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Bomb Alert

■ Provincial Hall blast not connected to Deep South insurgency; security boosted

By **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

THE bomb that detonated in the car park at Phuket Provincial Hall on August 1 was likely the result of a local conflict and not associated with the ongoing insurgent attacks in the Deep South, officials said.

The blast, at about 2pm, emanated from a trash can in the car park.

No one was harmed, though three vehicles nearby sustained damage.

The bomb was designed to frighten officials, and likely not intended to kill anyone, Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) President Paiboon Upatising said.

"The rising price of rental land might be the motive for the blast. Although actually, we don't really have problems with anyone," said Mr Paiboon, mulling the motive.

Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Saneh Yawila confirmed the explosion was from a civilian-made time bomb.

Wiring and parts of a clock were found among the debris strewn across the car park.

"At this stage, we believe that it is just a threat, rather than an attempt to take lives. The bomber, or bombers, set the detonation time..."

Continued on Pages 8



Security has been stepped up at Provincial Hall. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

Black taxis unfazed by DSI center

BLACK taxi group, Mook Andaman Business & Travel Co-operative, plans to continue to serve the Phuket International Airport with illegal taxis, despite warnings from the government that they will be a prime target for the Department of Special Investigations Organized Crime Center.

Full story on Page 8

TAT ignores Phuket for 2014 promo

PHUKET and other major tourist centers in Thailand are getting no help from the TAT's promotional campaign in 2014, as they need "time to work on infrastructure and solving problem".

Full story on Page 6

Sudden Death syndrome, a Phuket reality

WITH no sign of violence to her body and no signs of a struggle in the room, police and doctors are forced to quickly close the case on the death of a 39-year-old woman found dead in her bedroom by her Dutch boyfriend.

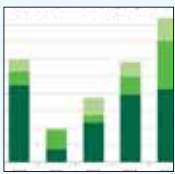
Full story on Pages 4 and 5

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This Week



Property

Asian financial groups to invest heavily in the West. **Page 14**



Business

The *Gazette* speaks to owners of local rum distillery. **Page 17**



Humor

What would it be like if Dennis Rodman was a politician? **Page 37**



Dear momma

Saying thanks to our beloved creator and keeper. **Pages 42-43**



Explore

Take a day trip back in time to tranquil Koh Yao Noi. **Pages 44**



Sport

Get ready for the ladies' Muay Thai showdown. **Pages 49**

Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



DJ dragged to his death under truck

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A PHUKET DJ was killed on July 31 after he was dragged beneath a pickup truck for about 700 meters, witnesses said.

The 58-year-old driver of the truck initially fled the scene, but turned himself a few hours later.

When they arrived, police and rescue workers found Terdpong "Bao" Phuttapiruk, 29, dying in the middle of the road.

"He was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, but he was unconscious and suffering from broken ribs, blood in his lungs and a broken leg. He died shortly after arriving at the hospital," Maj Chaleaw Taihoo of the Phuket City Police said.

Witnesses told police that Mr Terdpong was driving in the motorbike lane of Thepkasattri Road heading toward Phuket Town when a black pickup truck came up behind him and knocked him from his bike.

As Mr Terdpong fell from the bike, he became entangled beneath the truck, which attempted to speed off, dragging Mr Terdpong for about 700 meters before he was freed.

Mr Terdpong was a DJ for



DJ Terdpong Phuttapiruk was known as 'a hard worker, a good kid'.

100.25 Siang Tai Radio as well as a station coordinator for Blue Wave 90.5 FM Radio.

Blue Wave program director Oscar Chitamitre said, "We are a small company, so we are very much like a family. We were all quite devastated when he passed last night."

"Bao was a hard worker, he was a good kid. He was one of the core breadwinners for his family. He

was always sending money home to his parents, who live in Patthalung. He was supporting his younger sister through college," Mr Chitamitre said.

Mr Terdpong's body was transferred to his parents' home in Patthalung, where a cremation ceremony was held on August 5.

Mr Amad was charged with reckless driving causing death and property damage.

Crew rescued from high seas

ELEVEN men were rescued from stormy seas after spending two hours holding onto floating debris between the Krabi coast and Phi Phi Island, last week.

The cargo boat *Unity*, carrying food, construction materials and other supplies bound for Phi Phi, was struck by large waves up to four-meters high on July 31 after passing Koh Por Da, said Thawee Choonoon, the boat's captain.

"We departed from Tambon Sai Tai at about 4pm to deliver goods to Phi Phi," he said.

"Along the way, waves about four-meters high hit the boat, causing it to lean.

"Water started coming into the boat and it began sinking, so I shouted to my crew to jump off and to hold onto any plastic package that could float," he recalled.

"We were floating for about two hours before we were rescued by another boat," he added.

Lt Col Chansit Karncharoen of the Krabi Marine Police said his team took 20 minutes to reach the survivors.

"Fortunately, another boat, the *Sinmana 3*, was passing by and rescued most of them," he said.

However, one of the crew, Pinit Chookerd, 38, was separated from the group and pushed by waves toward Koh Mai Pai.

"Our boat could not reach him because the water was too shallow, so we called in the Krabi



The crewmen were adrift for hours, clinging on to any plastic object that could float, before they were rescued. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Administrative Organization rescue boat," Col Chansit explained.

"Everyone was taken to Krabi Hospital. They were exhausted and had chest pains from choking on seawater," he said.

"However, they are all safe and have been discharged from the hospital," Col Chansit added.

The owner of the ship, Somphone Boonyarak, was thankful the incident did not cost any lives.

"When I heard that the boat had sunk, the first thing I thought

about was my crew... When I heard that one of them was missing, I felt frightened. I thought I had lost him," she said.

"It's so great he is alright."

As of Wednesday, efforts to salvage the *Unity* had been repeatedly delayed due to bad weather.

"We expect the task to be completed before Friday," Ms Somphone told the *Gazette*.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong and Shela Riva

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HONDA BIGWING PHUKET

Krabi killers miss court date

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

ONLY one of the three musicians charged with killing a 51-year-old American tourist in Krabi appeared in court to be arraigned on Monday; the other two postponed their trial date.

All three men, charged with the July 31 murder of 51-year-old Bobby Ray Carter Jr and the assault of his son Adam, 27, outside the Little Longhorn Saloon bar in Ao Nang, were initially jailed but are now free on bail.

Ratikorn Romin, 27, from Phang Nga, appeared in court on Monday; Nopanan Yoddech, 26, from Krabi, did not, nor did Sathid Somsa, 40, from Bangkok, who was also charged with possession of an illegal firearm after he was found at the murder scene with a homemade gun.

Mr Ratikorn told police, "We accept that we attacked them, but we didn't intend to kill anyone."

According to Mr Ratikorn, the death was the result of a fight that broke out after the Americans

joined the musicians on stage at the Little Longhorn Saloon bar.

"The father and son came to the pub and joined us on stage to sing," Mr Ratikorn said.

"Then we had an argument with them because they refused to stop singing when the time was up. The father knocked our tip-box to the floor. We left the stage and sat [outside] in front of the bar," he said.

"We accept that we attacked them, but we didn't intend to kill anyone"

— Ratikorn Romin,
musician charged with
murder and assault

"After a while they came outside and started another argument with us. The father knocked me to the ground first, and I could not breathe because he was sitting on my chest.

"Then I spotted a sharp piece of metal nearby, so I grabbed it and stabbed him," Mr Ratikorn told the police.

Police say CCTV imagery from inside the bar confirms Mr Ratikorn's description of events. However, there were no CCTV images from outside the bar.

Police arrived at the scene at about 1:30am.

"We found blood splattered in front of the bar. And we were



The Americans had joined the musicians on stage, but tensions flared when the tourists didn't want to leave.

told that two injured men had been taken to Krabi Hospital before we arrived," said Krabi City Police officer Sanya Kaewnui.

"Mr Bobby Carter had been stabbed in the chest and his son, Adam, suffered head injuries. At the hospital, doctors tried to save Mr Carter's life, but it was too late," Lt Sanya said.

Adam Carter and the body of

his father were brought to Bangkok Hospital Phuket. Adam was discharged the next day and taken back to Krabi to be questioned by police.

"He appears physically okay now, but is still distressed," said Col Boontawee.

Krabi TAT office Director Wiyada Srirangkul expressed grave concern about the impact

the fatal fight will have on Krabi's tourism industry.

"The attack will likely affect Krabi tourism considerably. This is undeniable... especially since the story has now been published overseas," Ms Wiyada said.

"However, Krabi TAT will do its best to support Mr Carter at this extremely difficult time," she added.

Chinese guide robbed of 100,000 baht, Rolex

A CHINESE tour guide withdrew 80,000 baht from her bank account on August 4 and by the next morning it had been stolen from her house, along with her boyfriend's Rolex watch valued at 300,000 baht, and 20,000 baht she already had in her purse.

When police responded to the 9:30am call from Phuket Villa Daorung, they found a ransacked living room with books and belongings scattered across the floor.

"One of the front door latches had been broken," said Somkit Aon-jan of the Wichit Police.

Luo Xiao Yuan, a 29-year-old Chinese tour guide, told police that she had withdrawn 80,000 baht the day before and had a total of 100,000 baht in her purse.

"When she arrived home last night, she put her bag on the sofa and her boyfriend put his Rolex watch next to her bag. After that they went to sleep on the second



The guide's house in Wichit.

floor," he said. "This morning, as her boyfriend was getting ready for work, he found the living room trashed and his watch missing.

"When he opened Ms Yuan's bag, he saw that all the money in her bag had disappeared as well," explained Capt Somkit. The police are investigating the theft.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Mass Karon sea rescue

LIFEGUARDS at Karon Beach, on Phuket's southwest coast, staged a mass rescue of five tourists on Monday after a large wave nearly swept a group of men out to sea.

Two of the men were able to struggle back to shore without assistance, while the other five needed the help of local lifeguards.

One of the men was pulled from the water unconscious and was pronounced dead after arriving at Patong Hospital.

"They went to swim in an area marked by red flags," Karon head lifeguard Uten Singsom explained to the Gazette.

"Our lifeguards saw them entering the water and started to run over to stop them, but it was too late by



Red flags don't deter. Photo: Gazette file

the time they got there," he said.

The seven men had already been carried away by a big wave, Mr Uten said.

"Four lifeguards went to help five men who were struggling... One of the five rescued was unconscious when he was pulled from the water," he said.

"We administered CPR and he was taken to Patong Hospital," Mr Uten added.

The man was pronounced dead shortly after his arrival at Patong Hospital.

Deadly rips are notorious at some Phuket beaches. Officials closed large sections of popular tourist beaches in late June after four people drowned in as many days.

— Irfarn Jamdukor

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Call for probe into attack on SA family goes nowhere

POLICE have ignored the Kathu District Chief's plea to investigate an attack on a South African family near Soi Bangla last week.

"We sent a letter to ask Patong police about what happened and what they have done about the case, as it is getting a lot of tourist attention," Kathu District Chief Veera Kerdssirirongkol said.

"We received a reply from police that they have not been able to investigate the case because the victims have not filed a complaint," said Mr Veera.

Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Akanit Danpitaksat reiterated to the *Gazette* on Tuesday, "The family has not yet filed a report at the station, so we cannot investigate the attack."

After midnight on the morning of July 30, the family of four – mother, father and two children in their 20s – were "hanging out near the beach road" when they were suddenly attacked.

Six men appeared "out of nowhere" and started to swear at the family and physically attack them,



Police are not investigating the case of a South African family being attacked in Patong despite a direct request from the Kathu District Chief.

the father told police.

"I don't know who they were. I only remember a man wearing a red shirt was the one who started swearing at us. They hit us in the face and on our bodies.

"We called for help, but nobody helped. As soon as we had a chance to escape, we split up and ran for our lives," he said.

The family later gathered in front of Jungceylon shopping mall and called police for help. Shortly

after 1:45am, police and Kusoldharm Foundation workers arrived.

"The family said they were attacked by six men in front of the Aloha Villa Hotel on Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road [about a block away from Soi Bangla], said a Kusoldharm worker.

"They were clearly injured. In addition to marks on their heads and mouths, they had scratches on their bodies," he said.

– **Thawit Bilabddular**

Pitak Siam protesters head home

PHUKET members of the Pitak Siam Party who joined the anti-government protest in Bangkok on Wednesday headed home this week after the protest was ordered to a halt by police.

The thousands-strong peaceful protest – intended to "only escort" former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and Democrat chief adviser Chuan Leekpai to Parliament House – was headed off by squads of riot police at Ratchawithi Intersection.

The protest was held to rally against the amnesty bill proposed by the Pheu Thai Party, which was to be debated in Parliament on Wednesday.



The protesters in Bangkok. Photo: Pitak Siam Phuket

The officers, empowered by the Internal Security Act, threatened to take action if the crowd did not disperse.

The Democrat leaders elected to stop the protest, instead of risking confrontation, explained Pitak Siam Phuket co-ordinator Apharat Chartchutikumjorn.

"However, the Democrat MP for Surat Thani, Suthep Thaugsuban, vowed we will continue to fight against the government.

"He told the Democrat supporters at the rally to return home for now, and to wait and see what happens next before they decide what action will be taken," Ms Apharat said.

Sudden

HANS Lehner and his Thai partner Pranee Srijaem went out for *somt*am last Saturday night. The next day Pranee was dead.

Stumped for any explanation as to why Pranee, 39, had died, doctors were forced to list the cause of death as 'acute heart failure' as a form of Sudden Unexplained Death Syndrome.

The *Gazette's* Saran Mitrarat investigates.

THE death of Pranee Srijaem last week left many questions unanswered. The case is closed, but the incident raised the chilling specter of the unexplained deaths of Canadian sisters Audrey and Noemi Belanger on Phi Phi Island last year, and that of several tourists at the now-demolished Downtown Inn in Chiang Mai.

Hans, a 68-year-old Dutchman, explained to police that he and Pranee, 39, went out for *somt*am at a local restaurant, then stopped off at a Family Mart convenience store before heading back to the apartment last Saturday night.

"When we got back home, Pranee had a bad case of diarrhea before going to sleep," he told police.

"She always woke up at about 7am to make coffee, which we drank

together each morning. But on that day, I did not wake up until 9am. I thought it was unusual that she let me sleep so long," he said.

"I reached out and touched her hand, but it was cold. Then I checked, and she had stopped breathing... I was so frightened," said Mr Lehner, visibly shaken.

Capt Patapee Srichai of the Patong Police confirmed that his officers were notified of the death at 9:30am.

"We rushed to the scene with rescue workers from the Kusoldharm Foundation and Patong Hospital medics," he said.

"We found Ms Pranee's body on the bed, covered by a quilt.

"We believe she died about three hours before we arrived. Rescue workers transported her body to Patong Hospital at about 10am," he stated.

"In conducting our initial investigation, we checked her body and the room, but we found no signs of a struggle," Capt Patapee confirmed.

Silpa-archa explained that his team of medical officers followed standard procedure in examining Ms Pranee's body, but failed to find evidence of a potential cause of death.

"Our first step was to check for signs of a struggle. In this case, we did not find any bruises or any other signs of injury on the body," said Dr Sirichai.

"After that, we focused on food as a potential cause, so we checked her blood, stomach and intestines. We did not find any harmful contaminants from food and there were no traces of toxins in her body, so we had no reason to suspect that she was poisoned by something she ate or any other contaminant," he said.

However, in examining Ms Pranee's body in order to assist a

police investigation, doctors did not check for any signs of whether or not the 39-year-old had been smothered to death.

"We did not check for signs of smothering as we had already found no signs of a struggle," he told the *Gazette*.

"As her heart had stopped long before she arrived at the hospital – meaning we could not check whether or not she suffered from irregular heartbeat patterns – we had nothing else to check to confirm her cause of death.

"The only thing we could put down as the cause of death was acute heart failure," Dr Sirichai explained.

ACCEPTANCE

At about 7am on Tuesday, Ms Pranee's relatives arrived at Patong Hospital to claim her body. Ms Pranee was originally from Tambon Du Lat, located in Sai Mun District in Yasothon province, in Thailand's Northeast.

"Her relatives accepted the cause of death and did not want any further investigation," said Dr Sirichai, without elaborating on



'I reached out and touched her hand, but it was cold. Then I checked, and she had stopped breathing'

– **Hans Lehner, partner of Pranee Srijaem**

INVISIBLE KILLER

Patong Hospital Director Sirichai

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Death comes calling

who claimed the body or why the relatives accepted an unexplained heart attack of the 39-year-old as the cause of death.

"If Ms Pranee's relatives wanted us to investigate her death further, we could have sent the body for forensic examination in Bangkok, but the cost of transferring the body and conducting such tests is expensive," Dr Sirichai said.

CASE CLOSED

Capt Patapee explained that as doctors had given a cause of death, and his officers had not identified a possible violent cause or a motive for Ms Pranee's demise, the case was now closed.

"Because there were no signs of a struggle, either on her body or in the room, we saw no reason to believe she died a violent death," said Capt Patapee.

"There simply was no evidence that she died from unnatural causes," he said.

"Her relatives accepted the death and did not request a further investigation. The case is now closed," he added.

SUDDEN DEATH

Dr Sirichai told the *Gazette* that the phenomenon Sudden Unexplained Death Syndrome, also known by its acronym "SUDS", is not uncommon in Thailand.

"Of all the people who have died from SUDS in Thailand, most were from the Northeast, with most of the rest coming from Northern Thailand," he said.

"There are theories that those people may have died from SUDS brought on by eating sticky rice, drinking alcohol or consuming a fermented product [*somtam* often can include fermented fish], but there is no research to support this idea," Dr Sirichai said.

"However, sudden death can happen from something as simple as a chemical imbalance in the body," he explained.

"If you eat a particular food or even stay in an unfamiliar environment, that might cause a chemical imbalance and sudden death may occur.



Patong Hospital Director Dr Sirichai Silpa-archa (2nd from right) explained that, with no obvious evidence of what killed Ms Pranee, doctors had no choice but to list the cause of death as 'acute cardiac failure' as a form of Sudden Unexplained Death Syndrome. Photo: Patong Hospital

"For example, as shown by recent cases in Thailand, if you sleep in a car – or leave your baby in a car – with the air conditioning on for a long time, it's possible to die from sudden death," he said.

THE BRUGADA SYNDROME

Doctors listing Ms Pranee's cause of death as acute heart failure incidentally shone a light on one of the top causes for sudden death: Brugada syndrome.

The syndrome is only one form of SUDS, and is a well-documented genetic disease characterized by bouts of irregular heartbeats, which bring an increased risk of sudden cardiac arrest.

People with Brugada syndrome exhibit abnormal electrocardiogram (ECG) findings. Not having access to any ECG data for Ms

Pranee, doctors have no idea whether or not she suffered from any irregularities of the heart.

"We checked her records here at Patong Hospital, and as best we can tell, Ms Pranee had no known previous heart condition," Dr Sirichai said.

HISTORY OF MYSTERY

Dr Banacha Kakhong, chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, and hence the top administrator for all government hospitals on the island, said the circumstances of Ms Pranee's death was no cause for alarm.

"We are not overly concerned about sudden death in Phuket, and the cause of death in this instance seems to have been heart failure," he said.

Dr Banacha also pointed out

both similarities and differences between the death of Ms Pranee and those of Audrey and Noemi Belanger on Phi Phi Island last year and the unexplained deaths of at least three foreigners at the infamous Downtown Inn in Chiang Mai in 2011.

"The cases are similar in that we have not been able to precisely identify the cause of death, but they do differ in that the deaths in Chiang Mai included men. Men and women have different physiologies, and the effect of undetected chemicals can differ between men and women," Dr Banacha said.

"But I cannot summarily say whether or not the cases are the same. Sudden death can affect nearly anyone," he added.

Dr Banacha explained that the variety of factors involved, and the

lack of in-depth tests conducted in Ms Pranee's case, made it nearly impossible to identify a likely culprit for her death.

"The food people consume, and the environment they are in, are very important factors that can cause sudden death. For example, in the northeast of Thailand people use blue plastic PVC pipes to steam sticky rice.

"This can introduce toxins that can collect in the body until they reach fatal levels, but this can be difficult to establish without conducting in-depth tests," he explained.

"Ms Pranee's relatives did not request further investigation. If they did, we would have sent the body to Bangkok to have a full autopsy performed. Instead, we have to respect the family's wishes," Dr Banacha said.



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Krabi Airport unharmed by road collapse



The airport was recently renovated.

DEPARTMENT of Civil Aviation (DCA) officers confirmed that the domestic terminal at Krabi International Airport suffered no structural damage after heavy rains caused the ramp road of the terminal to subside and a retaining wall to collapse on August 3.

A budget has already been approved and a contractor engaged, and repairs are expected to commence next week, said Airport Director Sunyaluk Kraiboot.

A tourist noticed the damage and reported it on the morning of August 3, Director Sunyaluk said.

"We found that about 10 meters of road outside the terminal had sunk, and officers discovered that 30 centimeters of the retaining wall's concrete beams along the road to the domestic terminal were broken or weakened," he said.

Authorities closed the road and roped off the area.

"In the meantime, domestic passengers can be dropped off at Terminal 1 for international arrivals and departures, and walk to Terminal 2 using the elevated walkway," he said.

"We have also opened a service road to allow vehicles to drop off passengers at Terminal 2, but not at the main entrance," he added.

The airport had recently received a 743 million baht upgrade.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

TAT gives Phuket 'time out'

Tells island to focus on infrastructure to lure upscale visitors

By Saran Mittrarat

PHUKET is one of several main tourism destinations in the country that will not be promoted under the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) international marketing campaign for next year.

Instead, the focus will be on less-developed tourism areas, Director of the Phuket-TAT office Chanchai Doungjit revealed on August 1.

"We will not be promoting tourism centers that are already well-established. Instead, we will be promoting other popular destinations nearby, such as Phang Nga and Krabi. Similarly, we will be promoting Chiang Rai instead of Chiang Mai," Mr Chanchai said at a meeting at Provincial Hall.

"This will give popular destinations such as Phuket time to develop their infrastructure and fix problems such as water pollution, traffic jams and public transportation," Mr Chanchai explained.

"Consequently, we do not expect the number of visitors to Phuket to increase next year. Any growth in the number of visitors to Thailand will be due to tourists visiting less well-known destinations instead," he added.

The move to divert any potential tourism growth in Phuket is designed not only to promote other regions, but to allow the island to focus on "upgrading" the quality of visitors to the luxury market, he said.

"By doing this we can generate more income based on the same number of visitors. At the same time, nearby destinations can generate more income from visitors who travel there instead of coming to Phuket," said Mr Chanchai.

"The main tourism centers will



Beaches in Phuket will have to wait until 2016 to be promoted by TAT again. Photo: Mark Leo

be promoted again during the 2016 campaign," he added.

The slogans for the 2014 TAT promotional campaign are "Amazing Thailand: Happiness you can share" and "Fall in love Thailand".

A plan to generate 2.2 trillion baht of revenue from tourism by 2015, when the Asean Economic Community (AEC) will come into effect, is based on developing the theme of "Higher Revenue Through Thainess".

The target numbers for 2014 were set by Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, with about two-thirds of the revenue being generated from foreign tourists and the rest created by the domestic market, said Mr Chanchai.

"The plan to hit those numbers focuses on Thai traditional culture, festivals, way of life and Thai experience," Mr Chanchai said.

In 2014 the plan will target those interested in weddings and honeymoons, medical tourism and community-based tourism.

"At wedding fairs abroad, we will promote traditional Thai wedding ceremonies. We will also hold familiarization tours so travel agents can experience Thailand first-hand," Mr Chanchai said.

"For medical tourism, the TAT plans to promote traditional Thai remedies and treatments, as well as spa services," he said.

Thailand's main competition for the medical tourism market is

India, Singapore and South Korea.

"We will contact insurance agents and companies in other countries, inviting them to come and inspect the facilities and services available in Thailand," Mr Chanchai said.

Mr Chanchai explained to those at the meeting that he felt secure in Thailand's footing for community-based tourism. Nonetheless, the TAT will promote homestay packages and tours that highlight village life in Thailand.

Other campaigns are "Fly Me To The South", promoting cheap flights; "Big Bike Riding South", focusing on road tours; and "Let's Go South", which promotes cultural centers.

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'No worries' at Aussie police workshop on transnational crime and terrorism

THE Australian Federal Police (AFP) arrived in Phuket this week to hold a joint workshop with local law enforcement authorities on tackling the issue of transnational crime on the island.

"Phuket is one of the most famous tourist destinations in the world. Every day, large numbers of tourists from all over the globe come to visit us," Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee said.

"A criminal or terrorist could arrive disguised as an ordinary tourist," he explained.

"Therefore, preparing the relevant officers with the latest methods and tactics for tackling transnational crime is a sensible move," Col Peerayuth, the workshop project leader, told the *Gazette*.

The workshop was held at the Novotel Phuket Resort in Patong on Wednesday and Thursday. Participants included police officers



Australian Federal Police senior liaison officer John Tanti in Patong. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

from local police stations and provincial police, as well as marine police and immigration police.

Col Peerayuth stressed that the workshop was not a cause for concern.

"It does not mean Phuket is in a state of heightened danger from transnational crime. We are simply co-operating and sharing ideas

with the AFP," he said.

"These mutual talks will be beneficial because they will help us upgrade our work efficiency, and enhance our law-enforcement abilities," he added.

AFP senior liaison officer John Tanti said the AFP has been working with the Royal Thai Police sharing information on Australian criminals and fugitives, as well as security issues of mutual concern in order to prevent the occurrence of transnational crime.

"In addition to Phuket, we will also conduct this workshop with peers in Bangkok and Chiang Mai, two other famous Thai tourist hubs," Mr Tanti explained.

"We hope to learn a lot from the AFP, and, together with AFP officers, we will examine case studies of transnational crime, such as the 2002 Bali bombing," said Col Peerayuth.

— Orawin Narabal

Explosion in Phuket



A vehicle damaged in the blast.

From page 1

...for 2pm. If they had wanted to ensure bloodshed, they would have set the bomb to explode at a busier time, like lunch hour or in the evening as people were getting off work," Col Saneh said.

National Police Office adviser Ratchata Yensuang agreed that the explosion was thought to be designed to frighten officials, but was unsure about motive.

"The bomb appeared to be quite amateurish," Gen Ratchata said during his visit to Phuket last Friday to learn about the incident.

Security has been increased at Provincial Hall for the time being, with Civil Defense Volunteers bolstering security at the gates starting at 5pm each night.

"We have ordered Civil Defense Volunteers to be more strict in keeping an eye on every vehicle that enters and exits the Provincial Hall compound," Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut explained.

"As always, we will also be relying on our network of Civil Defense Volunteers to supply us with security information," he added.

Ideally, rolling checkpoints among government offices and densely populated areas in Phuket Town will be established, Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee said.

"We'll be looking for weapons, drugs and other illegal items," he warned.

Additional reporting Chutharat Plerin

See Editorial 'Phuket Paradise: It's the bomb' on page 18.

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Black taxis scoff at DSI

By Orawin Narabal

A TAXI company using illegal "black taxis" to serve Phuket International Airport said it will continue to do so despite the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) opening its Organized Crime Center for Tourism today.

"Our black plate taxis will still work as usual. If the DSI officers arrest them, I will explain to the officers why we are unable to get green license plates [to become legal taxis]," Mook Andaman Business & Travel Co-operative secretary Ittipol Mekmanee said.

Mook Andaman, not one of three co-operatives with Airport of Thailand (AoT) concessions to operate at the airport, has a fleet of 136 taxis, only 10 of which are legally registered, Mr Ittipol said.

The company has had limited success in attempting to have its vehicles folded into the legally operating co-operatives at the airport. Even that success came about only after stalking Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut at his home.

"I understand the rules and that officers want operators to register their vehicles to make the system better. However, we have encountered difficulties," said Mr Ittipol.

"Finance companies require deposits of around 70,000 baht [sic] in order to release a registration book, which they hold as collateral for loans taken out to buy cars. How can we find that much



Mr Ittipol stands defiant against registration of taxis. Photo: Gazette file

money?" he asked.

The drivers need the books in their hands in order to present them to the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) so officials can physically register the change from private vehicle to public.

Mr Ittipol's concern was formally recognized by PLTO chief Teerayut Prasertpol earlier this year.

Mr Teerayut explained that at the time the biggest remaining obstacle stopping taxi drivers from becoming legal was the cost

of changing the registered use of their vehicles with their finance companies.

However, a breakthrough deal was brokered six months ago.

"Drivers claimed banks and finance companies required deposits of up to 10,000 baht in order to release the registration books which they hold as collateral for loans taken out to buy cars," Mr Teerayut said in February.

Mr Teerayut was able to secure financing for about half of the

2,882 illegal taxis operating in Phuket after meeting with representatives from Thanachart Bank headquarters in Bangkok.

"Thanachart Bank has agreed to waive the deposit for drivers who give permission for the bank to hand the registration book directly to the PLTO in order to change the registration type. This saves the taxi drivers from having to come up with the money needed for the deposit," Mr Teerayut explained in February.

Despite this progress made months ago, Mr Ittipol made it clear that financial companies were still what was preventing him and the drivers of the Mook Andaman fleet from becoming legal.

"As I said, what are we going to do? If the government wants to make this rule more effective, they should provide more help to us. For example, they could allocate some funds for us to pay off our debts," he said.

Though Mook Andaman is struggling with legality, Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada has maintained that many other taxi operators had been very co-operative since the announcement of the new rules.

Mr Ittipol's disregard for the DSI crackdown flies in the face of Vice Governor Chamroen, who urged all illegal taxis to have their vehicles registered, warning them that they will be a prime targets for the DSI on Friday.

Snake snacking on cat

A PYTHON snuggled in an old washing machine about to enjoy a dinner of house cat was interrupted when the cat's owner walked by.

As Narongsak Laksanawisit walked out of his house in Mai Khao on August 2, he passed the washing machine and saw his cat's body in it. Then he saw a snake's tail.

"I think the snake had just squeezed it to death and was about to eat it," Mr Narongsak said.

"I took the cat's body out to bury it and called the rescue foundation for help," he said.

It took Kusoldharm Foundation Rescue workers 30 minutes to ex-



The python was about to dine in the washing machine.

tricate the reptile.

"The python was hidden in the back of the washing machine. We had to take off the back and the bottom to get it out. It was about two and a half meters long," one rescue worker said.

- Thawit Bilabduddar

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One of the two crocs that escaped from the Phang Nga crocodile farm was shot dead once officials located it in a drainage ditch.

Escaped croc shot

OFFICIALS put down a fierce two-and-a-half meter long crocodile after it and another croc escaped from a crocodile farm in Phang Nga on August 3.

Villagers reported the escape to Chief of Phang Nga Provincial Fisheries Office Somkiat Sookchanchai.

"We rushed to the farm owned by Panet Saelim, 48, and were able to quickly find the pair of crocs in the irrigation ditch of a palm plantation not far from the farm," said Mr Somkiat.

"The ditch leads to a mangrove forest... we were concerned that the crocs would swim out to sea," he said.

The team was able to catch the smaller of the two crocs, which

was about 1.2 meters long and about 3 years old.

"The other one was very fierce, so we decided to shoot it to prevent it from attacking people," Mr Somkiat said. "That croc was about seven years old and over two-and-a-half meters long."

The recent heavy rain caused the water levels in the crocodile pond to rise, enabling the crocodiles to escape, explained Mr Panet.

After an inspection determined that Mr Panet's pond was not up to specifications, he was told to move his remaining 11 crocodiles somewhere else to prevent a repeat of today's drama, said Mr Somkiat.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

World of knowledge

Largest library on the high seas sets compass for Phuket

By Irfan Jamdukor

LOGOS HOPE, the world's largest floating library, is Phuket bound for the first time, Project Coordinator Eunji Lee said.

The 132-meter ship, roughly half the size of the *Titanic*, will be docked at Phuket's Deep Sea Port from August 14 to 22.

"The ship will be open to visitors from August 15 to 18, and then again from August 21 to 22," Ms Lee said.

The ship, packed with over 5,000 titles, offers more than just book-knowledge: the ship's 400 volunteers from around the globe partakes in a variety of development projects when docked, ranging from building schools to providing professional dental care.

"We aim to share knowledge, experience and a variety of cultures with people from countries all over the world through our books and volunteers," Ms Lee said. "We also aim to help people



International volunteers do a little flag waving on board the Logos Hope: next port Phuket. Photo: Logos Hope PR

in the area by building schools, making book donations and providing medical services."

The price to come aboard *Logos Hope* during her visit to Phuket is 20 baht.

Admission is free for children under the age of 12 who are accompanied by an adult. The ship will be open to the public from

10am to 9:30pm from Thursday to Saturday, and 1pm to 9:30pm on Sunday. However, the vessel's doors will be closed to the public on August 19 and 20.

The vessel will be arriving from Kuching, Malaysia.

Since the launch into service in February 2009, *Logos Hope* has been in several regions, including:

the Caribbean, West Africa, the Persian-Arabian Gulf, and, most recently, South Asia.

The *Logos Hope* was launched in 1973 as a ferry that ran between the Swedish port of Malmo and the German port of Travemunde. From plying just the Baltic Sea 40 years ago, she now sails the oceans of the world.



An electrical fault may have been the cause of the midnight fire.

Blaze destroys Patong room

POLICE suspect a spark from an electrical socket near a bed set ablaze a third-floor apartment at the Baan Chalika complex in Patong early August 5.

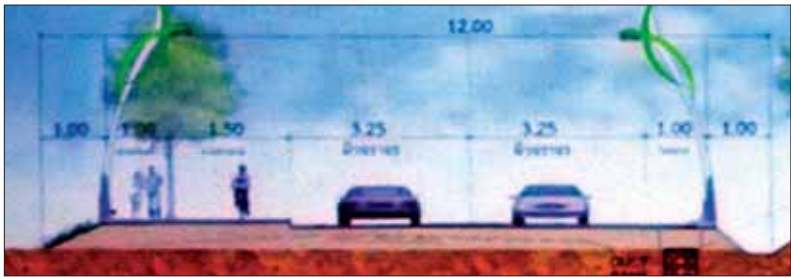
The fire caused an estimated 30,000 baht in damage, but no injuries were reported.

"The Nepalese couple living in the flat were not home when the fire started," Jakkapong Luang-aon of the Patong Police explained.

"Firemen had to break through the balcony windows to get in and extinguish the fire," he said.

"Although we suspect an electrical fault, we have asked Phuket Forensics Police to confirm the exact cause of the fire," he said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



The proposed 'plan 3' for the scenic road in Patong. Image: Handout

Paving a new path to Freedom Beach

TOP Phuket officials, including Governor Maitri Inthasut, attended the first public hearing for the proposed new road from Sirirat Road to Tri Trang Beach, on the southern headland of Patong Bay.

About 100 people turned out to join the meeting on July 30.

"Actually there is already an old road that villagers use that runs from Sirirat Road to Muean-Ngern Road, but it is just a dirt track. And it is not safe for people to use," explained Songjit Sappakit of Phisut Technology Company, hired to develop preliminary plans for the new road.

"Patong Municipality wants to make a new scenic route connecting Sirirat Road to Tri Trang Beach, passing Freedom Beach along the way," he explained.

Mr Songjit proposed three plans for the road, which will extend about 2.3 kilometers.

Plan 1: one lane each way, with a 2.5m-wide footpath on either side and two viewpoints en route.

Plan 2: one lane each way, with a 1m-wide footpath and a 2m-wide bicycle lane on both sides of the road; and two viewpoints en route.

Plan 3: one lane each way, but the footpath and bicycle lane will be on the southern side of the road only and each will be only one meter wide – but the road will come with two viewpoints and be lined with pradu trees.

When Patong Mayor Pian Keesin announced plans for the new road in April last year, expected costs did not exceed 4 million baht. No estimates of costs were given for any of the plans proposed.

Mr Songjit supported the third option, saying, "This road will have two viewpoints with pradu trees lining the road, so people looking back at the road from afar will see a path of yellow flowers meandering through the jungle. The road itself will become a tourist attraction."

"We would like to see bicycle rental shops at each end of the road, so tourists can rent pushbikes and enjoy the ride along the scenic route," Mr Songjit added.

Patong Mayor Pian Keesin voiced his support of the plan, but made it clear that CCTV coverage and tourists' safety must be made priorities.

— **Saran Mitrarat**

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Ao Phrao is no longer marred by black oil stains. Photo: The Nation

True impact of oil spill still unknown

CRUDE oil that washed up on Koh Samet's picturesque Ao Phrao beach has been cleaned up, though the true impact of last month's oil disaster may not be known for years.

At least 50 tonnes of crude leaked from a pipeline off Rayong province into the Gulf of Thailand on July 27. The oil drifted to Koh Samet the following day.

Measures taken in response to the spill were stepped up after the oil reached Ao Phrao on the night of July 28, *The Nation* reported.

An emergency response team from PTT Global Chemical Plc (PTTGC), which owns the offending pipeline, arrived shortly after.

Following the cleanup operation, which also involved thousands of Royal Thai Navy personnel, oil has disappeared from the sea surface. Divers who checked coral reefs at a spot north of Ao Phrao said no coral had died. Around Khao Laem Ya and Ao Phe, seagrass showed no signs of being affected.

More than 560 entrepreneurs and other people affected by the leak have sought compensation from Rayong provincial office. PTTGC has also promised to compensate all those affected.

Questions remain, however, about whether the state oil and gas giant used an excessive amount of chemical dispersant on the spill as it drifted away from the site.

PTTGC said it used over 32,000 liters to disperse the oil but Pollution Control Department officials said they had allowed PTTGC to use only 5,000 liters. There is no penalty for excessive use of oil dispersant.

Army Chief Prayuth slams monarchy-rumors over protests

ARMY chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha has moved to quash rumors that Their Majesties The King and Queen's move to Hua Hin from Siriraj Hospital last week was connected to the anti-government protests underway in the capital.

Some claimed, on social media sites, that Their Majesties The King and Queen's move out of Bangkok signified the seriousness of a looming confrontation or a lack of confidence in the government.

His Majesty The King has been treated in Siriraj Hospital since 2009, with HM the Queen joining him there last year after suf-

fering a stroke. Gen Prayuth said there was no truth in the rumors, which were unfair to the royal family.

The general also criticized people who spread rumours of a military coup and told others to hoard food supplies. The government is understood to be looking at charging some of those who did so with violation of the Computer Crimes Act.

Gen Prayuth said he was happy with HM The King's improving health.

The general said he did not agree with certain statements made at a rally held by an anti-Thaksin Shinawatra movement that



Tension is high in Bangkok. Photo: The Nation

referred to the monarchy. He said that the monarchy played no part in Thai politics and stayed neutral and beyond political conflicts.

Fresh wave of Deep South bombings mocks ceasefire

THE Ramadan ceasefire was left in tatters after violence continued unabated in Thailand's troubled Deep South during the Islamic holy month.

In the early hours of August 2, suspected insurgents carried out a series of coordinated arson attacks in Pattani, Yala and Songkhla, *The Nation* reported.

Among the targets for destruction were three rubber factories and nine other businesses. Damage was in the billions of baht.

The wave of burnings appeared to be aimed at disrupting peace negotiations underway in Malaysia between the Thai government and the Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN), an insurgent group.

The attacks, which saw no civilian casualties, were carried out by "teenagers with a differing stance" to the BRN who are active in all areas under insurgent influence, said National Security Council (NSC) Secretary-General Paradorn Patthanabutr at a Government House press conference.

"There have been efforts to disrupt and derail the peace process, but Thai authorities will continue to push ahead, because those with differing opinions are not great in number, although they are highly capable operatives," he said.

The fact that militants had disregarded the presence of a platoon from a cavalry unit less than a kilometer away from the incinerated Teck Bee Hang rubber factory illustrates their indifference to the government's military presence — as well as the claim the two sides reached a ceasefire agreement during Ramadan, which ends with



A series of bombings during the Islamic holy month has shaken the Deep South. Photo: The Nation



sometime this week. Some observers suspect the attacks were in reaction to the Supreme Court's recent decision to drop charges against officials involved in the 2004 Tak Bai massacre.

Meanwhile, an important religious figure in the region, Imam Yakob Raimanee of the Central Masjid in Pattani, was killed in a spray of gunfire while traveling in the province.

Four men opened fire on his vehicle with automatic weapons on August 5.

Mr Yakob survived an assassination attempt in October 2011. He was a moderate cleric who often and openly criticized violence by insurgents.

Thailand is to seek a more comprehensive explanation from the BRN over why violence has continued despite the peace agreement.

Mr Paradorn said he had assigned the Southern Border Provinces Administration Center (SBPAC) to collect information on the attacks in the region before formally seeking clarification from the Malaysian government, a facilitator of the dialogue between the Thai government and the BRN.

Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand to overhaul national grid

THE Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (Egat) is considering selling off its 900-megawatt Unit 2 of the North Bangkok Power Plant to a 2-billion-baht infrastructure fund to be used to upgrade the national power grid.

If the fund draws investors, the controversial coal-fired Krabi Power Plant might also be sold to it, Egat Governor Soonchai Kumnoonsate said on Monday.

The fund is part of Egat's plan to spend

303.18bn baht on power plants and improvements to the national grid by 2017, including replacing the high-voltage transmission lines that failed in May, plunging all of Thailand's 14 southern provinces into darkness for hours.

The fund will offer a higher return than banks and give an opportunity to people to own the plant, Governor Soonchai said.

Construction of the 800MW coal-fired

Krabi Power Plant is scheduled for completion by 2019.

Governor Soonchai defended the use of coal-fired plants, saying they are needed to ensure national power security and affordable electricity bills.

The share of electricity generated from natural gas would be reduced to 40 per cent from 70 per cent in the Power Development Plan of 2013 under a revision expected to be finished by year-end.

The share of coal-fired power is expected to be raised to 30 per cent from 18 per cent, Governor Soonchai said.

Governor Soonchai, the 12th Egat governor, outlined his policies and mission after taking office on July 31, replacing Sutat Patmasiriwat, whose term expires on August 30.

Mr Soonchai was promoted from deputy governor in charge of power-plant development.

Tensions rise over gun crime, deaths

By Siva Sithraputhran

HIGH-profile shootings and a surge of deaths of suspects in custody are stoking public anger in Malaysia, piling pressure on the government to tackle crime and clamp down on police corruption and brutality.

An execution-style hit on a former bank chief executive in Kuala Lumpur on July 29 – and the shooting of an anti-crime campaigner over the preceding weekend – have forced Prime Minister Najib Razak's government to respond, less than three months after it scraped through a general election with a depleted majority.

Najib called on the police on Tuesday to take "immediate and serious" action to restore public confidence. The government has also fast-tracked plans to submit a new security law to parliament this year that would replace a draconian Emergency Ordinance Act that Najib abolished in 2011.

"We cannot allow the situation to persist," Najib was quoted as saying by state-run Bernama news agency.

"Immediate and serious action must be taken by the authorities to bring back public peace and confidence."

But rights groups say the government is failing to tackle a culture of impunity and corruption in the police force that is a major root of the problem.

Since the beginning of the year,



A protester voices his dissent in a clash with Malaysian Police in Kuala Lumpur last year. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE region

12 people have died in Malaysian Police custody, compared with just nine for the whole of 2012.

So far, only three policemen, all related to a single custodial death, have been charged.

The campaigner shot and seriously wounded on Saturday, R Sri Sanjeevan, had said he had evidence of police involvement in illegal gambling and drugs, among other criminal activities, and said he had received death threats related to his work.

According to information given in the Malaysian Parliament, 230 people have died in police custody since 2000.

"The police enjoy almost complete impunity in these cases,"

Amnesty International's campaigner on Malaysia, Hazel Galang, said in a statement issued last week.

Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of Human Rights Watch, and other rights campaigners say Malaysia needs to set up an independent commission to investigate police abuses.

That step was recommended by a Royal Commission of Inquiry in 2005, but has never been implemented. – Reuters

In brief...

Storm Jebi makes lethal landing on Vietnam coastline

TROPICAL Storm Jebi claimed the lives of six people after making landfall in northern Vietnam early last Saturday.

Eleven others were injured and hundreds of homes were damaged by the fifth tropical storm to hit the country this year.

Quang Ninh was one of the hardest hit provinces, with two dead, three injured, and two antenna masts and 14 electric poles toppled. More than 320 houses and 200 hectares of crops were also damaged. – VNS

Myanmar airlines set for local launch

FOUR new airlines – Yadanabon, Saga, Apex and FMI – are preparing to launch domestic flight services, reports the Myanmar Department of Civil Aviation.

Yadanabon and Saga will base their companies in Mandalay and the rest will base in Nay Pyi Taw, the official capital of Myanmar.

They are all said to be owned by Myanmar nationals and FMI is already operating its Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw flight services with aircraft leased from Myanma Airways as it has yet to acquire its own aircraft. – Eleven Media

3 injured in Jakarta temple bomb blast

THREE people were injured in a bomb blast at the Ekayana Buddhist Vihara temple in West Jakarta last Sunday evening.



The temple was established in 1995 to accommodate Buddhist students studying at nearby universities. – Jakarta Post

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In brief...

Four neo-Nazis jailed for killing spree that terrified Hungary's Roma

A HUNGARIAN court jailed four neo-Nazis on Tuesday for killing Roma families in a spree of racist violence in 2008 and 2009 that shocked the country.

The gang killed six Roma and wounded several others in carefully planned attacks across the country over 13 months.

Three men were jailed for life without parole and a fourth for 13 years, also without parole.

Cuban death toll from methanol sold as rum hits 11

ELEVEN Cubans died last week and more than 60 are in hospital after consuming toxic industrial methanol sold as rum, state media reported on August 2.

The poisoning cases emerged starting on Monday after poisonous wood alcohol was stolen from a warehouse and then passed off as rum.

Three suspects have been taken into custody, although their identities and the charges they face have not been disclosed.

Jewellery thieves go for round two in French Riviera

ROBBERS stole US\$53,000 worth of jewellery from safes in guests' rooms at a luxury hotel on the French Riviera, police said on Saturday, continuing a string of heists on the Cote d'Azur.

Two safes were raided at the five-star Grand Hotel in Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat and the robbers tried others without success, police said.

Watchdog: Chinese BMWs recalled

BMW's China joint venture will recall 143,215 vehicles due to a problem related to their electric power steering system.

BMW Brilliance Automotive Ltd will recall some of its 5-series cars produced between 2009 and 2012.

Al Qaeda intercept is one factor in mass closure of US embassies

INTERCEPTED communication between al Qaeda leaders was one component of a broader pool of intelligence that prompted a threat alert closing numerous US embassies in the Middle East and Africa, US sources said.

The *New York Times* reported that the closure of the embassies was the result of intercepted electronic communications between Ayman al-Zawahri, who replaced Osama bin Laden as head of al Qaeda, and Nasser al-Wuhayshi, the head of Yemen-based affiliate al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP).

US sources said that while some type of message between Zawahri and AQAP was in-

tercepted recently, there were also other streams of intelligence that contributed to the security alert, which was prompted by a threat from AQAP.

"The threat picture is based on a broad range of reporting, there is no smoking gun in this threat picture," a US official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

US officials said there was still no information about a specific target or location of a potential attack, but the threat to Western interests had not diminished.

"It's a very serious threat," US Congressman Dutch Ruppersberger said. — Reuters



US Congressman Ruppersberger sees it as a serious threat. Photo: Maryland National Guard

Fukushima nuclear plant leaking radioactive water

By Antoni Slodkowski and Mari Saito

HIGHLY radioactive water seeping into the Pacific Ocean from Japan's crippled Fukushima nuclear plant is creating an "emergency" that the operator is struggling to contain, an official from the country's nuclear watchdog said on Monday.

The contaminated groundwater has breached an underground barrier, is rising toward the surface and is exceeding legal limits of radioactive discharge, Shinji Kinjo, head of a Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) task force said.

Countermeasures planned by Tokyo Electric Power Co are only a temporary solution, he said.

Tepco's "sense of crisis is weak," Kinjo said. "This is why you can't just leave it up to Tepco alone" to grapple with the ongoing disaster.

"Right now, we have an emergency," he said.

Tepco has been widely castigated for its failure to prepare for the massive 2011 tsunami and earthquake that devastated its Fukushima plant and has also been lambasted for its inept response to the reactor meltdowns. Additionally, it has been accused of covering up shortcomings.

It was not immediately clear how much of a threat the contaminated groundwater could pose. In the early weeks of the disaster, the Japanese government allowed Tepco to dump tens of thousands of tonnes of contaminated water



Global 2000 Fukushima visits temporary storage site of radioactive material post decontamination. Photo: Global2000

AROUND THE world

into the Pacific in an emergency move.

The toxic water release was heavily criticized by neighboring countries, as well as local fishermen, and the utility has since promised it would not dump irra-

diated water without the consent of local townships.

"Until we know the exact density and volume of the water that's flowing out, I honestly can't speculate on the impact on the sea," said Mitsuo Uematsu from the Center for International Collaboration, Atmosphere and Ocean Research Institute at the University of Tokyo.

"We also should check what the levels are like in the sea water. If it's only inside the port and it's not flowing out into the sea, it may

not spread as widely as some fear."

Tepco said it is taking various measures to prevent contaminated water from leaking into the bay near the plant. In an emailed statement to Reuters, a company spokesman said Tepco deeply apologized to residents in Fukushima prefecture, the surrounding region and the larger public for causing inconveniences, worries and trouble.

The utility pumps out some 400 tonnes a day of groundwater flowing from the hills above the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into the basements of the destroyed buildings, which mixes with highly irradiated water that is used to cool the reactors in a stable state below 100 degrees Celsius.

Tepco is trying to prevent groundwater from reaching the plant by building a "bypass" but recent spikes of radioactive elements in seawater has prompted the utility to reverse months of denials and finally admit that tainted water is reaching the sea.

"If you build a wall, of course the water is going to accumulate there. And there is no other way for the water to go but up or sideways and eventually lead to the ocean," said Masashi Goto, a retired Toshiba Corp nuclear engineer who worked on several Tepco plants. "So now, the question is how long do we have?"

Contaminated water could rise to the ground's surface within three weeks, the *Asahi Shimbun* daily newspaper said. — Reuters

New Zealand's clean, green image under scrutiny with dairy scare

FOR a country that markets itself to the world with the slogan "100% Pure", New Zealand's environmental credentials are not as impeccable as many would think.

The majority of its rivers are too polluted to swim in. Its record on preservation of natural environments is among the worst in the world on a per capita basis. And it is the only Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) country that does not produce a regular national report on its environment.

The discovery by dairy giant Fonterra of a bacteria that can cause potentially fatal

food poisoning in ingredients sold to eight countries, exposes New Zealand's vulnerability to food safety scares and the fragility of the clean, green image underpinning its farming- and tourism-based economy.

Agricultural exports, including dairy, meat, fruit and wine, command high premiums internationally thanks to New Zealand's reputation as a producer of safe, natural and high-quality food.

"It was only a matter of time before our dirty little secret came out," said Jill Brinsdon, brand strategist at Radiation, a brand agency in Auckland.

"Fonterra is our largest exporter and they're completely intertwined with New Zealand's image and also they're the absolute biggest benefactor of the '100% Pure' brand. When you're coming out with something that presents itself as fact, or 100% pure, then you have to be 100% pure and we've proven that we're not."

New Zealand's primary sector accounts for some 60 per cent of exports and 18 per cent of the country's US\$160 billion GDP, among the highest proportions in the developed world. Tourism makes up another 10 per cent or so of the GDP. — Reuters



New Zealand dairy tainted. Photo: Zach Hodgson



Q Concept Condominium will be the ultimate quixotic and zazzy seaside residence.

Q Concept: Acquiring zeal in Kata

SIMPLY saying the name of this stylish, new project in Kata – Q Concept Condominium – conjures up images of a quixotic and zazzy seaside residence.

Indeed, this up-and-coming, 800-million-baht development on Patak Road (the beach road), perfectly situated right smack in between Kata and Karon, should certainly live up to expectations.

Developed by reputable developer, Kata View Point Condominium Co Ltd, the 44-key premium-yet-minimalistic condominium offers beautifully designed and spacious units in the style of “modern-tropical simplicity”.

The developer certainly couldn't have chosen a better location for this project, which is a stone's throw from everything you could want or need – a fresh market, Lotus Express supermarket, handicraft and souvenir shops, Kata Night Plaza, Starbucks, Wine Collection and a host of fine seafood restaurants and bars; not to mention, being securely nestled just behind the iconic Lam Sai cape, it is within a five minute walk to two of southern Phuket's most popular beaches, Kata and Karon.

Fully furnished units with panoramic views of the seaside town and a lush, mountainous backdrop, range from 10 to 79 million baht,



Tropical elegance in a perfect location.

and are offered in three room types, with a total of 44 units in two buildings that will be ready to occupy by the end of this year.

A majority of the rooms will be one-bedroom suites, ranging

in size from about 82-114 square meters.

Featuring balconies with “green views” of the forested hills abutting Kata town, the interior design of these units is fittingly themed “tropical elegance”.

Two-bedroom apartments start from 83sqm, with units as big as 156sqm, featuring picturesque mountain-view and sea-view units.

And what would a premium beach town condo be without some proper penthouses?

The Q Concept Condominium offers several such suites for the elite, ranging in size from 189-241sqm, offered in 4-6

bedroom layouts, with en-suite bathrooms and private roof-top swimming pools.

Communal amenities include a fitness room, 24-hour manned and CCTV-monitored security system, fiber optic internet, restaurant and an infinity swimming pool, with adjoining pool bar.

Based on the location alone, the developer is confident that this latest masterpiece will prove to be a wise venture, so much that an annual rental return of 7% is being guaranteed to investors.

For more information, contact the sales office at 076- 33-0 921 or visit qconceptcondominium.com



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



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Asian groups may invest US\$150bn in markets abroad

Assets in West eyed by Asian financial institutions

INSTITUTIONAL investors based in Asia could look to invest in excess of US\$150 billion in global real estate over the next five years, though not necessarily in domestic markets.

According to the latest research from leading global real estate services provider, CBRE, since there is limited investable stock available in Asia, such investors – including banks, insurance companies as well as organizations managing various types of pooled funds – will likely seek opportunities outside of Asia – in London, New York, Sydney and other gateway cities.

Cash-rich Asian institutional investors currently control a fifth of global institutional capital; however, the current low global interest rate environment and weak stock market performance means they face significant challenges in maintaining adequate returns on their investments.

Many of these investors have begun to recognize the benefits of adding real estate assets to their portfolios, but despite a sharp increase in investment

activity in recent years, presently allocate just 1.7% of their assets to real estate, compared to 6-8% among institutional investors in North America and Europe.

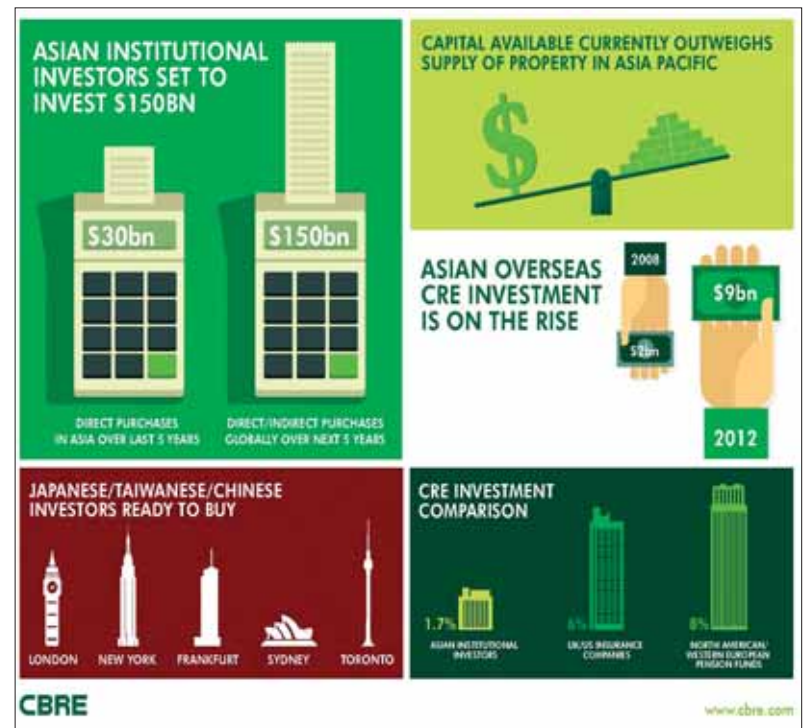
The lack of overseas investment experience, regulatory restrictions, limited investable stock and aggres-

sive pricing have posed significant challenges for investors seeking to expand their portfolios within the Asian Pacific region. This has prompted Asian institutional investors to seek opportunities overseas, with core assets in gate-

way cities the most sought after asset class. Acquisitions by Asian investors outside the region surged from US\$2 billion in 2008 to almost US\$9 billion in 2012, with Asian institutions accounting for a large portion of the purchases. Europe is currently the major focus for Asian investors followed by North America and Australia.

As Asian institutional investors diversify into low-risk alternative asset classes, more are expected to increase their allocation to real estate. A conservative estimate of increasing their allocation to real estate to 2.5-3.5% in the next five years – allowing for a steady increase of asset size at 4-6% per annum – would translate into a potential inflow in excess of US\$150 billion (including direct and indirect real estate investment) into the global real estate investment market.

The large volume of prime commercial property currently in the development pipeline in Asia Pacific will partly alleviate this pressure; however, this new stock will still be insufficient to meet the demand of the large volume of institutional capital earmarked to be invested in real estate. In addition, other investors such as Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) and end-users will also be competing to acquire new



Asian financial institutions are looking abroad.



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On the move: two new GMs

TONY Pedroni, an Irish national with 23 years of experience in the hospitality industry, has recently been appointed as general manager of Outrigger Laguna Phuket.

Before joining Outrigger, one of the largest and fastest growing privately-held leisure lodging, retail and hospitality companies in the Asia Pacific and Oceania regions, Mr Pedroni was with Marriott International, most recently as GM of the JW Marriott Resort, Phuket.

Prior to that, he was with The Renaissance Seoul Hotel, South Korea.

He has held hotel management positions in Kuwait, the UK and Washington DC. He has also been a GM and director of operations at two Hawaii beach resorts for Marriott.

Mr Pedroni, who also speaks French, is a graduate of Newbridge College, County Kildare, Ireland, and HOSTA Hotel and Tourism College in Leysin, Switzerland. He has also been a hotel owner in his career.

Darren Edmonstone, Outrigger Hotels and Resorts' executive vice president and managing director said: "Tony combines extensive international hotel industry



Tony Pedroni, leads Outrigger Laguna.

experience with strong local knowledge on the challenges and opportunities of Phuket beach resort management. He will be a great asset to Outrigger as we continue our strategic expansion."

Mr Pedroni is married with two sons and is a keen tennis player, golfer and family man.



Marie-Helene Moreira, The Surin Phuket's new GM, looks to facilitate memorable experiences.

MARIE-Helene Moreira has recently been appointed general manager of The Surin Phuket, and brings her extensive experience in the hospitality industry to the role.

Prior to joining The Surin Phuket, Ms Moreira worked as Resort Manager at Jimbaran Puri Bali, an Orient-Express property in Bali, Indonesia.

She also served as Hotel Manager in a design property of CS HOTELS, in Madeira Island, Portugal.

Ms Moreira has over 15 years of progressive experience in the hospitality industry and an excellent understanding of the operation and management in Luxury Hotels and Resorts.

She will be responsible for managing the newly renovated The Surin Phuket and enhancing the quality of service, complete

with traditional Thai hospitality.

"My vision for these next years is, with my team, to bring The Surin to another level, to turn it into a 'delight resort', as it is already a special resort," she said.

"I would like to see my guests returning to their home, their heads full of stories to tell their family and friends about us. To achieve this mission my team and I will create unique moments, exclusive experiences and some delightful small touches during their stay to remember us and to give them a reason to return," she added.

Ms Moreira's interests include travel, shopping, cooking, visiting art exhibitions, playing golf and she also loves to have a good massage.

- Phuket Gazette



Outrigger Laguna Phuket: Long white beach is a perfect working place for its new GM.

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Blame it on the rain

Monsoon black-out brings Bill to Bali and back again

I WAS channel surfing just the other night when the Hollywood classic "Singin' in the Rain" came up on screen. Settling deep into my comfy TV chair as my dog Koko lay nearby chasing dream rabbits across imaginary landscapes, things came to an all-too-sudden and conclusive end.

Lightning struck near to the house and within seconds a torrential downpour ensued which brought about the inevitable black screen of unhappiness.

With my late night movie-watching plans foiled yet again by a monsoonal deluge, my thoughts turned to a happy place, a recent trip to Bali. Here in the still of the night, with no pleasurable distractions at hand, was time to reflect on the latest of happenings down in Asia's other great resort island destination.

I've been trying to convince my 4 and 6-year-old daughters that Koko can talk, but only when they sleep at night.

Taking up the cause, my questions to our new coma-like golden retriever are met only with heavy breathing. My midnight caller as it were, goes mute.

Meanwhile back in Bali, the island is coping with similar growing pains and the public sector is finding it hard to keep pace. Transportation infrastructure remains germane to keeping up with the Jones (or these days it's the headline-grabbing trashy Kardashians). One key improvement that is completed is the underpass at the key intersection that splinters off into Sanur, Kuta and is the gateway to Seminyak. I was able to fly through what previously was an area featuring unbearable gridlock.

Tracking back a bit to the airport, work on the new international terminal is nearing completion and the mangrove toll road which will speed up travel to Nusa Dua, Benoa and Sanur is also ready to roll out. What is driving the work is the upcoming APEC event in October which will see Bali act as a showcase for all of Indonesia with heads of state visiting from around the world.



Property Watch
By Bill Barnett

Perhaps this is what Phuket needs to speed up our slowly evolving transport links? David Bowie's *Under Pressure* starts playing in my mind-pod.

As for what's happening in the trendy scene, a quick trip up the east coast past Sanur landed me at the Komune themed resort in Keramas. Tapping into a niche market, this property has already landed a following both from surfers and those wanting to chill out at the beach club. Smart-yet-affordable accommodation is featured along with a stand waiting for your very own board. This place is worth a visit whether it's overnight or just a day trip.

Next up is the taste of 007 Bond at Luna2 Studios in Seminyak. It's all about retro design and chic living as designer Melanie Hall has created an absolutely fabulous sensory experience in the boutique hotel.

Be it retro TVs or an underground nightclub

with viewing portals into the swimming pool, this place pops the imagination. Everywhere you look, there is a new, well-thought-out piece of art and more. Good news is that Luna2 is heading out of Bali to Niseko and Phuket as well.

For those looking at an excellent upper midscale offering, Australian chain Mantra has teamed up with well known local hotelier Michael Burchett at a new property just near Nusa Dua. Fresh, well located and excellent value for money, this property is great for families and those wanting to be near to the Bukid, Uluwatu and also the Laguna-like destination of Nusa Dua. Good news for those fans of the long-established Bali Golf, which has been closed for upgrading for over a year, is that a re-opening is in the cards within this year.

Another new hotel is the U Paasha which is located right in the center of Seminyak on Jalan Laksmana. The property is operated by the Thai hotel chain U, and this location is strategic for nightlife, eating, shopping or just being there. It's a fresh, stylish yet uncomplicated proposition with spacious rooms.



ART FOR FLAVOR: Everywhere you look in Bali, there is a new, well-thought-out piece of art and more. Rumor has it that Bali's Luna2 (below) will branch out to Phuket. Photos: Bill Barnett



So much to do and so little time, yet I have to fit on one new dining spot down in Batu Belig named La Finca. I loved this place with its authentic Spanish tapas, upbeat vibe and casualness. Settle in for the evening, as while the small plates come, you can chat, drink and just sim-

ply enjoy one of the island's brash new outlets.

There it is, Bali on offer and a great getaway from our spate of monsoon madness. It's always a good thing to get off the rock and experience a little bit of something else for a cool change.



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Med tour to Bkk, Hua Hin, Phuket

HIGH-end Chinese health and wellness visitors are to be the primary niche-market focus of the annual medical tourism familiarization or fam trip, to be organized by the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) and the Thai Spa Association August 13-18.

Participants will visit various health and wellness spots in Bangkok, Phuket, and Hua Hin.

More than 80 registrations from all over the world have been received for the tour, which will promote Thailand as a medical tourism destination under the

theme, "Super Quality Medical and Wellness Tourism".

Vilaiwan Twichasri, TAT Deputy Governor for Tourism Products and Business said, "This fam trip is part of our overall strategy to focus on high-spending, long-staying niche markets. Health and wellness tourism is a key component of this, especially as Thailand has the necessary products and service standards to cater to this growing market."

Krod Rojanastien, President of the Thai Spa Association, stated that

"Wellness Tourism is very popular among the hi-end Chinese market. This year, we have organised a Fam Trip specifically for this market and will promote luxury Wellness and Beauty products which target the profile and behavior of this market."

He said he was certain that Chinese buyers would be impressed by the overall quality and exclusivity of Wellness Tourism in Thailand which, along with the famous Thai hospitality, has impressed medical tourists from around the globe.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Chalong means 'celebrate'

Owners of Phuket's first and only rum distillery talk about Thailand's changing culture and its impact on business

By Maciek Klimowicz

THEY started the production just nine months ago but they already have reasons to celebrate – their product won the highest award for a white rum at the International Wine and Spirit Competition in Hong Kong and gained international recognition. But what's even more important, it feels like a part of Phuket's DNA – natural, local, merging traditions and cultures. The *Gazette* talks to the producers of the island's first locally produced spirit – Chalong Bay rum.

How long was the road from the idea to the first bottle?

Thibault Spithakis: We both come from families that were in the wine and spirit industry and the idea has been with us for a while but it was three years ago when we came to Thailand to do some market research and a feasibility study.

Marine Lucchini: In the beginning, it was a real challenge to find people to build and participate in this adventure, but we found people as crazy as us and here we are.

It does sound crazy... Making rum in Thailand?

ML: We're a marriage of two traditions – French and Thai. We're French and France has a long history of rum making, and Thailand is the fourth biggest producer of sugar cane in the world and is the base ingredient in rum. Our idea was to bring the tradition of rum making back to the origins of the produce used to make it. There is also another reason why we came to Thailand to do business.

I've been coming here for 12 years with my family for holidays. And I developed a special bond to Thailand during the tsunami. My family and I were in Khao Lak at that time and our hotel got completely destroyed. 75 per cent of the guests died and many people lost everything. Some people would have said: "I'm never coming back here again" but I was so impressed by the way locals reacted to the tragedy, how even people who had suffered so much still helped foreigners, and took care of them.

This was deeply impressive and I thought Thailand was a very special country.

But you surely chose a difficult product?

ML: Making alcohol presents difficulties in every country, as it's very highly regulated.

Of course it is also very strict in Thailand, both in terms of communication and production, and we did have a lot of challenges to take up on the way.

But one of the main rules I live by is that to every problem, no matter how difficult it is, there is a solution, you just have to find it.

TS: Obstacles in front of entrepreneurs are present in every country. Thailand has its own complications as well as its own advantages. In fact, Thai people also have issues that are very similar to the ones we encounter.

Tell me more about your product.

ML: There are two kinds of rum in the world – industrial rum which makes up to 90% of the world's production and natural rum – Chalong Bay is natural. The industrial rum is not made with fresh sugar cane but with the residues of sugar production called molasses. Natural rum is made



NATURALLY SWEETENED: Thibault, Marine and sugar cane.

How much rum do you make?

ML: We adjust to the demand. We started last October and adapted to the market. Currently we make around 30,000 bottles per year, and we have a lot of room for growth. But first we need to create it, we need to educate our customers.

Educate?

ML: Most people here don't believe that high quality alcohol can be made in Thailand and they prefer imported products and famous brands. Yet we have an award winning, high quality product made locally. And it attracts certain people, the early adopters who realize the quality and uniqueness. But we have to educate others about our product, how different it is from the *Lao Khao* which is the name given to all locally made white spirits.

TS: The culture of spirits and rum is not as wide spread and old here as in Europe for example. Little by little, by sharing our rum tradition and heritage, we bring and contribute to the

development of a complementary spirit culture. There is a part of Thai society that moves towards more Western style of consumption and is also interested in the cultural aspect of it. When we look at this trend on the market we see a strong interest in local, and boutique products.

How do you educate people?

TS: We have different types of events. We partner with bars, hotels and restaurants where we promote the product and educate clients about it. We try to retain very close proximity with the consumers.

ML: We recently opened the distillery for visitors. Our clients and anyone interested can come

here and learn about the product. It's a unique opportunity for many people from the industry to see a distillery.

We organize food and beverage training, private events, cocktail workshops and so on. The distillery is also open for visits Monday to Saturday, from 4pm to 6pm.

Who is your target group and where can we buy your product?

ML: Our rum is a nice souvenir for tourists – it's local, it's high quality and it's truly a mix of two heritages, the tradition of Thai sugarcane of Thailand, and the distillation heritage of France at the same time.

But our market is first of all Thailand, both Thais and foreigners. We're happy to offer something that is a little different, yet goes well with the tropical spirit of the place. Chalong Bay Rum is available at the distillery and in a few outlets around the island, mostly wine shops. In most 5 star resorts and hotels, you can enjoy Chalong Bay cocktails.

What are your prospects for the future?

ML: The idea we have is to stay traditional. We merge traditions, history and heritage. We fill in the bottles by hands, we cap them by hands, seal them by hands and

personally stick the labels on the bottles.

TS: We want to establish Chalong Bay as one of the main brands of natural rum. On a short run it's not our goal to end up in supermarkets but in the long run we'll have to be available wherever other products from the same category are available. It is a long term project and long term strategy of product introduction into the market. We just started nine months ago and we're looking at a 5 to 10 year perspective. But it's looking good.. We talk to people who are tasting our product and the feedback is very positive.

Sounds like a lot of work, how do you divide it?

TS: I take care of the engineering side of things. I grew up in a wine estate with pipes and tanks around me. It's all liquid management and I know how to do it. But I'm also responsible for distribution, sales, promotion, and marketing. I'm involved in the production too, as it takes a lot of time so we have to divide the responsibilities.

ML: I'm passionate about biochemistry and spend my time here in the distillery, taking care of production, sourcing, legal aspects, among other things. But we both work on marketing together. We founded Chalong Bay together and we dedicate all of our souls, bodies, love and attention to this idea. It is the passion and faith in the project that keeps us going.



Marine Lucchini in her favorite place – the distillery Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

with fresh sugar cane. Using sugar cane instead of molasses affects the taste in a great way – natural rums have high floral and fruity aromas, whereas industrial rums are much more neutral in flavors, as most sugar cane flavors have been damaged during the production of sugar.

We actually went for sugar cane trips, met many farmers and chose one variety which we considered the best among the 300 varieties available here. Indeed, the variety of sugarcane used will have an impact on the flavor of the rum. Once you try a Mojito with our natural rum, you'll get addicted to that extra fruity tropical taste. It has more character.

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Phuket paradise: It's the bomb

NEWS of the the unprecedented bomb attack outside of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) offices on August 1 came as just the latest blow to the reputation of Phuket as a safe tourist destination. Fortunately, nobody was physically harmed by the explosion, though a number of vehicles were damaged (*see page 1*).

While the bombing itself was as completely unexpected as the 2004 tsunami disaster, the reaction to it by officials at Provincial Hall was nevertheless predictable; they were quick to downplay its significance, speculating that it was meant to intimidate, rather than cause injury or death.

Evidence collected at the scene would appear to support such conjecture, but until a complete investigation is carried out, downplaying this troubling incident is premature.

Terror attacks involving improvised explosive devices (IEDs) tend to come in spates. Those responsible – whatever their motives – tend to use them more and more as their “expertise” increases along with their sense of impunity.

Anyone unconvinced of this fact should review the trend in the three southernmost provinces, where hardly a day goes by – even during Ramadan – without a terror attack involving IEDs, despite elements on both sides of the conflict having agreed to an informal truce during Islam’s holiest month.

On the topic of the Deep South, many online posters were quick to link the bomb in Phuket with events in Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat.

While reserving final judgment until results of the police investigation have been revealed, we find it highly unlikely that the August 1 bomb could be directly linked to the conflict in the Deep South.

Fear of such an attack has understandably been the single greatest concern among tourism industry analysts since that conflict began to spiral out of control under the hardline policies of former PM Thaksin Shinawatra.

But in reality, there are so many conflicts of vested interest in Phuket at the moment that the number of possible motives is already enough to give conspiracy theorists plenty of entertainment.

That said, there has been much discussion lately about establishing the three troubled provinces as a special administrative zone, where citizens elect their own governor, in the same fashion as Bangkok and Pattaya. If and when such a bureaucratic effort gains momentum, the Thai Government should do the same for Phuket.

The current “shuffleboard bureaucracy” is clearly not working on this island any better than it is in the Deep South. The August 1 bomb is only the latest reminder of this obvious fact.



Upgrade the island to get upscale tourists

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket out of TAT promotional campaign for 2014, August 2*

Upgrading the visitors? Phuket has the visitors it deserves.

Before thinking about upgrading the quality of visitors, people here should think about an upgrade of the island’s quality.

Who will come to an island where the beaches are dirty, water is polluted, infrastructure is poor, service has been going down for years, and so on. Dream on, guys; dream until you wake up.

Chiara
Gazette forum

Cowboys at sea

Re: Gazette online, *Greed jeopardizing tourists’ safety, says Racha group, July 31*

Once again it is reported by the Gazette but nothing will be done about it. The speedboats have been a problem at Racha and other islands for the three years I’ve been going there, getting worse each year.

Our boat has had people swimming off the back of it and speedboats tear past within 10 meters, creating waves and not knowing where the snorkelers and swimmers are. The majority of the boat operators are arrogant, incompetent and foolish.

Beach Boy
Gazette forum

Pops against punks

Re: Gazette online, *Four youths charged over Phuket machete attack, July 30*

I disagree with those who say violence in TV programs motivates attacks like this. Rwanda and Burundi have no TV, but have had unimaginable violence.

I will bet my pay cheque that these kids simply do not have a father around.

Andy
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Don’t make it easy to find beauty

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket pushes for new road to Freedom, July 31*

Maybe they should stop building roads on this once-beautiful tropical island! Let the people visiting remote beaches work a bit harder to get there.

Ah, I forgot; tourists are lazy and the soon-to-be beach vendors are already counting their profits!

Vbf
Gazette forum

Need the backstory

Re: Gazette online, *‘Nobody helped us,’ South African family attacked by six men claim, July 31*

There are two sides to every story. They may have short changed a tuk-tuk driver or a shopkeeper – which could explain why the police aren’t looking into it.

Or is Phuket just another gang warfare destination?

Graham
Gazette forum

Getting BSE better than not making it

Re: Gazette online, *Urgent call for more A- blood for injured Briton in Phuket, July 30*

I am sorry to hear this. It is confusing to me that as a fellow Brit I am unable to donate my A negative blood to him. Why? The Red Cross Thailand will not allow me to do it because I lived in the UK in the early 90s and there’s a risk that I could have BSE. So could Marc [the intended recipient].

Surely it is a risk worth taking if the alternative is dying from shock. I have repeatedly emailed them and get the same response. “Sorry, cannot.” Frustrating.

Alien
Gazette forum

Another job for DSI

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket officials seize machinery, halt construction at protected mangroves site, July 30*

So seven rai of land can be knocked down before anyone important “notices” it. Very similar to what is going on above Laem Sing beach at the moment. Busted two times but work continues. Seems like another one for the Department of Special Investigation next week.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

Crocs not best target

Re: Gazette online, *Officials shoot fierce croc escaped from farm north of Phuket, August 3*

How sad, hunted to extinction in the wild and labelled “fierce” to justify shooting it.

Please start shooting things that are truly fierce and infinitely more dangerous to people, like tour buses, big trucks, teenagers on motorbikes...

Dave Williams
Gazette forum

Road quality relative

Re: Gazette online, *Phuket Opinion: The road not taken, August 4*

I was actually surprised about the good condition of the roads here. In southern China, Russia or Uzbekistan their condition is much, much worse. Even former eastern Germany was much worse just 10 years ago.

Jakub
Gazette forum

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Health insurance for tourists at 7-Eleven

FIRST PERSON

THE cost of treating uninsured tourists at Patong Hospital totals about a million baht every year. At Vachira Phuket Hospital, the total is about 3 million baht.

In 2011, 15,000 tourists were treated at Patong Hospital. In 2012, the number increased to 17,000, and this year it is expected to hit the 20,000 mark. Only 400-500 of these tourists each year hold health insurance. The rest of them pay the medical fees out of pocket if they can. If they can't, we are left holding the bill.

The way to solve this problem is to make travel insurance a requirement for entering Thailand or make it a lot easier to get.

The Public Health Ministry is considering making it a requirement for uninsured tourists to get travel insurance on arrival. In this case, the insurance would be available at the airport for the tourists to buy, according to the number of days they plan to stay.

However, this proposal is still under discussion with relevant organizations such as Immigration and the Ministry of Commerce.

In my opinion, insurance on arrival is probably not convenient for either tourists or officials because it would slow down the immigration process. I think it would be more practical to require tourists to get insurance before they arrive. If they come on a tour,



Here, he discusses options for relieving the financial burden of uninsured foreign tourist and expat patients.

Dr Sirichai Silpa-archa has been the Director of Patong Hospital for six months and was Deputy Director of Vachira Phuket Hospital for 26 years. He has a medical degree from Chulalongkorn University with a specialty in Urology from Chiang Mai University, as well as an MBA.

the cost of travel insurance could be included in the package.

Another idea is to make insurance available at stores such as 7-Eleven. Tourists could just buy it the same way they buy prepaid phone cards. They would select a card based on the number of days they are staying

here. That way they'd be covered while here.

The problem with this is that it's impossible to make sure that every tourist would buy insurance. Once they're in the country, what they do is out of our control.

The issue particularly affects

Patong Hospital and Vachira Hospital since uninsured tourists are sent to us.

I'll give you an extreme example. Two months ago we had a Filipino tourist who suffered a hip fracture. He had neither insurance nor the money to pay. He stayed with us for two months and his medical bills reached 200,000 baht.

He couldn't pay any of it.

At Patong Hospital, we treat all tourists the same, whether they have insurance or money to pay or not. In fact, until recently doctors weren't aware until the day of discharge whether or not a patient could afford the medical fees.

Now we have a new system, and summarize the bill every two days. That way, if someone can't pay, we know it sooner and have a chance to recuperate the costs.

The health of the patients comes first, of course, and if they are critical, we continue to treat them until they are better, regardless of their ability to pay.

But if, for example, we know on the second day that they are unable to pay, and they are recovering well and able to leave the hospital, we will discharge them.

In cases where they are not well enough to leave, we contact their embassy and report the problem. The embassy tries to get in touch with the family of the patient in their own country and ask them to help get the patient home.

Health insurance for tourists is a problem that needs a collective effort to solve effectively. Hopefully we'll find a solution soon.



Assisting foreigners by the side of the road is easy; getting some of them to pay their hospital bills is much harder. Photo: Gazette file



Phuket Old Town is equal to its southern peers. Photo: Quinn Comendant

Worthy of the title

Island View

By Nick Walker

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

APPROACHING Phuket Town from the north at dusk provides a magical moment. At the intersection of Thepkasattri and Thalang Roads, the ivory-white Song Nuan Pharmacy building is cinematically lit with colors that manage to stay just on the right side of garish.

Every time I pass it on my daily two-wheeled commute home, and then proceed through streets lined with elegantly crumbling Sino-Portuguese and Peranakan shophouse architecture, I'm reminded that Phuket Town is possibly the most marvelous World Heritage Cultural Site that is not actually on Unesco's official lineup of such sites.

Phuket Town made a bid to get on that list in 2011, but failed the audition after a team of International Council on Monuments and Sites (Icomos) officials decided that the historic core of our provincial capital didn't tick all the requisite boxes.

Nevertheless, Phuket Town is one of three shimmering pearls of historic interest on the west coast of the Malay-Thai peninsula, and no less rich in heritage – or potentially aesthetically pleasing – than Penang's Georgetown and Melaka, 360km and 790km to the south respectively, as the Andaman sea eagle flies.

The omission of Phuket Town from the list seems like a glaring anomaly. Redressing it could deliver considerable gains to three Asean

neighbors. Unesco World Heritage status would enhance a 950km heritage trail from Phuket Town to the Peranakan hub of Singapore, thereby yielding tourism revenue and associated synergies along a legendary trading route.

World Heritage status would bring considerable benefits to the island's southeast corner. Funds from the World Heritage Trust would be made available for restoration work and an increased influx of tourists could be expected. This would be most welcome, for as many business owners in town have noted, this year's low season has been very low indeed.

So – why not address Icomos' reservations and concerns and then reapply? The most obvious first step would be to continue burying all the electrical cabling that wrecks the town center's photogenic promise. A Herculean task, but we're only talking about half a dozen otherwise picture-perfect streets.

Another imperative step would be for the Kingdom to desist from its periodic threats to withdraw from the Unesco World Heritage Convention.

Above all, it's high time Phuket Town received recognition for its rich culture and history.

Issues & Answers...

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

Extorting tuk-tuks

Guests from my hotel recently paid 300 baht for a tuk-tuk from Kata to Nai Harn, then were quoted 1,000 baht for the return trip.

I visited the tuk-tuk and taxi rank at Nai Harn to look at their posted fares, but couldn't find any.

I asked one of the drivers where the price list was but he told me they did not have one.

I then asked how much the fare was to Kata Beach, (an 8km, 15-minute trip) and the driver told me 400 baht.

Aren't all the tuk-tuk ranks supposed to have their fares posted? What is the correct fare from Nai Harn Beach to Kata Beach?

Hotel owner
Kata

Jaturong Kaewkasi, Chief Transport Technician of the

Phuket Land Transport Office, replies:

Tuk-tuks don't have fixed prices, the fare is up to the driver and passenger to negotiate. That's why you didn't find any fares posted.

Passengers need to bargain with drivers before starting the trip. If they can't reach a price they are satisfied with, they should just walk away and try bargaining with another driver.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/
IssuesAnswers

Is driving a car shirtless illegal?

I was recently stopped at a police checkpoint while driving my car. The policeman got very upset with me for not having a shirt on, and demanded I put one on before allowing me to proceed. Is this actually the law in Thailand?

Joe
Rawai

Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Jumroon Plaiduang replies:

Yes, it is the law in Thailand, as indicated in the Criminal Code BE 2499 (1956).

Section 388 of the code stipulates that any person who performs a disgraceful act in public by undressing himself, exhibiting his undressed person or committing any other act of

obscenity, shall be liable to a fine not exceeding 500 baht.

In Thailand, good manners dictate that drivers dress modestly. As Phuket is a tourist hub, we do make compromises in the interests of intercultural harmony, such as the policeman did in this case by simply issuing a warning, rather than going the whole way and setting about taking more formal legal action.

Naturally, we do consider intention, circumstances and common sense in general. For example, if a boxer is jogging shirtless in the process of warming up, that is not illegal, but if a boxer does not wear pants either, the police will certainly take action.

In the case of baring your chest in your car, what was your inten-

tion? That is a question you might want to ask yourself. In any event, it is both inappropriate and illegal to do so in Thailand. Consider yourself lucky you were not hit with a 500-baht fine.



Some cases of public chest baring are acceptable. Photo: Chris Hunkeler

YOUR Phuket

SWISS SOCIETY PHUKET CELEBRATES SWISS NATIONAL DAY AT MOEVENPICK KARON



ABOVE: Urs Aebi (center), President of the Swiss Society Phuket and Andrea Kotas Tammathin (right), Swiss Honorary Consul and her son Sasha (left) and many Swiss expatriates and their families joined the celebration of Swiss National Day at the Moevenpick Resort and Spa, Karon.



NEW FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE AT CENTRA ASHLEE, PATONG

Guests welcomed by the Fisherman Team



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

PROPERTY of the week



See page 22

JOB of the week

**New positions available upon
commencement of project**

Luxury Residential Villa Estate
Project at Layan

Affiliate of Multi-national Real Estate Developer

Bang Tao Beach Ltd

See page 27

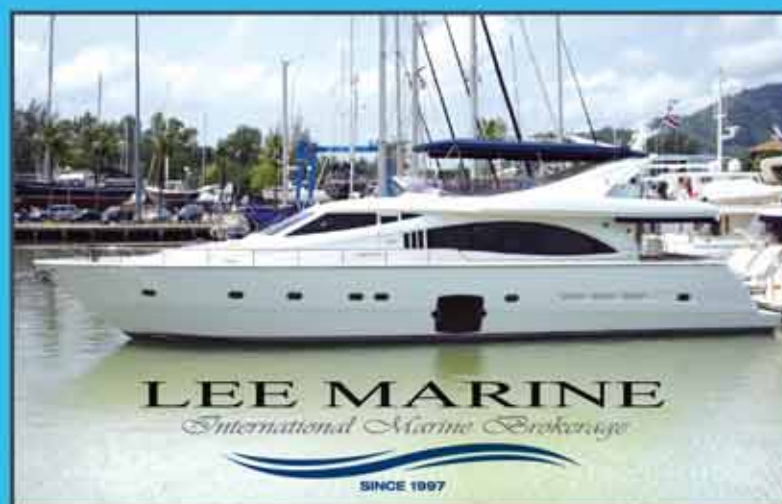
WHEELS & MORTORS of the week

MERCEDES ML 300



See page 30

BOAT of the week



See page 31

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Properties For Sale

HOT DEAL - CONDO AT THE POINT



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

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

CHALONG LAND/ HOUSE SALE

2 rai hill land with seaview, 3-bed house + guesthouse. Close to golf course. 10 minutes to Central & Villa Park. 18 million baht. Tel: 081-676 5444. Email: alexander.maycock@gmail.com

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

BEACHFRONT LAND

At Naka Yai Island. 600sqm with house. Price: 8,xxx baht/sqm. Tel: 081-691 2446 (English). Email: wut@tamtaraspa.com

1 RAI KATHU LAND

Beautiful valley land, lakeside views forever. Chanote. 8.4 million baht. Tel: 087-900 8445.

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 FOR SALE

Koh Kaew near BIS, 6 bedrooms, swimming pool, large garden, maid rooms. US\$ 550,000. For more information, please call 084-185 4746 or email to idwian@hotmail.com

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

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 AT BRITISH SCHOOL

544sqm at the entrance to the British International School. Price: 7,xxx baht/sqm. Tel: 081-691 2446 (English). Email: wut@tamtaraspa.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

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

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



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

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE, CHEAP PRICE



Twin house with 2 storeys in Palm Villa, Pa Khlok, 5km from the Heroines monument. Price 2.2 million baht. 35.2sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, car park for 2 cars. Cheaper price than the developer's. Ready to move in October 2013. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Shino-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 ARAI

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.

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).

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

Baan Yamu Residences

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

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.

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

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.

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.

INVESTMENT PROJECTS LIST

Hotels, resorts, condominiums turn-key investment projects short list. Tel: 085-575 3300. Email: a@kulbit.com For details, please see our website at http://phuket9.com/archives/1254

NEW APARTMENTS 612,000 BAHT

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

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VILLAS & CONDOMINIUMS

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PHUKET TOWN 6.5MB**
70sq wah, 2-storey single house, quiet. Tel: 089-780 1888. Email: klang888@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://phuketcityhome.iagetweb.com/>

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

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE
at Siri Village, Pa Khlok. 2 floors, 2 bedrooms, kitchen, living room, garden and car park. 2 aircons, upstairs curtains, 1 furnished bedroom. 3.8 million baht. Contact Kirana. Tel: 088-760 6083. Email: theeighthcat@gmail.com

Absolute beachfront with 398sqm, fully furnished, urgent sale at 32 million baht. Please call for more information. Tel: 089-729 8365 (English & Thai). Email: sudaves2002@yahoo.com

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

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

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

HOUSE 4.99MB
Outstanding value, priced for quick sale. Four-bed detached, granite kitchen, audio in every room, custom home cinema, alarm and lighting control system. Tel: 086-266 2786. Email: ben.hobbs.h3@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE
Koh Kaew, Ideal Home, 4 bedrooms, study, playroom and maid's room, large garden, pool. US\$550,000 ono. Email: ldwian@hotmail.com

BARGAIN RAWAI LAND
High walled, square plot, views.
Chanote 640sqm. Price nego-
tiable. Tel: 076-613227, 085-782
7551.

Ready to move in. Villa 1: on 1,100sqm land, 16.9 million baht. Villa 2: on 2,200sqm land, 21.9 million baht. Brand-new, each with 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 12m swimming pool. Guest bungalow with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom. Perfectly located in a development with underground electricity and security, only 800m from Mission Hills Golf Course, less than 10 minutes to airport, Phuket International Academy and Ao Por Grand Marina. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

Sale: 16.5 million baht. 5 floors, 9 rooms, 2 apartments with kitchen, 1 private floor, 100sqm, 1 big terrace, fully furnished, 333sq wah. Tel: 081-979 7733. Email: peterlehmann7@hotmail.com

Outstanding investment opportunity! 7 studio apartments within beachfront development. All 7 apartments are being offered at a discounted price to a total price of 18 million baht for all of them. Tel: 089-839 8255 (English & Thai). Email: info@lantaestate.net

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

5 RAI (8,400SQM)
With Chanote, between Chalong
and Rawai. Idea for resort. 53
million baht. Tel: 082-420 7052.
Email: stayonphuket@yahoo.
com

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

Luxury brand-new villa, fully furnished and ready to move in, 3 bedrooms 4 bathrooms with infinity 10m long swimming pool and truly beautiful sea view. Located in a small development, only 50m from the sea and 3 minutes from Ao Por Grand Marina. For sale: 19.9 million baht or long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

A large, modern two-story house with a swimming pool and a gazebo. The house has a light-colored exterior with dark accents and a balcony. The pool is in the foreground, and the gazebo is on the left. The house is surrounded by lush greenery.

Luxury pool villa, only 5 minutes from British International School. Fully fitted European kitchen including Siemens appliances. Large pool 12x4m. 3 double bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Views overlooking Loch Palm Golf Course, 14th and 15th fairways. Fully air conditioned, and fully furnished. Rent 85,000 baht per calendar month. Rental includes management fees, pool maintenance and garden service, monthly pest control service. This villa is priced to sell at 14.5 million baht or near offer. Available on mid August 2013. Baan Suan Loch Palm, 29/33, Moo 5, Kathu District, Phuket, 83120. Contact Sasitorn Brudhiprabha. Tel: 087-124 5706 (English & Thai). Email: sasitornbrudhiprabha@hotmail.com

**HOUSE IN
VILLA DOWROONG**
Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3
bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-
909 2771.

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

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

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Land & House Chalong, 260sqm
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laongfa@hotmail.com

Freehold, Patong, fully furnished, 100sqm. Tel: 081-612 4187. Email: nicolaas5@yahoo.com

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Looking for land to buy?

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at www.phuketgazette.net**

Properties For Rent

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Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-condo.net

HOLIDAY RENTALS IN KATA

Superb 1, 2 & 3 bed pool villas, apartments and pool pent-houses. Beach and town 5 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PATONG STUDIO RENTAL

2-fully furnished studios. 300m to beach, very clean. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-846 3467 (English). Email: sellingcartel@hotmail.com

CHEAP RENT

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

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.

RENTAL POOL VILLA KATHU

Valley location, fully furnished, 4 bedrooms. Min 6 months lease: 100,000 baht. Tel: 087-900 8445.

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

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

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

HOUSE FOR RENT



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

SERVICED APTS CHALONG

Studio, 1-and 2-bedroom with aircon. Shared pool. Low-season rates from 11,000 baht, discounts for long-term bookings. Includes WiFi, maid service, furniture, kitchenette. Tel: 086-282 6221. Email: info@chalongapartment.com For further details, please see our website at <http://chalongapartment.com>

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

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.

APARTMENT

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

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 (Kun 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

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

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

POOL VILLA IN NAI HARN

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

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.

PATONG 2 BEDROOMS OWNER DIRECT

2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, 100sqm, quiet location, free wifi, maid, cable TV. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

KATA OCEANVIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, quiet, seaview, Kata Hill. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

LAND FOR RENT OR SALE

6 rai of flat waterfront land with chanote title. Rent or sale. Email: Pktthai1@gmail.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

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.

CHEAP RENT

Live in a luxury pool villa resort near Laguna. Weekly/monthly. Tel: 089-594 4067.

HOUSE IN CHALONG

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Let us take your ad to the top
of **Google** with a **20% discount!**



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

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Property Services

RENOVATIONS & REPAIRS

English operated company that delivers quality work with reliability. Any size job with FREE quotations, and all completed quickly and hassle free. Tel: 088-768 4690 (English). Email: renovationsnrepairs@gmail.com

5* PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Professional hoteliers manage villas & apartments (with or without rental management). We also manage estates and condominiums, provide project marketing for real estate and resort/condo pre-opening and management. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

HOSPITALITY MGR. AVAILABLE

Hospitality GM for all types of pre-openings from A-Z, also management of resorts, estates, condos, marketing, interim management, feasibility studies. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PROFESSIONAL VILLA MANAGEMENT

Sales. Rentals. Farang-run company and mentality. Sales staff also required - best commissions in Phuket. Tel: 081-787 9767. www.farang-living.com/ www.farang-handyman.com

INVITE TO LIST VACATION RENTAL

List on PandaBed.com No listing fee, only 3% commission. Free photography. Contact by Email: melanie@pandabed.com

Property Services Wanted

ELECTRICIAN

Electrician needed to check and determine property power, need to install generator and hook up. Tel: 087-884 8972.

Property Wanted

OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE WANTED

Office/Retail space wanted asap. Approx 20 Sqm. In Kamala/Surin area. Tel: 082-521 7745 (English). Email: mr craigwhite@hotmail.co.uk

LOOKING FOR WAREHOUSE

Space 300-1,000sqm to rent in long term (1 year). Please contact Sasa. Tel: 083-174 7067.

WANTED VILLA FOR LONG-TERM

Looking for a villa for long-term lease ~ 50k pm. Preferences are: Hillside location, Security, Kamala to Bang Tao, Pool, Single story. Tel: 080-319 9255 (English). Email: 425zeds@gmail.com

APARTMENT/ HOUSE NEEDED

Our customers need urgently apartment rentals up to 25,000 baht per month, and house rentals up to 40,000 baht per month. For long and short-term contracts. Only Kata, Karon, Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong. Tel: 082-420 7052. Please call or visit our website at www.stayonphuket.com

Accommodation Available

5-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Kamala 5 Bed 4 Bath, Pool/ Jacuzzi Decks Large Garden Bargain 45,000 baht L/term Tel: 081-397 4222. Email: tucsonhouseforrent@yahoo.com

SERVICE APARTMENT PATONG

Fully furnished, special promotion rate on website at link below. Tel: 081-894 4730(English/Thai), 081-892 5983. Fax: 076-292 149. Email: nanaivilla phuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.latestays.com/nanai-villa

ROOMS FOR RENT IN KARON

Nice, clean rooms in Karon, fully furnished, daily, weekly, monthly. Tel: 076-396075, 082-270 6385. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

BANG TAO BEACH APARTMENT

Baan Puri 2 bed, pool, internet, fitness centre. phuketapartment bang tao@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at http://phuketapartment.webs.com

PATONG SEA VIEW HOUSE / APT

Stunning new furnished Patong sea view house (or apartment) for long lease. Three ensuite bedrooms. Huge lounge and balconies. Gloss white fitted kitchen. On Andaman Mountain. House only 45,000 baht a month. Apartment only 18,000 baht a month. Tel: +44-788-548 8091(English). Contact Ron Crane at craneprop@hotmail.co.uk

NAI HARN BUNGALOW

Nice bungalow for long-term rent, quiet location, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, aircon/fans, cable TV, WiFi internet. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-891 7408, 087-292 5309 (English & Thai). Email: gillies18567@hotmail.com

KATHU, 3 BED UNFURNISHED HOUSE

Three-bedroom unfurnished house to rent on popular estate near Soi Namtok. Many more available. Tel: 076-615905, 090-875 3683 (English). Email: sdm@wmalexander.com For further details, please see our website at www.wmalexander.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, garden, swimming pool, in a very peaceful and secure compound. Long-term rental only. 45,000 baht per month. This price includes Internet, maid once a week, pool service every 2 weeks, and gardening once a month. Email: aom.phongpan@gmail.com

SEA VIEW HOUSE + APARTMENT



For long-term rent. Beautiful new sea view Patong house & separate apartment. Newly furnished. Huge sea view lounge. New fitted kitchen. Three big en-suite bedrooms. TVs + internet. 2-car garage. House: 50,000 baht per month. Apartment: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: +44-478-8548 8091. Email: craneprop@hotmail.co.uk

Accommodation Wanted

VILLA WITH PRIVATE POOL

We are looking for a 2-bedroom villa with private pool from 12 December to 12 January 2014 on Phuket Island. South West preferred. +41-79-651 3602 (English). Email: orca_67@hispeed.ch

POOL VILLA WANTED

Wanted in Rawai/Nai Harn area: 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, secure villa with western kitchen and pool. Must be in a quiet area. 40,000-50,000 baht per month, 1 month bond, 2 year contract. Tel: 088-760 5003 (English). Email: collettegaleano@gmail.com

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

BEAUTIFUL SWIMMING POOL VILLA

Rawai. High season price: 3,500 baht per day. Tel: 085-787 3046. Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

1 OR 2 BED ROOMS HOUSES

Fully furnished, WiFi, cable TV, pool. From 13,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com

VILLA NAI HARN FOR RENT

3-bedroom Thai style villa for rent in Nai Harn. Tel: 081-416 5151 (English), 081-606 5604 (English & Thai). For more details see http://phuketserenityvillas.com/villa.php?nom=Sirinthara%20Villa

Household Items

HOUSE FURNITURE

Rocking chairs, TV, wardrobe and others. Tel: 085-787 3046. Please call or email for photos at patrickmeo@gmail.com

USED FURNITURE

Solid teakwood bed+mattress. Single: 15,000 baht. Double: 28,000 baht. 4-piece teakwood sofa: 15,000 baht. Tel: 084-845 4743 Please call and email for photos to attivaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

Household Services

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

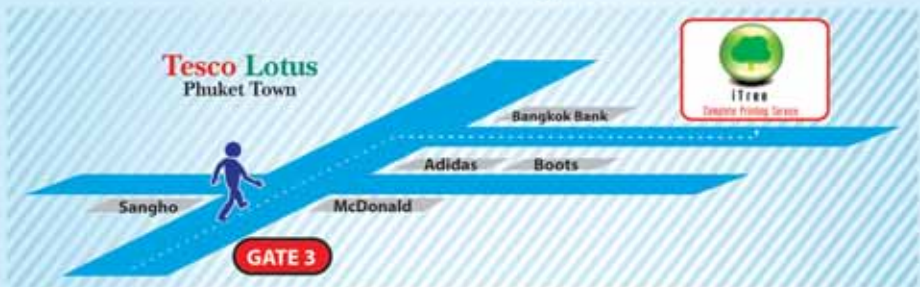
Renovations, house repairs, painters, tilers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, built-in, construction. Fluent English-speaking boss. Free quotes given. Tel: 084-193 5124. Email: phukethomemaintenance@yahoo.com

PHUKET UK ELECTRICIAN

UK electricians, making your house safe. Electrical problems solved. New work carried out. Earthing. Energy saving solutions. Tel: 084-839 2727 (English). Email: thebritscott@hotmail.com

Live in Town?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at iTree Complete Printing Service



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertisements

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement. Then hand it to any of our agents.

Form for writing classified advertisements, consisting of multiple lines for text entry and a heading line.

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 120 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

SHOP MANAGER

Urgent need shop manager for boutique shop in Surin, fluent in English. Send CV to bliss@online.com.kh

RENTAL MANAGER

Needed for busy rental business in Patong. Must be hard working, honest, dependable and mature. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.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

EXECUTIVE FOR PROPERTY

We are looking for new sales and marketing executives, Thai national only, to help us at our sales and showroom offices. You should have experience with working in a property environment and taking care of local real estate agencies visiting our showrooms. Great conditions are promised. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

DANISH STAFF

Danish-speaking, 20-30 years old staff wanted. Send CV and photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

DIVE SHOP

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

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

DRIVER WANTED

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

HEALTHY FOOD COOK

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

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

**VACANT POSITIONS****Zeavola Resort Phi Phi Island SLH member**

The Zeavola is the only 5-star resort on Phi Phi Island and is currently highly successful. In order to improve our performance further, the Zeavola Family is seeking applications from dynamic and talented individuals, who share our passion for providing excellent customer service. You should be highly motivated, confident and enthusiastic about assisting the team to reach new levels of service quality, and to financial success.

Island-Based Positions Vacant

- Front Officer Manager
- Restaurant Manager
- Financial Controller or Asst. Financial Controller (Phuket based)
- Asst. Food & Beverage Manager
- Receptionist and Reservation Supervisor

Profile:

- ▶ At least vocational certificate or Bachelor's degree
- ▶ At least 3-5 years experience in the field
- ▶ Strongly result-oriented with people management and leadership skills
- ▶ Strong English communication skills and computer literate
- ▶ Strongly analytical with problem-solving skills and execution of work

Benefits:

- ▶ Good salary + service charge
- ▶ Group insurance, social security, work man's compensation
- ▶ Duty meals in staff canteen / officer check at hotel restaurant as per position
- ▶ Private dress / uniform laundry
- ▶ Transportation to and from Phuket or Krabi - by resort ferry
- ▶ Accommodation as per position at resort

Please send your CV to hr@zeavola.com or preecha@zeavola.com or call Khun Supattra Petnikom or Khun Preecha Onkong at 075-627000 for an appointment.

Human Resources Department

Resort: 11 Moo 8 Laem Tong, Koh Phi Phi, Ao Nang, Muang, Krabi 81000 Thailand
Tel: 075-627000 ext. 1400 or 1401 and Fax: 075-627025

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

NEED LADY DRIVERS

Three experienced motorbike and car drivers, based in Patong, go all around Phuket. Tel: 093-768 4939.

WAITRESS WANTED

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

BARMAN - SOUS CHEF - WAITRESS

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

MILLIE'S DAY/ NIGHT CARE

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

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

TEACHERS WANTED

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

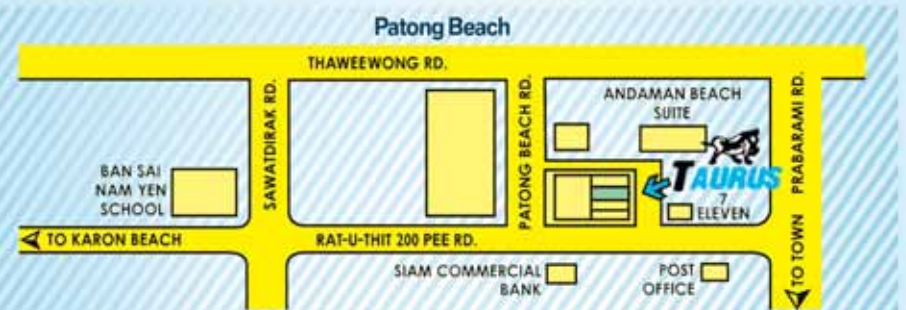
- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-388144

KARON

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

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Luxury Residential Villa Estate Project at Layan

New positions available upon commencement of project

The affiliate of a multi-national real estate developer, owning 600 rai land in Layan Area, Cherngtalay, Thalang, will soon commence the 1st phase of a project to develop a luxury residential villa estate. We are now looking for candidates for several positions to take long term employment opportunities.

Property Sales Executive (1 position)

Assisting Sales Manager for property sales activities

- Capable of using office computer software, including MS-Access
- Able to work on weekends and public holidays

Senior Accountant (1 position)

In charge of company's accounting work, including taxation, audit, finance and budget control

- Capable of using accounting software, Express s

Accountant (1 position)

General accounting work, including journal book, GL, TB, FS and tax forms

- Capable of using accounting software, Express ess

Driver (1 position)

Drive company's car for executives and guests, including general maintenance of the car and delivery of documents

- Minimum overtime allowance guaranteed

Assistant Project Manager (1 position)

Assist Project Manager to coordinate construction work

Mechanical Engineer (1 position)

Coordinate and inspect mechanical design and work

Electrical Engineer (1 position)

Coordinate and inspect mechanical design and work

Project Architect (1 position)

Coordinate architectural design and drawings and review contractors' shop drawings

- Capable of using Auto-CAD

Landscape Engineer (on site) (1 position)

In charge of landscape development and maintenance program for 600 rai report project

- Experience and knowledge of landscape / horticulture / irrigation

- Applicant must :
- ◆ Be Thai national
 - ◆ Have 5 years or more experience at same or similar position (except Driver)
 - ◆ Speak and write English fairly / well (except Driver)

Please send your curriculum vitae by Email to : hr@bangtaobeachltd.co.th
(All applicants will be treated with the strictest confidence)

Bang Tao Beach Ltd

HEALTH FOOD COOK

Organize and control Health Food Kitchen. Thai national Only. Good English language skills required. 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

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

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.

ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

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

ENGLISH-SPEAKING 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>

TELEMARKETER WANTED

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

FRONT DESK STAFF - SAMUI

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

MAID / HOUSEKEEPER

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

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

COORDINATOR WANTED

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

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

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

SALES MANAGER & SALES EXECUTIVE

A reputable tourist magazine looking for 24 - 45 yrs. old, male or female, good personality. Applicants should have relevant experience and be able to speak English.

Send resume to ajapply@yahoo.com
086-490 3101, 088-577 0852

HOUSEKEEPER - SURIN BEACH

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

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

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PuketGazette.Net!

Business Opportunities

**POPULAR
RESTAURANT
FOR SALE**

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

**MASSAGE SHOP
PATONG**

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

**SURIN BEACH
CLUB FOR RENT**

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

**MASSAGE SHOP
IN NAI HARN**

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

**INVESTOR NEEDED:
MOBILE APP**

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CHALONG

3-storey shophouse, restaurant or bar and living quarters, near pier. Sale: 3.5 million baht. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 0299. Email: colona@loxinfo.co.th

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AGENTS NEEDED

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**HOTEL - 24 ROOMS
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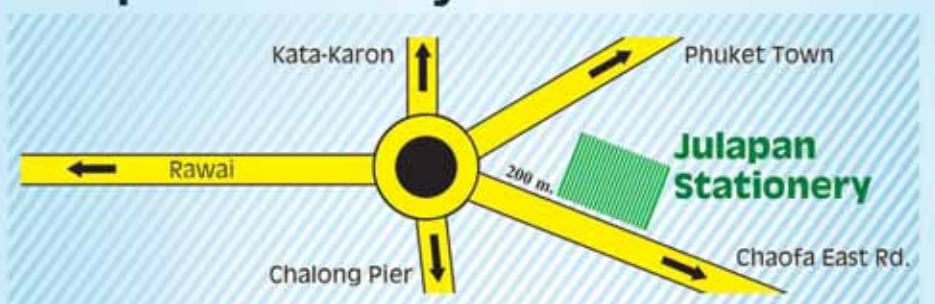
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SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

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9	P	O	L	L	U	T	E	R	10	S	U	V	11	O	P	I	A	T	E
	R	O	I	A	I	E	W	C	R										
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33	E	L	E	C	T	R	O	N	35	P	R	E	V	E	N	T	I	O	N
36	A	N	O	N	37	A	N	T	H	I	L	38	L	A	K	O	R	N	
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	S	N	Y	N								Y	D	S	E				

LET'S PARTY AT KARON SEA SANDS RESORT & SPA



METINEE KINGPAYOME'S FAMILY TAKE A BREAK AT REGENT CAPE PANWA



Regent Phuket Cape Panwa GM Brice Borin (center) extended a warm welcome to Metinee Kingpayome Sharples (right) and her husband, Edward Sharples (left) and Skye Sharples (front) as they enjoyed a pleasurable stay at the resort.

SUPPORTING PHUKET'S KIDS



The Attitude Club donated funds and gifts to Baan Huay Sai School in Phang Nga. The students enjoyed a day of games and gifts including Foto Bears, Blu Monkey dolls, bags, shirts, toothbrush sets, and school supplies. RIGHT: Wirachai Pranveerapaiboon, CEO of The Attitude Club and school director Dolyawat Santipitak celebrate the Club's donation of a new children's bathroom for the school.



Simplicity and style

A taste of Tokyo in Phuket Town



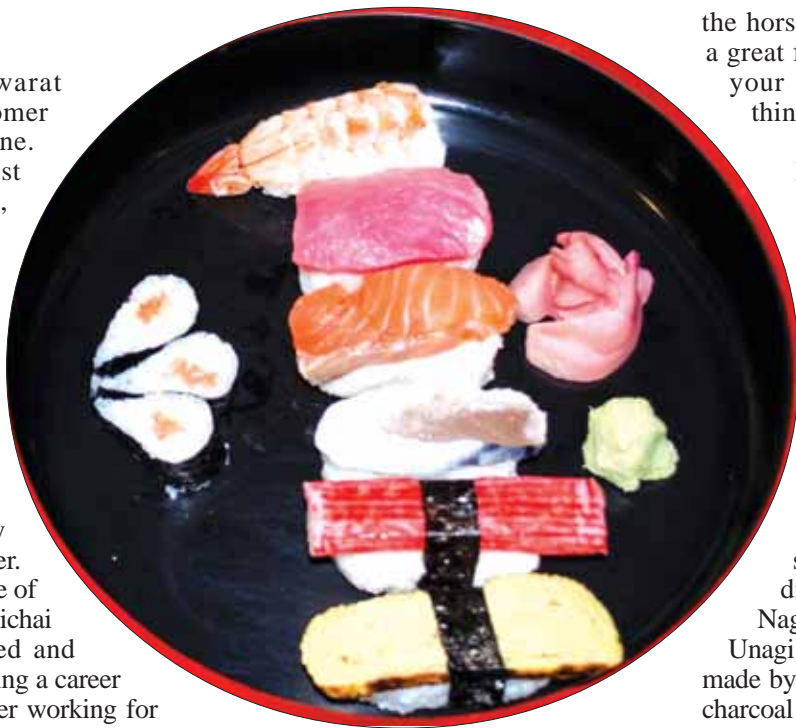
By Nanthapa Pengkasem

GINZA, located on Yaowarat road, is a relatively newcomer to the Phuket culinary scene. But within the space of just four months since it opened, the restaurant has already managed to garner quite a following. The popularity is largely due to the establishment's strict adherence to the pillars of Japanese cuisine – the freshest and highest quality ingredients.

The shop house setting of Ginza is redolent of the busy Tokyo street it is named after. And that's the intention of one of the restaurant co-owners, Nitichai "Yuth" Nenraksa, who lived and worked in Japan before building a career as food and beverage manager working for many top hotels in both Bangkok and Phuket.

"The tiniest of lanes in Ginza are always crammed with gems of eateries serving wonderful, freshly prepared Japanese food. I chose to establish Ginza in the old town of Phuket and hope it can recreate the same vibes," say Yuth.

Everything about Ginza is distinctly Japanese – from the rock garden and red banners that greet guests at the door, to the black and red color palette interior, tatami covered seating (there's room to place your legs so you don't actually sit on the floor),



and smart minimalist tableware. Recently, Ginza has extended its premises to include a shop next door, with private rooms upstairs for a more intimate dining experience.

A quick glance at the menu reveals a rich picking of appetizers and I highly recommend: Cold tofu (silky bean curd topped with soy sauce, spring onions, ginger and dried fish flakes), octopus and cucumber salad (made with tentacles only, and is not for the squeamish), salmon roe with radish, and spicy chilled seaweed. All

the hors d'oeuvres are refreshingly light, a great filler to pick through and prepare your palette for the more substantial things to come.

As we sip the chilled nama sake (a kind of draught sake with round and fresh aftertaste), a plate of mixed sashimi arrives. Making up the combo are hamachi (yellowtail), maguro (yellow fin tuna), salmon, saba (mackerel from Finland), octopus slices and red snapper. All fish slices are served fresh, except for the saba, which is lightly pickled in rice vinegar, and the lightly blanched octopus slices or taka.

You may want to sample unagi, soy sauce smoked eels, which comes directly from Hamamatsu City in Nagoya, a place renowned for the best Unagi found anywhere in Japan. Unagi is made by grilling freshwater eel slowly over charcoal while sprinkling it with sweet soy sauce, the process produces crisp unagi with the most flavorsome tender flesh inside.

"Unagi is a delicacy that is associated with good luck and longevity," explains Yuth, who is a mine of knowledge when it comes to Japanese food.

If you need a little more "fillers" then sushi is your next choice. Here at Ginza the selection is endless, and you can choose from the basic nigiri mariawase (mixed sushi) and the more fancy futomaki, to the popular California rolls; a concoction made with vinegared rice, shrimps, avocado and

asparagus, among many other choices.

There's also a set menu for those lunching between working hours, that include a choice of grilled saba, tempura (battered prawns), ramen (noodles), katsu kare (pork with curry). All dishes are served with rice, pickle and miso soup, at a very reasonable price of 140 baht, with only additional 20 baht for either coffee or green tea.

Go to Ginza to experience authentic and superior Japanese food in a cozy setting and a friendly service. Call in advance so you can chat with Yuth who will show you how to drink chilled matsu sake with a pinch of salt from a square wooden cup. He may even fill you in with the virtue of sweetness in Japanese food. His enthusiasm and knowledge will surely add another dimension to your dining experience.





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Ginza Japanese Cuisine and Steak House opens daily from 12am – 10.30pm. Add: 43 Yaowarat Road, Phuket Town, Tel. 076 258 486, 081 437 7518, or 081 476 7440.

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Aug 10-11, 2013, 9pm-1am, Electric Beach Bingo - It's bingo but not as you know it! At XANA beach club.

Following the success of the launch, the next Electric Beach Bingo has been confirmed! The event will include the best party tunes in between hosted rounds of bingo and prizes – ranging from the ludicrous, to free drinks and a bottle to share with your friends. Admission is free and you will be given your 'ELECTRIC BEACH BINGO Club Pack', which will include bingo cards, a pen and a jelly shot to get the party started. Dress Code: Glam it up with headwear and neon. Contact: Annabel Fox or phone+66-76-324101

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

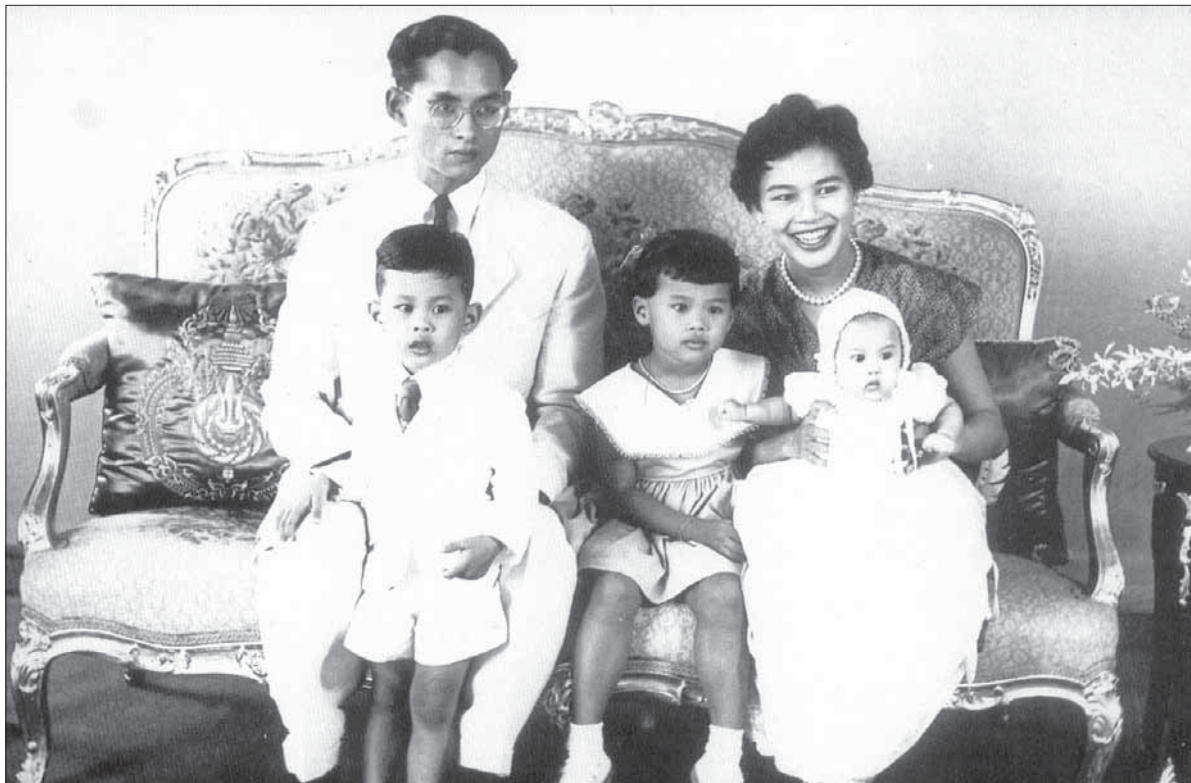
Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's birthday is a public holiday in the Kingdom and is also celebrated as national Mother's Day. This year celebrates HM's 81st birthday.

Aug 16, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet, at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort.

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more contact: Jaspal Singh call: Jaspal Singh +66-76-286464.

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

On Friday the August 16, we are serving a large Crayfish &



August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

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!

Aug 23, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet, at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort.

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 449 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more information contact Jaspal Singh +66-76-286464

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 purify mind and body and constitute merit-making. Sacred

rituals are performed at all Chinese temples in Phuket. The processions from each temple show strict vegetarians, known as devotees, ostensibly possessed by gods, piercing their tongues, cheeks and other parts of the anatomy with sharp implements. The devotees apparently feel no pain and show no sign of real injury.

Oct 17, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Women's Club at Cape Panwa Hotel.

Another new and fascinating location for our October lunch: the 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.com or contact Khun Uwe Schittek on +66-76-282036 or email uwe.schittek@yahoo.com. This event is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show.

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Forum and informal Sunday morning computer clinics

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

A solution may exist!

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

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

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

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

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

Catch the show at these times

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



AEC is coming, are you ready?

By Anthika Muangrod

IN 2015, the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) – Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Brunei, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam – will formally integrate their economies as part of the Asean Economic Community (AEC) initiative.

The AEC will be similar to the European Economic community (EEC) where participating countries will aim for developing and maintaining a single, unified production base and market.

According to the AEC blueprint, the region will enjoy a free flow of goods, services, investment, capital, and skilled labor, as to become a competitive economic region, have equitable economic development and integrate into the global economy.

Under this integrated framework, Asean citizens working in seven fields will be eligible to pursue employment and investment opportunities throughout the Asean region.

These fields are: engineering services, nursing services, architectural services, surveying services, accountancy services, dental practitioners, and medical practitioners.

With less than a year and a half to go, many unskilled and/or under-qualified Thais are concerned about their future prospects – after all, it's no secret that Thais have a general disadvantage when compared to their counterparts in neighboring countries in terms of English language ability.

But the question remains – Is it hopeless

or hopeful for the Thai population?

“Joining the AEC in 2015 will bring both positive and negative effects, but Thai people should not be afraid,” insists Prakong Rakwong, chief of the Phuket Provincial Commerce Office.

“Some career paths will be more advantageous while others will be less. Anyway, we need to grow up and face reality. Our economy has to grow up, we can't just trade with our own domestic markets,” he said.

“All we need to do is to prepare our people by providing some necessary knowledge about trading within the AEC,” he added.

The AEC will soon make it easier for investment as well as facilitating the free flow of products, services and labor among Asean countries.

For example, there will be no tax on imported products, with some exceptions for products placed on sensitive lists which can be taxed between zero and five per cent.

These sensitive products vary from country to country, for example, in Thailand there will be four kinds of sensitive products – cut flowers, potatoes, coffee and copra.

Thailand is a major hub for tourism in the Asean region and Phuket itself is a very popular destination with many attractions. As such, it is expected that in 2015 there will be many more people coming to Thailand and Phuket as tourists, largely people from neighboring Asean countries.

It is also expected that Thailand, and Phuket in particular will see a major influx of foreign labor seeking work in the hospitality and construction industries.

Phuket Chamber of Commerce secretary, Surachai Chaiwat comments that most tourists from Asean member countries will probably go to Bangkok because it's Thailand's capital city and because Phuket is an expensive city.

“Probably, more people who speak good English will come to Phuket to work,” he says.

“Phuket's economy is already over and beyond AEC. In fact, it is an international city. Phuket itself contributes 30 per cent [about 200-300 billion baht] of Thailand's gross income from tourism, about 700-800bn baht last year”.

“In the future when the airport extension is finished, there will be 12-20 million people coming in to Phuket, up from 7-8 million tourists currently. These numbers show that we do not have enough workers to serve the tourists, so Phuket, indeed, will need more workers.

“At the same time, it's crucial to develop our people skills to be ready for AEC,” he added.

After Asean becomes effective, trade in the tourism, transportation and the car industry is expected to increase by approximately 25 per cent. The agriculture, construction and textile industries may feel the effects, because Thailand's production



Asean nationals working in these fields will be able to pursue employment in any member country under the AEC.

base may be moved to other countries which have lower wages.

In fact, for many large Thai businesses that aren't dependent on highly-skilled labor, such as those in the textile industry, it is only inevitable that their production lines will look to source the cheapest, unskilled labor available.

President of the Real Estate Sales and Marketing Association of Thailand, Dr Pairote Sukjan said: The [main] problem that will arise in the AEC will be labor. Thailand's minimum wage rate is quite high at 300 baht per day. And so, we attract outsiders to come to work in Thailand.

“But as Thailand has never been colonized – unlike Malaysia, Singapore, or Myanmar – many Thai people don't speak very good English and that can be a big problem for them,” he concluded.



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AEC training for tourism

THE Department of Tourism and the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA) will hold major training courses for entrepreneurs in the tourism and hospitality industry in order to prepare them for the opening of the ASEAN Economic Community.

Pasit Poomchusri, Deputy Director General of the Department of Tourism said the tourism and service industry which includes lodgings, restaurants, transportation, souvenir shops and medical tourism has an important role in the national economy and may be affected by the formation of the AEC in 2015.

Speaking at a press conference about the training project, Mr Pasit said most of the foreign visitors to Thailand are from Asia and Europe. It is therefore necessary for Thailand to maintain high standard of service in order to attract more visitors. Realizing this need and in a hope to push the potentials of Thai entrepreneurs, the Department of Tourism and NIDA with support from the Thai Hotels Association, the Thai Gems and Jewelry Traders Association and many other associations in the field, will hold a training course to raise the



Thailand is the main hub of tourism in Asean. Photo: Mark Fischer

standard of service and personnel in the industry.

More than 2,500 entrepreneurs in the tourism and hospitality sector are expected to attend the course which will be available free of charge over the duration of the next few months.

The training course will be organized in top tourist destinations such as Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, and many other provinces with high potential of expansion throughout the country.

Those interested are encour-



ASEAN FLAG: a symbol of Member States' unity. Photo: John Cuneta

aged to visit tourism.go.th or nits.nida.ac.th for detailed information.

– National News Bureau of Thailand

Dennis Rodman saves the world

DENNIS Rodman, the bad boy of basketball, recently visited North Korea and became great pals with its youthful leader, Kim Jong-un, an ardent basketball fan. Rodman declared Kim to be an "awesome kid" and his "friend for life." The two were photographed laughing and clapping at a basketball game and giving each other a series of warm hugs. Below is a transcript of a private chat between the two, certified by authoritative sources as genuinely spurious:



Rodman: Dude! They tell me you're gonna nuke my country.

Kim: My generals say I gotta.

Rodman: Who's runnin' this team, you or your generals?

Kim: I am. But Dennis, can I call you Denny?

Rodman: You can call me D-Rod.

Kim: I got a problem, D-Rod. My people call my grandfather Great Leader. They call my father Dear Leader. What should I have them call me?

Rodman: Dude, you Da Man. They can call you Da Man.

Kim: No, it gotta be some kind of leader.

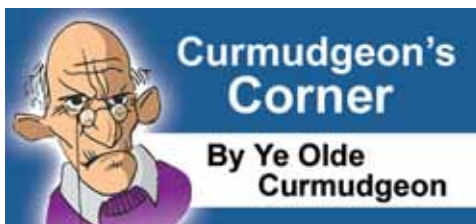
Rodman (thinking): The Cool Leader. Have them call you the Cool Leader.

Kim: Oooo, I like that. The Cool Leader! Yes! (Claps hands in delight.)

Rodman: Dude, you ought to invite Barack Obama over here and shoot a few hoops with him. He plays basketball, you know. But lemme tell you, if you nuke the US, you'll wipe out the Chicago Bulls.

Kim: We nuke around Chicago.

Rodman: Do You like movies, li'l dude? You gonna nuke Hollywood?



No more Bruce Willis? No more Arnold? No more Angelina Jolie?

Kim: We nuke around Chicago and Hollywood. But for sure we gonna

rain down hot death on rest of USA and drown all the rabid, imperialistic, cannibal, warmonger dogs in sea of fire. My generals say so.

Rodman (sighing): Heavy shit, man.

Kim (hugging him): But we no nuke you, D-Rod, my friend. How you like to move to Pyongyang? We make you honorary citizen, give you lifetime supply of kimchi.

You can escape the conflagra...the conflagra...the conflagra...the sea of fire.

Rodman: I'll have to think about it. Listen, dude, you are my friend, and I love you. But I have to tell you, the US has an arsenal of hundreds of nuclear weapons all

ready to go. You're still in the testing stage. You send up one rocket aimed at the US, and I guarantee you that within five minutes we will have in the air a fleet of missiles that will turn all of North Korea into instant oatmeal. There will be nothing but one giant hole between the DMZ and the Manchurian border, and it will quickly fill with nuclear waste. Now,



you're a sweet guy, but I hope you understand that, little buddy.

Kim: Uhhhh...I tell my generals. Why should we bother bombing miserable bankrupt country like USA? Better to make more kimchi.

Rodman: That's the spirit, li'l dude. And when I get back I'm gonna ask them to make me Secretary of State.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be flamed c/o s.tsow@gmail.com, except when he's trying to imagine Dennis Rodman as Secretary of State.



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Domexpo is the largest exhibition for the national and international real estate in the whole Russia. The visitor profile consists of: private buyers, real estate investors, business consortiums, traders from the real estate, finance, banking and other key industry sectors. Domexpo is the only real estate exhibition placed in the heart of Moscow – only 3 min walk from the Red Square, in the one of the most prestigious buildings - Gostiny Dvor.

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Phuket Gazette

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HIBISCUS: The *Rosa Sinensis* can create a hedge up to four meters tall. Photo: Forest & Kim Starr



IXORA: These hardy shrubs make neat and colorful border hedges. Photo: Veronica Tyson-Strait

Hedging your bets

FEW of us don't relish the sense of ownership, of having our own pad or plot. And since we want to feel secure, we build



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

walls around us to ensure that we can enjoy some privacy, as well as for a feeling of protection. As the saying goes: "An Englishman's home is his castle." But there are dissenters to this view. Robert Frost, the America poet, was wryly amused by his neighbor's insistence that "good fences make good neighbors." He quietly begged to differ.

I was reminded of the issue when visiting a magnificent two rai garden in Cherng Talay: "I see you have no stone walls", I remarked. "No", came the owner's reply. "The developers insisted on green screens, 'walls' composed entirely of plants." Very laudable and an initiative that should be copied elsewhere.

Alright, there are disadvantages. The dividing trees and shrubs needed to be planted on a steep earthen incline which separated each terraced plot. So there was an inherent problem with rain run-off and

leaching of the soil. However, plants with substantial roots were helping: trees such as yellow cane and lady

palms at the back, evergreen shrubs in the middle and smaller ground-hugging plants at the front next to the expanse of lawn. A stepped effect that Gertrude Jekyll, the originator of the graduated herbaceous border, would have approved.

Such a mixed border planting is the exception rather than the rule. In general, Phuket residents prefer to put uniform green screens against existing walls, or to create internal patterns – after the manner of the formal European garden. There is plenty of choice.

The most favored shrub seems to be the *ixora*, usually the dwarf, orange flowering variety called *coccinea*, though it also exists in yellow, pink or white hues. *Ixoras* are employed in many contexts: as screens to decorate motorway verges, as hedges in front of garden walls or as borders. The leaves are small and glossy, evergreen (important with a hedge) and

amenable to regular clipping, though this practice will reduce their prodigious blooming capacity. *Ixoras* are hardy souls, need little water and can withstand full sun.

I favor *duranta repens* (golden dewdrop), a vigorous grower which is also tolerant of a range of conditions. It will make a taller hedge than *ixora* – up to two meters and will form a dense bush when clipped. Look for the variety with bright yellow leaves. There is also a variegated form, and another with clusters of lavender flowers.

Both the Arabian jasmine (*J.sambac*) and *wrightia religiosa* are popular evergreen choices as screening shrubs. They have the added advantage of fragrant white flowers. Thais, who often use *wrightias* in containers as a movable screen, will tell you otherwise, but I prefer the bushier growth of *sambac*. Both are quite tall and can be pruned at the top to restrict height, both are evergreen and both can be propagated from cuttings. They will take longer to establish than *duranta*.

For a really tall barrier, many people go for

the hibiscus. In the right conditions, it will form an attractive hedge up to four meters high, replete with – usually – scarlet blooms. *Rosa sinensis* is undeniably spectacular, but it is less amenable to Phuket's humidity than our earlier choices, is disease-prone, and will need to be top-pruned to encourage bushy growth. Smaller and lusher-leaved variegated varieties, with leaves marbled with pink, red and green, have their adherents: properly trimmed, they will make neat, colorful hedges. Witness the formal planting in front of Chalong's Home Pro. *Durantas* and *ixoras* complete the picture.

Witness too the neat hedge next to the Pearl outlet on Chao Fa East next time you pass by. A dense, neat hedge which shields a giant *sator* tree, it is composed, surprisingly, of tamarind saplings. This shows you can make a hedge out of most things botanical... And we haven't even mentioned bamboo, or oriental box.

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



GOLDEN DEWDROP: *Duranta Repens* makes a dense hedge up to two meters tall. Photo: KENPEI

Tip of the week

Coping with salt-laden winds

SOME plants do not relish a position where saline winds are a regular feature of life. In general, broad-leaved trees such as bananas, traveller palms and some with delicate fronds suffer the most. The leaves may split and allow the wind to pass through, but they will eventually shred and look ragged.

If these sail-shaped leaves are the most vulnerable, herbaceous plants such as *heliconias* or *ensete* which have broad leaves at the end of slim stems, will be affected.

As a general rule, use shrubs with small, leathery or glossy leaves such as *tabernaemontana*, or trees with open crowns. Other plants that will even thrive in sea breezes include the Indian milkweed (often used as a wind break), and the sea lettuce. The sea almond is a good choice (attractive late red foliage) as is the smaller geiger tree with its orange flowers.



Photo: Tatters

Adenium will tolerate hot and dry conditions.

Donate blood for HM

THE Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC) is celebrating Her Majesty Queen Sirikit's 81st birthday with a special blood donations event.

"This event will be held to show our respect to HM Queen Sirikit on her birthday and it will help us stock up more blood," PRBC acting director Pornthip Rattajak said.

"We will give young plants to the first 200 people who decide to donate blood on that day. Furthermore donors have until the end of the month to sign a get-well message for HM Queen Sirikit," Ms Pornthip added.

Having a short supply of blood is an ongoing concern of the center.

"Insufficient stock of blood is still a big problem even though during the school semester we got blood from students who helped us maintain a daily minimum stock of 200 units of A, B and O blood types," said Ms Pornthip.

However, the blood type the center is desperately in need of is Rh negative, which is common among non-Asian foreigners.

"Because Phuket is a tourism destination, we need to keep a supply of A rhesus negative blood which we use almost everyday. We maintain a daily mini-



A brief bio of Her Majesty Queen Sirikit is on page 43.

mum of 20 units but currently the stock is low. We need Arhesus negative blood in order to continue

treatment of a 66-year-old British national, Marc Harrington, who was injured in a motorcycle accident," she added.

To qualify as a donor you need to be between 17 and 70 years old (If you're over 60 you need a certificate from a doctor). People who have multiple sexual partners, HIV, hepatitis B or jaundice, a history of drug abuse, considerable weight loss or are members of sexual minorities do not qualify as donors.

"You should avoid medications containing aspirin for three days before the donation. Donors must also wait

for six months after having a tattoo or body piercing before donating blood or bone marrow," added Ms Pornthip.

So if you're up for it and want to do something decent, get enough sleep and avoid fatty foods the day before you show up to one of the places to donate blood. The blood center will accept donations at their headquarters on Rattanakosin 200 Year Road, next to Phuket Provincial Employment Office in Saphan Hin, on August 12 from 8:30am-4:30pm. Also see panel below, left.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information contact the PRBC Tel: 076-251178. Email: phuketrbcc@yahoo.com

Phuket mobile blood bank locations, dates

August 12: Phuket Regional Blood centre, 8.30am-4:30pm

August 13: 1st Meeting room (3rd floor) Patong Hospital, 1pm-4pm
Mercure Phuket Deevana, 1pm-4pm

August 14: Homepro Village (Chalong branch), noon-4pm

August 20: Anupas and Family Company (Honda Showroom, Chao fa branch) 10am-3pm

August 21: Radisson Blu Plaza Panwa Beach Resort, 1pm-4pm

August 27: Vice President room, (Cherng Talay Subdistrict Administrative Organization), 10am-3pm.



Blood donation giving new life for patients. Photo: Dave Herholz



Around the world, hospital patients rely on the generosity of blood donors. Photo: US Navy



Generous donors and hard working staff at the Phuket Red Cross Blood Bank. Photo: Gazette file



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LEAN, GREEN AND MEAN: The classic Thai tuk tuk has been turned electric by a Dutch company. Photo: Supplied

Tuk tuks go green, global

DUTCH company Tuk Tuk Factory, which builds electric three-wheeled tuk tuks modelled on the classic Thai form of transportation, has announced a new webtool for customers to design their own customised tuk tuk.

When they began supplying electric e-Tuks all over the globe, from Greenland to the Caribbean, it became clear to the manufacturers that practically all three wheelers produced had been designed specifically according to customer requirements.

In order to provide customers a simple way to fully customize their e-Tuk, the company introduced a web configurator: "My e-Tuk". In a couple of easy steps a wild combination of colors and options such as seat heating, rain

covers and speed charging can be selected.

The fine-tuned process of Tuk Tuk Factory's production facilities, where passenger, cargo and vending e-Tuks are produced, allows customers configurable wide range of options and color schemes for every visible part in the e-Tuk can be selected.

"We literally put our customers in the driver seat where the design of their e-Tuk is concerned" says Roland Vos, director of Tuk Tuk Factory.

"It's these customers that play a leading role in the development of our fun flavored vehicles. Experience has taught us that people have an even greater affection for our e-Tuks if they can tailor-make them to match their specific wishes. So

instead of implementing product-standardization, we decided to embrace the diversity and to design a new website for it."

In 2009 Tuk Tuk Factory sought contact with the roots of the tuk tuk: a business trip to Asia and Thailand. A successful partnership in Thailand was started. Within eight months, a prototype was produced based on the Dutch engineering experience and authentic Thai charm. Soon after, this prototype was licensed within Europe.

The environmentally friendly, retro-styled E-Tuks can be found driving in cities, along seashores, airport passenger terminals, on mountains or in natural reserves worldwide.

- Phuket Gazette

NSA's hacker hookup hurt by spy scandal

THE US government's efforts to recruit talented hackers could suffer from the recent revelations about its vast domestic surveillance programs, as many private researchers express disillusionment with the National Security Agency.

Though hackers tend to be anti-establishment by nature, the NSA and other intelligence agencies had made major inroads in recent years in hiring some of the best and brightest, and paying for information on software flaws that help them gain access to target computers and phones.

Much of that goodwill has been erased after the NSA's classified programs to monitor phone records and internet activity were exposed by the former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, according to prominent hackers and cyber experts.

A turn in the community's sentiment was on show at two major security conventions in Las Vegas this week: Black Hat, which attracts more established cyber professionals, and Def Con, which gets a larger gathering of younger, more independent hackers.

"We've gone backwards about 10 years in the relations between the good guys and the US government," said Alex Stamos, a veteran security researcher who was to give a Def Con talk on Saturday on the need to revisit industry ethics. Stamos has willingly briefed FBI and NSA officials on his work in the past, but said that he would now want their questions in writing and he would bring a lawyer to any meeting.

With top intelligence officials warning in March that cyber attacks and cyber espionage have supplanted terrorism as the top security threat facing the United States, the administration is trying to boost security in critical infrastructure and the military is vastly increasing its ranks of computer specialists.

The NSA, working with the

Department of Homeland Security, has been lending more of its expertise to protect defence contractors, banks, utilities and other industries that are being spied upon or attacked by rival nations. These efforts rely on recruiting talented hackers and working with professionals in the private sector.

Some security experts remain supportive of the government. NSA Director Keith Alexander's talk at the Black Hat conference was well received on Wednesday, despite a few hecklers. But at the larger and less expensive Def Con, where attendance is expected to top last year's

15,000, conference founder and government advisor Jeff Moss asked federal agents to stay away.

Moss last year brought Alexander as a keynote speaker to woo the hacking community. But he said the relationship between hackers and the government has worsened since then.

"I haven't seen this level or sort of animosity since the 90s," Moss said in an interview. "If you aren't going to say anything in these circumstances, then you never are."

The NSA's surveillance programs target foreigners outside the United States who pose potential threats to US security or who can provide intelligence for foreign policies. But the secret projects also scooped up huge amounts of American data, according to documents leaked by Snowden, triggering sharp criticism from many lawmakers and civil liberties advocates.

"What bothers me is the hypocritical bit - we demonize China when we've been doing these things and probably worse," said HD Moore, an executive at security firm Rapid7.

At Black Hat, a casual polling station at a vendor's exhibition booth asking whether Snowden was a villain or a hero produced a dead heat: 138 to 138.

- Reuters

Free software course for local businesses

THAI public agency, Software Industry Promotion Agency (SIPA) has joined with the Phuket Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Thai Industries to host a software training course. The free course is aimed at instructing private sector businesses in Phuket "How

to use LibreOffice in your organization". This course will be held twice this month between August 16-18 and 23-25. The course will be held at the Practice and Learning Center ICT Phuket. For more information Ms Nittaya, from SIPA Phuket on: 076-379-111 ext 203.

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Yoga: breathing in new life

YOUNG Spanish filmmaker and inveterate traveller Josu Ozkaritz's latest documentary project *Breathing Ashtanga Yoga* was largely filmed in Phuket and features teachers and students of the popular Ashtanga Yoga style talking about the profound effect the ancient discipline has had on their lives.

Josu has worked on a number of self-funded film projects and stumbled across the idea to do a film on Ashtanga yoga when he met his Chilean girlfriend Carol Milstein, who is an experienced Ashtanga and Yin yoga practitioner and teacher.

After arriving in Phuket they noticed yoga's popularity on the island and this was the inspiration for the film. It examines the fascinating tradition of Ashtanga and its origin but also on the stories of the people who practice it here in Phuket. For this reason, yoga practitioners and professionals will find this film interesting.

But the film goes beyond that.

"The documentary itself is not only about yoga, it's about how the whole rhythm of the world, the fast pace that we all live at, causes a lot of stress for people. This is why I



Josu Ozkaritz. Photo: Mark Knowles

think it will appeal to audiences in general as this hectic lifestyle affects us all nowadays," said Josu.

"Many people have found yoga [and have used it to] get away

from this fast pace of life, as a way to relax and connect to themselves," he adds.

The documentary includes interviews with teachers and students of Ashtanga yoga who tell how the both the physical and mental practices of yoga have helped them improve their well-being.

"Some people were working regular jobs, and once they found yoga, it just captured them and changed their whole lifestyle," says Josu.

"One teacher from the US used to work in the finance industry in New York, so you can imagine the kind of lifestyle he was living. He found himself doing a lot of sport to try to disconnect from this lifestyle and then he found yoga and got more and more into it and now he teaches yoga for a living, so it changed his life," said Josu.

The importance of questioning commonly held materialistic

values is one of the most important messages Josu says he wanted to get across in the film.

"It's not only focused on yoga, but whole health. Sure, it is important to keep yourself fit, but



A yoga pose. Photo: Random Hiccup

the other message is not to get too caught up in this materialistic world, and what we see in television commercials. They are leading people away from personal

relationships and now it's all about iPads and cell phones and computers.

"Yoga helps people connect with themselves and others again. They get to know themselves better and realize what really matters in life," he adds.

Having filmed and edited the self-funded, low-budget film, Josh is now hoping to find a venue to host its premiere here in Phuket.

"I would like to hold a free premiere here in Phuket where most of the film was shot. So if I can find any place that can host a screening, so other yoga fans and anyone who wants to see it can come, that would be fantastic," he said.

— Mark Knowles

If you think you might be able to help Josu find a venue to premiere the film get in touch with him through his email: joskaritz@gmail.com or visit his website at: joshpv.wix.com/photovideo

An American original entrepreneur

Books

By James Eckardt

A BOOK that is self-published is called a vanity project. Don Battles shows a big chunk of vanity. Subtitled *An Entrepreneur's Journey in Life*, his autobiography *Merchant of the Orient* (Xlibris Corp. 2013, 292pp) is printed on glossy A4 sized paper and costs over 60 american dollars.

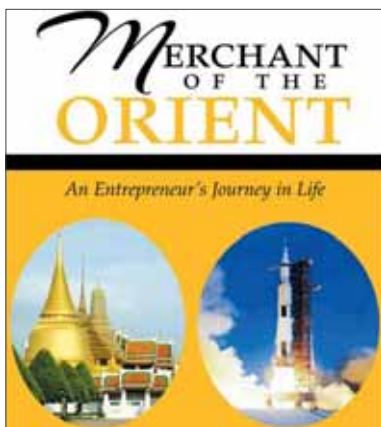
The text is clear and free of typos, yet weakened by the chronic repetition of words and phrases; "needless to say", "fortunately", "difficult", "a mess", "a big mess". The author does not strain for any descriptive brilliance: "Hollywood was beautiful and wonderful." "Amsterdam was full of life and very enjoyable." "Paris in the springtime was simply beautiful."

But for all his stylistic flaws, is the story of Don Battles worth reading? Hell yes!

This is the classic American dream story of rising from abject poverty to wealth through hard work, pluck, luck and true grit. Battles was born in 1934, the son of a steel mill worker in Gadsden, Alabama. The family lived in a company house and bought groceries at a company store and never really

felt secure against hunger until they rented their own place and began a farm. Still, there was no electricity or running water and a horse and buggy was their only form of transport.

Like many other southerners, Battles escaped a life of poverty by joining the military. In the Air Force, he proves to be a crafty operator,



dealing in clandestine liquor sales and hopping free flights around the US. In Alaska, he and a friend construct a well-stocked under-the-snow bolt hole to escape winter maneuvers. He gets his engineering degree from Auburn University. He has a lot of women, and notes this humorous aside: "I met a half-ugly woman in class that I temporarily took up with. My mom

said she was full ugly and didn't like her, so I ended my relationship with her."

Degree in hand, he joins the nascent American space program, crisscrossing the country from California to Florida and then going to Huntsville, Alabama, working heroic hours to serve the original seven Mercury astronauts until the successful Apollo moon landings. He married a second generation Lebanese nurse, sired three sons and eventually settled in Atlanta, Georgia, where he stumbled into the steel-making business, eventually selling his two patented steel-making inventions around the world.

He had trouble communicating in a steel mill in Wales: "They couldn't understand my Southern American English and I couldn't understand their Welsh." So he bought the steel mill staff beers at the Brains Beer Pub and taught them his version of English every night for a month. At a gala farewell lunch, the plant manager gave a speech in pristine Alabama. It was a rousing success.

He hated Russia and used his unspent Russian rubles to paste the wall of his hotel room with the words "Russia sucks". India sucked too, as did South Korea, but he loved Thailand. He set himself up in

Bangkok and hired his first employees out of bars in Pattaya and Patpong. This cheeky HR pattern would hold for nearly four decades. But he was anything but frivolous in dealing with the best and brightest leaders of the Thai steel industry. He even made a year-long effort to learn Thai at AUA. But the Crash of 1997 put paid to his steel business days and he retreated with his staff to Phuket.

Here he entered the final stage of his life: the food and restaurant business. He stumbled into it by accident, buying an abandoned mini-mart which morphed into a successful barbecue restaurant.

This prompted the move to the landmark Don's Mall near Naihan Beach: supermarket, wine store, delicatessen, butcher shop, bakery, bar and 300-seat food court. He expanded his business to Bangkok, Koh Samui and Chiang Rai and even entered into an abortive jalapeno pepper scheme in China.

Human and natural disasters — coups, street riots and the tsunami — eventually ended this business too and he settled into rustic retirement with his new Thai wife Nat in Chiang Rai.

He is pushing 80 now, having lived a long, and for this reader, very interesting life.



Naihan Beach, near where Don Battles once ran flourishing food and restaurant businesses. Photo: ADwarf

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Ann Rak Mae Mark Kar!
ORANEE
PIENPRASERTKUL



Mom, I love you. It's been years since I have had a chance to see you on Mother's Day. But the distance between us does not make me love you less. I can feel your love around me everyday for almost 30 years of my life. It makes me strong. I know you support me, always. You will always be my best friend and be the first person I think about in either happiness or sadness. You are my heroine. I know I have done things that make you sad. I hope you can forgive me. If I can be a good mom to my future babies like you are to me, I'd know they would be happy and love their mom as much as I love you. Please take good care of yourself. Stay healthy for me and our family. I wish you all the best. I miss you. I can't wait to see you again. Love,

UM CHUTHARAT
PLERIN

To keep things short, simple and sweet – or minimalist, just the way you like it :) Thank you, I love you and I hope to see you again soon.

MACIEK



My mom is my number one motivation. Everything my mom has given me, has made me who I am.

LARISA



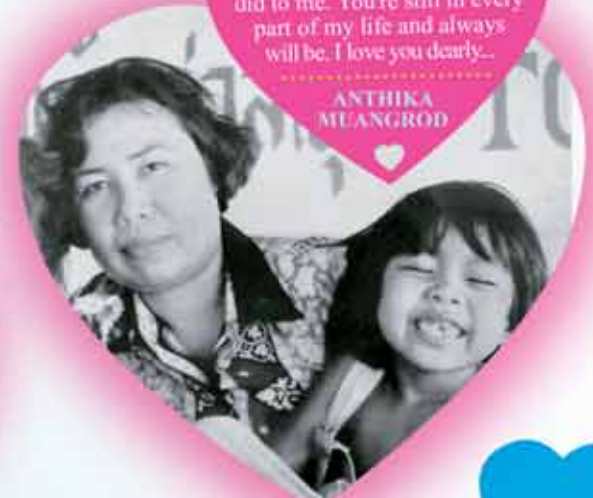
To my favorite Phuket Mom and Grandmom: Happy Mother's Day! Thank you for your kindness and your friendship.

JOOP JOOP,
LESLIE



You are my world, my heroine, the luckiest thing I've ever had. Thank you for everything you did to me. You're still in every part of my life and always will be. I love you dearly...

ANTHIKA
MEANGROD



You are my creator who gave birth to me. You are my friend who's beside me when I feel lonely. You are my adviser who taught me all I need to know. You are my inspiration who pushes me towards success in my life. You gave me my life, you give me knowledge, you give me money, you give me advice. You give me everything. And you don't expect anything in return. I Love you mom :)

SARAN MITRARAT



Thank you for 48 years of love, care, concern and sacrifice. Dear Mum – Happy Mother's Day! Here's a photo of the last time you were proud of me. (Jus' kidding.) Miss you. And will call you soon. Love,

NICHOLAS



Happy Birthday Your Majesty



ON MONDAY, August 12, Thais throughout the country and world celebrate one of their most cherished holidays – the birthday of their beloved Queen and Mother of the Nation – Her Majesty Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara, who turns 81 this year.



The day is also celebrated as National Mother's Day in the Kingdom. Born on August 12, 1932 in Bangkok, at the home of Lord Vongsanuprabhand – her maternal grandfather and the third child of His Highness, Prince Chandaburi grandfather – then-Princess-now-Queen Sirikit is the eldest daughter and the third child of His Highness, Prince Chandaburi Suranath (Mom Chao Nakkhatra Mangkala Kitiyakara) and Mom Luang Bua Kitiyakara. Her name, which was given by Rama VII, King Prajadhipok, means "the Greatness of Kitiyakara". HM spent her early years in the Thai capital, but joined her family in Europe in the 1940s. As her father was an ambassador, she traveled and lived in various countries including the United Kingdom, Denmark, France and Switzerland. It was at the Thai embassy in Paris that she became acquainted with the newly-crowned Thai monarch, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who was visiting the "city of love" during a break from his studies in Switzerland. Sirikit is said to have served as HM the King's personal tour guide in Paris. In 1948, HM the King was involved in an automobile accident in Switzerland, and as the story goes, the young princess visited and tended to him while he was recovering in hospital; a blossoming friendship soon bloomed into a budding storybook romance. The couple were married by April, 1950, a week before HM's official coronation ceremony. The Queen went on to bear the King a son – the Crown Prince – and three Princess daughters, all of whom followed in their parents' model footsteps, continuing to serve as active and revered figure heads in Thailand to this day. Coincidentally, Thailand started celebrating a Mother's Day in 1950, initially on April 15. This day was changed to August 12, starting from 1976, as directed in the "The Royal Mother of All Thai Citizens", published on July 6, 1977 by the Ministry of Education.

From that point on, Thais on August 12 not only honor and show appreciation for the life, deeds and accomplishments of their beloved Queen and Mother, they also take the opportunity to show love and gratitude to their own mothers. Indeed, Mother's Day is one of two days in the year in which Thais honor their maternal legacy – the other one is traditionally on one's birthday, which would not have been possible without the intensive effort of giving birth.



Mom, you are my world, you put everything in my life in the right place. You have been my best friend, philosopher, guide, adviser, tutor and financial supporter :) You are a genius and the reason I feel and live like a princess. I am proud to be your daughter. Every time someone praises me, my heart fills with pride because the compliment is for you, who made me who I am. I wish I could be half of the mother you are to my own children someday. The word 'thank you' can never really show what a great mom you are and what you mean to me. But you know I love you and will always be grateful for having you.

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Adventure in Koh Yao Noi

By Riccardo Mereu

KOH Yao Noi is a little island located in between Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi and is part of the Phang Nga province.

The island has not seen yet a massive invasion of tourists and it has gained a reputation as a quiet place to escape from the buzz of Phuket, in particular for local expats and for all those tourists looking for something a little bit different.

Back in 2002, the *National Geographic Traveler* Magazine gave the island a World Legacy Award for Destination Stewardship for the eco-friendly homestay programs offered by many of its local residents.

Since then, not many big developments have come to the island, however, taking into

consideration that a few new luxury hotels have popped up on the east coast and the fact that AirAsia has also launched a transfer service from the Phuket International Airport, it seems likely that things might change drastically very soon.



PARADISE: One of the idyllic island's most beautiful and tranquil beachscapes. Photos: Riccardo Mereu

Frankly speaking, when compared with other destinations in Southern Thailand, Koh Yao Noi doesn't have any particularly enchanting beaches or any

amazing viewpoint to show off. On the other hand, it still conserves an authentic atmosphere where time is not necessarily related to money and its people run their lives following a more natural rhythm instead of a 9-5 workday routine.

The best way to explore the island is to rent a motorbike and independently ride around the coastline. For those seeking something that puts them in even closer sensory contact with nature, renting a mountain bike is a great option.

The island is almost entirely covered by rubber plantations and rice paddies. Landscapes are painted bright green and decorated with hundreds of water buffaloes and a huge variety of birds.

At Kien Bay, located on the extreme north of the island and

reachable only by boat, lies the famous Big Tree, a giant at more than 30 meters tall and with a circumference so large more than 20 people holding hands would be needed to encircle it.

Koh Yao Noi also has something that might remain unknown for the majority of people visiting the island: it's quickly becoming an important hot spot for international rock climbers.

Climbing in Koh Yao Noi is something absolutely different from that in neighboring Railay or Koh Phi Phi. It is unquestionably wilder, but the rock quality is excellent and on average, the combination of length and grade of difficulty make each route an amazing and enjoyable climb.

The climbing area is located on the top north of the island and there are only two possible ways to reach it, either by long tail boat from Tha Khao Pier by motorbike through the rubber plantations up and down the hills in a very adventurous back-road route to near the Paradise Kho Yao Resort.

From the urban center of Koh Yao Noi to the extreme north of the island takes about 20 minutes by motorcycle. The first part of the road is quite smooth and allows you to see the locals going about their daily tasks.

The majority of the island's residents are Muslim, so it's common to hear the call of the local Muezzin and see entire families going to pray at the mosque.

The second section of the road is surrounded by a vibrant green environment which alternates between rubber plantations, rice fields, and deep wild forest before it arrives at the beach.

In Koh Yao Noi there are four main climbing walls reachable on foot; The Bee Wall, perfect for morning climbing; The HD Wall and The Big Tree Wall, which are



HANGING OUT: Logging some air time on Koh Yao Noi.

in shade in the afternoon and overlook the ocean; and The Mitt, the biggest wall in the area, which is in shade the entire day. Another amazing site is called the Grateful Wall, a terrific orange vertical wall only accessible by longtail boat.

The paths to reach the different spots are quite easy to find and do not present any real difficulty, so these locations are also great for all those wanting to have a nice walk in the forest to take in the wonderful views.

If you plan to rent a boat you can go to Tha Hao Pier. Once there make sure you pay a visit to the local women's community workshop. Right in front of the pier there is a little handicraft shop run by a group of local women, who create some amazing paintings using



BATH TIME: Water buffalo enjoying a soak in a paddy.

only natural wax and aquarelle colors.

The artists use pencil on a white canvas to create their designs, later re-marking the lines using a special paintbrush fed with wax. Once this is done pigments are applied covering the entire surface and filling in the spaces created by the wax covered lines. The result is just amazing and if you are looking for something really authentic,

then this is the place to go.

Longtail boats leave for Koh Yao Noi several times a day from Bang Rong Pier on the east coast of Phuket.

To get to the pier, turn east from the Heroines' Monument onto route 4027, then turn right at the sign for Bang Rong and follow that road for a few kilometers to the pier.



COLORFUL ART: A local woman doing a spot of batik painting.

Bang Rong and follow that road for a few kilometers to the pier.

For specific information about rock climbing in Koh Yao Noi feel free to check out Riccardo's blog at phuketclimbing.blogspot.com where you can send him a direct email.

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JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Find the 10 differences between these pictures.



Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See juksadventures.com for more information.

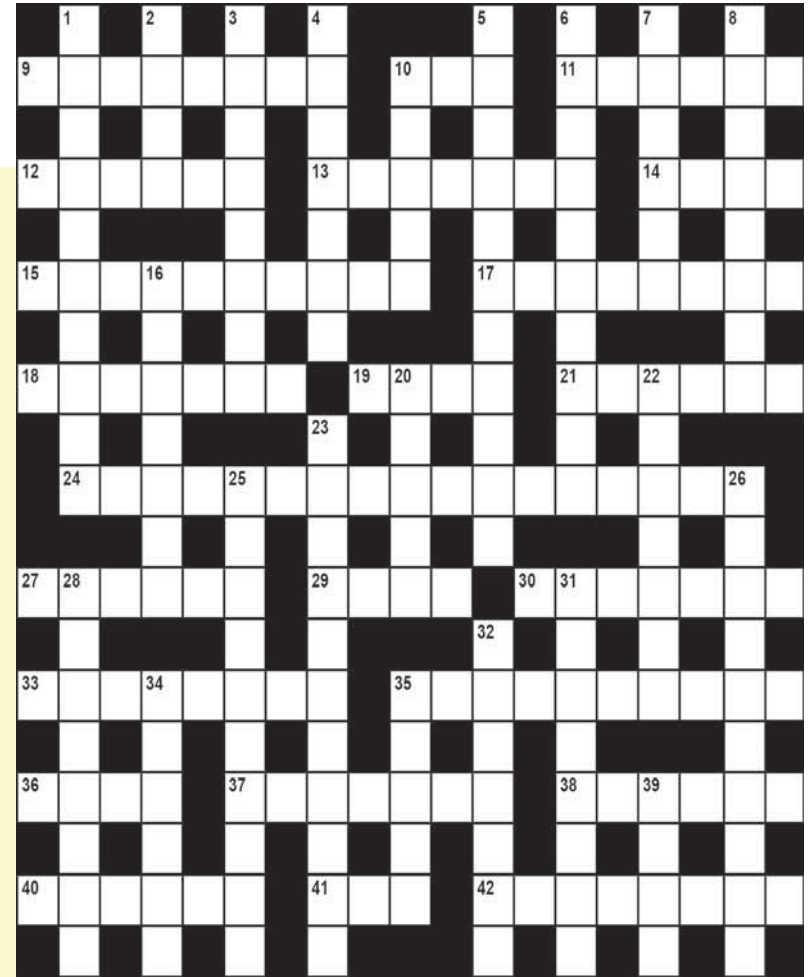
COFFEE break

Across:

9. Tell pour haphazardly, spoiler of the environment! (8)
10. Turn us against a popular vehicle (3)
11. Work I got stuck into as sedative (6)
12. Part of the shoe conforming (2,4)
13. Irrigated carefully tee-ward! (7)
14. He, a tenor, warm (4)
15. Freeloader cross re. gun perhaps (10)
17. Their new-age tradition! (8)
18. Paper is spelled out to inform (7)
19. Do go off or smell (4)
21. United, break up, loosened (6)
24. Shaken it off, feel it peculiar, an awkward state of affairs (1,4,6,2,4)
27. If sent out for the best (6)
29. New item for an era (4)
30. So pigs, son, become scandalmongers (7)
33. Put into office, nor back a constituent of substance (8)
35. Stopping over pent-in movement (10)
36. Article on the nameless (4)
37. Hint all broke up insects' nest (7)
38. Left a knock-out Romeo, new in Thai soap opera (6)
40. Sail as negotiating attack (6)
41. Choose a new pot (3)
42. Striking workers! O me! (8)

Down:

1. Note, pour coin, a new symbol of prosperity (10)
2. Pilot threw one out of conspiracy (4)
3. Tips off, send off incomes for voluntary work (8)
4. Sycophant in a tracked vehicle (7)



5. Exacted too much for hard core veg. perhaps (11)
6. Make-up pad makes dust, breathe heavily (6,4)
7. Against one young woman in a Phuket municipality (6)
8. Strange grants the French suppress (8)
10. Positions, is set out (5)
16. Maybe I roused the local team (3,4)
20. Throw mud at a fact (5)
22. Wit sent off a matching set of clothes (4,3)
23. Stationed in a mess at the end of the journey (11)
25. On the face of it could be next

- really (10)
26. Old race course dope I morph into new form (10)
28. Dine less, causing a lack of activity (8)
31. Finished, come down by road or rail (8)
32. Well off, why possibly late in? (7)
34. Similar to a dance by a famous Belgian cartoon character? (6)
35. Coloring possibly inapt (5)
39. At heart, Dick is soft for a gentle touch (4)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Although work remains demanding, satisfaction is guaranteed for Leos. In the realm of romance, the stars advise nipping an infatuation with an air sign in the bud. Pinning hopes on a relationship with this person will result in disappointment. Those whose birthday is due in the days ahead are forecast to find more creative ways of earning money in the coming year. Leos' lucky number this week is two.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



The middle of August can be an unsettled time for peace loving Virgoans. A fire sign's actions at work can make your blood boil midweek; on a personal level, a water sign friend is forecast to let you down this weekend. The cosmic climate settles down during the second half of the month, with more focus on relaxation. The number five is forecast to come alive this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Finances are auspicious until the middle of August and Librans should spot several ways to capitalize on this advantage. A second chance to submit a business plan or proposal can be offered, and an opportunity to do some extra work at the last

minute is highlighted. In the realm of romance, a crossroads is reached where a relationship with a fire sign is concerned. Number one can attract good fortune.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Large purchases are predicted to be troublesome and the stars advise Scorpions to keep their purse strings tightly closed until they have considered carefully. It would be wise to wait until the second half of August before parting with serious amounts of money. New romance is enhanced by discovering shared interests; those already committed see ways of adding sparkle to their relationship. Your lucky number this week is six.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



The stars remind hot-headed Sagittarians that everyone is entitled to their own opinion this week. Avoiding unnecessary arguments will make your life more pleasant and prevent possible damage to relationships. Financial affairs are set to blossom after the middle of the month – money-spinning schemes hatched now can yield more quickly than you imagine. Best days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. Number eight shows signs of being important.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



The stars suggest that you could waste energy by trying to persuade someone to do something they are definitely against. It would be best to concentrate on taking care of your own business. There are hints that a work related situation involving another earth sign cannot be ignored for much longer. Thursday is the most auspicious day for helpful.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Those born under the sign of Aquarius are reminded that some things are best left unsaid. The astral atmosphere around the middle of this month can encourage carelessness with words. Trouble brewing in the world of work is being stirred by others with nothing better to do – taking the high road is your best option. Finances go your way on Monday and Tuesday. Aquarians' special number this week is nine.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



It can be hard to channel restless energy this week and prevent it turning into stress. Invitations to exercise should be accepted, rather than taking a rain check. An air sign friend is ready to include you in their regular efforts to get fit and it is likely that you will enjoy this more than you thought possible. The stars show that number six can be fortunate for Pisceans.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Those Arians who have been in two minds whether to make a serious commitment are forecast to find a definite answer by the middle of August. The stars suggest that this decision will have repercussions on many areas of your life. Some turmoil should give way to peace of mind and a more settled life by the end of this month. The number two can bring good luck this week.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Taureans' tendency to be too judgmental is forecast to have a negative effect on relationships this week unless you keep your thoughts safely inside a bubble. In the world of work, the stars indicate that you will soon see there is valid

reason for another earth sign's hesitation. Where romance is concerned, more give and take will put your relationship on a smoother course. Your lucky number is four.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Money makes your world go round during the coming days. This should mostly be in a positive gear, but the stars advise being alert to the possibility of mistakes during transactions. In the world of romance, getting closer to another air sign has Cupid's support, but pushing beyond the boundaries of friendship with a fire sign gets the red light. The number five comes alive for Geminis this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Success depends on how flexible Cancerians are prepared to be. Moving out of your comfort zone is forecast to result in financial gain around the middle of the month. Property matters are well starred during the second half of August. Those who have been searching for a new home are forecast to find something that suits both their needs and their pocket. Your lucky number this week is seven.

International Sport

Bolt fired up for Moscow

By Catherine Koppel

MOSCOW (Reuters) - Usain Bolt is determined not to let the absence of some of his main rivals make him drop his guard as he tries to win back the 100 meters world title he lost two years ago.

Bolt, who retained his Olympic title last year, said after arriving in Moscow for the world championships that he was not worried he would repeat the nightmare of Daegu in 2011, when he was disqualified for a false start.

"I went to the Olympics, and now I'm back - back to regain my title. I'm even more focused that last time. So I'm going to get it done," the Jamaican told Reuters on Sunday, six days before the championships start.

American Tyson Gay and Jamaican former world record holder Asafa Powell will not compete in Moscow after failing doping tests. Jamaican Yohan Blake will not defend his title because of a hamstring injury.

Bolt, who has won six Olympic gold medals and is the 100 meters world record holder, denied their absence would affect his own motivation, pointing out that he had won titles before when big rivals were not competing.

"So for me I'm really motivated to go and show the world that even without nobody there, I can



GET FUNKY: Usain Bolt dances at a club in Moscow - host city of the World Championships in Athletics 2013. Photo: Reuters

still win. So I'm focused, and I'm ready to go," he said.

Bolt, whose main rival for the 100 gold is likely to be American Justin Gatlin, made it clear that winning was his priority, not setting a new world record in next Sunday's final.

"I never [try to] predict times, because you never know, it might be like this, you know, overcast, and slightly chilly, or it might just be warm. You never

know what can happen so that's my focus, and that's what I'm going out there to do, and [to] prove to the world that I'm still a champion," he said.

Bolt, 26, looked relaxed as he performed a set with DJs at a Jamaican-themed party in the Puma Yard in Gorky Park in central Moscow.

He said he would not jump the gun by discussing the doping tests failed by Powell and Gay, saying

the full details were not known: "So, I don't want to judge anybody until I hear the final."

Bolt won 100, 200 and relay golds in the 2008 and 2012 Olympics. He also won the 100 and 200 world titles in 2009 and retained the 200 title in Daegu two years later.

He said he was open to a proposal by Mo Farah, Britain's Olympic 5,000 and 10,000 meters champion, to race each

other over 600 meters.

"We don't know if it will happen, but we'll definitely be thinking about it, to see if it possibly could fit in our schedules. So we'll definitely look into it and see what can happen," Bolt said.

- Reuters

The 14th World Championships in Athletics will be held in Moscow Russia from August 10-18 2013.

Williams still not satisfied

SERENA Williams has already achieved her stated goal of winning a second French Open title this year but the top-ranked American is still not satisfied with her season despite having more fun than ever on tour.

Six other titles have been won this year alone by the 31-year-old, but compatriot Sloane Stephens upset her in the semi-finals of the Australian Open and Sabine Lisicki stunned her in the fourth round of Wimbledon.



Serena Williams of the U.S. reacts to hitting a shot into the net during her women's singles tennis match. Photo Reuters

"You know I'm not there yet with the way my year has gone, Williams told a small group of reporters on Monday at the Rogers Cup where she is the top seed.

"Everybody is like 'You've had a good year and I'm like, who?' Williams said she is not satisfied unless she wins every big tournament that she enters, particularly the slams which account for 15 of her 53 career titles - a significant percentage.

"That's me," she said. "I work really hard to do the best, especially in grand slams."

This season, however, her form at non-grand slam events has been dazzling, proof that she is as hungry as ever.

From 2005-2010, seven of Williams 12 titles came at the grand slams. Since the start of 2011 only three of her 16 crowns came at the majors.

"It's more or less evening out, but I am okay just winning grand slams," she said. "What makes tennis beautiful is the small tournaments that make you as a player and make you win the grand slams."

"I was talking to [my sister] Venus the other day and I said I am never going to stop," she said.

"I just love this sport so much and we were just practicing. It's just so fun. I'm having more fun than I have ever had."

Williams said she was thrilled to see former number one Martina Hingis return to doubles play.

Hingis launched her comeback last week at the Carlsbad Open with her partner Daniela Hantuchova, reaching the second round.

She and Hantuchova will also play in this week's Rogers Cup.

Serena and Hingis - who were once bitter rivals - got to know

each other better over the past year and half while Hingis was coaching at the academy owned by Williams' coach, France's Patrick Mouratoglou.

"It's great," Williams said. "She's so good and has great hands and sees the ball so well and she's fun."

"It's really kind of cool."

"I kind of am waiting for her singles comeback, but I'm not sure she will," added Williams, who will play either Italy's Francesca Schiavone or South Africa's Chanelle Scheepers.

- Reuters

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SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER

England saved by the rain gods

By Patrick Campbell

AFTER all the predictions that no play would be possible on the last day of the Old Trafford Test, the weather defied expectations long enough for Australia to put England under the cosh. At lunch they were struggling at 36-3, and on an increasingly unpredictable pitch, and with Harris bowling with real venom, the odds were slightly on the tourists pulling off an improbable victory. In the event, Manchester drizzle had the last say, the players went off three balls after lunch never to return, and England survived to retain the Ashes.

Controversy has stalked the series since day one, with several dubious umpiring decisions, and a back-up technology that has proved less than infallible. On the penultimate day of this Test and with Australia having to win to keep the series alive (already 2-0 down), the umpires stopped play for bad light, even though the artificial lighting was on. As captain of a team in the driving seat and already 331 runs ahead, Clarke remonstrated to no avail, and then watched impotently from the pavilion as half an hour later rain swept across the ground. Few agreed with the umpires' decision. It was a pivotal moment in the series.

The game had been fascinatingly different from the first two Tests in which England had dominated almost every session. Now Australia, taking advantage of batting first on a flat, dry pitch and some indifferent English bowling, amassed a huge total of 527-7. Michael Clarke, in a welcome return to form, scored an almost



DARK DAYS: Australia's Peter Siddle bowls to England's Joe Root under dark skies on the final day of the third Ashes test match. Photo: Reuters

chanceless 178 – his 24th Test century, new boy Rogers hit his maiden test fifty, and the lower order, not for the first time, rubbed salt into England's widening wound by putting on 97 for the seventh wicket.

England closed at 52-2 overnight and looked in danger of following on, but a dogged century from Pietersen, who restrained his natural impulse to attack, 60 from Bell and late contributions from Broad and Prior, ensured that the follow-on was avoided. 368 all out. Siddle was again the pick of the bowlers with 4-63.

Hoping for quick runs, Australia pro-

moted Warner to open the batting and, perhaps spurred by his role as "pantomime villain", he scored a quick-fire 41, helping Australia to reach 177 -7, leaving England to score 333 to win. For the statistically minded, England's highest 4th innings winning total here is 294-4 against New Zealand in 2008.

Attention now shifts to Durham where the 4th Test will be held. Bairstow, with only 161 runs in 5 innings may well be dropped, Trott is out of touch, and there is a case for adding a seam bowler – possibly Woakes, Tremlett or Onions who are all in

fine form for their counties.

The visitors may well stick with the side which has served them well at Old Trafford. They have a more balanced and varied pace attack than England, who are heavily reliant on James Anderson; an advantage which cancels out England's superiority in the batting and spin departments. The next two Tests and the return series "Down Under" are likely to be closely contested.

Certainly Australians think so. Some 330,000 advance tickets have been sold for the Antipodean matches. Who says Test cricket is dead?

Outrigger T20 League

Despite the persistent rain during the week, the weather cleared for round 5 of the Outrigger T20 league for another action-packed double header at the ACG on August 4. In the first match, the Phuket Youth Development took on Patong while the second match saw the Village take on Laguna.

In the morning match, the Youth team were looking to secure their first win of the season while Patong were looking for a win to advance up the league table. In a thriller, the Youth team prevailed, scoring 140 runs in their innings, while Patong lost by the narrowest of margins, being bowled out for 139 runs.

After winning the toss, the Youth team chose to bat but quickly lost opener Neill Culpán for a golden duck on the very first ball of the innings. Pao (3) and Bill Stahmer (20) put on a 31 run partnership before Pao was dismissed in the 6th over. However, a strong innings by Tristan Sheridan (52) supported by Andrew McMillan (18) and some loose bowling (38 wides) saw the Youth side go on to post a solid total of 140-8.

Patong got off to a solid start, posting 44 runs before opener Seemant Raju (24) was dismissed. A batting collapse then ensued, with another 4 wickets falling in the next two overs and were looking on the



SIX: Tristan Sheridan sends a ball on its way to one of seven boundaries. Photo: Supplied

ropes at 5-57. Imitiyaz Mushtaq (19), Anthony Van Blerk (28 not out) and Neil Quail (19) managed to steady the innings and almost secure victory but for a run out on the last ball of the innings.

In the afternoon match, an undefeated Village were looking to continue on their winning ways against a Laguna side who had suffered defeat the previous week. After winning the toss, the Village elected to bat and posted a total of 131-7 from their 20 overs. Laguna fell short of the target only able to score 127-8 in reply.

The Village side got off to a steady start until Paul Stamp (15) top-edged a ball with the score on 26. Martin Foster (24) and Simon Wetherell (22) then put on a 29 run partnership until Wetherell was caught at deep mid-wicket. Foster and Craig Murphy (44) then combined to take the score along to 82-3 until Foster fell in the 14th over. Murphy and Diwan Mydeen

(9) put on a 43 run partnership until he fell with the score on 125 in the 18th over. Laguna managed to contain the Village in the last 2 overs with only a further 6 runs being added, with a innings total of 131-7 after 20 overs.

Laguna's innings did not start well, with opener Sriram Kailasam (0) finding a leading edge and being caught in the first over and

Rishi Sadarangani (5) falling in the very next over. Manish Sadarangani (10) was then run out and at 22-3, Laguna were in deep trouble. Darren Shaw (14) and Sameer Khan (10) both got starts but failed to go on and Laguna were 52-5. Stuart Reading (27) and Faizal Mir (26 not out) then combined for a 51 run partnership and Laguna were looking in with a chance. With 10 runs to win from 6 balls, Roly Cooper hit a straight drive that was looking for all money to be going over the boundary until Olly Wingate at deep mid-off took a great catch to secure another victory for the Village with Laguna falling 5 runs short of their target.

This Sunday 11 August, sees another double-header of T20 cricketing action with Laguna taking on Patong and ICC taking on the Village. Play commences at 10:00 am and all are welcome to come along and watch from the comfort of the ACG clubhouse

The harder you work the luckier you get

Rarely will you ever hear me say "Good Luck" to my own team before a race. Why is that? Because I believe if you have done the work and the preparation, you don't need luck – you are ready.

Merriam Webster defines luck as "1. A force that brings good fortune or adversity. 2. The events or circumstances that operate for or against an individual."

In looking at the definition, we see that there is no clear definition of what the "force" is. It is left for us to define. I like the second definition the best. In this definition, luck is nothing more than specific events/circumstances that operate either in your favor (like

winning a race) or against you (losing a race). Why I like this is because I have some measure of control over the events that transpire around me. I am an active participant in my life! In a competition, I may not be able to control what others around me do, but I can control what I do. To take that a step further, If I prepare myself properly, then I am able to capitalize on those events when they happen.

So the "force" that brings good fortune becomes the efforts I've put into my training and the "circumstances operating for or against me" become things I control. Therefore; luck isn't some arbitrary thing, but the outcome of when *preparation meets opportunity!*



Swimming tips provided by Randy Simon, Thanyapura Head Coach of Swim. For enquiries about swim coaching contact him at aquatics@thanyapura.com



Showdown for Queen's Cup

PHUKET this Sunday, August 11 will host a major Muay Thai tournament in Patong, in honor of HM Queen Sikirit's 81st birthday on Monday.

The tournament was announced by the President of the Amateur Muay Thai Association of Thailand (AMTAT) former Thai Army chief Gen Chetta Thanajaro last Saturday during a press conference at the Tiger Hotel in Patong.

The competition on Sunday will held in honor HM Queen Sikirit and is also aimed at disseminating the art of Thai boxing, which is a symbol of Thailand worldwide, and also to provide a chance for foreigners who are learning Thai boxing to be able to compete on stage.

Seven of the ten fights on the night will be between female fighters defending and challenging for a range of championship titles including the prestigious World Muay Thai Council (WMC) title currently held by Swedish fighter Teresa Wintermyr in the

118-pound weight class.

The best female fighter on the night will also be presented with the Queen's Cup, donated by HM Queen Sikirit.

The press conference was also attended by other big names in international Muay Thai, including Secretary General of the World Muay Thai Council Dr Sakchye Tapsuwan and Deputy Mayor of Patong Chairat Sukabal.

"Patong municipality is ready to support all kinds of sport. Patong is like the living room of the country, so it's our honor to set up this World Thai Boxing competition. In the future, tourism should come along with sport," said Mr Sukabal.

"Now Thai boxing is popular around the

world. Many foreigners come to train in it here. We can see that one source of our income is from these people. There are a lot of Thai boxing training centers, more [opening up] every year, and their standards continue to improve, making



AMTAT President Chetta Thanajaro and Fight promoter Sombat Singkala at the Queen's Cup press conference.



A major Muay Thai tournament this Sunday in Patong, featuring many female title fighters, will be held in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's 81st birthday. Photos: Mark Knowles

more tourists interested in Thai boxing," he added

The tournament will be held at Bangla Boxing Stadium on Phang Muang Sai Gor

Rd starting at 8pm, with tickets costing 2,500 baht for VIP seats, 2,000 for ring-side seats and 1,700 for standard seats.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Local champions talk Maury Thai

The *Gazette* speaks to two local female Muay Thai champs about their love of the sport

THE *Gazette*'s Mark Knowles caught up with two local female fighters who will be competing for the Queen's Cup this Sunday; Amy Sharp from Sumalee Gym and Teresa Wintermyr from Sinbi Gym.

Can you tell us a little bit about the tournament?

Amy: It's an event for Her Majesty the Queen's birthday and its sanctioned by the WMC the World Muay Thai council. I competed when they held the first event here in Phuket last year. It had a number of title fights especially for female fighters, so basically it's title defenses and more. There will be a lot of fighters with great titles competing but the WMC is

one of the best titles I would say.

How long have you been involved in Maury Thai?

Amy: I've been doing it for four years, I started Muay Thai for weight loss reasons, because I was about 120 kilo's before, I'd never done it before in England. I just started it when I came here, to work as a teacher at Phuket International Academy.

Teresa: I've been doing it for almost six years, I started here as well, I read in a magazine about a girl that came here to train in a Muay Thai camp in Thailand and I thought that sounded really interesting. I came here that first time and had my first fight and

then [left Phuket before I] came back again, and now have been living here for five years.

Do you hold any Titles in professional Muay Thai?

Teresa: I hold the World Muay Thai Council world title for 118 pounds. I won that in December last year and I'll be defending it on Sunday.

Amy: I'm challenging for a different title on Sunday, but I have a current title from the King's Birthday [bout] when I fought in Bangkok and that one is from the World Professional Muay Thai Federation. So it will be a rematch with the same fighter but for a different championship.

Do you think training and competing in Muay Thai is becoming more popular with women?

Teresa: Definitely. It wasn't very common when I started five or six years ago, but in the last two years it has really become more popular.

Amy: I think it's people coming to watch it, and worldwide it's becoming more and more popular and huge gyms are springing up everywhere. There are more fight events [outside Thailand], so people are getting to know about it more, so more people are coming here to train. And obviously now there are events like the Queen's Cup which are really good for female fighters.

Teresa: The level [of skill] is getting higher for girls, there is a lot of high-level girls now, before there was a lot of fighters, but they weren't very good.

Why is Maury Thai your sport of choice?

Amy: For me it's a good thing to stay focused and also to try and maintain a good weight and I just love being part of a team as well.

Teresa: I like the lifestyle, because you train twice a day and full time. So it keeps you healthy and you have to take care of yourself and you have something to do. It feels like more of a profession it's not a hobby like it would be at home. I just like the lifestyle and it keeps me very healthy, mentally and physically.

– *Phuket Gazette*



LOCAL TALENT: Phuket based Maury Thai Champions Teresa Wintermyr from Sinbi Gym (left) and Amy Sharp from Sumalee Gym.

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Tennis Tips: natural service

THE most important fundamental for the serve is a loose wrist. This will keep your whole arm looser and flowing more naturally through the hitting zone. If your arm is loose you are less prone to injury and will get more power from less effort. If you have trouble with this, try a couple of serves with your pinky finger hanging off the bottom of your racket.

There are four words you need to remember to correct and improve your serve. "Hit up" and "snap down". We need to hit up because there is a net in front of us and unless you are as tall as Del Potro, geometry and physics show us it is impossible to hit down from the baseline and make it over the net. Snapping down will help you keep the ball from flying out.

Practice: how to coach yourself

We all miss serves, but we should make sure we do not make the same mistake twice. If you hit your serve



This tip was written by Roger Cochrane, Thanyapura Head Coach of Tennis Academy. For inquiries, email tennis@thanyapura.com



Hit up and snap down



long, make sure the next one goes in or in the net (snap down).

If you hit it in the net, hit the next one long (hit up). When we over-correct, it becomes easier to find our range. There is such a thing as a good mistake, and one that is not the same is a lot better than hitting the net over and over again.

Sailing Sundays at ACYC

RACE 1 of the 2013 ACYC Keel Boat and Multihull Club Championship Race Series 2, will take place this Sunday, August 11

All are welcome to join ACYC (Ao Chalong Yacht Club) Sunday sailing races. Breakfast is available at the club from 8am onwards. Anybody wishing to sail but doesn't have a boat are advised to turn up before 10:30am and we will do our best to get you on a vessel.

Eligibility and entry: The series is open to all keel yachts and multihulls with a length overall of greater than 6 meters. Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry form on each race day and by paying the racing nomination

fee to the Race Officer or appointed ACYC representative.

Fees – There is no entry fee for boats. Crew fees are 100 baht per person for ACYC members, 200 baht for non-members. Crew fees no longer include food.

Crew fees are applicable to ALL participating crew.

Classes – Racing monohulls, Cruising monohulls, Racing multihulls, Cruising multihulls.

Course – Ao Chalong Bay and surrounding area, details announced at race briefing pending prevailing conditions.

The exact course will be announced, pending conditions on the day. For more information, acyc.asia – *Phuket Gazette*



BLOCKING BALL BUSTERS: Thailand's Rujira Ukasri spikes past Slovenia's blockers. Photo: FIVB

Thai teens, sweet 16

By Anthika Muangrod

HOSTS Thailand came in a disappointing 16th place at the 2013 Girls Youth Volleyball World Championship, held in Nakhon Ratchasima from July 26 to August 4, and contested by the top 20 teams in the world.

In the preliminary round, Thailand finished second of Group A – behind Serbia – and were followed by Puerto Rico, Egypt, and Tunisia.

Thailand lost their first match to Egypt on July 26, 3-1 (23-25, 21-25, 25-22, 19-25), scoring 88

and conceding 97 points.

They also lost their second match on July 28, to Serbia in straight sets (17-25, 22-25, 21-25) or 51 to 75.

Third time lucky, Thailand beat Puerto Rico 3-1 on July 29 (21-25, 30-28, 21-25, 23-25), and kept up their momentum in their final group match on July 30, beating Tunisia in straight sets (25-22, 25-20, 25-12)

Four teams that were eliminated from group play were Tunisia (Pool A), Argentina (Pool B), Algeria (Pool C), Mexico (Pool D).

Thailand were defeated by

China, the world youth number 1, in straight sets.

The Asian giants went on to win the overall tournament, defeating the United States in the final in straight sets (16-25, 21-25, 23-25), while Brazil beat Peru for third place.

Thailand finally lost to Serbia (3-2) and Egypt (3-2) to settle for 16th place – one place better than their current world ranking.

Most of Thailand's points this go-round came from Jiraporn Chaymon who collected 26 points including 22 spikes from 79 attempts.

Lady Elephants charge on in 2013 World Grand Prix

THAILAND senior women's volleyball team last Sunday beat Algeria in straight sets (25-7, 25-14, 25-13), putting the Lady Elephants in 15th place out of 20 at the end of the first week of the 2013 FIVB World Grand Prix, taking place this month in various venues worldwide.

Following losses to Japan (3-0) and Pool C hosts, Turkey (3-1), Thailand's victory over Algeria was their first of the tournament. Having lost all three of their matches, Algeria are dead last of 20.

Topping Pool C and the overall tournament so far, based on a 1.417 points-won ratio, was Japan, who won nine sets and lost only one – to Turkey, who won seven and lost three (to Japan) for a 6th placed sitting (1.141).

Thailand's points-won ratio is 1.086, with 201 won to 185 lost.

In the second week, contested from August 9-11, the Lady Elephants are in Pool J in Yekaterinburg, Russia, along with the Pool hosts, as well as



Thailand are in 15th place after the first week, and are hoping to do as good as last year when they finished 4th of 20 teams. Photo: FIVB

Cuba and Italy, who after the first week of the tournament, were in 13th, 19th and 3rd place respectively.

In week three, Thailand will be hosts of Pool L in Bangkok from August 16-18, competing against Russia, Germany and Puerto Rico.

Upon the conclusion of the third week, only the top six teams will continue to the final round in Sapporo, Japan from August 28 to September 1.

Currently ranked 12th in the world, Thailand finished 4th of the Grand Prix last year.

– Steven Layne

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Phuket FC fans demand and get coach resignation after 11th draw

By Steven Layne

SOME vocally active Phuket FC supporters got their way last Sunday when Panipon "Tu" Kerdyam resigned his post as Head Coach.

His resignation followed last Saturday night's disappointing 1-1 league draw with lower ranked Thai Tobacco Monopoly (TTM) FC at Surakul Stadium.

Scoring for Phuket on his home debut was Brazilian import Cristian Alex, with a header on 59 minutes. About 20 minutes later, TTM's Nigerian forward answered with an equalizer from long range.

Phuket came close to winning the game with several attempts, but as the stars in the clear skies would have it, the match would end in a draw.

Moments after the final whistle blew, several dozen home fans united in synchronized chants demanding: "Coach Tu - Get Out!"

Those who have frequented Surakul Stadium in the past few years, hardly lifted an eye.

"He [Coach Tu] had his chance to prove himself in the first half of the season, and draws just won't get us to the Thai Premier League (TPL), so to show his professional spirit, he should move aside for someone else," exclaimed one supporter.

The draw against TTM was the third in a row since the start of the season's second half - and 11th draw of the season out of 20 matches so far; Phuket FC have more draws than any other side in Thailand's 18-team Yamaha League One (YL1).

Following a busy Saturday night on the three main Phuket FC Facebook fan club forums, supporters' wishes and demands were answered on Sunday when Coach Tu posted the following message: "I would like to thank Mr Pamuk [Achiriyachai], Ko Eam, Ko Jieo [Niwat Nuisanga], the execu-

tive team and all the staff, players and fans who have supported me. I've been happy working with you all here, but in the end, I've had to consider resigning as Head Coach from this point on... Thank you... Panipon Kerdyam."

Coach Tu's league record of 6 wins, 11 draws and three losses, coupled with a cup record of 2 wins and 2 losses is actually decent when compared to the combined record of the previous handful of coaches that have passed through the last two seasons.

Under the leadership of at least five coaches in the 2011 and 2012 seasons in the second-tier national league, Phuket FC had an average win rate of 30.8%, a draw rate of 32.3% and loss rate of 36.7%.

Under Coach Tu's leadership in the first 20 of 34 league matches this season, the club's win rate was 30%, followed by a 55% draw rate and only 15% loss rate - clearly a major difference that fans overlooked in their unchecked expectations for the big leagues.

Nonetheless, replacing Coach Tu as acting Head Coach will be Niwat "Ko Jieo" Nuisanga, formerly an assistant coach.

Following the latest draw, Phuket dropped into 7th place with 29 points, while TTM remain in 15th with 20 points.

Seizing the 6th place spot from Phuket was Nakhon Ratchasima, who on Sunday prevailed at home 1-0 against the high-flying Air Force United "Blue Eagles", who subsequently dropped into second place of the league as a result, with PTT Rayong surging to the top following their 2-1 home win over Ayuthaya FC, also on Sunday.

Home victories by the Port Lions and Bangkok FC, over Rayong United and Nakhon Pathom, respectively, further deluded the promotion prospects for Phuket, who are now 8 points shy of 3rd place, the final promotion spot.



DISAPPOINTMENT: A frustrated Geoffrey Doumeng waits to take a free kick last Saturday. Inset: Ex-Coach Panipon Kerdyam. Photo: Steven Layne



YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
	TEAM	P	PTS
1	PTT Rayong	20	44
2	Air Force	20	43
3	Port Lions	20	37
4	Bangkok	20	36
5	Saraburi	20	31
6	Korat	20	29
7	Phuket	20	29
8	Trat FC	20	27
9	Nakhon Pathom	20	26
10	BBCU FC	20	26
11	Krabi	20	24
12	Khon Kaen	20	22
13	Sriracha	20	20
14	Ayutthaya	20	20
15	TTM FC	20	20
16	Royal Navy	20	18
17	Rayong FC	20	15
18	Rayong Utd.	20	13

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

New Brazilian coach

THE position for Phuket FC's head coach, left vacant last Sunday by the resignation by Panipon Kerdyam (see story to left), was filled the very next day by a skillful and respected Brazilian, Stefano Cugurra Teco.

Known formally as Alessandro Stefano Cugurra Rodrigues, "Coach Teco" was born on July 25, 1974 in Rio de Janeiro, and has been involved with Thai professional soccer since 2010.

As a football manager and former striker for Sao Paulo in Brazil, Coach Teco was most recently the manager of Thai Premier League club side Chiangrai United.

Having joined the Northern Thai club in July 2010, Coach Teco led Chiangrai to a 3rd place finish that year and thus promotion to the Thai Premier League, which they remained three years straight under his leadership.

Coach Teco left Chiangrai in June this year.

Before coming to Thailand, he coached Persebaya Surabaya, an elite team in Indonesia, where he earned the club three championship titles between 2003 to 2006.

He has also worked as a coach in Singapore, Malaysia and South Korea. His first test with Phuket will not be a breeze, this Sunday, August 11 against 9th placed Nakhon Pathom United.



Phuket Head Coach Stefano Teco

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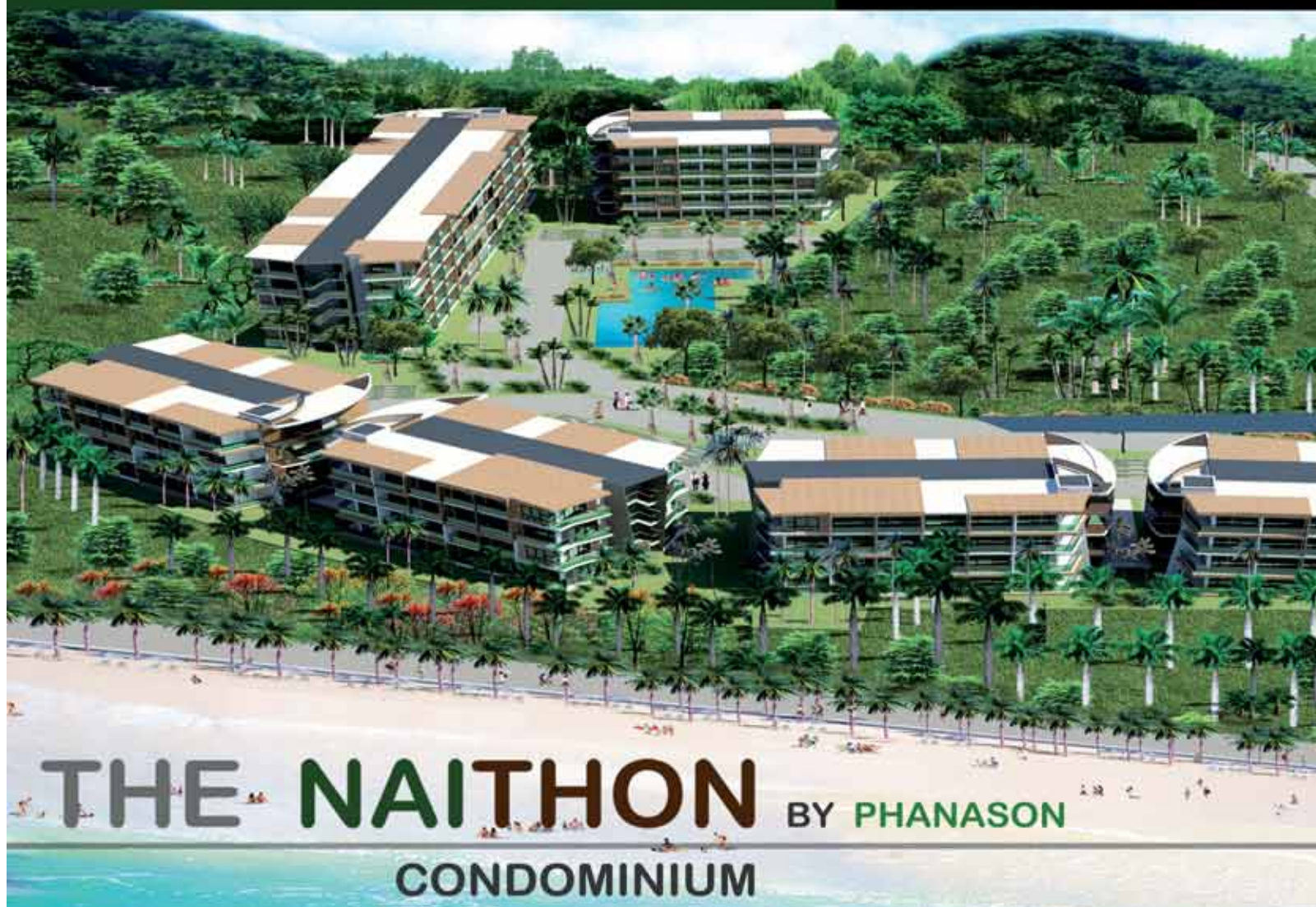
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