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# Phuket Gazette

## Anatomy of a taxi driver

Discover what it takes to be legally behind the wheel

INSIDE TODAY

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25 Baht

## MAN CONFESSES TO RAPING STEPDAUGHTER FOR YEARS

# MONSTER

Mum discovers that husband had been raping her teen daughter since she was 5 years old

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

A PHUKET man arrested at a construction camp in Thalang last week has confessed to repeatedly raping his 13-year-old stepdaughter since she was 5 years old.

The man, now being detained at Phuket Prison, was promptly arrested after the girl's mother reported the horrific discovery she made after coming home from work early on July 18.

"The mother said she came home and noticed that the door and all the windows of her house were closed. She thought it was odd," said Lt Thani Petchswee of the Thalang Police.

"She looked in one of the windows and saw her daughter running out of her and her husband's bedroom looking scared. The girl went into the bathroom and stayed there for hours," Lt Thani explained.

"The mother questioned her, and the girl revealed that her stepfather had been raping her for years," he added.

The mother told police that her husband had raped her daughter while she was out of the house working.

"He told the girl that if she told anyone, he would kill her," Lt Thani said.

On receiving the complaint, officers went immediately to a construction workers' camp in Thalang to arrest the stepfather.



The 13-year-old girl's mother went to the village headman and then the police after her daughter told her that she had been sexually assaulted since she was five years old. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar

The girl was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where doctors confirmed she had been raped.

When confronted by police, the stepfather confessed to raping his stepdaughter repeatedly over the past eight years.

"He has been charged with raping a child," Lt Thani confirmed.

"The suspect is being detained at Phuket Prison," said Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Amnuay Kraiwutthianun.

"Police are working on collecting evidence and questioning more witnesses. We expect to pass the case to the public prosecutor within a month," Lt Col Amnuay said.

## Treacherous rescue leads guards to call for new red flag system

THE dangerous rescue of a tourist by two seasoned members of the Surin-Bangtao Surf Lifesaving Club has led guards to propose a "Double Red Flag Rip Current" flag system.

Full story on Page 9

## Firework fast fuse explosion sends teacher to hospital

A SATURDAY night beach party took a shocking turn after a massive 49-mortar firework exploded early, blasting an English teacher in the face.

The blinded teacher was rushed to hospital and is still recovering from her injuries and subsequent surgeries.

Full story on Page 8

## Team tackles replanting of sabotaged mangroves

A GROUP of volunteers dug their heels in along the coast of Chalong to replant a mangrove forest in honor of HM Queen Sirikit.

Full story on Page 6

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## This Week



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Bill Barnett takes you on a tour of hospitality from hell. **Page 15**



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Cloud computing is the top tech investment for 2013. **Pages 17**



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Go on the hunt for the best durian in all of Thailand. **Page 39**



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All the yachting action from Phuket Raceweek 2013. **Page 40-41**



### Tech

Woody puts Phuket's high-speed internet to the test. **Page 44**



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Learn what it takes to be a Champion female body builder. **Page 49**

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# Rohingya men escape overcrowded facility

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

DETENTION cells strained beyond capacity with Rohingya refugees at Phang Nga Immigration have been blamed for the escape of 11 Rohingya men on July 18.

More than 300 Rohingya men are being detained in large caged rooms at the center, originally built to accommodate 250 inmates, Immigration Police Lt Col Neti Khanboon explained.

"At about 3am, the men broke through the wire mesh covering a window in the men's toilet. They climbed over the wall at the back of the center and ran off. We believe they ran in separate directions," Col Neti said.

Phang Nga Town Police have been notified of the escape, and are now searching for the men.

"They are related to each other," Col Neti said.

"We believe someone on the outside assisted their escape. We will track down those people too," he added.

Overcrowding at the center has become a serious issue, Col Neti said.

"The number of refugees has been going up over the last eight months we've been detaining



Phang Nga Immigration is full far beyond capacity. Photo: Gazette file

them," he said. "We provide them food and facilities to make them comfortable, but they are not allowed to go outside."

Thailand has come under increasing criticism for its handling of the thousands of Rohingya fleeing violent unrest in their strife-torn home state Rakhine.

Often falling into the hands of

human traffickers, the refugees face slavery and extortion.

A Phang Nga policeman recently became the first Royal Thai Police officer ever to be charged with human trafficking, while police continue to investigate the officer's role in the alleged abduction and repeated rape of a Rohingya woman.

## Tourist ignores warnings, flags drowns on sunny day in Karon

RUSSIAN Dmitry Onishchenko, 32, ignored lifeguards' warnings and entered the surf at Karon Beach Monday afternoon – and drowned within five minutes.

Uten Singsom, head of the Kata-Karon Lifeguard Club, said that his lifeguards took 20 minutes to recover the man from the strong surf.

"He came to the beach alone at about 4pm and ignored the red flags posted," said Mr Uten.

"Lifeguards warned him not to swim there as it was exactly where we posted the red warning flags," he added.

The man was spotted having difficulty less than five minutes later, as a rip current pulled him



The posted sign was in Russian.

away from shore while he was pummeled by strong waves.

"It was too late by the time we got him back to shore," Mr Uten said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

See page 9 for lifeguards' proposal for Double Red Flag warnings

## Dozens of foreign business owners suspected of using Thai nominees

THE Phuket Business Development Office (BDO) has identified 82 businesses suspected of breaching the Foreign Business Act (FBA) by using Thais as nominees so that foreigners can hold majority control.

The businesses were identified ahead of raids by the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) set for this week, targeting illegal foreign businesses in Phuket.

"After checking our records, we identified 75 suspects running the 82 businesses we believe are using Thai nominees," Phuket BDO Chief Nimit Kangkajit said.

"Of the 82 businesses, 64 are

using the office of their accountant or lawyer as their business address. The others could not be contacted."

All businesses in Thailand must have a physical address to legally operate.

"I would like to see the DSI make some progress in enforcing the law concerning Thai nominees," Phuket Tourist Association Vice President Bhuritt Maswongsa said.

"Foreign tourism entrepreneurs see the benefit of these crackdowns, as it supports those who operate legitimately," he said.

The number of businesses registered in Phuket from January 1,



Phuket BDO Chief Nimit Kangkajit.

2013 to July 9, 2013 has shown a four per cent increase over the same period last year, said Phuket BDO Chief Mr Nimit.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# Sex traffickers arrested

## 12 Burmese sex slaves liberated, three suspects caught in police raids

By Chutharat Plerin

RAIDS by law enforcement officials rescued 12 Burmese women from forced prostitution in Phang Nga and Phuket on July 10.

Three suspects were taken into custody for sex trafficking during the raids, and arrest warrants were issued for two others believed to be part of a human trafficking gang.

Agents from the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) were tipped off by the Myanmar Association in Thailand about two businesses which were offering sex services to their customers.

In Phang Nga, eight women were liberated when twenty officers from the DSI, Kuraburi police and Phang Nga Social Development and Human Security office raided the Baifern Restaurant in Kuraburi, located near a fish processing factory.

"We believe their customers were mostly Burmese fisherman," Kuraburi District Police Superintendent Weerasil Kwanseng said.

"We arrested one suspect and issued arrest warrants for two others who are still at large," he added.

The women, all between the



The suspects from both raids are believed to be part of the same human-trafficking gang. Photo: DSI

ages of 16 and 29, told police that they were forced to have sex with customers every day and were beaten if they refused to work.

The women's cell phones and passports had been seized by the business owner, and they were never paid the 150 baht per customer they were promised, as the

owner kept their salary to repay the debt he incurred for bringing them from Myanmar, the women said.

"Six of the women are now at the Phang Nga shelter and two have gone back to Myanmar," Col Weerasil said.

After the raid in Kuraburi, the DSI agents travelled to Phuket,

where along with Phuket City Police, they rescued an additional four women who had been brought from Myanmar by the same trafficking gang.

Two suspects were arrested in that raid.

Additional reporting by The Nation



Tommy Soderlund has denied the murder charges. Photo: Dean Noble

## Swede murder trial postponed

THE trial of Swede Tommy Soderlund, charged along with fellow countryman Johan Ljung for a murder in Phuket in 2011, did not progress on July 20, as witnesses failed to appear in court.

Mr Soderlund and Mr Ljung are accused of stabbing to death Maksim Schantz and then stealing a motorbike in order to escape the scene. Mr Soderlund admits to stealing the motorbike, but denies the murder charge.

Police officers brought Mr Soderlund, looking tired, into the Phuket Provincial Court House at 10:30am.

Expected in court were the housekeeper of the building where the murder took place, the man whose motorbike was stolen and neighbors of the murder victim.

When witnesses did not appear, the judge gave a final date of August 9 for hearing their testimony and ended the session.

— Saran Mitrarat

## Officials skip historic bus launch

THE long-awaited Phuket airport-to-beach bus hit the road at 9:30am on July 19 with little fanfare.

Passengers on the inaugural ride from Phuket International Airport to Patong included media, tourists and relatives of bus operator Prakob Panyawai. No Phuket officials were along for the ride.

Married couple Ben and Kim, first-time visitors from England, had just arrived from Kuala Lumpur and were headed to Kata.

"We just found out about the bus. We were getting in a bus to Phuket Town, then heard we could go directly to Patong," said Ben.

The couple was surprised to learn that a taxi ride to Patong could have cost them 1,000 baht.

"It's very good to have this bus; 120 baht is very cheap and the bus is very good," said Ben.

"Our destination is Kata beach. It's great that the bus is taking us closer to Kata instead of to Phuket Town," Ben added.



The airport bus takes its first passengers to Patong on July 19.

The bus operator's mother, Somjit Panyawai, 70, and aunt, Jongkol Panyawai, 73, were also along for the ride to Patong.

"I'm very happy the bus has finally been launched," Mrs Jongkol said.

"We wanted to go all the way to Kata-Karon but local people wouldn't allow us," she lamented.

Mr Prakob said, "We planned

to have a big celebration at the airport for the first bus, but changed our minds after talking to officials."

"The bus is still a sensitive topic, so we are giving it a simple launch, without officials," he said.

— Chutharat Plerin

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## In brief...

### Fetus washes up on Saphan Hin park shoreline

A FETUS that police believe was dumped at sea washed ashore at Saphan Hin on July 19.

Police and rescue workers responded to a 10:30pm call and found a crowd surrounding the body at the tip of Saphan Hin park in Phuket Town. Police believe the fetus had been about six months old, and had been dead for about two days.

"Because it was dumped in the sea, we assume the mother had an illegal abortion," said Phuket City Police Capt Rachan Phunwai.

### Drug dealing duo netted at Phuket checkpoint

POLICE busted two *ya bah* (methamphetamine) dealers at a police checkpoint on Chao Fa East Road on July 19.

The two men, Apichart Karaket, 26, and Surasak Tunyadon, 22, confessed to police that they were paid about 3,500 baht to transfer the drugs from a dealer's house in Thalang to another dealer's house, Wichit Police Superintendent Chawalit Phetsipear said.

Both men were charged with possession of a Category 1 Drug with intent to sell.

### Russian sells spa products to cop

A RUSSIAN was arrested by Immigration Police in Patong on July 17 after he was caught attempting to sell spa products to a plainclothes officer.

Immigration officers arrested Russian national Alexander Pushkarer, 22, at a shop on the Patong beach road at about 7pm.

Once Mr Pushkarer presented himself as a staffer at the store, the plainclothes cop arrested him.

"He admitted he did not have a work permit," Angkarn Yasanop of Phuket Immigration said.

Mr Pushkarer was taken to Patong Police Station and subsequently charged with working without a work permit.



# Construction starts for new Region 8 Police headquarters

A GROUNDBREAKING ceremony was held on July 18 to mark the construction of the new Region 8 Police headquarters, as plans go forward to move the office from Surat Thani to its new location opposite the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint in Phuket.

The construction for the new building, expected to cost about 84 million baht, started on June 3 and is slated to be finished 555 days later on December 9, 2014.

"We chose Phuket for the new office because the province generates the highest amount of revenue from tourism in Thailand, and we want to ensure the safety and confidence of all visitors and local residents," Police Region 8 Commander Yongyuth Charoenvanit told the *Gazette*.

"The current headquarters in Surat Thani are very crowded. The new facility will be much bigger and more comfortable for our officers, and will improve our efficiency," Lt Gen Yongyuth said.

The facilities will include a Scientific Crime Detection Center, a National Training Center, an of-



Police Region 8 Commander Yongyuth Charoenvanit (lower right) took part in the groundbreaking ceremony for the new headquarters.

ficer ward and accommodation for officers.

The new headquarters at the 150-rai site have been nearly a decade in coming, with the original budget slated at 170 million baht.

The Region 8 Police are responsible for administration of police affairs in seven southern provinces: Surat Thani, Chumphon, Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi, Ranong and Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

— *Saran Mitrarat*

# Anatomy

**DEPARTMENT of Special Investigation (DSI) officers arrived in Phuket this week to crack down on illegal taxi drivers still operating at the airport. The move follows allegations of mafia operating on the island and illegal taxi drivers overcharging tourists.**

**Here, the *Phuket Gazette* investigates what it takes to become a Phuket taxi driver.**

By Chutharat Plerin

THERE are currently 2,110 taxis legally registered to operate in Phuket; 129 of those are metered taxis. However, almost 1,000 more drivers continue to work illegally on the island, gleaming profit from or outright gouging freshly arrived tourists.

During the crackdown earlier this year, the Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) identified 2,882 illegal taxis in Phuket. The crackdown inspired a further 1,981 taxi drivers to apply to have their vehicles registered.

"The PLTO is currently processing those applications," explained PLTO officer Jaturong Kaewkasi.

However, that means at least 900 taxi drivers are operating in Phuket who have made no attempt to become legal.

"This is despite us granting them amnesty and helping them by negotiating with finance companies, banks and insurance com-

panies to reduce the costs of re-registering their vehicles as private taxis in order to become legal drivers," Mr Jaturong said.

Although the amnesty ended on April 30, drivers can still apply to register their vehicles as taxis and apply for their taxi drivers' licenses, he added.

Along with the carrot came the stick. On May 1, police and PLTO officers were called on to fine all drivers caught for "illegally operating a vehicle as a taxi". The fine levied was the flat maximum 2,000 baht for each infringement.

The enforcement enjoyed limited success. Phuket Provincial Police confirmed to the *Gazette* that across the island 170 drivers were each fined 2,000 baht in April for not applying to register their vehicles as taxis, while their counterparts who were still illegally operating taxis but who had applied to become legal were let free.

A further 246 drivers were fined in May, and another 224 in June.

Statistics for July were not available at time of going to print.

However, the penalty is no stiffer for repeat offenders. "We do not have stronger penalties for drivers who repeatedly break the law. So far, the fine is 2,000 baht every time they are caught," Mr Jaturong said.

## THE CARS

Regardless of whether a taxi is fitted with a meter or not, the engine size must not be less than 1600cc. "It doesn't matter which make or model of car it is, and there is no restriction on the maximum size of the engine," Mr Jaturong explained.

The vehicle cannot be more than two years old at the time it is registered as a taxi, and cannot be used as a taxi after the vehicle turns nine years old from the date the car was first registered, he added.

Furthermore, there is no such thing as an independent taxi driver in Phuket. The

car must be registered as working for a legally registered organization.

"This is a nationwide regulation so that the driver of each taxi can be identified and reached in case he does something wrong," Mr Jaturong explained.

"The person registering the taxi must provide evidence they work for a formal organization. They can provide a signed agreement proving they work as part of a taxi co-operative or an employment contract showing they work for a tourism business, such as a tour kiosk, or for some other form of legal entity," he added.

Regardless, so-called "taxi groups" are not held accountable for their members' actions, even if their members consistently break the law.

"If their drivers are involved in a crime, charges will be pressed against the driver, not the group," Mr Jaturong said.

"If there are complaints against



**'If there are complaints against a driver, the group will resolve the issue themselves'**

— **Jaturong Kaewkasi,**  
**Chief Transport Technician,**  
**Phuket Land Transport Office**

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# of a Phuket taxi driver

a driver, the group will resolve the issue themselves. They have their own rules to punish drivers, such as suspending the drivers from work. The number of days' suspension – and hence lost income – will depend on what the drivers have done wrong," he assured.

## THE DRIVERS

In order to carry passengers in a taxi, drivers must be Thai nationals, as ferrying passengers is a job prohibited to foreigners under the Alien Workers Act.

They must hold a commercial driver's license, be at least 22 years old and hold a valid standard driver's license issued for five years.

Applicants must provide a medical certificate affirming they are free from leprosy, tuberculosis, elephantiasis, drug addiction and alcoholism.

And they must pass a test which takes place over a two-day period at the PLTO, during which applicants receive training in traffic law, basic English language, polite mannerisms and common courtesy, Mr Konlayut said.

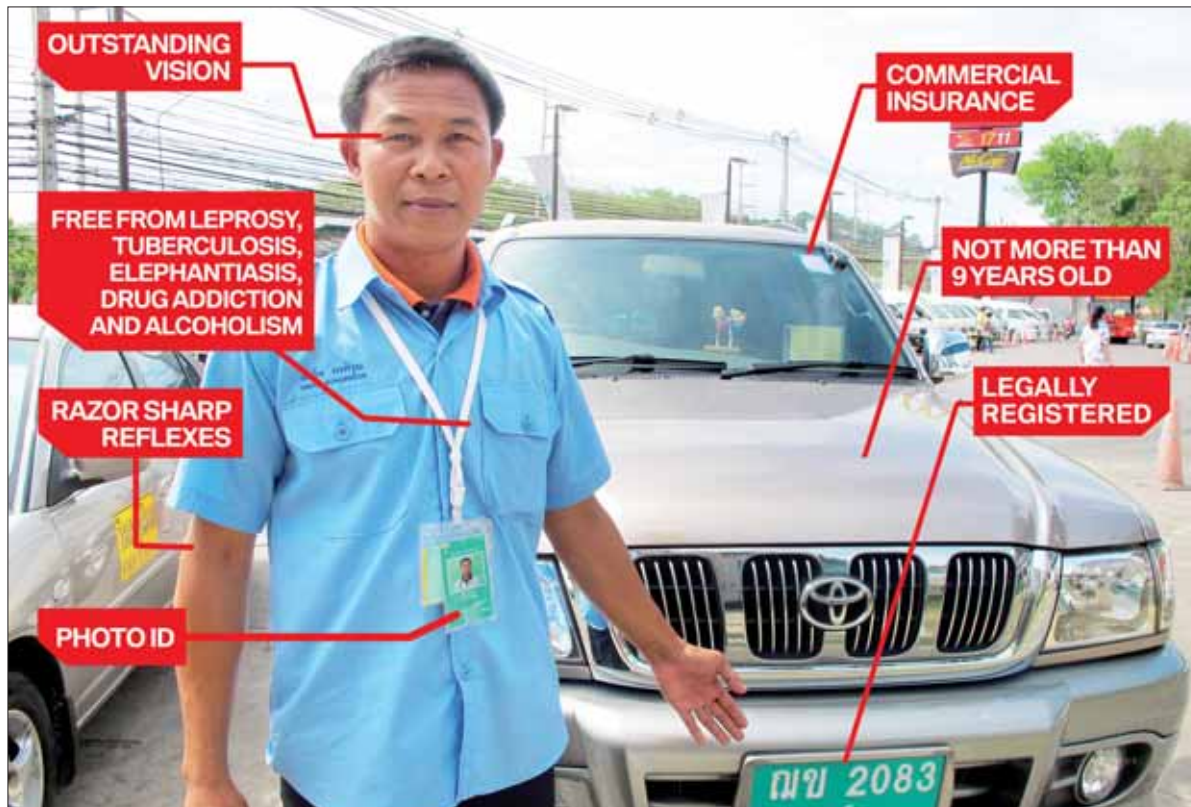
They also undergo an eyesight and reflex test.

As part of the process, police conduct a background check.

"Any applicants found to have served jail time for any crime will be rejected," Mr Konlayut assured.

"However, repeat offenders even for traffic offenses such as reckless driving will be issued a license to drive a taxi in Phuket as long as they have not served a day in prison," he added.

Once issued their license, on its large yellow card, the drivers must have it on display at all times while driving the taxi.



## THE INSURANCE

Every vehicle being registered as a taxi must first have at least basic commercial insurance coverage, as stipulated by the national Office of Insurance Commission, before the PLTO will process its application. The high cost of commercial insurance has been an ongoing point of dispute among many illegal taxi drivers in Phuket, who claim they cannot afford the rates.

To make insurance coverage more affordable, the PLTO directly engaged in negotiations with finance companies, banks and insurance companies on behalf of the drivers. The result, after months of talks, was base policies starting at about 30,000 baht per annum.

"We know it can be expensive, but we have done the best we can – and this is a mandatory requirement for a vehicle to be registered as a taxi," Mr Jaturong confirmed.

Yet Patong Police Traffic Inspector Ekkarat Plaiduang confirmed to the *Gazette* that his officers would not pursue charges against any driver found driving without the required insurance.

"Instead, we will report it to the insurance company and let them decide whether they want to file a complaint," Maj Ekkarat explained.

"If they do, we will charge not the driver, but the owner of the car with providing false information on an official document. The penalty for that is a fine of up to 60,000 baht or up to three years in prison, or both," he said.

Maj Ekkarat did not elaborate on what action police would take in case of passengers, including tourists, are injured in an accident involving a taxi with inadequate insurance coverage.

## THE AIRPORT

The ultimate goal of nearly every taxi driver on the island is to serve Phuket International Airport, which Chanchai Doungjit, chief of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office, last month reported was the primary tourist gateway on an island that attracts about 11 million visitors per year.

Tourists pump an estimated 200 billion baht into the local economy, said Mr Chanchai. The consequence is that, for many taxi

drivers in Phuket, the airport represents an easy avenue to cold hard cash.

To legally serve the airport, however, drivers must work for one of the taxi co-operatives that have signed concessions with the facility's operator, Airports of Thailand (AoT).

Prakob Panyawai, managing director of Phuket Airport Limousine and Business Cooperative Ltd (PBC), explained that all cars serving the airport must be of a higher standard than regular taxis and the drivers must adhere to a dress and behavior code.

And drivers must pay the concession holders they work for, who in turn pay AoT. Which concession they work for can affect their monthly take-home pay.

For example, Phuket Mai Khao Co, which operates 175 taxis and vans at the airport, must pay AoT 1.3 million baht a month – requiring each driver to pay nearly 7,500 baht each month in dues. PBC, which operates 271 vehicles at the airport, owes AoT 1.6mn baht a month – requiring each driver to pay about 5,900 baht a month.

Mr Prakob maintains that his drivers take home between 15,000 to 20,000 baht per month.

"They have to make payments on their own cars or pay a rental fee to use one of our fleet cars. Drivers who have only recently joined us also have to pay a 10,000 baht deposit against possible damage to the car they are driving," he added.

"But the harder they work, the more they earn, and the more they get to take home," he said.

*Additional Reporting by Irfan Jumdukur*



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## Illegally placed restaurant will face charges



The restaurant was found to be encroaching on the beach and set on public land. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

PHUKET officials were ordered to take action last week against a restaurant found to be illegally built and encroaching on the beach south of Patong.

Acting on a complaint received on June 27, Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak led officers from the Damrongtham Center, Phuket Marine Office and Phuket Land Office to investigate on July 16.

"We determined that the Tri Trang restaurant had been built on public land and was encroaching on the beach area," Mr Prapan said.

It has been open and serving customers for about two years, but has no land title, explained Mr Prapan.

"We did not find the owner or manager of the restaurant. There were only staffers present when we visited," he said.

The Patong Municipality had asked police last year to prosecute the owner of the restaurant for illegal construction. That case is still under investigation, said Mr Prapan.

"We will ask the police to prosecute the owner for the beach encroachment," Phuket Marine Office Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

Additional reporting by Irfan Jamdukor

# Vandalized beach mangrove forest given a second chance

By Saran Mittrarat

IN A joint effort to repair the work of vandals, Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa led 200 volunteers in planting mangrove saplings in the Klong Mudong area of Chalong on July 17.

Some of the 24,000 mangrove saplings planted in the area last May in honor of HM Queen Sirikit were destroyed on the night of July 11 by a group that also destroyed a sign honoring her majesty, said Chief of the Natural Resources and Environment Office Kasem Sukwaree.

"We have no suspects at the moment," said Capt Kraisorn Boonprasop of the Chalong police.

An officer of the Natural Resources and Environment Office noted that the mangroves planted in May on the beach would have caused landowners in the area to lose use of the beach.

As V/Gov Sommai led students



School children and Triumph International staff replanted the mangroves in Chalong. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

from Darasamuth school and staff from Triumph International in planting saplings over 47 rai of

land, she focused on the environmental importance of the mangrove swamps, saying "They are the

kindergardens of the sea, a place where young marine life is protected. We need to protect them."

## Governor: no foreign mafia problem

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthusut denied Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak's allegations that foreign mafias are operating in Phuket.

The complaint about foreign mafia presence in Phuket was filed by Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak to the DSI headquarters in Bangkok on July 10.

"Phuket does not have any foreign mafia – just some groups of foreigners who are trying to

benefit from the tourism industry. However, many of them have already been arrested," Gov Maitri said. (see page 3)

In a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall on July 19, the governor gathered all relevant organizations to prepare the necessary documentation for DSI officers who are expected to tackle illegal foreign businesses using Thai nominees, illegal airport taxi drivers and foreign mafia presence.

The DSI officers will be on the island on July 25 and 26.

During their crackdown in Phuket, the governor said he would request the DSI distribute a 251-million-baht budget for more CCTV cameras on the island as a way to increase the safety measures taken to protect locals and tourists.

"Right now, Phuket has 1,419 CCTV cameras. We would like to ask the DSI for 251 million baht so we can set up an additional 2,550 cameras across the island," he said.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**



Gov Maitri will ask DSI for more CCTV. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

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## Dozing driver causes traffic jam



A MAN caused a huge tailback on a major road in Pattaya last week after falling asleep at the wheel of his Jeep.

It took passersby and police officers an hour to wake the dozing driver, who clung to his unconscious state for so long that officers began to suspect he was dead.

Police called to the scene at 5:30am on July 19 found a Jeep parked at the traffic lights at the start of Central Pattaya Road with its engine and lights on. The hand brake was set, and the vehicle wouldn't move when pushed.

Inside was a Thai man aged 30-35 fast asleep in the driver's seat, unaware of the danger he was causing.



No amount of commotion could wake the driver. Photo: Pattaya One

As traffic piled up behind the Jeep, drivers had to brake suddenly to avoid crashing into other cars.

Officers shouted at the driver to try to wake him, but he didn't budge. They also tried banging on the vehicle, shaking it, blowing whistles and honking horns, to no avail.

After an hour, the police decided to break into the vehicle, prising open one of the windows and waking the man up.

They gave him a cold towel and some water and he drove straight off before officers even investigated why he had fallen asleep at the wheel.

— **Pattaya One**



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Gov Maitri prepares for his first ride on the Airport Express Bus.

## Gov Maitri gets aboard the bus, predicts no taxi push back

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthasut rode the new airport bus to Patong on Tuesday, four days after its inaugural run.

"The condition of the bus was good, and it was clean and safe. The staff were good too," Gov Maitri said.

"One thing it needs is more publicity. I don't think many people know it exists," he said.

The governor did not foresee problems with taxi drivers, despite previous vehement protests against the new service.

"I don't think local taxis will protest it, because they aren't competing for the same customers... People who prefer limousines will still use them, as will people with a lot of luggage," Gov Maitri said.

"Bus passengers are most likely to be backpackers and local people," he added.

"The bus is only 120 baht from the airport to Patong. It is a good deal for people who cannot afford a taxi. I believe taxi drivers understand there needs to be this option.

"It is a fundamental public service," he said.

— Chutharat Plerin

# Firework blast puts teacher in hospital

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A BEACH party in Cape Panwa took a horrific turn after an English teacher went to light a 49-mortar firework on July 13. Immediately after the fuse was lit, the mostly buried firework exploded, sending one of its rounds directly into the face of Danyel Erickson, 31, while the rest shot off in every direction.

Ms Erickson, an American, bought the firework secondhand. She planned to set it off to celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but decided against igniting it in her neighborhood. It was instead brought out on July 13 in celebration of a friend's birthday.

"Just as it got dark, we dug this hole and put this massive box [the firework] in there. I think there were four of us standing around it. It was starting to rain, so we had cardboard up just to cover it," Ms Erickson said.

Two fuses trailed from the 80cm-square firework: one short and black, the other long and green.

Hunched over, leaning toward but not over the firework, Ms Erickson lit the green fuse, she said. She believes that the two fuses, close together, both caught on fire.

"As soon as the fuse ignited, it went so fast you couldn't even see that it was starting... all of a sudden the whole box was glowing. It started exploding out of the side, out of the top, everywhere all at once. It was pretty much like a bomb," Ms Erickson said.

One mortar hit one of her friends in the hand, breaking it. He has



Danyel Erickson (second right) and friends at the beach moments before the terrifying explosion.

since undergone surgery.

Another mortar hit Ms Erickson directly above her left eye, blinding her.

"It hit me in the face, and I didn't really realize it at first... I dropped to the ground and military-crawled off the beach because they were just coming out everywhere," she said. "I thought I was in a war, military-crawling in the sand while I was blind."

"I could feel the wet blood coming down my face – everyone started gasping," she said.

Friends rushed Ms Erickson to the Phuket International Hospital. She had internal bleeding in her

left eye; corneal abrasions in the right eye; foreign bodies in both eyes; a large skin laceration front left side; lacerated wounds on her forehead, eyebrow and left eye.

Ms Erickson has undergone serious plastic surgery, but will always have a scar from the incident. There are still pieces of dirt and debris lodged in her face that will require laser surgery, she said.

Three days after the event, still with lots of debris in her eyes, Ms Erickson was starting to see again with her vision improving to 50/20 and 80/20.

Since then, her vision has improved greatly, but will never return to the same clarity she once had.

"My first thought was that I was going to be blind. That was my first scare – to be blind in a foreign country and not know where you are going or how to get there."

Ms Erickson arrived in Phuket from Seattle in April to complete a TEFL course. She had just begun her career as an English-language teacher in May.

She bought the firework from a woman who had fired off four of them at a children's birthday party.

"If they lit the one that blew my face up, it could have killed children. It could have been a lot worse, astronomically worse," she said.

"This is something people do here all the time... They sell [fireworks] on the beach, at clubs – everywhere," she said.

"We were drinking that day, but I honestly wasn't intoxicated. I did this sober, which doesn't really say that much for me," she

said with a laugh. "I did it with a conscious, sober mind. I lit this giant, dangerous bomb off."

Instead of buying fireworks on the street, go to an actual pyrotechnic show, Ms Erickson urged.

Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) Director Bancha Kakong echoed her advice.

"Salesmen should not be selling fireworks to adults who are not professionals," Dr Bancha said.

The caution over the use of fireworks stems from the number of injuries sustained during festivals where fireworks are prevalent, such as Chinese New Year and the Vegetarian Festival.

"A total of 43 people were injured from fireworks during the Vegetarian Festival last year," said

Dr Bancha.

According to the Firearms Act of BE 2490, fireworks are considered weapons.

"Firework users must obtain permission before lighting them, even if they are being used on private property. However, there are no restrictions on buying fireworks," explained Kathu District Chief Veera Kerdsirirongkol.

"In Phuket, it is hard to control the use of fireworks because of traditions, so we have to compromise," Mr Veera said.

Despite the need to compromise, Mr Veera reiterated the importance of safety and obtaining proper permission before using these potentially harmful forms of entertainment.

Additional reporting by Saran Mittrarat

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# Charging past the red

## Sunshine a 'danger factor' leading swimmers to ignore warning flags

By Phuket Gazette

A PROPOSAL to post "Double Red Flag Rip Current" warnings at Phuket beaches gained momentum on July 21 after a fit Russian tourist ignored a red warning flag and was caught in a flash rip, leading to a daring and dangerous rescue by members of the Surin-Bangtao Surf Lifesaving Club.

The incident prompted lifeguards to issue a flash rip warning at all west and south facing beaches along Phuket's west coast.

Lifeguards were on patrol only 150 meters away as the unsuspecting swimmer ignored the red flags and warning signs on Surin Beach and headed for deeper water, one lifeguard explained.

"As soon as he entered the water, two surf rescue lifeguards were on their way to warn him. But by the time they arrived, it was already too late. The intended warning had become a serious rescue situation," he said.

The Russian man had jumped directly into a flash rip current, which is a hidden "river" of water flowing swiftly out to sea. Often these rip currents are present where the waves are smaller, and to the untrained eye this may look like a good place to enter the water.

Onlookers watched as the two experienced lifeguards reached the victim, and began to tow him to shore. All three were pounded by heavy surf for nearly six minutes as they made their way back to safety.

"The outgoing tide bumped the existing rip current up to incred-



A lifeguard in training. Double red flags may keep swimmers out of rough surf, guards say. Photo: Gazette file

ible strength and speed. The escape area to tow the victim to shore was very narrow, if we missed it there was another rip on the other side which was pulling through exposed rocks. It was a very dangerous situation. It could have taken us all," said one of the lifeguards who carried out the difficult rescue.

Phuket's lifeguards and ocean safety experts are beginning to understand more clearly how, and

when, beach swimming conditions are most severe and likely to result in tragedy. (see page 2) Entering the ocean in the wrong spot during this time of year will almost certainly result in trouble for all except expert surfers and lifeguards.

"My idea is to identify when all the danger factors co-exist, and issue a 'Double Red Flag Rip Current' warning, in the hope that people will take the danger more

seriously," said the lifeguard.

"The flags will have international symbols for 'No Swimming' and 'Rip Current' clearly visible. If we can clearly mark the rip current areas and keep swimmers from going there, we can save lives, maybe even our own," the rescuing lifeguard said.

The lifeguard explained that the main danger factors that create killer rips are:

- High tidal variations of over 2.4

meters, which usually occur in the two days on either side of a full moon

- Surf one meter and above with high wave frequency
- Persistent southwest monsoon winds above 20km/hr
- Sunny, fair weather

"If the first three exist, but the weather is raining and stormy, most tourists avoid the beach, and we are usually spared," explained the lifeguard. "But if the weather is sunny, we know there will be swimmers trying to enter the water. If they enter near the rip, it is almost certain they will be in trouble right away."

Another factor is that the "low" season of yesteryear, when few people entered the water, is now the "green" season. During this time of year the number of beachgoers and swimmers has markedly increased along with record numbers of tourist arrivals on Phuket.

"All beach hotels large and small, as well as the media, should be warning their customers of the severe danger which we predict will last until July 24, and then begin to ease. Many hotels have an 'in-house' television channel which would be perfect for displaying the warning," said the lifeguard.

"If everyone does not take this seriously, I fear more lives may be threatened or lost over the next five days," he added on Monday.

The warning applies to all west and south facing beaches on Phuket, and especially Layan, Bang Tao, Surin, Laem Sing, Karon, Kata and Kata Noi beaches.

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Many people were trapped inside the bus when it burst into flames after being hit. Photo: Reuters

## Bus crash kills 19 in Saraburi

FORENSIC experts are working to identify victims whose bodies were burnt beyond recognition after 19 died in a horrific tour bus crash in Saraburi on Tuesday.

The Roi Et-Bangkok bus, operated by Transport Co Ltd, was travelling on Mittraphap Road – the main route to the Northeast – when it was hit by a trailer-truck going the opposite direction, which ran across a safety island and crashed into it. The impact caused the two-level bus to catch fire, *The Nation* reported.

Most of 19 killed in the bus were trapped when the bus burst into flames; 20 passengers were injured.

“Preliminary investigation suggests the driver of the trailer-truck fell asleep behind the wheel,” Lt Assavathep Jantanaree of the Kaeng Khoi Police said.

Truck driver Sa-ard Boonyang, 29, survived the accident and is being treated at hospital.

At press time, officials had identified only six of the dead.

Mr Chadchart said the GPS record showed that the bus was travelling at a speed of 78 kilometers an hour at the time of the accident.

“That’s not very fast,” he said.

While he did not think the crash occurred because of any fault of the bus firm, he said he would meet with the company’s top executive to discuss safety measures.

Transport Co Ltd is a state enterprise under the supervision of the Transport Ministry.

“We will discuss additional safety measures. Perhaps we can improve the design of emergency-exit doors or provide safety briefings to passengers the way flight attendants do once they get on an aircraft,” the minister said.

# Amnesty on front burner, bill set to turn up the heat

A PROPOSED amnesty for people charged in relation to Thailand’s almost decade-long political crisis is set to be the biggest political issue of coming months, with some observers warning it could set the stage for a fresh round of protests and political conflict.

There are several possible amnesty bills on the table, including one favored by the government proposed by Pheu Thai MP Vorachai Haema and one backed by relatives of victims who were killed in the red-shirt protests of April and May 2010.

The latter focuses on addressing the legal plight of ordinary protesters and will not help political leaders. It will only help protesters charged with minor offences, such as those facing fines or prison terms of no more than two years.

One of the promoters of the bill, Payao Akahad, whose paramedic son was shot and killed on May 19, 2010, said that around 1,000 people were in hiding for violating the Emergency Decree by taking part in protests.

“If the amnesty bill is passed, they can resume a normal life,” she told *The Nation*.

Protesters from the yellow-shirt People’s Alliance for

Democracy (PAD), who shut down Bangkok’s two airports in 2008, would also be covered, she said.

“This bill covers people who protested on all sides. The stress is on ordinary protesters. As far as I am aware, some PAD protesters who were not granted bail are still in prison.”

Democrat Party leader Abhisit Vejjajiva has publicly backed the bill, saying his party would support its passage through Parliament so long as it did not result in the pardoning of arsonists or those accused of violating Article 112 – insulting the monarchy.

MP Vorachai’s bill is favored by the government and the United Front for

Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), better known as the red shirts.

UDD leader Thida Thawornset is thought to be skeptical about the bill, believing it would delay the passing of an amnesty for another year.

She has also said it was biased against the red shirts, since it would exclude those who were wanted for setting fire to private property, as happened in Bangkok at the end of the 2010 red-shirt protest.

Bhum Jai Thai Party deputy

‘If the amnesty bill is passed, they can resume a normal life’  
– Payao Akahad



Payao Akahad, whose son was killed, supports the bill. Photo: The Nation



leader Boonjong Wongtrairat said conflict was “100 per cent certain” when Parliament reconvenes in August.

He warned that debate on the

various draft amnesty bills would be explosive. The ruling Pheu Thai Party should not think that just because they enjoyed a majority voice they could simply slam their bill through, he said.

If the government wanted society to move ahead, it should not bring such divisive issues to the table, he said, adding that even Pheu Thai knew deep down this would bring a fresh round of major conflict.

## Killings threaten Ramadan ceasefire in South

THE Ramadan ceasefire agreement between the Thai government and an insurgent group in the Deep South, the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), appears to be at risk after both sides accused the other of violating the deal.

On July 21 a couple were gunned down in broad daylight in Narathiwat’s Rangae District, while a defence volunteer was seriously wounded in Sai Buri in Pattani, *The Nation* reported.

Lt Gen Paradorn Pattanathabutr, chief of the Thai negotiating team in the ongoing peace talks with the BRN, said he would report the alleged violations to the Malaysian panel of experts who are acting as facilitators to the talks.

Meanwhile, the BRN has also complained that the government has violated its side of

the bargain by executing insurgent leader Masupian Mama in Narathiwat on July 19.

In a letter to the Malaysian team, BRN negotiator Hassan Taib said Thailand’s alleged infringement forced the BRN to launch counterattacks.

Gen Paradorn claimed Thailand had not violated the agreement by killing Masupian Mama. He explained that the killing occurred as both sides were exchanging gunfire. The security officials had no choice but to protect themselves.

“The approach of security operations searching for those who have outstanding arrest warrants has to continue and this was already explained to the BRN leaders during the previous negotiations,” Gen Paradorn said.



Two were gunned down. Photo: The Nation

## DSI issues arrest warrant for disgraced monk

THE department of Special Investigation (DSI) has issued an arrest warrant for disgraced former monk Wirapol Sukpol, formerly known as Luang Pu Nenkhom, and the Department of Foreign Affairs has cancelled his passport.

As well as launching a hunt for Mr Wirapol, the DSI is searching for eight tonnes of gold bars and ornaments that are believed to have been donated to the monk’s temple, *The Nation* reported.

The Bangkok Criminal Court last week issued the arrest warrant on



Mr Wirapol. Photo: The Nation

three charges against Mr Wirapol.

DSI chief Tarit Pengdith said the charges were: violating the Computer Crime Act by posting false information on the internet

to raise donations; statutory rape of a minor under the age of 15; and taking the minor away from her parents/guardians.

He said that since these charges had a 10-year statute of limitations, his agency had up to a decade to hunt the ex-monk down.

Saying the DSI knew exactly where the ex-monk was now, Mr Tarit said that Mr Wirapol would be flushed out of hiding now that his passport and visa had been cancelled, making international travel for him illegal.

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# Cambodia at the polls

## High hopes for change as royal pardon frees exile to return

By Prak Chan Thul

AFTER 28 years of rule by Hun Sen, Asia's longest-serving prime minister, the rallying cry for Cambodia's opposition ahead of the election on Sunday is obvious, and appears to be attracting an unprecedented number of voters.

Hun Sen, a charismatic former commander in the genocidal Khmer Rouge, has built up formidable electoral machinery through his ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) that easily outguns the opposition. Adding to his advantages are a compliant media, the CPP's deep pockets, and an election system that is prone to government meddling.

The authoritarian leader, now 60, has vowed to stay in power until his planned retirement in his mid-70s, and appears intent on building a political dynasty by promoting his three US military-trained sons to top positions in the CPP and the army.

Still, the newly unified opposition hopes to mount its strongest challenge to the CPP since democracy was fully restored in 1998.

Under Hun Sen, Cambodia has transformed from a war-torn basket case into one of Southeast Asia's fastest growing economies, helped by a burgeoning garment export industry and growing political and investment ties with regional power China.

But the breakneck economic growth has been accompanied by a rise in social tensions over poor



Opposition leader Sam Rainsy campaigns after a royal pardon allowed him to return safely. Photo: Reuters

### AROUND THE region

factory conditions and rural land rights in the country of 14 million, where a third of people live on less than 65 US cents per day.

In rural areas, a backbone of CPP support where more than 90 per cent of Cambodians live, there is growing anger over huge land concessions awarded to foreign companies which have benefited close political allies of Hun Sen.

Most political analysts believe the CPP is on course to retain its majority but may lose ground from the 90 seats it currently holds in the 123-seat parliament. The two main opposition parties joined forces last year and are expected to improve on the combined 29 seats they won at the last elections in 2008.

The opposition received a morale boost on Friday when opposition leader Sam Rainsy returned after four years in exile in France. Sam Rainsy was given a royal pardon that removed the threat of a jail term, amid mounting pressure from the United States and other foreign donors to

ensure the election is fair. Donors provide nearly half of Cambodia's budget.

Tens of thousands of cheering supporters met Sam Rainsy, a former finance minister, who chose exile in 2009 rather than face trial for what rights groups said were politically motivated charges.

Some analysts believe the opposition could win enough seats to create political deadlock that would force Hun Sen into a coalition government with Sam Rainsy. Most, however, see the CPP keeping a strong enough majority to rule alone.

— Reuters

### In brief...

#### Philippine group to bar sending maids to Singapore

THE Association of Licensed Recruitment Agencies to Singapore (Alras) will bar its members from sending domestic workers to Singapore, starting September 2, in a bid to convince agencies in Singapore to stop collecting placement fees from maids.

Placement fees in Singapore average S\$2,000, or four months of a domestic worker's salary.

About 70,000 of the 209,600 maids in Singapore are from the Philippines.

— The Straits Times

#### M'sian man sets self on fire over wife's lesbian tryst

A 50-year-old man set himself ablaze in front of his wife in their apartment near Kuala Lumpur after he learned she had been having a same-sex affair with her boss.

It is believed that the man, known only as Lim, could not accept the shocking news that his wife, whom he married 18 years ago, was in a relationship with another woman.

The couple has three children, aged between eight and 18.

Ampang Jaya OCPD Assistant Commissioner Amiruddin Jamaluddin said the couple's 19-year-old son, surfing the internet in his room at the time of the incident, denied claims that his mother had tried to kill his father.

— The Star

## Monk at center of Myanmar violence

A BOMB exploded meters away from a radical Buddhist monk as he delivered a mass sermon in Myanmar, police said on Monday, the latest flare-up in tensions pitting Buddhists against minority Muslims.

Wirathu, the prominent monk who heads a movement accused of stirring violence against Muslims, said he believed the blast on Sunday evening in Myanmar's second city, Mandalay, was intended to silence him.

The home-made bomb went off inside a parked car, according to police and witnesses. There was no claim of responsibility.

Tensions have been smouldering between radical elements of Myanmar's Buddhist majority and Muslims. Bouts of religious violence have killed at least 237 people and displaced 150,000 in the past year, testing the resolve of a two-year-old quasi-civilian government.

The device exploded during a ceremony conducted by Wirathu, who once called himself "the Burmese bin Laden". He is the chief proponent of a movement known as 969, which reformist President Thein Sein's office has described as a "symbol of peace".



A market stall displays a sticker for the 969 movement. Photo: Reuters

Wirathu was unharmed, despite being 12m from the blast, according to police. Five people were slightly injured, including a novice monk.

Reuters investigations in two of the hotspots of unrest – Rakhine state and the central city of Meiktila – have revealed the violence was on both occasions fanned by monks who led Buddhist mobs.

The president's office, which says it wants to foster peace, tolerance and unity in ethnically diverse Myanmar, has described Wirathu as "a son of Lord Buddha". Buddhists make up about 90

percent of the estimated 60 million population.

The 969 movement has been accused of stirring anti-Muslim sentiment in a deeply Buddhist nation, where curbs on freedom of speech and assembly have eased since the end of military rule two years ago.

A Reuters investigation last month showed 969 monks were providing a moral justification for a wave of anti-Muslim bloodshed that could derail Myanmar's nascent reforms.

Government officials were unavailable for comment about Sunday's explosion. — Reuters

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## In brief...

### Baby prince steals spotlight, British royalty search for media sanctuary

ALREADY touted as one of the most famous babies in the world, the first child of Britain's Prince William and wife Kate faces a life in the spotlight like no previous royal, severely testing the couple's desire to give their offspring a "normal" life.

The baby was born with William at Kate's side on Monday and weighed 3.8kg.

From the moment the baby boy leaves hospital in the arms of his parents in front of an army of TV cameras and photographers, his life in the public eye begins and so does his parents' formidable battle to protect his privacy.

### EU calls for release of Egypt's Mursi, new elections

THE European Union called on Monday for the release of ousted Egyptian president Mohamed Mursi and demanded democratic elections as soon as possible.

Ex-President Mursi has been held at an undisclosed military facility since the Egyptian army removed him from office on July 3 and suspended the constitution in the wake of street protests against his one-year rule.

The army says Islamist Mursi is being held for his own safety.

### One Asiana victim killed by a vehicle, not plane crash

A TEENAGE passenger on the Asiana Airlines plane that crashed in San Francisco died from injuries sustained after being run over by a motor vehicle, most likely a fire truck at the scene, officials said on Friday.

Ye Mengyuan, a 16-year-old girl who sat toward the rear of Flight 214, survived the Boeing 777's crash-landing but died from blunt force injuries consistent with being run over by an emergency response vehicle, San Mateo County Coroner Robert Foucault and San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White said at a news conference.

## Death toll climbs after double earthquakes rock China

THE death toll from two earthquakes in China's western Gansu province has climbed to 89, with more than 500 people severely injured, after 1,200 buildings collapsed and tens of thousands more were badly damaged, said the official *Xinhua* news agency.

The quakes hit eight towns in the remote and mountainous Minxian and Zhangxian counties on Monday, *Xinhua* said.

The US Geological Survey reported two earthquakes, the first at a 5.9 magnitude and a strong aftershock about an hour and a half later at a 5.6 magnitude. Chinese authorities reported the first quake was a 6.6 magnitude.

*Xinhua* said that by Monday evening 422 aftershocks had been recorded, with the strongest measuring 5.6 in magnitude, citing Chang Zhengguo, a spokesman for the Gansu provincial government.

"Many have been injured by collapsed houses," said a Minxian county doctor.

On Monday the government of the city of Dingxi, the worst-affected area, said more than 27,000 people were left homeless.

*Xinhua* said about 3,000 police and rescue personnel have been sent to the quake-hit region, though landslides and flooding have hampered their efforts, and officials said



A man walks among the rubble. Photo: Reuters

they were concerned more rain could exacerbate the need for shelter.

— Reuters

# WHO asked India to ban killer toxin

By Jo Winterbottom  
and Kate Kelland

THE pesticide that killed 23 Indian schoolchildren last week is a nerve poison banned by many countries because of what the World Health Organisation (WHO) describes as its "high acute toxicity".

As early as 2009, the United Nations health agency urged India to consider a ban on the pesticide monocrotophos – the substance said by a magistrate investigating the deaths to be the cause of the poisoning.

It had also noted that in India – despite strong international health warnings – many pesticide containers are not thrown away after use but recycled and used for storing water, food and other consumables.

In last week's case in the Indian state of Bihar, the children fell ill within minutes of eating a meal of rice and potato curry in their one-room school. They were vomiting and convulsing with stomach cramps – symptoms that experts say would be common in poisoning with such a toxic chemical.

The lunch was part of India's Mid-Day Meal Scheme, which aims to tackle malnutrition and encourage 120 million poor children to attend school. It had already drawn widespread complaints over food safety.

An initial forensic investigation found the Bihar children's meal had been prepared with cooking oil that contained monocrotophos,



A relative wipes the face of a boy who consumed a contaminated meal given to him at school. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

which belongs to a family of chemicals called organophosphates that share a common mechanism of toxic action.

"Basically they are nerve poi-

sons," said David Coggon, a professor of occupational and environmental medicine at Britain's University of Southampton.

According to WHO, swallowing just 120 milligrams of monocrotophos – the weight of about five grains of rice – can be fatal to humans.

Monocrotophos controls a range of pests on various crops such as cotton, rice and sugarcane.

In India, monocrotophos "is

widely used and easily available", and is frequently linked to fatal poisoning, both accidental and intentional.

Mr Coggon said that, while a ban on monocrotophos would doubtless help reduce risk of death in India, using it more safely could also help to minimize the threat.

"It's about trying to develop a safety culture," he said.

— Reuters

## France defends ban on full-face veils despite Parisian riots

INTERIOR Minister Manuel Valls on Monday defended France's ban on wearing full-face veils in public places after a police check on a veiled Muslim woman sparked riots in a Paris suburb over the weekend.

The 2010 law was brought in by conservative former president Nicolas Sarkozy and targets burqa and niqab garments that conceal the face rather than the headscarf that is more common among French Muslim women.

A police check on a couple in the southwest suburb of Trappes sparked an angry confrontation that led to a police station being surrounded by several hundred people overnight on Friday. Another building was torched in several hours of street violence that led to six arrests.

"Police did their job perfectly," Mr Valls told *RTL* radio.

"The law banning full-face veils is a law in the interests of women and against those

values having nothing to do with our traditions and values," he said.

France has Europe's largest Muslim population, estimated at around five million. Yet according to interior ministry figures, only between 400 and 2,000 women wear the veil and only a handful have been ordered to pay a fine for wearing it.

Critics say the law is patchily enforced as police seek to avoid confrontations in neighborhoods with high Muslim populations.

The rioting at the weekend was the first time the ban had led to an outbreak of violence.

Mr Valls said that while authorities would be tough in dealing with radical Islam it was not targeting ordinary Muslims.

— Reuters



Women in burqa at a park. Photo: Kamshots



# Green living condo town

## PROPERTY Gazette

THE rising demand for residential properties in Phuket is being driven by both Thais and tourists, as evidenced in the rapid growth in both Phuket Town and beach side areas. Sam Kong road in Phuket Town is a popular residential location and there are many property projects, including both houses and condominiums under construction.

The Green Place Condominium project by Phanason is a prime example of this trend, located on Eakwanit-Samkong Road, in what is rapidly becoming the new residential center of Phuket Town.

It is ideally situated only five minutes from Surakul Stadium and a similar distance from the Sam Kong community. The Green Place Condominium is surrounded by forested hills which provide shade and a soothing natural environment. This multiple-building condo project is valued at about 2 billion baht and will cover an area of more than 28 rai.

Units in the second phase are now available for sale and ready to move in, with prices starting at 1.4 million baht. Financing is available and with a 10,000

baht down-deposit, you will get free, full furniture option included.

Phanason Marketing Manager Ms Cheurchan Panvikarn told the *Phuket Gazette*: "With the success of 17 previous house and condominium projects in Phuket, the company has decided to develop The Green Place Condominium to meet the demand for town living.

"This project is located in Sam kong which is surrounded by many important destinations for convenient shopping and entertainment options. The company is focusing mostly on Thai customers, who are expected to make up about 51% of the clientable, and foreigners the remaining 49%."

"We also offer rental management with [an annual] return on investment for the customer projected at of 6 % for an initial three year period," she added.

The Green Place Condominium consists of eight phases, each building comprising eight floors, with 1,407 units in total.

Unit sizes range from 36 to 160sqm with prices starting from 1.4 million baht: The modern luxury rooms come in four styles, including a studio (36sqm), a superior (starting from 55 sqm), 1-bedroom with balcony (starting from 70 sqm), two bedrooms and balcony with the room size starting from 95sqm, and suites with three bedrooms (starting from 165 sqm)

Construction of the third building is currently underway and the second phase is completely finished, units now available for sale and ready to move in.

The project has a full range of amenities including a lobby, a large club



Phanason Marketing Manager Ms Cheurchan Panvikarn. Photo: Phanason

house, standard pool, a relaxation area, fitness area, tennis courts, playground, health park and it also provides modern technology with WIFI internet, 24-hour CCTV and a safety key card for secure access.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, contact Phanason the Green Place Condominium on Eakwanit Sam Kong road; available 9am-6pm everyday. Tel 076-217-849 or visit [phanason.com](http://phanason.com)



Green condo living in the heart of Phuket "The Green Place Condominium" Photo: Phanason



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



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# Commercial real estate soars

DIRECT commercial real estate investment in the Asia Pacific region has exceeded market expectations in the first half of 2013, reaching US\$59.7 billion, 21% up on the first half of 2012. According to the latest Jones Lang LaSalle capital markets research, transaction volumes in the region have also increased quarter on quarter, topping US\$32.6 billion in the second quarter of 2013, up 21% on the previous quarter.

The growth was predominantly driven by the region's largest markets with Japan, Australia and China all experiencing strong deal flow throughout the quarter.

In Japan, investor confidence has been boosted by improving macro-economic indicators following government stimulatory measures. Acquisitions have been dominated by J-REITs (Real Estate Investment Trusts) where inclusion in the Bank of Japan's asset purchase program has supported improved unit prices over the first half of the year. This coupled with increased IPO activity has supported transaction volume growth to US\$10.2 billion in Q2 2013, up 78% on the same quarter last year. Over the first half of 2013, volumes reached US\$20.8 billion, 50% higher than the first half of 2012.

In Australia, continued demand from both offshore and domestic institutional investors and pension funds lifted transaction volumes to US\$7.3 billion in Q2 2013 and US\$10.5 billion in H1 2013, up 27% from the first half of last year.

Transaction growth in local currency terms was even higher as the Australian Dollar depreciated against the US Dollar by 13% from

to direct real estate by large global sovereign and pension fund investors. Large US, Canadian and Middle Eastern investors have returned to the region and, together with active Asian high net worth and pension funds, are creating strong demand for assets across the region. Japan and Australia, remain particularly active and, given a robust pipeline for the remainder of 2013, will maintain our forecast for

transaction volumes to reach US\$110 billion by the end of 2013, which is slightly below the record of US\$120 billion in 2007.

## Country Focus

Investment activity in other Asia Pacific markets was mixed as government cooling measures in Singapore and Hong Kong took effect. While quarter on quarter (q-o-q) volumes were down in a number of markets across the region, overall growth over the half year was positive compared to the first half of 2012, maintaining a positive outlook for the remainder of 2013.

## Thailand

In Thailand, despite a smaller market, transaction volumes grew more than 95% in H1 2013, compared to the same period in 2012. Transactions concentrated in the hotel sector, reflecting increased availability of hotel assets and strong investor interest in Thailand's key hotel markets, particularly Phuket and Bangkok.

## China

China bounced back strongly from a slower first quarter, to end Q2 2013 up 65% q-o-q at US\$6

## Hong Kong

Hong Kong's restrictive cooling measures, specifically the doubling of stamp duty on commercial



Photo: Nicholas Poon

**LEADING THE WAY:** China, Japan and Australia are driving the commercial real estate markets in the Asia Pacific region. Economic centers such as Shanghai (above) and Sydney (below) are experiencing robust growth.



Photo: Beau Giles

billion. On a half yearly basis, investment activity has recovered from the slow H2 2012, up 97% to US\$9.6 billion in H1 2013, matching the first half of 2012. Foreign investors, including inter-regional buyers, continue to develop their China strategies with a number of large deals completed during the quarter serving to push cross-border transaction volumes in H1 2013 up 29% on H1 2012.

transactions, have started to impact deal flow with transaction volumes down 53% q-o-q and 49% year on year. The number of cross-border deals fell by 71% in H1 2013, compared to H1 2012. Existing activity is being supported by corporates looking to occupy space with healthy investor interest for new developments in emerging office market locations.

## Singapore

Singapore saw its investment activity grow 11% on the first quarter of 2013 to US\$2.3 billion and, over the half year, up 15% on H1 2012. While investor interest remains healthy, differing market outlooks between buyers and vendors has led to some disparity in price expectations. A number of large deals in the pipeline should support transaction volumes for the remainder of the year.

## South Korea

Investor sentiment remained mixed in South Korea as a result of recent economic uncertainty. Transaction volumes in H1 2013 were up 34% on the first half of 2012 but down 48% on H2 2012 with overall activity predominantly driven by a handful of larger deals.

## Indonesia

Indonesia continues to draw interest from foreign investors looking to develop their emerging market strategies, with strong growth potential and solid economic prospects presenting a positive investment case. Investment to date has been dominated by domestic groups as limited stock and opportunities, coupled with strong domestic competition have made it difficult for foreign buyers to enter.

— Jones Lang LaSalle

Image: John Shadbolt

the 2013 high.

Dr Megan Walters, head of research for Asia Pacific capital markets at Jones Lang LaSalle said: "Capital from around the region continues to show a bias towards core assets; however we are seeing some evidence of a shift towards more opportunistic investment. At the same time, government policy continues to have both positive and negative effects on deal flow, with stimulatory and cooling measures introduced this year. Investors are also developing their views around the Federal Reserve's intention to taper asset purchases, which some believe may happen as soon as the third quarter this year. Longer dated bond yields across a number of Asian markets have moved higher following the announcement, highlighting concerns around the direction of global interest rates."

Stuart Crow, head of Asia Pacific capital markets at Jones Lang LaSalle said: "We are seeing the results of increased allocations



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# Things I hate about hotels

I HAVE spent more nights in hotel rooms around the world than I could even start to remember. Barring a diary, an ankle-long list or a photographic memory, there are more than a few things that stick out, not unlike a Mohawk on a punk rocker or a toothpick out of a canape – small but deadly.

Let's start with those fruity welcome drinks that are all the rage at posh resorts, along with perhaps the lemongrass-infused, moist face towel.

I've been chased through lobbies by drink toting staff, and forced to chug down a fruit cocktail at the front desk.

First of all, if I want a drink when I check in after flying for eight hours to some god-forsaken holiday isle, at least give me the good stuff. A vodka and tonic or at last a tasty little Chardonnay.

There is no enjoyment to be had throwing back a drink, while avoiding colorful little umbrellas or lethal chunks of pineapple, in a plaid sterile lobby. This is exactly why god created dark, dingy dive bars.

Once you manage to avoid the happy hour buzz at the front desk and have safely made it to your door, then comes the next challenge. This is of course the new-age mystery of figuring out which way to put in the key card.

Some do have arrows, but for the most part you are on your own to figure out this brainteaser. More mysteries ensue – such as do you leave the card in and open? Shake, rattle and rolling time in the hallway has you dreaming of performing an axe assisted entry a la Jack Nicholson in the movie *The Shining*.

Once you have gained entry to the inner sanctum of your very own room,

this is where insanity starts – from trying to figure out which light switches to use, or trying to figure out which of the four remote controls on the desk turns on the TV?

The next simple act of laying out things



**Property Watch**  
By Bill Barnett

angst over the immediate need to recharge. The next three or four hours are spent doing a cha-cha-cha of switching cords, plugging and unplugging all these wonder tech devices one at a time.

Don't you just love the modern world



**SMALL BUT DEADLY:** Welcome drinks are more of a hazard than a comfort. Photo: Elislider

on the work desk inevitably has you bulldozing through piles of magazines, menu cards, welcome letters, room service or spa menus all trying to keep you from the appointed task – actually doing any work on the desk.

Which moves to plugs, as most hotels never consider the possibility that someone has two or more phones, or a laptop and other devices, which are crying out in

of time-savers? We must all rage against the machine.

Getting into bed is a replay of the desk drama, be it pillow shams, decorative throws, laundry lists, pillow menus, towels twisted into baby elephants, and filled sea turtles and more. Whatever happened to those little pillow mints, indeed they hearken back to a simpler time, but where are they now?

I've covered a lot of ground and it is rather doubtful I can get all this venting into such a short article, so perhaps I need some terminal velocity. Here is my hotel enemies list – security hangers; bathroom phones; fax machines which automatically go on at midnight; bedside clocks which go tick tick tick far into the night; lights in the closet which cannot be switched off; annoying housekeepers that knock on the door at 6:30am; the smiling mini bar attendant who hounds you to check things after 6:00 pm; air-cons whose main mission in life is to stream an arctic flow directly in your face; bath tubs which are harder to crawl out of than scaling Mt Everest; rain shower heads that turn on a monsoon or that modern designer chic water facet that you can't even fathom how to turn on.

I'm sure I've missed so much more, but it's morning and that terrible burnt toxic tar-like coffee on the breakfast buffet has just spoiled my appetite. Finally, I stagger to the front desk trying to escape this living nightmare, as the smiling desk clerk's final epitaph is: "Anything from the mini-bar?", which after my profound "no", they still proceed to call the room attendant just to double check if I am lying.

At long last, my escape is nearly complete, when another over-friendly receptionist mistakes me for an incoming guest and thrusts a welcome drink directly into my face, managing to impale my finger on a guava-laden toothpick, uttering the silly formula-driven hotel canned intro line "welcome home sir". Isn't this where I came in?

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

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# To raise one's roof or not to

## How much of your portfolio should be in your home

By David Mayes

I AM often asked how much one should spend on a primary residence, and while this is an area open for debate, my answer usually surprises people.

I have always been baffled by arguments about mortgage interest being tax deductible and many other reasons to sink way too much into one's primary residence. This doesn't mean I don't think a good portion of one's assets ought to be in real estate; however, many people place too high an emphasis on expectation of capital appreciation from their residence and not enough on short term cash flow.

I think my beliefs are best summed up by Ed Kiyosaki, the famous author of "Rich Dad, Poor Dad". He says that if your

home is your biggest investment you have serious trouble. His argument is that contrary to modern accrual-based accounting methods, one should look at things from a pure cash flow perspective and try to accumulate cash flow-positive investments.

Your primary residence is cash flow negative usually; you need to sink money into it to maintain it and you only unlock cash when you finally sell it (but then have to replace it and thus use some/all of that cash). A rental property on the other hand, is usually cash flow positive, assuming you price it so that it doesn't sit empty.

So basically, from a financial planning perspective, a mistake I think many people make is allocating all or too much of their real estate investments in their

own home. To make the concept simple, let's depart from reality for a moment and assume square meters are a commodity and each one costs the same amount. If you can afford 500 square meters of living space, this is usually what most people sink into their own home.

Of course, they may only really need about 200 square meters to live comfortably, but most people take a lot of pride in showing their friends what a nice big house they live in. They don't realize the opportunity cost of all those unneeded square meters. If they bought two properties of 250 square meters each, they could rent one out and have a significant positive cash flow investment. Again I am assuming the rental yield makes sense, while in reality sometimes it doesn't.

If you have a 10 million Baht



Photo: Texas Dark House

**OVERHEAD:** Homeowner's pride may lead to a weak investment strategy.

budget, you could realistically end up better off in the long run by splitting that money across two properties as opposed to sinking it all into one. Both would appreciate if the local market keeps going up, but one would be generating some positive cash flow in the meantime.

Warren Buffet is famous for saying that his favorite holding period is forever. Of course if you get a chance to cash out large gains after a market has run up this doesn't mean that you shouldn't do so. Yet if you continuously accumulate cash flow generating

properties and especially if you diversify geographically, eventually you will build up an equivalent to an annuity that has a natural inflation hedge built in, assuming you have a long term investment horizon.

*David Mayes, MBA, resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached on 085-335-8573. at david.m@faramond.com Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and advises on pensions and taxation.*

# Southern Thailand's next oasis: Trang

AS REAL estate in the markets of Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi increasingly becomes unattractive to investors and speculators due to rapid appreciation and seemingly irreversible inflation, markets in other Southern Thai provinces are beginning to bud.

Trang is one such market that speculators would be wise not to ignore.

The President of the Agency for Real Estate Affairs Company Limited (AREA), Dr Sopon Pornchokchai, PhD, recently visited the province and made a number of noteworthy observations.

Due to its ideal location along

Thailand's Andaman seaboard, Trang has high potential to develop into a regional center for property development and tourism.

The province had a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of more than 119 billion baht in 2010; With a growth of 27% since 2005, it ranked 9<sup>th</sup> of 14 Southern Thai provinces, Dr Sopon noted.

During the five-year period, Trang's private sector Consumer Price Index grew by 31%, while at the same time its Private Sector Investment Index jumped by 19%. This is compared to an increase in its Government Expenditure Index of only 4%, as well as a 32% decrease in its Expenditure on private sector Investments Index.

Total area that was requested to be developed grew by 24% in 2012 and is expected to be no less than 30% this year, Dr Sopon said.

Although revenues from the province's agriculture sector have been in decline, due mainly to the value of rubber and palm commodities plummeting in the global market, the real estate market should not be directly impacted, Dr Sopon insisted.

In 2012, construction in Trang's municipal areas covered 149,175 square meters and 117,992 sqm outside of municipal areas. Most of this was for single detached homes. Of the construction in municipality zones, 41,141sqm was for row-housing or town-houses.

Aside from this, the province saw development of just one condominium project covering 1,182 sqm. Signaling the spark of a new, potentially lucrative market, there is



**A LAND OF OPPORTUNITY:** A picturesque view of Trang Town today. Photo: Matt Koltermann

at least one more condominium project in the pipeline, with already half of its units reported sold off-plan.

Meanwhile, most of the other projects under construction are for single detached homes and town houses outside the city center, especially en route to Trang airport, where there are 10 "quality" projects underway.

Dr Sopon said that there are no indications that the property market in Trang is at risk of being flooded, since it is still in the infant stages of what appears to be a promising boom.

Dr Sopon says that Trang Airport, spanning 1,659 rai and located 8 kilometers or a 15-minute drive to the south of Trang Town, in the Tung Nang sub district, is an important factor in stimulating Trang's development and economic potential.

Although Thai Airways had abandoned the destination, new airlines, namely Nok Air and Air Asia, have



**ATTRACTIVE ASSET:** Trang's breathtaking Chao Mai Beach. Photo: Syeefa Jay

stepped up to provide four daily flights to/from the province, which has proved a boon for the local tourism industry.

Moreover, there are plans proposed to expand the airport's western runway utilizing a budget of 96 million baht, and expand the passenger terminal using an additional proposed budget of 80mn baht.

If executed, these expansion initiatives will increase the airport's

passenger load capacity from 300 up to 400 passengers per hour.

At present, the airport can handle 2,424 passengers a day.

Given continued expansion and growth in infrastructure, tourism and education, and expected increased revenues from the agricultural sector and diversification of other industries, the real estate sector in Trang is poised to prosper, Dr Sopon concluded.

— AREA / Phuket Gazette



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# Cloud computing: Forecast sunny

LATELY, I have been hearing many stories of expats and tourists in Phuket whose laptops have been stolen. Having your laptop stolen is a terrible experience. You not only feel violated, but your life was basically on that computer. Picking up the pieces can be hard, but today it can be made easier with cloud computing. Cloud computing is the ability to back up all your data and do everything in cyberspace or in the cloud.

The easiest form of cloud computing for us expats is through Google's Gmail. If you have a Gmail account, you have Google Drive. With Google Drive, you no longer need Microsoft Office. You can create a document, a spreadsheet, a presentation, keep track of your calendars, and everything is backed up on Google servers or in the cloud.

With Gmail all you need is a browser and an Internet connection. So if your laptop is stolen, all you have to do is go to an Internet cafe and access all of your important data just by logging into your Gmail account. All your documents and files will all be there on Google Drive.

A big advantage to doing everything through the cloud is that we no longer have to buy the most expensive laptop. The fastest computer with the most memory is no longer necessary. Basically all you need is a cheap laptop with wifi and a browser. So if this laptop gets stolen, it's not as problematic as before.

Now I know many of you are thinking about security and privacy. The idea of handing over our important data is concerning. But we must remember that these companies have their reputations at stake and require security measures in place. If they didn't they wouldn't have any customers. Keep in mind that the only way to access your data is with your username



Finance

By Don Freeman

and password and only you have that info.

Fortune 500 companies are now going way of the cloud. It helps them save IT costs by a tremendous amount. If Fortune 500 companies are going this route, it makes sense for us as well.

I have to tell you that cloud computing has made my life easier. I no longer have to worry about losing my data. As I travel through Thailand and back to the US, I can access all my info on my laptop or even on my smartphone. I really think cloud computing is the way of the future and I think cloud computing is a good area to be in for me and my clients.

My favorite stock is Google (GOOG). Google started as a search company, but has branched into so many other businesses. There's Gmail, Google+, Youtube, Google Drive, soon Google Glass, and they own the popular Android operating system for smartphones. The stock has been a huge winner for me coming out of the 2009 financial crisis rising from US\$300 to US\$900.

If Google is a little pricey for you, I also like Salesforce.com (CRM) stock. Salesforce.com is purely a cloud computing company. They specialize in customer relationship management or CRM. A company can assign each customer an account and everyone in the organization can collaborate remotely. According to Forbes, Salesforce.com is the most innovative company in America.

How Salesforce.com makes money is via subscriptions. Salesforce.com has its services available in over 16 different languages and has over 100,000 customers with over two million subscriptions. The stock has been a great performer as well the past five years rising several hundreds of percent.

My third favorite stock in the sector is Accenture. Accenture is the former



**IN THE CLOUDS:** Cloud computing, which enables data to be stored online and accessed via the internet, is set to make life more simpler. Photo: Michal Orel; **INSET:** IBM Cloud computing symbol.

consulting arm of Arthur Anderson that was spun off. Accenture is transitioning corporations to the cloud. Companies hire Accenture to streamline their operations and the easiest way for Accenture to do this is via the cloud. Accenture just this week invested \$400 million to boost their cloud capabilities. More and more clients are going digital and Accenture wants to help them make that transition.

What I like about Accenture is that the company has virtually no overhead. Its assets are its people. Most employees work remotely or at the client's locations. The stock has been a nice steady performer over the past five years rising from \$30 to about \$80 today. Since the company has virtually no overhead, there's no need to make costly investments. Instead, the company returns the money to shareholders. In the past 7

years, Accenture has paid out \$15.3 billion in dividends and share buybacks.

I like the cloud computing sector and it offers opportunities for the investor. If you would like to discuss cloud computing or investing in general, feel free to send me an email, call or Skype. I'm available any time to discuss technology, the global markets and the potential in cloud computing for investors.

*Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket, Thailand. He has over 15 years experience and provides personal financial planning and wealth management to expatriates. Specializing in UK and US pension transfers. Call 089-970-5795 or email: freemancapital@gmail.com*

## Asian demand for tablets and laptops insatiable

SOUTHEAST Asia's internet infrastructure has improved by leaps and bounds, spurring the increasingly connected society to seek gratification for instant connectivity via portable devices such as tablets and laptops. In the last 12 months, demand for both devices grew to hit combined sales of nearly 14.2 million units across six of the region's key markets; Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia and Philippines, reflecting a 32% growth in volume sales compared to the previous year.

Both the laptop and tablet markets in this region reported sales surge, albeit at significantly differing level of growth. Although laptops continued to make up more than half the combined sales volume at 57%, the segment's growth rate for Southeast Asia stood at 4%; whereas the fast growing tablet segment doubled in volume demand (101%) in the June 2012 to May 2013 period, compared to this same period the year before.

"Consumers in the region's developing markets eager to get their hands on the latest tablets and

laptops spurred the overall market's strong double digit growth rate in the range of 11% to 54%," commented Gerard Tan, Account Director for Digital Technology at GfK Asia. "However, it is mainly the tablet market which has been the



**XPERIA:** Sony's tablet is just one of hundreds of models on sale in Thailand. Photo: Vernon Chan

key growth propeller with four of the six countries reporting more than two-fold incremental sales volume."

Indonesia is the largest tablet market, accounting for nearly 1.3 million units or over a third of total tablet sales volume in the region, with consumers there snapping up one in every three units of all tablets sold across the six markets. Compared to the previous

year, demand for tablets in the country surged by 141% in the latest one year period. However, the most robust market appears to be the Philippines where the tablet take-up rate in the last 12 months grew at 322%.

Nearly 455,000 of these devices flew off the shelves in June 2012 to May 2013.

"It is worth highlighting that cost of tablets in all of the markets have dipped significantly over the past year, averaging at around 27% throughout the region," observed Tan.

"Not surprisingly, the competitive marketplace is inundated with countless international and local brands and models, 180 brands across Southeast Asia last year to be precise, giving consumers a wide variety of options that can suit any type of budget."

For instance, Indonesia and Thailand carry over 60 tablet brands in their respective local markets, availing consumers in the country around 300 models to choose from. Not surprising, prices of tablets are also lowest here, selling at an average price of US\$357 and US\$408, respectively. On the other hand, in

Singapore where there are only around 29 brands, the average tablet price was highest last year at US\$525.

Meanwhile laptop sales continued to surge in Indonesia and Thailand by 17% and 16% respectively, while the Philippines and Singapore fell into the negative growth range.

"Laptops are definitely facing stiff competition from tablets as they present a possibly more inexpensive and comparable option for consumers seeking a slightly

larger portable smart device with stronger capabilities than smartphones," said Tan. "However, laptops have their own unique functions and are able to perform tasks which tablets may not be able to, so both products have their own unique space in the market."

Moving forward, we can anticipate a more vibrant and competitive marketplace as manufacturers of both products come out with newer and more innovative features to vie for the consumer dollar," Tan concluded.

- GfK



**Siam International**  
38/54 Nanai Road,  
Patong, Kathu, Phuket 83150

**Siam International**

❖ Legal consultation      Contact: K. Joy  
❖ Company formations      Tel: 076 346 149  
❖ Notarial                      Fax: 076 346 150  
    certifications              Email:  
❖ Contracts                      siamint@loxinfo.co.th  
❖ Work permits  
❖ Bookkeeping  
❖ Visa service  
❖ Translations



# Bus about face

THE quiet launch last week of a new bus to shuttle tourists from the airport to Patong comes as a small dose of good news for Phuket's ailing public transport sector, which nevertheless continues to suffer from the chronic and very serious effects of collusion, self-entitlement and a blatant, goon-like disregard for the law, common decency and the greater good.

No other single issue has been the subject of more editorializing in this space, so we would like to formally applaud the operators of the new service, encourage all tourists to use it as much as possible and ask for better support from the authorities in seeing that it is eventually "allowed" to extend its route all the way to Kata and Karon.

The failure of authorities to trumpet this significant launch – instead, they persuaded the operators to keep it as low-key as possible – does not bode well for the future of public transport on the island in general, and especially not for Kata and Karon, where tuk-tuk and taxi operators continue to threaten "action" if their interests are infringed upon.

As mentioned in this space several times in the past, the inability or unwillingness of authorities to stand up to self-serving public transport syndicates, like the well-entrenched monopoly in Kata-Karon, harms Phuket's entire tourism industry and reinforces the island's reputation as a "ripoff" tourist destination.

Judging from the online comments in the English-language media about the transport situation in Phuket, some readers might be led to believe that the situation is the result of some sort of greed-driven conspiracy directed against foreign tourists.

The reality is that Phuket's reputation is also well-entrenched among residents throughout Thailand, thus costing the island untold billions of baht annually in lost revenue that could have come from domestic tourism – a too-often overlooked slice of the tourism pie.

Lack of reasonably-priced public transport of the kind that exists in every other province in the kingdom also manifests itself in other ways, such as making the island the most expensive place to live and work in the country. This has resulted not only in a chronic labor shortage, but is also one of the major contributing factors to the island's ever-worsening traffic woes.

That the transport syndicates that control Patong have allowed the bus service to operate on their turf is an encouraging sign that even those with highly-vested interests can reason and be made willing to make some measured sacrifices for the greater good.

As this issue goes to press, no incidents of protest against the new service have been received from Patong or any of the other locales through which the long-awaited route passes. We hope that the police are making some kind of behind-the-scenes efforts to ensure that the fledgling service is allowed to establish itself and give Phuket what it needs more than anything else: safe, reasonably priced public transport.



## Make a hotline to turn in dirty cops

*Re: Gazette online, First cop to be charged with trafficking suspended from force, July 15*

Now that the ice has been broken, let's hope many other of the corrupt cops are held accountable for their greed.

At worst, it may slow them down, especially if the media as a whole publicize everything and at least embarrass them to their friends and family.

A hotline on exposing police corruption would get inundated from so many people sick to death of it, but currently afraid to speak up for fear of retribution.

*Beach boy  
Gazette forum*

*The Phuket Gazette notes that the National Anti-Corruption Commission has a hotline number on its Thai website: 02-5284800-49*

### Bring on the cops

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket Governor denies foreign mafias presence in tourism industry, July 20*

More CCTV is just a waste of time and a way of lining certain pockets. Police in the UK admitted years ago that it contributes very little. More boots-on-the-ground police is what is needed.

*Mister Ree  
Gazette forum*

### Calling all scofflaws!

*Re: Gazette online, DSI called in to tackle taxis and raid foreign businesses, July 17*

As usual, pre-announce all pending raids to make sure only the truly intellectually challenged will get caught.

Absolutely useless, and a clear case of window dressing – appearing to respond to the recent complaints made by foreign envoys.

I hope the envoys take note and do not buy into this.

*Jack Doe  
Gazette forum*

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Airport bus is going in the right direction

*Re: Gazette online, Officials bow out of Phuket Airport Express bus launch, July 19*

As a regular visitor to Phuket, it's nice to see a realistic alternative to some of the over-priced transporters operating there at the moment. Definitely a step in the right direction.

I usually pay 500 to 600 baht to Patong, which I don't mind, but was quoted 1,200 baht by a few operators on my last visit. A big difference to the 120 baht charge to Patong on the new express bus.

*Johnno  
Gazette forum*

### Help for moms not up to the task

*Re: Gazette online, Fetus washes ashore in Phuket, police searching for mother, July 20*

We need a safe place for mothers to leave babies anonymously in order to help prevent this kind of horrific situation.

Malaysians have implemented the "baby hatch" system and clearly we need this here in Phuket.

*Fiona Smith  
Facebook*

### Fast bean spillers help save money

*Re: Gazette online, Child rapist confesses to raping stepdaughter repeatedly for years, July 20*

It's quite amazing how so many Thai criminals confess even before seeing a lawyer. I can only presume

the cops tell them that they will get a lesser sentence if they do.

Pity the rest of the world cannot copy them as it would save billions in legal and court fees.

But then one wonders what sort of sentence this guy will get as a result of his confession.

*Dave  
Gazette forum*

### K Uten's got it right

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Saving swimmers by keeping them out of the sea, July 21*

Khun Uten is absolutely right – the biggest problem faced by lifeguards is in trying to make people understand that what they see as a beautiful beach washed by the warm waves of the sea could really be the last thing they ever see if they don't take notice of the lifeguards' instructions.

In Australia, beach safety is drummed into us from the time we are first at school.

*Greer  
Gazette forum*

### Sea warnings needed from day one

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Enigmatic beach flags, Saturday, July 20*

When leading tourist transfers from the airport to hotels, I never forget to warn our guests about sea dangers during the rainy season. (I never use term "green" to describe that season.)

I always explain the red flags. It is compulsory information for all our transfer leaders to provide.

I'm not sure about the results, but for 12 years nobody on our tours has drowned. And now we are working out audio for the transfer which also includes this info.

*Slava  
Gazette forum*

## Phuket Gazette

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**Managing Editor – News:** Isaac Stone Simonelli  
**Managing Editor – Features:** Steven W. Layne  
**News Manager:** Chris Husted

**Managing Director:** Oranee Hildebrand  
**General Manager:** Natthira Susangrat  
**Publisher:** The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

**Contact us:**

**Editorial:** news@phuketgazette.net  
**Advertising Sales:** adsales@phuketgazette.net  
**Classified Advertising:** classads@phuketgazette.net  
**Website services:** anna@phuketgazette.net  
**Gazette Guide:** guide@phuketgazette.net  
**Events Sponsorship:** events@phuketgazette.net  
**General:** info@phuketgazette.net

**Telephone:** 076 273555 (10 lines) **Fax** 076 615240  
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket

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# Snakes in the house, who you gonna call?

## FIRST PERSON

WE'VE been getting a lot of calls from people about snakes lately, and we catch a lot of them, almost one a day. They come into people's houses and cars. It's the rainy season and the snakes are trying to find a dry place.

The snakes might bother people, but there's no point in blaming them; they're not trespassing, we are. The jungle and rainforests used to be their home, and now we are encroaching on their area by building more and more houses all over the island.

I understand that more people are coming to Phuket and we need more land for them to live on, but we need to find a way to share the space with the local wildlife.

We should be very strict on not allowing construction in national parks and we should restrict building on hillsides, which requires cutting down a lot of trees. In this way, we can reserve some land for the animals.

If you ask me whose side I'm on, I'll say I'm on the snake's, because they aren't aggressive. They're scared of people. That's why I'm not scared of them. I've never been attacked or



**Watchara Srikacha**, 26, has been catching snakes since he was 10 years old. Originally from Sisaket province in Thailand's Northeast, Watchara has been working with the Kusoldharm Foundation since he came to Phuket almost five years ago. Part of his job is catching snakes.

Here, he explains why more and more snakes are appearing in residential areas in Phuket.

bitten by a snake.

I learned to catch snakes by myself when I was about 10 years old. Snakes used to come into our house, and when only my sister and I were at home, it was up to me to catch them.

At Kusoldharm, there are more

than 10 of us who can catch snakes. When we receive a snake call, we usually send out two people.

One trick we use is to play with them before we catch them – we make them move around until they get tired out. Then they're easier to catch.

The longest king cobra I ever caught was about five meters. It was bigger around than my arms.

After we catch them, we let them go in a forest. We normally take them to hills behind Patong, where we believe they will be safe. We make sure to leave them on relatively flat surfaces, so they won't get swept away by water when it rains.

And we make sure that we set them free far from where people live. We don't want them to bite people and we don't want people to kill them.

People shouldn't try to catch a snake by themselves, even ones that are not poisonous.

One time a guy caught a python by himself, thinking it wasn't dangerous because it wasn't venomous. But he was bitten really badly on the arm.

When snakes bite, they sometimes pull your flesh off. That guy's wound couldn't be sutured. Just because they're not poisonous doesn't mean they won't bite you.

Even those of us who have a lot of experience have to be very careful whenever we catch them.

Call us anytime at 076-246301.



'If you ask me who's side I'm on, I'll say I'm on the snakes, because they are not aggressive.'



Promises, promises... and don't forget the tit for tat. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

## The road not taken

### Island View

By Damian Evans

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

AFTER a road trip off island, a resounding thump lets you know you've arrived back home.

I can't drive anywhere in Phuket anymore without crater divots and potholes lurking in front of me, threatening to bring my motorbike scuttling to the ground or sending a wheel on my car scraping high into its arch.

Each time I stop at a particular set of traffic lights on Sakdidee Road, I face a billboard featuring Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra smiling blankly at me with the words emblazoned in Thai above her, "20 Years of Waiting." She's right. And we're still waiting...

The slogan is a reference to how the Pheu Thai administration will finally deliver unto Phuket the long-awaited Klong Koh Pee elevated road project, blessed by the mighty Cabinet whose special dispensation is needed to build such a road over a protected mangrove forest.

Phuket was unable to get that dispensation for the International Convention and Exhibition Center (ICEC), which would also have encroached on mangroves, but the Klong Koh Pee elevated road is a pet project of former Phuket governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop, who now serves as a party list senator and as a member of the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism. Funny how it got the green light.

I do not blame the local Highways Department officials for the state of Phuket's roads. They do

what they can, as shown by the resurfacing of the bypass road and the novel introduction of the Koh Kaew u-turn.

And they are right to keep wailing about how their budgets are set by the registered population, instead of the number of people actually on the island and using the creaking infrastructure. The restricted funds greatly hamper Phuket's development.

If Deputy Prime Minister Plodprasop Suraswadi wants Phuket people to vote for Pheu Thai – which he made plain at the opening of the Chiang Mai Convention Center – Pheu Thai should consider doing something that serves the needs of people here, keeping in mind that pleasing Phuket people – many of whom come from elsewhere in Thailand – means good press in other provinces too.

Chanchai Doungjit of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket office last month was happy to report Phuket is attracting 11 million visitors per year, generating about 200 billion baht for the local economy.

Mr Plodprasop, is there any chance Phuket can get a slice of that pie?

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

### Big cheese entitled to medical coverage too

For years I have lived and worked in Phuket and paid social security contributions for myself and four staff. My staff are entitled to free medical cover.

I asked my accountant why I did not have a medical card and was told that as a director I was not entitled to one. If that is so, why am I paying social security?

*Swerw Thalang*

**Suda Salika, an officer at the Phuket Social Security Office, replies:**

If you have been paying every month, you should have a medical card. Your position is not relevant.

If you never received a card, please stop by our office at 15/4 Amphur Rd, Talad Yai, in Phuket Town or call us at 076-240411-8.

## Who is in charge of elephants in Phuket?

I heard that Phu Thai Souvenir Market was raided by police not long ago because they had an elephant in the sun all day to entertain tourists.

I just saw that they have a new baby elephant on their premises under a bamboo roof. Last week I saw the poor thing twice walking up and down the Chao Fa Road towards the Phu Thai Souvenir Market.



An elephant ticket. Photo: Gazette file

Illegal elephants are a hot topic at the moment, and it might be worth investigating this animal.

Do you know where I can file a report? Perhaps the police or a government official can check for permits or something.

*Lennard Phuket*

**Phuket Livestock Office Chief Weerasit Putthipairoj replies:**

If you have any doubts about illegalities involving elephants, you can report it to the police, in your case, Chalong Police 076-381930, and they will check the operator and the elephant, then contact me and the Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary in Thalung if they need more information.

Thank you for informing me about this case. I will contact the

Chalong Police and the chief at the Khao Phra Thaeo park to see if we can set up a team to inspect the elephant camp again.

There are three organizations which are responsible for elephants: Phuket Livestock Office (076-218596), Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary (076-318065) and the police.

The Livestock Office makes sure that elephants have the necessary documents to cross provincial borders and have appropriate places to stay.

We also keep a complete register of all elephants legally entitled to be kept in Phuket. Legal elephants have a registration document sometimes called a "ticket", which includes photos of the elephant, its registration number, microchip

number, the names of its mother and father, and the registered owner's name and address.

We also regulate and provide health services for elephants, and can investigate and take action on any reports of elephants being abused or mistreated.

We conduct our own checks, but the officials at Khao Phra Thaeo and the police are empowered to carry out checks as well.

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

## 10TH ANNUAL CAPE PANWA HOTEL PHUKET RACEWEEK



Michael Kealy



Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa (center) gave a speech for the official opening of Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2013 and joined in for a group photo with one of the racing teams.



Raceweek competition yacht Won Ma Rang's crew.



The team from Asia Superyacht Rendezvous (from left): Gordon Fernandes, Charlie Dwyer and Kaye Smith, also attended the opening party.



(Left to right) Simon James, Duncan Worthington and Co-Organizer of Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek Mr Byron Jones.



Raceweek competition yacht Oil's crew who later sailed away with top honors in the IRC Racing I class.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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

## JOB of the week



**HUGHES  
KRUPICA**

International Legal Services

**See page 27**

## PROPERTY of the week



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**MANDALA**  
VILLAS & CONDOMINIUMS

**See page 23**

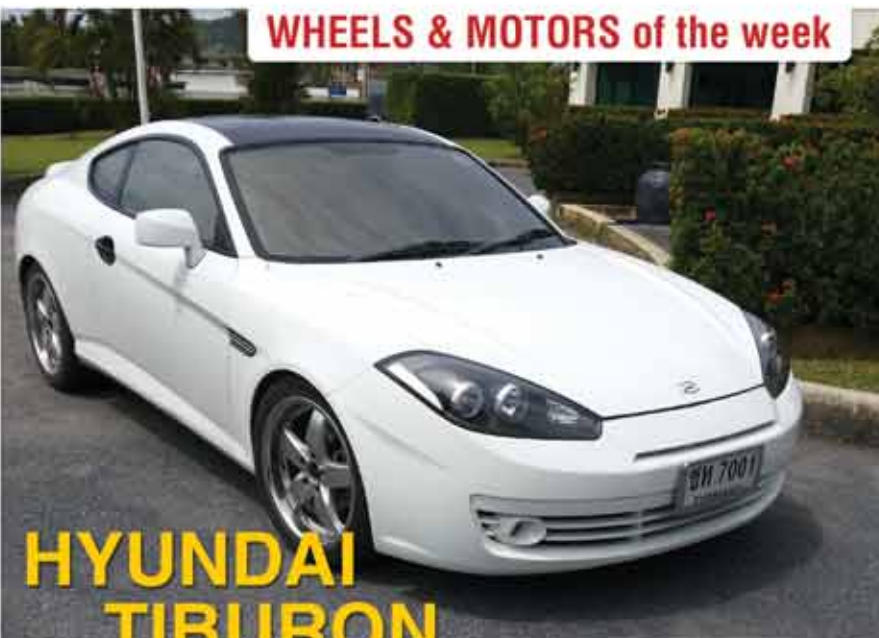
## BOAT of the week

**LEE MARINE**  
*International Marine Brokerage*  
SINCE 1997



**See page 31**

## WHEELS & MOTORS of the week



**HYUNDAI  
TIBURON**

**See page 30**

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# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Sale

### 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.

### PATONG SEAVIEW BUILDING LAND

A large (1,048sqm) building plot on the andaman mountain, overlooking Patong Beach. Concrete road, electricity and water. Only 8 million baht. Tel: +44-788-948 8091. Or contact Ron Crane at craneprop@hotmail.co.uk

### INVESTMENT PATONG CONDO

Bangla Suites condo, 60sqm. For sale: 6 million baht. 2.5 million baht discount. Share transfer costs. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata37@gmail.com www.southernfriedrice.com

### LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

### 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.

### KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



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

### 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 & 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.

### 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

### BOAT LAGOON LAND

Land in Boat Lagoon Park Residence, 664sqm, 7.5 million baht. Chanote. Negotiable. Tel: 088-826 5766, 087-621 1299 (English).

### 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.

### 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

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

### 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's. Ready to move in October 2013. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana.1225@gmail.com

### LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

### CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

Close to Phuket International Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com

### THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



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



### Land For Sale In Patong

74 square wah (296sqm). 3 Chanote titles. Clean underground water. Located on Pisitkaranee Road (main road). This land allows for 3 apartments of 6-7 floors maximum.

Call owner. Tel: 081-370 0162.



### Condominium available for sale

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E-mail: info@baanyamu.com

Tel: 076-310507



### HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

### KRABI, AO NANG

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

### 5-VILLA RESORT KAMALA BEACH

This 5-villa resort is located in the resort beach area of Kamala Beach. Fitted with good quality equipment and fully furnished. This is an ideal opportunity to take over multiple villas as part of a fully functioning business in a popular resort destination. Office phone: 076-279280-81. Email: harold.mccarthy@gmail.com Further info at www.Phillips-Property.com listing # 1109.

### BARGAIN RAWAI LAND

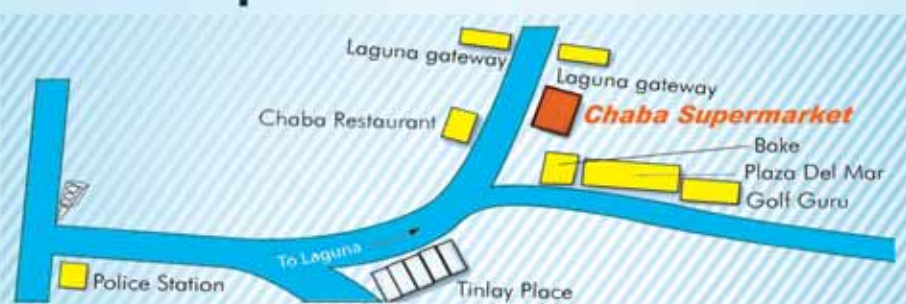
High walled, square plot, views. Chanote 640sqm. Price negotiable. Tel: 076-613227, 085-782 7551.

### KATHU GOLF VIEW

Large house with 7 bedrooms and swimming pool, nice golf view at the back yard. 10 mins to all shopping malls, and 10-15 mins to all international schools. Please email info@procarpentering.com for more info and price. No agents, please. Tel: 081-271 3228.

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### 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.



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



# Property Classifieds

## Properties For Rent



### 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**

### SEAVIEW VILLA WITH POOL

2-bedroom villa with lovely garden, koi pond, pool with sala. 3 bedrooms, sea view. 40,000 baht per month, long term. Tel: 086-279 6283. Email: jondskinner@hotmail.com

### KATA BEACH FURNISHED APARTMENTS

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

### CHEAP RENT

For 3 months. Large pool villa, live in luxury, near Laguna. Tel: 089-594 4067.

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

1-3 bedrooms, Chalong area + Panwa area. Start from 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

### BEAUTIFUL VILLA FOR RENT

In Rawai. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Fully furnished. Long-term rent: 50,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-873 0117.

### LOFT STYLE FLATS

Furnished, 10,000-12,000 baht per month. Could be home office. Good exercise location. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

### KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

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

### B.L. APARTMENT

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

### 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

### 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.

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



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

### 2 SHOPHOUSES FOR RENT

Low rent! Can make business on the ground floor. Huge 2nd floor, fully furnished as 2-bedroom apartment with separate stairs to go up. Big kitchen and living area. Rental includes furniture. Tel: 084-189 7696 (English & Thai). Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

### SEAVIEW POOL VILLA FOR RENT

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

## Luxury Condos For Rent - Bangtao

135,000 baht per month

Available on September 1st, 2013

**Call: 081-970 0240 or 089-867 7154**

### 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

### 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.

### SEA VIEW LAND FOR RENT

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

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

### 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

### STUDIOS FOR RENT

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

### 2-BED APARTMENT PATONG

2 bathrooms, pool, WiFi, kitchen, fully furnished, 15,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

### POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

Available August 2013. 2,500 baht per night. Tel: 082-420 7052.

### STUDIOS FOR RENT

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

### 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.

### FOR RENT



Vassana Residence. 3 exclusive luxury apartment in Rawai. Each apartment comprises of 2 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, large European style kitchen and living room, large balconies back and front with sweeping views over Rawai and Andaman Sea, LCD TV, WiFi. Ground floor swimming pool and a rooftop whirlpool where you can relax and take in the sea and mountain views. Each apartment also has its own private whirlpool. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at [www.premierpropertiesphuket.com](http://www.premierpropertiesphuket.com)

### PATONG 2-BEDROOM APARTMENTS

Large pool, car parking, maid, cable, WiFi, laundry, security and more. Be quick. Tel: 088-413 8122. Email: phkrealstate@aol.com

### 3 BEDROOMS CHALONG

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

### SAVE 5-STAR VILLA

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



## Household Items

Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, built-in, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethomeaintenance@yahoo.com

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



**BARMAN - SOUS CHEF - WAITRESS**

Barman, sous chef and waitress Wanted. Tel: 081-895 5852. Please call or email to phuket8757@gmail.com

**GUEST RELATIONS**

Thai national only. Must have car driver's license. Must have excellent English written and spoken skills. Please email for details. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**ENGLISH SPEAKING SALES GIRL**

Needed to manage a small souvenir shop in Phuket Town. Good salary and commission. Start immediately, 6 days per week. Tel: 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

**REAL ESTATE REPS NEEDED**

Phuket's leading agency is looking for more reps to join our team. You should have extensive experience in sales and have an excellent knowledge of Phuket island and its districts. A car and driver's licence is a plus. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

**SENIOR ACCOUNTANT WANTED**

Thai national only. Degree in Accounting + 5 years professional experience. Excellent English skills, drivers license and Quickbooks experience. Send email for job requirements and responsibilities. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**DIVE SHOP**

In Kata, is looking for female staff. Tel: 089-874 9147.

**FOREIGNER SECRETARY WANTED**

Looking for a foreign national secretary who has a driver's licence and can speak very good English. Email: web@bayshoreprojects.com

**PRIVATE IN-HOME TUTOR**

For 6-year-old in Ao Po. Experience and own transportation required. Email CV: Nomadic Investor@gmail.com

**HEALTHY FOOD CHEF WANTED**

Manage healthy food kitchen. Speak English. Good salary. Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: liam@phuketfit.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

**PROMOTERS WANTED**

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

**WEB MASTER/ GRAPHIC DESIGNER**

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

**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

**DRIVER WANTED**

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

**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

**WANTED: DESIGNER, WEB MASTER**

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@princessyachtsthailand.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](http://www.newspaperdirect.com)

**URGENTLY REQUIRE**

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

**CLEANER WANTED**

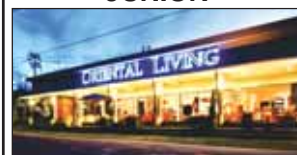
Located on Surin Beach. Fluent spoken English, cleaning and helping in the villa. Contact Jariya. Tel: 081-367 7965 (English & Thai). Email: mayphu@hotmail.com

**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

**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)

**WAITRESS WANTED**

Thai national, English speaking, Kata Beach. Please call. Tel: 081-895 5852

**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

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

Thai male/female, 25-40 years old, fluent in English, good computer & communication skills, self motivated, background in marketing/real estate/travel agency is plus. Tel: 087-267 3747 (English). CV to helenah@phuketabc.com

**SALESPERSON WANTED**

Must live permanently in Thailand and organise own residency status. Must speak fluent Thai and English. Must have experience selling food/ alcohol to executive chefs and purchasing managers. Experienced in food service. Must have own car. Only people meeting all above criteria need apply. Please send resume to george\_d@jagota.com

**TEACHERS WANTED**

We currently have the following job positions available: 1 x full-time English teacher, female under 35 years old, Degree + TEFL or CELTA. Must be from an N.E.S country: UK, USA, AUS, CD or NZ. 1 x part-time English teacher, N.E.S. + SA, TEFL, male/female under 40 years old. 1 x part-time Russian teacher. English teacher applicants must be good with young students. Tel: 091-647 5465. Email: giles@ecc.ac.th

**Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:****CHALONG**

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

**PATONG**

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

**PHUKET CITY**

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

**CHERNG TALAY**

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

**RAWAI**

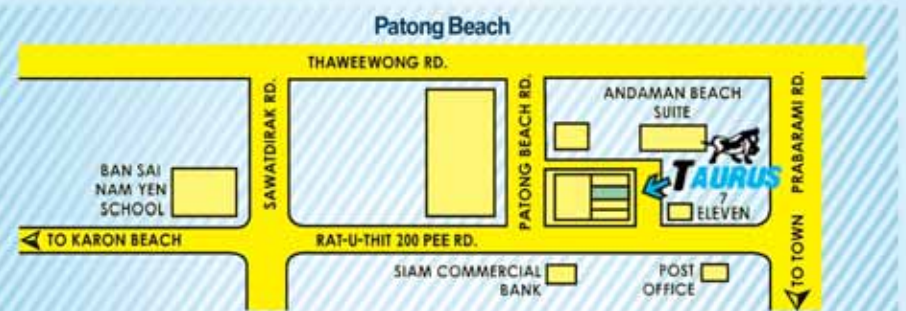
- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

**KARON**

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

## Live in Patong?

### Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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



**HEALTH FOOD COOK**

Organize and control Health Food Kitchen. Thai national Only. Good English language skills required. Email: info@phuketfit.com

**GYM ATTENDANT WANTED**

Good salary. 1pm - 10pm. Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**2 WAITRESSES WANTED**

Good salary. Speak English. Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**HOUSEKEEPER - SURIN BEACH**

A self-motivated person to clean in detail and make beautiful. Must love cats and speak English. Live in villa and have references. Tel: 083-103 1330.

**TELEMARKETER WANTED**

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

**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

**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

**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

**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

**MAID / HOUSEKEEPER**

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

**Phuket Gazette**

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

**WEB PROGRAMMER**

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

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

**KINDERGARDEN IN CHALONG**

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

**FRONT DESK STAFF - SAMUI**

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

**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

**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

**OAK MEADOW INTERNATIONAL**

The following positions are open in our school:  
- Qualified Thai Teacher  
- Cook  
- Cleaning lady  
Tel: 084-847 0732. Email: intlicense@yahoo.com

**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 9 6 3 2. Email: photomorphimages@



**HUGHES KRUPICA**

**Translator / Admin assistant****Key Responsibilities and demand qualifications:**

- Male or Female
- Bachelor's Degree or higher
- Translating legal materials and documents from English to Thai and Thai to English
- Accuracy and attention to detail
- Self-motivated and able to work under pressure
- Enthusiasm for learning new things.
- Proficient in computer skills- Microsoft office skills
- Perform other administrative tasks as required

**Salary:** Competitive

**Location:** Hughes Krupica Consulting Company Limited (Phuket)

**Job Type:** 9:00 - 18:00 / Mon.- Fri.  
Full Time, Permanent

Please send your CV in English to email: Chidchanok@hugheskrupica.com or tel: +66 86 9606609

**COFFEE & ICE CREAM**

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

**COORDINATOR WANTED**

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

**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

**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

**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

**FITNESS INSTRUCTOR / SALES**

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

**Employment Wanted****EXPAT HANDYMAN / DRIVER**

Villa maintenance and handy with tools. Tel: 093-784 0784 (English & Thai). Email: vipcc.cl68@gmail.com

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**Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at iTree Complete Printing Service**

**Tesco Lotus** Phuket Town  
**Bangkok Bank**  
**Adidas** **Boots**  
**McDonald**  
**Sangho**  
**GATE 3**

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

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Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!)



## Business Opportunities

**POPULAR RESTAURANT FOR SALE**

No key money, 9+ years remaining on contract. Plus company (2 work permits) + car. Google Grill Bill Kamala. Tel: 081-089 0543 (English). Email: iii\_sunny\_iii@yahoo.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

**SURIN BEACH CLUB FOR RENT**

Great location, approx 500 sqm of beach front with sunbeds. Full service kit-chen; seating capacity of 150+. Tel: 091-034 1200 (English). Email: issam.tawil@gmail.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).

**HOUSE&BUSINESS ON 24 RAI**

For sale. Tired of the traffic and high prices of Phuket? Or just want a weekend getaway? I have built in Farang spec and style, a beautiful retreat, a main house with 2 big garages, a guesthouse with garage, a bungalow and a 900sqm exercise gym. It all rests on 24 rai and is currently a working shrimp farm, but could be used for many purposes, located 2 hours north of the island. Price: 12 million baht, this price will not last long, the houses are worth more than 12 million baht. Please call 081-728 8269 or email to jrp@loxinfo.co.th

**HOTEL - 24 ROOMS OCEAN VIEW**

Nice location, 1km from Patong Beach, 10 apartments, 14 rooms. 49 million baht. Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

**STEAKHOUSE NEAR BEACH**

Texas Steakhouse for sale. Lease on 4.5 years. Rent: 40,000 baht per month. Staff and equipment, Thai company included. Turnkey. Asking 2.5 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 085-215 8660. Email: fstailslide@hotmail.com

**AGENTS NEEDED**

Excellent commission. Contact Nick Welsby at nick@forestech.asia for further information.

**HOTEL BEACHFRONT PATONG - RENT**

The best location in Patong Beach, seaview, fully furnished, 16 rooms, very good occupancy rates. Opportunities. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

**REAL ESTATE REPS NEEDED**

Phuket's Leading Agency is looking for new experienced property consultants. You should have extensive sales background and knowledge of Phuket Island and its districts. High earnings is expected for top reps. For more details, please call 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

**PROFITABLE BAR & GRILL**

Profit making Sports Bar & Grill in Nai Yang Beach. Everything included. Buy today, be open tomorrow. First come bargain price, 950,000 baht. For more information, please call 084-852 4257 (English). Email: bobcoppage@yahoo.com

**HOTEL BEACHFRONT PATONG - SALE**

For sale or rent. 20m from the beach, well-furnished, 38 rooms, swimming pool, restaurant, parking, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. Opportunity. Long-term contract. Contact Mark. Tel: 080-141 6040.

**RAWAI INVESTMENT**

We run a business in Chalong that has paid back 50% of its cash investment in the first year of operation. An opportunity for a similar business exists in Rawai. This is not a hotel, guesthouse, restaurant, dive shop, car rental or real estate. This business benefits Thai society as a whole and is neutral on the environment. We are looking for 1-3 equity investors to make a total 20 million baht investment. Email: tayana55islandgirl@yahoo.com

**RESORT FOR LEASE**

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

**SPORT BAR AND GUESTHOUSE**

Karon Beach. 9 en-suite rooms and laundry, bar equipped with pool table, 4 screens, kitchen. For more information, please call 085-795 0875.

**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

## 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

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

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

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

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐  
☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)  
☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)  
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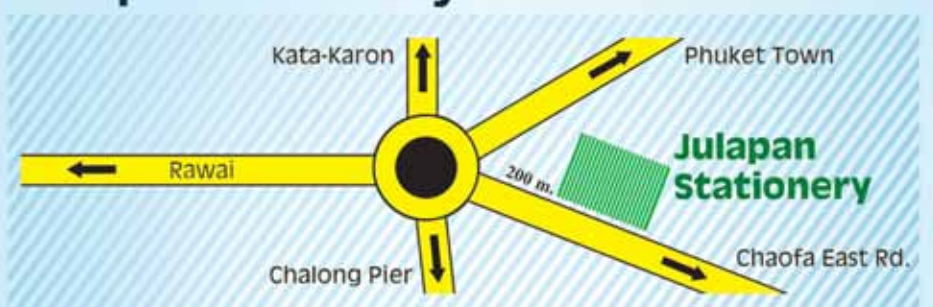
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Lumpoons Coffee House.  
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**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**

Price: 550,000 baht, full family membership, including transfer and 2013 fees. Tel: 085-299 9437 Email: [pumonholiday@gmail.com](mailto:pumonholiday@gmail.com)

**PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB**

Family lifetime membership, transfer fee and this year's subscription. 570,000 baht. Tel: 076-283288, 081-273 7326. Fax: 076-283288. Email: [keithmarshall747@gmail.com](mailto:keithmarshall747@gmail.com)

## Television Sets

**SATELLITE TV THAILAND HD**

Satellite TV Thailand. We provide all sorts of satellite TV, including HD satellite service. You can order on line. We ship cash on delivery anywhere in Thailand. We also accept Paypal for international orders. Tel: 080-694 0663 (English & Thai), 089-821 3772. Email: [sales@thailandproperty.com](mailto:sales@thailandproperty.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.satellitettvthailand.com](http://www.satellitettvthailand.com)

## Notice

**CSENKI CO LTD**

74/8-9 Moo 2, Chao Fa West Road, T Vichit, A. Mueang Phuket 83000 Thailand

**Csenki Company Limited**

74/8-9 Moo 2, Vichit Sub-district, Mueang Phuket District, Phuket Province

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2013

Re: 6<sup>th</sup>/2013 Shareholder Extraordinary Meeting Invitation

To: Shareholders of Csenki Co., Ltd.

Attachment: Power of Attorney, copy of the request letter of the extraordinary meeting

Whereas, Csenki Co., Ltd. is making an announcement that the 6<sup>th</sup>/2013 extraordinary meeting shall be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2013 at 11:30 am at the address of 74/8-9 Moo 2, Vichit Sub-District, Mueang Phuket District, Phuket Province Postal code 83000, with the following agenda:

1. To consider amendment of Clause 5. (Capital) of the Memorandum of Association.
2. To consider extraordinary resolution for capital increase.
3. To consider other topics (if any).

I would like to invite you to attend the extraordinary meeting on such date, time, and place as mentioned above and in the event that you are not able to attend the extraordinary meeting for any reason please kindly appoint a representative to take part in the extraordinary meeting on your behalf and submit the Power of Attorney form with copies of ID-cards or Passports from both the Proxy and the Attorney on the date of the extraordinary meeting.

Sincerely yours

(Mr. Jozsef Czink)  
Managing Director



Phone: +66(0)86 470 4065, +66(0)86 470 4066, Fax: +66(0)76 248 099  
[www.phuketaquapark.com](http://www.phuketaquapark.com), [management@phuketaquapark.com](mailto:management@phuketaquapark.com)

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## Miscellaneous For Sale

**DINING CHAIRS FOR SALE**

6 white leather dining chairs for sale. 2,000 baht each or best offer. Buyer collects. Tel: 081-978 2725.

## Personal Services

**INTERPRETER & TRANSLATOR**

In court and business. Tel: 076-273399, 089-873 6533. Email: [phuketinterpreter@gmail.com](mailto:phuketinterpreter@gmail.com)

## Pets

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HOME!



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## Personals

**BACKGAMMON**

Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443.  
Email: [phuketconnection@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketconnection@yahoo.com)

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- Twin Generators
- Radar
- GPS
- Water Maker
- Auto Pilot

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► Azimut 43S (2009) <b>368,000 Euro</b>	► Sea Ray 460 (2009) <b>6,900,000 THB</b> <b>THAI FLAGGED</b>	► Wally Tender (2007) <b>\$438,000 USD</b> <b>THAI FLAGGED</b>	► Riviera 37 (2003) <b>\$265,000 USD</b>
► Catana 50 (2009) <b>\$795,000 USD</b>	► Bavaria 39 Cruiser (2006) <b>99,000 Euro</b> <b>THAI FLAGGED</b>	► Mumm 30 (2002) <b>\$38,888 USD</b>	► Swan 65 42 (2007) <b>\$330,000 USD</b>

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

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

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

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

**leemarine.com**

**MASON 43 CUTTER (1982)**

Perkins 4108 diesel, reduced to AUD\$79,000. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

**RIVA HULL**

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

**ONAN 12KVA MARINE GENERATOR**

Fully operational generator with full sound shield and wet muffler exhaust. Model number 12 MDL3P, 1996 model, only 4,000 running hours. Tel: 081-375 2590 (English). Email: stuart.winters@hotmail.com

**JET-SKI: YAMAHA SUPERJET 2012**

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

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paew@lambertbrothers.co.th  
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

[www.lambertbrothers.co.th](http://www.lambertbrothers.co.th)

**SEAHORSE MARINE 36' TRAWLER**

2007. Cummins 270hp diesel, aircon, generator. Great little boat! US\$99,950. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 087-283 1674. Email: boats@andamanboat sales.com

**SEA RAY 175 SPORT**

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

**BOAT YARD OPENING**

Hard stand, 250 baht per foot per month. Repairs done, fibreglassing, painting, and stainless steel. Tel: 082-839 7701.

**SUNSEEKER YACHT FOR SALE**

Sunseeker Caribbean 52ft, 1992. Located in Ao Po Grand Marina. 2.7 million baht. Tel: 087-626 0495. Email: dan.soft.studio@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://gen2gdk.com/jitlada/>

**NEW 2013 BAYLINER 175 SPE**

New 2013 Bayliner Special Package by Bayliner Thailand. Gavanized trailer, bimini, top stereo system. Special price for this last unit: only 790,000 baht. Tel: 081-754 7599. Email: csutivas@gmail.com

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**2008 Catana 50**  
**USD 795,000**

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**MOONSOON FOR SALE**

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

**SPEEDBOAT FOR SALE**

18ft Bayliner fiberglass body, 200hp (EFI) Mercury engine with blue book includes trailer, anchor, cover. Price 260,000 baht. Tel: 086-948 0095 (English). Email: reza.shahverdy@gmail.com

**TAYANA 55 (1985)**

Perkins 135hp diesel. Many recent upgrades. US\$295,000. For details contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

**SEVENSTAR YACHT TRANSPORT**

Official booking office for safe and reliable yacht transport to over 44 destinations worldwide. Call: Chris Jongerius at 086 045 4634 (English) or email chris@sevenstar-thailand.com

**BOAT FOR SALE**

Semi-rigid 150hp, 2 stroke, trailer, aluminium tank 100 liter, GPS, Sonar. Price: 650,000 baht. Tel: 089-289 8628 (English), 080-144 6022 (Thai).

**63FT PINISI KETCH FOR SALE**

Well equipped, looks great, good condition. Must sell, only 2.5 million baht. Tel: 086-690 0444 (English & Thai). Email: ricosta@gmail.com

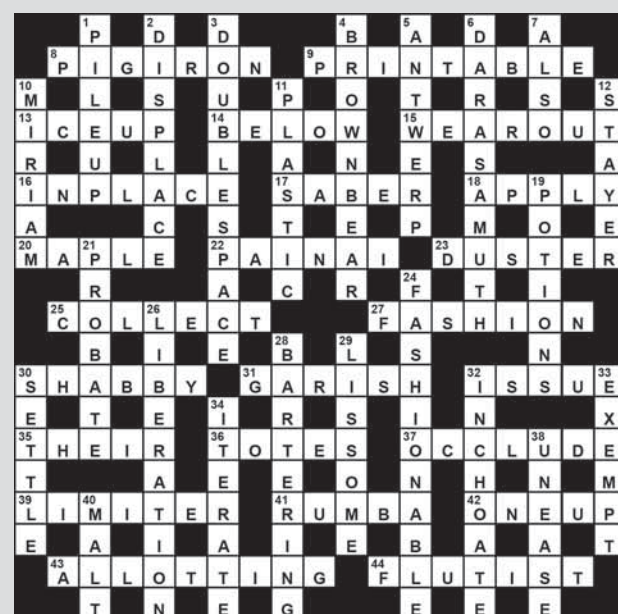
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**THAI WOODEN BOAT**

36ft, Isuzu 110hp, Radio Furuno Fish Finder. 300,000 baht. Tel: 083-102 7801.

**Looking for a boat?**  
See more classified ads  
at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)

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



# Aircraft For Sale

## YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: [pat@aeropromgr.com](mailto:pat@aeropromgr.com)

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Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

## HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

## TECNAM P-92

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

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



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

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

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

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



**Built: 1976**

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



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

### Specs:

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

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

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

**Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email [tony\\_scragg@hotmail.com](mailto:tony_scragg@hotmail.com)**



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(Left to right) Managing Director of Boat Development Panupong Kritchanarat, Phuket Gazette Events Manager Kanjana Sriboonsom and President of Boat Development Boon Yongsakul.

# OFFICIAL OPENING BYPASS BIZ TOWN



Panupong Kritchanarat, Managing Director of Boat Development

# LOVE IS ALL AROUND



Randeep and Navneet's Wedding at JW Marriott Phuket.

# PATONG HOSPITAL BENEFITS FROM KEE KINDNESS



Assistant to Director of Patong Hospital Doctor Muanphra Bunlom (center), and staff presented a certificate of appreciation on July 19 to KEE Resort & Spa management for donations made to the hospital totalling half a million baht. Accepting the certificate on behalf of the KEE Resort were Managing Director Surasak Somnam, Executive Directors Ms Samornpun Somnam (second from right) and Mr Tanapong Somnam (right).







Miss Philippines.



Miss Malaysia.



Miss Indonesia. Photos: Dream Hotel Bangkok

# Miss Southeast Asian 2013

DREAM Hotel Bangkok recently hosted a sexy charity party for Miss Southeast Asian 2013 to help support the FORDEC Foundation. The party was highlighted by three sets of fashion shows including heritage costume, cocktail and evening gown presentations by the beautiful

contestants from Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Cambodia.

The Miss Southeast Asian Beauty Pageant promotes the personal and cultural attributes of young Southeast Asian women beyond their physical beauty and

united them to share common values and foster friendship and understanding. The Foundation for Rehabilitation and Development of Children and Family (FORDEC) is a non-profit, charitable organization dedicated to helping children, youth, families and the aged who are poor, handi-

capped, wandering, homeless, people addicted to drugs, abused, HIV/AIDS afflicted or just generally living in difficult circumstances. The Foundation provides material assistance for survival and opportunities for physical and intellectual growth to uplift these people's living conditions.

# Classical concert for an urgent cause

AN ENSEMBLE of 10 top-flight classical musicians accompanied by 100 students performed a free concert in Phuket on Tuesday to raise funds for Myanmar refugee children living near the border town of Sangkhlaburi, in Kanchanaburi province.

The two-hour concert, was held at the Andaman Embrace Resort and Spa on Haad Patong Road.

The ensemble of Korean musicians operates under an organization called Concert World and travels abroad to perform charity concerts twice a year, explained Sangsoo "John" Han, Regional Director of World Share Thailand.

"The Concert World benefit performances have been taking place for 13 years now, and this concert was organized by World Share," he added.

Most of the refugee families make broomsticks for a living, earning about 1,000 baht per family per month. There are no sewers and 60 per cent of households in the village do not have toilets.

Around 50,000 refugees live in the Sangkhla Buri jungle close to the Myanmar border. The refugees are restricted to the

area, with no electricity or running water in their homes.

Most of the refugee families make broomsticks for a living, earning about 1,000 baht per family per month. There are no sewers and 60 per cent of households in the village do not have toilets. To alleviate the conditions the refugees are living in, World Share is raising funds to provide a dormitory, nourishing food and medical services, and to support a border school.

The United Nations refugee villages in the area will no longer receive support from December next year, and the dormitories the refugee children currently stay in while receiving what education is available are already deteriorated and in the process of moving to a pay-for system.

"We would like to provide a dormitory for students around the ages of 10-15 and to help them to enter university or to become a working members of society," World Share says.

In order to do that, World Share will provide accommodation, meals, pocket money, uniforms, textbooks, education and scholarships, if the children are accepted to a university.

Among the medical services to be provided is care for 15-year-old Suri, who was born with webbed fingers and toes and a fused spine, which prevents her from moving her arms and legs. She can't chew properly, so her food needs to be chewed or otherwise ground down for her.

Suri's mother passed away eight months after giving birth to her younger sister, so her father is homebound to take care of her and cannot work outside.

World Share's support for medical services for Suri started on May 6, after staff received a letter from Sangkhlaburi Hospital.

World Share asked the cost and availability of surgery for the girl, and on June 24, through the help of the Sangkhlaburi District Office, Suri and her father travelled to Sirirat Hospital in Bangkok for an expert.

A second checkup will take place on September 4 and an operation is scheduled for September 27. According to doctors, Suri will be able to hold things after surgery. She will even be able to walk and use her arms after physical therapy.

"However, the operation on her spine is impossible," the report said.



CLASSICAL: Conductor Lee Heeduk.

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Fax: 076-304190 e-mail: adsale53@gmail.com

**Phukhao advertising** CO., LTD.

# Time to party with precision

IT'S hard not to love Phuket's international community if for nothing else than for the party opportunities it provides. After all we've only just finished celebrating French and Belgian national days and there's another feast! Swiss National Day on August 1 will be celebrated in style at the The Moevenpick Resort & Spa. The party takes place at the same venue for the fifth time and is organized by the Swiss Society in Phuket. Keeping in mind that Switzerland is a country of immense culinary tradition, when you learn that they have the highest per capita

number of Michelin stars in the world, the menu looks even more inviting. Veal Zurich Style, Classic Beef Tartar, Sea Bass Thurgau and a selection of Swiss and international cheeses are just a few of the dishes on offer alongside Swiss wines and desserts. The event starts at 6:30pm, the tickets are 1500 baht and the organizer expect around 90 people to show up. In all this pomp you might forget what the Swiss are celebrating on that day: In 1291 a Federal Charter was signed one of many documents marking the beginning of the Swiss state.



A patriotic swiss dairy cow.



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**Jul 27-28, 2013, 6pm-2am, Seafood & Prawn Extravaganza at Two Chefs Bar & Grill Kata Center.**

On Saturday the 27th of July we are serving a large international seafood buffet, including some Scandinavian specialties. All you can eat for only 695 baht. Our house band will entertain you until the late hours, and we'll have happy hours on selected drinks all night. So come and try our buffet, "fit for a king". For more info, contact Two Chefs on +66-76-330-065 or log onto our website (link at left) or follow us on: facebook.com/TwoChefs Thailand. Come for the food and stay for the fun!

**Aug 2, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in 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 mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For more info contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464 or email atinfo@navrangmahal.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 celebrated as national Mother's Day. This year celebrates HM's 81st birthday.

**Sep 19, 2013, 11:30 am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch.**

September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always



**Navrang Mahal**  
Indian Food

**Indian Curry Buffet on Friday August 2, 7-11pm**  
Navrang Mahal at Karon Sea Sands Resort

a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members B500 and guests B650. Contact info@phuketiwc.com or Carole Dux 076-316711 or visit website: phuketiwc.com

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

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise amongst the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opens in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October. Contact Jon Hyams on +66-80-4718713

**Oct 5-13, 2013, Phuket Vegetarian Festival**

This festival is an annual event held during the ninth lunar month of the Chinese calendar. Though the origins of the festival are unclear, it celebrates the Chinese community's belief that a strict diet of 'vegetables only' will purify mind and body and constitute merit-making. Sacred rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

**Oct 17, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club at Cape Panwa Hotel.**

Another new and fascinating location for our October lunch: the

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

Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show.

**Nov 17, 2013, Loy Krathong Festival.**

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

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

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is a prestigious invitation only event for superyacht owners, captains and their VIP guests. This year's event takes place December 16-18 at Kata Rocks. The annual Rendezvous is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV, and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58). For more info contact Asia Superyacht Rendezvous on +6681-797-4100 or email at pr-comm@asiasuperyacht-yacht-rendezvous.com. Visit their website at asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com

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

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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.



# The Canadian Chekhov

## Books

By James Eckardt

AT THE age of 82, Alice Munro is the *grande dame* of Canadian literature. In her 14 books of short stories, she has been compared to Anton Chekhov. If I were Chekhov, I'd take it as a compliment.

*Dear Life* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 2013, 309pp) continues her Chekhovian obsession with time. Her narrative voice is as confident as ever, yanking the reader's attention immediately into the urgency of her tale. Her language is plain, even folksy, and lays out hard simple truths. *Pride*, a delusional story of small town envy, opens this way:

"Some people get everything wrong. How can I explain? I mean there are those who have everything against them – three strikes, twenty strikes for that matter – and they turn out fine. Make mistakes early on – dirty their pants in grade two, for instance – and then live out their lives in a town like ours where nothing is forgotten... and they manage, they prove themselves hearty and jovial, claiming and meaning that they would not for the world want to live in any place but this.

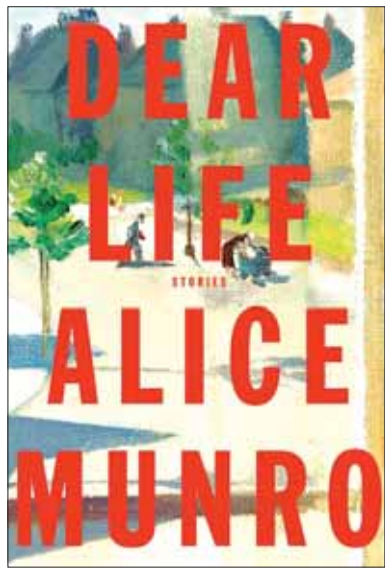
"With other people it's different. They don't move away but you wish they had. For their own sake, you could say. Whatever hole they started digging when they were young... they keep right on at it, digging away."

As in her very early stories, these 14 new ones take place in rural Ontario during the Great Depression and the war years. Seldom do they stretch into the 1960s. The protagonists are generally young, poor, ambitious, intelligent yet vulnerable women seeking out their place in life.

In *Train*, the greatest story in this collection, though, the hero is a young man, a veteran returning from the war in 1946, hopping

off a train to find refuge in a rundown farm run by a well-educated slightly dotty woman 16 years his senior.

In 1961, he accompanies her on her first return trip to her native Toronto for medical treatment. After an operation for cancer, she suddenly turns lucid, remembering family secrets that prompt him to flee. Four years later, while working as an apartment superintendent, he hears the voice of his first love talking with the building's owner, in search of her runaway daughter, and suddenly we are back in 1940 and the reason for



his jumping off the train in the first place. And now he flees on yet another train to a new lumber town. Munro plays these varying chords of time with a master's touch.

Two other stories *In Sight of the Lake* and *Dolly* deal with young and old love. In the first, a young girl comes to teach children in a tuberculosis sanatorium in stark timber country in the wintry depths of the Depression. Her awkward courtship by the sanatorium's director ends even more awkwardly: sudden, surprising and painful.

The second story opens this way: "That fall there had been some discussion of death. Our

deaths. Franklin being eighty-three years old and myself seventy-one at the time, we had naturally made plans for our funerals (none) and for the burials (immediate) in a plot already purchased. We had decided against cremation, which was popular with our friends. It was just the actual dying that had been left out or up to chance."

This grim serenity is interrupted by Dolly. She comes selling cosmetics door to door and turns out to be the great love of Franklin's youth. The ending is a great slight of hand.

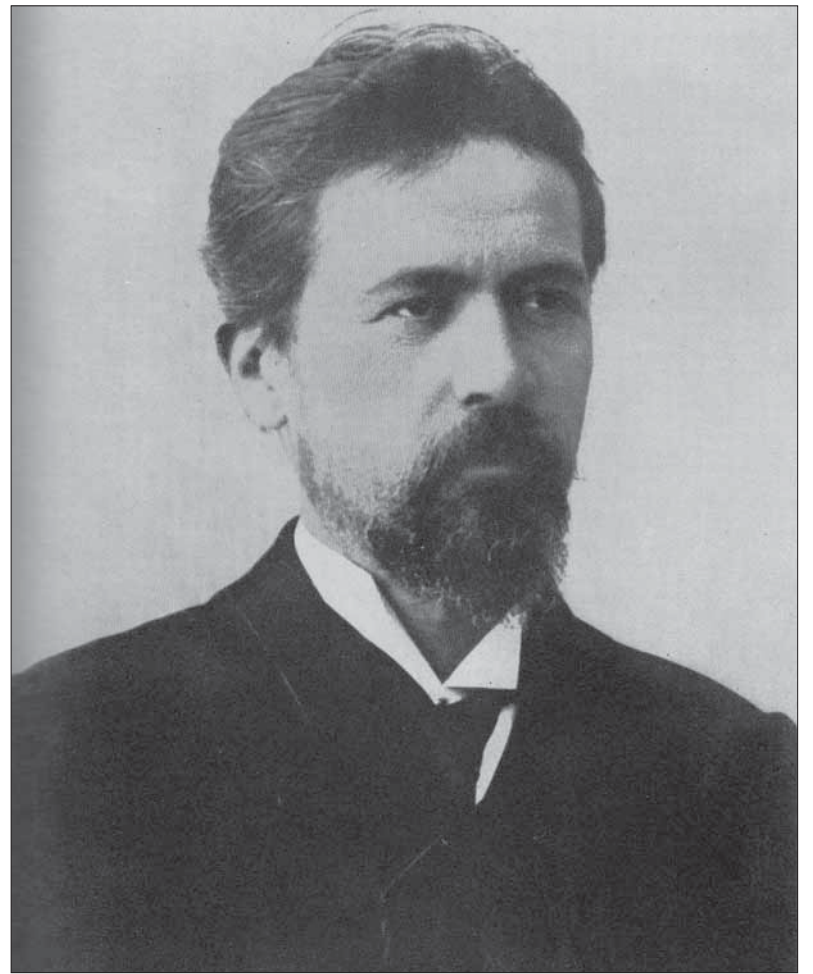
Munro identifies the final four stories as frankly autobiographical.

A central figure is Munro's unhappy mother, risen from a poor farm to become a school-teacher only to sink back into the life of a farmer's wife: "I think people found her pushy and overly grammatical. She said things like 'readily' and 'indeed so'. She sounded as if she had grown up in some strange family who always talked that way. And she hadn't. Out on their farms, my aunts and uncles talked the way everybody else did. And they didn't like my mother very much, either."

Alice Munro hints that these may be her last stories. I can only hope that she's wrong.



**HUNGRY:** Men marching for work in Canada during the Depression.



**CHEKHOV:** Author Alice Munro's style has been likened to that of famous Russian short story writer Anton Chekhov.



**DEPRESSION:** Unemployed Canadian men hopping a train during the Great Depression, the era in which Munro sets many of her stories.

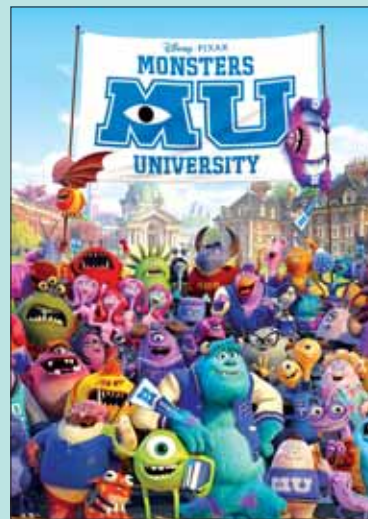
## August movie releases

THREE of this month's biggest movie releases are all sequels. Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters continues the Hollywood trend of adapting popular fantasy novels into movies. Monsters University is Pixar's latest animated movie, introducing the characters of Mike and Sulley with a new generation of kids on the success of their Monsters Inc movie which was released 12 years ago. Kick-Ass revisits the average boy-turned-superhero character, this time played by newcomer Aaron Taylor-Johnson.



**Percy Jackson: Sea of Monsters**

In order to restore their dying safe haven, the son of Poseidon and his friends embark on a quest to the Sea of Monsters to find the mythical Golden Fleece while trying to stop an ancient evil from rising.



**Monsters University**

A look at the relationship between Mike and Sulley during their days at Monsters University. From the moment these two mismatched monsters met they couldn't stand each other.



**Kick Ass 2**

The costumed high-school hero Kick-Ass joins with a group of normal citizens, inspired to fight crime in costume. Meanwhile, the Red Mist plots an act of revenge that will affect everyone Kick-Ass knows.





Yoga practitioners performing asana called "Sun Salutation". Photo: Terriko

# Some like it hot!

**New hot yoga concept to have the island's first infrared heating system**

YOGA Republic, Phuket's most contemporary hot yoga studio, is launching in Bang Tao Place on Monday, August 12.

Its mission is to provide Hot Yoga and Power Yoga in a green and clean contemporary environment, with state-of-the-art infrared heating and internationally certified teachers.

Yoga Republic will be the only hot yoga studio in Phuket to have an infrared heating system. This clean, eco-friendly and non-allergenic heat therapy system has been making waves in the health world, as not only does the infrared create an ideal environment for practicing yoga, but it also stimulates an anti-inflammatory response that can improve arthritis, decrease pain and speed up the process of soft muscle

tissue repair.

Two forms of yoga will be offered; Hot Hatha Yoga, with temperatures rising to approximately 38 degrees, as well as Power/Vinyasa Yoga, which is a more moderate 30 to 32 degrees. In the coming months, Kids' Yoga will also be offered by Yoga Republic.

The concept is being led by Jack Farras, who opened the very first Bikram Yoga studio in Bali in 2008. Originally

from Australia, he now brings his passion, tremendous energy and vast experience to the island of Phuket.

In addition to offering hot yoga, Yoga Republic will also be opening Bang Tao's first fresh juice bar, which will use local fruit and vegetables to help replenish the body. It will also launch a hip and affordable yoga clothing range called "Figa Lifestyle".

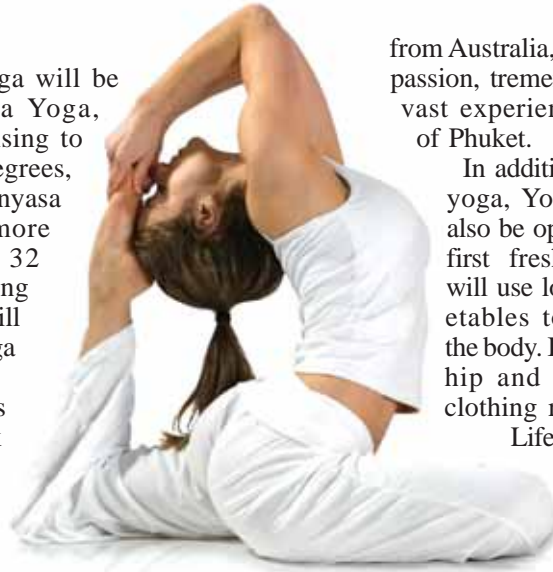
The classes will be available for walk-ins or through

various packages designed for Phuket residents and tourists visiting the island.

In addition to regular classes, Jack will also be holding special two to ten day yoga, transformation and meditation retreats. The retreats will include wholesome, healthy Thai meals, beautiful accommodation and the opportunity to connect with fellow yogis in a stunning beach environment.

For more information on what Yoga Republic can offer visit their website at: [yogarepublic.co](http://yogarepublic.co) or 'Like' us Facebook: Yoga Republic.

If you'd like to speak to Jack Farras, please contact: [info@yogarepublic.co](mailto:info@yogarepublic.co)



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# C is for colorful palette

BOTH *cordylines* and *crotons* have been considered fairly recently in these columns. Time only for a whistle-stop tour. Suffice to say that they are two of the first foliage plants most tropical gardeners would choose, both for their dramatic and permanent leaf color and their trim form, which means that they can be put in large groups, lined up as a mid-border plant or planted for contrast amid conventional greenery. In both cases, the leaves issue from a single woody stem and tend to grow most vigorously at the top, especially in dry conditions, in an almost palm-like manner.

*Cordylines* have been enthusiastically hybridized here in Thailand. Attractive recent forms have broad pointed leaves of an almost luminous magenta, though there are varieties with green leaves edged with crimson, and others with dull, purplish-bronze foliage, or even grassy, pinkish leaves. They are *rhizotomous* and will grow well in pots filled with a loam-based compost, but should not be exposed to the full glare of the tropic sun lest the leaves fade. Pick off the unsightly dead ones anyway. No pruning is required, though leggy plants can be chopped in half. The re-planted top should root, and the bare stem should produce new foliage.

Most *crotons* or *codiaeums* have even broader, glossy, leathery evergreen leaves, though there are varieties such as “banana” with narrow leaves. Many are characterized by pronounced veining, usually in a contrasting hue. One leaf may have three colors, for



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

example: green suffused with deep pink, and yellow or red veins. “Gold dust” has yellow flecks on green foliage. *Codiaeums* start life as a single-stemmed plant, but given time and the right conditions – full sun and a moist but well drained soil – they will assume a clumpy shape and can develop into a small tree. Young cuttings will root in water. Good as a container plant,



**PRETTY IN PINK:** Coleus comes in a variety of color and pattern combinations. Photo: Ann Stretton

they have graced western drawing rooms for well over a century.

Another foliage plant popular in Thailand is the coleus (*solemostemon*), hence the presence in nurseries of beautifully patterned potted specimens in a wide range of colors. Normally the leaves have two or more dramatically contrasting hues, for example: deep purple edged with green; yellow or a luminous green veined with crimson. The foliage is paper-thin and nettle-like and the stems are soft and brittle. In fact the coleus is not entirely at home here, preferring temperatures in the seventies or eighties rather than the nineties of Phuket.

A position in filtered sunlight and well-drained soil will, however, fit the bill.

If you want the best of both worlds, you could try the *costus* or spiral ginger. Not only does it possess glossy, spear-shaped leaves which are grouped around the upper parts of the stems, but in the case of *C. curvibractus*, unusual bracts which form bright red cones above the foliage. It is frequently employed as a border specimen and used in massed plantings (such as in the Phuket Botanic Garden), where the effect can be spectacular. However, in common with all gingers, it will need plenty of moisture and a position out of direct sunlight. If deprived of water, it will soon die back and lose its leaves. A less common relative, the crape ginger (*C. spicatus*), has larger purple cones from which emerge white flowers with a reddish throat. *Variegatus* has vivid white and green striped foliage.

Coincidentally, all these “C” plants will survive the container experience. I would not recommend that you plant any member of the *zingiber* family in a pot, but I know a gardener who does and successfully. As for *cordylines*, *coleus* and *crotons*, they are naturals: they will not only thrive in such an environment, but will add a dash of permanent color to your collection of potted plants.

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



**FULL SPECTRUM:** Bright pink and green coleus (above), and variegated croton (below). Photos: dog.happy.art and highrockphoto



## Tip of the week

### Leafy Logic

EVAPORATION through the leaves is essential if water from the soil, via the roots and the plant's capillaries or *xylem*, is to reach the stems and foliage. This transpiration also helps to cool down plants, especially in tropical climates, as well as changing osmotic pressure in the roots.

As a general rule, the bigger the leaf area, the greater the potential loss of moisture through evaporation. A large tree may lose thousands of liters of water in a day. The rate of evaporation depends on many external factors: atmospheric humidity; heat (most crucial); direct sunlight or wind.

But the plant will have its own procedures or characteristics to help reduce water loss – for



example, closing some of these pores (*stomata*) or even shedding excess leaves (*champa*). Thick, leathery leaves (rubber vine,

*dillenia*, *plumeria*) usually have fewer *stomata* and enable the plant to better withstand dry conditions.



**Cordyline australis** with silver colored leaves. Photo: Rae Allen





# For the love of durian

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

AS A Thai, I am fully aware of the nation's love affair with food. But one item baffles me still and it's no other than the infamous fruit – durian. I have observed that there was no two-way thing about this so-called king of Thai fruits – you either love it or hate it.

As the latter, I decided to see for myself what the fuss was all about and joined two durian aficionados, Wanida Hongyok and

uninitiated: “Creamy texture, that is firm on the outside but yielding enough, sweet of course, with not too strong of an aroma and small seeds, which make for fleshier meat.”

The nation's favorite varieties include *Mon Thong* or golden pillow in Thai, *Kan Yao*, so-called because of its long stem, and *Chanee*. These are cross-breeds, first cultivated many years back, which have become popular for their smooth and creamy texture.

But Wilaiwan and Wanida, born and bred Southerners, champion the more wild version called *Durian Ban*.

They argued that this was what durian should be like: pungent, sugary and very gooey. However, as I was a relative newcomer and they wanted to ease me in gently, they thought I should try a milder version of durian ban a breed called *Salika*.

There is one problem. *Salika* is only grown in one small area in Phang Nga and the information we received as to where to find the orchard was sketchy at best.

Nevertheless, we took our chances and one fine Sunday morning drove off in the direction of Tai Muang, a district in Phang Nga where *Salika* was reportedly last seen.

Relying on street-side fruit vendors and passersby for directions, we ventured into many dirt roads to no avail. We ran

into, and tasted, a few *Kan Yao* long stems, which I found to be a little too pungent, with an intense hint of sulfur and mushy texture. In all, not quite my type.

Another false trail led to a fruit vendor claiming to have some *Salikas*, but she couldn't fool an expert like Wilaiwan who pronounced the breed *Kradoom*. *Kradoom* was milder than *Kan Yao* with the taste that was not too bad. Still, I was not convinced.

Our search continued and after having been sent back and forth (by kind locals who were not quite sure what we were looking for) and losing our way many times, we were about to give up. That was when we finally came across a motorcycle taxi driver who was able to lead the way to the farm in question.

At Tambon Tung Maprao village, 15 kilometers from the Tai Muang district center, Usit Keeratiwitayayuth has been farming *Salika* durians for more than two decades. He took us to see his patch, a smallish farm of five rai in the middle of a vast palm plantation.

The old trees there were grand and tall. Picking the fruits, Usit explained, was no easy feat and required an adroit picker who

must also be a good climber. Usit supplies to vendors in Phuket who collect from the farm on a weekly basis.

Then came the glorious moment of tasting. *Salika* is something to behold –



READY TO SERVE: Opening a durian requires some degree of courage.

creamy without being too mushy; mild almost to the point of being fragrant with honey-like sweetness that lingered long on the palette.

We piled a bunch of *Salikas* into the back of our pick-up truck and drove away giddy with satisfaction. And that was the day I became a durian convert.

You may find *Salika* durians on roadside stalls in town and in Chalong. They are anything between 80-120 baht a kilo. Durian season lasts until the end of August



WAITING PATIENTLY: Some *Kan Yaos* maturing on the tree.

Wilaiwan Dienel, on their fruit tasting trip to Phang Nga, an activity they indulge in on almost a weekly basis during the season, which typically falls around June-August.

“Good characteristics of durian are as follows,” explained Wilaiwan to me, the



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# Phuket Raceweek: a



## Racing with the wind

WINDS gusting to 20 knots made for a perfect end to what has turned into one of the best Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek yet. The weather conditions delivered fast and exciting racing throughout and after four days, the sailors of more than 15 nationalities were left tired and happy.

Two races for all except the Classic class made for a hectic schedule of racing on the final day, Sunday, July 21, and with some classes on the edge, there was plenty still to play for.

*Wan Ma Rang* in IRC Racing I had their best day yet closing out the regatta with two second places. However, it wasn't enough to overhaul *Katsu* who has sailed consistently well and held onto second place by three points.

Class honors went to Australian Peter Ahern and his all-star crew on *Oi!* who with seven wins from eight races, were untouchable. Formerly Team Premier, Peter Ahern/Scott Bailey/Fergus Wilmer recently bought the boat, renamed her *Oi!* and Phuket Raceweek was their first competitive event. Having got some early points on the board in the 2013/14 Asian Yachting Grand Prix Championship, *Oi!* now heads to Hong Kong to compete on the circuit.

IRC Racing II was dominated by Australian Peter Sorensen and his crew on *Fujin*, and that domination continued through to the final race. Eight wins from eight races speaks for itself and as sailing star Steve McConaghy, who was racing onboard the former *Ichi Ban* said: "you could sail this thing backwards and still win."

Sunday's battle, however, was for second and third in the class,



**WAVES:** Sailors know how to tame the elements. Photo: phuketraceweek.com

between Stuart Williamson's *Skandia Endeavour* of Whitby and Neils Degenkolw's *Phoenix*. Despite struggling with their starts and being called OCS on more than one occasion, a good performance on the final day for Williamson and his crew (a 2,3 scoreline), saw them secure second overall and relegate *Phoenix* to third.

For the first three days there was one race per day, but the great winds on Sunday saw Principal Race Officer Simon James set two races for IRC Cruising and Irish entry *Windstar*, helmed by Peter Woods, reveled in the conditions to finish the last day with two more wins, and win the class by four points.

The doggedly-determined Aussie team, Rob Azzopardi's *Dreamtime*, with two second placings on the final day, could not overhaul the leaders and had to stay in second place overall, four points back. Mike Crisp, helming *Sail in Asia Venture*, who was introduced to a rocky outcrop on the third day, to be hauled off by the obliging press corps, finished third overall on 11 points.

The super-fast Firefly 850 sport catamarans, all built in Phuket, thrived in the strong winds last week, with competitors recording speeds in excess of 20 knots (37 km/h). Reading the conditions best and sailing consistently was *Twin*

*Sharks*, skippered by Briton John Newnham, who didn't contend the last race having already won seven from seven to be the clear class winner.

However, second and third was a much closer battle, between Hans Rahmann's *Voodoo* and Roger Kingdon's *Moto Inzi*. *Voodoo* came into the final day with a slight edge and a 2,1 scoreline on the day saw them complete a strong Series and place second ahead of *Moto Inzi* by a single point.

The Multihull Racing class saw a remarkable come-back by Phuket sailor/ designer, Mark Pescott, with a second and a first in the last races, to go into the clear as Multihull Racing class winner, helming *DaVinci* (12 points), and defending their title by just one point ahead of the week's leader, Alan Carwadine's Asia Catamarans *Hurricane* who had to settle for second overall. Then came another early leader, John Coffin's *Java*, third, on 16 points.

The end of the Classic class was as expected, continuing the week-long pattern, with Simon Morris' *Sirius* (three points) at the front, Laurie Piper's *Atlanta* (seven) in second and the German maxi classic, *Letizia*, skippered by Captain Bernd Gundel (eight), third. Perennial regatta entry, Captain Bao's *Seraph* was relegated to fourth place, although equaling *Letizia* on eight points.

While the Aussies took home a lot of silverware at this year's regatta, what was noticeable is the large number of top boats from Ao Chalong Yacht Club, both winners and high scoring performers.

A lavish Gala Dinner hosted by Cape Panwa Hotel brought to a close a highly successful 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek.

For more information about the event see: [phuketraceweek.com](http://phuketraceweek.com)



**BALANCE:** Teamwork is the essence of sailing. Photo: phuketraceweek.com



# wave of excitement



Photo: phuketraceweek.com

## To sail or not to sail?

HERE I am, like many before me and many more to come. Water around me, blue skies above me, wooden deck under my feet, sun in my eyes, gazing at the beauty of Cape Panwa's lush green shores, at the deep blue hue of the Andaman sea – cutting through the waves, taming the power of wind.

I am surrounded by elegant, classic design, modern technology and attention to detail on a state-of-the-art yacht made with expensive materials, teak and mahogany. A yacht where sails are risen with a push of a button and cold drinks are served on demand. A yacht destined for the successful, rich and powerful willing to widen their horizons, open their minds up and think outside the box in the relaxing atmosphere of a luxurious cruise. At a couple dozen thousands Euros per week, chartering *Aventure* is a choice for a few. "The boat's design was inspired by 1930s' blueprints but constructed with modern materials. It's a classic but it works like a modern yacht, says Guillaume Chaillot, Marine Industry Consultant and manager of VIP cruises.

"It's a VIP boat, we want to make special programs, invite celebrity chefs, organize jazz evenings, make it an interesting place to make business in a relaxed atmosphere. We want to show people that a better lifestyle is within the reach of their hands, he adds.

I can't deny it, it feels great to walk barefoot on the teak-wood deck, munching on

mozzarella and sipping mojitos. But we didn't come here just to sample the "hi-so" lifestyle. We're sailing through these exact waters at this



Modern classic boat. Photo: Mark Knowles

exact time for a reason. Just a few hundred meters from *Aventure*, a large group of yachts is taking sharp turns in perfect accord, as if following an invisible route. And when a loud siren breaks through the air, they all set out in the same direction, racing for glory. They are on the same sea as we are, using the same wind to move around but how different their sailing is from our sailing.

Here on *Aventure* all we care for is not to spill our drinks and not to get sunburned. There, every second counts, every inch of the sail, every member of the crew works in perfect harmony for one goal only to get to the finish line first.

Looking at the Phuket Race Week regatta, I wander where I'd rather be here: chilling in the sun, enjoying the soft rocking of the waves, or there, cutting through

them with surgical precision, celebrating sportsmanship, teamwork and taming the elements? This though takes my mind for a trip to the past, the old times when I used to sail across the Baltic sea and the English Channel on a boat not longer than 10 meters. There were not buttons to be pushed, only lines to be pulled. No drinks and snacks, just crackers and tea, no eager-to-please hostesses, just a couple of friends trying not to give in to the raging wind and crashing waves. It wasn't easy – the cold, the fatigue, the ever present seasickness, yet my mind goes back to these days whenever I see the skies turning dark and the wind grows strong.

It all seems so different now – us, here, chilling in the sun on *Aventure*; them, there, mastering teamwork in an effort to win the race. My friends and I back in the day trying to get from Amsterdam to London or from Stockholm to Gdansk.

Or the lone sailors circling the globe on whatever floats, the explorers reaching for the horizon, the families on sailing holidays, the kite surfers I see flying on the wind near the shores of Phuket.

Yet it all goes under the same name – sailing. and we're all in it for similar reasons, driven by the urge to get closer to nature, to become part of it, use it to our advantage.

To sail or not to sail? There is no question or as the ancient Latin saying goes: *Navigare necesse est*.

– Maciek Klimowicz



RELAXING TIME: Wind and water is what girls like. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

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# Born from the ashes of war

**The defeat the of Burmese army marked new chapter in the island's history. That's when Phuket Town was born...**

THE Nine Armies' War started in 1785 when the Burmese, taking advantage of internal strife and the overthrowing of King Taksin in Siam, invaded the country with nine armies numbering around 150,000 soldiers.

One of those armies marched straight for Thalang, then the largest town in Phuket, and laid siege to it. During that time, the governor of Thalang and the only person who can organize the town's defenses, passed away in the most untimely manner. With the town in danger of being sacked, the governor's wife, Lady Chan, along with her sister, Khun Mook, rallied the town's fighting men and organized the defense of Thalang.

After five weeks of siege, Burmese supplies were dwindling fast. Lady Chan's deception in

## Looking Back

By Anand Singh

making the Burmese think that her fort had a lot more men than it actually did, made the Burmese reluctant to launch a full scale attack. They retreated soon after, leaving Thalang's townspeople victorious against all odds. Lady Chan and her sister, Khun Mook became local heroines and the pair is still deeply revered in Phuket today.

In the aftermath of the invasion, the Burmese withdrew from the different regions of Siam. The defense of Thalang was one of the many heroic stories that emerged from this period in history. King Rama I bestowed upon many of these

war heroes noble titles to show his appreciation for their bravery in defending the country.

After the war, towards the end of 1785, King Rama I appointed Phraya Surintharaja as his viceroy to the Siamese towns on the west coast. He also appointed Thongpun Na Thalang as the new governor of Thalang, giving him the title of Phraya Narong Ruengrit. Lady Chan was bestowed the title of Thao Thepkasattri, the highest noble rank a non-royal woman can achieve. Her sister Khun Mook was bestowed a similar title and became known as Thao Srisoonthorn.

The promotion of Thongpun as governor of Thalang did not sit well with Lady Chan and her close friend, Phraya Thukkrak. Thongpun and Phraya Thukkrak had always been at odds with each other over the governorship of the town. Lady Chan had always supported Phraya Thukkrak, but since the appointment was the will of the King, neither Lady Chan nor Phraya Thukkrak could oppose the decision.

According to the Thalang Letters, after the appointment of Thongpun as governor, Lady Chan and Phraya Thukkrak led a group of townspeople who were loyal to them out of Thalang town and migrated south of the island to Baan Sapam near today's Phuket Town, away from Thongpun's authority. There the migrants proceeded to set up a tin mine around the new settlement under Phraya Thukkrak

**HEROINES: Lady Chan and Lady Mook were more than just war heroes they also played a role in founding Phuket Town.** Photo: sumeet.moghe

and Lady Chan's leadership.

In the year 1787, Lady Chan heard that Francis Light, an English captain who was an old friend of hers had successfully acquired Penang as a trading post for the British East India Company. Captain Francis Light had lived and traded in Phuket for several years. His house was located in Baan Tha Rua, south of Thalang Town. Light left Phuket before the Burmese invasion. He was one of the first to spot the approaching Burmese army and warned Lady Chan of the imminent threat to the island. After the war was over, Light offered to start up trade with Phuket again.

Knowing that Captain Light wanted to start trading with Phuket again, Lady Chan asked the captain not to trade or provide any European goods to Thalang in exchange for tin. The war had left Thalang's coffers empty and trade was needed badly, but Lady Chan had her plans to oust Thongpun from Thalang's governorship. Instead she asked Captain Light to trade directly with her new settlement at Baan Sapam. The post-war crisis that the governor of Thalang was facing was soon exacerbated when the British, under Captain Light refused to trade with them, instead directing all European cargo to Baan Sapam. Thongpun found it increasingly more difficult to send the required tin tributes to

the royal treasuries in Bangkok as was mandated by the King. In contrast Lady Chan and Phraya Thukkrak had plenty of tin reserves to trade for foreign goods and they occasionally sent rich tributes to the King's treasuries.

Thongpun's only solution to raise money was to dig through some old unsettled accounts. He demanded Lady Chan pay for the debt her husband, the previous governor had owed to the crown. Despite her heroic feats and sacrifice in defending Thalang, the King's treasuries had always reminded Lady Chan of her obligations to pay off her husband's debt to the crown. This time Lady Chan obliged by asking Captain Light to prepare for her a cargo of rare and expensive European goods that she personally took with her to Bangkok to present to King Rama I.

In 1791 Lady Chan also presented her daughter, Thong as consort to King Rama I. Thong was accepted into the palace, as one of King Rama I's wives. She was bestowed the title of Chao Chom Manda Thong when she bore a daughter (Princess Ubol) for the King.

Lady Chan was not only a local heroine who helped defend Phuket through one of its darkest times, through her feud with the governor of Thalang, she also helped establish a rival settlement that would one day grow to become Phuket Town as we know it today.



**THALANG ROAD:** One of the oldest in Phuket Town. Photo: Xin Li 88



**INDUSTRY:** The Phuket Mining Museum illuminates the pivotal role mining played in the history of Phuket.








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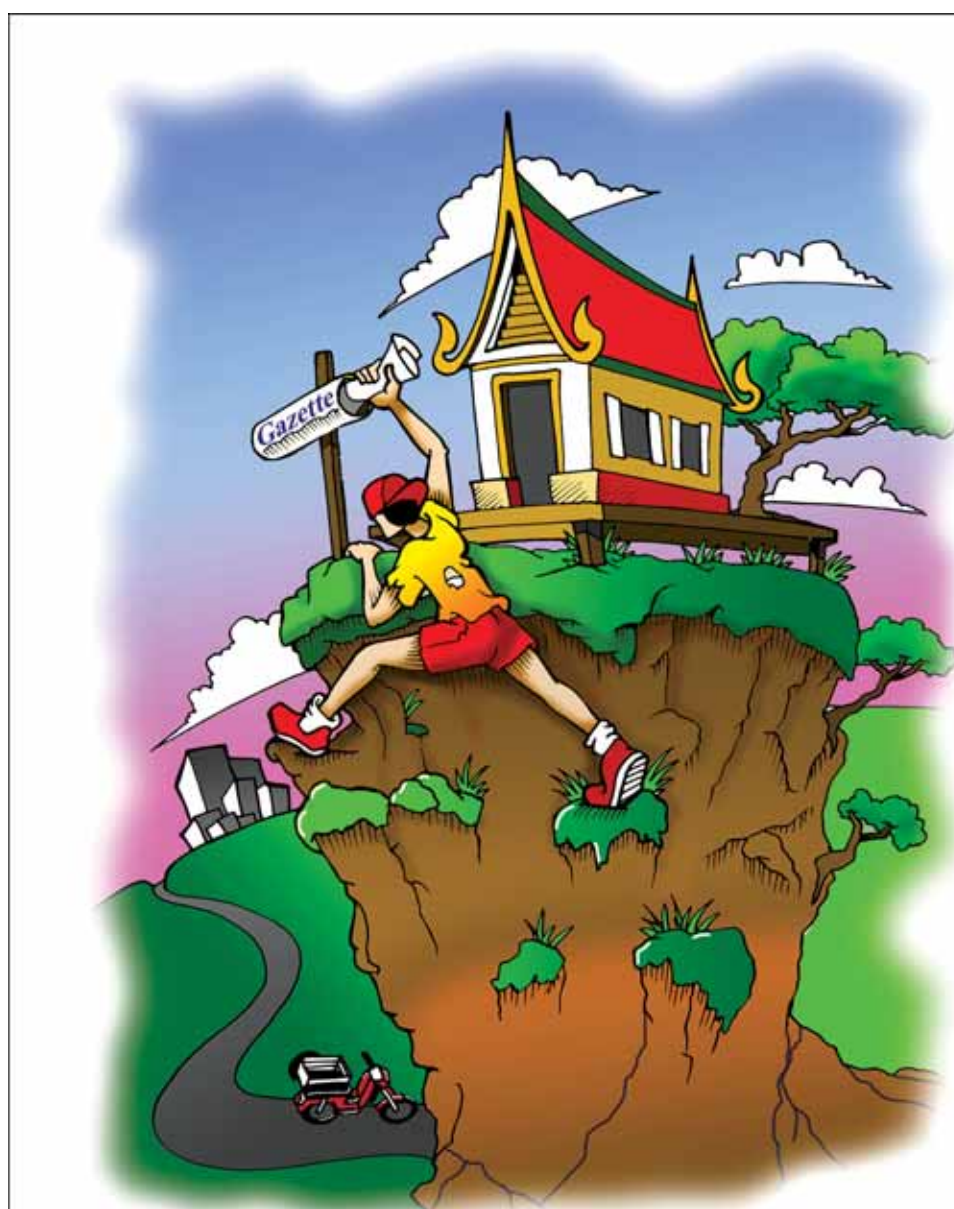


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# A tale of two landlines: CAT vs 3BB

## Phuket's high-speed internet put to the test

IT WAS the best of times, it was the worst of times...

I'm dropping back in for a guest column in the *Gazette* that concerns a topic that greatly interests me: internet in Phuket. I recently completed my move to Kathu although "completed" is a relative term, with boxes strewn hither and yon, and likely to stay strewn for some time to come. Internet's just as important to me as water and electricity. Oxygen too, for that matter.

After going through the motions to get a better-than-ADSL line to my new house, I finally gave up. TOT has fiber going up the road to within 100 meters of my house, but they wanted a king's ransom to connect my place. 3BB is laying fiber in Patong but, I was told, it would be many months before they come to Kathu. True didn't have DOCSIS, their cable-based service, anywhere near my place. I asked TOT about installing a WiMax box, but their story which cycled from "can't" to "won't" to "you don't want it" and back to "can't" wasn't very inviting.

In the end, I figured I was stuck with ADSL which just about everybody will string, just about anywhere on the island: TOT, CAT, 3BB, True, and several lesser-known companies all have variations on the copper cable ADSL line.

After talking with several people in the neighborhood and checking posts on [phuketinternetspeed.com](http://phuketinternetspeed.com), I decided to go back to my old friends (and sparring buddies) at CAT. A few minutes on the second floor of Central Festival, and I signed up for the 1,049 baht/month nominal 14 mbps down/1 mbps up "HiNet" ADSL package.

Just as I started to move the first boxes of stuff into the new house, a flyer magically appeared on the doorstep. Although the information was almost all in Thai, the tech words didn't need any translation: 3BB was installing fiber in my neighborhood. This, in spite of the fact that just two days earlier, the folks at the 3BB kiosk in Lotus Mall said it would be many months.

That solved a major quandary for me. I firmly believe then as now that the only reasonable way to get a reliable internet

connection in Phuket is to pay for two separate lines from two separate providers. It took me all of a minute to decide that 3BB Fiber would be my second line. I ordered the nominal 30 Mbps down/3 Mbps up line, the cheapest Fiber line they offer, at 1,200 baht per month.

CAT installed their ADSL line a few days after I signed up. 3BB took a few weeks. In both cases, the installation crews knew exactly what they were doing and they didn't mind allowing me to set up a few things my way. If you can say "192.168.1.1" convincingly, the crews will watch over your shoulder as you configure the router.

When I got the CAT 14 Mbps ADSL line working, my first stop was the international speed testing site [testmy.net](http://testmy.net). I was astounded to find that the CAT line ran about 4 mbps downloading from the US.

I let loose the [testmy.net](http://testmy.net) automatic tests and ran them hourly for several days. Speeds were consistently over two Mbps, usually around four, and sometimes up to 6 Mbps. While those kinds of speeds wouldn't win any contests in Europe, North America, Hong Kong, Singapore or South Korea, they're very, very good for Phuket.

When the 30 Mbps 3BB Fiber line arrived, I immediately ran to [testmy.net](http://testmy.net), expecting some eye-popping numbers. Wrong. What a let-down. International single-thread download speeds on 3BB Fiber were roughly half as fast as the CAT 14 Mbps ADSL line. So the 3BB line was 10 per cent more expensive, but only half as fast, as the CAT line.



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

Yes, I used the same equipment, same software, same PC, same hub for both tests – and I ran the tests just a few minutes apart.

In my Live Wire columns, I used to emphasize that single-thread international download speeds don't tell the whole story. They don't. More and more, Thai Internet Service Providers are caching data in Bangkok. If you're looking at the main page of Bloomberg, or the New York Times, or Der Spiegel or you're watching the latest football match or Formula 1 race your web browser isn't reaching out overseas. It's just going to Bangkok, picking up bits that are imported once, then distributed inside

Thailand in the blink of an eye.

Caching is only part of the international-bypass story. Many of the major web sites, such as Google, YouTube, Facebook, and many others are "mirrored" in locations all over the globe. The companies

have fancy programs that minimize international data travel by ensuring copies of the right data are kept close to where you are. Your email may take an extra few seconds to arrive, for example, or your friends' Facebook pages may show a few seconds' lag, but mirroring lets those big sites give better and more reliable service worldwide, while reducing the companies' overall expenses.

All of those major sites and many others including sites run by the networking giant Akamai, or sites that run on massive server farms from Amazon or Microsoft are mirrored in Singapore. There are servers and international data lines located in Bangkok, leased by each of the major sites,

that connect directly to mirrored server farms in Singapore. As a result, when you watch a YouTube video, or fire up Google, your browser thinks it's pulling data from the US, but it isn't. The connection goes from your PC to the ISP's servers in Bangkok, hops once very quickly over a dedicated Bangkok-to-Singapore line, then screams its way to the company's mirrored site in Singapore. At least, as long as everything is working properly – Which is a roundabout way of saying that international download speeds are important, but local speeds to Bangkok are important, too. Depending on what you're doing, these days, domestic speed may be more important than international speed.

When it comes to domestic speed, 3BB's the clear winner. I ran the OOKLA-based test located at [speedtest.net](http://speedtest.net) on each line. 3BB Fiber 30/3 mbps runs about 35 Mbps down (!) and 3 mbps up to Bangkok. CAT's 14/1 mbps line runs about 10 mbps down and 1 mbps up.

What does that mean in practice? I can use either line and get decent speeds if one line goes down. It takes me 10 seconds to unplug my router from one provider, and plug it into the other one. When I'm running massive downloads from the US as was the case last week with the beta test version of Windows 8.1 I switch to CAT. When I'm running a lot of Google (I use Gmail and Google Apps frequently), or YouTube, or Facebook, I switch to 3BB. Mostly, I don't worry about it very much, secure in the knowledge that between the two services I'll have pretty darn good internet connections almost always.

Times really have changed. Not many years ago, reasonably fast, reasonably reliable internet was a laughable goal. Now it's possible, and really not all that difficult – except when the electricity goes out.

*The free weekly computer clinics are still going strong, Sunday mornings from 10:00 to noon or so, at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. Bring your questions and your problems, and let's see if we can solve them.*



**SPEED TEST:** You can test your real-time internet speed at several websites. Photo: Mohammed Mustafa





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**JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:** Find the 10 differences between these pictures.



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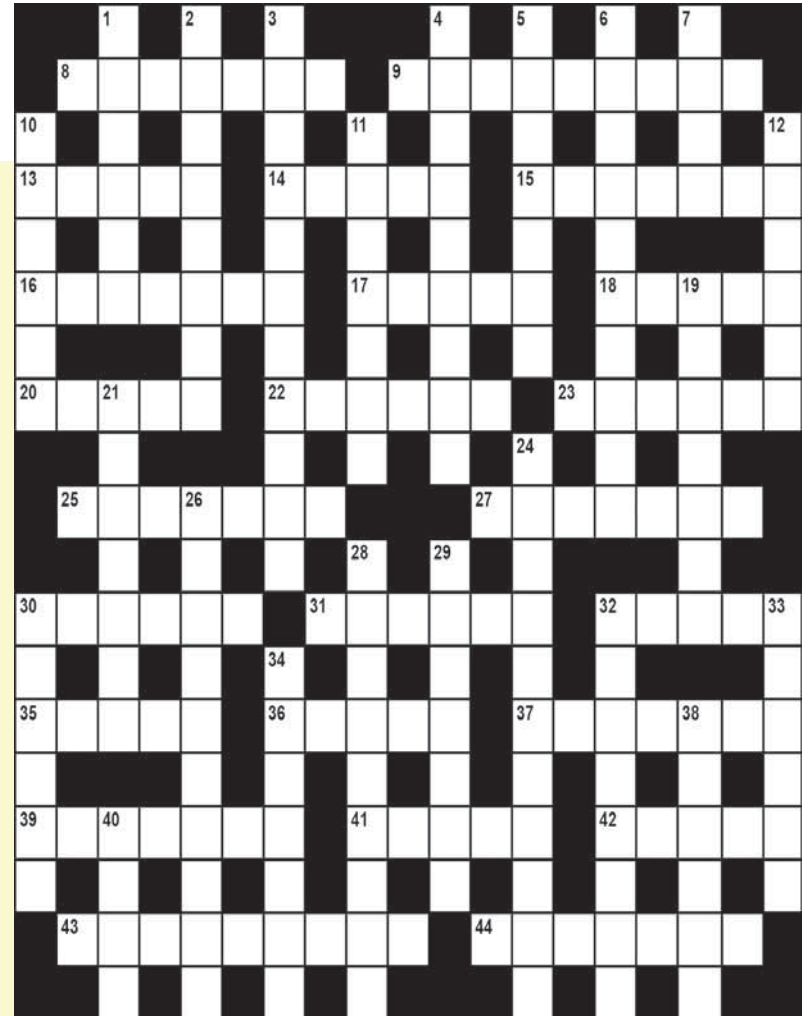
## COFFEE break

### Across:

8. One in prong I contrived from ferrous billet (3,4)
9. Lip, banter could be fit to be published (9)
13. I turn puce as I frost over (3,2)
14. Inferior, the Spanish bow out (5)
15. Aw, route might degrade (4,3)
16. Can pile untidily at the usual position (2,5)
17. Violently bares sword (5)
18. Request permission to play, maybe around park (5)
20. Tree is palm out East (5)
22. Suffering first class 'where you go' in Thailand (3,3)
23. Date socially acceptable rest arranged for cleaner (6)
25. Colonel, the French caught time for the prayer for the day (7)
27. Form in vogue (7)
30. Bash organized by the down at heel (6)
31. Hag, Sir, could be brash (6)
32. Children go out (5)
35. The one right belonging to them (5)
36. Carries back, set to! (5)
37. Obstruct Officer Commanding, almost give rise to duel (7)
39. Note, right after boundary restrictor (7)
41. Odd graduate in dance (5)
42. A single turn past, get the upper hand (3,2)
43. Sharing out, nit got all unfortunately (9)
44. Feverish disorder taken first by the instrumentalist (7)

### Down:

1. Pupil moving out East causes crash (4,2)
2. Move date, one's location (8)
3. Duplicate room with gaps between the lines (6,5)



4. Wan robber put out by large fierce creature (5,4)
5. Wet tarp. Laid out in place in Belgium (7)
6. A must, a hard remodeling of the intersection causing traffic jams in Phuket (10)
7. Article left thus as well (4)
10. Woman in Russian space station one morning (6)
11. Move, clasp it, it's flexible (7)
12. One who lasts ye rats out! (6)
19. Turkish poison possibly about philtres (7)
21. Official will talk too much about Old Boy (7)
24. In style, clever! (11)

26. Boat, liner, I move to release (10)
28. Peer, in short note syndicate for traffic by exchange (9)
29. Flexible Liberal is so me! (7)
30. Bench established (6)
32. No chat, i.e. about being undeveloped (8)
33. Note times Eastern Member of Parliament taken free (6)
34. Repeat it, note speed (7)
38. Worry one French let up (6)
40. Mark alternative to good Scotch (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

The stars indicate that Leos with a quest for different employment should be satisfied by the end of July. An air sign is ready to put an offer on the table and fresh beginnings fall under auspicious astral conditions during the first half of August. If your birthday is due in the coming week, seeing dreams come true is highlighted to brighten the year ahead. Your lucky number this week is one.

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Virgoans have chance to dip their toes into a new experience before making a final commitment this week. If this relates to buying a costly item, the stars suggest that you could decide to wait a while longer. In the realm of romance, there are hints that facing facts can be a wake-up call where a water sign is concerned. The number two can be fortunate this week.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Librans looking for ways to solve conflicts will receive the stars' support this week. At work, a fire sign is ready to admit their mistakes and an earth sign friend or family member wants to agree to disagree. Where finances are concerned,

there is hope for a repayment to be made more quickly than you anticipated. In the realm of romance, tension dissolves this weekend. Number nine shines during this week.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

In the world of work fear of change is highlighted to be holding you back, but Scorpions intent on maintaining their security should be pleasantly surprised by what they hear. This will prompt you to throw caution to the wind during August. Romance benefits from a calm cosmic climate this weekend; it will be easier to say what's on your mind. Your lucky number this week is seven.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

A little extra effort can mean larger rewards for Sagittarians. The stars show that you may have been slacking where work is concerned, probably because of personal distraction. This is an auspicious time to put new ideas into practice and use networking to publicize your skills. Romance also benefits from some caring input; another fire sign needs to know you're not bored with the relationship. Number four stands out this week.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Where business is concerned, a recent run of luck should not be taken for granted by Capricorns. If you want success to continue, it will be necessary to keep up the dedication. Balancing business and pleasure can be complicated by certain people on your social scene who appear determined to tempt you away from work. Romance is unpredictable around the end of July. Number five can encourage good luck this week.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Those Aquarians who have felt that their freedom is too limited see improvement as July ends. It should be possible to streamline work commitments with no financial loss. If you're not sure where a romantic relationship with a fire sign is going, some time out to reflect will help. The stars show that love lost with another air sign can be recaptured if this is what you want. Your lucky number is three.

### PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

A breakthrough at work should help you end July on a more hopeful note. Romance can be affected by mixed messages. Those who are single can learn that another water sign has got the wrong impression; you should have opportunity to set them straight this weekend. Pisceans already involved are forecast to find out that their partner has been listening to too much gossip. The number two seems special this week.

### ARIES (March 21-April 20):

The stars advise Arians to be careful about revealing personal details this week as there are hints that these may be used to your disadvantage. Where work is concerned, you should pay careful attention to what is happening midweek. An atmosphere of mystery affects the realm of romance; you will want to know more about someone whose path crosses yours briefly this weekend. Number seven is fortunate this week.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Finances are well starred this week and the stars show your assets will increase at the end of the month. Those born under the sign of

Taurus who had put summer holiday plans on hold are likely to change their minds. This can also be as a result of an interesting encounter with someone from a country you have always wanted to visit. Taureans' lucky number this week is five.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Communication keeps you busy around the end of July, with focus on friends or family overseas making spur of the moment decisions to visit. Where work is concerned, following up on overdue responses is recommended. Romance with a water sign continues to be care-free, but those involved with another air sign will need to show more consideration this weekend. Number six attracts good luck towards Gemini this week.

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Knowing where to go is one thing, but locating the right path to get there can cause Cancerians some trouble this week. In the world of work, the stars suggest that problems with an earth sign colleague can be solved by finding some middle ground. Plans for a romantic date this weekend can be compromised by a lonely friend wanting to tag along. Your lucky number this week is eight.



# Thanyapura triathletes rally in Roth

TRIATHLON legend and triathlon academy senior head coach at Thanyapura Juergen Zack notched up a second place in his age group as over 6,000 racers and 250,000 spectators turned out on a warm, sunny Sunday for the 2013 DATEV Challenge Roth in Germany.

Finishing in 9 hours, 18 minutes and 41 seconds, Zack finished 71<sup>st</sup> overall; Dirk Bockel of Luxembourg won the mens and overall event with a time of 07:52:01, followed by James Cunnama of South Africa (8:04:13) and Timo Bracht (08:08:18).

"It was when I got on the bike that the old racing instincts began to kick in and I got a little bit excited," said Zack, who has won the Roth five times before.

Switzerland's Caroline Steffen was the top women finisher with a time of 8:40:35, followed by the Netherlands Yvonne van Vlerken (08:46:22) and Germany's Julia Gajer (08:51:04).

Thanyapura's triathlon team, led by experienced triathlon coach Zack, set a series of personal bests at the 2013 DATEV Challenge Roth, one of the sport's annual highlights, bringing international attention to the Phuket-based training center's ethos of self-improvement in sports performance and lifestyle.

Zack's sensational showing led a charge by Thanyapura triathletes, which resulted in a string of personal bests and podium places, including a Thai record for Jaray Jearanai, best-ever times for Arnd Hill,

Michael Lindinger, Stefan Scherer, Johannes Rabl, Joey-Lynn Musselman and Kathrin Puff who came third in her age group.

The women's race winner, Caroline Steffen, will arrive at Thanyapura next month as part of the inaugural Thanyapura's "Month of Women" campaign, to team up with another legend of the sport, Australian Belinda Granger, who was racing her last Challenge Roth.

"It was a great showing for Thanyapura in front of the whole triathlon world," Zack said. "There was a lot of visibility for us, a lot of buzz and interest in Phuket as the hot emerging triathlon destination for racing and training."

"Personally, I wasn't planning to race again. When I hung up my bike and running shoes, I didn't even train for five years. But the work we do at Thanyapura got me back to a place where racing again looked feasible. It feels great to perform on one of the sport's big stages again."

Challenge Roth is unique in the grueling three-legged world of triathlon racing. It's the sport's version of the Tour de France, with crowds lining the shaded, charming streets of the historical Bavarian village and a carnival atmosphere prevailing. It's also the fastest course in the world over the full Ironman distance (70.3km).

This year, it also has a direct link to Phuket's premier race series, with the Challenge Family announcing a partnership with Asia's longest running triathlon: 2013



**GOING STRONG:** Triathlon champion turned coach Juergen Zack. Photo: Thanyapura

sees the launch of Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest from November 24, a week-long celebration of the sport, which will incorporate the iconic Laguna Phuket Triathlon and half distance Challenge Laguna Phuket.

At Challenge Roth, Zack covered the course in 9:18:41, a second behind another Thanyapura trained triathlete, Selukov Arnaud, with a bike leg split of 4:39, some way off his best Roth bike split of 4.14. "But not bad for someone who didn't race for seven years and didn't even train for five years," Zack said.

"It was amazing seeing my old rival (and fellow five-time Roth winner) Lothar Leder. He is still racing professionally, as

he was a younger man than me at the height of our rivalry. I was riding with him for quite a distance."

Leder was the first man to dip under the eight-hour barrier at Roth in 1996, when he went 7:57:02. The following year, Zack lowered that mark with 7:51:42, a time that would have won him this year's trophy.

Zack said he would now focus on getting Thanyapura's Triathlon team ready for the Challenge Laguna series, which he said was an exciting development in the sport and would help put Phuket even more firmly on the map as a world triathlon destination to be reckoned with.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## Badminton brawl may get boys banned: BAT head

TWO former badminton doubles partners, including one Phuket native, hit the "bad" back into badminton, when they instead decided to fight out their men's doubles final at the Canadian Open last Sunday.

The incident, which went viral on global racket channels, was deemed an act of misconduct by the Badminton Association of Thailand president, Charoen Wattanasin, saying it could lead to lifetime bans if imposed on the players by the International Badminton Federation (IBF).

One clip shows Bodin Issara chasing ex-partner and Phuket-born Maneepong Jongjit during a changeover after the first game of the final at the Richmond Olympic Oval in Vancouver: Bodin pushed Maneepong to the floor before landing a punch and a kick to the back of his passive ex-partner, before the pair were separated by coaches and tournament staff. Bodin and his new partner later allege the events captured on video were preceded by an attack on Bodin by Maneepong.

Maneepong was teamed with Nipitphon Puangpuapech for the match, while Bodin was paired with Pakkawat Wilaikal.

According to the "Morning News" show on Channel 3, Maneepong said Bodin became infuriated when the former made a loud noise after winning a point during the match. The two reportedly provoked each other with vulgar language from that point on. Maneepong said Bodin challenged him to a fight several times during the first game, which was won by Maneepong and Nipitphon 21-12.

Bodin later expressed regret: "... I lost my senses. I feel sorry to have caused this stain on [Thailand's] reputation. I take full responsibility and want this all to end here," he said in a clip broadcast on Channel 3.

An initial investigation of the incident by tournament officials determined that Bodin started the fight. As a result, they awarded the title to Maneepong and Nipitphon.

However, according to Bodin's partner Pakkawat, Maneepong started the whole thing by cursing

his ex-partner, causing a fuming Bodin to land the first blow. He said Maneepong replied by hitting his former buddy with a racquet. According to the Vancouver Sun newspaper, Bodin needed two stitches to his right ear.

"If you [only] saw the clip, Bodin appears absolutely guilty. But no one saw what happened before that. Maneepong smashed Bodin with a racquet and left him bloody. That's why [Bodin] chased after [Maneepong] as can be seen in the clip," Pakkawat said.

Once a promising duo, Maneepong and Bodin shot to fame in the Kingdom after their sensational style of play took them to the quarter-finals at last year's London Olympics. But they parted due to personal conflicts late last year.

Charoen said on Facebook he had never seen anything like this in his 58 years on the circuit. The badminton boss said he would await a report from the IBF, which will be used as a basis for action to be taken against the guilty parties.

"This is a shame for the

badminton circuits. The International Badminton Federation will take this very seriously.

"From the clip, Bodin appears to be the guilty party and there's a high possibility he could face a lifetime ban. However, to be fair to both parties, we'll have to wait to hear from the IBF."

— *The Nation / Phuket Gazette*



**BAD BAT:** Phuket-born Maneepong Jongjit. Photo: Badzine.de

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## International Sport

## A tour de force for Froome

By Patrick Campbell

FIRST, the bald facts: Chris Froome has triumphed in the hundredth edition of the Tour de France. Last year, victory was claimed by Froome's Sky team-mate, Sir Bradley Wiggins. Remarkable? Absolutely. They are the first Englishmen to win the world's most prestigious and demanding cycle race since its inception. By any standards, it is a most extraordinary achievement.

Not only a British triumph, the 21-stage race over 3,500 kilometers has also been one for the purists, the most competitive Tour for some years. Although the mountainous course was probably the most demanding ever, it was consistently exciting, with more breakaways and more riders chancing their arm. The hill finishes were some of the most punishing and hotly contested in recent memory. Even to complete the tour is an athletic feat of the highest order.

If anything, Froome's achievement is even more emphatic than that of Sir Bradley, whose dominance was based on his superiority in the time-trials. He not only finished four minutes clear of his nearest rivals, but demonstrated an all-round prowess that enabled him to win three stages, including a grueling summit finish at the top of Mont Ventoux. Even in the last climb of the tour, a climb which humiliated his

nearest rival Alberto Contador, he was able to contest the finish. Froome is, moreover, young enough to win the race again and again – a calm, collected young man with remarkable strength of will and powers of recovery. One of his teammates, Ian Stannard, remarked: "He's definitely changed as a leader. He takes on more responsibility. He [has] really lifted his game."

As he reached the line on the darkening cobbles of the *Champs Elysees*, arms linked with his Sky team-mates, and applauded by 350,000 Parisian spectators, one could see the emotion he so clearly felt. As he said later: "Crossing the line with [the] guys brought tears to my eyes. I expected it to be big, but this is something else." Ever modest, he referred to the healthy state of British cycling: "The youngsters coming through and the way the sport is moving... [is] something to be proud of."

Much of the credit must go to Sir Dave Brailsford, who predicted in 2010 that Britain would have a winner by 2015. Well as Sky *Chef de Equipe* he has master-minded not one, but two victories, two years ahead of schedule.

Of course, the vexed subject of doping came up like a bad penny. Cycling has been badly scarred by drug scandals in recent years with American Lance Armstrong stripped of all seven of his Tour victories and Spaniard



WINNER: Christopher Froome of Britain, winner of the centenary Tour de France, celebrates his overall victory after the final stage, from Versailles to Paris Champs Elysees. Photo: Reuters

Alberto Contador's 2010 crown expunged from the records. The 2013 Tour de France may well have been the first "clean" race for a very long time. Both Froome and Brailsford welcomed the new openness in the sport, with Brailsford offering the World Anti-Doping Agency all the data relating to his rider's performances. Sky also gave the information to French sports paper *L'Equipe*, where it was analyzed by a researcher. He found no

anomalies. Froome himself declared: "I'm glad I've had to face all those questions [from the press]. After all the revelations of the past year, I'm glad it has been channeled towards me."

In a massive boost of confidence for the race, he concluded: "I've been able to deal with it. The peloton is standing together." It augurs well for the future of this legendary event.

## Hungary, hunters and hunches



THE Lions destroyed Australia, England is cruising through a shattered Australia in the Ashes, Andy Murray triumphed at Wimbledon and Chris Froome won the Tour de France. As Britons tower over world sports, Lewis Hamilton must be considering his chance of continuing this newfound tradition, starting with a win in Hungary this weekend. Can he do it? Mercedes has been exemplary in qualifying, so either Lewis or Nico Rosberg is quite likely to be on pole on Sunday. But Mercedes struggles with tyre degradation in race conditions.

The Hungaroring is a hot twisty low-speed track with a dirty surface and very few overtaking opportunities. It will reward a good aerodynamic set-up, a driver not easily bored, and the ability to conserve tyres. Qualifying well is crucial, but it's not enough. It's been a long time since the last race, so remember, Hamilton was on pole in Germany, but was roundly beaten off the grid by both Sebastian Vettel and Mark Webber. Hamilton could not match Lotus or Ferrari, either. P5 was more than he had a right to expect. Rosberg achieved nothing after a nightmare Q2.

Drivers will wish to qualify well, but also avoid starting on the dirty side of the track. In 2013, that has been a huge disadvantage, and at Hungaroring, I see it as a signifi-



BRITISH: Can Lewis Hamilton continue the domination of world sports by British athletes? Photo: Reuters

cantly worse disadvantage than most. Anyone starting on the dirty side risks losing two places at the start. Look for some tactical manoeuvring on that. Remember last season in Austin when Ferrari deliberately broke the seal on Massa's gearbox after qualifying, to earn him a five place penalty, and thereby elevate Alonso to the clean side of the grid.

Prior to this season, Sebastian Vettel had never won his home Grand Prix, or any race in the month of July. He sprinted past Hamilton on the grid, and although both Lotus drivers had the potential to beat him, he won and extended his world championship lead. Webber also beat Hamilton off the line, but his right-rear wheel was not attached when he left his pit stop on lap nine, so it bounced and cracked a cameraman. Webber went a lap down, made that up under the safety car, and took P7 on the penultimate lap. Red Bull is looking very powerful, but in Hungary, is not my favorite to win.

Mercedes should out-qualify them, and Lotus may out-perform them.

Lotus had a great day in Nurburgring. They are back in contention, with Kimi Räikkönen's P2 and Romain Grosjean's P3. Grosjean was within half a second of Sebastian Vettel and we had glorious vision of Grosjean doing something really dangerous and taking both Vettel and himself out of contention. It was not to be. Lotus decided that Kimi should play through on the 55<sup>th</sup> lap. The team had a cunning plan to run soft tyres on Kimi's final stint. Like so many cunning plans, it was a failure, and Grosjean might have had a better chance of winning. Kimi would have done better not to pit for soft shoes as well, but a problem with his radio, stopped him telling them that. Anyway, 33 points for the Constructors' Championship slightly closed the gap with Red Bull. The Hungaroring will play to their ability to manage tyres in the heat.

I had high hopes for Ferrari in

Germany. And I was disappointed. They gambled by starting Fernando Alonso on worn mediums. I am not sure it was any help. He finished P4, but Felipe Massa took an exotic and terminal spree into the gravel on the fourth lap. Massa's retirements are getting monotonous, and he needs to pull something out of the hat in Hungary. Alonso should do well at the Hungaroring, perhaps better than Vettel.

McLaren has not got its act together, but in Germany looked nearer to being a real team than for a long time, and finished P8 and P9. Sauber was as mediocre as ever in Germany, and we have just heard that Sergey Sirotkin is expected to drive for them next year. Sauber's new Russian partners seem to be behind the stunt, which would smash Jaime Alguersuari's record as the youngest ever grand prix rookie. I doubt if that is what Sauber needs when it loses Hulkenburg, one of the best drivers around.

Force India was disappointingly slow in Germany, but in the

Silverstone testing, Adrian Sutil was second fastest, beaten only by Vettel, so perhaps they are ready to go up a notch. Toro Rosso lost Jean-Eric Vergne to a hydraulics problem in Germany, and Daniel Ricciardo, who is a very pretty driver, struggled. He wants to impress Red Bull for a seat next season, and he certainly did that in the Silverstone testing.

Williams did not improve in Germany, and their pit stops were agonizing. Williams has signed engineer Pat Symonds as their chief technical officer to revive their brand. Symonds won world titles with Michael Schumacher and Fernando Alonso, but was banned for five years for his part in fixing the 2008 Singapore GP.

Marussia contributed significantly to the excitement when Bianchi's engine let go. The empty parked car hung around for quite a while and then rolled rearwards leisurely down the slope, and cross the track. The resultant safety car was a rare treat for Nurburgring.

The new tyres tested at Silverstone seem quite similar to their predecessors, so do not expect any radical changes.

Honda announced that it will base its 2015 F1 racing operation in Milton Keynes. That is interesting, because its partner McLaren is based in Woking, but Red Bull is in Milton Keynes. The race is on Sunday at 7pm and qualifying is on Saturday at the same time. Join me at The Green Man to watch it on the Big Screen, where we may also have a Big Surprise.



# Going from strength to strength

By Anthika Muangrod

IN THE 21<sup>st</sup> century, when women increasingly have the same rights as men, body image ideals have also been increasingly questioned and many women in modern society have become more open, and indeed, proud of their individual body characteristics. One thing is now certain, having a muscular body is no longer an ideal sought only by men.

Many women aspire to have a feminine look – slender legs, an hourglass figure and flawless skin. As a result, diet pills, cosmetic surgery and other body enhancing techniques have proliferated due to this never ending quest for the “perfect body” as promoted by the fashion, entertainment and celebrity industries. However, not everyone agrees with this popular view of the “perfect body” and Phuket based world champion female body builder Wilaiporn Wannaklang is one of them. For her, big is definitely beautiful.

Standing 150cm tall, Wilaiporn's stature would be considered small by most estimates, but her lean sculpted body is 50kg of pure muscle and she's not afraid to show it off.

Despite disapproval from people around her, especially her family, she sees her bodybuilding as a way to thumb her nose at a society where everybody thinks that a woman with a muscular body is something “unnatural” or “unattractive”.

The proverb “health is wealth” became a guiding principal of Wilaiporn's life, after she had the chance to talk about dharma with a Buddhist monk in a temple in Lopburi province. The monk told her that to practice religion well, she should take care of herself and live a fit and healthy life. From then on, she started aerobic exercise. But she soon realized that due to a hyperthyroid condition she gets tired easily, which forced her to seek another style of exercise. She decided to go to a gym and start weight lifting with a friend. Four months later she was hooked, and after competing in her first bodybuilding competition in Nakhon Si Thammarat she has never looked back.

From 2009 to 2013, Wilaiporn has won 21 awards. She recently won first place in the Mr Thailand 2013 Women's Bodybuilding, for the third time running. She was also the champion of the 2010 and 2012 Thai-

land National Games Women Bodybuilding Open, the 2012 Siam Classic Women Bodybuilding Open. But her biggest achievement was winning the 2012 World Bodybuilding & Physique Federation (WBPF) Women Bodybuilding (50kg category).

In just six years, she has gone from being an average mother of two to a world champion female bodybuilder, but it hasn't come without struggle, both mental and physical.

She has been on the receiving end of derisive comments questioning her motivation and even her gender. But the same strength she has used to become champion has helped her ignore these jibes and hold her head up high.

“From the start, I was doing something I loved and believed in. I tried my best and I believed in myself, knowing that one day I'd be successful in what I was doing, no matter what others said. Now, I'm at the point that I have been aiming for,” said Wilaiporn with obvious satisfaction.

Women, normally, do not and cannot produce as much testosterone (male hormone) as men do. So, many women who want to increase muscle mass like

men, unfortunately, choose to use anabolic steroids (synthetic testosterone) that are dangerous and very unhealthy. Instead of taking this path, Wilaiporn focuses on what she says is the most important part of building muscles – food.

“Most people think that exercising heavily is the main factor to have a lot of muscles, but actually food is the most important thing you should care about.”

“To build muscle mass, you need to exercise the muscle group you want to build. When you're exercising, you're also destroying that group. Then, any protein that you have after exercising will build up the muscle mass in your body, so protein is an important food for bodybuilders,” Wilaiporn said.

Different people have different dreams. Although Wilaiporn's dream may be different from other women in the world, she is proof that anyone can pursue their dream, whatever it is, and with effort and dedication, achieve it.

“I want to be the inspiration for housewives. Women with children can still have six packs and be in good shape. It's true that we don't even reach 10 percent of what our body's capabilities. I think we can always improve our body for the better,” said Wilaiporn.

‘Most people think that exercising heavily is the main factor in building a lot of muscles, but actually food is the most important thing you should care about.’

– Wilaiporn



Wilaiporn Wannaklang, 37, a 2012 WBPF woman bodybuilding champion in Spiderman gesture.



Wilaiporn wins big at the 2012 WBPF.



Wilaiporn shows her guns at the 2012 WBPF.

## Thai teen wins Asean PGA Tour

PHACHARA Khongwatmai has little time to celebrate his record-breaking triumph on the Asean PGA Tour as the 14-year-old Thai amateur golfer needs to catch up on his homework after taking a week off from school to compete in the event.

Phachara, born on May 3, 1999, stunned an experienced field that included a number of the country's leading golfers, to win the \$US 65,000 Singha Hua Hin Open by four shots on Sunday and etch his name in golf's record books.

With the victory, Phachara re-

places New Zealand sensation Lydia Ko, who won the 2012 New South Wales Open three months prior to her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, as the youngest winner of a professional golf event.

“I am really, really happy to win against so many top players,” Phachara, who had to qualify for the tournament, he said.

“My putting was the key and I also worked very hard with my caddie. We planned everything carefully.”

However, Phachara's joy will be short-lived as the daily grind of school life looms on his horizon.

“Tomorrow (Monday 22) is a public holiday and the first thing I need to do is call my friends and catch up on homework,” he added after his four-under-par final round 67 took him to 13-under for the tournament.

Fellow Thai Prom Meesawat, who finished tied for second with Sutijet Kooratanapisan, was simply stunned by the teenager's performance.

“It is amazing to see a kid play like that. I had a bogey-free round but look at what he did!” Prom said.

– Reuters

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# Local 'Pacific skipper' brings home 3<sup>rd</sup> for Sansiri

TWENTY-nine-year-old Pathinyakorn "Ging" Buranrom recently finished the Transpac 2013, and after racing 4,100 kilometers across the world's largest body of water, the Pacific Ocean, he and the crew on Sansiri have placed third in their division. A fantastic result, indeed. Ging will now sail to Australia, leaving on July 27, and return to Thailand in September.

– *Infinity Communications*



MAKING WAVES: Pathinyakorn Buranrom.



On the pacific. Photo: Sharon Green/ultimatesailing.com



Sansiri crew. Photo: Doug Gifford/ultimatesailing.com

# Raceweek gets new ownership

MEDIA Business Services (MBS), led by Byron and Kanyarat Jones, have been announced as the new owners and rights holders of the Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek. The news was broken at the closing party and Gala Dinner of the highly successful 2013 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek. Founder and now former rights holder Grenville Fordham of Image Asia Events made the handover official in front of

500 sailors, VIPs, guests and the media.

"I'm very happy with how Raceweek has grown over the years and I am proud of what I and the Image Asia team have achieved," said Mr Fordham, Managing Director of Image Asia Events.

"For myself, it is time to move on and in looking for someone to take the regatta forward I could not have found better than the Media Business Services team. Byron and

Khun Kanyarat have been very hands-on co-organizing this year's event and have done a great job. They now know what's involved from beginning to end to make this regatta work, and I have full confidence in them continuing its tradition of success."

Looking to the future, Mr Jones, MD of MBS, said, "We are very excited to be entrusted with the future of Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek. We are not actually new to the event, having been a media partner for a number of years through our other business, 91.5FM Phuket Island Radio, and having worked closely with Grenville and the Image Asia Events team in a co-organizer capacity this year."

"We are aware of what makes this event such a success and judging by the feedback at the closing party and since, 2013 was one of the most successful yet. We won't be changing an award-winning formula, more contributing some new ideas and developments that we believe will make the event an even more enjoyable experience for all involved."

The 2013 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek welcomed a bumper 37-strong fleet for the 10th Anniversary and sailors enjoyed some of the best racing yet off Phuket's southeast coast. The dates for 2014 have already been set: the 11th Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek will take place July 16-20 at Cape Panwa Hotel.

## 2013 RaceWeek Top Finishers

### IRC Racing I

- Oil: P Ahern/S Bailey/F Wilmer (7)
- Katsu: B Copley (15)
- Wan Ma Rang: K Whitcraft (18)

### IRC Racing II

- Fujin: P Sorensen (7)
- Skandia Endeavour Of Whitby: S Williamson (18)
- Phoenix: N Degenkolw (21)

### IRC Cruising

- Windstar: P Wood (4)
- Dreamtime: R Azzopardi (8)
- Sail in Asia Venture: M Crisp (11)

### Firefly 850

- Twin Sharks: J Newnham (7)
- Voodoo: H Rahmann (16)
- Moto Inzi: R Kingdon (17)

### Multihull Racing

- DaVinci: Mark Pescott (12)
- Asia Catamarans Hurricane: A Carwadine (13)
- Java: J Coffin (16)

### Classic

- Sirius: S Morris (3)
- Atlanta: L Piper (7)
- Letizia: Capt. B Gundel (8)

*Also, see RaceWeek report on pp 40 - 41*



WINDS OF CHANGE: Grenville Fordham (left), Raceweek Founder and Managing Director of former rights holder Image Asia Events, congratulates new owner and rights holder, Byron Jones (right), Managing Director, Media Business Services (MBS).

# Cars, hearts raced wildly at Saphan Hin event

FAST cars should be enough to make your hair rise, but if not, maybe a few celebrities will. A handful of them joined the "Toyota Motor Sport 2013" event on July 21 at Saphan Hin in Phuket; among them, actor Phatit Phisitkul, singer Sririsin Chotivijit and actress Nathalie Davies.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut opened this year's event, which is the first in the series of races that will take place all around Thailand.

The event's racing highlight is "Vios One Make Race" for ladies, for the beginners and for advanced racing drivers. The winner and the runner-up of the whole series will compete in the Netz Cup in Japan and join Toyota Team Thailand in the next racing season.

Aside from the racing last Saturday in Phuket, spectators got to witness a drift show and various performance tests and demonstrations showcasing popular Toyota cars, including the latest Vios, Yaris,



ON YOUR MARK: The Phuket race is the first of a series. Photo: SkyLink

Corolla and Altis models. A Toyota Salon was open to visitors dying to take a peak at... you know, modified cars and car accessories. Toyota Motorsport aimed to make the event more exciting and diverse than previous edition under the slogan "Fun Race Fun Fest".

The next race will take place at the "5<sup>th</sup> of December 2007 Sports Complex" in Nakorn Ratchasima from August 31 to September 1,

2013, with more events to follow in Chiang Mai, Bangkok, Sepang (Malaysia) and Chonburi.

Oh, and the racing results... right. In the Phuket Edition, it was Supassorn Chaimongkol who won the "Vios C Lady Cup" and collected 30,000 baht. The runner-up, Thicomeporn Roungrongrattana won a prize of 20,000 baht and the third runner-up, Tippawan Phurayub collected 15,000 baht. In the "Vios one make race Class C" saw 17 drivers competing for



GET SET... GO: It wasn't only cars drawing attention. Photos: ChillOut Foto



Yaris one make race", Alongkorn Yongyuen of the SA A Car Racing team crossed the finish line first with Arthit Ruangsomboon as the runner-up and Chayapol Yota in third place.

The "Vios one make race Class C" saw 17 drivers competing for

the prize including Sririsin "Kwang" Chotivijit, the singer of "AB normal" rock group.

The winner of this category, Chonlawit Nuya from Phuket Srisuchart Transport, took home 30,000 baht.

– *Phuket Gazette*





DEADLOCK: Phuket's Ludovick Takam (center) was defended well by Bangkok defenders. Photos: Steven Layne

# Islanders lock horns with Bulls

By Steven Layne

PHUKET FC dropped one place to sixth of the 18-team Yamaha League One (YL1), after playing out yet another draw – this time to Bangkok FC in a tense yet thrilling 1-1 deadlock on Saturday evening in Thailand's capital.

Bangkok also lost their 3<sup>rd</sup> place standing, falling into 4<sup>th</sup> as a result of the draw and in conjunction with results of other matches this weekend.

The game, both sides' 19<sup>th</sup> of the 34 fixture list in the 2013 Yamaha League One season, was played in front of about 4,000 spectators at Bangkok's Chalmers Stadium in Bang Mod, Thonburi, just off the west bank of the Chao Phraya River.

The stadium's east and west stands were jam-packed with orange and black "Bulligans" fans, while the hardly-noticeable visitor's contingent comprised of some 30 Bangkok-based Phuket supporters.

As to the reason for the unusual absence of a respectable Phuket away-game contingent, there is no doubt that die-hard Hulk supporters, who usually attend such away matches, were still devastated from their recent, disappointing FA Cup road trip to Muang Thong in which the Islanders conceded five unanswered goals.

Nonetheless, in their latest test in the capital, it was Phuket who drew first blood to silence the energetic Bangkok fans in only the 8<sup>th</sup> minute. The Islander's new Thai signing from Chonburi, Sukree Etiae beat the Bangkok keeper at the far post after a meandering run which carved up the Bulls' defense.

Back-and-forth play ensued and the home team would eventually find the equalizer through speedy Ghanaian striker Samuel Donquah, beating Phuket's keeper at the far post on 27 minutes, topping his

team's celebration with an impressive display of acrobats to the pleasure of much of the stadium.

Despite commendable attacking attempts by both sides, and a highly anticipated debut of Phuket's key new signing, Christian Alex – on-loan from top tier Brazilian club Cruzeiro – the only mentionable highlight in the rest of the match were a series of abusive verbal and physical exchanges – although no one managed to get 'carded' for dissent.

Knocking Phuket out of 5<sup>th</sup> spot on Sunday was Gulf Saraburi, who prevailed 2-0 away to lowly, Khon Kaen; Bangkok were also bumped down by the Singhtharua Port Lions who downed Trat at home 3-0.

The Port Lions now have 34 points – six more than Phuket and Saraburi and two more than Bangkok; PTT Rayong sealed their 2<sup>nd</sup> place standing on 41 points after their 1-0 home win to Nakhon

	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Air Force	19	43
2	PTT Rayong	19	41
3	Port Lions	19	34
4	Bangkok	19	33
5	Saraburi	19	28
6	Phuket	19	28
7	Trat FC	19	27
8	Korat	19	26
9	Nakhon Pathom	19	26
10	BBCU FC	19	26
11	Krabi	19	21
12	Ayutthaya	19	20
13	Sriracha	19	19
14	Khon Kaen	19	19
15	TTM FC	19	19
16	Royal Navy	19	17
17	Rayong FC	19	15
18	Rayong Utd.	19	13



1	LEE TUCK	BANGKOK FC	13
2	RECIO MATTHIAS EDUARDO	KHON KAEN	10
3	LEANDRO DE OLIVEIRA DA LUZ	PORT LIONS	10
4	CAMARA SOULEYMANE	NAKHON PATHOM	10

1	LUIZ PURCINO	6
2	GIORGI TSIMAKURIDZE	4
3	GEOFFREY DOUMENG	3
4	CHANA SONWISIT	2
5	NENEI SLYVESTER	2

Pathom, while Air Force still hang on in 1<sup>st</sup> place with 43 points, despite losing on the road to Krabi on Sunday.

The Andaman Eagles' new Brazilian signing, Valci Junior – previously of Rayong United – has nine goals this season – eight from his old side on the Eastern Seaboard, and now one with his new team across the Phang Nga Bay.

Krabi are now in 11<sup>th</sup> place with 21 points.

The YL1 will now break for a week as all teams prepare for a busy August schedule, with each team looking to play 6-8 matches in the month.

Boasting the most number of draws in the YL1 this season (10), Phuket urgently need to inspire/

spark a winning streak if they hope to meet the goal of promotion to the elite Thai league, TPL.

Their next shot will be at home on Saturday, August 3, against 15<sup>th</sup> place Thai Tobacco Monopoly, who Phuket beat 1-0 back in March.

See panel, bottom left.



## Chonburi futsal glory comes to end in Kuwait

CHONBURI Blue Wave's 3-2 victory over Kuwaiti squad Kazma last Sunday night was not enough to ensure survival beyond the group-stage in the 2013 Kuwait Mini World Futsal Club Tournament.

Although the win gave the Thai champs four points, equal to Croatian champs, MNK Alumnus, the latter had a better goal difference and thus advanced to the quarterfinals.

Alumnus subsequently won their quarterfinals match against Bahrain club Muharraq 5-1, and at the time of going to press, were set to play Ukrainian powerhouse, MFC Cardinal-Rivne in the semifinals.



Chonburi beat the hosts 4-3.

Also advancing as top team in Group D, Santiago maintained their unbeaten run to down Argentinian club Pinocho 4-3 in the quarterfinals, before taking on Egyptians, Misr ElMakasa.

For the semifinals and finals results, check kmwfc.com

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