injured children cope with ongoing pain. Absorption in a game distracts the mind from pain and discomfort. Some hospitals are even encouraging children and others undergoing painful treatments to play games.
- Games can be very addictive and distracting.
- Games can cause social isolation problems. People, especially children, tend to spend lesser time with other people because they want to get back to the game.
- Some researchers believe that games can help children with attention deficit disorders.
- Research indicates that children can improve their social skills by playing games.
- Playing video games for long hours can lead to insomnia.
- Violence in games can be damaging to young children especially children under eight because they cannot easily tell the difference between real life and fantasy.
- Video games and computer games can improve hand-eye co-ordination.
- Playing violent video games increases the risk of future aggressive behavior. Most of the top-selling video games (89%) contained violent content, almost half of which was of a serious nature.
- Games can improve decision making skills.
- Overuse of paid games can cause financial distress.
- Games are known to enhance creativity and inculcate a taste for graphics, design and technology.
- Family interaction problems such as less positive parental relations.
- Many games can improve language and math skills.
- Can cause modifications in visual selective attention.
- Many games based on history, city building, and governance indirectly teach children about aspects of life on earth.
- An increase in emotional disorder symptoms.
- Games teach players problem solving, motivation, and cognitive skills.

# Online games: Paying for play

By Kanyawarat Pramprasert

AN ONLINE game is a video game played over some form of computer network. Once you install the game client on your computer, get a user name and a password, you're almost in. Almost, being the key word, because more often than not, there's just one more thing you need to do before you play – pay.

There are generally two ways in which games creators charge the user. Some of the online games are charged according to air time – want to play longer? Pay. This system is often found in popular MMORPG (Massively Multiplayer Online Role-playing Game) online games, including some of the most popular titles out there such as Ragnarok or Lineage2. But other games may give the illusion of being completely free. You pay nothing to download the client, you pay nothing for the time you spend in the game. Yet somehow, players spend thousands of baht to stay on top of their game.

To find out how these games extract players money, the Gazette asked an online gaming

enthusiast about their experiences. "I buy a cash credit to top up the game account. On average I spend 15,000 baht a year on shopping in games," says Natdanai

cash to be used in the virtual world of the game.

Why would anybody spend money on things that only exist in a game? Online games have become more than just entertainment. These days, what fascinates the gamers are interactions, the possibility of meeting friends from the other side of the world. And the more fancy clothes and the bigger the sword you have, the better chances you have of meeting cool people and winning the game too.

Online games have been available in Thailand for many years, they are popular with both children and adults.

According to the owner

of an Internet Cafe in Thalang, the customers who enjoy online games can be divided into two main groups; children aged 7 to 13 and teenagers from 13 to 19 years old. The first group spends around two to three hours playing games, the older kids play for five or more hours a day. And most of them spend more than just the 15 baht per hour charged by the cafe for use of the computer.



Spending too much money on games? Photo: RJ Phoenix

Chanthong, a university student from Phuket. Much of this spending goes towards "item trading" a sort of online shopping that can eat up a considerable chunk of many Thai kid's pocket money. It's just like traditional online shopping, except that the purchased goods don't get delivered to your doorstep – they stay in the game. Swords, armors, outfits – all these virtual goods are bought with real, hard earned

## MThai top 5 most popular online games in Thailand in 2012



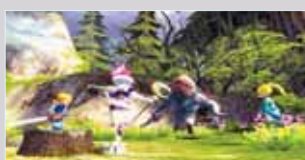
1. Heroes of Newerth (hon.in.th) An action game where the player can control a character in a fantasy world. High quality graphics and simple game play is what makes this title popular.



2. Point of Blank (pb.in.th) A shooting game with realistic graphics, popular with teams competing against each other.



3. PKNinja (pkninja.in.th) a fighting game featuring characters from popular Manga animation series such as Naruto and Bleach.



4. Dragonest (dn.in.th) MMORPG game with amazing 3D graphics and a vast system of levels and achievements.



5. Bubble ninja (bbn.in.th) a web based game, where the players log in and play via a dedicated website.

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# Introducing Professor Grammar Dork



TODAY I'd like to introduce Professor Grammar Dork. He is an antediluvian old grammarian who still insists on maintaining the distinction between *who* and *whom*. But dedicated young grammarphiles have been bombarding him with e-mails:

**Question:** Hi Dork! I'm confused by the word "impeccable." If something is impeccable, can we also say it is peccable?

**Answer:** Thank you for your ignorance. First, the practice of beginning an e-mail with a breezy "Hi," followed by the name of the addressee, without even separating the two words by a mandatory comma, is to be eschewed by those who have even the slightest regard for the integrity of the language. The proper greeting in your e-mail should have been "Dear Professor Grammar Dork," followed by a comma or a colon.

Second, in answer to your ignorant question, "impeccable" means "flawless." "Peccable" would mean "flawed." Why not just say "flawed"?

**Question:** Thanks Dorkie. We also say "impressive." Can we say "pressive"?

**Answer:** Not to my knowledge. Please mind your commas, and do not call me Dorkie.

**Question:** OK dorkless. This exchange has been very pressive for me. Now, you just said "flawless." Can we also say "flawful"?

**Answer:** Not to my knowledge. Nor can you call me "dorkless" without arousing my antipathy. Next question.

**Question:** Hey GD! If we can say "antipathy," can we also say "propathy"?

**Answer:** No. Please return to your cage. Don't we have any intelligent questions out there?

**Remark:** Yes, Professor Grammar Dork! I am concerned about the protocol of talking about death. It seems harsh just to say, "He died." I favor elegant euphemisms like "He shuffled off his mortal coil," or "He bade farewell to this vale of tears," or "He has gone to his heavenly reward."

**Retort:** Ah, an intelligent question for a



**DORK:** Slang for an inept person. Photo: Paul I



**DIFFERENT WORDS:** This angel helps those who have died "cross over." Photo: papalas



**The new age movement is a Western spiritual movement that developed in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.** Photo: Leo Prieto

change! But what if the individual has actually gone to his hellish punishment?

**Question:** One wouldn't want to suggest such an unfortunate possibility?

**Answer:** No, one sure as hell wouldn't, would one? My goodness, you are a real Victorian, sir! Nobody says "one" anymore. My compliments, indeed! The use of such a locution marks you as an educated man, albeit hopelessly out of date.

But to return to your question, I dislike euphemisms. What's wrong with saying,

"He died"?

**Question:** It sounds blunt, abrupt, hard-hearted?

**Answer:** Nothing of the sort. If he died, he died. No point in trying to gussy it up in ribbons and bows.

**Question:** How about saying, "He crossed over"? Some New Age types favor that.

**Answer:** Crossed over to where?

**Remark:** They usually say, "To the other side."

**Retort:** To the other side of what? You

see, this is the problem with New Age types. They're fuzzy thinkers. If this life is this side, and what comes after it is the other side, then what's in the middle?

**Remark:** By George, you have a good point, Professor Grammar Dork.

**Retort:** Of course. That's why they call me Professor Grammar Dork.

You can send your questions about English usage to Professor Grammar Dork c/o [s.tsow@gmail.com](mailto:s.tsow@gmail.com).



Be sure that the fire exit is the safest means of escape. Photo: Steven Layne

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# Sabah: Journey to the

By Mark Knowles

WHEN I was a child, the word Borneo would conjure up images of colonial explorers in pith helmets slashing their way through wild jungle teeming with exotic plants, ferocious animals and roaming tribes of headhunters. As I grew older, my mental picture was expanded by David Attenborough's wonderful documentaries, which transported me to this remote island in the darkest heart of exotic Asia, and always left me marveling at the incredible array of plant and animal life it supported.

These early influences instilled in me a life-long wish to visit Borneo and recently my wish came true. As my plane took off from Kuala Lumpur, I felt a thrilling sense of anticipation and it wasn't long before tantalizing thoughts of orangutans, elusive pygmy elephants, colorful hornbills, unexplored caves and virgin rainforest filled my mind.

In just two and a half hours, we began our descent into Kota Kinabalu, capital of the Malaysian state of Sabah and the main entry point for visitors to Borneo. Disembarking at the

spotless and gleaming modern airport, I quickly jumped into an air conditioned taxi which took me to the sprawling grounds of the 384-acre Sutera Harbour Resort, the



**PARADISE:** Manukan island is a haven for snorkeling and scuba diving. Photo: Sabah Tourism/ David Kirkland

base for my forays into Sabah. Okay, I thought, as my romantic notions dissolved, so it's not exactly the slow boat ride up a silent mist-covered river to a bamboo hut in the jungle I was expecting, but it would have to do.



**STRANGE:** The unusual proboscus monkey is endemic to Borneo. Photo: Sabah Tourism/ D. Kirkland

As it turns out, it did quite well indeed – this massive resort complex contains two 5-star hotels with almost 1,000 rooms, a 27-hole golf course and country club, a 104-berth marina, the luxurious Mandara Spa,

four world-class restaurants – all set among lush tropical gardens and

bordered by calm blue ocean.

I had been invited to Sabah by Tourism Malaysia to attend Tadua Kamataan; traditionally a harvest festival held by the Kadazan-Dusun people of northern Borneo to appease and respect the spirit of the rice paddy. Nowadays, the festival has become a wider celebration of the cultural diversity of Sabah, where tourists and locals alike can see traditional dances and costumes, music performances, handicrafts, local cuisines and the ever-popular beauty pageants.

But before attending the official celebrations, we were scheduled to check out some of the many attractions in and around Kota Kinabalu that make Sabah a such an fascinating destination. After a restful night at the hotel and a sumptuous buffet breakfast, our group met in the lobby to be greeted by our guide George. A Sabahan. A man of Indian descent, George turned out to be a fountain of knowledge about the history, culture and geography of the region, and as we soon found out, never short of a joke either. Soon we were off on a bus to the Mari Mari Cultural Village, tucked away in the tropical jungle covered hills that surround the city.

At first, I was weary that this cultural village might turn out to be a "Disney-fied" tourist trap, but I was pleasantly surprised. The village consists of five longhouses faithfully reproduced by

descendants of various tribes in the region. Our guide for the village, along with the other guides who demonstrated traditional skills, dances and costumes, descended from the cultures represented at the village. This lent an authenticity to the tour and our guide was indeed knowledgeable about traditional practices and beliefs and more than happy to answer follow up questions from a curious journalist. The interactive displays of traditional skills included cooking, henna tattooing, cloth and rope making, bamboo fire-starting, rice wine production and blow pipe hunting demonstrations.

But, perhaps the most astonishing part of the tour was the longhouse of the Murut – one of the last tribes to give up their headhunting practices. Under the roof of the 15-meter long bamboo house, is a platform set in the center of the floor, supported by thick, yet flexible tree branches, it is used as a sort of trampoline. In former times, after returning from a raid, the heads of their enemies



**SKILLFUL:** The "Bamboo Dance" requires great precision and timing. Photo: Mark Knowles

would be hung from the roof and the victorious warriors would use the the platform to bounce and leap to snatch their "prize" from the



**EXOTIC:** Napenthes Raja is the largest pitcher plant in the world. Photo: Sabah Tourism/ Melissa Ewot

rafters. The tour was concluded with a lively musical performance, where dancers dressed in very colorful traditional clothing demonstrated the "bamboo dance".

Requiring incredible skill, dancers hop and weave between long shafts of bamboo, which are slid to and fro on the floor and clapped together to create a percussive rhythm for the dance. The tour was a fascinating introduction to the skilled workmanship and complex culture and of Borneo's original inhabitants and I left wanting to learn more about them.

The following day we hopped on a speedboat to explore the Tunku Abdul Rahman Marine Park, comprised of a cluster of islands 20 minutes from Kota



**COLORFUL:** A girl in traditional dress offers wild honey to tourists at the Mari Mari Village. Photo: Mark Knowles



**TRADITION:** A man in traditional dress draws a henna tattoo on a tourists hand. Photo: Mark Knowles

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# land below the wind



**ICONIC:** one of the four species of great apes, Orangutans are found throughout Borneo. Photo: Greg Hume

Kinabalu. The five islands of the park are gleaming emeralds dotting the shallow turquoise water, ringed with white sandy beaches and verdant coral gardens. The denizens of these pristine waters include scorpion fish, blue-spotted rays, cuttlefish, mantis shrimps, the occasional green or hawksbill turtle and between November and February, whale sharks can also be spotted.

Our first stop was Manukan island, where some of our group chose to relax on the beach while others donned snorkels and dived into the water in search of marine life. For scuba enthusiasts, there are countless dive companies offering a range of dive experiences, giving

you the chance to explore the abundant coral reefs and exotic marine creatures that inhabit the serenely beautiful waters.

After our morning on the beach, it was off to nearby Sapi island for lunch; a veritable smorgasbord of fresh crab, calamari, fish, prawns and a choice of many local noodle and rice dishes. All this was finished off with a dessert of Malaysian cakes, sweet sticky rice and fresh tropical fruits. After lunch I went exploring and came across a colossal monitor lizard, grazing for food at a leisurely pace. This behemoth was an astonishing two meters long, but apparently quite docile and didn't seem to be bothered at all by having his photograph taken.

After our peaceful morning at the beach it was time to head back to Kota Kinabalu to attend the official Tadaa Kamataan celebrations. As we filled into the



**ELEGANCE:** Beauty Paegents have become an integral part of Kamataan. Photo: Mark Knowles

large auditorium, we could see that we would be in for quite a show, as dozens of performers in colorful traditional dress lined the walls to welcome attendees. After everyone was seated the

performances began, some 34 of Sabah's distinct tribal cultures were represented in a medley of traditional song and dance performances, each one more dazzling than the last. The sheer variety of costume, music and dance styles made it obvious why Sabahan's pride themselves on preserving and sharing the rich cultural heritage. After the show, many guests posed for photos with the charming ladies who took part in the beauty contest, an event which has become an integral part of Tadaa Kamataan.

For the final day of our tour we boarded a bus to take us on the two and a half hour journey to the majestic Mount Kinabalu. It is the highest mountain in Southeast Asia, at 4,095 meters, and the jewel in the crown of the UNESCO World Heritage listed Kinabalu National Park – one of the most bio-diverse ecosystems on the planet. From dense lowland jungle to sparse alpine cloud forests, the National Park encompasses a huge range of habitats. It is worth quoting

some figures here, to give you an idea of the ecological riches to be found inside the park. It has been estimated that a mind-blowing 5,000 to 6,000 plant species can be found here. This includes over

800 species of orchids, 50 of which are endemic to the park; and over 600 species of ferns (more than the whole of Africa's 500 species) of which 50 are found nowhere else.



**THRIVING:** the Capital of Sabah, Kota Kinabalu is a fast growing center of trade for the region. Photo: Sabah Tourism/ David Kirkland



**CULTURE:** The platform inside the Murut longhouse was used after a headhunting raid. Photo: Mark Knowles

There are also some 326 bird species and around 100 mammalian species including the famous orangutan.

One of the biggest draw cards to the National Park is the opportunity to climb to the

summit of Kinabalu itself. Despite its forbidding size, it is a relatively easy climb and can be achieved by any relatively fit person without the use of specialized mountaineering equipment. Although it can be done in a single day, most people take two days, and all climbers must be accompanied by an accredited guide. Climbers trek 6km to Laban Rata on the first day, taking four to five hours, before climbing to the summit early on the following morning. The return trip from Laban Rata to the summit can take anything from six to nine hours. Climbers descend to the park headquarters that afternoon, which takes three to four hours.

Unfortunately, we did not have time to make the ascent to the summit, and contented ourselves with the spectacular views of the mountain that dominate the landscape. Returning to Kota Kinabalu that evening, the members of our group gathered at one of the dozens of restaurants that crowd along the esplanade

of Kota Kinabalu to reminisce about our trip. There was unanimous agreement that we would have to return to Sabah one day soon, to explore more of the many wonders we did not have a chance to see.



**BREATHTAKING:** The barren granite rock of Mount Kinabalu stands at 4,095 meters and is the tallest mountain in Southeast Asia. Only 200 people a day are permitted to hike to the top. Photo: Ariel Steiner



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## Blossom Dress

# Brighten up your rainy day



This use of contrasting materials works well, with the turquoise green of the top perfectly matched with the colorful floral-patterned short skirt to provide a simple and stylish look for girls in the rainy season. A pair of Korean style five-inch high-heels, adds a more formal touch, with the benefit of helping you look taller. The cream color of the shoes can match with a variety of outfits, making them a versatile addition to your wardrobe.



FASHION is full of fleeting trends and new fads. So as the seasons change, it's time to pick up the clothes that are "in" the season and toss out those that are not.

On a tropical island like Phuket, the rainy season can be a gloomy time of year and somewhat depressing. The best antidote to the bad weather is to wear some floral-patterned, bright, fun and colorful clothing that can help bring some life to an otherwise dreary day. Forget your leather clothes, bags and shoes – which can be easily ruined by water – this rainy season is all about keeping it fun and sweet.

First item you need on a rainy day is an umbrella. A clear umbrella can be very chic and fashionable and it's also popular among hip Hollywood stars. Also, many people use them in photography and fashion shows because they do not hide the look of the clothes being worn. Clear umbrellas are made from PVC plastic, so they're quite durable and will last several seasons. Looking up to the sky on a rainy day with a clear umbrella helps let a bit of light in and will probably help make you feel a bit different and cool!

One should check the product carefully before buying, because a poor umbrella will probably be very flimsy and leak water all over you in the heavy tropical rain.

Long skirts, jeans, or dresses are not the way to go in this season. Short ones are much more suitable. Loose-fitting, light and easy-dry clothes are really comfortable and practical for the rainy season, as well as waterproof hand bags and rubber footwear.

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The color pink is evocative of love and it conveys a sense of gentility, while wearing pink clothes can give you a romantic and feminine look. This faded wild flower pattern, with hues of leaf green and soft vintage pink, matches up well with the leather sandals that look like a creeping plant with a flower on top, evoking the feeling of being in a spring garden.

**FLORAL DRESS**

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## How to mask your face with yogurt at home

YOGURT not only helps improve your digestion, but it can also be used as a facial moisture and exfoliant to help make your face clearer and softer. It's the zinc in yogurt that can reduce acne, while the mild lactic acid can help remove dark spots. All you need is just some plain natural yogurt, but for an even better result you can add some lime juice and honey to help combat an oily facial complexion.

Using yogurt to give yourself an indulgent facial at home is so easy, just follow these simple steps. First, clean your face thoroughly, then mix one tablespoon of yogurt, one teaspoon of honey and one teaspoon of lime together and use it to cover your face (or just use some plain yogurt if you like). Leave it on, without talking or laughing, for a good 10 to 15 minutes and then wash it off with warm water and cold water respectively, to tighten your pores.



Yogurt is an excellent healthy food and also make a great facial mask. Photo: Ijuitar



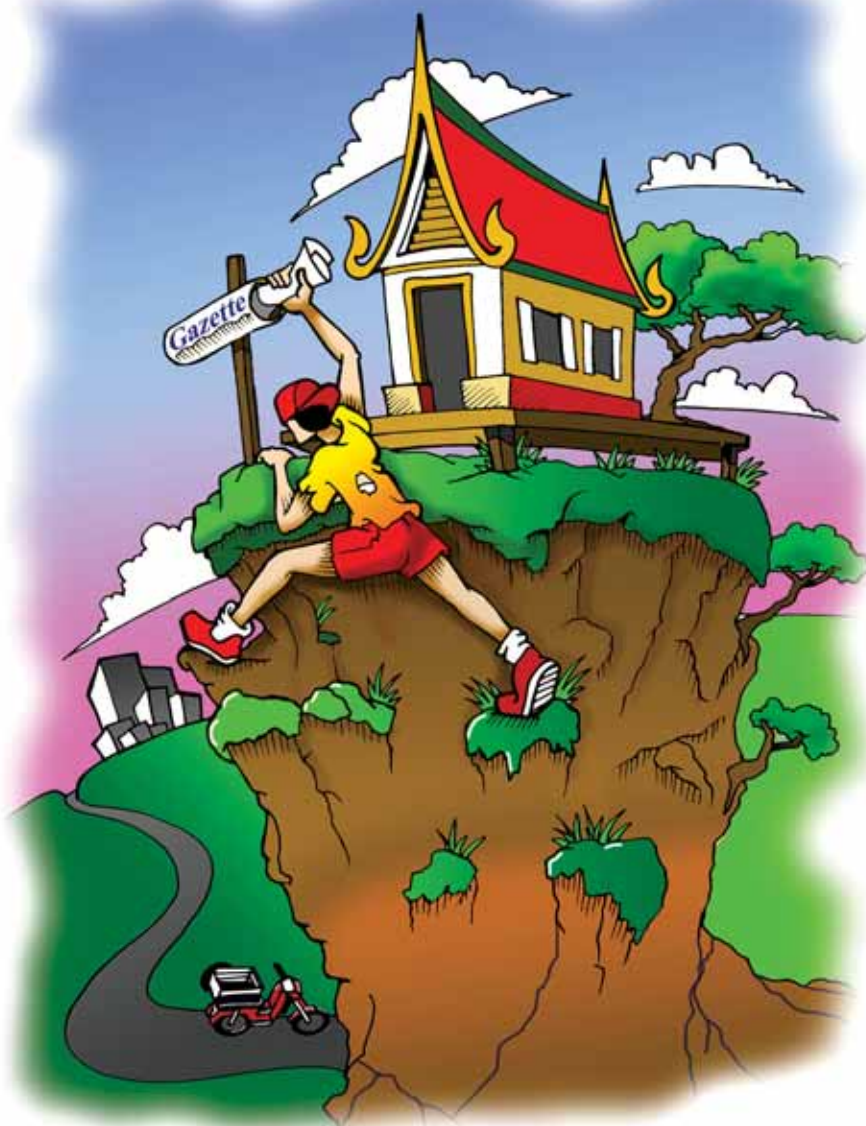
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**JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:** Find the 10 differences between these pictures.



Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See [juksadventures.com](http://juksadventures.com) for more information.

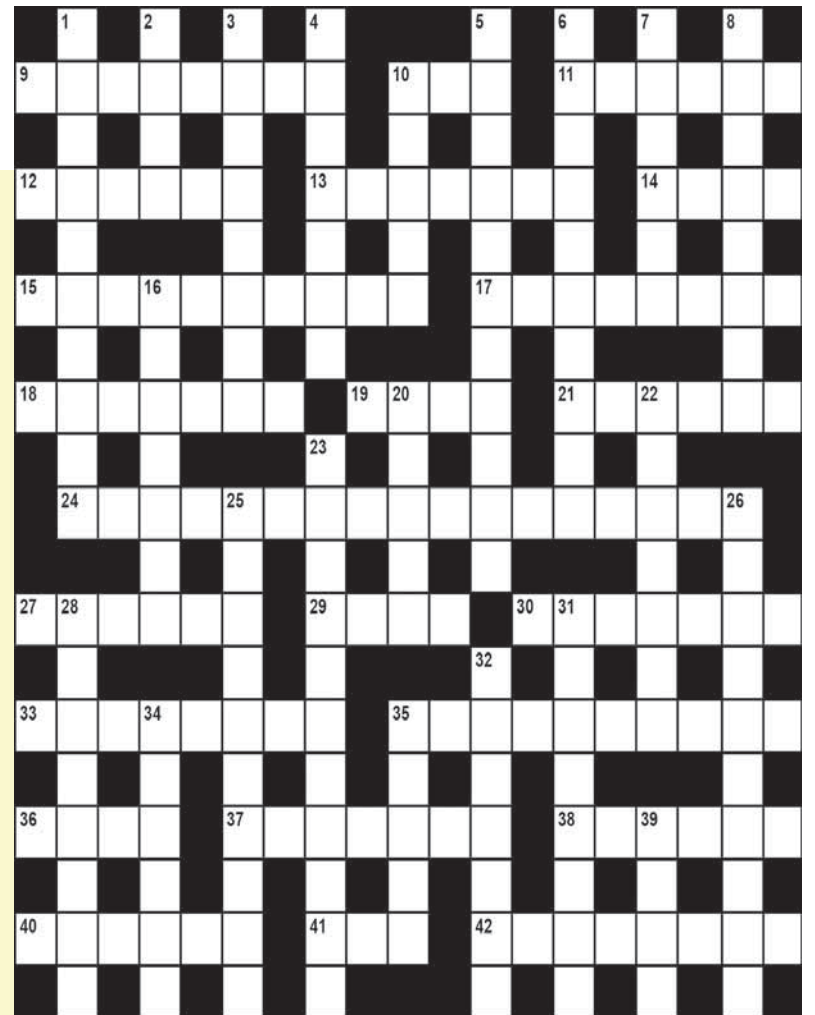
## COFFEE break

### Across:

9. To place carefully around right of the chest (8)
10. Color a tangerine starts out as? (3)
11. Refer out East to a jacket (6)
12. Men sat out of order, a bit of a bloomer (6)
13. A1 month, relaxing in an island off Phuket (7)
14. Takes advantage, sues maybe (4)
15. Shattered as date staved off (10)
17. Desirable to leave bin out (8)
18. Chap I'll hear is a goy (7)
19. Essential being in the Southeast left free (4)
21. Terrier could be missing right to stop working (6)
24. Sh! Her company story disturbed the ensemble (8,9)
27. Upset re. a top South African plant (6)
29. Object to wrong time (4)
30. Organize pass behind schedule (7)
33. May turn in Siamese national sport (4,4)
35. Note trains moving are very loud (10)
36. Does change poems (4)
37. Close to set out, most imminent (7)
38. Abuse in wild lust (6)
40. Fool set out strong points (6)
41. Two points many finish (3)
42. Rove about, go, upset (8)

### Down:

1. Possibly lent genes, son, for freedom from violence (10)
2. Staunch stalk (4)
3. Perhaps nap later before the baby comes (8)



4. Almost I'm in late; the weather! (7)
5. Very accurate edge flawless (4,7)
6. Cross rants sever arrangement (10)
7. Strange albumen, not a million from distant stars (6)
8. Lever out fifty pound note from advocate of equality (8)
10. Attempted to stir dirt out East (5)
16. Strive for a time to allure (7)
20. First woman about OK to bring to mind (5)
22. Let tart spoil gossip (7)
23. Pa can't diet, I surprisingly foresaw (11)
25. Ah! He is then possibly

- somewhat pagan (10)
26. Great rally around place for collection of pictures (3,7)
28. Circular, almost, or I'd shun movement (8)
31. Our tired out motorcycle escort (8)
32. Notices different part (7)
34. My! Seem to be new sycophants! (3,3)
35. Starting price aim to disburse (5)
39. Position it in the Southeast (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):



It can be hard for Cancerians to stay still as the second half of July gets under way. The stars suggest utilizing this energy to take care of domestic improvements – a fire sign partner will be thrilled to see you do this. Those with a birthday in the coming days are forecast to find more fulfillment at work in the year ahead. The number five is highlighted to bring good fortune this week.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



A lot of people will be counting on you around the middle of this month, but Leos should be able to keep up with demands. Your calm energy allows more sensible decisions to be made where finances are concerned. Unanswered questions in the realm of romance become an issue you can't ignore. Tuesday is the most auspicious day for solving mysteries. Number nine can attract good luck this week.

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Virgoans are forecast to be more in tune with their creative side during the week ahead. The stars advise keeping note of all the ideas you have as many can be useful in the future. In the realm of romance,

another earth sign has the right moves to keep you interested, but a water sign's pessimistic mood may dampen your spirits this weekend. The number eight shows signs of being fortunate.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



A cynical attitude can cast a gray cloud over your week. The stars recommend putting rose-tinted shades on to see more of the positive side of life. Those who have been let down by another air sign are forecast to learn more about the reason this happened. It would be wise to remember that no-one is perfect. Auspicious days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday. Librans' lucky number this week is seven.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



You should be in a good place during the second half of July. The stars suggest that romantic reconciliation could be the reason for this, but single Scorpions are also forecast to have more to smile about. A money matter that was troublesome should work out well when an earth sign friend helps with negotiations. Dreams can take you back to a place in the past. Your lucky number this week is eight.

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Those born under the sign of Sagittarius can be affected by uncertainty this week. If this relates to a money making scheme, the stars suggest that there is valid reason for having second thoughts. Another fire sign can offer useful insight this weekend. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, a water sign's rush to commit should send warning signals. Sagittarians could see number one bringing good fortune.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



It will become clear to Capricorns that everything happens for a reason. Recent unrest at work should pass around the middle of the month – when the dust has settled, your position is forecast to be stronger. The stars hint that you could start to see an air sign acquaintance in a romantic light. Technology can be tricky midweek, with communications highlighted to be delayed. Number two appears important this week.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The focus is on relationships around the middle of the month – a family member's unexpected support comes as a welcome surprise for many Aquarians. The stars suggest that your relationship with this person will become smoother with domestic harmony improving from this development. Another air sign can show that they are only a fair weather friend when you ask for a simple favor. Finances are luckiest midweek. Your special number this week is six.

### PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):



Health is highlighted to be an issue for those born under the sign of Pisces during the second half of July. Those who have been forgetful about check-ups can be reminded to make appointments by a friend's situation. Exercise is well-starred, with focus on finding a new way to make this part of your routine. Money matters are well-starred on Monday and Tuesday. Pisceans' lucky number this week is nine.

### ARIES (March 21-April 20):



A lot of hot air can be blowing around your social circle this week. Gossip is forecast to be hard to ignore, but Arians are advised to

take most of what they hear with a generous pinch of salt. The stars indicate that spending time with family will bring the most satisfaction, with focus on planning for a celebration. Number four can open a lucky door this week.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 21):



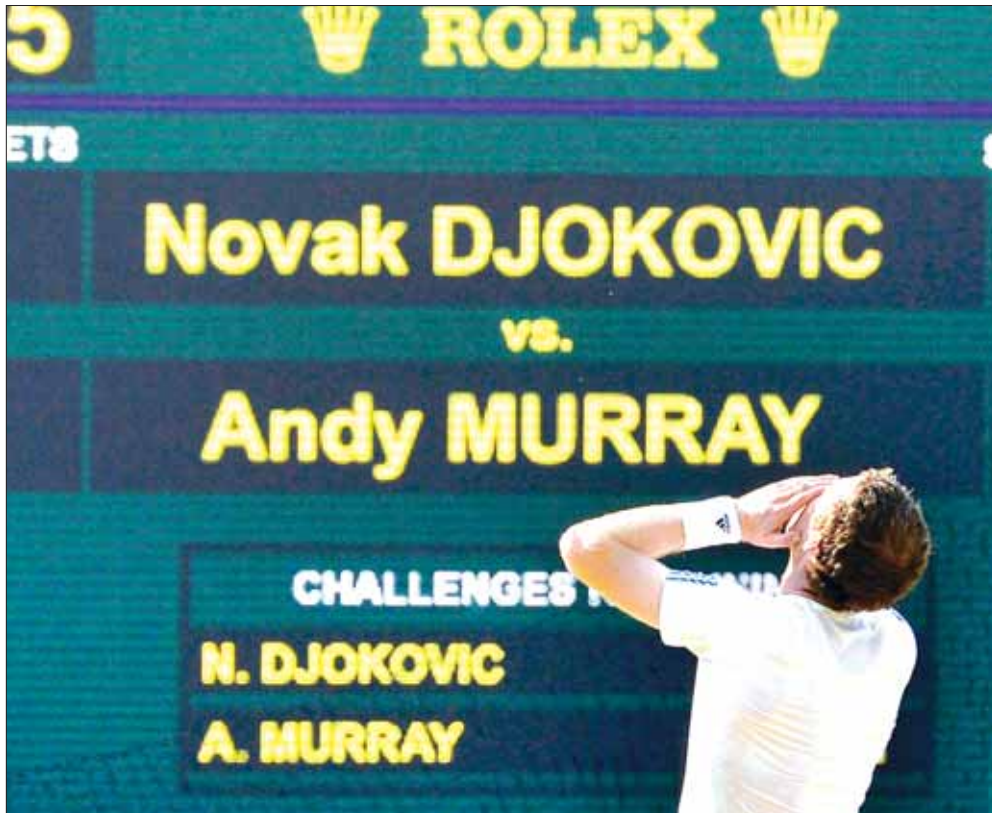
Admiration comes from an unexpected source around the middle of the month. Those born under the sign of Taurus who have lacked confidence lately should receive a boost which will encourage them to continue on their chosen path. Optimism pays off where money matters are concerned – an amount that was lost is likely to be repaid during the second half of July. Taureans' lucky number this week is three.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

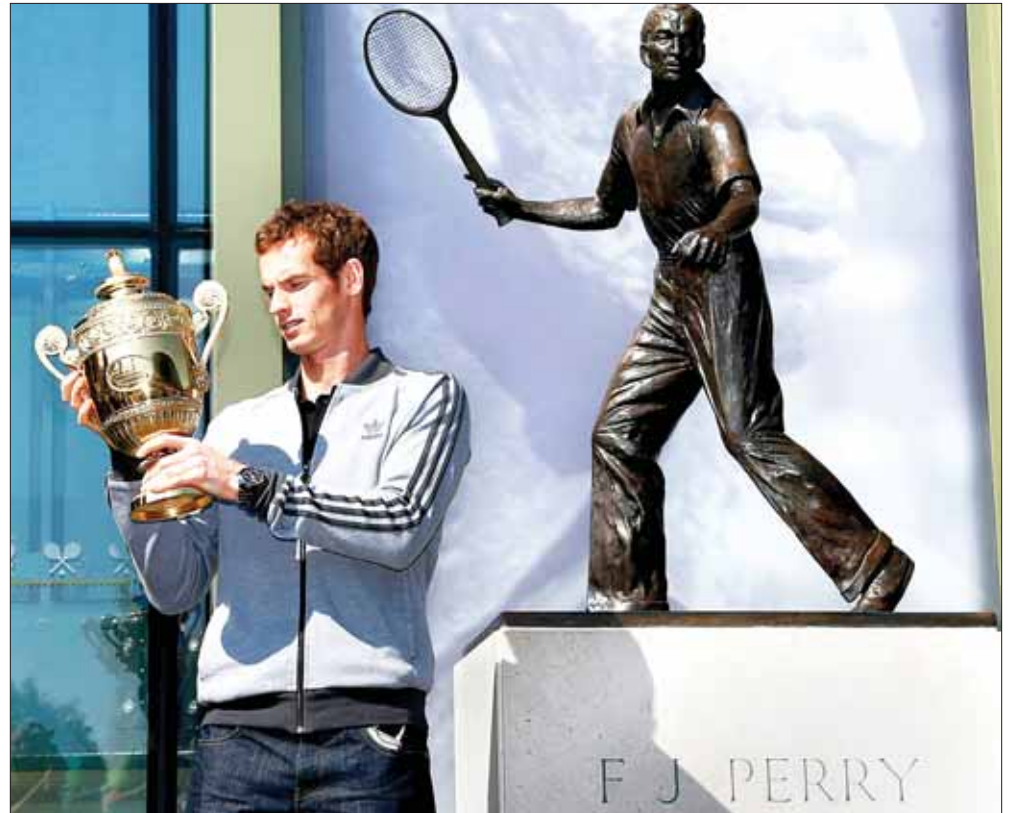


An unsettled astral atmosphere means you will be most comfortable in the company of people you know well during the coming days. The stars advise that mixing with people whose interests don't match yours will lead to unnecessary disagreements. Single Geminis see that a fire sign is ready to play cat and mouse, but this probably doesn't suit your current mood. Number one can encourage good fortune this week.





TRUE BRIT: Andy Murray celebrates as he defeats Novak Djokovic. Photos: Reuters



Murray holds the Wimbledon trophy under a statue of former winner Fred Perry.

# Murray makes tennis history

THE last few heart-pounding strides towards the summit proved the most precarious for Andy Murray as he beat Novak Djokovic to end a 77-year British jinx at Wimbledon on a Sunday that will forever be etched in the nation's sporting history.

The record books will show an almost routine 6-4 7-5 6-4 win for the boy from Dunblane but the three hours nine minutes it took to finish off a slightly below-par Djokovic felt like an eternity.

It was more tortuous than any of the five-set thrillers that Murray has contested in his career – most recently when he came from two sets down to beat Spain's Fernando Verdasco in the quarter-finals to keep the dream alive.

With 15,000 people on a baking Center Court bellowing his name, and millions glued to TV screens around the country, Murray stepped up to serve at 5-4 needing four points to emulate Fred Perry, who won the last of his three titles here in 1936.

Three points later, amid a cacophony of sound that even surpassed the decibel level reached when he won Olympic gold on the same stage last year, it was 40-0.

But this most unpredictable of Wimbledon, a tournament stacked with shocks and unexpected turns, was not about to let Murray achieve British sporting immortality without one final, stomach-churning, twist.

World number one Djokovic, who was ahead in both the second and third sets only to be engulfed by a tide of patriotic fervor, saved all three and then had a point to make it 5-5 after dribbling a drop volley off the net tape.

Had he done so, the statue of Perry perched in the grounds of the All England Club might still be casting a shadow over British tennis but Murray, whose broad shoulders have carried home hopes for nearly a decade, would not stumble.

With his pulse racing and nerves on fire he conjured up a fourth matchpoint and this time Djokovic succumbed, netting a backhand to spark cheers from Land's End to John O'Groats.

"It's the hardest few points I've had to play in my life," said a dazed Murray.

"In that last game my head was everywhere. That last game will be the toughest game I'll play in my career, ever."

Twelve months ago Murray's Wimbledon dream was crushed by Roger Federer on the same stage – yet that tear-jerking defeat proved to be a watershed for the obstinate 26-year-old.

A few weeks later he claimed the Olympic gold medal before beating Djokovic to win the US Open and his first grand slam title after four times falling at the final hurdle.

Despite those milestones, Murray knew that becoming the first British man to win

Wimbledon in shorts would ultimately define his career.

"For the last four or five years, it's been very, very tough, very stressful, a lot of pressure," said Murray, the only British man to reach the second round this year.

"I felt a little bit better this year than I did last year. But it's not easy. I think now it will become easier. I hope it will."

When Perry thrashed Germany's Gottfried von Cramm 6-1 6-1 6-0 in 1936 – the same year the BBC made the world's first television broadcast and Jesse Owens won four Olympic golds in pre-war Berlin, it proved to be his swansong.

Approaching his athletic peak and with age and injuries catching up with 17-times grand slam champion Roger Federer and Rafa Nadal, Murray could have several more memorable Sundays on Center Court in the next few years.

"The bottom line is that he was a better player in decisive moments," said Djokovic who still leads Murray 11-8 in their career head-to-head.

"He played fantastic tennis, no question about it. He deserved to win."

In the women's singles final, Marion Bartoli defeated Sabine Lisicki 6-1 6-4. Lisicki was outplayed for most of the match by her French opponent, who won her first major title in her 47<sup>th</sup> Grand Slam appearance.

– Reuters

## 1936 vs 2013

FOLLOWING are some facts about the win in 1936 and the 2013 victory:

Prize money in 1936 was zero compared to 1.6 million pounds (US\$2.4 million) in 2013.

Tennis rackets in 1936 were made of laminated wood compared to modern rackets made of graphite, carbon, and titanium.

Strings for tennis rackets in 1936 were made from fibers extracted from animal intestines while modern strings are mainly synthetic.

Tennis rackets used to be about 65 square inches (420 square cms) in 1936 compared to 90 square inches currently.

Tennis balls hit by Fred Perry were white while Murray struck 'optic' yellow balls introduced in 1972.

In 1936, the first Spitfire aircraft took flight and Margaret Mitchell's novel "Gone with the Wind" was published.

Biggest sporting event in 1936 was the Berlin Olympics opened by Adolf Hitler at which Jesse Owen won four gold medals.

Other notable events in 1936 include the industrial manufacture of the first parking meters and the Queen Mary completing her maiden voyage to New York.

## Ashes 'battle' started

ENGLAND cricket captain Alastair Cook predicted "one hell of a battle" before the start of the first Ashes test against Australia at Trent Bridge, England last Wednesday.

Cook will be leading England in an Ashes series for the first time after succeeding Andrew Strauss last year and he will be hoping to lead his country to their third straight Ashes.

Australia know they are the underdogs and their build up was

hampered by Darren Lehman replacing Mickey Arthur, who was sacked two weeks ago, as coach. David Warner was originally banned after he punched England's Joe Root in a nightclub, but Australia could recall him for the first Test.

**England squad for first Test:** Alastair Cook (captain), Joe Root, Jonathan Trott, Kevin Pietersen, Ian Bell, Jonny Bairstow, Matt Prior, Tim Bresnan, Stuart Broad, Graeme Swann, Steven Finn,

James Anderson, Graham Onions.

**Australia squad:** Michael Clarke (captain), Brad Haddin (vice-captain), Ashton Agar, Jackson Bird, Ed Cowan, James Faulkner, Ryan Harris, Phil Hughes, Usman Khawaja, Nathan Lyon, James Pattinson, Chris Rogers, Peter Siddle, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Matthew Wade, David Warner, Shane Watson.

The first Test started July 10 and finishes July 14.

– Phuket Gazette

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## International Sport

## A pride of Lions

By Patrick Campbell

THE Australian team had the momentum. History was on their side. They had home advantage. Robbie Deans had kept faith with a winning combination. And yet.... In an astonishing resurgence at Sydney's venerable Olympic stadium, the Lions annihilated the Wallabies, running up a massive 41 points – a record – and scoring four tries, three of them in a hectic period of 12 minutes in the second half. Final score: 41-16. Game, set and match to the British and Irish side.

The build-up had been dominated by Warren Gatland's decision to drop talisman Brian O'Driscoll, one of the true greats of the modern game. He had already lost both captain Warburton and vice-captain O'Connell to injury, and O'Driscoll had been widely expected to lead the side. Furthermore, in a selection construed by some pundits as biased, the coach had dropped six players, picked ten Welshmen in the starting line-up and five Englishmen on the bench. In the event, his bold and much criticized decision, was amply vindicated by events on the field. Before the game, he had declared; "I can put my hand on my heart and say it was the right rugby decision." Prescient indeed.

The game was only a minute or so old when rejuvenated Alex Corbisiero, brought in to bolster the scrum at loose head, smashed over from close in. The dominant Lions scrum, which did not lose their own ball throughout, were awarded two free kicks and three penalties by referee Romain Poite, spot kicks converted by Leigh Halfpenny. For a while, the home side were

in disarray. But just before half-time, the Wallabies found some rhythm and were rewarded with a try, as Sexton missed a tackle on O'Connor. Early in the second half it suddenly became 19-16, after Leali'ifano had slotted two penalties.

Having surrendered a 16 point advantage, the Lions might have been forgiven for losing heart; instead they proceeded to up the tempo and scored thrice in an extraordinary 12 minute spell. After sustained pressure, Sexton and Bowe sent Davies through; Halfpenny's short inside pass to Sexton saw the Irishman atone by scoring. Then Halfpenny, exploiting a perceived defensive weakness on the left flank, stepped inside Genia and Tomane, to send North over. Finally, Murray found Jamie Roberts who bullocked over unchallenged. By now, Gatland had sent on all his substitutes. They certainly did him proud, keeping the Wallabies scoreless in the latter stages while the mayhem continued at the other end.

Man of the series, Leigh Halfpenny, justified all the superlatives heaped on him. A model of consistency both under the high ball and as a goal-kicker (39 out of 44 successful kicks on tour), he also showed his value as a deceptive runner in this match. The entire pack was remorseless with the back row more than matching the Australians at the breakdown and the front row entirely dominant. Alex Corbisiero, showed how much he had been missed, by giving Wallabies tight head Alexander such a torrid time that he was yellow carded and then replaced. Corbisiero was nominated by Gatland as his personal man of the match.



Injured Lions captain Sam Warburton (left) and captain of the third test Alun Wyn Jones raise the Tom Richards trophy as they celebrate victory over the Wallabies. Photo: Reuters

Alun-Wyn Jones, the stand-in Lions captain, was tireless, carrying more ball than anyone.

If it was not an occasion for an expansive game, at least the backs showed that they could grasp what opportunities came their way. Twenty-one-year-old George North, already a menacing figure, and the star three quarter of the series, will only get better. As Gatland said: "These guys have done themselves and that jersey proud." Some understatement.

**Australia:** Beale, Folau, Ashley-Cooper, Leali'ifano, Tomane, O'Connor, Genia, Robinson, Moore, Alexander, Horwill (capt), Douglas, Mowen, Smith, Palu.

**Replacements:** Fainga'a (for Moore 72), Slipper (for Robinson 66), Kepu for Smith (26-36), Simmonds (for Douglas 62), Hooper (for Smith 5-10, 66), Phipps (for Genia 69), Mogg (for Folau 27).

**Yellow Card:** Alexander(24)

**Lions:** Halfpenny, Bowe, Davies, Roberts, North, Sexton, Phillips, Corbisiero, Hibbard, A. Jones, A.W Jones(capt), Parling, Lydiate, O'Brien, Falatau.

**Replacements :** Youngs (for Hibbard 48), Vunipola(for Corbisiero 67), Cole (for A. Jones. 55), Gray (for Parling 67), Tipuric (for Faletau 55, O' Brien 60), Murray (for Phillips 51), Farrell (for Sexton 64), Tuilagi (for Roberts).

## Bayern dominate Europe again



Bayern Munich's new head coach Pep Guardiola (3<sup>rd</sup> left) talks to the players during his first team training session. Photo: Reuters

FOUR Bayern Munich players – Thomas Mueller, Franck Ribery, Arjen Robben and Bastian Schweinsteiger – were named on a 10-man shortlist for the 2012/13 UEFA Best Player in Europe award on Tuesday.

Unlike last year, when the final three contenders came from Barcelona or Real Madrid, only two of the 10 were drawn from the Spanish clubs – Barca's 2011 winner Lionel Messi and Real's Cristiano Ronaldo.

Tottenham Hotspur's Gareth Bale was the only British player nominated, with the Premier League also represented by Manchester United's Robin van Persie.

Robert Lewandowski, whose Borussia Dortmund side lost out to Bayern in the Champions

League final at London's Wembley Stadium, was named as was Paris Saint-Germain's Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The award, voted for by a jury of journalists from each of UEFA's member associations, was established in 2011 and was won last year by Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta.

The top 10 players will be whittled down to three candidates in a second vote, with the ultimate winner decided in a live poll on August 29 during the Champions League group stage draw in Monaco.

UEFA said in a statement that it had also launched a Best Women's Player in Europe award, with the first winner to be unveiled on September 5.

– Reuters



An FIA official runs over to the pits as a lost rear tyre of Red Bull Formula One driver Mark Webber of Australia bounces through the pit lane during the German Grand Prix. Photo: Reuters

## Pitlane clampdown enforced

FORMULA One's governing body ordered an immediate clampdown on access to the pitlane on Tuesday after a television cameraman was struck and injured by a bouncing wheel at last weekend's German Grand Prix.

The International Automobile Federation (FIA) said in a statement that only authorized team personnel and event marshals would be allowed to work in the pitlane during qualifying sessions and the race.

"Access for approved media will be confined to the pit wall," it stated.

British cameraman Paul Allen suffered a broken collarbone and fractured ribs in the incident when Australian Mark Webber pulled away from the Red Bull pits without the car's rear right wheel being properly attached.

The wheel, weighing some 10 kg, then flew off and bounced down the pitlane, missing Mercedes mechanics before hitting Allen on the back.

The cameraman was flown to hospital where he is expected to make a full recovery.

The incident triggered a fresh focus on Formula One safety after a spate of tyre explosions during the previous British Grand Prix saw debris thrown up in the path of drivers, who arrived in Germany threatening a boycott.

The governing body said FIA president Jean Todt, a former Ferrari team principal, had demanded immediate changes to the sporting regulations in order to reduce the risk of similar pitlane accidents.

"The FIA today informed teams that the approval of the World

Motor Sport Council (WMSC) will immediately be sought for two changes to the Sporting Regulations. Both of these changes have already been approved for 2014," it said.

The first change requires all team personnel working on a car during a pitstop to wear head protection, already a common practice for mechanics.

The second will reduce the pit lane speed limit during races from 100kph to 80kph, with the exception of Melbourne, Monaco and Singapore where due to track configuration the limit is 60kph.

The FIA said they were expecting champions Red Bull to submit a written report about the Nuerburgring incident on Wednesday. The report will be shared with the other 10 teams to help improve pit lane safety.

– Reuters



# Sport

## Junior sailors Raceweek

JUNIOR Phuket Raceweek, is set to take place Saturday July 20 off Phuket's South-east coast. Sister event to its bigger brother Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek, which celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year, Junior Phuket Raceweek gives budding young sailors an opportunity to race in an international-standard regatta.

"There are limited competitive sailing opportunities for youngsters on Phuket, and so with Junior Phuket Raceweek we had the idea to provide a competitive racing experience for young sailors of any nationality," said Byron Jones, managing director of organizers Media Business Services (MBS).

Royal Thai Navy Rear Admiral Prasart Sribhadung will be the Race Officer for the inaugural one-day event and will set up to six races, a combination of trapezoid and windward/leeward courses, for the multinational fleet of youngsters.

Since it was announced earlier in the year, Junior Phuket Raceweek has been well received by the local sailing community and has received strong support from two of the leading yacht clubs on the island, Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC) and the Phuket Youth Sailing Club (PYSC).

Both clubs have established youth sailing programs, but are not limited to youth sailing only, each offering facilities and sailing opportunities for adults also.

Some of the more experienced and older kids from the two clubs are coming together to sail the 91.5 FM-Sunsail Youth Racing entry in the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek, including Phuket Youth Sailing Club member 16-year-old Akapoj Kankeaw (Tik), winner of the Optimist and Topper classes at the 2011 and 2012 Phuket King's Cup Regattas, respectively.

The fleet for Junior Phuket Raceweek includes a lot of young sailing talent racing in two classes: Optimist and Toppers. The youngsters range from eight to 18 years of



**FUTURE:** Optimist sailors are looking forward to the event. Photo: MarineScene.asia.



**Close racing is expected at the 2013 Junior Phuket Raceweek.** Photos: MarineScene.asia.

age with many relative newcomers to the sport who are excited to experience an international standard regatta for the first time.

At the other end of the spectrum are a number of sailors with considerable experience. Nattapong Yoangnam (Max) and Cartoon Juladej (Toon), despite being just 11-years-old, have competed in multiple Thailand National Optimist Championships, have represented Phuket in the Phuket Youth Games, and have also represented Thailand at the Double Star Cup Regatta in Qingdao, China last year.

"We're very excited to have had such a great response for the inaugural Junior Phuket Raceweek, and to have received valuable support from the Ao Chalong Yacht Club and Phuket Youth Sailing Club. We're sure the youngsters will have a great regatta and we hope to build on the inaugu-

ral event and make it even bigger and better for 2014," added Jones.

Registration for Junior Phuket Raceweek will take place on Friday July 19 at Regent Phuket Cape Panwa between 1pm and 5pm, followed by an opening party. Racing takes place on Saturday July 20 off Panwa Beach Resort Phuket with an event-closing barbecue hosted by the resort.

Junior Phuket Raceweek is co-hosted by Regent Phuket Cape Panwa and Panwa Beach Resort Phuket, and is supported by the Tourism Authority of Thailand, Sports Authority of Thailand and the Yacht Racing Association of Thailand.

– *Phuket Gazette*

If anyone wants to support and help out on the day, please contact the organizers through the website, [juniorphuketraceweek.com](http://juniorphuketraceweek.com).

## Sevenstar women head to Raceweek



POPULAR all women's sailing team Lady Sevenstar has officially entered Asia's most exciting regatta, the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Race Week, held from 17 - 21 July.

"It looked like we were going to miss the race this time as our usual boat, FireFly Lady Sevenstar/ aka the Frog was not available. Miraculously, in the past week we've been able to secure a boat and not just one but two sponsors, so we are excited to go ahead!", said the driving force behind the team Marieke Derks, representative of the girls' longstanding team sponsor Sevenstar Yacht Transport.

Liz Schoch is happy to skipper the Lady Sevenstar women's team on Mamba, a FireFly 850 sportscat. "We were very pleased to be able to charter Mamba from Ian Coulson at a very reasonable rate, thanks to the help of Chris Jongerius of Andaman Sea Club, Bob Mott, Voodoo owner Hans Rachman and of course our sponsors.

"Our regular practice on Lady Sevenstar and participation in our first race, the Phang Nga Bay Regatta last January left us eager for more. Now we are looking forward to help Ian getting Mamba ready and to join another great sailing event in Phuket!"

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, visit: [facebook.com/LadiesSailingPhuket](https://facebook.com/LadiesSailingPhuket)

## Thais offered B1mn per goal

FINDING the net against a world-class team like Barcelona is no doubt priceless for many players, but ThaiBev has put a value on it by offering one million baht for each goal scored by Thailand against the Spanish giants next month.

The "Chang Champions Cup-FC Barcelona Asian Tour 2013" exhibition match to be held at Rajamangala National Stadium, on August 7, pits the national side against a Barcelona side bristling with world-class talent, including Argentine maestro Lionel Messi, named the World Player of the Year for the last three years.

It should be a sure thing for Barca players, who won their fourth Spanish league title in five years last term, to get their names on the score sheet against a Thai side languishing a lowly 138<sup>th</sup> in the world rankings, with most pundits predicting a heavy win for the Catalan club.

The big question is whether the hosts can give the home crowd something to cheer about – most teams find it difficult enough to take the ball off Barca, let alone score a goal against them.

So ThaiBev, who are sponsors

of Barca, wanted to give the home players an added incentive.

"We have a special surprise for the Thailand team today, before they face a squad many fans believe may as well be from outer space, for the way they play. We will give them one million baht for each goal they score against Barca," Sorakrit Latthitham, ThaiBev's senior marketing manager, told reporters yesterday.

Former national striker Kiattisak "Zico" Senamuang will be in the home dugout for the Barca fixture and he confirmed that a Thai side he calls "the new generation" would give their utmost, incentive or no incentive.

"Of course, all the lads and me are excited by the prospect of facing such a top team as Barca. We will field our best possible team. We beat China 5-1 in a friendly recently and we want to prove it was not a fluke. We want to see how we fare against such strong opponents.

"We will use the 'new gen' players, who mostly come from the SEA Games squad and are good enough to play for the senior side. It's a young team and

they will run all day.

"Every player is desperate to get a call-up for this match. In the past it has cost a lot of money just to bring one Barca player over here, but, this time it's the whole team. We're even more fortunate that [Barca's latest big signing] Neymar, who just helped win the Confederations Cup for Brazil, will be visiting as well.

"I don't know when we will get such an opportunity again. No doubt the players will feel excited come the day, but we will give it our all to represent the country," said Kiattisak. Surapol Utintu, executive director for ThaiBev Marketing, revealed the firm would make the most of the Barca trip with the activities to help football development at the grassroots level.

"We're committed to supporting Thai football at all levels, from youth and community all the way up to the national team. We'll offer a once-in-a-lifetime experience to youngsters from the ThaiBev Academy and our football club partners such as ChonBuri FC and Buriram United to attend a Barca training session for inspiration in reaching their targets."

– *The Nation*

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From left: Operations Manager, Brian Finness; Hong Kong Celebrity Chef Harlan Goldstein; Shanghai Celebrity Chef Eduardo Vargas and Thanyapura President Robert Hauck.



TITANS: Harlan Goldstein (left) and Eduardo Vargas will square off in a number of contests.

# Heavyweight chef showdown

TWO of Asia's most sizable yet celebrated superstar chefs, Hong Kong based Harlan Goldstein and Shanghai based Eduardo Vargas, will fire up their grills while burning the calories and go head to head in a weight loss and exercise competition, which has been dubbed: "Heavyweight Chef Showdown at Thanyapura."

The epically-built epicureans will battle it out in friendly sporting contests at Thanyapura's five international standard Sports Academies while receiving on-hand expert advice in regards to diet, health and lifestyle.

"Obviously I'm passionate about food, but I have had difficulty achieving a balance with my exercise," explained Chef Eduardo. "I've tried everything to shift a few pounds and now its time to go to the professionals. I'm ready for the challenge."

As well as pitting his fitness and commitment against Chef Eduardo, the Heavyweight Chef Showdown will serve as a week long boot camp for Chef Goldstein before he heads back to Hong Kong for another weight lost contest with "Demon Chef" Alvin Leung of Bo Innovation and MC Kitchen.

"I'm delighted to be returning to Thailand for the contest, hopefully a week's professional training can give me

the edge before I return to Hong Kong. As for this competition, I'm no stranger to a dedicated 'chow-down' so a 'showdown' should be no problem if I stay focused," said Chef Goldstein.

The Heavyweight Chef Showdown will kick off with a friendly bout of traditional Muay Thai kickboxing followed by a challenging session of reduced oxygen Hypoxia training to fire up the contestants

calorie burning potential. The contest will progress with a fat-blasting power plate session before the Chefs head off for a private training session with Thanyapura's head Aquatics coach Randy Simon, bike training with New Zealand's leading triathlon coach Chris Pilone and physical and mental training with 2004 gold medal-winning Olympic triathlon coach Hamish Carter. The chefs will then go head-to-head in a bike race, running

competition and a one-on-one water polo match in Thanyapura's Olympic-standard swimming pool.

The two chefs will also enjoy meditative mind training at Thanyapura's Integrative Health Center (TIHC) with resident Mind Trainer Andrea Capellari.

"I'm really looking forward to the Mind Center sessions," said Chef Goldstein. "I've been pretty stressed out in Hong Kong trying to keep up with the hectic pace of the city so it will be great to spend a few days just winding down and taking in the scenery."

During their stay, the chefs will be provided with a wide range of TIHC's individually tailored professional health assessment services including physiotherapy, de-stress programs, age-defying routines and more. TIHC's non-invasive state of the art testing allows the world class team of geneticists, doctors, sports scientists, and dieticians to provide recommendations for improving mitochondrial diet, implementing exercise program changes and administering supplements for competitive athletes which adhere to the World Anti-Doping Guidelines.

Accommodation for the celebrity chefs will be provided by the Thanyapura Sports Hotel.

— *Phuket Gazette*



The chefs wearing their specially designed tops. Photos: Thanyapura

# Village, Laguna win T20 season opener

THE Outrigger T20 league kicked off at the Alan Cooke Ground on July 7 with an action-packed double header. In the first match, The Village took on last season's finalists Island Cricket Club (ICC) while the second match saw defending champions Laguna take on arch rivals Patong.

After a disappointing showing in the recently completed senior league season, the Village team had been hard at practice, keen to prove themselves. After being put into bat, all the hard work seemed to pay dividends, with the Village posting 176-6 from their 20 overs. Openers Martin Foster (30) and captain Paul Stamp (69) posted an impressive 99 run partnership, with Stamp particularly punishing, smashing five sixes and five fours from just 42 balls. The momentum slowed shortly after this, with ICC fighting back to claim several more wickets cheaply until Diwan Mydeen (28 not out from 14 balls) came into the

middle to bring the innings home. The hard-to-beat total of 176 runs was aided by some wayward bowling from ICC which included 20 wides.

After the break, ICC knew a run-rate of more than eight runs per over was going to be a difficult but not impossible task. However, they got off to a shaky start, losing opener Ravi Naik (7) in just the third over with the score at 15. Stalwart Surender Kumar (19) and Vikram Sharma (26) steadied the innings until Kumar fell. Apart from Deepak Mehra (13) and A Mushtaq (10) no other ICC batsmen managed to reach double figures and could only manage 122-9 in return, with Diwan Mydeen and Craig Murphy both claiming a treble of wickets each. The Village claimed a decisive victory.

In the afternoon session, Patong took on defending champions Laguna, keen to redeem themselves from their loss to

Laguna in the JLL Hotels league final. After winning the toss, Patong elected to bat first hoping to set a high-scoring total to defend. They got off to a solid start with openers Mike Khan (17) and Seemant Raju (37) putting on a 38 run partnership before Khan fell in the seventh over. However, none of the remaining Patong batsmen managed to reach double figures as they limped to post a total of 100-9 from their 20 overs. This was mainly due to an impressive bowling display from Sami Ullah (four wickets for eight runs), who was well supported by the other Laguna bowlers which was also backed up in the field.

When Laguna took to the crease, they got off to a quick start with openers Darren Shaw (26) and captain Stuart Reading (20) scoring at 10 runs an over until Reading fell with the score on 44 in the fifth over. Roly Cooper (18) also looked impressive until he was bowled by Raju with



The Village captain Paul Stamp scored 69 from 42 balls. Photo: PCG

the score on 80. Val Guiraud (10 not out) and Damian Clowes (nine not out) then guided the innings home to reach 101-4 in 16.1 overs.

Next Sunday on July 14, sees another double-header of T20 cricketing action with the Village taking on Patong and ICC taking on the Phuket youth team mainly

comprising young Thai cricketing talent. Play commences at 10:30 am and all are welcome to come along and watch Phuket's growing cricket scene.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information please contact [chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com](mailto:chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com) or visit [www.phuketcricketgroup.com](http://www.phuketcricketgroup.com)



# Big Bang neutralized

By Steven Layne

AN EVER-determined 10-men Phuket FC let their 2-1 lead against Yamaha League One (YL1) rivals Big Bang Chula United, slip away in the final minute of added time in a highly-charged fixture.

Kick starting last Saturday evening's emotional roller coaster was the BBCU Pink Panther's towering Cameroonian, Bouba Abbo, who headed his side ahead from a well placed cross in the third minute.

Back and forth exchanges ensued to no avail, but home fans would be appeased before the half was over, thanks to an own-goal credited to BBCU's Sitthi-sak Tarapanand.

The match's referee found himself in the cross hairs of Surakul Stadium's full fury, when in the 2<sup>nd</sup> minute of first half added time, Phuket's newest signing, hot-headed Thai

midfielder Aleef Po-ji was dismissed for aggressively protesting an initial yellow card challenge.

Despite being a man down, Phuket came out of the locker room on the attack, bringing on a new super-sub, the short-yet-swift, skillful and powerful Cameroonian striker, Ludovick Takam, who netted a goal on 76 minutes, after only his third touch.

What ensued can only be described as a dramatic stand-off, in which time was cunningly burnt off by the home team, complemented by a series of emotional

"scuffles" between players.

However, just

when Phuket FC fans were getting ready to go home in celebration, deep into the third minute of four minutes of added time, BBCU's Veerayut Jitkuntod was on target with a long range effort.

His brave attempt had just enough velocity,

Ludovick Takam scored with his third touch

trajectory to deceive Phuket's diving keeper Adisak Doungsri.

The 300-strong pink-clad contingent on the north bleachers, under the old score-board erupted into cheer, as the visitors bench synchronously exploded out and onto the pitch as if they had just won the World Cup.

Moments later, the match's second red card was dished out, with BBCU's Salahudin Aware taking the fall for his team's over-energetic and borderline-belligerent celebration, highlighted by the booting of Phuket players' water bottles.

Phuket and BBCU subsequently fell from 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, respectively, of the 18-team league.

With a "half-a-game" in hand, Phuket can seize back fifth place from Trat if they beat second place PTT Rayong at home on July 13.

To be played out at Surakul Stadium, kickoff will be 5pm, and admission will be free, as only 40 minutes remains on the clock. In



Eakartit Somjit is challenged for possession.

the first match on June 9 weather conditions forced officials to abandon the game, with the scoreboard untroubled during play so far.

Phuket FC travelled to Nonthaburi Province's Pa Kret district on to the large exhibition, entertainment, industrial and housing estate just north of Bangkok, known as Muang Thong Thani, to take on the Thailand Premier League's second best team, Muang Thong United in a round-of-16 Thai FA Cup match.

For results of that match, check the Gazette Sports section online.



## YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Air Force	18	43
2	PTT Rayong	17	37
3	Bangkok	18	32
4	Port Lions	18	31
5	Trat FC	18	27
6	Korat	18	26
7	Nakhon Pathom	18	26
8	Phuket	17	26
9	BBCU FC	18	26
10	Saraburi	18	25
11	Ayutthaya	18	19
12	Khon Kaen	18	19
13	Krabi	18	18
14	Sriracha	18	16
15	Royal Navy	18	16
16	TTM FC	18	16
17	Rayong FC	18	14
18	Rayong Utd.	18	12

## FIXTURES IN JULY

**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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Dawid Koeglenberg (left) of the **Sarojin** with founder of Wine List of the Year Awards, Jon Hyams.



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