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■ DETAINED INDEFINITELY, UNDER THREAT FROM TRAFFICKERS

Champion steps in for Rohingya

■ Minister Paveena declares conditions a human rights issue, seeks policy revamp

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

MINISTER of Social Development and Human Security Paveena Hongsakula pledged to approach Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to address the deplorable conditions in which Rohingya refugees are being detained in Thailand.

Ms Paveena defined the conditions as a clear human rights issue and a threat to national security after inspecting the large, caged detention cells at Phang Nga Immigration, and after visiting the Phang Nga Shelter for Children and Families last Saturday.

"After listening to senior officials dealing directly with the refugee influx of Rohingya in Phang Nga, I can clearly see that this is a human rights issue and concerns national security," Ms Paveena said. "The refugees must..."

Continued on page 6



Minister of Social Development and Human Security Paveena Hongsakula said she would raise the issue of the Rohingya detention centers with Prime Minister Yingluck. Photo: Phang Nga Shelter

Police take down teens after brutal knife attack

POLICE arrested four youths after the group was caught on CCTV camera hacking a man with a machete in Karon last week.

The victim is in stable condition and the members of the vicious group have confessed to police.

Full story on Page 2

Koh Racha tour safety in question

DAY-TRIP tour guides and speedboat captains were cited by the President of the Racha Conservation Club as serious dangers to tourists visiting the popular Racha Yai Island.

Full story on Page 8

Land Office to be grilled over land title issues

THE Phuket Land Office is to be asked to explain how three *Nor Sor 3* land-use documents were issued for seven rai of protected mangrove forest.

Full story on Page 5

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This Week



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Thai real estate agents prepare for Asean integration. **Page 13**



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Marine tourism industry raises the bar with CSR initiative. **Page 17**



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Enjoy Wagyu, the king of steaks, at Churrasco in Patong. **Page 34**



Fashion
White is the new black, tips for wearing white with style. **Page 36**



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Take a journey to a floating hotel in Khao Sok. **Page 42**



Sport
Phuket FC look ahead to a crucial month of matches. **Page 50**

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Juveniles charged over vicious attack

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE have arrested four youths for a savage attack on a man who was repeatedly beaten and hacked with a machete in Karon on July 25, after the incident was recorded on CCTV.

"We went to the scene and found the victim, Silert Pong-Aroon, seriously injured," Karon Police Superintendent Weerawat Jantarawichit explained.

"Rescue workers rushed him to Vachira Phuket Hospital. None of the attackers were at the scene when we arrived," he said.

Karon Police checked CCTV footage, on which they saw Mr Silert being repeatedly beaten and hacked at until he fell unconscious.

After viewing the footage, police were able to track down and identify the attackers.

"When we found out who they were, we applied to the Phuket Juvenile Court for arrest warrants, because of the ages of three of the suspects," said Col Weerawat.

The Phuket Juvenile Court subsequently issued arrest warrants to apprehend the three teenagers – two aged 16 and one aged 17.

Amorn Patkor, 19, was also arrested.



The CCTV footage showed the victim, Silert Pong-Aroon, being repeatedly beaten and hacked by assailants until he fell unconscious. Image: Supplied

"They were taken to the police station and they all confessed to the charges against them," Col Weerawat said.

Hospital staff confirmed that Mr Silert is no longer in critical condition.

"He is now stable but under close observation," the staffer said.

The vicious attack came on the same day that Phuket City Police arrested and charged four members of a teenage gang for attempted murder (see page 4).

Those four teenagers were caught on CCTV seriously injuring a Burmese man in a knife attack in Phuket Town early the preceding day.

Airport bus services cut back

THE dwindling volume of passengers since the launch of the Airport Express bus service on July 19 has forced the operator to suspend the 8am run from Patong and the two night services from the airport.

"The bus stop was simply too dark in the evening. There was no light there," said Prakob Panyawai, the owner of the bus company.

"Also, there were no signs pointing to the bus stop, which meant tourists did not know where the bus stop was located," he added.

The airport authority has been notified of the problems and requested to install appropriate lights and signs, Mr Prakob said.

"We expect everything to be finalized by the end of August, and



There are no signs at the airport showing tourists the bus stop.

at that time we will reinstate the original evening schedule," Mr Prakob explained.

– *Irfan Jamdukor*

For more details of the new bus service, including times and fares, visit PhuketAirportBusExpress.com

Traffic cop run down by motorcyclist

A PHUKET City Police traffic officer was run down by a speeding motorcyclist last Friday while trying to clear a rush-hour traffic jam near Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Sen Sgt Maj Somsak Chuenbangbah was en route to Saphan Hin, where he was to make sure no trouble erupted at the "birthday funeral" being held there by V-Phuket anti-government protesters to mark the 64th birthday of fugitive former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra (see page 5).

Sgt Somsak left Phuket City Police headquarters on Chumphon Road at about 5:30pm, but got no further than the end of the street, where he found himself gridlocked in a Friday afternoon traffic jam.

"I wanted to help the public by



Sen Sgt Maj Somsak suffered injuries to his head and right arm in the collision.

doing my bit to try to improve the flow of traffic," Sgt Somsak said.

"I was standing in the middle of the road directing traffic when a motorbike drove toward me at high speed – and actually crashed into me," he added.

Maj Sakol Krainara of Phuket City Police soon received a call for assistance, as did staff at Vachira Hospital, located only about 350 meters up the road, who quickly dispatched an ambulance.

"We arrived to find Sgt Somsak lying on the road, clearly in pain. His right arm and head were injured, and he was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital," said Maj Sakol.

Nearby, officers found the uninjured driver of the motorbike, Jakkrapong Suwan, 25.

"Although the young man did not try to run away, and indeed offered his sincere apologies to the policeman he knocked down, Mr Jakkrapong was charged with reckless driving," Maj Sakol added. – *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



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ANANTARA SI KAO RESORT & SPA

Hold no passports

Tourism minister gets tough with vehicle-rental cowboys

By Saran Mitrarat

TOURISM and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak has called for an end to the common practice of foreigners' passports being held as a condition of renting motorbikes, cars and jet-skis.

"We are deeply concerned about this situation... Strictly speaking, this is illegal – passports simply cannot be handed over to third parties," Minister Somsak said.

"Because passports are the properties of the governments that issue them, those who seize them – for any reason – are in fact seizing the property of a foreign government.

"The Ministry of Tourism and Sports and the Foreign Affairs Ministry are trying to formulate a law to rectify this situation, and to establish penalties for offenders, as soon as we can," he said.

Minister Somsak suggested temporary drivers' licenses be issued to visitors as a substitute. These would require the renter to prove that they already have a valid license in their own country.

"If the individual forgets to bring their home-country driver's license, or they do not have one, they would have to contact the Land Transportation Office, which would be able to provide a temporary license within four hours of testing the person's driving skills," he said.

Minister Somsak did not elaborate on the practice of law-enforcement agencies confiscating passports of tourists while conducting investigations.

Department of Special Investi-



No more holding passports as collateral for renting motorbikes, cars and jet-skis, said Minister Somsak.

gations (DSI) chief Tarit Pengdith, accompanying Minister Somsak on his visit to Phuket last week, offered a counter suggestion.

"Vehicle-rental operators should accept a signed copy of the customer's passport instead. This means we could still coordinate with Immigration Police if the renter does not return the vehicle or seriously damages it, and then tries to escape from Thailand. Immigration might refuse them permission to leave until the case is settled," he said.

But DSI Chief Tarit also issued a clear warning: "Regardless of whatever measures are taken to

facilitate Phuket's tourism industry being cleaned up, after we have established our Organized Crime Center for Tourism, we will crack down on all illegal businesses – including dodgy vehicle-rental operators, illegal taxis and other law-breakers."

"We know of 59 businesses – including 13 in Phuket – that have used nominees [so they could be legally registered as companies], and we are conducting special investigations into these. We have taken legal action against 14 businesses already and are working through the list," he added.

"Concerning organized crime in

Phuket, this is my last warning – you have 15 days to legalize your activities. After that, we will clean up the entire island," Mr Tarit warned.

DSI chief Tarit also warned corrupt officials in Phuket: "If we learn that local government officials have been involved, they will not be exempt from the full force of the law."

In brief...

Two arrested after public bus delivers 9.5kg of kratom

TWO men were arrested in Wichit on July 25 after they picked up a box of kratom leaves delivered to Phuket by bus. The box had the sender's and the recipients' names clearly written on it.

The arresting officers believe the suspects – Teerawuth Rodniaw, 21, and Annop Iawsakul, 26 – planned to sell the leaves to teenagers to make the drug cocktail 4x100.

Toyota sought in shop hit-and-run

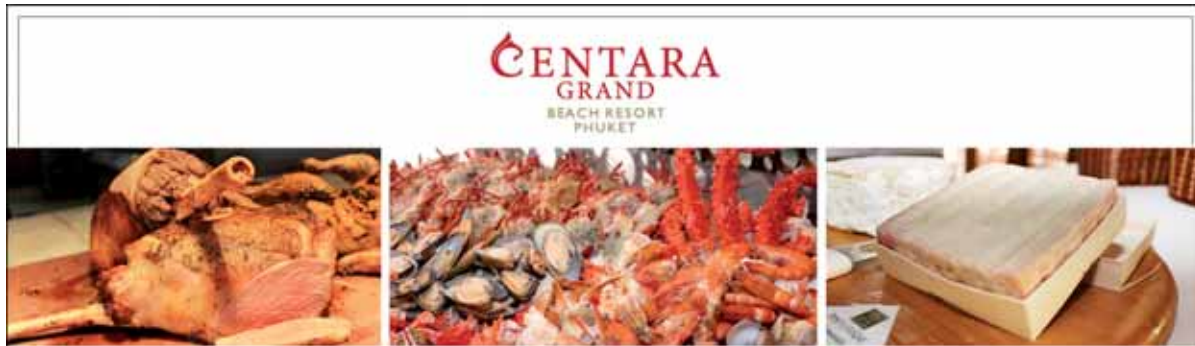
POLICE are on the lookout for the driver of a Toyota vehicle – make and model unknown – that slammed into a motorbike repair shop in Thalang early last Sunday.

The driver reportedly backed his vehicle out of the shop and fled, leaving behind his front bumper and Toyota logo badge.

Russian escapes as car goes off-road, bursts into flames

Maxim Kasutin, 27, escaped injury early last Friday after he accidentally veered off a road and hit a concrete water tank in the hills near the Big Buddha, in Chalong, at about 1:30am.

The car was gutted after it burst into flames. Mr Kasutin also narrowly avoided plunging down a 10-meter drop barely one meter from where his car stopped.



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CANAL VILLAGE
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Trial set for taxi driver accused of abduction

THE trial of the illegal taxi driver charged with abducting and sexually assaulting a Chinese teen tourist on May 17 will start on September 2.

"The case was transferred to the court on July 4," said Phuket Public Prosecutor Theerasak Srichulalak.

Paitoon Kruain, 32, faces four charges: deprivation of liberty; sexual assault; using a Category 1 narcotic and consuming alcohol while driving. He denies all the charges.

A 19-year-old Chinese tourist filed a complaint to police alleging that after he picked her up at the airport, Mr Paitoon kept her captive in his car for five hours and repeatedly touched her, hugged her and asked to kiss her.

Her ordeal ended only when the car ran out of gas and she was able to escape and call for help from passersby.

— *Saran Mitrarat*

'Slap-attack' gang to face attempted murder charge

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

FOUR members of a teenage gang have been charged with attempted murder after a Burmese man was seriously injured in a knife attack in Phuket Town on July 24.

The gang of 10 were riding motorbikes along Tilok U-Thit Road at about 1:30am when four of them took umbrage with a Burmese man riding his motorbike with a sidecar in the wrong direction down the street.

"They turned around and forced the man to stop. An argument broke out and one of the teenagers stabbed the Burmese man three times before the gang raced off," explained Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan.

The injured man managed to get to a nearby Family Mart convenience store, where staff called for help.

"At about 5:30am, our officers stopped six of the gang members



The victim was stabbed three times but survived the attack.

at Saphan Hin. We were looking for the 'slap attack' gang," said Lt Col Prawit.

The slap-attack gang had been riding around the streets in the

early morning for about a week, slapping people – mostly street sweepers and exercisers – hard across the back of the head.

Police had been rounding up

teenagers and questioning them.

The six gang members picked up on July 25 denied they were the slap-gang, but an officer matched one of their license plates to a bike used in a slap-attack, Lt Col Prawit said.

The teens were brought in for questioning, and all six were identified from CCTV footage taken in front of Family Mart as having been at the scene of the stabbing.

"They denied they were involved in the attack, but said that four of their friends did it," Col Prawit said.

By 11am on the day of the attack, police had arrested the four suspects at a house in Wichit.

"The four teens were charged with attempted murder. They confessed to the charges," Col Prawit said.

After five hours of further questioning, the entire gang reportedly confessed to carrying out the slap-attacks early on July 24, Col Prawit said.

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Phuket Provincial Administration President Paiboon Upatising (right) is shown how CCTV helps police to apprehend criminals. Photo: Gazette file

Minister approves multi-million baht budget for CCTV

TOURISM and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak has approved a 251-million-baht budget to have an additional 2,450 CCTV cameras added to Phuket's current arsenal of 1,419 cameras monitoring the island.

"Phuket is the first place about which I have received complaints concerning security from about 20 foreign diplomats, making it clear that we have to boost our efforts to increase security in Phuket," Mr Somsak said.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karachedi's request for the budget on July 25 echoed the promise by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthutut last week to request the CCTVs.

The request was made for 2,400 "normal" fixed-position

CCTV cameras and 50 "speed dome" cameras that can pan, tilt and zoom. The speed dome cameras would be able to capture footage from 360 degrees and provide high-resolution images.

Low-quality CCTV footage was cited as the leading reason that some cases – including the execution of Jintana Mahattanapak, mother of two – have gone cold.

"The speed dome cameras will be set up at important tourist centers in Phuket, such as Patong, Kata and Karon," Col Peerayuth said.

Minister Somsak said the budget was approved for the 2014 fiscal year, but that relevant local departments would need to use their own funds to ensure the CCTV are properly maintained.

— *Saran Mitrarat*

Protected mangroves violated

Land Office to face questions over land-use documents for construction site

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Phuket Land Office will be called on to answer how three *Nor Sor 3* land-use documents came to be issued for plots within a protected mangrove site on the outskirts of Phuket Town.

Officials from the Royal Forest Department (RFD) on July 29 raided a seven-rai site in the Klong Koh Pee area, near Saphan Hin in Phuket Town.

Land had been cleared in preparation for major construction.

What was planned to be built at the site was not made clear.

"When we arrived at the scene, we saw a backhoe resurfacing the land. Another two diggers and an earth roller were parked nearby," said Paisarn Noopichai, chief of the RFD's Deforestation Prevention and Suppression Phuket office.

The raid followed a tip-off to officials that a large tract of land among the mangroves had been cleared.

"We confirmed through satel-



The protected mangrove forest on the edge of Phuket Town had been already destroyed and the area cleared.

lite images that the land being developed was inside the Klong Koh Pee protected mangrove forest," Mr Paisarn said.

"After we seized the three diggers and the earth roller as

evidence, the person claiming to own rights to the land arrived and showed us three Certificate Use [*NorSor 3*] documents apparently issued for the seven rai," Mr Paisarn explained.

"We will ask Phuket Land Office how the three *NorSor 3* documents came to be issued for land within a protected mangrove forest.

"We will also call in the person



Paisarn Noopichai Photo: Supplied

who presented the *NorSor 3* documents for further questioning and ask how they came to acquire them," Mr Paisarn said.

All recognized mangrove forests in Thailand are protected by law. Any development or construction within or on a mangrove forest must first be granted special permission by the Cabinet.

Special permission is even required for government projects, such as the project to build an elevated road across the same Klong Koh Pee mangrove forest that the above developer has been found allegedly encroaching on.

Thaksin 'coffin' burned at V-Phuket gathering

ABOUT 100 members of the V-Phuket protest group gathered at the Saphan Hin waterfront to denounce former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and burn his "coffin" to mark his 64th birthday on July 26.

The event was set up like a Thai-style funeral ceremony, which featured a coffin with a wreath laid in front of it.

The makeshift coffin featured a picture of Mr Thaksin lying down, with a coin in his mouth.

One sign placed next to the coffin read: "He can no longer cheat us now that he is dead, with a single coin in his mouth – the only money he can get."

Another sign read: "All that's left after he died is his legacy of rottenness."

Paper flowers were placed on and around the coffin.

Then, as the coffin was set ablaze, the protesters sang a parody of a birthday song.



Protestors ignited a makeshift coffin for Thankin's birthday.

"The purpose of the coffin-burning ceremony today was to convey the message to Thaksin to 'Go to hell' on his birthday," said an unidentified V-Phuket protester.

"The red shirts celebrated Thaksin's birthday by making a big cake and blowing out the candles. We were celebrating too, but by setting fire to his coffin rather than lighting the candles on his birthday cake," the protester said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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HRH Princess Sirindhorn in whirlwind island visit

HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn arrived in Phuket this week to complete a busy schedule of inaugurating a variety of new buildings across the island.

Within six hours, Princess Sirindhorn officiated the inauguration of six buildings, starting at Cape Panwa on Phuket's east coast, and taking in stops at Phuket Town, Kathu and Patong along the way.

At the auspicious time of 8.05am, Princess Sirindhorn inaugurated the brand-new Islam Phattana School, built by the Global Ikhwan Foundation, at Cape Panwa.

At 9am, Her Royal Highness opened a new school building at Plookpanya School in Phuket Town, and officially opened an-

other new school building, at Satree Phuket School in Phuket Town, at 9:55am.

An hour later, Princess Sirindhorn presided over the opening of a monument honoring HRH Prince Mahitala Thibed Adulyadej Vikrom (HRH Prince Mahidol Adulyadej), the Princess' Grandfather, at the Prince of Songkla University Phuket Campus in Kathu.

At 1:10pm, Princess Sirindhorn opened a patient building at Patong Hospital, and at 2:10pm she officially opened the Phuket Mining Museum in Kathu.

Princess Sirindhorn departed for Bangkok by royal airplane at 3:30pm.

— *Paramee Poolsawat*



HRH Princess Sirindhorn inaugurates a new building at Satree Phuket School. Photo: PR Dept



SLOW MEN WORKING: The funds have arrived and work has begun.

Patong Hill roadworks underway

THE 22 million baht needed to make permanent repairs to a large, notoriously derelict section of Patong Hill road has been secured.

"A contract was signed on May 15, and the repairs are expected to be completed by October 12," Phuket Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad said.

The section of road, just west of the Chinese shrine at the top of the hill, was first washed away by heavy rains in 2011, and then again in September 2102.

Several million baht was previously used to temporarily shore up the section of road until the budget for permanent solution was approved, Mr Samak said.

"Once it is completed, it will last at least 20 years," he added.

Mr Samak advised motorists to seek alternative routes to ease traffic congestion while the construction is ongoing.

— *Chutharat Plerin*

Rohingya resolve

Minister Paveena to take plight of refugees to PM Yingluck

From page 1

...be well taken care of while they are displaced in Thailand."

Dr Nirun Phitakwatchara of the National Human Rights Commission (HRC) of Thailand supported the move for Thailand to draw up a fresh policy to accommodate the thousands of Rohingya arriving in the country.

"It has been months, and they still have yet to give any clear policy," he said.

At Phuket Immigration, where 38 Rohingya men are being detained, several men have suffered atrophy from having to sit on the cell floor day after day, month after month.

Phuket Immigration chief Sunchai Chokkajaykij said four of the men had to receive hospital treatment. Two could not walk, and two were mentally exhausted from the stress of consistently being incarcerated, he said.

"We let them leave the cell once every two weeks for exercise, but we cannot do it daily. It takes our entire staff to ensure they don't run away," Col Sunchai said.

"I see them crying every day — and that hurts. We are doing the best we can with the resources that we have," he said.



Ms Paveena (right) looks into a caged cell where Rohingya refugees are being detained in Phang Nga.

Conditions at Phang Nga Immigration are no better, with international agencies reporting dozens of men suffering atrophy from being forced to stay in the cramped cells.

More than 950 Rohingya refugees illegally entered Thailand from January 14 to March 26 and were detained by Phang Nga Police, Phang Nga Immigration Inspector Neti Khanboon explained during Ms Paveena's visit.

"Later, many of them were transferred to other provinces in order to relieve pressure here. There are currently 261 refugees under our watch, including 43 people in the Phang Nga Shelter for Children and Families," Lt Col Neti explained.

Despite the transfer of hundreds of Rohingya from the Phang Nga facilities, they are still notoriously overcrowded, leading some refugees to flee them.

"The refugees are suffering from overcrowding here. They are crammed into only one space. We need to provide a new shelter for them," Ms Paveena said.

"Officials must keep a close eye on the situation, so that none of these refugees slip into the hands of human-trafficking gangs," she said.

Additional reporting by Chutharat Plerin.

Students to contest national English final in Bangkok

THREE 11-year-old Phuket students will be competing in a national English-language competition in Bangkok this weekend after having come in second place in the southern regional competition in June.

The primary school students Fonthip "Ploy" Tanphaibul; Satakamon "Mona" Sawasdiaphat; and Poramate "Fluke" Phuchareon, began working on their 20-minute group presentation about the Phuket Heroines in May, and are now ready to stand before the judges of the National Academic Competition at Muang Thong Thani in Bangkok and proudly share their local heritage — in English.



Fluke (front left), Mona (front right) and Ploy (back left) will compete in the national final in Bangkok. Photo: Ross Robinson

"They've been working hard. They've added to the presentation since last time. As long as they don't get too nervous they'll be fine," the students' academic adviser, Steve Garner, said.

English-language competitions such as this were great confidence builders, he explained.

"I always tell them that even though it's a competition, they are there to enjoy themselves.

"I never like to put too much pressure on them. It's not a win or lose thing, it's about them enjoying the experience," Mr Garner said.

— *Isaac Stone Simonelli*

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Double trouble for organized crime

By Orawin Narabal

THE Department of Special Investigation (DSI) will open two Organized Crime Center for Tourism (OCCT) offices in Phuket: one in Phuket Town and another at Phuket International Airport.

A four-digit hotline is being set up and staff are being readied to receive tip-offs in Thai and English.

"We also plan to later introduce officers who are fluent enough to receive complaints in Chinese and Russian," said DSI Deputy Director-General Pol Col Yannapol Yangyeun.

"The centers will be open 24 hours, and we hope to have the hotline set up by next week," Col Yannapol said.

Top priority for the two OCCTs will be illegal taxis and Russians involved in tourism businesses, Santi Pawai of the Phuket Tourism and Sports office told a meeting on Tuesday.

Other high priorities will be taxi drivers cheating tourists, money laundering and persons involved in organized crime, Col Yannapol confirmed.

The OCCT in Phuket Town, to be located at the Ministry of Tourism and Sports offices near Surakul Stadium on Wichit Songkran Road, will open on August 8, Mr Santi said.

"The OCCT at the airport will open on August 9," he added.

"The centers will be staffed by officers from the Tourism and Sports Ministry, the DSI and local police and government officers," Mr Sarit explained.

At the meeting on Tuesday, Governor Maitri Inthusut said that the growing num-



DSI Chief Tarit Pengdith gave criminals targeting tourists 15 days to stop. Photo: Saran Mitratrat

ber of tourists to Phuket makes the island an attractive target for criminals and cheats.

"More than 10.5 million people are expected to visit Phuket this year. According to Airports of Thailand [which operates Phuket Airport], during the week July 22-28, about 200 flights landed in Phuket,

bringing on average 30,414 passengers a day," Governor Maitri explained.

The results of the meeting on Tuesday were to be presented to officers from the DSI and the Ministry of Tourism and Sports at a meeting in Bangkok on August 2, said Governor Maitri.

He also mandated that the "counter-corruption committee" meet every two weeks from now on to raise issues and discuss incidents of organized crime on Phuket.

The news follows DSI chief Tarit Pengdith on July 25 levelling a clear warning at all criminals targeting tourists in Phuket: cease and desist within 15 days – or else.

Mr Tarit arrived in Phuket with Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak and a team of about 10 DSI officials to launch a crackdown specifically targeting illegal taxi drivers and foreigners using Thai nominees in order to illegally maintain control over companies.

The crackdown follows Minister Somsak seeking assistance from the DSI – Thailand's equivalent to the United States' Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) – in curtailing what he called "mafia gangs" operating in Phuket.

Minister Somsak also specifically identified Russians as a target group who hired Thais as nominees to run restaurants, souvenir shops and beach-bed rental services that exploited tourists.

"After the Phuket center is open, we will open one in Pattaya. Then we will seek to have a law passed to specifically protect tourists from being cheated," Mr Tarit said.

"To all mafia and all officials involved, we're giving you one last chance to go straight. After 15 days from now, if you want to keep going, then just try it," he warned.

Additional reporting by Saran Mitratrat and Kritsada Mueanhawong











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Greed jeopardizing tourists' safety on Racha, says group

RECKLESS speedboat captains and tour guides chasing day-trip commissions have been named as the leading culprits jeopardizing tourists' safety at Koh Racha.

Sarit Jandee, president of the Racha Conservation Club, blamed tour guides for encouraging day-trippers to swim and rent water-sports equipment on the west side of the island, which at this time of year has rough surf.

"The guides don't warn the tourists about the big waves and there might be only one guide for 60 tourists. They can't look after everyone because the tourists separate.

"When the day-trippers get into trouble in the sea, they also endanger those trying to help them... We have no lifeguards on Racha Island," he said.

The problem was being exacerbated by the rising number of tourists visiting the island, he said.

"Even in the low season, there are 800 to 1,000 day-trippers every day," said Mr Sarit, adding that two Chinese tourists have drowned at the island during the past nine months.



The picturesque Racha Island has its own dangers. Photo: Gazette file

More tourists mean more speedboats, which drop off visitors and moor in swimming areas, and therefore need to operate with care. However, Mr Sarit said, some captains "are more interested in fun than tourists' safety".

"They approach the beach fast and turn fast when they are near the shore, without regard for swimmers and snorkellers," he said.

Mr Sarit raised the issue on July

26 at a meeting chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa.

In light of speedboats threatening tourists' safety, Vice Governor Sommai advised establishing zones where speedboats can moor and drop anchor and other zones where tourists can swim safely, Mr Sarit said.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for August.

— Saran Mitrarat

German consuls promote travel insurance

THE German honorary consuls for Phuket and Chiang Mai have made a joint plea for tourists to take out adequate travel insurance before travelling to Thailand.

German honorary consuls Dirk Naumann (Phuket) and Hagen Dirksen (Chiang Mai) handed over a cheque for 100,000 baht to Vachira Phuket Hospital on July 24 in appreciation for the facility providing medical services to travellers who were unable to pay for their treatment.

"Vachira is the only hospital in the South we donate to. We have made similar donations in



Mr Dirksen (center) asked travellers to take out adequate insurance.

Chiang Mai, Pattaya and Bangkok," said Mr Dirksen.

The donation was made on behalf of Bangkok-based The German Help foundation, which provides assistance to German nationals in need of assistance while travelling in Thailand.

Mr Dirksen urged travellers to take out adequate travel insurance before leaving their home countries.

"If they like to live or travel overseas, they should have travel insurance or health insurance. Otherwise, they must have a big bank account balance in case anything happens," he said.

— Chutharat Plerin

Ramadan:

A SILENT celebration is underway for Phuket Muslims right now, with no firecrackers, water or festive songs piped over department-store loudspeakers. It's Ramadan, the fasting month.

The Gazette's Irfan Jamdukor examines what Ramadan means to local Muslims.

THE quietness of the holiday might seem appropriate to outsiders who equate fasting with deprivation and hardship, but for Muslims, fasting is not about suffering, and Ramadan is "the best month of the year".

During Ramadan, practicing Muslims do not eat, drink, smoke or engage in sexual activity while the sun is up, and it has reached its third week without fanfare.

For the roughly 20 per cent of Phuket's population that is Muslim, Ramadan is a time to fortify themselves spiritually, to re-evaluate their lives, to practice good habits and to strengthen social ties.

"When you don't eat, says Dalen Minyee, 38, Sport and Recreation Manager at Trisara, "you understand what it's like for those who don't have enough, and it makes you a kinder person."

"It's not just about fasting," he says, "it's about trying to do good things in every way we can. With our eyes, we try to see only good; with our ears, to hear only good; with our minds to think only think good, and so on."

The Arabic word for "fast" is *sawm*, which also means "to restrain oneself".

Eak Missakit, 39, grew up in Sweden with adoptive parents and returned to Thailand two years ago. He converted to Islam, the religion of his birth family, in June. This is his first Ramadan.

"At first, I didn't understand what Ramadan or Islamic lifestyle meant, I only knew that Muslims had a very restrictive lifestyle and Ramadan was a month for fasting," he said.

"For the first three days of Ramadan, it was quite difficult for me to adapt — I felt hungry and thirsty the whole time. But fellow Muslims and my family gave me advice on how to deal with those feelings.

"I realized that Ramadan is not

only about refraining from drinking and eating, but also about controlling my mind, eyes, mouth and ears.

"That helped me develop self-control, and I stopped feeling hungry and thirsty because my mind doesn't focus on food," he said.



'Some of my close Buddhist friends have fasted with me, for a week, to understand the experience'

— Dalen Minyee

mitted to break the fast when there is danger to their health, but should make up the time later.

Besides fasting, during Ramadan Muslims are encouraged to focus on the religious requirements they may not prioritize in their busy day-to-day lives: to read

the Koran — in its entirety if possible — to give charitable donations, to do good deeds and refrain from bad, and to pray five times a day with a special prayer at night.



'I could fast for 24 hours. I just need to drink a little water. I'm not tired because I'm strong'

— Suksit Klabsungthong

in Koh Kaew.

"It's a month to make Muslims realize we are part of the same family. People from different places and ages meet each other at the mosque when they pray and have dinner together every evening," Mr Sama-ae said.

"We talk about our lives together and give advice, and never feel that we live alone. This builds good relationships and gives us a stronger sense of community," he said.

Volunteers cook dinner at the mosques.

ABOUT RAMADAN

The Koran says that every Muslim who is "sane and mature" must fast. Children start practicing when they are 7 or 8 years old, and fast in earnest by age 15. Those who are ill or traveling, and women who are menstruating, pregnant or breastfeeding need not fast. According to the Koran,

Muslims are permitted to break the fast when there is danger to their health, but should make up the time later.

Besides fasting, during Ramadan Muslims are encouraged to focus on the religious requirements they may not prioritize in their busy day-to-day lives: to read

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COMMUNITY BUILDING

One of the most important aspects of Ramadan is creating a feeling of family, says Sama-ae Wongna, 83, the Imam of Jabal Nur Mosque

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feeding the spirit by fasting

"I really love joining my relatives and other villagers to cook dinner for people," said Wilai Samart, 69, a Koh Kaew resident.

"We're all supposed to donate to charity, especially this month. Cooking for others is my way of making a donation.

"In my life I can't be sure that I donated enough or did enough good... volunteering is a way for me to make sure I've done my best in this life," she said.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Mosques provide the evening meal free of charge, sponsored in part by local government. The Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) has a yearly budget of 300,000 for Ramadan donations.

"This year we gave 96 kilograms of rice and 25 packs of dates to each of the 54 mosques across the island for cooking the evening meal," said Soratham Jinda, PPAO vice president.

Muslims traditionally break their fast with dates because Mohammad did so, but the fruit is also rich in iron, fiber, B vitamins and potassium, and its natural sugars provide a quick energy boost.

The Office of Islamic Council this year is spending 200,000 baht on dates for every mosque



Ramadan isn't just about fasting and praying, it is about doing good things and building community.

in Phuket and plans to visit prisons, shelters and juvenile detention centers to cook an evening meal, said Secretary Piyadet Chuachalad.

EMPLOYER SUPPORT

Phuket employers are sensitive to the needs of staff during this holy month and employers from hotels

to hospitals to department stores are making provisions for their Muslim staff.

"We prepare two special meals every day for our Muslim staff during Ramadan," said Rungthiwa Korkong, Director of Human Resources at the Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.

"We also prepare a room and facilities for praying. Muslims are

trying to do their best this month, so we need to do our best to help them," Director Rungthiwa said.

The Tesco Lotus located on the bypass road has some 50 Muslim staff. "Our Muslim staff can change their work schedule if necessary in order to fulfill their religious obligations," said Apinya Mounkew, a human resource officer there.

"We also allow them to take a day off on Eid-al Fitr, the day that celebrates the end of Ramadan," she said.

Patong Hospital sets up a bigger prayer room for staff and patients' relatives, allows Muslim staff to change their work schedule if necessary, and recently built a *halal* kitchen for preparing food according to Muslim law, said Hospital Director Dr Sirichai Silapa-acha.

HOW IT ENDS

Ramadan ends when the new moon appears in the sky, about 29 days after it last appeared. The moon is spotted the old-fashioned way – by eye. A representative from each mosque in Phuket is sent out to look for it.

If they see it, they report it to their Imam, who sends word to the Phuket Islamic Council. If the council confirms the sighting with a second person, word is sent to the Central Islamic Council of Thailand in Bangkok. The Bangkok Council checks the time of the sighting with the Thai Royal Navy Science Department.

If the time jibes with Navy records, the fasting is officially declared over and Muslims can look forward to the celebration of Eid-al Fitr the next day.

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Oil slick threatens Samet reef

THAILAND is facing one of its worst ecological disasters in years following an oil slick from a leaking PTT oil pipeline close to Samet Island in the Gulf of Thailand.

More than 100 rai of coral are believed to be threatened by the slick, which has already washed ashore on Samet's Phrao Beach, coating the sand in thick crude.

The leak happened on Saturday July 27, with oil washing up on the island the following night and causing the authorities to close Phrao Beach to tourists.

The Marine Department has filed a complaint against PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC) over the disaster as a "precaution" to discourage the company from not taking responsibility for the slick.

But while Phrao Beach is salvageable, the 100-rai staghorn and giant clam coral reef off Kuduee Island, six kilometers east of Samet, is more fragile.

Sumet Saithong, chief of the Khao Laem Ya-Mu Koh Samet National Park, said it would be almost impossible to revive the coral reef if the spread was not contained.

"That would be the worst incident for us," he said.

Environmental activists are pushing for legal action and compensation against PTTGC.

Ply Pirom, campaign manager for Greenpeace Southeast Asia, said PTTGC must take responsibility and compensate for the entire cleaning process, the envi-



Reports are flying across wires around the world about the potential damage to tourism. Photos: The Nation



The spill close to shore.



Marine life is dying. Photo: Reuters



ronmental impact, and damage to tourism industries and local fisheries caused by the spill.

He said the company must also disclose all information related to the clean-up process, as well as the specific chemical substances

used to remove the crude oil from surface of the sea.

The organization also called for a fresh study on the establishment of new oil platforms – such as that proposed close to Koh Samui – that could pose a number of environmental risks to marine ecosystems in the future.

Democrat MP for Rayong Sathit Pitutecha and a group of local fishermen have joined calls for PTTGC to take responsibility for the damage to fisheries.

PTTGC has asked Singapore-

based Oil Spill Response Limited to send a jet boat to spray solution to disperse the clotted mass of crude oil on the sea.

The company has also sent environmental specialists to collect seawater samples to analyze the impact on the marine environment.

Academics have predicted a grim scenario for the ecosystems affected by the spill.

"It's going to be difficult to rehabilitate the affected areas," Phaithoon Makkongpai of Burapha University said on July 30.

Phaithoon predicted disruption to the food chain and believed [the impact would become evident soon.

"Although micro-organisms naturally consume oil, they won't be able to handle [such a] huge amount of oil," he explained.

He said that apart from damage to ecological systems, the oil spill would hurt tourism, the economy and coastal fisheries too.

"This is a big incident," he said, adding that the spill would not have posed such a serious threat if it had happened out at sea.

'Kill Thaksin' video work of anti-govt group: NSC

A VIDEO that surfaced on the YouTube website of three "Al Qaeda" terrorists threatening to kill former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was made by a group plotting to bring down the government, the head of the National Security Council (NSC) has said.

The video, which showed three men wearing Middle Eastern dress and speaking English and Arabic, chillingly appeared on the video-sharing site on July 26, Thaksin's 64th birthday.

The men threatened to kill Mr Thaksin

for Pattani province's Krue Se Mosque massacre, which took place in 2004, while he prime minister.

Paradorn Pattanathabutr, secretary-general of the NSC, said the video was not the work of Al Qaeda, since the organization had never become involved with the Muslim separatist movement in Thailand's restive Deep South.

Mr Paradorn said the video may have been an attempt to strain ties between Thailand and Malaysia, where the clip was speculated to have been filmed.

It was also intended to sabotage ongoing peace talks between Thailand and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional, an insurgent group in the Deep South, he said.

Deputy Prime Minister Pracha Promnok said the video was the work of anti-government groups with members both in Thailand and abroad.

Mr Pracha refused to reveal the nationality of the suspected foreigners, saying it could considerably damage bilateral relations, though he insisted they did not come from neighbouring Malaysia.



Terrorists threaten to kill former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra. Photo: Reuters

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Police brace for protests over controversial bill

POLICE are bracing themselves for what may be serious political protests as Parliament gets ready to debate controversial amnesty bills.

Officers have erected concrete barriers around Parliament and at all entrances and exits to Government House, which was occupied for several months by protesters in 2008.

The police have also staged days of anti-riot drills with various scenarios including takeovers of both key government buildings.

They said they expect around 5,000 protesters from the conservative Pitak Siam group to arrive at Parliament on August 4.

Police said they would adhere to international standards of engaging with protesters, starting by removing people who are not protesters from the crowd, then setting up barriers to prevent protesters from entering restricted areas.

If negotiations failed and laws were broken and violence used against officers, police would then arrest violators using handcuffs.

An anti-riot noise generator, water cannons and batons would be used if necessary – but protesters would be warned in advance.

Provincial governors have also been instructed to "contain" political protests if they occur while the bills are debated.

Cambodian officials reject plea for vote fraud inquest

By Prak Chan Thul

CAMBODIA's government on Tuesday rejected calls by the opposition for an international inquiry into allegations it used massive fraud to win re-election last Sunday, and said it wanted parliament to approve a new Cabinet quickly.

The United States and European Union expressed concern about irregularities in the election, but both said an investigation should be conducted by Cambodian electoral authorities, failing to endorse the opposition's call for an inquiry involving the United Nations.

The government announced on Sunday that the Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen had won 68 seats in the 123-seat parliament, a sharp fall from its previous tally of 90. The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) nearly doubled its seat total to 55, in a major surprise and a setback for Hun Sen.

CNRP leader Sam Rainsy said up to 1.3 million names had been missing from the electoral rolls and complained about lack of access to the media as well as intimidation on the campaign trail.

Ouch Borith, secretary of state at the Foreign Affairs Ministry, rejected such allegations. "We have more than 10,000 national observers and over 100 international



Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen (center) leaves a polling station with his wife Bun Rany after casting his ballot in the general election last Sunday. The UN and the US voiced concerns over the election. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE region

observers who reckoned our election was held in a peaceful manner without any violence, free and fair," the senior official said.

There was no proof of any

missing names, he added. "The opposition party should be asked to show clearly what evidence it has about the irregularities it alleges," he said.

Sean McIntosh, spokesman for the US embassy in Phnom Penh, told Reuters in an email: "We're calling on the National Election Committee (NEC) to conduct a full and transparent investigation into all credible reports of irregularities."

The European Union also expressed concern about the election.

"The EU hopes that any dispute addressed to the National Election Committee and the established judicial mechanisms will be dealt with fairly and swiftly," it said in a statement.

As of Tuesday, the NEC had yet to announce the number of seats won by each party.

— Reuters

In brief...

Myanmar frees 73 political prisoners

THE Myanmar government has released another 73 political prisoners and more could be freed in coming months to honor a commitment made by the president during a recent trip to Europe, a member of a government body looking into the process said on Tuesday.

President Thein Sein promised in a speech in Britain last week to free all those still in prison by the end of this year.

"A total of 73 political prisoners are being released from various detention centers," said Hla Maung Shwe, a member of the Committee to Scrutinise Remaining Political Prisoners.

"The total number of remaining political prisoners has now dropped to lower than 100 for the first time in many years," he added.

— Reuters

Banker shot dead in daylight execution; killers flee in taxi

MALAYSIAN Police are searching for three men, one of whom gunned down Hussain Ahmad Najadi, founder of the Arab Malaysian Bank, in broad daylight in Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

The 75-year-old, hit in the chest and lower abdomen, died at the scene.

His 49-year-old Malaysian wife, Cheong Mei Kuen, was wounded in the arm.

The assailants fled in a taxi.

— The Star

Manila makes military move to cover territorial claims in South China Sea

THE Philippine government has announced plans to move major navy and air force camps to a former United States naval base at Subic Bay to gain faster access to waters in the South China Sea being contested by China.

Analysts say the move will also benefit the US and other allies, which would get access to a strategic deep-water port calibrated for military use.

The Philippines is also backing Washington's efforts to reassert its military presence in Asia as a counterweight to China's rise.

Details of the relocation to Subic were revealed by The Associated Press on Monday, based on an interview with Philippines Defence Secretary Voltaire Gazmin.

"It is for the protection of our West Philippine Sea," said Gazmin, using the Philippine government's name for waters in the South China Sea that it claims are Philippine maritime territory.

"We are looking now for the funding," he said.

The announcement came on the heels of a visit by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Japan,



China has ramped up its presence in the South China Sea. Photo: Reuters

another nation wary of China's territorial ambitions, is offering loans to the Philippine navy to build 10 coast guard patrol boats as both countries confront China in separate territorial disputes.

Last year, after a stand-off with a Chinese surveillance ship, Philippine vessels left the disputed Scarborough Shoal, ceding control of the vast fishing ground off the country's northwest to China.

The Philippines has turned to the United Nations for international arbitration to counter China's claims.

It is also trying to modernize its aging air and naval assets.

Defence expert Clarita Carlos, a political science professor at University of the Philippines, said the relocation plan is aimed at leveraging the country's limited military capability to deal with China.

"It is important for the Philippines to increase its defence cooperation with the United States, Japan and countries, particularly in allowing them to use the country's military bases," the professor said.

— The Straits Times

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In brief...

Homosexuals gain ground with Pope on Catholic human rights issues

POPE Francis has said gay people should not be marginalised, but integrated into society, in some of the most conciliatory remarks by a pontiff on the issue of homosexuality.

In a broad-ranging 80-minute conversation with journalists on the plane bringing him back from a week-long visit to Brazil on Sunday night, he also said he could not judge homosexual priests, an emotive topic that divides Catholic opinion.

But the 76-year-old Argentine did reaffirm Church teaching that homosexual acts are a sin.

Billions of dollars worth of oil lost to theft in Nigeria

NIGERIA lost out on \$US10.9 billion in potential oil revenues due to oil theft between 2009 and 2011, the chairman of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) said on Tuesday.

The theft of oil across Nigeria is often associated with criminal gangs who tap crude from pipelines for local refining but the majority of stolen crude leaves the country in large tankers.

Palestinian peace talks underway

ISRAELI and Palestinian negotiators held their first peace talks in nearly three years on Monday in a US-brokered effort that Secretary of State John Kerry hopes will end their conflict despite deep divisions.

Mr Kerry, who has prodded, coaxed and cajoled the two sides to resume negotiations in a flurry of visits to the Middle East during his less than six months in office, urged Israelis and Palestinians to strike "reasonable compromises."

It was clear, however, from some public statements over the agenda for the talks – which are expected to run for nine months – and comments by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, that there are major disagreements over issues such as borders and security.

Spain mourns train crash victims in official Mass

MOURNERS packed a memorial service on Monday for the 79 people who died in the country's worst rail disaster in decades, as investigators prepared to analyze information from the train's data recording device, or "black box".

The driver of the train, 52-year-old Francisco Garzon, has been charged with 79 counts of negligent homicide and released pending trial after a judge determined he was

not a flight risk. Some sixty-nine people remained in hospital on Monday, with 22 in critical condition.

At 8:41pm local time on July 24, the eight-carriage, high-speed train crumpled and caught fire after slamming into a concrete wall. The impact was so strong that one of the carriages was thrown several meters over an embankment. The CCTV video of the incident has since gone viral. – Reuters



Victims are pulled from the crash. Photo: Reuters

Mass Pakistani jail break as Taliban storms prison

By Saud Mehsud

IN AN operation carried out with military-like precision, Taliban fighters disguised as police and armed with bombs broke 250 prisoners out of a Pakistani jail on Tuesday with the help of what appeared to be insider informants.

The attack in the city of Dera Ismail Khan showed the ability of the al Qaeda-linked Pakistani Taliban to strike at the heart of Pakistan's heavily guarded prison system and walk away with dozens of senior Taliban fighters and commanders.

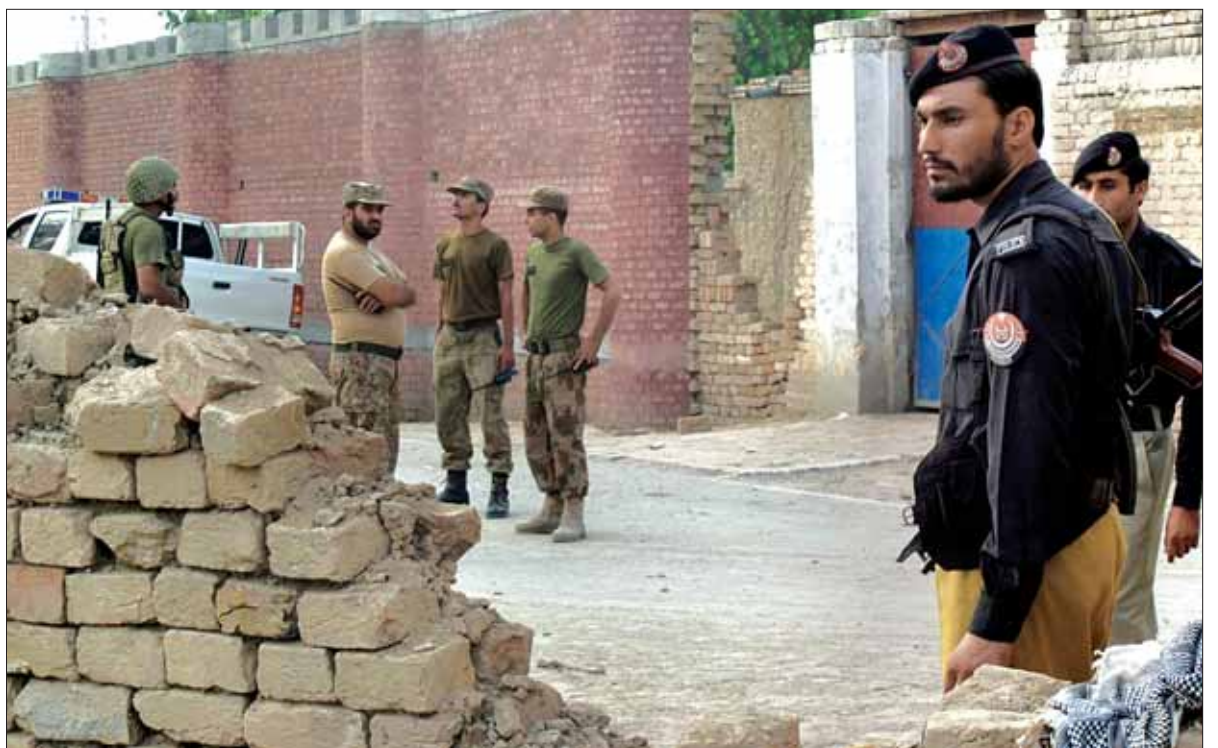
The overnight assault on the Central Prison took place despite reports that regional officials had received intelligence days, if not weeks, ago suggesting such an attack was imminent.

Officials blamed a combination of negligence and lack of communication among Pakistan's many security agencies, but some suggested there may have been a degree of insider help.

Just hours before the attack, army and police units had met at the jail to discuss security, one source said on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

"It is very difficult to attack such a place without proper information or contacts," said the police source, adding that some prisoners were suspected to have been in touch with the Taliban by mobile phones provided by sympathetic wardens.

"They are corrupt, lazy and



Guards reportedly fled the prison during the attack, leaving their weapons behind. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE world

unprofessional. And the militants may have supporters in the city."

Another senior official in the provincial capital of Peshawar said only about 70 of the 200 prison guards who were meant to be on duty were present that night.

"Most policemen ran for their lives once the attack started, leav-

ing their weapons behind," the official told Reuters.

A senior Taliban official told Reuters separately the latest attack was masterminded by Adnan Rashid, a Taliban commander who was himself freed in last year's prison break.

This time, Pakistani Taliban said they had sent a squad of 100 fighters and seven suicide bombers on a mission to free some of their top leaders, and they said they released 250 prisoners – a number roughly matched by Pakistani authorities.

At least 12 people were killed, officials said, including five police-

men and four prisoners from the minority Shi'ite branch of Islam. Their throats were slashed by gunmen, officials said. The Taliban are mostly majority Sunni Muslims.

The carefully planned attack underlines the growing capabilities of the Pakistani branch of the Taliban.

Despite peace talks with the insurgents during an election campaign this year, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appears to be accepting that the use of military force may be unavoidable after a series of high-profile attacks.

– Reuters

Jewel heist nets \$US 136 million, say officials

AN ARMED robber stole gems worth \$US136 million in a weekend jewellery heist in the French Riviera resort of Cannes, making it the country's biggest gem theft.

The prosecutor's office in the nearby city of Grasse issued the figure on Monday based on an inventory of pieces seized in broad daylight from a precious jewellery exhibition at the luxury Carlton Hotel.

The thief burst into the Carlton, on the famed La Croisette seafront, close to midday on Sunday armed with an automatic pistol and

with a cap and a scarf concealing his face.

He threatened security guards and sales staff and left moments later with a briefcase containing 72 pieces, including jewels, rings, pendants and diamond-encrusted earrings, from a collection belonging to diamond specialist Leviev.

Just 34 of the stolen items were worth a total of \$US135 million, according to the prosecutor's office, which

initially valued the loot at "several million euros".

"The man entered by a glass door onto the Croisette which normally should have been bolted," a spokesperson at the prosecutor's office said.

Initial investigations suggested the man may have dropped several jewels as he hurried away on foot via a different door.

It was the biggest theft of jewels on record in France.

– Reuters



Photo: Kim Alaniz

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PROPERTY Gazette

Thai realtors prepare for Asean integration

THE Real Estate Sales and Marketing Association of Thailand (RESAM) and the National Association of Realtors (NAR), the world's leading real estate association, joined forces recently to host a networking event in Phuket.

The international real estate business network event, called Thailand CIPS (certified international property specialist) 2013 was an education and work program held at Royal Phuket City hotel last week.

To meet the needs of an ever expanding real estate industry, sales agents in Thailand will need to raise their knowledge and standards to meet AEC expectations in 2015; licensing real estate agents in Thailand is one of the ways to achieve this goal.

"In 2015, the investments between Asean countries will be increasing. The economic and social conditions in Thailand are considered more interesting than in any other Asean country. Thailand has good policy to support investment and the government is now reducing tax on limited companies, so Thailand will be a very interesting place when AEC comes," Visut Kunatharakul, executive consultant and former president of RESAM said.

The CIPS training program and certification will help solve the credibility problems that many people within the Thai real estate industry are facing without proper real estate education credentials and certification necessary to gain international recognition.



Ms Nina Serebryakova, (left) project director, Pairote Sukjan, president of RESAM (center) and Mr Visut Kunatharakul, executive consultant and former president spoke at the the Thailand CIPS 2013 event in Phuket last week. Photo: Supplied

The certification offered through the CIPS course exposes participants to a vast knowledge base to help Thai real estate agents face the rapidly growing global real estate industry. It is hoped that through CIPS certification program, the ethics and professionalism of real estate agents in Thailand will be on par with international standards and receive global recognition.

A five-day CIPS training course in English will be held from October 7 to 11 in 2013 at the Atrium Bangkok hotel.

"We are expecting about 100 participants to join the project. In Thailand, we started this program for the first time in 2006 but later we stopped in 2008 because of budget problems. Once we see the results for the current edition we will decide if we should offer this training again next year," Nina Serebryakova, project director said.

The CIPS training event will also provide networking opportunities. The agents and property developers will have a chance to interact and to present their property projects.

"After getting a license, brokers will be more professional, reliable, and educated, which will make business easier for both Thai and foreign customers and brokers," Visut Kunatharakul concluded.

For those interested in the course, please contact Khun Nina on +66 88 626-1286 or by email: nina@guidesiam.com or Khun Tatipat (Head of Coordination and Information) at +66 81 842-8733, or by email: info@cips.in.th. Take a look at: www.cips.in.th too.



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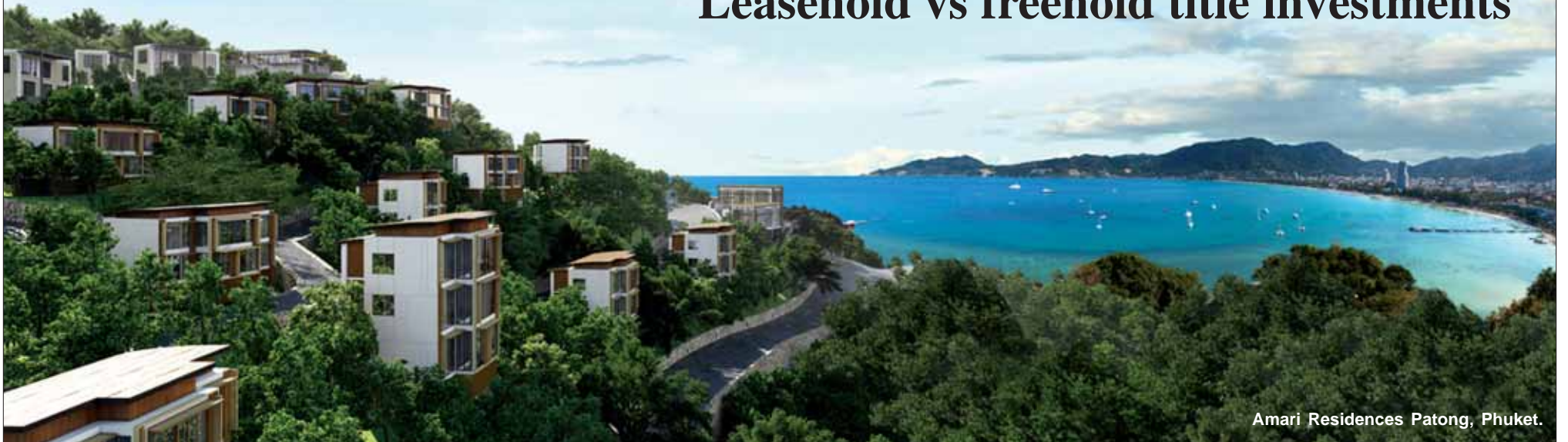
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A new lease on island life

Leasehold vs freehold title investments



Amari Residences Patong, Phuket.

WHEN is leasehold more valuable than freehold? "In over 35 years in the property industry in the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Thailand, and having worked in many Asian countries, I would have said until very recently, never. However, I have to acknowledge that with the arrival of some excellent leasehold properties, the Thai property industry has recognized that a well-appointed and managed leasehold property can out-price, out-perform, and be preferred by buyers to freehold condominiums. Leasehold can also be a better investment, if it offers better management and/or income returns," stated David Simister, Chairman of property consultancy, CBRE Thailand.

"Just to confirm my terminology, a condominium is a strata title property within a juristic development where the owner, foreign or Thai has a perpetual freehold title. The communal property of the condominium is run through the Juristic management committee and subject in Thailand to the Thai Condominium Act. A leasehold

property does not offer perpetual ownership; the longest initial term (registered in Thailand) is 30 years and a developer may offer a series of extensions. The ultimate ownership of the property and its control is in the hands of the lessor, an independent individual or corporation, who grants the lessee(s) a lease. Leasehold is considered a depreciating asset, because as time passes the value of the remaining term of years decreases.

"It is fair to say a condominium of equal quality with an equal certainty of a continuation of good quality management is a better and more valuable investment than any leasehold property; however, in Thailand, leasehold property has evolved and similarly located, freehold condominiums are not always more valuable than leasehold."

"...in Thailand, leasehold property has evolved and similarly located, freehold condominiums are not always more valuable than leasehold."

The evolution of the quality leasehold has arisen due to the leaseholder's decision making ability and the superior attitude to maintenance standards. The leaseholder has the ability as the sole freehold owner to make

decisions. He can appoint and enter into a long-term contract with top quality managers including branded hotel groups such as St Regis or Amari. A top level hotel operator, particularly where a property is a resort, can maximize income returns, compared to a typical juristic condominium.

Only the single condominium leaseholder can give a quality hotel operator sufficient confidence to enter into a long-term contract for the professional and high-quality operation of the property. Only with a long-term contractual commitment will hotel operators invest the necessary time and resources to create an investment vehicle capable of regularly securing the maximum achievable returns.

In 1990, CBRE Thailand marketed off-plan Laguna Phuket, a wonderful concept of an integrated resort in a private well-maintained and managed beachfront area along Bang Tao and Layan beaches. The residential properties were to be operated by several hotel groups: the Sheraton, Allamanda, and Banyan Tree. The management resources devoted to those properties would provide five-star hotel quality (Sheraton) and five-star plus (Banyan Tree).

The hotel-branded residences provided quality services and in the case of the Sheraton, double digit income returns to buyers. Twenty years ago, hoteliers were prepared to operate both freehold and leasehold projects. Sadly today, most if not all major international hotel brands will not contemplate offering hotel management services to a multi-owner condominium. Largely, this is because of legal disputes in the USA. and the

worry that a single disruptive or litigious owner can pull down the house to the detriment of his co-owners and the manager. Condominium management relies on a concept of majority votes and democracy. This is fair in principle but in practice can create disputes over services, budgets, and result in a lack of clear leadership and consistent management.

Most importantly, a juristic body where the governing committee can change annually cannot effectively enter into long-term service contracts.

By comparison, the single lessor who does not require any vote or approval can enter into a long-term contract with a hotel group and can more directly and effectively ensure continuity in the operation and management of the property.

In comparing leasehold versus freehold, CBRE Thailand never has an exactly like-for-like situation, but it is clear that the well-appointed quality luxury leasehold has a clear market demand.

In Phuket, leasehold is also outperforming freehold sales where the total package of property and services is more attractive than ownership of freehold title. One of the most successful leasehold projects this year has been Amari Residences Phuket on a site overlooking Patong Bay. Amari Residence Phuket has been achieving prices in excess several West Coast condominiums with freehold title. Much more interestingly, this has been one of the first projects in Phuket to show a strong level of demand from Thai Bangkok investors.

Why specifically is Amari Residences Phuket better than many of the West Coast freehold condominiums? The answer is simple: the quality, unbeatable views, the continuity of manage-

ment, and sustainable regular income that comes only from good hotel management. Many other projects that promise high returns have failed to secure the right operators. Many small and medium Phuket developers have not been able to deliver in terms of capital to complete to the original specifications or to provide rental management programs.

The quality of management and the ability to make single-minded management decisions, is proving leasehold is now capable of outperforming freehold condominium.

This does not mean that every condominium is now an inferior product to every leasehold property, but it does throw in to the highlight the need for condominiums to develop good and consistent management levels.

In Phuket where a variety of ownership structures have been employed, CBRE Thailand has found a broad commitment among owners to manage up to a quality standard, not down to a budget. Sadly, in Bangkok many condominiums are not able to manage up to luxury standards commensurate to the built quality of the condominium.

Ultimately, for long-term value preservation of any property asset, good management is essential. Condominium

owners need to pay more attention and collectively be more constructively demanding of their building and Juristic managers to ensure that they enjoy the price appreciation that freehold property in a prime location should merit. For the time being, there will be more instances where well-managed and professionally run leaseholds will outperform condominiums in terms of operational standards and ability to generate income.

For the time being, there will be more instances where well-managed and professionally run leaseholds will outperform condominiums in terms of operational standards and ability to generate income.

– *Phuket Gazette / CBRE*

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Amari Residences Hua Hin.

Connext Condo gets positive response

CONNEXT Condo developer, Phuket Thane Real Estate reported selling 70% of the project's first of two planned buildings – after just over a month on the market.

The first phase offers 183 one- and two-bedroom units, while the entire project will comprise 361 units upon completion. The trendy new “downtown” Phuket residence was formally introduced to eager future-tenants and investors at a pre-sales launch event on June 22.

Connext Condo is the first condominium project by family-run residential real estate developer Phuket Thane, which has branched out from conventional mixed-use communities under second-generation management and after about 10 years in the property business. Their latest pet-project is aimed at being affordable for young and first-time home buyers, as well as practical and convenient for urban Phuket.

Phuket Thane Executive Director Sales and Marketing, Ms Peeraya Teowattanakul, said the eight-story community concept with professional sport and leisure facilities was a winning feature.

“Most of the buyers are aged 30-35 years old. The mix-and-match concept of ‘Life, Work, Play’ with an Olympic length swimming pool and world-class leisure and fitness facilities on the doorstep appeals to today’s generation of home buyers, as does the affordable entry price of only 1.29 million baht,” said Ms Peeraya.

Construction of Connext Condo is set to begin in January 2014, adjacent to the Phuket Thane development on Sakdideet Soi 1 Road near Sapan Hin, and scheduled for completion by December 2015. Units are on sale with special pre-sale promotions at the Connext Condo booth on the 2nd floor of Central Festival until August 5. There is a show unit at the Connext Condo Sales Gallery off Sakdideet Soi 1 Road.



The fully-furnished units appeal to young and first-time buyers aged 30-35 as an ideal investment in a modern mixed-use community in ‘downtown’.



SETTING: Kamala Bay will be a fitting location for the Hyatt Regency Phuket. Photo: Jouni Lehti

Kamala to get Hyatt Regency

HYATT HOTELS Corporation announced last week that a Hyatt affiliate has entered into a management agreement with Kamala Bay Ventures Co Ltd for a Hyatt Regency hotel on the north of the island.

The hotel will be the first Hyatt-branded resort to open in Phuket, one of Southeast Asia’s premier resort destinations. Expected to open in late 2013, Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort will join two existing Hyatt-branded hotels in Thailand, including Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok and Hyatt Regency Hua Hin.

Hyatt Regency Phuket Resort will follow the opening of Park Hyatt Siem Reap and Park Hyatt Changbaishan this year.

“We are honored to further strengthen our relationship with Kamala Bay Ventures Co Ltd, which through its affiliates is also the owner of Park Hyatt Siem Reap and Park Hyatt Maldives Hadahaa,” said

Ratnesh Verma, senior vice president, real estate and development, Asia Pacific for Hyatt Hotels & Resorts.

The hotel, to be located along the up-scale Millionaire’s Mile, overlooking Kamala Bay, will feature 202 guest rooms, in addition to more than 4,300 square feet of meeting facilities, three food and beverage outlets, a club lounge, fitness center, outdoor swimming pool, and spa.

According to Phuket Insider, the Hyatt affiliate, KS, is the owner of the Hyatt properties in the Maldives and Siem Reap, and also owns independent hotels in Luang Prabang, Laos and Cha-am in Thailand’s province of Phetchaburi.

The group is also an investor in the upcoming The Yamu by Como in Phuket.

It’s understood that Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels acted in the transaction.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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Digging my way down to China

GROWING up in California, one of my favorite pre-teen past times was digging holes. Not just holes but dark inviting spaces with a purpose. A fort, or looking for buried Aztec treasure, putting time capsules away to be dug up after people are weekendng on Mars or the sadness of burying a demised goldfish or two. We never quite got around to Jimmy Hoffa, but that's another story.

Three or four weeks ago we started to assemble our mid-year Phuket update, which comes out bi-annually and covers the island's tourism industry. Within hours of commencing, my head starts to swell up from looking at so many numbers. Even Alice and the Queen of Hearts couldn't make sense of this journey down the rabbit hole.

This year I managed to fall straight down the damn thing, deeper and deeper I plunged without even a flashlight to show me the way. Suddenly, I broke through the surface and came up into the light of day next to Yao Ming? Or at least one very tall Chinese basketball player who was shooting hoops. My mind caught up with my Chuck Taylor sneakers and a light bulb flicked on in my head like a nuclear explosion.



Last Call

By Bill Barnett

Here I was in China but it wasn't any China I knew.

According to the United Nations World Tourism Organization Chinese travellers spent US\$102 billion in 2012. The number of Chinese people venturing overseas tipped the scales at 80 million and just kept on going. Somehow that tunnel we dug so

is the paradigm shift no Western European country remains in the top five list of island arrivals. While the high season continues to be all about Eastern Europeans and most notably Russians, regional travelers have entirely different travel patterns.

Looking at the key travel characteristics, they tend to take more holiday trips but shorter in duration. Multi-generational travel, families and groups are another defining pattern. Seasonality has also been turned upside down, though Russians did in 2012/2013 and are expected in next year's high season to drive the market, we see high demand from China in July and August.

Taking out last year's report for the same period, Patong ruled the roost in terms of many lead indicators but this year Kata, Karon and Bang Tao are showing strong signs due to their proximity to the beach. Rates in the entertainment markets continue to be under the gun, as the Australian dollar exchange rate is down, leading tourists from there to spend less. With its vast array of non-distinguished same same Patong hotels, rooms have become a commodity and the art of war is one fought on the



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Phuket certainly loves its tourists and the economic benefits they bring. Photo: Wilson Dias

many years ago has now branched out to every part of the globe and it's now a full-scale mass exodus out the in door.

Judging from the latest half-year figures the impact on Phuket is profound, in that more than one of four international visitors to the island was from Mainland China. Another significant game changer

is the paradigm shift no Western European country remains in the top five list of island arrivals. While the high season continues to be all about Eastern Europeans and most notably Russians, regional travelers have entirely different travel patterns.



DIGGING DEEP: Delving into Phuket's tourism statistics can unearth some interesting surprises. Photo: Henri Bergius

battleground of room rates.

One surprise is the strength of the upscale hotels, and the fact that, yes, emerging markets will pay more for high quality premium oceanfront or near-to-the-beach properties. For those naysayers this includes the Russians and Chinese and rates are the proof of the pudding. One significant decline is the Korean honeymooner segment, which prefers resort villas, and according to key wholesaler businesses in this market, is down 15% due to economic concerns.

To continue the hotel market as a basketball game analogy, we went out and talked to hoteliers about this year, quarter by quarter, and in broad terms the consensus is that Q1 was a boom, the second and third quarters appear

softer but interest is strong in the final quarter of 2013.

Taking a spin around Phuket it was interesting to see many tourism establishments in Kata and Karon still open in July, while they used to close during the mean lean green season.

Overall the island is continuing to see a rapid shift of travellers and the feast looks to be a movable one. For Patong though, the message is clear that some sort of quality and infrastructure change is sorely needed to keep pace with competition from the north and south of the island. One thing for certain is there is no plugging that hole to China anytime soon.

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

Asian hotel transaction volumes strongest since 2008

CONFIRMED hotel transaction volumes in Asia reached US\$1.3 billion in the first half of 2013, up 85% compared to the first half of 2012, according to Jones Lang LaSalle's Hotels & Hospitality Group. The latest *Asia Hotel Investment* report shows that the solid growth in sales activity marks the region's strongest first half year since the first half of 2008.

Weight of investment into the established tourism markets of Singapore, Hong Kong and Tokyo, coupled with opportunistic deals in emerging markets such as Thailand and the Maldives was predominately responsible for driving growth in the region.

Mike Batchelor, Managing Director Investment Sales, Hotels & Hospitality, Jones Lang LaSalle said: "Throughout Asia, we are also aware of circa US\$400 million in hotel transaction volumes to be confirmed soon and a further US\$1 billion in due diligence."

Japan's hotel market received



BOOMING BUSINESS: Resorts in the Maldives, like this one, are expected to be traded increasingly in the coming year. Photo: Nattu

37% of regional investment, driven by strong domestic, corporate and leisure demand following the widespread view that local market fundamentals had improved since the 2011 earthquake.

Following closely, Singapore

accounted for 34% of regional transactions, largely due to the sale of Park Hotel Clarke Quay for US\$238 million.

Despite a somewhat unpredictable investment environment, Thailand continued to consolidate

its position as one of Asia's hotel investment hotspots, most notably with the sale of the Laguna Beach Resort in Phuket in the first quarter of 2013.

Batchelor continued: "During the first half of 2013, we saw a growing number of transactions, including those at the portfolio level, and improved investor sentiment translates to increased sales. The divergence between vendor and purchaser expectations that served to restrict investment activity in 2012, has improved this year, leading to a number of landmark transactions in the first half."

The report identifies funds, institutions and large corporates looking to restructure their portfolios, as the most prominent sellers of investment grade hotels while real estate investment trusts (REITs), hotel operators and institutional investors were the most active buyer groups. However, despite the regional growth and strong investor appetite, the limited pipeline of open market listings

throughout Southeast Asia has limited sales activity.

"Looking forward, the availability of investment grade assets in key cities and the growing insistence of sellers to close deals through transparent processes will dictate the overall investment landscape in the region as investors increasingly look to emerging markets. The Maldives, in particular, is a market in which we are seeing increased sales activity, including the recent sale of Angsana Velavaru for US\$71 million. We anticipate this trend to continue over the next 12 months."

"As superannuation and other forms of capital continue to flow into REITs, we are likely to see their continued dominance in the market. This, coupled with the growing appetite of Asian private investors, owner operators and private equity players, could result in transaction volumes nearing US\$3.5 billion by the end of 2013," Batchelor concluded.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Laguna downsize may be as much as 10%

LAGUNA Phuket has announced that it is undergoing a significant departmental restructuring and downsizing, but the company declined to confirm or deny reports that as many as 300, or 10 per cent, of its associates have left or are in the process of leaving.

According to a press statement issued on July 31, Laguna Phuket currently employs close to 3,000 staff.

"Like most companies, Laguna Resorts & Hotels periodically conducts comprehensive reviews of its operations and, when the need arises, implements necessary measures to realign its business goals and objectives.

"These exercises allow the company to adapt to the constantly changing

dynamics in the Phuket tourism industry," the statement continues.

"As a result of such a review, Laguna Phuket Golf Club will soon undergo a major renovation of the entire 18-hole golf course in phases and consequently some staff members have taken the opportunity to participate in the company's attractive early retirement program."



Aerial view of Laguna Phuket complex

According to one undisclosed source, 14 staff members in the marketing and communications department were offered a "substantial severance package".

The *Gazette* contacted Robin Wilson, director of marketing communications and events, who declined to provide additional information.

Other than the marketing and communications department, it is not yet clear which departments will be affected

in the restructuring.

According to the press statement, the Laguna "Wedding Chapel will continue to offer its services and will be managed by Angsana Laguna Phuket. The operations of Quest and Laguna Tours remain unchanged.

"Destination Marketing will continue to perform its normal functions with a more streamlined operational structure and strategies.

"Signature events, such as the triathlon, marathon, etc, will continue to be annual activities of Laguna Phuket. All these departments and events remain an integral part of Laguna Phuket."

— *Phuket Gazette*

Raising bar past low-tide mark

Dive industry stakeholders push to protect underwater treasures through CSR



RESOURCE RECOVERY: Thanks to tireless efforts by local tourism stakeholders, future tourists will be able to enjoy marine attractions such as coral nurseries (above) off the Phi Phi islands.

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

CORPORATE social responsibility (CSR) has a long-standing and ill-fated tradition of stopping at the low-tide mark. For mountain resorts in the French Alps, which do not rely on what is beneath the ocean surface to draw guests, such an oversight is understandable. However, the trend of CSR projects not safeguarding heavily threatened marine systems, such as the coral reefs surrounding Phuket and Phi Phi, will lead to the downfall of these areas, said Zeavola General Manager Florian Hallermann.

"If the corals are gone, the island will be eroded and in the end we will be gone. So my plan is actually for self preservation, because I love this island and I love to work here," Mr Hallermann said. "By looking after the coral and educating people on how important the corals are, I do hope we can make a difference, and basically keep on living here and being successful."

CSR has evolved significantly since the term was coined in 1953 by Howard Bown in *Social Responsibility as Businessmen*. The evolution has not been a smooth one, as many critics on both sides of the fence see CSR as either

harmful divergence of a business's resources from its essential role in the economy, or as a preemptive attempt of corporations to avoid stricter regulations enforced by government watchdogs.

Nonetheless, the widely cited article published in 2000 in *Strategic Management Journal* by McWilliams and Siegel demonstrates that CSR, when properly modeled, has a neutral impact on financial outcomes – costing corporations little to nothing, but offering long-term benefits to its stakeholders.

For Mr Hallermann, a primary stakeholder on Phi Phi Island is the Sea Gypsy population, who have been living among the islands off the Thai Andaman coast for centuries.

"I see the Sea gypsies using the coral reefs as a source for their protein and their food. The more I got involved with coral reefs, the more I understood about how important they are for the ecosystem of Phi Phi Island," Mr Hallermann said.

In an effort of both self preservation and the preservation of essential stakeholders, Zeavola launched its project "Coral Freedom" last month.

The project plan for 2013 relies heavily on supporting the

efforts of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR), Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC) and the work of Andrew Hewett from the Adventure Club.

The DMCR and Andrew Hewett established coral nurseries in the waters off Phi Phi and an artificial reef "Viking Cave" in 2006. Despite drastic setbacks caused by coral bleaching in 2010, they have continued to foster the conservation of corals in the area.

"I know how hard the PMBC and other individuals, such as Andrew from Adventure Club, have been working over the last seven years. I think if we can get more individuals together, we can create a dynamic where more hotels will get involved," said Mr Hallermann.

Zeavola, home to a PADI Green Star dive center, will join up with those currently working on coral conservation projects and help maintain the mid-water coral nurseries, as well as the seabed nurseries, Zeavola's Activities Manager Cian O'Fearghail explained.

In addition to the hands on efforts in the project, Zeavola pledged to focus on educating staff, guests and the local community about sus-

tainable marine practices.

"The seminar [we have put together] will be given to all our staff members in Thai and it will be given to all my long-tail captains because we actively live from the coral reef and we are actively out there with our guests," Mr Hallermann said. "Additionally, we will be going to local elementary schools to teach the kids."

"I would be happy to supply the seminar to other hotels if anyone else is interested. But we first need to clean our house, before enticing other people to follow us," he said.

The last major goal outlined for 2013 was the establishment of mooring buoys for visiting yachts in Laem Thong.

"The earth does not care about us, the only things who care about us are ourselves, and usually in the terms of what is in our bank accounts. We don't see below the low tide mark – I don't know if we will make much of an impact, but for the little area in which we live and are successful, I want to give something back. I want to do something about it," Mr Hallermann said.

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Tourists need due diligence

TOURIST safety issues have been a hot topic in the news lately as the number of accidents and crimes involving foreign visitors continues to grow with the largely unregulated expansion of the island's tourism industry.

Despite the occasional announcement of an impending "crack-down", establishment of a new "safety zone" or other largely cosmetic, public-relations campaigns, the fact is that the island's socio-economic development in recent years seems to make it an increasingly attractive destination for a very wide range of visitors: from stateless Rohingya arriving over open ocean in rickety boats to those touching down at Phuket International Airport in private jets before being whisked away to five-star resorts.

The need for better security in Phuket has at least registered at the national level, as is evident by a slew of recent developments and pronouncements. These include 251 million baht in funding for the installation of 2,450 more CCTV cameras, calls by the governor for a massive increase in police manpower, a Department of Special Investigation crackdown on illegal taxis and the establishment of an Organized Crime Center for Tourism at Phuket Airport.

With so much information on safety-related issues in Phuket available online, one can only take pity on first-time, independent tourists with little or no knowledge of the island elements to steer clear of.

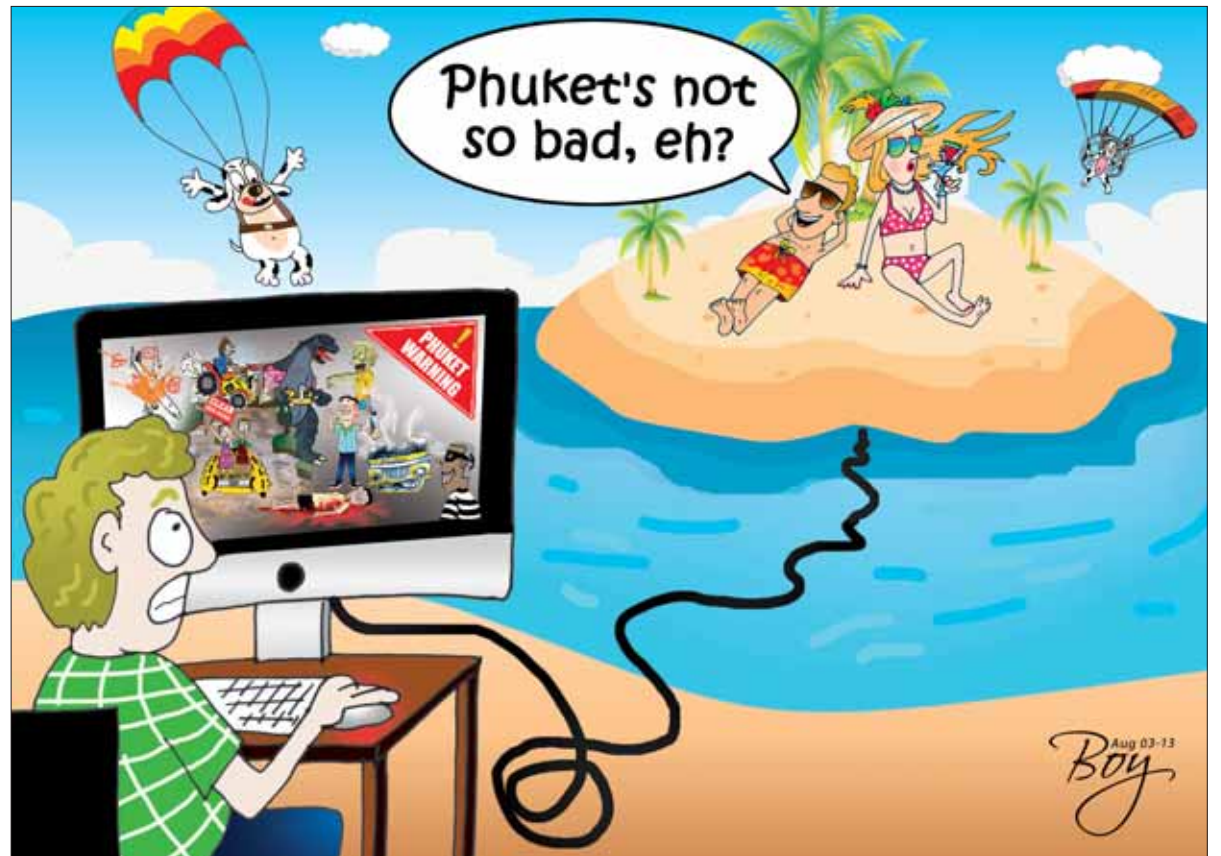
Those who do their homework and research Phuket will be inundated with a virtual tsunami of things to worry about: everything from very real dangers, such as rip currents and riding a motorbike, to the overhyped, such as being trampled by elephants.

Despite the recent global media attention on safety issues, Phuket remains a relatively safe destination, at least for people with a modicum of "street smarts" and common sense.

Though the trend in crime statistics may show an increase, who could reasonably expect otherwise as the island becomes increasingly urban and more densely populated?

For the reader who might come across this trend as part of doing their "due diligence" before travelling to Phuket, we would advise them to read the safety warnings posted on their respective governments' websites, taking in consideration that these tend to err on the side of caution.

Tourists are also strongly advised to arrive with adequate travel insurance, as most recently encouraged in an announcement by German honorary consuls (*see page 8*). The Thai government should seriously consider making travel insurance mandatory for foreigners, possibly making it available to them on a temporary basis through its existing social security scheme.



Scared away forever by tuk-tuks

I manage a hotel resort at Kata Beach. Two young female customers of ours recently hired a tuk-tuk to Nai Harn Beach for 300 baht. When they tried to get a tuk-tuk back to Kata they were told it would be 1,000 baht.

According to our guests, the driver was unwilling to negotiate and was very rude and even threatening with the girls. Feeling very intimidated and that they had no options, they agreed to the fare.

After this and another negative experience with a driver, the guests check out early and would never return to Phuket again.

Negative interactions with and extortionate pricing of tuk-tuks and taxis in Phuket are by far the number one complaint I hear from guests.

Concerned hotel proprietor
Kata

Awareness is first

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Our environment down the drain, July 27

The proposal is at least a reasonable and good first step; others need to follow. Most important is to increase awareness of the environment in schools, universities, town meetings.

Chiara
Gazette forum

Local operators need tourist protection

Re: Gazette online, Tourism minister gets tough with Phuket taxi and vehicle-rental cowboys, July 27

I agree that tourists shouldn't have to give rental operators their passports. However, the rental operators need a way to protect themselves from shady tourists.

A man who rents motorbikes and cars in Phuket Town told me he's

Letters to the Editor

been cheated by tourists who don't bring vehicles back or who damage them and then leave the country.

The rental operators need collateral for cases like this. In other countries, that collateral is a credit card number.

Mr Somsak, the Tourism Minister, could consider helping local operators set up inexpensive pay-by-credit card systems.

Lulu
Pa Khlok

Patong clear zone gives tourists choice

Re: Gazette online, Phuket official moves to create Patong Beach clear zone, July 26

Sections without beds give tourists freedom of choice.

If they want a bed and umbrella, there will still be lots available – 100 baht for as long as you want is not extortion. Being offered a drink or light refreshments, etc, is appreciated by many tourists.

If they don't want to be bothered, they can just ignore the vendors. I always pretend to be asleep!

Now, jet-skis, paragliding or being dragged behind a speedboat? Too many, too noisy and smelly.

Bjay
Gazette forum

Corruption benefits

Special Report: Phuket Gazette keeping an eye on corruption, July 23

I agree. My 11-year-old son could not have got into the local government school in Thailand (not Phuket) without the 125,000 baht I had to put in a brown envelope for the school "manager".

Corruption? Yes. But the benefit? Obviously far greater than what I had to pay.

Such a lucky break for him would not have been possible at all back home in Australia.

Lucky Parent
Gazette forum

More than salaries to police corruption

Special Report: Phuket Gazette keeping an eye on corruption, July 23

A retired officer explained to me that guys either borrow money from their family or save up for years to "invest" in a job position in the force!

How do you stop police corruption after some have invested everything they have to be one, and when the fringe benefits can be more than five times the basic wage?

Vladdy
Gazette forum

Airport bus should pick up school kids

Re: Gazette online, Phuket airport bus services pared back, full service to resume in August, July 26

This guy is doomed to fail if he: a) is not consistent, b) does not have hundreds of bus stops all over Phuket, so the locals plus the school children can use it.

Or does he believe that everyone is urgently looking forward to a trip to Patong?

Charles
Gazette forum

How to handle teens

Phuket Police on lookout for 'slap attack' teen gang, July 24

Round 'em up, and cane them – Singapore style – and then off to boot camp, along with their parents!

Not amused
Gazette forum

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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

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

Volume 20 Issue 31

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Italy's Honorary Consul: respect and enforce laws

FIRST PERSON

OFFICIAL statistics indicate that around 250,000 Italian tourists visited Phuket last year and about 1,000 Italian expats are living on the island. The number of Italian tourists and expats in Phuket rises by more than five per cent each year.

Some expats are pensioners who are spending their retirement years in Phuket, but others have their own businesses and work here.

The food and beverage industry is a popular line of work for Italians, and there are many Italian chefs in Phuket and elsewhere in Thailand. Italians have invested in or are managing more than 200 restaurants, hotels, resorts and guesthouses on the island. Others are involved in real estate and construction companies.

However, we often hear about Italians working without a work permit and living in the kingdom after their permit-to-stay has expired.

I would like the police and relevant government organizations to be strict on checking and arresting expats who illegally work and live in the kingdom. We are very willing to support the authorities in this matter.

At the same time, I also urge the authorities to take sterner action against tuk-tuk and taxi drivers who overcharge and cheat tourists.

We have received many formal complaints about the cost of public transport in Phuket. Some specific complaints pointed out

'Most importantly... please respect and follow the law and culture of Thailand... and don't forget that we are guests in this country'



Dr Francesco Pensato, 53, became the Honorary Consul of Italy for Phuket and Southern Thailand in May. A director of the Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce, Dr Francesco has degrees in Pharmacology, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Sound Engineering, and is the CEO of World Pharm, JK

Drinks and King manufacturing company.

Here, he talks about the most pressing problems facing Italian tourists and expats in Phuket.

that some taxi drivers do not turn on the meter, and instead overcharge their passengers.

Ambassadors from European Union countries and honorary consuls have met the Phuket Governor to discuss the problems expats and tourists in Phuket face, and this was among them.

We would like the Highways Police and the Phuket Land Transport Office to be

stricter on these cheats. I also think the new airport bus is a good choice for tourists wanting to avoid being overcharged by taxi drivers.

Other issues raised by the European ambassadors were

stricter enforcement of traffic laws and improved marine safety.

In total, there were 300 road accidents and marine incidents involving tourists last year. The top cause of accidents was tuk-tuks, vans, motorbikes and cars being driven too fast.

The second most-common cause was tourists endangering themselves by riding motorbikes without helmets, drunk driving, not following traffic laws and not heeding lifeguards on the beaches.

Stricter enforcement of laws would help reduce the number of tourists injured or killed in accidents resulting from these behaviors.

In another development, we plan to have an Italian language and culture course added to a school curriculum this year, so Thai people can learn to speak Italian and make a living from tourism. We also hope to see this develop into a course at a university.

Most importantly, we would like to remind all Italian tourists and expats to please respect and follow the law and culture of Thailand, where we have decided to live – and don't forget that we are guests in this country.

Honorary Consulate of Italy for Phuket and South Thailand, Dr Francesco Pensato, 68/303 Moo 1 T. Chalong A. Muang 83130, Phuket, Tel: 076-263923 Fax: 076-367153, Mobile: 088-7612637 (emergency) consolare.phuket@gmail.com



RELAX: Finding a way to make the hands of time stand still. Photo: Guy Sie

Take five for island time

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

THERE is a special relationship between time and islands, which Einstein might have narrowly missed quantifying in his examination of the Theory of Relativity. The theory points out, among many other things, that space travelers moving at a speed close to the speed of light might travel to a distant galaxy and only age 26 years. However, here on Earth millions of years would have passed – so is relativity.

What the Noble Prize winner and founder of the Atomic Age either failed to grasp or was focused enough to sidestep was the fact that too much sunlight speeding around the little tropical islands that dot the equator has caused time to also slow down relative to the rest of the world – this phenomenon is the renowned “island time”.

But like so many elements unique to these isolated environments, island time, perhaps once known as “Thai time” here on Phuket, is on the verge of extinction on our island. Phuket has entered the corporate time zone, and now it is to be feared that clocking in five minutes late for work will be noted – a stark contrast to showing up to work “sometime after lunch”.

Co-workers no doubt take subtle glances down at their wrist watches, bosses are apt to stare intently at their Rolex Oyster Perpetual GMT-Master II's, passive-aggressively pointing out that the mechanism on their wrist, devel-

oped just over 300 years ago, is more apt at keeping track of time than you, who took millions of years of evolution to bolt together.

There is, however, a way back to those nether years of Phuket, when the *Gazette* was delivered by the owner from the back of his jeep and showing up on time to something was pointless – to go there we must embrace the world of watch advertising. Only there, at somewhere between 10:08 and 10:13, will Phuket find a solution.

The watch advertising industry, as it turns out, operates on the same relativity that drives island time. As many a watch connoisseur or individual with an eye for detail may have noticed, well over 95 per cent of every watch presented in an advertisement is stuck at the aesthetically attractive and blissful moments between 10:08 and 10:13.

By embracing this corporate niche of relative time and becoming an island of watch users whose devices are permanently prepared to hit the glossy covers of *Men's Magazine* or *Cosmo*, we can once again slip blissfully into island time, leaving the corporate worries to those who chose to live in Bangkok.

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

Building at Nai Harn

How is it possible that a building is being constructed on Nai Harn, less than 10 meters from the beach?

It's a very big cement building (more than 100sqm) with more than two toilets that will likely send wastewater directly into the sea.

David
Phuket

Surachet Jitmet, Deputy Director of Public Health and Environment at Rawai Municipality replies:

Thank you for telling us. We inspected this building in early July and found that the builder doesn't have a land title or permission to build. We ordered construction be stopped and passed the case to the police for legal action.

Anyone who sees suspicious building, please take a photo and let us know at 076 613 801 ext 102.

I have to wait, they should too at Central light

At the Central Festival intersection, there can be a long line of northbound cars on Vichit Songkram Road waiting to go straight or turn right on to the bypass road.

Sometimes drivers who don't want to go to the end of this line pull up to the intersection in the southbound lane and either try to push into the northbound line or

just wait on the wrong side of the road for the lights to change.

This is especially true of cars coming out of Surakul Stadium and Darasamuth School – they drive on the wrong side up to the intersection.

It's against the law to cross a solid yellow line to pass, and it's against the law to wait for the light on the wrong side of the road. Are the police aware that people are doing this?

Lotus
Phuket Town

Prawat Tantibussaban, Wichit Traffic Police officer, replies:

We are aware of this situation, and you are right – the cars should not cross the solid yellow lines.

The cars coming out from the school as well as those exiting the

stadium entrance must make a left turn and then do a u-turn to enter the northbound lane.

A policeman is always in the police booth at the intersection; however, he can't stop everyone.

You can help us. If you see someone driving illegally, take a photo and make sure to include

the license plate number and the date. A video would be even better. With that evidence, we may be able to charge them.

You can contact us at Wichit Police Station on 076 355073-5.

The fine for driving across the solid yellow lines or waiting on the wrong side is 500 to 1,000 baht.



LAW BREAKERS: The car at right and the taxi ahead of it. Photo: Saran Mitratat

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

YOUR Phuket

GRAND OPENING CEREMONY CENTARA GRAND BEACH RESORT PHUKET



Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn receives a bouquet of flowers from Supatra Chirathivat, Senior Vice President – Corporate Affairs & Social Responsibilities of Centara Hotels & Resorts as Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn presided over the grand opening ceremony of Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket on Sunday 28 July 2013.



The board of directors and executives of Centara Hotels & Resorts, pictured with Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Sitting down) Left to right: Supatra Chirathivat, Senior Vice President – Corporate Affairs & Social Responsibilities; Suthikiati Chirathivat, Chairman of the Executive Board; Thirayuth Chirathivat, Senior Vice President – Project Management; Dan Chinsupakul, Advisor of company. Sitting up, left to right: Michel Horn, Vice President – Operations; Prof. Viroj Lowhaphandu, Honorary Advisor of Board Committee; Prapharat Tangkawattana, Vice President – Investment; Dr. Ronnachat Mahattanapreut, Senior Vice President – Finance & Administration; Denis Thouvard, Area General Manager of Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket and Centara Villas Phuket; Thirakiati Chirathivat, Vice President – Procurement.

GRAND OPENING OF CONNEXT CONDO



Phuket Thaneer President, Mr. Tawat Teowattankul making the lucky draw for a lucky customer.



CIPS' CONFERENCE

(From left): Mr. Visit Kunatharakul, Executive Consultant and Ex-President of REASM; Dr. Pairote Sukjan, President; Ms. Nina Serebryakova, Project Director and International Marketing Committee; Mr. Alexander Serebryakov, Head of Russian PR Department and International Marketing Committee

CONCERT FOR CHARITY

RPM hosted the Charity Concert to raise money to renovate a Thai Temple.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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August 3 - 9, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week

 **Baan Yamu**
Residences



See page 22

JOB of the week



PAUL ROPP

See page 27

BOAT of the week

Boatshedphuket.com
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



See page 31

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

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



See page 25

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

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Properties For Sale

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- Public Liability
- Professional Indemnity, Director and Officers
- Group Health and Individual
- Personal Accident and Travel
- Motor Insurance

Contact: Paew, Piya or Tux
Phuket Boat Lagoon
info@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

LAND FOR SALE RAWAI
2.2 million baht. Chanote title, 760sqm. Contact Tik: 085-784 7218, May: 087-388 7354.

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. Contact Ron Crane at +44-788-948 8091. Email: craneprop@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

FOR SALE 2 BEDROOMS



Palm Breeze Resort, Nai Harn. Last one, 5th floor. 7.5 million baht. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.com Tel: 087-882 9604. For further details, please see our website at www.premier properties phuket.com

LIQUIDATION SALE URGENT!

14.5 rai of land near the Big Buddha in Chalong for sale with Chanote title for 2.99 million baht per rai. Road frontage, water and electricity on site. We can negotiate smaller plots if required. This land has been previously offered at 5.9 million baht per rai. Urgent sale required. Nothing wrong with the land, just need urgent sale. Tel: 080-124 1245 (English). Email: kay@phuketandamanreal estate.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.

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



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



Land For Sale In Patong
74 square wah (296sqm). 3 Chanote titles. Clean underground water. Located on Pisitkoranee Road (main road). This land allows for 3 apartments of 6-7 floors maximum.
Call owner. Tel: 081-370 0162.

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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).

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

URGENT SALE/ RENT



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

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.

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

KRABI, AO NANG

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



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Please contact: 091-034 9909 or 089-729 8126
E-mail: info@baanyamu.com
Tel: 076-310507

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.

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.

AO PO LAND 1.5 RAI SEA VIEW

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

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

2 RAI MAI KHAO BEACH LAND

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

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

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Properties For Rent



houseinphuket.com

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

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach for rent, 3 bedrooms, with aircons, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

APARTMENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, private patio, fully furnished. 16,000 baht/month. Tel: 080-040 1057 (English).

PATONG 2-BEDROOM APARTMENTS

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

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>

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

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

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

CHEAP RENT

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

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



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 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

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.

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

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: 087-269 8492.

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

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



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). P/s contact 086-4769612. Email: annanot1@hotmail.com

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

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.

LUXURY VILLA FOR RENT

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

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

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.

2-BED APARTMENT PATONG

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

STUDIOS FOR RENT

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

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.

STUDIO APARTMENT IN PATONG

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

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GUEST RELATIONS

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

BARMAN - SOUS CHEF - WAITRESS

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

HEALTHY FOOD COOK

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

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 helena@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

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>

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 majones38@hotmail.co.uk

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

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

WAITRESS WANTED

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

DRIVER WANTED

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

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

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

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

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: NomadicInvestor@gmail.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

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

URGENTLY REQUIRE

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

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

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 STAFF WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tel: 076-282254
Tel: 076-280400
Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

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

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

PHUKET CITY

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

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

CHERNG TALAY

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

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- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

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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.

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WANTED**

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

**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 THAI
GIRL**

Looking for a Thai woman with good written and spoken English for office work. Computer literacy is a must. Tel: 084-060 7050. Email: info@molo.kophuket.com Please see our website at http://moloko.phuket.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

**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

**NEED COOK (FEMALE)
URGENT**

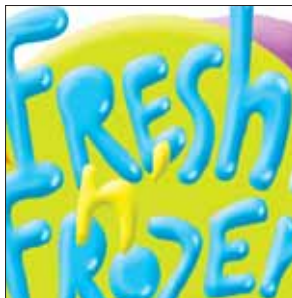
Female cook, breakfast, Thai food and Euro. Urgently needed. Contact me on my mobile (as above). Tel: 076-396075, 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

**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

**COFFEE & ICE
CREAM**

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

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

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

**COORDINATOR
WANTED**

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

**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.

**FRONT DESK STAFF -
SAMUI**

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

HEALTH FOOD COOK

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

DESIGN STUDIO

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

**Shop Assistant Required**

Paul Ropp Thailand Company Limited is now looking for shop assistants to join our team. The candidate must have the following qualifications:

- Good communication skills in English
- Good attitude and appearance
- Flexible and able to work under pressure
- Computer literate
- Thai nationality

We offer good salary and commission. If you have the above qualifications and would like to join our team, please send your CV to pandhaj@paulropp.com or call us at +66(76)360859

**OAK MEADOW
INTERNATIONAL**

The following positions are open in our school:

- Qualified Thai Teacher
- Cook
- Cleaning lady

Tel: 084-847 0732. Email: intllicense@yahoo.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

**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

**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

**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

**Employment
Wanted****REAL ESTATE REPS.
NEEDED**

Phuket's Leading Agency is looking for new experienced property consultants. You should have an extensive sales background and knowledge of Phuket Island and its districts. High earnings is expected for top reps. Send your CV by email to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

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Business Opportunities

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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. Tried 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

KARON GUESTHOUSE

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

GOGO BAR / NIGHTCLUB

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

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

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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

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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

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact: realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

PATONG BEACH HOTEL AND RESTAURANT

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

SPORTS BAR KARON

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

FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE

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

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

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German Golf Physio Coach and Physio Therapy offer help when you have problems or pain. Tel: 084-840 7531 (German/English), 085-145 8340 (Thai).

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Showing and teaching the art of western cowboy rope tricks. For more details, please call 084-447 5257. Email: mikerooper2003@hotmail.com

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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

BALI KUTA GOLF MEMBERSHIP

1 share ACC x 3 golf courses. Life swap / Phuket golf course. Phuket Country / Laguna / Blue Canyon. Please call 085-994 0364.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

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

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Available 700,000 baht excluding transfer. Email: he malegdr@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Lifetime family membership. Includes transfer fee and 2013 dues. 580,000 baht. Tel: 089-908 2454.

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

GAS GRILL FOR SALE

Commercial large S/S grill. Purchased from Lucky Kitchen for 38,000 baht. Sale now: 28,000 baht. For more details, please call 080-316 8435.

SNOOKER & BABY FOOT

Snooker: like new 45,000 baht. Baby foot: 2,500 baht. Located at Patong. Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT

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

BAND IS LOOKING FOR MUSICIAN

We are looking for a guitarist, drummer and keyboard player. This is a band for high quality/big events. Genre: pop, rock, motown, little bit jazz/blues. Available for 2 practice sessions per week, for 6 weeks, to prepare a show in a unique venue for every Thursday. Besides that we will be booked for big events, festivals and weddings. We also have a recording studio to produce/record our own music. Keywords: serious about practice; open to all music styles, dedicated, team spirit, fun, humor, enthusiastic, energetic. Our motto: It is not about what you perform but how you perform it. If you are interested, please contact Brigitta. Tel: 082-257 7102.

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Travel the east coast of Australia, visit romantic outback places. I am a retired male in my late 50's who enjoys hunting, fishing and camping outdoors. I am a non smoker, occasional drinker who would appreciate the company of a petite good looking female for a six months holiday starting in April next year 2014. I will visit Phuket this year to meet you. Must have passport, will arrange visa. If you are 25 to 45 years of age, and feel you would enjoy this experience, please send me your recent photos, age, address and phone number to kenneth.skeels@bigpond.com

BACKGAMMON

Players wanted. For more details, please call 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com

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In court and business. Tel: 076-273399, 089-873 6533. Email: phuketinterpreter@gmail.com

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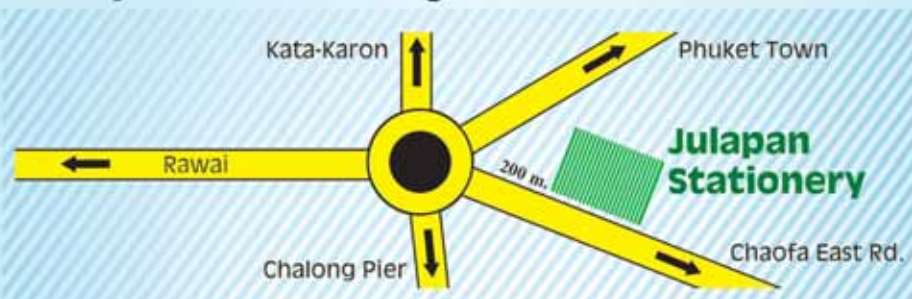
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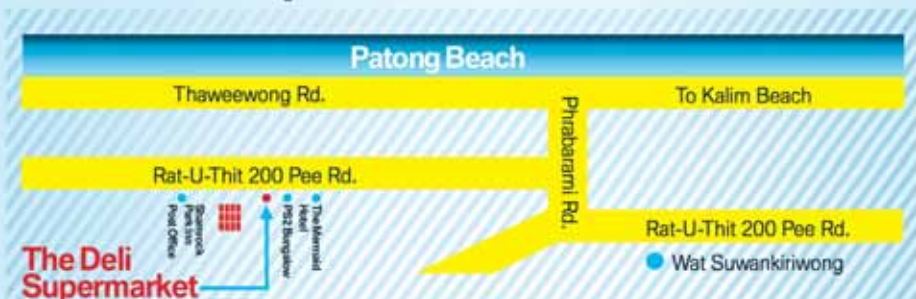
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Azimut 435 (2009) 368,000 Euro	Sea Ray 460 (2009) 6,900,000 THB THAI FLAGGED	Wally Tender (2007) \$438,000 USD THAI FLAGGED	Riviera 37 (2003) \$265,000 USD
Catana 50 (2009) \$795,000 USD	Bavaria 38 Cruiser (2006) 99,000 Euro THAI FLAGGED	Mumm 30 (2002) \$38,888 USD	Swan 42 (2007) \$330,000 USD

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
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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

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: claudstrey@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

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

PRINCESS 36 FEET "RIVIERA"
2 Volvo Penta 306hp, diesel, fully equipped includes trailer. Sale: 2.9 million baht. Call for appointment. Tel: 089-871 2940. Email: info@villea.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).

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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

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@andamanboatsales.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

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Wanted: a full-time sailing skipper. Must have experience on and off shore; an understanding of basic maintenance; and the ability to manage all aspects of keeping a ship. Would be responsible for keeping the boat in excellent order, which includes cleaning and maintaining the ship's log. The boat is a 52 foot sailing yacht. Tel: +852-9427 1564. Please send CV and any references to ian@farrelandgold.com

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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

THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic Crossword





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

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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

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.

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTA 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor, KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer, CHT, OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@hotmail.com



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.com, 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



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ENJOY SEAFOOD EXTRAVAGANZA NIGHT



(From left): Olga Kurshakova, Sales Manager of Two Chefs Catering; and Krister Westberg, Manager of Two Chefs Kata Center.



(From left): Jerry Minoret, Product Development Manager of Asia Marine; Alyona Vikhareva, Sales & Marketing Assistant of Princess Yachts Thailand; and Jearayut Aphisunthonkan, Sales Manger of Two Chefs Catering.



WESTIN WAGYU WEEKENDS

Westin Wagyu Weekends: Japanese wagyu beef is now available at Prego By The Beach every weekend, supported by Jagota foods. From left are Umaporn "A" Reonwajanawong, Westin marketing communications executive; Executive Chef Adam Tanner; Sous-chef Patrick Langdon and Jagota key account manager Christian Ayala.



THE IRONMAN ON TRAINING

Triathlon champion Chris 'Macca' McCormack (right) chose Phuket as the launch point for his training preparations for this year's Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii. Macca and training partner Murph (left) appreciated the opportunity to train in Phuket's sultry climate, while Macca's family enjoyed a stay at a Laguna Phuket villa. Macca and Murph were caught in action while swim training at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Complex

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www.lhphuket.com 076-615-121-2

Carnivore's delight

By Maciek Klimowicz

I MISSED you dearly, my friend. Maybe not at once, not in my first months in Thailand when I was sucked right into the world of lemongrass and coconut milk. When pork (and Thailand is up there with the best of them when it comes to quality of pork) and poultry became the foundations of my daily diet. I quickly grabbed Thai words for chicken and pork, yet the Thai name for the mother of all meat seemed to skip my mind. I just didn't use it often enough, I didn't get many chances to use it as I didn't get many chances to eat...beef.

And when it comes to beef, there are many ways to have it, but only one is right. "My favorite animal is steak," is what Fran Lebowitz said, and as much as I like cats and dogs, I dare not disagree. And I don't think the owners of the Churrasco Phuket Steakhouse would either. "We are 100 per cent carnivores," they say, and to prove it, they present me the menu of their restaurant which is located in Patong's Jungceylon Shopping Complex.

There's a choice of classic starters, some salads (the Caesar's salad is certainly worth a try), a selection of soups and pastas. The fresh Gazpacho Andaluz, a cold Spanish vegetable soup is a great choice for a hot day, which in Phuket means any day. But as delicious as they are, if you come here to have a Penne or Calamaris, you're missing the point. Flip to the steak side of the force and you're home.

There are eight steaks to choose from, sized from 200 grams to 500 grams, all served with baked garlic cloves. You can go with the classics tenderloin, striploin, ribeye, flank or the ever popular T-bone, all made with high quality Black Angus beef imported from Australia. For a man (or a lady) starving for beef, any choice is right and none will disappoint. But if you're not only a hungry carnivore, salivating at the mere thought of a steak, but also one that knows a bit about his prey, you know that Wagyu is the meat to go for.

Originally from Japan, where it reaches its ultimate quality in Kobe, it's been available outside the Japanese archipelago since the 90s when Wagyu cattle was successfully bred in Australia and the USA – courtesy of Jurassic

Park-style cow's embryos smuggling. The three Australian Wagyu steaks on Churrasco's menu are a dream come true for anyone wishing to satiate his or her lust for beef. The perfectly marbled, marinated cuts of meat, grilled to your liking, literally melt in your mouth, leaving behind the incredible, smooth, savory feeling known to the world as the 5th taste – Umami.

Bastian, Churrasco's chef hails from Germany and has over 14 years of experience. When I ask him how a perfect steak should be served, his answer is short and sharp as the edge of his knife – rare.

"When some customers order 500g of fine beef and ask for it well done I want to cry," he adds.

So if you are one of the people who don't want to see any red in their beef, don't order the most exquisite stuff.

Go for something simpler, as it will taste the same anyway.

If you like beef jerky, suit yourself, but if you truly love beef, you'll have it rare or at least medium rare. And you don't have to be a Muay Thai fighter in search of high-value protein to have your steak the right way.

"You'd be surprised to discover how many women are die hard

carnivores and order rare steaks," adds Sebastian.

"There's only one right way to eat a steak – with greed in your heart and a smile on your face," someone once said. At Churrasco, doing it the right way is easy. The owners of the restaurant know they deal with precious produce and they do it very well by giving it the treatment it deserves. The deep-chilled (but never frozen) steaks are imported three times a week from Australia, and are kept in a special fridge with four different zones of rising temperature. Once marinated, they land on the grill and on your plate.

The rest is simple – a bite of Wagyu rump tail, washed down with one of the wines from the hand picked wine list (naturally 80 per cent of them red), and you'll be sent into outer space.

The Latin American music, the chatter from surrounding tables all this will fade. You'll be left with the heavenly taste in your mouth and the distant sound of fat dripping on a red hot grill in your ears. This sound is called churrasco.



THE CHEF: Don't break his heart, order your steak like it is supposed to be – rare. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



THE MEAT: You judge a steakhouse by its steak. In this category Churrasco is a winner. Photo: Churrasco



THE SIDES: Gazpacho – a vegetarian introduction to the carnivore's feast. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

August 3 - 31, 2013 Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival

Laguna Phuket Summer Family Festival during July and August offers a range of free activities for youngsters and parents at the resort's Latitude marquee - including a top-class soccer school, fun kids' golf lessons and dynamic Zumba fitness classes. Free soccer skills classes for both boys and girls aged four to 16 on are held on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings; and there's kids' SNAG? (Starting New At Golf) fun lessons on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Conventional lessons are at Laguna Phuket Golf Club with PGA professional Andy Combe on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday afternoons, at a Festival rate of just THB 2,000 per person for three hours. Zumba classes are on Monday and Wednesday evenings, starting at 5.30pm. Quest's Kidz Fun offers afternoon adventure and educational activities on Mondays and Wednesdays and movie nights on Fridays, for only THB 200 per child; also overnight "Camp Quests" on weekends of 5-6 July and 2-3 August for just THB 2,500 per child. Attractions at Latitude include a bouncy castle, visits from a baby elephant and a variety of fun and games, while parents can relax with Happy Hour drinks, food, music and entertainment. More information can be checked at lagunaphuket.com/events/family-festival.

Aug 9, 2013, 7 pm-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



Crayfish buffet at Two Chefs Kata August 16, 2013 from 6pm to 12am

Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For more details contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464 or email at info@navrangmahal.com.

Aug 12, 2013, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday.

Her Majesty Queen Sirikit'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.

Aug 16, 2013, 6pm-12am, Crayfish Buffet at Kata Center (opposite Dinopark)

On Friday the August 16, we are serving a large Crayfish & Seafood buffet, including imported crayfish boiled the traditional Scandinavian way. All you can eat for only 795 baht, children 350 baht. Our house band will entertain you until the late hours, and we'll have happy hours on selected drinks all night. For more info, log

onto our website (link at left) or follow us on: facebook.com/TwoChefsThailand. Come for the food and stay for the fun!

Sep 19, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch.

September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members B500 and guests B650. Contact info@phuketiw.com or Carole Dux 076-316711 or visit website: phuketiw.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 pu-

rify 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 historic Panwa House at the Cape Panwa Hotel. As usual, booking is required but all are welcome. Members: 500 baht; non members and guests: 650 baht. Register at info@phuketiw.com or contact Carole Dux on +66-76-316711.

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

Registration will be on 13 November from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are 13-16 November. Prize giving party on the 16th. For more info, please see our website: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com or contact Khun Uwe Schittek on +66-76-282036 or email at uwschittek@yahoo.com. This event is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show.

THE SPONSORSHIP EXPERTS
WWW.PAULPOOLE.CO.TH

Forum and informal Sunday morning computer clinics

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

A solution may exist!

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

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

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

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

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

Catch the show at these times

Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
TrueVisions HD Channel 99	8 shows a week	MCOT World
Monday:	05:10am	
Tuesday:	11:10pm	
Wednesday:	10:10am	
Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	

Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
True Freeview Channel 58	8 shows a week	MCOT World
Monday:	05:10am	
Tuesday:	11:10pm	
Wednesday:	10:10am	
Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	

Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
Phuket Cable Company (PC)	Covers all Phuket.	
Channel 1 - 19	shows a week	
Monday - Friday:	10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm.	
Saturday & Sunday:	10:30am, 9:10pm.	

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

Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
Channel 43 - 8	shows a week	
Monday:	05:10am	
Tuesday:	11:10pm	
Wednesday:	10:10am	
Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	

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

And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Camela and Marc fashion. Photo: Chealsea V

Look **chic** in **White**

White isn't reserved for brides. White is feminine, white is chic, white is cute.

At first, white might seem plain and simple. Some might say it's not even a color. But the right hairstyle and accessories is all you need to make white shine bright. After all white is the perfect canvas, a background against which you can show off a tan or a flash of fuchsia pink or cherry.

Tips...

Avoid wearing dark or bright colored undergarments as they will shine through any white dress. White is often slightly transparent so flesh color lingerie is a very good option.

Match your white dress with a chic accessory to achieve a more attractive look. Use silver to get a glorious look while colorful accessories will make you look younger. The best part is that matching accessories with white is really easy— just make sure your accessories and footwear are matched up too.



Miranda Kurl, a supermodel. Photo: Wikipedia



A cool hipster girl. Photo: Kanyawarat



Hot model in white short dress. Photo: Lori2019

Model Search...

The October edition of Think Design magazine will be the HUGE Fashion Issue and they will be doing a big feature on the best models in Thailand. They are inviting models in Phuket and across Thailand who wish to be profiled to contact them about being featured. They will look to link models with their favorite shots that feature an interesting design from Thai modern fashion. It will be featuring 20 models/fashion designs in an exciting feature spread. It could be you!

Contact: viadylan@thinkdesignmagazine.com
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Chaiwchan Sura

HAVING worked for close to eight years at the Black Cat restaurant, Chaiwchan Sura has come to be regarded by some as a permanent fixture of this Cherng Talay establishment.

It is easy to see why, Chaiwchan or Buddy as he is popularly known, is an affable waiter who has a knack for making guests feel at home. Hence the nickname Buddy, which was given to him by some affectionate clients.

Buddy, who has formed his career around the hospitality business, speaks not only English but is also fluent in French. The inspiration to excel in foreign languages came from his mother, a chef for English tin traders during the 1960s. "My mother encouraged me to acquire English because she rightly predicted that Phuket will see many more foreign visitors in its lifetime."

The French connection happened when, as a 19-year-old, working as a beach staff member at Pansea Beach Resort (now The Surin) on Surin Beach, he was chosen along with two other staff, to study French in the spa town of Vichy, France, for three months.

Buddy comments on his experience there: "I was so lucky to be given the chance, but I was lousy at learning French. I almost got sent back to Thailand during the first month! But I stuck it out

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

and completed the course. I did enjoy discovering some French wines though," he says as he fishes out a photo of his young self standing in front of the Eiffel Tower. "I'll keep this forever," he says proudly.

So he returned to Phuket as a newly minted Francophile, and continued to work for Pansea Hotel as *chef de la plage* teaching water sports like sailing and windsurfing to the hotel's guests. "My French got much better during this time when I had a chance to actually put it to use," he says.

Buddy used to be a keen sportsman and in his "wilder days" and used to windsurf from Patong to Kamala, a practice he's not likely to repeat.

"It was madness. The wind would stop when I was mid-ocean. Luckily there were long-tail boats around to save me."

Part of his job at the hotel was lifeguarding, he recalls, and that's when our conversation turns to the fatal drownings that have claimed the lives of many tourists in Phuket recently.

"You can never ever underestimate the strength of the

undercurrent below seemingly placid water. It's especially deadly during the time of the transition between two seasons, around September to October, this is when you have to be the most careful," says Buddy.

"Phuket beach safety operations are sorely lacking. And I no longer want to hear excuses that we don't have any budget. Tourism brings in a lot of money and the lives of those tourists who died here are irreplaceable compared to the amount of funds we should invest in lifeguard operations," he added.

Although Buddy left Pansea Hotel to set up his own business as tour operator, he often found himself wandering back to the hospitality business and finally joined Black Cat in 2005. "Food is my destiny. I can't get away from this business. I love food and cooking and I think I convey my enthusiasm to the guests."

Behind the scene though, Buddy still indulges in his passion of fishing. His pride and joy was when he caught a 60 kilogram marlin from the Coral island off Phuket. "It took me and my friends over 45 minutes to rein it in, but it was quite a catch."

You can meet Buddy at the Black Cat Restaurant where he works daily from 5:30 to 12pm.



About Thai Gallery

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

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How does your garden grow?



GRACIOUS: Part of Crinum family, spider lillies will tolerate most conditions, but grow well in moist soil and shady spots. Shown above is the variety *Lycoris Radiata*. Photo: Retrolusionary



Caladium is a showy plant with heart-shaped leaves and dramatic patterns and coloring. Shown above is a *Caladium* species called gingerland. Photo: dog.happy.art



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

OLIVER Wendell Holmes, an American lawyer, once wrote: "It is better to be seventy years young than forty years old". I hope he's right. What we do know from experience is that gardening is a rejuvenating activity that helps to keep one young. How? Simply by doing it. All that rich, oxygenated air filled with fragrance, every visual delight, the abiding sense that you have contributed your bit to nature's spectacular.

"How does your garden grow?" Well Mary, in the nursery rhyme, you may have been "contrary", but at least your flowers did bloom. Moreover, they would have flourished even better in tropical Phuket. Every gardening day, you are charmed by something new: a fresh flower,

a different butterfly, an unexpected fruit. Andrew Marvell, the Puritan poet eloquently alluded to the sheer pleasure as well as the therapeutic effects of savoring a garden: an absorbing experience where all one's worries temporarily disappeared: "Annihilating all that's made/To a green thought in a green shade." The same message holds true 350 years on... I digress – but it is surely better for body and soul than propping up a bar all day or crouching in front of a computer screen. Enough said, people in glass houses and all that. But at least I'm writing about flowers! Now for the latest installment on flowers that begin with the letter "C".

Recently mentioned in dispatches, we can skirt the vast genus of cacti. Suffice to say, few have noteworthy flowers, but they are ideal subjects for a "dry" garden, a low-upkeep container, or a rockery where the moisture

drains rapidly away. After all, most are desert plants with modified stems which store water in times of drought, and thick skin that reduces evaporation. Just ensure that your cactus has sand in the soil mix, since silica is essential for its well-being. And water very occasionally. The roots on a newly planted specimen tend to rot before they begin active growth and watering won't help. Think agaves, aloe veras, yuccas if you want striking silhouettes: not technically cacti, they are succulents with large rosettes of long pointed, often spiny "leaves".

Calatheas are also grown for their ornamental leaves, but unlike members of the cactus tribe, they prefer moist, shady, jungle-like conditions, with plenty of humus. If they do not get the right environment, the foliage will turn brown at the edges and then shrivel. I used to have one as a house plant in

London: it survived, but needed spraying several times a week. High maintenance. Still, altheas repay some TLC, for their striped patterns and coloration are dramatic.

On *C.makoyana* (the peacock plant), the oval leaves are two shades of green with purple undersides; on *C.metallica*, the leaves are silvery above and red below. One variety, *C.lancifolia*, is grown for its unusual display of flowers enclosed in tight rows of yellow bracts. The name, rattlesnake plant, offers a clue to its appearance.

Caladiums, with their heart-shaped leaves, require similar dank conditions for growth, but they will naturally die back during dry spells, to rise, Phoenix-like, when the tuberous roots feel the new season's rain moistening the soil around them.

Crinum actually has the vernacular name "swamp lily", so there is

no doubting its watery needs. A vigorous grower, it has long, blade-like foliage, and prefers a moist habitat (in the wild it grows on the margins of ponds). The flowers are distinctive: white star-shaped clusters with narrow petals that appear at the end of fleshy stems.

C.amabile has larger pink flowers with red stripes; it needs more sun to bloom well.

A relative, the spider lily (*hymenocallis*), is more popular in Phuket's gardens, a neat plant which tolerates most conditions and looks good in a border or arranged in dense clumps. The strap-shaped leaves sprout straight from underground tubers, and the white spidery flowers are delicately elegant. They are found in good nurseries everywhere.

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

Dog of the week

LISA is a happy-go-lucky little pooch that is looking for a loving home. She has a great personality and is full of energy and affection. She would be perfect for a family seeking a small dog or even a second dog so they can keep each other company. She's so easy to look after, doesn't eat much food and loves to have her belly scratched or go for a walk along the beach. If you think Lisa would be a great addition to your family, come to Doggie Heaven and meet her and you will be sure to fall in love with her straight away.

Doggie Heaven helps place homeless dogs with loving families and is located in



Lisa is waiting for a good home

Thalang. If you'd like to adopt an animal or want to make an appointment, please contact: sherin.peace@gmail.com or visit doggieheaven.net.

Tip of the week

Xeric regimes for plants

WHAT on earth is a *xeric* regime? The word, which comes from the Greek meaning dry, is a low-maintenance strategy for growing plants with limited supplies of water. In nature, it is what occurs in deserts where the occasional heavy drenching is all that plants can expect.

Of course all plants need some water, (though variables such as the size of root systems and the texture of the soil will affect requirements) but succulents, yuccas, cacti, and in Thailand, plants such as *adeniums* or *euphorbias*, are able to absorb this



Adenium will tolerate hot and dry conditions. Photo: Tatters

moisture into their thickened and modified stems and then draw on it in times of need.

Xeric regimes or *xeriscapes* (the employment of drought-resistant plants) offer ideal solutions where the rainfall is minimal, or occurs only in cool winters. Such Mediterranean style climates are ideal for drought-tolerant herbs such as thyme, oregano, rosemary and sage. Lavender too. They will tolerate long dry summers. In Thailand, a quick-draining rock garden could make a perfect xeriscape.

Singapore National Day

Singaporeans regularly make the top-10 list of nationalities visiting Thailand each year. Many of them spend their holidays in Phuket. Now it's their turn to celebrate.



SKYLINE: 59 skyscraper rise higher than 140 metres in the city centre of Singapore Photo: HooLengSiong

IT'S party time...again. And for Singapore it's the 48th time – on August 9 the small Southeast Asian country will celebrate its National Day marking the anniversary of independence from Malaysia. A speech by the Prime Minister, a colorful procession presenting the islands multicultural character and naturally fireworks, are all planned for that special day.

Looking Back

Before Singapore got its current name it was known as

“Pu-luo-chung or “the island at the end of a peninsula - at least that's what earliest Chinese historical records suggest. Another name it went by was “Temasek – Sea Town. It wasn't until 17th century and the crash landing of the Prince of Palembang on the shores of the island that the name was changed to “Sing Pura – the Lion city.

Three centuries later in 1963, Singapore merged with the Union of Malaya, Sarawak and North Borneo to form Malaysia. Not for long, less than two years later on August 9, 1965, Singapore left

Malaysia to become an independent nation. On December 22 that year Singapore became a republic.

Singapore Today

Singapore is a country of rich and diverse culture with heavy Chinese, Malaysian, Indian and European influences. Its population of 5 million are mostly Buddhist followed by Muslims, Christians and Hindus. Racial and religious harmony is regarded by the government as a crucial part of Singapore's success and played a major part in

building a Singaporean identity.

Symbols and festivals

The national flower of Singapore is the Vanda Miss Joaquim. Many national symbols such as the National Coat of Arms and the Lion Head symbol make use of the lion. Public holidays in Singapore cover major Chinese, Western, Malay and Indian festivals.

Languages and Education

There are four official languages in the country – Chinese, Tamil, Malay and English. While majority of Singaporeans speak more than one language the most common used language is English with Malay and Chinese influences known as Singlish. The country's efficient education system turned it into southeast Asia's education hub with many foreign students coming to study in Singapore.

On the Table

Singaporean cuisine is indicative of the ethnic diversity of its culture and is a product of centuries of

cultural interaction owing to Singapore's strategic location. The food is influenced by the native Malay, Chinese (Hokkien, Teochew, Cantonese, Hakka and Hainanese), Indonesian, Indian and Western traditions. Popular local dishes include: Thosai – a crispy Indian pancake eaten with dhal and chutney. Satay – a Malay dish of grilled meat on skewers, served with a peanut dipping sauce. Rojak – a Singaporean-style salad of beansprouts, greens, tau pok, you tiao, pineapple, cucumber, and peanuts tossed with prawn paste.

– *Phuket Gazette*



The Lion City Photo: julsc



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Southside excites Phuket



JUMP AROUND: The local hip hop duo singing their newest single "Rang Ar!" during a performance at Connex Condo in Phuket last Saturday night. Photo: Nick Davies, Stretchout Media

ON JULY 27 two of Thailand's top rappers "Freddy V" and "2P" (Tong) stomped onto the stage at the Connex Condo concert venue with their hip-hop group South Side. In 2007 the Italian-Thai rapper (Federico Vassallo) was named "Bachelor of the Year" by global lifestyle publication Cleo Magazine. His Thai counterpart 2P (Pitawat Prusakit) was the first rapper from Phuket to break onto the international music scene, and is two-time winner of the 'Thailand Song Battle' (2006, 2007). The musicians acted as celebrity ambassadors for the cool new condo aimed at a socially active crowd. After the gig, *Gazette* reporters Anthika Muangrod and Kanyawarat Premprasert, had a

chance to interview the two rappers.

How long did it take you to get to where you are? When did you start to learn songwriting and developing your moves?

2P: I've been writing songs since I was 15 years old. I can't say I practiced dancing or singing a lot. It took me about 5-6 years grow up to what I am now.

Freddy V: I started when I was about 18-19 years old.

What do you think the future of hip-hop in Thailand is? Can you do anything about it?

2P: It's very simple. I want to produce more good songs to attract more people to my music

and hip-hop in general.

Freddy V: I want hip-hop music to be more popular. I'd also like more Thais to get into hip-hop and actively produce it.

Do you have any other plans than making music?

Freddy: I am already doing other things like designing t-shirts and organizing events and parties.

2P: Some day in a future yes, but at the moment I just want to put all my energy into doing the thing I love most.

What is the biggest challenge for you as an artist?

2P: I think the most challenging thing is to produce more great songs that people love.

Freddy: Agreed, It's a constant struggle.

Do you have suggestions for beginner hip-hop performers.

Freddy: What you really need to do is to understand hip-hop. To achieve that you need to study it, listen to it a lot. When you get to its core you can begin making



Southside's DJ Top spins some tunes at a recent performance. (above) Photo: Nick Davies, Stretchout Media. Freddy V and 2P on stage. Photo: Dek-D.com



your own music.

How do you divide your time between work and education?

Tong (2P): I don't study (joking while laughing)

Freddy: University doesn't take 24 hours a day. I divide my time 50/50. I actually think that working and studying at the same time taught me to manage my time better.

Do you have a message for our

readers?

2P: Our new single, "Rang Ar!" is out soon. The single will be featured on our new album. There's also a compilation on the way called "Titanium Corporation 3" which will gather all the singers from Titanium Entertainment company on one album. Three of our songs will end up there too. Finally our music video is about to hit 1 million views on YouTube anytime soon. Why not watch it today?



HIP HOP: The members of Southside pose for a photo before their performance. Photo: Nick Davies, Stretchout Media.

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Thai's time in the sun

Don't care if you are black or white, splash in and everything is alright!

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE obsession with light colored skin in Phuket and Thailand among Thais has led to a boom in many industries, most notably cosmetics, where a variety of skin-whitening products from deodorant to face cream are readily available. In at least one industry, however, this aversion to the sun has created an incredible lack of local staff and entrepreneurs – diving.

Despite the additional overhead, the dive industry in Phuket continues to be dominated by foreigners, both as the forces behind start-up dive companies, as well as dive professionals in the water.

A notable exception is Kritsada "Bank" Nikrothanon of Kata Scuba. Spending much of his childhood in Bangkok, Vietnam, Cyprus and the UK has given Bank enough distance to clearly examine why there is such a lack of Thai diving professionals in Phuket, and why the local Thai diving market is still just a fledgling.

"There aren't a lot of Thai divers. The reason for that comes partially from Chinese culture, the fear of getting black I think you know, is quite prominent," Bank explains. "Children are not encouraged to go outside and do activities. They are encouraged to sit at home and study that is the definition of a good child."

The emphasis on school work, which often includes large amounts of homework, extra classes after school hours and weekend classes, leave the children very little time to just be kids, Banks says.

"I believe that they are taught to study more, and thus have less time to be kids, especially when compared to European kids, who have more time to play and are encouraged to do sports. And at the end of the day, the Thai kids, when they graduate, still have a lower income job than their European counterparts.

"If they [Thai children] go out to the beach, their mum or dad will say 'you go and you will get black and get burnt' and that lowers the status for the family," Bank says.

Unlike in many other industries, those who pursue

entrepreneurial roles in the dive industry are people who have an active interest in the basics of the industry. And though there are exceptions, it is rare to meet dive shop owners who are not, or have not at one time, been professional divers.

Once Thai nationals have had their curiosity piqued by the unfathomable wonders that lie below the water's surface, and have crossed that cultural line, there are still more hurdles for them to jump.

Language [is a problem] if they want to go after the European market," Bank says, pointing out that the nascent Thai diving market is still too small to be worth chasing after.

Nonetheless, he is trying to change that.

We need to raise the awareness of the kids. We need to encourage them to be interested in nature," he says.

Bank still remembers the vibrancy of the stunning coral reefs that once thrived along Phuket's shorelines, undisturbed by development. Part of Bank's childhood was spent at his family home on Kata Beach, where he first got his PADI Junior Open Water certification at the age of 12.

"I remember there used to be nothing here, behind the house,



GET INVOLVED: Thai dive instructor Bank wants more Thais to try working in the diving industry. Photo: Kullez

future of Thais making a splash in the dive industry.

"Schools are the best places to start," he says.

"It might just be a matter of getting the parents and teachers in one room and explaining what's happening...what the kids will learn, why it is important."

Despite the current dearth of Thais both as professional divers and as paying customers, there is little doubt that there is a tremendous amount of potential in the country.

The key is the change in mentality, and Bank believes that the change is coming, though perhaps slowly.

"Traditionally, [cultural values] are pushed out to the general public through television," he says.

And though Bank doesn't watch too much local television, he sees a change in the cultural attitude toward outdoor activities.

"There are a lot more [commercials and television shows] with people going out into the sun and people doing exciting activities, so I think the mentality will slowly change. But will it be enough, and happen fast enough to keep up with the rest of the world?"

And though Bank, like many others in the industry, doesn't know the answer to that question, he hopes that he can at least make a positive difference,

and help develop a new generation of Thais willing to brave the sun and splash in to take part in the beauty that lies at their doorstep.



WESTERN: The scuba industry in Thailand is dominated by Westerners. Photo: Insanely scatterbrained



THAI DIVERS: Bank trains a fellow Thai in a training pool in Phukets. Photo: Supplied

there was nothing just water buffalo," he says, sitting in front of the family house turned dive shop.

Children are the key to the

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Khao Sok: Float your cares away

By Mark Knowles

IF YOU'RE looking for a fantastic long-weekend getaway, look no further, Khao Sok National Park has it all. Located about three hours drive northeast of Phuket, the park is one of Southern Thailand's best kept secrets – 739 square kilometers of virgin rainforest, teeming with wildlife, pristine waterfalls and jungle streams all framed by the spectacular and iconic limestone cliffs that dominate the region.

The sparkling jewel in the park's crown is the massive Chiew Larn Lake, formed by the construction of Rachabpapah Dam in 1982, which supplies vast amounts of electricity to Southern Thailand. By all accounts the creation of the damn was a disaster for wildlife in the park, but over the years it has slowly recovered and now the lake and surrounding park is a haven for gibbons, langures, macaques, pangolins, osprey, eagles and hornbills.

Scattered over the lake are a dozen or so floating hotels: simple bamboo huts bunched together on floating logs, nestled in the many inlets and coves in the vast lake, where tourists can stay overnight.

Upon hearing about these remote and rustic nature hotels, some friends and I decided to strike out from Phuket to find them, and spend a night in this idyllic natural



SERENITY: Longtail boats docked at our floating hotel on the peaceful waters of Chiew Larn Lake.

setting. With our car loaded up, we hit the road and headed north over Sarasin Bridge towards Khao Lak, where we planned to stop for lunch and a swim at the beach.

Before long we arrived, and being the low season, Khao Lak Beach was more or less devoid of people, except for the odd couple taking leisurely stroll. We found a swing made from a log tied to a tree branch and sat down for a lunch of tropical fruit and skewers of barbecued meat we had stopped to purchase in Thai Mueang. After a short post-lunch siesta, we checked our bearings on my phone's GPS map and saw that we had to take a turn-off towards Khao Sok National Park, taking us off Phetkasern Road (Route 4) and onto route 401 which would lead us all the way to the park's entrance.

There are only two access points to Khao Sok; the main park entrance, where the visitor center is located; then another 50 or so kilometers along route 401 is the access point for Chiew Larn Lake. As we drove along the road towards the main entrance, the landscape began to change and the limestone mountains surrounding the road on either side became larger and larger as we pushed on. This stretch of road is simply breathtaking, with white cliffs looming over the road alternating with dark tunnels almost enclosed in the jungle canopy. Fresh fruit stalls are dotted along the roadside selling watermelons, mangosteens and durian. You should definitely grab some fruit, as once you get out on the lake there are no shops.

We arrived at the main entrance to have a look around and confirm with the rangers at the visitor center that we were on the right track to Chiew Larn Lake. The visitor

center area is where you can start along many different jungle and waterfall treks, all clearly marked and suitable for all fitness levels. The helpful English speaking staff can give advice on which trails to take and what else there is to do in the park, so don't be afraid to ask. We stopped for a snack and a swim in the refreshing stream that runs past the visitor center, but instead of doing a short trek, we decided to keep going to the lake to make sure we got there before dark.

Arriving at the lake's edge, we parked and locked the car, and took our bags over to the area where the various hotels are booked. There are plenty of choices, with rooms costing between 600 to several thousand baht a night. We settled on one that was 1000 baht per night, organizing for a long-tail boat to take us there and back. Be careful when negotiating here and make sure you are clear on what the price includes. We assumed the 1000 baht price was per room not, as we later found out, per person! Still, all meals are included and even at that price it's worth the money although a shrewd negotiator could have no doubt got it for less. The price for the boat was 2,500 baht to take us out there, stay overnight and do some sightseeing on the way back.

So finally we were here! Setting out over the lake towards the setting sun during what photographers call the golden hour the lake was stunningly beautiful. After about an hour of negotiating the various arms of the lake, we arrived at our hotel just as the sun set behind the cliffs. After tying up at the dock we were shown our rooms, or huts as it were; small and simple bamboo huts with a double mattress, a mosquito net and a little veranda

out the front overlooking the lake. It was perfect, and just the kind of rustic little structures we had imagined. After dumping our bags we went to the restaurant for a delicious meal of deep fried whole fish, various curries, noodle and rice dishes and a dessert of fresh fruit. We went to bed early, tired after a long day of travel and stomach full of tasty food.

We were up early the next day, and stepping out of our huts we were greeted with the mesmerizing sight of mist rising from the incredible limestone mountain rising sheerly over our little group of floating huts. After breakfast, we decided to cool off with a swim in the inviting waters of the lake and also went exploring with some of the kayaks, which were available for free at the hotel. We rued the fact that we had not thought to bring some fishing rods as we saw dozens of huge fish feeding in the shallows and occasionally leaping clear of the water.

Finally, we boarded the boat to head back to the jetty, along the way our boat driver took us to some of the little hidden inlets found throughout the lake. With perfectly clear skies, the bright sun highlighted the emerald green water and pale white cliff faces, the natural beauty of the Khao Sok was indescribable. Soon we were at the jetty and in the car driving back towards Phuket, vowing to come again and stay for longer.



IMPOSING: Limestone cliffs dominate the view.



HIDDEN: There are many secret coves.

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Photo: smaxime delrue

Welcome to Phuket baby!

By Maciek Klimowicz

MY daughter, now 7 months old was born in Bangkok. And even though several months have passed since that life changing event, I clearly remember every minute of that day. But what led to it I'd be happy to forget.

The pain of choosing the right hospital, the perfect doctor we could trust. I was spoiled for choice. Bangkok has dozens of hospitals, many luring with fashionable interior design and English speaking staff but repelling with high prices. Others are more affordable but the conditions and the language barrier make them a less attractive choice. How about Phuket? If you are an expatriate living on the island and you are planning to start a family here, knowing where to get affordable and good-quality medical care is the key to getting the most out of this amazing experience. This week, the *Phuket Gazette* takes a look at the three most popular hospitals on the island to help you make the right choice.

There were 818,901 children born in Thailand in 2012. Out of

this number 9,087 will one day be able to say "I was born in Phuket," 4,719 boys and 4,368 girls. Each of the maternity wards of the two biggest private hospitals on the island – Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Phuket International Hospital welcomes around 50 children into this world every month.

While most of the children born in Bangkok Hospital are Thai (around 85 per cent of them) the numbers in Phuket International Hospital are quite different – 40 out of 50 babies born there every month are foreign, half of them Russian. But all this is just a drop in the ocean compared to the capacity of the maternity ward of Phuket's biggest public hospital. With 400 babies delivered each month, the doctors at Vachira Phuket Hospital have their hands full. Interestingly, 80 of these babies are Burmese.

The numbers become more understandable once we consider the prices of birth packages at these three hospitals. The Vachira Hospital is the choice for the lower income families with prices of natural birth package of just 6,000 baht and cesarean section

package for 13,000 baht. The price includes two or three nights stay in a shared room, three vaccines for the baby and doctor's fees. For the luxury of staying in a private room, you'll have to pay 1,200-1,400 baht per night. Or go to a private hospital.

A three day/two night natural birth package costs 36,900 baht at Phuket International Hospital and 52,900 baht at Bangkok Hospital Phuket. C-section packages cost 49,900 baht and 67,900 baht, respectively. Both hospitals' packages include private room accommodation, all the necessary laboratory tests, vaccines, doctor's fees and medical supplies, as well as food, photos of the baby and in case of Bangkok Hospital, a gift set for the baby. The majority of children in Phuket are born in a natural way, in Vachira Hospital as much as 75 per cent; 30 per cent of babies in the private hospitals are born by C-Section.

All packages exclude twin births and complications. So better be ready for just about anything. All trouble will be forgotten once your little one is here.



UNFORGETTABLE: The day your baby is born Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



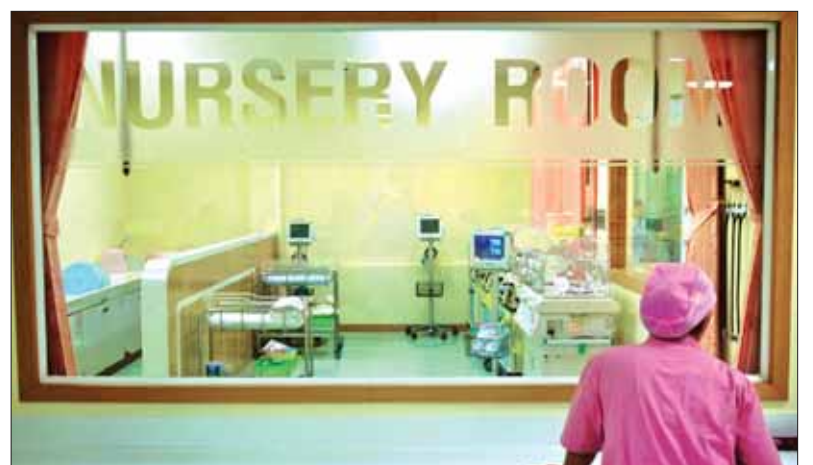
FRAGILE: World class care comes at a price. Photo: Lauren Nelson



SMILES: Choose the right hospital to make the birth of your baby a happy memory. Photo: din!



DELIVERY ROOM: Usually the first place your baby sees. Photo: MK



NURSERY: Babies spend the first days of their lives here. Photo: MK



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	9	8	2	5	7	4	3
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	6			8			4
	4	2				9	7
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	3	4	1	2	6	7	5

SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

	3		4		8		7	
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		2		6		9		
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Your weekly pith:

"Happy is the man who can laugh at himself,
for he will never cease to be amused."

— Unknown

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book
'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

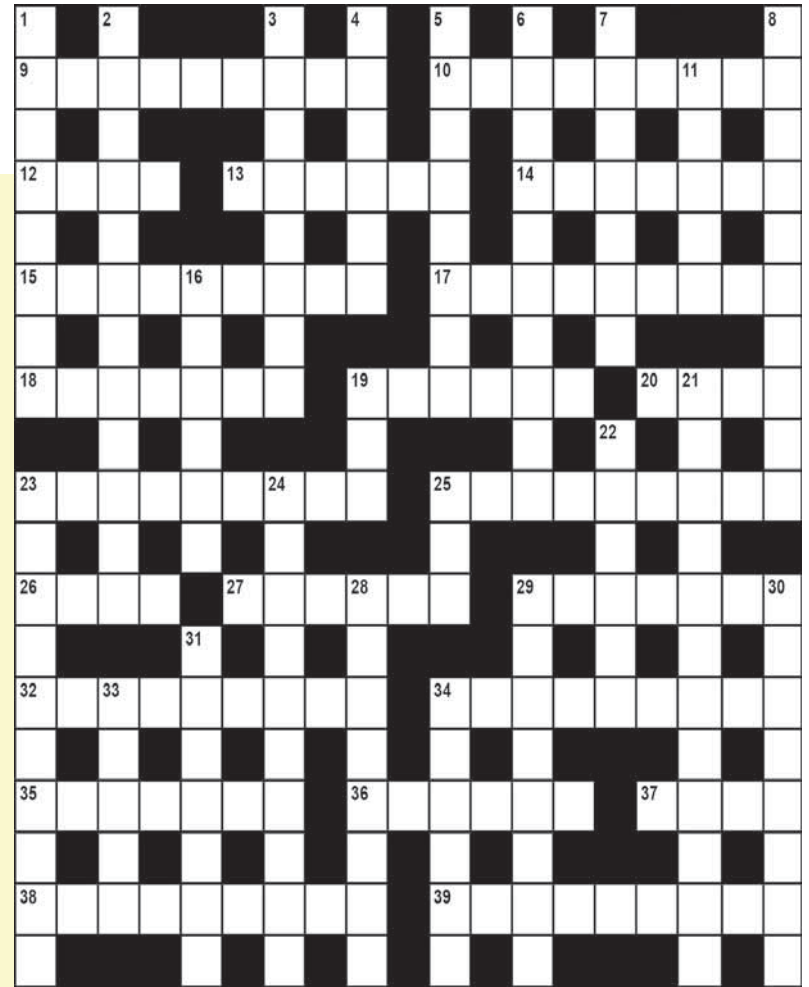
COFFEE break

Across:

9. Hard headed hands on! (9)
10. Against maybe seeing recipient (9)
12. Or back Member of Parliament as a caper (4)
13. Copper, judge, clergyman (6)
14. Game! The French make the ref's signal (7)
15. Line a gent can make unrefined (9)
17. Dread first a violent person (9)
18. Get hold of pager moving round place (7)
19. Bad in a disorderly S. African conference (6)
20. Block the second laboratory (4)
23. Possibly I mar shops' definitions (9)
25. Having no allegiance, available, clean perhaps (9)
26. Company about central (4)
27. Scrape away a beard roughly (6)
29. Bureau best for type of computer (7)
32. Experienced sailor Peter arranged food preservative (9)
34. Entry acknowledgement (9)
35. Not out to curry favor up before the Judge (2,5)
36. Drinking heavily, nip got spilled (6)
37. Old boy has nothing left of old Greek money (4)
38. Trial, I got new party to the law suit (9)
39. I fetch in a wild clan leader (9)

Down:

1. Fair springs to new order! (8)
2. H'm, I am near ape perhaps. No problem in Thailand (12)
3. A cold clergyman, that's



- correct (8)
4. Plan it a new way, being flexible (6)
 5. Received revised pact, cede (8)
 6. Liable to possibly wear sable out round the North (10)
 7. Five hundred and four is gold, in the lower part of the division (7)
 8. State bleed freely, horrible (10)
 11. In at a new beach North of Phuket (5)
 16. Note prime new large domain (6)
 19. It is restricted (3)
 21. Dragged out, follow craft to find local vessel (8,4)
 22. Born, endures the explosions (6)
 23. Cables ices may be get-at-able (10)

24. Replacement suit, but set differently (10)
25. Charge the going rate (3)
28. Opening article for each possibly true (8)
29. Meant die out from feebleness of mind (8)
30. Note possibly planing out wall covering (8)
31. Higher, son, encourage the sudden increase (7)
33. Internally, all I cite is legal (5)
34. Accepts maybe losing a hundred for appearance (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Leos are advised not to let the grass grow under their feet as August commences. A carefree holiday mood amongst friends can be contagious, but the stars suggest putting relaxation on hold until the second half of the month. Your social life is unpredictable this weekend, with last minute changes of plan highlighted. If your birthday falls in the days ahead, the next year promises to bring more financial stability.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Work problems should be soon resolved when intuition takes you in the right direction this week. Another earth sign is forecast to be disappointed when they learn what Virgoans are planning to do, but it's important to put your own needs first. The social scene is quiet, but those who are single have chance to enjoy some holiday romance. Money matters become better starred around the middle of the month.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

The stars suggest that some Librans have been underestimating their abilities. During the first half of August, there are hints that you will have a better idea of the true value of your assets, with another air

sign predicted to offer valuable guidance. In the realm of romance, the astral atmosphere encourages more sharing of feelings, which should help flagging relationships to become stronger. Finances are lucky on Tuesday and Wednesday.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Someone can try to pour cold water on your dreams this week. The stars indicate that a jealous air sign is ready to spread their negativity around and Scorpions could be caught up in this. A slow start to August will give you opportunity for organization in both your working and personal lives. Technology is well starred; those who were considering investing in new equipment should do so before the middle of the month.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

There are signs that life will be less challenging for Sagittarians during August, with focus on friends being more understanding and supportive. The stars suggest that another fire sign who took some distance last month is ready to make amends. Discussion relating to finance is well starred on Wednesday and Thursday; this is the ideal time to get what you feel you deserve. Romance with a water sign sparkles this Saturday.

YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Fear of the unknown can be dissolved by talking to those you trust. A water sign's sympathy is appreciated by Capricorns and a fire sign offers an unusual approach to a situation that has been occupying your mind. Work is well starred during August; even if your heart is not in it this week, there are hints that positive developments will encourage more optimism. Fortunate days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

A make or break situation at work is not as clear cut as Aquarians believed. The stars show that it will be possible to meet halfway, with a water sign being firmly on your side. Where friends are concerned, a fire sign's forgetfulness can ruffle your feathers this weekend. In the realm of romance, being in the right place at the right time leads to a reunion with someone who's still in your heart.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

The stars suggest that your earning power will soon increase – in the meantime, timing is everything when it comes to making contacts. Your personal life becomes less complicated as the month of August gets underway. Pisceans who weren't sure who they could trust should receive proof that people they need to count on will keep their promises. Where romance is concerned, it would be advisable to do more listening and less talking.

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

Reasons for celebration are highlighted for those born under the sign of Aries during the month of August. Your party mood is infectious and there will be no shortage of invitations to paint the town red. However, the stars suggest listening to your body and taking a rest when energy is low later in the week. In the realm of romance, there are hints that worries about an earth sign's commitment are unfounded.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

Focus is on travel for Taureans in August, with last minute changes to plan highlighted to bring some inconvenience. If you are involved in projects concerning property,

the stars advise that unforeseen developments are likely to demand your attention. Those taking a trip with a water sign can find arrangements affected by this person's personal problems. If extra costs become involved, this could cause friction in the friendship.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Geminis receive a reminder that they cannot control everything this week. If this applies to work, learning to delegate more responsibility will be a positive move in the long run. Where romance is concerned, there are hints that an earth sign wants to have a more balanced relationship. The social scene is vibrant this weekend and you are forecast to be the life and soul of the party.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Other people's disappointments can be too important to Cancerians during the first half of August. The stars recommend taking a little distance from relationships that are demanding an unreasonable amount of your energy. Where money matters are concerned, it would be wise to pay more attention to details until the middle of the month. There are signs that discrepancies may be overlooked and difficult to correct later on.

International Sport

'Idiots' mar Reds trip to Thailand

By Kitinan Sanguansak

THAI Liverpool fans have been criticized for a vicious taunt against Manchester United and their newly retired manager Sir Alex Ferguson, marring an otherwise memorable trip to the country by the Merseyside club.

Five-time European champions Liverpool's first visit to the country since 2009 was heading for a perfect end after Brendan Rodgers' side completed their Asian pre-season tour with a 3-0 win over Thailand's under-23 team, until a startling act by individuals many have condemned as "idiots".

The group of fans displayed a banner which read, "Alex Ferguson Out Working Go To The Hell" during Sunday's match at Rajamangala National Stadium. More

shocking, though, was the mention made in the banner of the 1958 Munich tragedy when a plane carrying the United squad crashed just after take-off from Munich air-

port, killing eight of the "Busby Babes" team and 23 people in total.

Many have called the fans' actions shameful and are struggling to comprehend the thinking of those

who made the gesture. Despite the long-standing animosity between England's two most successful football clubs, the banner has been labelled unjustifiable, with former Liverpool striker Stan Collymore calling fans who stoop to such levels "wankers".

"Munich, Hillsborough, Shankly etc. If you make banners or sing songs about them, you're a wanker. End of the story," Collymore tweeted in reference to the incident.

The 42-year-old Englishman, who played for Liverpool between 1995 and 1997, added, "As for disrespectful banners, idiots whoever they 'support'. Glorifying death is never clever, just plain stupid."

Twitter user "LFC Flags and Banners" denounced the act, calling the perpetrators "fake"

Liverpool fans with a tweet that read, "Absolutely shocking & embarrassing banner by some fake so-called Liverpool fans. Probably never even been to the UK!"

Other Thai fans took to popular message board pantip.com to lash an act many called "disgraceful".



Liverpool supporters display the offensive banner in the Rajamangala Stadium stands. Photo: The Nation



SUPPORTERS: Many Thai Liverpool fans have denounced the people responsible for the offensive banner. Photo: Reuters. Inset: Action from the match in Bangkok. Photo: Zimbio

"It's unbelievable that there are people who do such a disgusting thing without thinking first," read one comment. Another fan posted "Just garbage among a group of supporters."

Unfortunately, the incident blotted what was otherwise a memorable four-day Bangkok trip for the Merseyside club, during which Anfield players and staff were impressed by the outpouring of support from local fans.

Though Reds manager Rodgers was heartened by his side's encouraging performance in the 3-0 victory over Thailand, which completed a hat-trick on the tour following wins in Indonesia and Melbourne, it was the passion of supporters that

dominated the Northern Irishman's post-match talk.

"We are in a good moment at this stage. It was another step up in our fitness level and our football fitness against a side who played the game tactically really well."

"It's been incredible. Throughout this tour I'll take this with me, even though we'll be miles away back home, the people in these three countries will always be in our hearts."

"On behalf of everyone at the football club, I just want to say to all the people in Thailand, thank you for your welcome. Keep supporting the greatest football family in the world," said Rodgers, who led Liverpool to a seventh-

place league finish in his first season in charge of the team last term.

Former Reds midfielder Dietmar Hamann also tweeted his impression of the Thai fans: "Thanks to all the LFC fans in Thailand for the warm welcome and tremendous support you gave the team over the last few days."

Danish international Daniel Agger, a poster boy of the club's tour judging by the cheers he received from female fans, added his voice of appreciation.

"I really can't believe the number of Agger shirts and banners I have seen, and every single one of them makes me proud. Thank you Asia!" tweeted the Danish player.

— The Nation

Ledecky the brightest star in Americans' galaxy

AMERICAN teenager Katie Ledecky smashed the world record in the women's 1,500 meters freestyle final by more than six seconds during a glittering session for the United States at the world championships on Tuesday.

The 16-year-old from Bethesda, who also won the 400 meters freestyle gold medal on Sunday, powered away from defending champion Lotte Friis of Denmark in the final stages to break the previous best of 15:42.54 set by compatriot Kate Ziegler in 2007.

It was the second world record of the championships in the specially constructed pool at the hilltop Palau Sant Jordi after Ruta Meilutyte's mark in qualifying for the 100 meters breaststroke on Monday.

Lithuanian Meilutyte, born two days after Ledecky in March 1997, went on to claim a first world championship gold for the tiny Baltic nation when she triumphed in Tuesday's final.

She was unable to better Monday's effort but still produced the second-fastest time ever of 1:04.42, just seven hundredths slower than her record 1:04.35.

Ledecky's team-mate Missy Franklin, who won four gold medals and one bronze in last year's London Olympics, secured her second gold of the week with victory in the 100 meters breaststroke and Matt Grevers claimed the 100 meters backstroke title.

Ryan Lochte, the second-most decorated men's world championship medallist after compatriot Michael Phelps, provided a rare moment of disappointment for the U S team when he could manage only fourth in the 200 meters freestyle final.

Frenchman Yannick Agnel followed up



Gold medalist Katie Ledecky of the U.S. poses with her medal at the women's 1500m freestyle victory ceremony during the World Swimming Championships. Photo: Reuters

on his triumph at last year's London Olympics to take gold and Conor Dwyer salvaged some pride for the U S with silver.

"We've had an absolutely incredible evening," an excited Franklin, who is swimming eight events in Barcelona, told reporters.

Ledecky sat on the shoulder of Friis for much of their two-horse race but the Dane was left trailing by a powerful late charge from the Olympic 800 meters champion and finished with silver in 15:38.88, also inside Ziegler's mark.

Lauren Boyle of New Zealand was third in 15:44.71 ahead of Spain's Mireia Belmonte Garcia in 15:58.83.

"It was really tough, my hardest race ever," Ledecky told reporters.

"I knew we were going pretty fast and I figured that whoever came out on top was probably going to get the world record."

"I had to be careful not to push it too early or push it too late and just touch the wall first. Around the last 200 meters I knew I could take off."

Succeeding Ziegler as the fastest

woman over 1,500 meters was extra special, Ledecky said, as the 2011 world championship silver medallist behind Friis hails from the same part of the United States.

"It means the world to me," said a still-dripping Ledecky, goggle marks visible around her eyes.

"Kate Ziegler is from my area and I have looked up to her my whole life."

"I am really honored to break that world record and to keep it in the Potomac valley."

"I'm still 16 so I hope I have plenty years left of swimming and I guess we'll see where my limit is."

Franklin had a gruelling day as she had to qualify for Wednesday's 200 meters freestyle final around an hour after claiming backstroke gold.

It was the 18-year-old's fifth world championship title, already putting her fourth among her compatriots.

"It was tough but it was awesome," she told reporters.

"It was nice to have the final before the semifinal — it was the other way around in London," she added.

"Hopefully I will keep the momentum going, hopefully Team USA will too."

Agnel added a world 200 meters freestyle title to his Olympic gold when he comfortably outgunned Dwyer, with Russia's Danila Izotov taking bronze ahead of Lochte.

"This medal means a lot," Agnel, who has recently started training with Phelps' former coach Bob Bowman, told reporters.

— Reuters

Australia's issues not technical

By Ian Ransom

BLAMING limited overs cricket for the struggles of Australia's test batsmen is wrongheaded, according to former wicketkeeper Adam Gilchrist, who says their problems in the Ashes are mental rather than technical.

Australia's specialist batsmen have been mostly woeful on tour in England, surrendering their wickets cheaply and putting their bowlers under enormous pressure to protect razor-thin targets.

Batting collapses in both innings at Lord's handed England a 2-0 lead in the five-test series, and Australia head into the third match at Old Trafford on Thursday with forecasts of a humiliating whitewash ringing in their ears.

Many pundits Down Under have attributed their batsmen's travails to the stand-and-deliver approach honed in Twenty20 cricket, leaving them ill-equipped to patiently graft their way through long test innings.

Gilchrist, whose aggressive batting terrorized bowlers across the globe in a brilliant career of Adam Gilchrist, who has played 96 tests and 287 one-day internationals, said if that were the case, their opponents would also be struggling at the crease.

"I think our guys are showing a disappointing mental approach [to batting] and I'm sure they're



Captain Michael Clarke after his team lost the second Ashes cricket test match against England. Photo: Reuters

disappointed as much as anyone with their own choices and decisions they're making within their innings," the 41-year-old told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday at the Melbourne launch of the 2015 World Cup.

"A lot of people say 'Oh, T20 is ruining the game', but that's being played globally."

"England's top six, they all feature – if not in T20, certainly in the one-day format – they all play for England and they've shown an ability to adapt and mould their game around the

scenario that's required.

"It's not a skill or technique, it's a mindset as much as anything ... the challenge is you've got to get through what's required at the time and flourish later on.

"I think a lot of players themselves would agree they've sort of been caught either in first gear or sixth gear and not much in between. I've got no doubt they're aware of that and they'll be trying to fix that"

Commentators alike in Britain and Down Under have written off Australia's hopes of staving off a harrowing series defeat, and Gilchrist

said the team should forget about the scoreline.

"History shows it's going to be difficult to win this one," said Gilchrist, one of the game's finest wicketkeeper-batsmen, who averaged over 47 in tests with an extraordinary strike-rate of 81.95 runs per 100 balls.

"It's about small steps. We've just got to get into this next game, get into day one, tick that off, day two and so on.

"I don't think (coach) Darren (Lehmann) or any of the selectors are looking for a click-the-fingers,

make-it-better scenario.

"A bit of stability in the team will be welcomed by the players but at the end of the day it's up to them to make that stability. If you perform you'll stay in the team."

Despite few justifying their places with runs, Gilchrist said selectors should give their top six another go at Old Trafford, and bring captain Michael Clarke back up to fourth in the order to anchor their innings.

He stopped short of endorsing the immediate reinstatement of the exiled David Warner, despite the hot-headed batsman scoring a big century for Australia A against a South Africa A side last week.

The 26-year-old was omitted from the first two tests and sent to Africa after punching England batsman Joe Root in a boozy incident at a bar during the recent Champions Trophy.

"He's done everything that's been asked of him since his suspension, or being left out," Gilchrist said.

"But it's not just about the individuals, it's about a whole environment of a team, a team culture that you try to create and allow to evolve.

"And part of that is showing faith in the guys that you instil the trust in initially and giving them the reinforcement that you're prepared to give them another go."

– Reuters

Indian GP to miss a year



The India GP will come back to life in 2015 on the Buddh International circuit near New Delhi where the first race took place in 2011. Photo: Reuters

THE INDIAN Formula One Grand Prix will be dropped from next year's calendar with organizers targeting a return in 2015, they said on Tuesday.

"If Formula One Management wants us to hold our race in March 2015 we don't have any problem with that," said Sameer Gaur, chief executive of local promoter Jaypee

Sports International (JPSI) in a statement.

Indian media quoted JPSI vice-president Askari Zaidi as confirming the grand prix would skip a year because holding it in March 2014 would not be commercially viable so soon after this year's in October

"It has been postponed till

March 2015. And there is an understanding that the fifth edition will be held in March 2016," he said.

The first race at the Buddh International circuit near New Delhi was held in 2011 with JPSI agreeing a five-year deal with Formula One supremo Bernie Ecclestone.

Ecclestone is due to present the

2014 calendar to the governing International Automobile Federation for approval in September, with teams reluctant to go to more than 20 races.

This year's calendar has 19 races with Austria due to return next year and new GP events in Russia and New Jersey also scheduled.

Vicky Chandhok, the head of the

Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India, said Gaur and Formula One management were working to "iron out the calendar and other related issues for the future".

"With the 2014 F1 Indian being abandoned in favor of an early 2015 date let's remember that it's privately funded by JPSI," he added.

– Reuters



Sansiri crew on-the-dock before the start of the 2013 Transpac Race, the longest ocean race in the world, covering 4,100km from Los Angeles to Hawaii. Photo: Doug Gifford/ultimatesailing.com

From Chalong to Hawaii – the hard way

THE first Thai entry in the world-famous Transpac 2013, co-skippered by Thai sailor Patinyakorn "Ging" Buranrom, has written a new chapter in Thailand's sailing history.

The crew claimed third place in Division 7 on their sailing yacht *Sansiri*, which crossed the finish line at 00:39:13 local Hawaii time on July 21, 12 days 14 hours 30 mins after leaving Los Angeles and having raced 4,100km across the world's largest ocean – the Pacific.

A race from Point Fermin in Los Angeles to Diamond Head, east of Honolulu, the Transpac is among the world's great ocean races, and biennially attracts the world's most talented offshore sailors and offshore sailing adventurers.

Sansiri, entered under the banner of Patinyakorn's home yacht club, the Ao Chalong Yacht Club in Phuket, set sail from Los Angeles on Monday July 8. Together with co-skipper Michael Spies and a crew of three, the goal was for a podium place in their division, and from early in the race, *Sansiri* were consistently in the top three of Division 7.

Sansiri co-skipper Patinyakorn said: "The toughest day in the race was the first day. All five of us were on deck sailing at high speed and we had no time to sleep or eat, we were focused solely on the race. We did very well in the early stages."

"It has been challenging, the toughest ever challenge for myself. I have had a fantastic experience, indeed it's been the experience of a lifetime."

Michael Spies, sharing the skipper duties with Patinyakorn, said: "Our aim was to keep south of the Rhumb Line as much as possible. This was a good tactic for

most of the race, but towards the end a number of boats appeared to make better progress north of us, possibly getting some localized weather, and that made the difference."

Sansiri faced many challenges during the race, including losing use of their communications equipment early on as they took a lot of water on-board due to the rain and strong breeze, and like many other boats, had to contend with debris in the water. That did not deter them, however, as the crew battled to the very end, aiming for the podium.

"Over the last few days, the winds died and we lost time. We sailed well, our tactics were sound and pulling on everyone's experience we finished third in our division, and we are all very happy with that," added Patinyakorn.

"I have been impressed with the professionalism of Michael and the crew, and it has been an honor racing with them all. I am proud to be the first Thai competing in this legendary race and a third place against some of the best sailors in the world is something Thailand can be very proud of," concluded Patinyakorn.

"The crew have been magnificent and sailed the boat well. Patinyakorn has been invaluable and has shared the skipper duties with myself. With the support of *Sansiri* I'm sure he will take this experience back to Thailand and be an inspiration for many of the young up-and-coming sailors that Thailand has," concluded Spies.

Sansiri, a Tripp 40 design, was sailed by a crew of five including the two co-skippers. *Sansiri* recording an average speed of 7.6 knots over the race. – *Phuket Gazette*

Exclusive interview with "Ging" Buranrom

What was the most challenging moment during the race?

It was the last 20-30 miles to Hawaii. The weather changed and we had strong winds and high waves. We had to sail in the dark in speeds of 17-18 knots. I was controlling the mainsail, Michael was on the helm, two were controlling the spinnaker and one person was the Navigator.

During those moments, everyone was tensed up because we could not see anything and had to be ready for everything. It was very dangerous, we could have hit submerged rocks or other obstacles.

What was the most exciting moment?

It was 8 days in, approximately 550-600 miles from LA when the halyard near the top of the mast blocked everything up top, including the satellite phone, all while we were sailing at high speed in strong winds and with big waves in the Pacific Ocean.

We needed to keep the same speed otherwise we would lose time on the competition. The halyard was approximately 20 metres up and we needed to get it down so being the lightest and youngest, I went up to get it down. That was the most challenging

moment because I could have fallen and did not know what would happen. After I climbed down I could not stand, but it was an unforgettable moment during the race.

What's the next big thing for you?

With the same boat, I will sail to Hong Kong next week, and after that I will race to Thailand where I want to enter the Asian Yachting Grand Prix Championship. I plan to buy a bigger boat, more than 50 feet, and race in some of the big races in the Asia Pacific region in the future.

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Only way is up

Phuket FC need to prevail in August matches

By Steven Layne

AFTER a two-week hiatus, Phuket FC's skillful Japanese defender Yusuke Sato has fully recovered from a minor calf injury, confirming that he is ready to return to action, starting with two important, upcoming home fixtures.

The 6th placed Islanders will host the 15th placed Thai Tobacco Monopoly Football Club on Saturday, August 3, which will be followed by another home match next Sunday, August 11 against Nakhon Pathom United.

"I've been training real hard and am ready to play and determined to win. We cannot afford any losses, or even draws, in order to go to the Thai Premier League (TPL)," he told the Gazette.

Yusuke, 31, is now going into his fourth month of a two-year contract with Phuket. Last year, he played a major role getting his then-division 2 team, Rayong United



WINNER: Thai striker Chana Sonwiset scored four of Phuket's nine goals in last week's friendly against Rajabhat Phuket 'Locomotives'.

promoted from the highly competitive Champions league playoffs.

Before that, he was part of the 2011 Chainat FC squad that got promoted to the TPL from Thai Division 1 (now Yamaha League One or YL1) after finishing second in the league, behind Buriram.

"All of our matches in August will be important and tough. We cannot underestimate anyone, even the lower-ranking teams like TTM, Ayuthaya or Nakhon Pathom – who all have some new players and are strong teams... but we also have good players and a strong team," he assured.

The Islanders got a strong injection of confidence last Thursday after making minced meat out of local college outfit, Rajabhat Phuket "Locomotive", winning 9-0 in a friendly match at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club in Thalang.



Yusuke Sato

The result was achieved even without key players Yusuke Sato, French midfielder Geoffrey Domeng and Ivorian defender, Nenebi Sylvester, who underwent light training on the sidelines.

Scoring for Phuket FC were Chana Sonwiset (4 goals), Luiz "Dudu" Purcino (3) and Giorgi Tsimakuridze and Koset Gerd-Suk, who each scored a goal.

After the TTM match, Phuket will have at least five more matches to play in August.

Initially, their schedule comprised seven matches for the month, but their home match against top-of-the-table Air Force United, initially scheduled for August 21, will most likely be postponed.

Meanwhile, the transfer window has officially closed, with a recent team announcement revealing 11 incoming players and 11 outgoing players (see panel).

Club president Pamuk Achiriyachai said that although getting promoted to the TPL will prove difficult, all players must give it their all in the remaining matches.

Phuket fans need faith, support and unity, which he identified as the keys to success.



ANDAMAN SAMBA: Phuket FC's leading scorer, Luiz 'Dudu' Purcino is itching to score his 7th league goal. Photos: Steven Layne

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
	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

Aug 3 HOME vs TTM FC
 Aug 11 HOME vs Nakhon Pathom
 Aug 14 AWAY vs Royal Navy
 Aug 17 AWAY vs Khon Kaen
 Aug 21 HOME vs Air Force (likely to be postponed)
 Aug 25 AWAY vs Port Lions
 Aug 31 HOME vs Ayutthaya

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE 2013 TOP SCORERS	
1	LEE TUCK BANGKOK FC 13
2	RECIO MATTHIAS EDUARDO KHON KAEN 10
3	LEANDRO DE OLIVEIRA DA LUZ PORT LIONS 10
4	VALCI JUNIOR KRABI 9

PHUKET FC TOP SCORERS	
1	LUIZ PURCINO 6
2	GIORGI TSIMAKURIDZE 4
3	GEOFFREY DOUMENG 3
4	CHANA SONWISSET 2
5	NENEBI SYLVESTER 2

Outgoing – Incoming



Goalkeeper

#29 Suchart Sae Ung (from Kamala)

Defenders

#17 Kriangkrai Chasang (Songkhla)
 #39 Chatchai Mokkasem (Rayong Utd)
 #39 Koset Gerd-Suk (Si Saket)

Midfielders

#34 Aleef Pao-ji (Bangkok United)
 #35 Watchara Kriaram (Aang Thong)
 #40 Jakrapong Somboon (Army)

Forwards

#23 Sukree E-tae (Chonburi)
 #27 Ludovick Takam (Police)
 #37 Christian Alex (Cruzeiro)

*Phuket FC also signed Watcharapol Sutidee from TTM, but immediately loaned him out to Division 2 side, Udon Thani FC.

- Kampon Phatomakkakul (Muang Thong United)
- Junior "Juninho" Guimaro (TOT)
- Nontaphan Jiensathawong (Nakhon Ratchasima FC)
- Moudourou Swa Moise (recalled)
- Watcharapong Jun-gam (Samut Songkram)
- Sutee Sakdiwong (Rayong United)
- Kittitit Kraithong (Rayong United)
- Poramut Krongborisut (Rayong United)
- Wasan Sangkhang (Phattalung)
- Watcharapol Sutidee (Loaned out)
- Prawit Pimparat (released)

Krabi 'Andaman Eagles' ready to take flight



SUBERB SERB: Bojan Mamic, Serbian striker.

PHUKET FC aren't the only Southern Thai club raising the stakes this August – Krabi FC, nicknamed the "Andaman Eagles", have also undergone a mid-season makeover in hopes of steering clear of the dreaded four-team fate of relegation.

Playing in their second season in the Kingdom's second tier league, Krabi sit in 11th place of the 18-team league with 21 points, yet are perched high in the clouds after their 1-0 home victory last week against top-of-the-table Air Force.

The club's recent top-down changes were sparked by the resignation of Head Coach Swat Khonkaew, which led to the subsequent appointment of new coach, Paitoon Lerdwimonrat.

Any doubts "Yellow-Blue" fans might have initially had about their side's com-

ing prospects, were soon vanquished with the announcement of seven new signings, several of whom had proved key in last week's win.

These include Phichitchai Chiwa-khunthot (defender from PTT Rayong; Adisak Sri-ngam (defender from Chiang Rai United); Thanat Jantaya (forward from Bangkok United); Valci Junior (Brazilian forward previously of Rayong United, and goal scorer in match vs Air Force); Bojan Mamic (Serbian forward); Patomporn Thongkhot (keeper from Chiang Rai United) and Anu Singharach (midfielder from Ayutthaya FC).

Krabi has seven fixtures in August, the next two at home: vs Trat FC on August 3 and Rayong United on August 11.

– Steven Layne



BRAZILLIANT: Brazilian striker, Valci Junior.

PSS to put Phuket back on map

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) are preparing to host, coordinate and compete in a number of youth "footy" events in the coming months, and the academy looks to recruit more local talent to help make Phuket sporting history.

PSS Head Coach Martin Hill said that the main attraction of becoming a PSS Academy player is to represent the club at tournaments – local, national, regional and international.

For instance, PSS run a local (Phuket) / regional (Thailand) and international (Asia) tournament every year at Thanyapura using their 120 by 80 meter and 50 x 30m state-of-the-art floodlit, astroturf football fields overlooked by 1,500 capacity covered grandstand.

"This coming September sees our very first 2-day regional tournament coming to Thanyapura and plans are well under way in preparation for 32 teams from around Thailand competing for regional bragging rights," revealed Martin.

"Clubs from Pattaya, Samui and Bangkok are already confirmed as we now concentrate on finding competitive local clubs to compete," he added.

Moreover, Phuket Soccer Schools is looking ahead to host their very successful Annual



TAMING TALENT: PSS tournaments provide local youth footballers the chance to represent Phuket on a national, regional and international scale.

International Tournament again for the 4th time at Thanyapura in a 2-day event in February.

Each year, the event draws 40 teams, with four age groups (U8 – U14) playing small sided games (SSG) with teams and clubs from all over Asia competing for the PSS trophies and plates.

No players leave empty handed as all players receive tournament medals for competing. This year PSS looks to also introduce Tournament T-shirts.

PSS cordially invites any local

business to sponsor any tournament and/or talented under-privilege players to participate in our pinnacle "Academy" program.

Any local experienced players born between 1999 - 2006 (2549 – 2542 B.E.) can contact Phuket Soccer Schools to arrange a trial. To find out more information on the Academy Program, email info@phuketsoccerschools.com

PSS Academy program will begin on Saturday September 7 at Thanyapura

– PSS / Phuket Gazette

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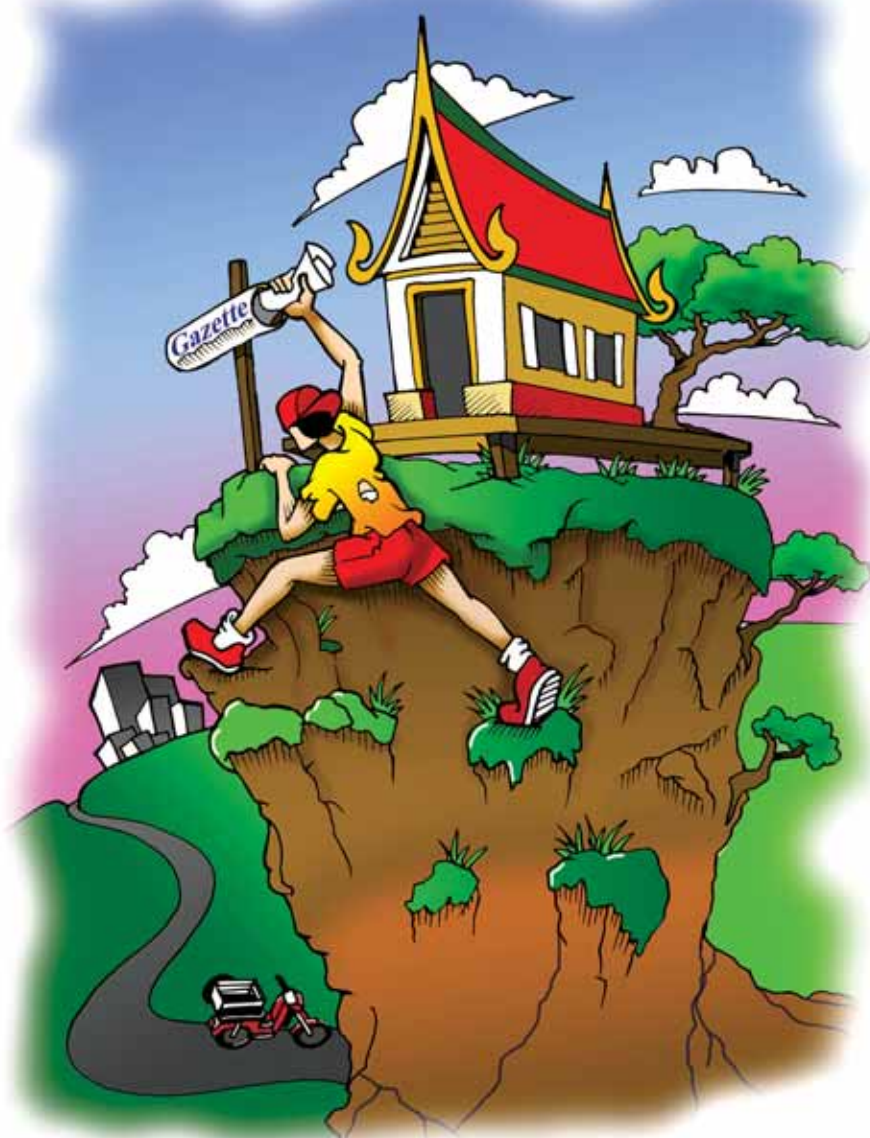
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- U12's – 7 a side (Squads of 10) Born: 2001, 2002
- U14's – 7 a side (Squads of 10) Born: 1999, 2000

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