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## Got medical insurance?

### Minister moves on policy for mandatory travel insurance

INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'WE ALL KNOW WHO THE REAL ORGANIZED CRIMINALS ARE'

# Mafia rule

■ Patong kingpin points finger back at officials in war on organized crime

By **Chutharat Plerin**

PREECHAVUDE "Prab" Keesin, son of Patong Mayor Pian Keesin, has lashed out at the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), calling on them to tackle corruption among government officers and the ranks of law enforcement officials.

Mr Prab and Mayor Pian were among the 11 parties named by the DSI as "mafia" operating illegal taxis on the island. The result was a flurry of lawsuits accusing the DSI of defamation (see page 5).

"What definition of mafia do you think they are using?" asked Mr Preechavude.

"Our taxi organization is a legally registered, incorporated organization. I do not deny some taxi drivers in Patong do not obey the law, but those people are only a small fraction of the whole. Do you call that mafia?"

"We should stop playing innocent. We all know who is behind illegal businesses in Phuket – it is those who can choose whether to arrest people or to let them go," Mr Preechavude alleged.

Mr Preechavude argued that those with the power of the law were ultimately responsible



Preechavude 'Prab' Keesin claims the DSI is looking the wrong direction for mafiosos.

for allowing illegal activities to continue.

"Let's be honest, we all know who the real mafia is... it is those with the power of the law at their disposal – and the only ones with that are government officials. I am not saying all the officials are bad, but they are the

ones who can abuse their power to get money," Mr Preechavude stated.

"I am a businessman, the most I can do is pay the people we deal with to reach an agreement – and the people who receive that money are glad that we pay them," he stated.

## Airport bus service back on track

AFTER a bumpy start, the Airport Express bus offering a "hop on, hop off" service from Phuket International Airport to island hot spot Patong is back on schedule.

The service is now back to normal operating hours, and large signs at the airport are helping to guide budget-minded tourists to the company's bus stop outside.

Full story on Page 2

## 17-year-old woman killed for necklace

POLICE have arrested a man for the slaying of a 17-year-old woman who was repeatedly stabbed and mugged for a gold necklace.

The man has confessed to stalking the woman while she was in a shop and following her outside to rip the gold necklace off her neck.

Full story on Page 6

## BBC denies extravagant island party

BBC has found itself fighting off allegations by international media giants *The Sun* and *Daily Mirror*, which claimed that a BBC film crew took a 7-million-baht holiday – all expenses paid.

Full story on Page 8

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## This Week



**Property**  
Can residential condos be used for commercial purposes? **Page 14**



**Business**  
New B2B barter firm expands network in Phuket. **Page 17**



**People**  
Governor Maitree talks to Nanthapa about his life thus far. **Page 34**



**Fashion**  
Vibrant fashion show showcases the best of Thai silk. **Page 40-41**



**Explore**  
Daniels takes the bike for a spin around Cape Panwa. **Page 44**



**Sport**  
Phuket FC win their first home match in a 112 day period. **Page 51**

Saturday



Sunday



Monday



Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



# Bus back in top gear

By Chutharat Plerin

THE new Airport Express bus, operating a "hop on, hop off" service between Phuket International Airport and Patong Beach, is slated to resume full service this week.

"The bus service will return to the full schedule on August 16," Prakob Panyawai, the owner of the bus company said.

Services were pared back in response to poor passenger numbers in the initial weeks following the July 19 launch.

"The bus stop was simply too dark in the evening. There was no light there... Also, there were no signs pointing to the bus stop, which meant tourists did not know where the bus stop was located," Mr Prakob said.

In response, the airport authorities have begun installing a battery of new signs in a variety of languages to highlight the bus services to tourists arriving on Phuket.

"We are adding more signs inside and outside of the terminals, and lights have been installed where the airport bus is located," Phuket Airport Customer Service officer Pakin Sirijun explained.

"The signs will be in Thai and English. As English is an international language, we believe these two languages will be good enough," he added.

"I have assigned staff to sticker signs throughout the ter-



Airport Express bus signs are now guiding tourists. Photo: AoT

minal in Thai, English, Russian and Chinese. Phuket Airport Director Pratuang Sornkham plans to add Korean later as we want to make Phuket Airport a genuinely international facility," Mr Pakin said.

All the new signs, indicating directions to baggage claim, immigration, restrooms and other general areas, are expected to be posted by next week, he added.

"We are doing our best to serve tourists arriving in Phuket. New direction signs in a variety of languages are also being added to the airport," Mr Pakin said.

Mr Prakob told the *Gazette* that the full bus service will resume

with one change to the timetable: the 7:30pm bus departing the airport has been moved forward to 5pm.

"Many flights arrive at about 7:45pm, and passengers arriving on these flights would miss the 7:30pm bus anyway," said Mr Prakob.

"So we moved the 7:45pm bus forward to better serve tourists arriving in the afternoon," he said. "The rest of the full schedule remains the same as before."

Under the full schedule, now revised, buses depart the airport for Patong at: 8:15am, 9:30am, 10:15am, 11:30am, 12:30pm, 2:15pm, 3:30pm, 5pm and 8:45pm.

## Bar girl delivered B100k to Swedish murder suspects

AS THE murder trial of Tommy Soderlund continued last week, a police officer told the court that Mr Soderlund was arrested in the hotel room of a Pattaya bar girl who had delivered 100,000 baht to him and his alleged accomplice Johan Ljung.

Mr Soderlund and Mr Ljung are charged with murdering Russian-born Swedish national Maksim Schantz in Phuket in 2011.

Mr Ljung and Mr Soderlund both confessed to police that they had attacked and stabbed Mr Schantz, but claimed they did not intend to kill him, he said.

Mr Soderlund remains incar-



Mr Soderlund. Photo: Dean Noble

cerated in Phuket Prison. He is due to appear in court again on August 29.

— Saran Mitrarat

## Krabi killers balk at US translator

THE three Thai musicians charged with the murder of American tourist Bobby Ray Carter Jr in Krabi on July 31 have refused to have the translator provided by the US Embassy in Bangkok involved in the trial.

The lawyer representing the three defendants explained the complaint to the judge at Krabi Provincial Court on Tuesday, when defendants Sathid Somsa, 40, from Bangkok, and Nopanan Yoddech, 26, from Krabi, were both arraigned.

The other defendant, Ratikorn Romin, 27, from Phang Nga, was arraigned on August 5.

The three men face charges for the stabbing murder of Mr Carter

and for the assault of his son, Adam, 27, who was also stabbed in the fight outside the Little Longhorn Saloon in Ao Nang.

"All three suspects refused to allow the translator provided by the American Embassy to join the proceedings," Krabi Provincial Police Deputy Commander Boontawee Toraksa said.

"They said it would be unfair, and insisted that they wanted to use the court translator," Col Boontawee added.

The refusal to allow the US embassy-approved translator to be involved in the trial resulted in the postponement of the trial date being set.

"The court had to arrange a



The killers move to hide their faces.

new translator, but as the arraignment was held late in the afternoon, the judge deferred the proceedings," Col Boontawee explained.

"He has yet to set a date for the trial to begin," he added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong



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# Island dignitaries gather in honor of HM Queen Sirikit's birthday

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthasut led top Phuket officials in a celebration of HM Queen Sirikit's 81<sup>st</sup> birthday on Monday morning by donating alms to monks.

The Governor, all three vice governors and Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat, along with 500 officers and local residents, made the dry food offering in front of Queen Sirikit Park.

Gov Maitri and his wife, Pavinee Inthasut, next attended a ceremony at Satee Phuket School, where they joined

well-wishers in signing a congratulatory book for HM Queen Sirikit. At the ceremony, 106 scholarships were awarded to academically excelling underprivileged children.

HM the Queen's birthday celebrations were in full swing in Phuket on Monday, after getting underway on Sunday at the Phuket Mining Museum in Kathu, when the Governor and 600 attendees planted 5,000 plants and released wild chickens, butterflies, fish and shrimps at the site to honor the Queen.

— Kritisada Mueanhawong



Gen Choti (above) and Governor Maitri (right) make merit in honor of HM The Queen.

# Tourists' medical bills stop here

## Thailand moves to usher in mandatory 500-baht travel insurance

By The Nation

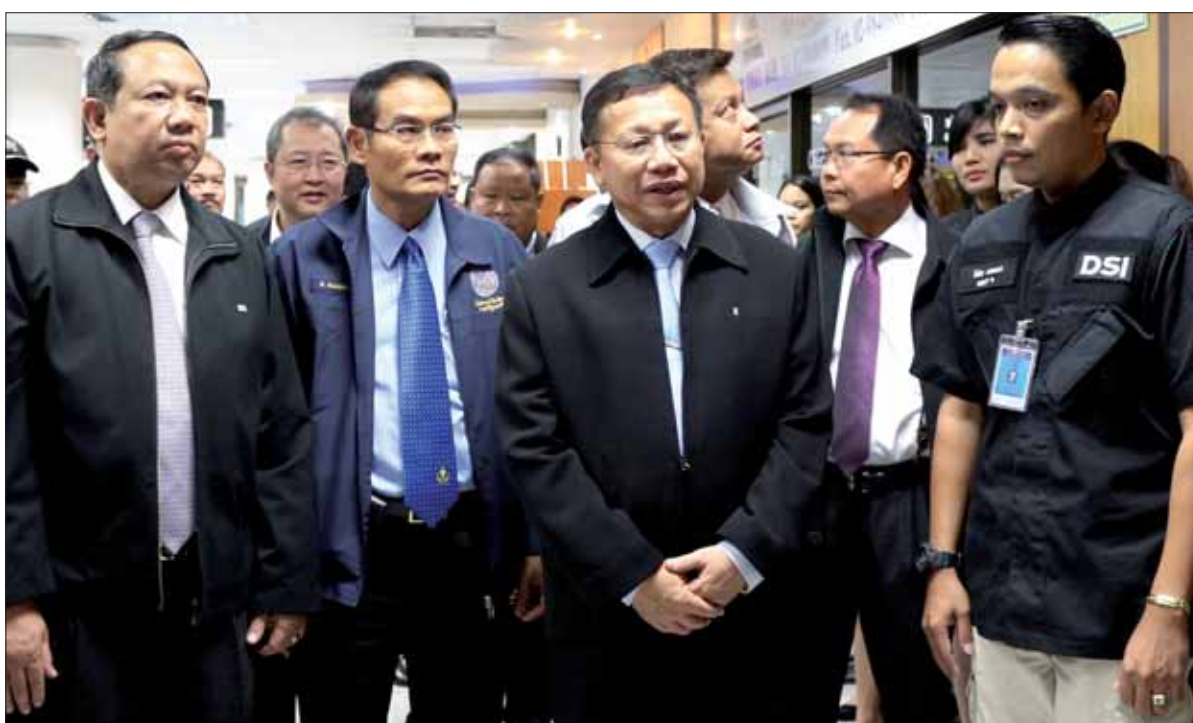
THE Tourism and Sports Ministry would like to make it compulsory for all foreign tourists to have travel insurance before entering the Kingdom because unpaid bills are putting a huge strain on cash-strapped public hospitals in major destinations, particularly Phuket.

However, some tourism-business operators warn that this measure might keep away travelers as well as tarnish the country's image.

In a telephone interview, Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak said the ministry was readying to implement the regulation to cut down on foreign tourists' unpaid medical bills that cost the country more than 200 million baht annually.

Mr Somsak is discussing the matter with Public Health Minister Pradit Sintavanarong and Deputy Prime Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong.

"They agree that foreign tourists should buy an insurance package, which would cost about



Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak (2<sup>nd</sup> right) is pushing for insurance. Photo: Kritisada Mueanhawong

500 baht," Mr Somsak said.

This would first be applied to tourists who apply for visa at Thai diplomatic missions overseas. The ministry has yet to decide whether this would apply to those who do

not need a visa to enter the country.

According to Yuthachai Soonthronratnavate, president of the Association of Domestic Travel, tourists coming to Thailand on tour packages are already

required to buy travel insurance, which allows them to claim 1 million baht for death and up to 500,000 baht for injuries.

Based on the Tourism Ministry's data, up to 6.19 million

tourists, or about 28 per cent of the total 22.35mn visitors, came to Thailand as part of a tour package last year. Thailand earned 984 billion baht in revenue from tourist spending in 2012, and expects to earn as much as 2.2 trillion baht from visitors in 2015.

Meanwhile, Phuket has had to shoulder about 5mn baht a year in medical costs for foreigners who don't have insurance or are unable to pay for the services, said Phuket Public Health chief Dr Bancha Kakong.

"Whether they can pay or not, it's our obligation to save their lives first," he said, adding that most foreign patients sought treatment for motorcycle-related accidents. Those who have health insurance are able to receive emergency treatment at private institutions, while those who do not need to be referred to public hospitals.

Tourism Minister Somsak's pursuit of mandatory travel insurance follows the call by German honorary consuls for Phuket and Chiang Mai urging all tourists to take out adequate travel insurance before travelling to Thailand.

# Tourist found dead in resort pool

A CHINESE woman was found dead on August 9 floating in a resort swimming pool on Koh Lone, a small island about three kilometers east of Rawai.

Peng Yu, 22, was staying at the Cruiser Island Resort with a Chinese tour group.

"A hotel staffer found her floating face down in the swimming pool," Capt Thada Sodarak said.

Ms Peng left her room alone just before midnight and was

found dead about an hour later, said Capt Thada.

"We tentatively believe that Ms Peng got into the cold water of the pool and started to cramp up, leading to her drowning," Capt Thada said. "We do not believe there was foul play, as there was no trace of a struggle."

Ms Peng's body was sent to Vachira Phuket Hospital to determine the cause of death.

— Orawin Narabal

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## Trafficking gang leader shot, caught

THAI authorities have captured the suspected leader of a human trafficking gang who confessed to selling Burmese migrants into slavery on Thai fishing boats and possibly murdering as many as seven, a Thai official said on August 9.

Ko Myo, a 42-year-old Myanmar national, was shot and captured at a rubber plantation in southern Surat Thani during a raid by the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) and local police.

The raid follows mounting international concern over the trafficking of Myanmar migrants in Thailand's lucrative fishing industry, one of several sources of human slavery in the country that could trigger U.S. sanctions.

Ko Myo will face human trafficking charges first, said Komvich Padhanarath, a senior official in the human trafficking division of the DSI, which is part of the Justice Ministry. "The murder charge is under further investigation, and it will be a time-consuming process to verify the bodies."

The arrest of Ko Myo followed an investigation headed by the Environmental Justice Foundation, a London-based non-government body.

Mr Komvich said Ko Myo had confessed to trafficking and murder, but not rape.

For the past four years, an annual State Department report monitoring global efforts to combat modern-day slavery has kept Thailand on its "Tier-2 Watch List", a notch above the worst offenders, such as North Korea. A drop to Tier 3 can trigger sanctions, including the blocking of World Bank aid.

— *Phuket Gazette*

## EU seafood imports to stop if trafficking rank falls



Lt Col Prasert Srikunrat

ANY deterioration in Thailand's human-trafficking record may lead to a European ban on importing seafood from the Kingdom, Phuket Marine Police have been warned.

The message was delivered at a seminar to remind local Marine Police and Phuket's fishing industry of the legal obligations to be upheld regarding human trafficking.

"The European Union has an in-

dex for nations whose fishing industries are corrupted by human trafficking. In the system, Q1 is Good, Q2 is Medium and Q3 is Bad," Marine Police Region 8 Deputy Superintendent Lt Col Prasert Srikunrat explained.

"Right now Thailand qualifies as Q2, but that might drop to Q3 in the future. That will affect our fishing product exports because Europe will say no to them if the

situation worsens," he said.

"We want the European Union to have confidence in Thailand, so we have to raise our standards and prove that we take a strong line against human trafficking," he said.

"We want to make sure that Phuket does not have any human trafficking corrupting the fishing industry here," he affirmed.

— *Saran Mittrarat*

# More escaped Rohingya caught; search continues

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET police on Tuesday took nine more Rohingya men back to the immigration detention center they had escaped from early last Saturday morning.

"We are still searching for the remaining 23," said Phuket Immigration Office Superintendent Col Sunchai Chokkajaykij.

"I am sure they are still in Phuket because our officers continue to round them up," said Col Sunchai.

Of the 38 men held at the Phuket Immigration detention center, 36 escaped last weekend. Four men were caught relatively quickly in the Wichit and Chalong areas.

The men escaped by gaining access to the roof and jumping over the center's wall.

"One group escaped by breaking through a bathroom wall, going into the next room and breaking through the ceiling to the roof. Then they jumped across the wall and ran away," Col Sunchai said.

"A second group broke the bars of their detention room, went into the next room and also got access



36 Rohingya men detained at Phuket Immigration broke out of their cells. 13 have been caught and returned.

to the roof and jumped over the wall," he explained.

"We found out that they were gone at about 3am," he said.

"Actually, all 38 of them tried to run away, but we caught two of them before they got out," he said.

"The escaped men do not know Phuket well. We are worried that

they might resort to crime," said Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat.

"I believe their escape is due to stress. They've been detained in the center for a long time," Col Sunchai added.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut concurred. "They might

have escaped because of how crowded the holding cells were, and because they have been held [there] since March," he said.

"We have tried giving them activities to do to reduce their stress, but we can't do them often because we don't have enough officers to monitor them," Col Sunchai said.

## Rohingya riot planned: Police

THE rebellion by Rohingya refugees at a Phang Nga detention center on the Muslim holy day of Eid-al Fitr on August 8 was a pre-planned escape attempt, Phang Nga Immigration Police has told the *Gazette*.

"The refugees were convinced by visitors to protest and attempt to escape to another country," Phang Nga Immigration Inspector Neti Khanboon said.

Over 250 Rohingya refugees raged against Phang Nga Immigration officers when denied the right to leave their cells and gather for mass prayer to mark Eid-al Fitr, one of the most important days for practicing Muslims, as it marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

"Officials offered to let five of the protesters out at a time to pray, but the refugees refused the offer," Maj Gen Chalit said.

"Immigration's refusal to let them out en masse enraged the refugees.



Officers foiled the escape attempt.

"They broke out of three detention rooms and gathered at the exit gate, where they were almost able to make their escape," he said.

"They started shouting and trying to break down the gate. Representatives from the Phang Nga Islamic Council were called to the scene to calm things down," he said.

"They were calm for only a

short time before they started protesting again, and repeated their attempts to knock down the gate. We sprayed water at them to deter them. Then the police added another metal gate as a precautionary measure," Gen Chalit explained.

"Once the protesters became tired, the situation calmed down," he said.

All of the refugees were subsequently transferred to other facilities because their cells were damaged during the riot, Gen Chalit said.

"The cells were destroyed, with signs of damage to CCTV, toilets and the ceiling," he said.

Reports about the cramped conditions and the confinement of the refugees for an undetermined length of time led the Minister of Social Development and Human Security, Paveena Hongsakula, to visit the Phang Nga facilities last month.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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# Lawsuits fly over 'mafia' list

By Gazette reporters

FIVE of the men whose names or businesses appeared on the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) "mafia" list publicly announced last week have struck back at the allegations that they had links to illegal taxis and organized crime.

Three have already filed defamation suits.

The blacklist was presented on August 9 as Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Preechrisak and DSI Director-general Tarit Pengdith opened the Phuket Organized Crime Center for Tourism (OCCT) at Phuket International Airport.

Another OCCT opened at Phuket City Police Station the same day.

After delivering the list of suspects' names to the media, Mr Tarit warned that within 30 days at least one person would be apprehended and punished for his part in the illegal taxi operations in Phuket.

"We're not really going for taxi

drivers who are trying to earn a living. We're going for the big fish," Mr Tarit said.

However, in response to the public announcement of the DSI blacklist, Thammawat Wongcharoenyut and Siwa Siangyom both filed police complaints against the DSI the next day.

San Charoenjit reportedly filed a defamation complaint with police in Bangkok.

"I am clean. Just an ordinary villager who lives and operates a business. I have no illegal taxis – all of them are properly registered" said Mr Thammawat.

"The DSI revealed my name without any consideration of the repercussions it would have in my life. Now that my name has been published like this, how can I stay in Phuket?" he asked.

Mr Thammawat believes that his name may have been on the list because he led a protest against Airports of Thailand for not allowing his tour desk to renew its concession at the airport after it expired on July 30.

## DSI Mafia Blacklist

- San Charoenjit
- Thammawat Wongcharoenyut
- Siwa Siangyom
- Patong Mayor Pian Keesin
- Preechavude "Prab" Keesin
- Southern Tourism Association
- Limousine Call Center
- Taxi rank in front of Jungceylon shopping mall
- Taxi rank in front of the Avista Phuket Resort and Spa, Kata Beach
- Taxi rank in front of The Dalar Resort Bangtao Beach
- Taxi rank at Baan Bang Duk in Sakoo



Thammawat Wongcharoenyut filed a complaint against the DSI.

"I had been doing business at the airport for more than 10 years, and then, out of the about 100 businesses that operate there, they decided not to renew my concession," he said.

Siwa Siangyom, whose concession was renewed, was in disbelief that he was on the list.

"I was mortified to hear my

name was on the list... I don't know where the information the DSI got came from. I operate a tour desk at the airport that has been handling hotel room and tour bookings for 14 years," he said.

Setthasak Buason, president of Limousine Call Center and manager of the taxi station in front of Jungceylon shopping mall, was



Siwa Siangyom



Setthasak Buason

also shocked to find his name on the list, but has yet to make a move to file a lawsuit against the DSI.

"I am not associated with any mafia... Our taxi stand is one of the best managed on the island..."

"I want the DSI to treat us fairly. If they want help, I am more than happy to assist in anyway I can," Mr Setthasak said.



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## Drugs came via prison, guns via Google search



A gun and bullets bought online.

TWO drug arrests brought police closer to the source: a prisoner in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. Illicit guns and bullets bought online were also uncovered during the arrests.

Two suspects, Santi Nhuphoom, 31, and Anas Thongma, 23, were found with a total of 490 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) and three guns in Phuket Town on August 12 and August 13.

Mr Santi was arrested first, said Kathu District Chief Veera KerdSirimongkol.

"On the night of August 12, we received a report from an informant that Mr Santi was selling *ya ice*, so our undercover officer arranged to buy 10 grams of it from him.

"When Mr Santi handed over the drugs, our officer identified himself. Mr Santi ran into a nearby house, but officers were able to catch him," Mr Veera said.

"We seized 10 grams of *ya ice*, a .357 handgun with 6 bullets, 3,000 baht and a bank book.

"Mr Santi told us he bought all the *ya ice* from Mr Anas, who lives in Soi Sian Tai in Rassada," he said.

The next afternoon officers raided Mr Anas' house. They seized 480 grams of *ya ice* packed into plastic bags in his wardrobe, two handguns, 100 bullets and drug paraphernalia.

"Mr Anas told us that a prisoner in Nakhon Sri Thammarat prison arranged the drug sale," he said.

"Both suspects bought their guns and bullets from Thai websites. They said they Googled 'gun sales' and were able to find a seller," he added.

Both men were charged with possession of a Category 1 narcotic and possession of a gun and bullets without a license.

—Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Pregnant woman slain, body abandoned in Khao Sok

THE body of a pregnant woman who had been shot three times and dumped in Khao Sok National Park last week has been identified by a neighbor, police say.

"After the news was published, one of her neighbors contacted the Kapong Police and was able to identify her," said Lt Col Prajak Rodkantuk of the Kapong Police Department.

"Her name was Wipa Phothikamol. She was 23 years old and from Udon Thani, living in a rented house in Surat Thani. According to neighbors, she had a married

boyfriend there," Col Prajak said.

Ms Wipa's body was found by villagers in Khao Sok National Park on August 7. She had been shot in the head and left shoulder and was wounded in the leg.

Police estimate she had been dead about 12 hours when she was found.

A 9mm bullet cartridge was found at the scene of the crime.

Her body was transferred to Kapong hospital, where an examination revealed she was approximately five months pregnant.

Police put out an urgent plea for help, and

a neighbor who thought he recognized her face asked police for more photos, resulting in a positive identification.

"After she was identified, police contacted her mother in Udon Thani. Her mother said she could not afford to come down to pick up her daughter's body, so we are trying to find a way to help out," Col Prajak said.

The investigation is ongoing, he said. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Kapong Police at 076-499104 or 076-449378, Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm.

—Saran Mitrarat

# Suspect caught sleeping

## Woman stabbed six times; man just wanted her gold necklace

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A MAN suspected of having robbed and stabbed a 17-year-old woman to death on August 11 was arrested the following day after neighbors recognized CCTV images of him on TV.

Neighbors recognized Somkid Saisema, 33, from images they saw on television and notified police, who raided his house on Soi Makham Koo in Wichit at 3pm on August 12.

"We found Mr Somkid asleep in his house," said Prawit Engchuan, Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent.

Police also found clothes that matched those the suspect in the CCTV images was wearing: a white shirt, long black shorts with white stripes and black flip-flops.

Wassana LerdSongkram, 17, had gone to a Lotus Express with her nephew after midnight on Sunday morning.

Witnesses told police that a man followed her into the store, where his image was captured by CCTV cameras, and then went outside to wait for her.

"As Ms Wassana was walking home along Soi Tankul off of Theppratan Road, the man came alongside her on his motorbike and started talking to her," said Somchai Nooboon of the Muang Phuket Police.

"When she ignored him, he grabbed her gold necklace and ripped it off.

"Ms Wassana attempted to re-



The CCTV image from Lotus Express, left, led to the identification and capture of Mr Somkid, right.



trieve the necklace, so Mr Somkid pulled out a knife and stabbed her," Capt Somchai said.

"She screamed for help, and a teenage boy ran over and kicked Mr Somkid's motorbike out from under him, causing him to fall down.

"At that point, the thief tried to run away. The boy caught him and restrained him, but Mr Somkid

was bigger, and threw him off, then got on the motorbike and rode away," he said.

Ms Wassana was stabbed six times; in the chest, abdomen, arms, thigh and back. She died on the way to hospital.

The circumstances of Ms Wassana's death are similar to those of Australian travel agent Michelle Smith last year, causing

Capt Somchai to issue an advisory to island residents.

"Don't walk alone late at night," Capt Somchai said. "And if a thief tries to steal something from you – a necklace, a telephone, a purse, whatever – let him. Your life is more valuable."

Mr Somkid told police he just wanted Ms Wassana's necklace, said Lt Col Prawit.

## Midnight raid nets gamblers, fighting fish

A PHUKET police raid on a gambling den known for fighting fish netted nine men early on the morning of August 10.

"I received a report of a place in a rubber plantation in Thalang that was open every weekend for fish gambling," Thalang Superintendent Sirisak Warasiri said. "So I sent my men to investigate."

"They found a well-established location with tables and chairs for the gamblers," he said.

Police raided the den, in a plantation in Pa Khlok, at 12:50am.

"When we arrived, about 20

gamblers were in the middle of watching a fish fight," said Surat Luecha of the Thalang Police.

"As soon as they started betting, we identified ourselves as police," Lt Surat said.

"The men took off running in every direction into the plantation, and we were only able to catch nine of them," he said.

About eleven gamblers were able to escape.

Police seized 28 fish and 200 baht in cash and charged the suspects with gambling.

—Thawit Bilabduddar



Fighting fish seized at the den.



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# Tiger Disco trial to begin

By Chutharat Plerin

MORE than a year after a fatal blaze killed four people at Patong's famous Tiger Disco nightclub on August 17 last year, the nightclub's operators will be called to enter a plea to the Phuket Court on charges of negligence causing death.

"Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and Sara Entertainment Co Ltd each face a charge under Section 291 of the Thai Criminal Code: causing death through negligence, as well as charges of causing physical and mental injury and trading after hours," Phuket Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsean Panhya confirmed on Wednesday.

"The suspects were formally charged on July 10. The next court appearance will be on September 2," Mr Chiengsean said.

On that day, the defendants will be called on to enter a plea, he added.

"They will also be asked to explain what evidence they have to support their plea," Mr Chiengsean explained.



Tourists examine the remains of Tiger Discotheque, where four people died in the inferno. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Although the trial is to be held in Phuket, the case had to be approved by the Public Prosecutor's regional head office in Surat Thani before being presented to the court, he added.

The long-awaited trial comes after a series of delays in securing evidence, despite Thailand's

leading forensic police being dispatched from Bangkok to investigate the fire.

It also comes after a damning report by the Building Society Inspectors and Officers Association (BSA) and the Association of Siamese Architects (ASA), which cited multiple failures by nightclub

management to adhere to fire-safety regulations.

The disco had improper placement of fire extinguishers and faulty emergency-exit ladders, and used a highly flammable foam for wall and ceiling decorations, said the report.

The popular night venue erupted

into flames just before 4am, while hundreds of patrons were still inside.

British tourist Michael Tzouvanni, 24, French tourist Emmanuel Becard, 30, and Thai nationals Duangporn Budklor, 34, and Nipaphat Sudtasorn, 36, died in the inferno.

Legal Counsel for Tiger Discotheque, Thamrongsak Boonrak, is confident of successfully defending the manslaughter charges, which carry a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in prison or a fine of up to 20,000 baht.

"We are not afraid to fight the charges because we are innocent. It was an accident," he assured.

"We have all the evidence we need to prove that it was a lightning strike that night. It was not our fault at all," he said.

Mr Thamrongsak also confirmed that Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai posted bail on July 10.

"Mr Piya was allowed to post bail by the court on that day. We bailed him out by cash," he said.

"It does not matter how much we paid to post bail. He is not going anywhere," he added.



Van driver Sarayuth Kaket, 41, suffered only minor injuries in the collision.

## Lucky escape for airport van driver

A TOUR van driver was lucky to walk away with minor injuries after the van he was driving slammed into the back of an 18-wheeled truck and trailer parked by the side of Thepkasattri Road early Tuesday morning.

Sarayuth Kaket, 41, was on his way to pick up guests at Phuket International Airport before dawn when the accident occurred.

"We received a report at about 5:20am from local residents who heard the sound of the impact," said Maj Kittipoom Tinthalang of Thalang Police Station.

At the scene, in front of the 7-Eleven near the entrance to Phanason Village, police officers and rescue workers found a Golden Beach Tour company passenger van with extensive damage

to its front left side.

"Mr Sarayuth suffered a cut on his head and some scratches on his face. He was taken to Thalang Hospital," Maj Kittipoom said.

Taweesak Jaroensong, the 29-year-old driver of the truck and trailer, told police he was heading from the bypass road in Rassada to Thalang when he pulled over to buy some drinks from the 7-Eleven.

"Mr Sarayuth apparently was driving at high speed at the time he crashed into the back of the truck," Maj Kittipoom said.

"There was very little damage to the trailer itself," he added.

There were no guests in the tour van at the time of the accident, Maj Kittipoom said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**



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Police line up the ya bah pills.

## Police pick up meth package, charge dealer

A MAN was charged with drug dealing after Phuket City Police pounced on him picking up a package that he claimed was supposed to encase a quilt – not the nearly 8,000 *ya bah* (methamphetamine) pills police found.

The man, Somsak Srisakul, was presented to the press on August 13 at Phuket City Police Station.

“We received a tip-off that drugs would be sent to Phuket through a delivery service and then picked up by a member of a drug network,” explained Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan.

The parcel arrived on August 10. “We waited for the man to pick up the box. Once he identified himself as the intended recipient of the parcel, we moved in,” Lt Col Prawit said.

Inside the package were two sets of food-carrying containers packed with a total of 7,791 *ya bah* pills.

“Mr Somsak told us that he didn’t know what was actually in the box, as the friend that paid him 1,500 baht to pick it up told him it was a quilt,” Col Prawit said.

Mr Somsak was charged with the possession of a category 1 drug with intent to sell.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Sun, sex and suspicion forces BBC statement

By Phuket Gazette

THE BBC has denied claims that it wasted more than 7 million baht on a show in Thailand after an episode was reportedly scrapped.

The British public service broadcaster issued a statement on Tuesday after leading UK daily newspapers *The Sun* and *Daily Mail* reported the crew for the BBC show *Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents* spent 10 days partying in Phuket.

The partying allegedly came at the British license fee payers’ expense – as UK residents must pay an annual license fee in order to watch TV – to the tune of 7 million baht.

The news reports claimed a gap was left in the filming schedule after one of the participants of the undercover show pulled out at the last minute.

However, the BBC yesterday said there was “no truth” to the newspapers’ claims.

“No episodes of *Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents* have been axed in this series and therefore there is no truth to the claim that we have had to write-off 150,000 pounds,” a joint BBC and RDF TV statement said.

The show *Sun, Sex and Suspicious Parents* follows young people on their first holiday abroad alone, unaware their parents have secretly travelled to the same destination to spy on them.

Commissioned by the BBC, the program is made by independent production company RDF, which uses its own crew.

The BBC said in this instance



The BBC has denied claims that more than 7 million baht was spent paying for a film crew (not pictured) to party.

two sets of friends had been due to travel to Thailand in June to take part in the show; however, one pulled out due to personal reasons.

Filming continued with the other group of friends as planned by the TV crew – who had flown out ahead to set up the production – while a new group was recast.

“Production schedules were

amended due to a change of contributors but the production team continued to work and film other material for the series,” said the joint statement.

The BBC added it was untrue to say there was a 10-day break in filming or that it was an “all-expenses-paid jaunt”.

It said all scheduling and budget arrangements on location were decided by RDF – whose crew

were allocated five days off during the 34-day shoot – and all leisure expenses were paid by the crew themselves.

“As with all productions, staff work very long hours, with the right to some time off,” the statement continued.

“RDF followed all BBC guidelines whilst filming the series and it will deliver in full, and for the original BBC program budget.”

## Druggies scramble to safety after dealer raises alert – two busted

A POLICE drug bust on August 8 netted only two female meth dealers after several teenagers using drugs at a bungalow in Phuket managed to scramble to freedom.

One of the two women arrested, Supattra Kanam, 24, spotted the police arriving at the bungalow, about half a kilometer from the Heroines’ Monument. She was able to run into the house and warn the youths using drugs inside, allowing them to escape, explained Thalang Police Inspector Weerayuth Sitthirattanakul.

“Because of her warning, we were only able to arrest Ms Supattra and a 17-year-old. Both of them are from Thalang,” Lt Col Weerayuth said.

Inside the house police discovered 707 *ya ba* (methamphetamine) pills and just over 90 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

“The drugs were packed in



The two women have been charged for dealing meth.

small plastic bags, ready to be sold,” Lt Col Weerayuth said.

“Both women have confessed to owning the drugs, saying that they had purchased them from a man named ‘Bang Bao’ on August 4. They said they had purchased

them with the intent of re-selling them to local youth,” Lt Col Weerayuth said.

Both women were charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

– Thawit Bilabdujar

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# Citizen lifeguards to bolster beach safety

SCORES of everyday people voluntarily underwent lifeguard training in order to help Phuket's strained contingent of lifeguards cope with the growing number of tourists, expats and local residents who need to be saved from dangerous surf.

There are currently 38 beach guard stations at 13 beaches in Phuket, staffed by a total of 108 lifeguards, explained Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyuth Chuayuan.

"From January through July this year, we saved 641 people, comprising 577 foreigners and 64 Thais," Mr Prathaiyuth said.

"This year is the fourth year we have held lifeguard training for the public. The 70 people being trained this year are ordinary people – beach hotel staffers, beach vendors and swimming club members – who might have the chance to rescue people at the beach," he said.

The training, organized by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization, began on August 5 and concluded on August 9.

Among those conducting the training were personnel from the Third Naval Area Command and the Phuket Marine Police.

Joining them were members of the Surf Life Saving Australia Club led by David Field, who has been



Many of those who work close to the beach volunteered for lifeguard training. Photo: Phuket Lifeguard Club

conducting surf life-saving training workshops in Phuket for more than a decade.

During the week-long workshop, participants learned many basic skills in how to rescue drowning victims: emergency care, resuscitation and first-aid

techniques. They also learned a variety of surf rescue techniques: board rescue, tube rescue and rescue with no gear.

The sessions included practical exercises staged at Nai Yang Beach.

"Tomorrow, trainees will be

divided into three teams for their final test, after which those who pass the course will be presented with a certificate confirming that they have successfully completed the lifeguard training course," Mr Prathaiyuth said last week.

– Chutharat Plerin



USS Higgins in Phuket. Photo: Isaac

## Guided-missile destroyer USS Higgins takes island holiday

THE guided-missile destroyer USS *Higgins* arrived in Phuket on August 8, anchoring at the Deep Sea Port at Cape Panwa.

The *Higgins*, the US Navy's 26th Arleigh Burke class destroyer, carries a crew of 276 sailors and a formidable armament of standard and vertical-launch missiles, long-range Tomahawk missiles, two triple-tube torpedo mounts and deck guns.

"The crew were welcomed to Phuket with a beachfront dinner last night in Patong, where many sailors have been enjoying the nightlife," said an officer at the Royal Thai Navy's Phuket-based Third Area Command.

The *Higgins* was in town until August 13.

The US Navy reports that the USS *Higgins* is deployed to the US 5th Fleet area of responsibility promoting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and support missions for Operation Enduring Freedom.

– Orawin Narabal

## Top-cop trio promotes safety

THE two highest-ranking police officers in Thailand joined Phuket's top cop in Patong on August 9 in the latest campaign to safeguard tourism revenue by convincing tourists that Phuket is a safe holiday destination.

Over 400 police officers gleaned from every station in Phuket gathered in formation at one end of Soi Bangla to be reviewed by the Royal Thai Police Commissioner Adul Saengsingkaew.

Joining Gen Adul were his second in command, Royal Thai Police Deputy Commissioner Aek Angsanant, as well as Phuket Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat and other officials.

"The Thai Government wants to increase tourist confidence by ensuring that Phuket is a safe place to visit," Gen Adul said.

The last time police turned up in mass formation was about a month ago, when 300 officers gathered in the same location during a similar push to bolster tourist confidence.

Phuket is among the top five tourist destinations in Thailand, and along with Bangkok, Chiang



Gen Adul (left) speaks with Governor Maitri Inthusut about safety.

Mai, Pattaya and Samui, is expected to produce two trillion baht from tourism by 2015, Gen Adul said.

More tourists visit Phuket every year, which means more revenue but also more crime, he said.

"It is the duty of the police to eliminate crime and maintain tourists' confidence in public safety.

"I came down to Phuket this

time to check up on police activities – to find out what the current problems are and lend a hand in solving them," he said.

After the officers were dismissed, Gen Adul led a group of officials down Soi Bangla, greeting tourists and reassuring them firsthand that Phuket is a safe place to vacation.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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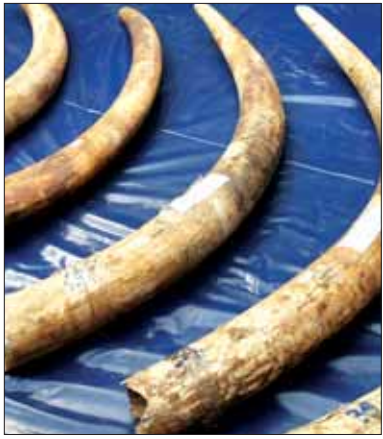
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Illegal African ivory is often 'washed' clean through Thailand's domestic, legal trade of ivory. Photo: The Nation

## Elephant Day puts Thai ivory trade back in spotlight

WITH World Elephant Day marked on Monday, the World Wildlife Fund and wildlife trade monitoring network Traffic have called on Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to ensure legal reform and deliver on her promise to shut down ivory trade in the country, reported *The Nation*.

In response to the dramatic rise in the number of elephants being poached for their ivory, the 64<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in March mandated Thailand and seven other nations implement an action plan to reduce illegal ivory trade – or face trade restrictions.

Thailand's ivory action plan, expected to be submitted to the Cabinet for approval this year, is required to specify activities to address the ivory trade legislation and regulation, national and international law enforcement, outreach and public awareness.

"Yingluck pledged at the opening of the CITES conference to end ivory trade in Thailand, seizing a key opportunity to combat global wildlife trafficking and address the elephant poaching crisis," said Janpai Ongsiriwittaya, Illegal Wildlife Trade campaign leader in WWF-Thailand.

Current laws allow the trade of ivory from domestic Thai elephants. However, it is against the law to bring ivory from African elephants into the country and to sell ivory from wild Asian elephants. Because of the dichotomy of these laws massive quantities of African ivory can be laundered through Thai shops.

## Cyber security debate launched over smartphone data

THE debate over electronic snooping reached Thai shores after it was revealed that the police's Technology Crime Suppression Division was trying to force the mobile chat company Line to allow it access to its records, *The Nation* reported.

Line is one of the most popular smartphone apps for instant messaging in Thailand. It's well known that chat groups on the service are often used to privately exchange gossip about potentially sensitive topics.

Maj Gen Pisit Pao-in, commander of the TCSD, said the agency had asked Line Corporation in Japan to cooperate, but had failed with other operators of social-media websites as they were mostly in the West and did not allow such investigations.

"We have been talking to them a lot, but they do not want to cooperate. When they want anything, they expect to get it, but when we ask them for something they rarely help us. They have taken a lot from Thailand but refused to cooperate with Thailand. I won't let them go if they make any mistakes," he said.

Gen Pisit said his agency also had the authority to check people's social activities on smartphones.

"Nowadays people use smartphones like a mobile computer. They use it to take videos, upload information, transfer money and connect to social networks. Therefore, we have to investigate information being sent via smartphones as well," he said.

"If I want, I can investigate all the informa-

tion on smartphones. We can investigate all the crimes done via computer systems."

Last week, Gen Pisit summoned four suspects for allegedly breaching Article 14 of the National Computer Act and Article 116 of the Criminal Law by posting messages via social media, saying they anticipated a coup and urging people to stock up on food and water.

He said such statements could put people in a state of panic, and those who "liked" or "shared" the messages could be considered violators of the law as well.



Maj Gen Pisit Pao-in

## Battle brews over oil slick

THE crude oil may have been cleaned off Koh Samet's Phrao Beach, but legal battles are brewing over the fallout from last month's PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC) oil slick on the Gulf of Thailand.

PTTGC may have to pay as little as 200 million baht as compensation for the damage done by the 50,000 liters its pipeline pumped into the sea, an economic expert has said.

This figure is based on an international rate that companies that cause an oil spill must pay – about 37,500 baht per liter – as compensation for all damage, according to Adis Israngkura na Ayudhaya of the National Institute of Development Administration (NIDA).

Meanwhile, fishermen in Rayong are getting ready to fight against the 1,000 baht per day they are being offered by the provincial authorities as compensation for their losses.

There are about 800 small trawlers in the coastal province.

"We believe the compensation should be calculated based on our real average daily income," Rayong Small Fishing Trawler Association president Jaturas Iamworanirun said at a meeting attended by about 1,000 fishermen.

At the meeting, the participants were given a form, reportedly prepared by Chulalongkorn University, on which they were asked to specify the amount of squid, shrimp, fish and clams they could catch every day on average.



Fishermen have rejected the 1,000 baht per day compensation offered by the government. Photo: The Nation

### AROUND THE nation

Earlier, the Rayong provincial government asked those affected to come forward and claim compensation. However, Mr Jaturas said, the authorities seemed to be prepared to pay just 1,000 baht in daily compensation for a period of 30 days.

"We can't accept that," Mr Jaturas said.

The Marine and Coastal Resources Department is planning to file a lawsuit against PTTGC if it finds that the recent oil spill off Rayong has damaged the underwater ecosystem.

"We are now surveying the area to estimate the damage caused by the oil spill, and it will take about a year to work out the damage caused to the marine ecosystem," Marine and Coastal Resources Department director-general Noppon Srisuk told a press conference.

He added that Natural Resources and Environment Minister Vichet Kasemthongsri had instructed him to monitor the impact of the oil spill on coral reefs and the marine system.

The oil slick washed up in the area on July 28. The survey team, which has covered an area of 50 square meters south of Ao Phrao, found that about 70 per cent of the coral reefs had suffered from bleaching.

"They [the coral] are not dead. They are just sick," Mr Noppon explained.

## Tale of two cities coping with climate change

CHIANG Rai and Songkhla have joined global efforts to tackle the threat of climate change.

The two "Climate Change Resilience Learning Centres" were set up to prepare local residents for the potential repercussions of natural and man-made disasters, reported *The Nation*.

"These centers will monitor natural disasters across the provinces. Once the centers have detected potential signs of natural disasters such as flash floods and severe drought, people will be alerted immediately so they can prepare," Chiang Rai



Flooding poses a real threat as the climate changes. Photo: The Nation

municipality permanent secretary Suranit Ong-la said.

North Thailand, especially Chiang Rai, has been plagued with natural disasters over the past de-

cade. Out-of-season rainfall, flash floods, droughts and haze have continued to trouble those living in the province.

In addition to the natural disasters, a major threat for people is the rapid expansion of city infrastructure and the growing suburban population, which are putting pressure on local authorities. The disposal of rising quantities of household waste effectively is another problem in the area.

"City planning can be a key tool in driving these strategies," Mr Suranit said.

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# Typhoon strikes

## Philippines devastated by floods, landslides – 13 missing

By Manuel Mogato

THE most powerful typhoon to hit the Philippines this year triggered landslides and floods on Monday, disrupting power and communication links to leave six dead and 13 fishermen missing, weather and disaster officials said.

Typhoon Utor, packing winds of 150kmh near its center and gusts of up to 185kmh, regained strength as it moved out of northern Luzon island towards the South China Sea, headed west-northwest at 19kmh, officials said.

The coastal town of Casiguran in Aurora province, 343km north-east of the capital Manila, suffered the worst damage, after the typhoon set off landslides that blocked its only access road.

"About 90 per cent of our agriculture was destroyed or damaged, particularly rice and corn crops and coconut plantations," Aurora governor Gerardo Noveras told ANC television, adding that the full extent of damage was still unknown.

"We have restored power and communications in some towns, and we're ready to deliver relief

### AROUND THE region

goods to affected families."

But Casiguran and another coastal town were still isolated, he said.

Television showed images of devastation ranging from uprooted trees and fallen lampposts to tangled power lines and flattened houses. Most mountain roads were blocked by boulders and loosened soil.

By Wednesday, the typhoon, the 12<sup>th</sup> tropical cyclone to hit the Philippines this year, began lashing Hong Kong, forcing flights to be cancelled and the stock market to be shut down.

The Philippines national disaster agency said a man clearing a clogged drain was killed when a landslide buried him in mountainous Benguet province, while 13 fishermen in the coastal provinces of Pangasinan and Camarines Sur were reported missing.

Police are also checking reports



Workers clear debris following a landslide in Baguio City. Photo: Reuters

of three missing fishing boats, with 25 men aboard. But nine fishermen earlier reported missing on the central island of Catanduanes have all been accounted for, disaster officials said.

Schools in the capital and most parts of Luzon were closed while two local carriers suspended 18 domestic flights. Sea travel halted and commuter buses were stalled.

– Reuters

### In brief...

#### Indonesia to scan Chinese tourists for H7N9 bird flu

INDONESIA'S Health Ministry will start thermal scanning of tourists from mainland China after the recent discovery that H7N9, the deadly bird flu strain that has caused deaths in China and Taiwan, is transmittable among humans, heightening concern that it could lead to a pandemic.

Thermal scanners will be used at airports in Jakarta and Denpasar, said Disease Control and Environmental Health Director Tjandra Yoga Aditama.

– The Jakarta Post

#### Malaysia denies 8 killed in ambush

MALAYSIA has dismissed newspaper reports published in Manila that eight Malay soldiers had been killed in an ambush by Sulu gunmen in Lahad Datu on Borneo last week.

"I urge people not to believe such unfounded claims by these [Sulu] individuals who are using it as propaganda," said Eastern Sabah Security Command director-general Datuk Mohammad Mentek.

The news follows eight Malaysian policemen and 52 Sulu militants being killed in clashes on Borneo in March.

– The Star

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# Boston mafia takes a hit

## AROUND THE world

By Scott Malone

JAMES "Whitey" Bulger, a brutal gangster who ruled over Boston's criminal underworld in the 1970s and '80s and evaded capture for 16 years, was found guilty of murder and racketeering by a jury on Monday and will likely spend the rest of his life in prison.

The 83-year-old Mr Bulger stood quietly as the verdict was read, showing little emotional response to the decision by jurors to convict him after five days of deliberation in Boston federal court.

A legendary figure in Boston's underworld, Mr Bulger ran the "Winter Hill" crime gang after coming to power in a mob war that resulted in the death of members of rival gangs. He cemented his grip on Boston's crime scene through ties with corrupt Federal Bureau of



Jack Bulger, brother of James Bulger, leaves the courthouse. Photo: Reuters

Investigation officials who shared his Irish ethnicity and turned a blind eye to his crimes in exchange for information they could use against the Italian Mafia.

Nicknamed "Whitey" because of the shock of light-colored hair he had as a young man, Mr Bulger fled Boston in 1994 after a tip from a corrupt agent that his ar-

rest was imminent.

He spent 16 years on the run, many of them on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list. Agents caught up with Mr Bulger in June 2011, living in a seaside California apartment.

The jury convicted him of all but one of 32 criminal counts.

"Thirty-one out of thirty-two counts in such a complicated case

covering such a long period of time is a fabulous result for the government," said Michael Kendall, a former federal prosecutor in Boston who is now with the law firm McDermott Will & Emery.

Defense attorney JW Carney told reporters afterward that his client was pleased by the outcome, and noted that Mr Bulger had avoided the death penalty.

"This trial has never been about Jim Bulger being set free," he said.

Mr Bulger's lawyers focused their efforts on denying prosecutors' assertion that Mr Bulger had served as an FBI informant for more than a decade.

The jury found Mr Bulger guilty of 11 of the 19 murder charges.

The government's case relied heavily on three former top associates of Mr Bulger including Stephen "The Rifleman" Flemmi, John "The Executioner" Martorano and Kevin Weeks, who detailed 19 murders the gang committed.

Mr Carney said that Mr Bulger was glad to have his story told at trial. "At the end of a person's life, when people think he is the only bad person in the courtroom, it's important to show that that's not true," he said. — Reuters

## Israel intercepts rocket over major tourist destination

ISRAEL intercepted a rocket over its southern resort city of Eilat early on Tuesday, blowing it up in midair near its border with Egypt's Sinai Peninsula, a military official said.

Islamist militants operating in the lawless desert peninsula said they fired the rocket at the city, which was packed with tourists, in retaliation for the killing of four guerrillas in Sinai on Friday.

No casualties or damage were reported.

"It's not the first time that a rocket has been fired at Eilat, but it is the first time the Iron Dome has intercepted one," Dani Arditi, former national security adviser told Army Radio.

Magles Shoura al-Mujahideen, a hardline Islamist faction which also has a small presence in the Gaza Strip, said it fired the missile.

"In a swift response to the lat-



A missile fired from the Iron Dome. Photo: Israel Defense Forces

est crime of the Jews that killed four Mujahideen in the land of Sinai through a strike by a pilotless plane, the lions of Maglis Shoura al-Mujahideen... were able to strike the occupied city of Om al-Rashash 'Eilat' with a rocket," it said in a statement published online.

"We assure that neither Eilat nor any other Israeli cities will be blessed with security, tourism or economy," it added.

— Reuters

## American jailed in North Korea hospitalized

AN AMERICAN Christian missionary imprisoned in North Korea is in deteriorating health and has been moved from a prison work camp to a hospital within the past two weeks, his sister said at a vigil for her brother on August 10.

Kenneth Bae was sentenced in May to 15 years of hard labor after North Korea's Supreme Court convicted him of state subversion. The court said Mr Bae, 45, had used his tourism business to form groups to overthrow the government.

Mr Bae was detained in November as he led a tour group through the northern region of the country. His sentencing came amid acrimonious relations between Pyongyang and Washington over the reclusive state's



Terri Chung, sister of Kenneth Bae, at a vigil in the US. Photo: Reuters

necessitating his transfer to a state hospital, she said.

Mr Bae, a naturalized US citizen born in South Korea who moved to the United States with his family in 1985, has spent much of the last seven years in China, where he started a business leading tour groups into the northern region of North Korea, Ms Chung said.

— Reuters

## In brief...

### Over 30 hacked, shot to death in Nigeria attack

GUNMEN have killed at least 30 people in an attack in a farming region in northeast Nigeria where the Islamist sect Boko Haram is active, a military source and residents said on Monday.

Men dressed in military camouflage arrived in Konduga town on Sunday morning and shot or hacked to death dozens of people returning from morning Muslim prayers, two residents said.

### Mexico proposes energy reform, investors unsure

PRESIDENT Enrique Pena Nieto on Monday proposed an overhaul of Mexico's energy industry to offer private companies profit-sharing contracts, but investors said it might be too cautious and some sold Mexican assets.

The proposal calls for changes to key articles of the constitution that ban certain contracts and make oil, gas, petrochemicals and electricity the sole preserve of the state, in a bid to lure investment to stem sliding oil output.

If enacted, the reform would mark the largest private sector opening in decades for Mexico's energy industry, which was nationalized in 1938 and is controlled by state monopoly Pemex.

### Dalai Lama's site in China hacked

A PROMINENT computer security firm warned that the Dalai Lama's Chinese-language website has been hacked and is infecting visitors' computers with viruses in what may be an effort to spy on human rights activists who frequently visit the site.

Kaspersky Lab researcher Kurt Baumgartner told Reuters on Monday that he is advising web surfers to stay away from the Chinese-language site of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) until the organization fixes the bug.

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# Savitri plans Phuket hotel

SAVITRI Ramyarupa, managing director of Chatrium Hotels and Residences, shared her vision and plans for the next three years.

She said she is planning to add two more properties in Bangkok and Phuket, along with expansion of its existing property in Yangon, Myanmar.

This is an attempt to cash in on the expected influx of international business and leisure travellers to the region after the Asean Economic Community (AEC) takes effect in 2015.

In an interview with The Nation in Bangkok, Savitri said that Thailand still had high potential in terms of tourism compared with its neighboring countries.

"Luckily, our country will gain [an] advantage due to its strategic location at the heart of the Asean region. Once the AEC is fully implemented in two years' time, this region, with its large and strong consumer base will attract foreign investors. Meanwhile the culture-rich destinations will also lure international tourists," Savitri said.

Bangkok will likely become a transit point both for business and leisure travellers

**PROPERTY**  
**Gazette**



Savitri Ramyarupa, managing director of Chatrium Hotels and Residences.

in the region and might face decreasing lengths of stay, but other key tourist destinations such as Phuket and Chiang Mai will take up the slack.

To be well prepared for this change, Savitri said she already had a plan. In Bangkok, Chatrium will invest in a new five-star hotel in a prime location near Siam Paragon. Another luxury property will be built in Phuket near Surin Beach.

Both new properties will accommodate guests with daily and long-stay services.

For the overseas market, Savitri stressed that Myanmar was still be key for her company. In the heart of the country's commercial capital, Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon offers 303 rooms, including 37 suites, for leisure travellers during peak season and business travellers off-season.

Since the political and economic reforms last year, a large number of international investors and tourists have been flocking into this neighboring country, for business opportunities as well as new travel experiences.

Currently, Chatrium Hotels & Residences operates four properties in Bangkok and



**LIVE LUXURY:** Two bedroom grand suite room at Chatrium Residence Sathon. (Below) Chatrium Emporium Suites: Presidential Suite in Bangkok. Photo: Chatrium Hotel & Residence.



one hotel in Yangon, totalling 1,800 rooms. Those in the Thai capital are Chatrium Hotel Riverside Bangkok, Emporium Suites by Chatrium, Chatrium Residence Sathon Bangkok and Chatrium Residence Riverside Bangkok.

Though Savitri is a member of the Sophonpanich family, a leading financial and business family, and a daughter

of Chatri Sophonpanich, she prefers to keep a low profile.

She graduated with a Master of Business Administration degree from Sasin Graduate Institute of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Economics from Barnard College, Columbia University, New York.

– *Phuket Gazette*



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# Condo commercial compliance

## The perils of using residential condominium space for commercial purposes

THERE are a number of condominium developments in Phuket where commercial entities do business, be it a travel agency, rental agency, spa or restaurant. Although such businesses may benefit the owners, juristic persons should make sure that commercial use of space in residential condominiums is compliant with the Condominium Act.

Compliance with the building regulations will help ensure transparency and prevent any negative consequences that may incur from unhappy co-owners, according to Jones Lang LaSalle, a professional services firm specializing in real estate.

Dexter Norville, Head of Estate Management at Jones Lang LaSalle in Phuket, said: "There are more than 100 residential condominium buildings across Phuket. The majority of these buildings have space for commercial use in one form or another. While many developments have included commercial

space from the beginning of the planning and development stage, others have added commercial space only after construction completion.

Additionally, some co-owners use their residential units for commercial purposes. However, it is imperative that commercial use in condominiums comply with the Condominium Act."

There are two major scenarios where a commercial operation is allowed. Firstly, the residential development must have commercial units indicated on its building plans. Secondly, commercial space can be added into a completed development upon approval by vote of more than 50% of the building's total co-owners, and the commercial space has a lease indicating the terms and what the business operator can do in the space.

While the first scenario is a straightforward process that takes place at the planning and development stage, a conflict of

interest can still occur, according to Mr Norville. "Most developers may have included a sales office within the development, for their sales team selling remaining units. Even after all units are sold out, some of these developers may remain within the condominium in good faith to offer investors and owners sales and leasing services. But this will need approval once the condominium juristic person is formed," he said.

He added that the second scenario is often more controversial, as the process of adding commercial use into a residential condominium often goes wrong as a result of misconceptions of the juristic person committee, property managers, or co-owners regarding commercial use within condominiums.

According to building regulations, co-owners have no right to use their own residential space for a commercial venture, and juristic person committees as well as property managers do not have the power to authorize the use of space for commercial purposes.

"In many cases, co-owners mistakenly believe they can use their own residential space for commercial activity, while juristic person committees could unknowingly enter into agreements with third parties to allow them to operate commercial services from within their building," said Mr Norville.

In the event a commercial operation within the condominium does not follow the correct process, the condominium juristic person, together with the property manager, can call for an extraordinary meeting (EGM) to



Some developments include commercial space in the original plans, but others bypass this rule and add commercial space only after construction completion. This can create problems later on. Photo: Toshihiro Oimatsu

address the issue. At the EGM, the co-owners can choose to either keep the operation or reject it. If the majority of the co-owners disapprove the operation, the owner of the disapproved operation will be asked to stop the operation.

"Generally, this is an unpleasant process, which can become more complicated when the owner

of the business fails to stop the operation within an agreed time frame. When this case happens, the condominium committee may need to proceed with legal action. Therefore, it would be better for co-owners, juristic committees and property managers to understand and comply with building regulations," Mr Norville concluded.



While mixed-use developments like this one, can by default be utilized for both residential and commercial purposes, condos in Thailand are prohibited from doing so, unless clarified in the original plans. Photo: Brett VA

## Bangkok hotel rooms swell ahead of AEC

BANGKOK'S hotel market will swell with the opening of more properties that will increase rooms to 42,000 by 2015, says a major real-estate agency.

Hotel supply in Bangkok grew 12.1% year-on-year with the completion of six hotels in the first half of this year, according to CB Richard Ellis Thailand's latest survey.

Downtown Bangkok now has 37,500 hotel rooms and can expect 4,400 more by 2015, bringing the total up by 11.9% to almost 42,000. Almost all of the new hotels are high-rises. The most popular area for hotel development remains Ploenchit/Sukhumvit, with 65% of the total supply and four out of the six new hotels, followed by Silom/Sathorn with 21% and riverside with 14%.

About 2,250 rooms will be completed in the second half of this year, comprising luxury rooms 13 %, first-class rooms 8 %, mid-

range rooms 46 % and economy rooms 33 %.

The competition due to openings is still high, although the supply trend this year is encouraging for the industry with the number of construction permits plunging over the past two years.

"The big challenge for hotel owners is to raise room rates, which have not grown significantly for the last five years. The second half of 2013 may finally see growth in visitor arrivals outpacing new supply, allowing owners to raise rates," commented James Pitchon, executive director and head of CBRE Research and Consulting in Thailand.

There is a significant opportunity for economy hotels in the country. The increase in visitor arrivals in Bangkok has largely been driven by the Asian feeder market, and many Asian visitors.

— The Nation

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# Table for three, please

Contemplating 'prime real estate' and 'evicting squatters' at the local Starbucks



Last Call

By Bill Barnett

THE intersection, or better yet juxtaposition between the mythical Cyclops of desire and loathing is hardly visible to the naked eye. I might be going a little too "fru fru" here so let's back away from the table a bit. Slowly, making sure not to stumble over a nearby sleeping soi dog.

Back we go to the beginning of the story, down into the belly of the beast. It was a bright sunny morning in Bangkok when the world seemed right, and each and every step forward had a glowing air of optimism and hope. Little did I know that in the span of a short but sweet ten minutes, my entire life would come crashing down around my ankles like baggy pants without a belt.

My morning ritual as every reader knows consists of immediate caffeinating as soon as possible after waking. While some could consider it a primal scream for help, in my mind it's mandatory and yes mildly addictive. Being off the island and

unable to visit my local spot, I headed off to a nearby Starbucks.

My heart started thumping as soon as the green and white sign was spotted but also anxiety struck a sudden sour note that resonated all the way to my toes – could I find a vacant comfy mock-leather seat to gloat after my anticipated ascension to the heavens of coffeedom?

In the world of coffee shops there is a clear line between the haves and the have-nots. It's a rampant, random sort of apartheid that ultimately comes down to timing and luck. On this sunny day, my luck was about to turn south, and I'm not talking Rawai. Further past Malaysia and even Tasmania, down to the tip of the Southern Hemisphere where the ice house rules.

Just as I had walked in, the last vacant easy chair was snatched out from under me by a young lady bearing three mobile phones, some sort of meat on large sticks in a



LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION: Most seating can be likened to a middle-income neighborhood – not the worst, nor the best.

plastic bag and a pair of high heels. Yes as we all know in slipperland, Cinderella goes to work in flip flops. She appeared to be settling in for the duration, so, crestfallen, I limped up to the counter and meekly ordered a *grande latte*.

It was a busy day at the bucks and oddly enough the seat left was next to the trash can and door. This was of course one of those uncomfortable wooden chairs and tables which are meant to hold job interviews, or else discourage you

from hanging out too long as they are simply put – uncomfortable.

My line of sight though was directed to the woman who immediately started working all three mobile devices but didn't seem to order anything. No green tea frapo whipped cream in a giant plastic cup or even a nuked pastry. Nothing. Absolutely nothing. "Who the hell does she think

she is?" I cried out inside.

Yes my moments of indignation were punctuated by the pain of a door being shut on my food and avoiding filled trash bags hurled my way. In real estate or hotels, it's all about location. This one sucked.

In these tortuous moments, I took a moment to reflect on a lifetime spent developing a seating strategy. This started at a young age in school trying to get a permanent desk near to that lovely little blond girl who made your heart thump like a hyped-up kangaroo. Of course

you ended up sitting next to the class pest or worse.

By the time you start dating and become more mature with those romantic dinners out with just the two of you, the trick is to avoid the terrible twosome conundrum of being next to the kitchen or else squeezed into the lush vegetation which has you saying "Dr Livingston, I presume?" The answer of course was to book a table for three which always ended up in prime-time placement and when asked where the third person was, you simply answered in a hushed tone about a vague medical emergency.

Meanwhile back at Starbucks, I was conflicted. Lacking the presence of coffee shop police, would the 18-year-old manager appreciate my concern about outsiders using the premises without buying anything. Or should I storm over and cause a scene, ejecting this interloper to prove a point?

Could I, should I rise to the occasion? Just as I was about to reach the moment of decision the door swung wide, hit my own wooden table and vaulted my *grande latte* straight into my lap. Of course that's another story.

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# Ensure fiduciary duty

## Retirement Years

By David Mayes

FIDUCIARY duty basically means that an agent is meant to act in the best interest of his client, and not his own. It is a very simple concept, yet not surprisingly the real world all too often does not work this way.

When it comes down to it, human beings very often fall victim to greed. If I told most people how many times I have been blatantly lied to by fund managers and their promoters, most people would stay away from the financial markets all together.

Unfortunately, they would then fall victim to inflation which may have a far worse impact on their long term financial well-being.

You would also have had to have spent the last decade in a vacuum to believe that a publicly traded company's financial statements aren't easily manipulated to hide an imminent bankruptcy. Do a quick search on Bear Stearns, Lehman Brothers or Enron if you need a refresher.

You don't need to despair though, as there are in fact ways to align a money manager's interests with those of yourself. This ensures fiduciary duty is followed without relying on the

moral fiber of those entrusted with your money. Unfortunately, it doesn't eliminate human error, but sadly there are no guarantees in life. You could get hit by a bus tomorrow, especially if you venture out onto Phuket's roads. Diversification can help with this.

There have been many structures and regulations tried over the years and decades to try and solve what is called the principal agent problem. Unfortunately, attempting to regulate morality has never worked very well, but it has managed to make fraudsters get much more creative. The most common historical breach of fiduciary duty on Wall Street has been churning accounts, where brokers made per-trade commissions and thus overtraded at the clients' expense, to pad their own pockets. Fixed annual management charges as a percentage of an account's value, have reduced the practice of churning, but have opened the door for a separate problem.

Since the manager can continue to make money even if the client gets a negative return, many will make opposite calls for separate accounts since they are guaranteed to keep some happy clients. I think this practice is absolutely despicable, and the most famous cases of this involved investment letters.



**LIMITED TRUST:** There are ways to ensure your financial advisors act in your best interest. Photo: Dave Dugdale

Firms would fax out recommendations for highly volatile stocks to a large database with opposite recommendations (think of telling half to put their money on red and the other half on black at roulette), and since each time they would be right on 50%, eventually they would widdle their list of prospects down to a small amount of people but they would have an amazingly impressive 100% track record with these few. I

remember my father getting these faxed to him all the time when I was growing up and him checking up on them, luckily we always seemed to be in the loser group and he never became a victim of the ploy.

Incentive fees attempt to fix this problem, since a manager who charges an incentive fee (usually 10-20% of profits) will earn a lot more by making you positive returns. This is great in theory and I generally only like

to use funds where the manager earns an incentive fee and also for another reason. It proves that the manager believes in himself. If you believed you could make positive returns and were setting up a fund, would you not set it up in a way to earn yourself the most money? A fund manager who does not have an incentive fee in my opinion does not believe in his ability and will thus only take a fixed management fee.

# Staying in touch with Facebook

ONE of the main things I like about Facebook is that I can stay in touch with my family and friends all via one platform. Before I had to keep emailing, making phone calls and writing the occasional letter to and from the US. Now with Facebook, I don't have to do that anymore. I'm able to share my life here in Thailand and be able to see the events in the lives of those closest to me. All of this has led me to wonder if now is the time to buy Facebook stock since I use it every day.

Last year when the company went public, I had clients calling me asking if they should buy. I told them that I never buy stock on the IPO because there's too much risk. Boy was I right. The stock came public at US\$38, popped to \$45 and then started a gradual decline to a low of \$17.55. The stock is currently trading around \$26 and my investment radar is on high alert.

Facebook has the largest database of user's personal data in the world. Users have shared with Facebook data that no other site has. How many sites have the user's birthday, employment, likes, employment and education? The company is an aggregator of user information. The question that has been on investor minds is how can the company capitalize

## Island Investor

By Don Freeman

on all that information and justify a huge market cap.

To capitalize on all this information, the company has launched Graph Search, Facebook's challenge to Google. With Graph Search, users can search and find anything that's been shared on the site within one's own network. You can find people, places, photos and the likes of your friends.

Facebook's strategy is have the user search Facebook before they turn to Google.

With Graph Search, businesses can pay to have their rankings higher than competitors the same way they do with Google search. Since the user's information is localized, businesses can target the user and provide the nearest location for the customer to purchase. In comparing the two companies, Google last year had \$50 billion in revenues versus Facebook's \$5bn. If Facebook

can capture just 5% of Google's search business, revenue will increase by 50%.

One of the ways Facebook is seeking to monetize this data is through the use of the Facebook Gift Card. This is a potential game changer in the growing gift card industry. Facebook users can search a user's likes



**LIKE MONEY:** This might be a good time to buy Facebook stock. Photo: Enoc vt

and then purchase a gift card tailored to their interests. This eliminates the hassle of figuring out what to get someone for their birthday or an occasion. So far the program is only available for the Olive Garden, Jamba Juice, Target and Sephora. Look for many more companies to join the program as Facebook grows the business.

One of the key acquisitions that Facebook has made is Instagram. Instagram has been a growth

phenomenon. When Facebook purchased Instagram for \$1bn, Instagram had 27 million users. Almost one year later, Instagram has over 100mn users. Instagram has 90mn active monthly users that upload 40mn photos per day. Users make more than 1000 comments per second and over 8,500 likes per second.

If you compare the growth of Instagram to that of Facebook, you'll find that Instagram is growing at a much faster rate than Facebook did.

It took Facebook four and a half years to reach 100mn users. Instagram reached this milestone in only two

and a half years. Making this feat even more impressive is the fact that the photo-sharing application is limited to iPhone and Android devices.

The immense popularity of Instagram is being led by teenagers. Teenagers are typically at the forefront of the latest and greatest. They were the first ones to get on Facebook and then their parents and grandparents followed.

Now they're spending more time on Instagram and their

parents and grandparents are likely to follow as well.

Some of the smartest investors in the world have been recently buying Facebook stock. Among those buying are former Fidelity Magellan star manager, Jeffrey Vinik and billionaire Leon Cooperman. Last quarter the number of funds owning Facebook stock increased from 48 to 67. The buying interest in the stock by the big funds is a positive sign for long-term holders of Facebook stock.

I have been watching the stock since the company went public 10 months ago. The stock got a little ahead of itself when it hit \$32 last month but now Facebook has consolidated nicely and technically looks very good. This pullback appears to be a good spot for long-term buyers to get in the stock.

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



# My house for your car: B2B

## New biz bartering opportunities in Phuket

By Kanyawarat Pramprasert

LOOKING to expand locally what is touted as the “world’s largest international barter network”, BBX Thailand is offering to slash its sign-on fee for new members in Phuket.

The barter-credit network facilitator, founded in Australia in 1993 and currently operating in nine countries globally, held a Phuket network meeting last week at Ban See Nam restaurant.

A BBX Phuket representative told the *Gazette* that the first 100 businesses in Phuket to sign on will be exempt from paying the usual sign-on fee of 39,500 baht, with starting credit limits offered between 250,000 to one million baht.

Active in Phuket for about six months now, the company currently has over 300 members nationally, which include businesses in the hotel, media, restaurant, spa, transport and

travel industries.

The firm entered Thailand in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2012, with focus-markets covering Phuket, Pattaya, Bangkok and Chiang Mai.

Based on a B2B “cashless platform”, the company’s barter-credit business model allows members to save significantly on procurement costs for certain goods and services from other members within the network at sub-market rates. In turn, BBX helps promote member busi-



**NO MONEY, NO PROBLEM:** Screenshots of the BBX Thailand website. The new business-to-business barter network offers considerable deals.

nesses through marketing by bringing more members and thus potential clients into the network. The company also offers

members an interest-free credit line, in which members can put up their products or services in barter as payment.

# Asia-Pacific consumers careful, frugal

ECONOMY-related matters appear to be on top of the list of concerns for today’s Asia Pacific consumers. According to the latest global survey by GfK, two in every five surveyed are worried about recession and unemployment as well as inflation and high prices, and at the same time, one in three said they are concerned about

having enough money to live right and pay the bills.

While consumers in Singapore (65%), Thailand (55%), China (51%) and Indonesia (39%) expressed their greatest anxiety towards inflation, those in Taiwan (57%), Korea (51%) and Japan are mostly worried about recession and unemployment.

Meanwhile, the topmost concern of half of the Australian respondents revolved around their personal finances. Crime and lawlessness also rank among the top four worries in the region, particularly in Malaysia (67%), Vietnam (55%) and India (51%).

“Economic conditions have in most cases stabilized, but there is a significant level of uneasiness around various areas,” said Jodie Roberts, Regional Director for GfK Consumer Trends. “There are other areas which also registered significant levels of concern but only in specific countries, such as drug abuse in Thailand (55%) and Indonesia (37%), cost of healthcare in Singapore (42%), and educational quality in China (33%) and Indonesia (32%).”

GfK polled over 40,000 consumers aged 15+ across 28 countries, including 11 from Asia Pacific – Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and the latest additions of Singapore, Malaysia and Vietnam. Approximately 1,500 respondents per market were surveyed on their attitudes, behaviors and values

across a range of topics.

The survey also revealed that consumers have been treading carefully when it comes to their regular expenses as seen in their conscious reduction in spending on various aspects of their life. In their effort to cut costs, the first that most often will be struck off from their list of regular activities is dining out at restaurants, something which over a third (34%) of respondents said they have done in the past 12 months. Nearly a quarter (23%) also stated buying less clothing and shoes.

Along the similar theme of saving money, GfK also uncovered the prudence exercised by consumers of different countries on where to spend their cash. Respondents were given a list of money saving strategies, which included using coupons; using less or going without an item; shopping at discount stores; purchasing energy-saving products; buying in bulk to get greater discounts and switching to cheaper brands, for example; findings revealed that the Australians, South Koreans, and Taiwanese are the most careful spenders in

the region as they consciously implement saving strategies. For instance, Aussies are more inclined to shop more carefully for daily necessities (63%) and postpone purchases until the product was on sale/special offer (63%); and South Koreans (73%) along with the Taiwanese (67%) have used a coupon.

“In markets like Australia where there has been some economic uncertainty – and particularly where the cost of living is so high, consumers have become a lot more cautious about how they spend their money,” said Roberts.

“An important point for companies to note is that these behaviors remain even as the economic environment improves, and thus companies which are able to deliver on value – which is not necessarily about lowest price – will benefit from this consumer trend,” Roberts concluded.

– *Phuket Gazette*

The consumer insights detailed in this article are drawn from in-depth analysis of GfK’s consumer trends study, Roper Reports Worldwide.



**INTENSIVE INCENTIVE.** Advertisers throughout the Asia Pacific region must be increasingly clever to draw customers, who are pinching their pockets.

## Chinese, Russian influx a boon

DESPITE a dramatic decline of visitors from Western Europe, Phuket’s tourism industry thrives, thanks to the throngs of Chinese and Russian travellers who fill up hotel rooms but also strain the infrastructure.

“For the first time, travellers from legacy markets such as Western Europe are no longer present in the top five arrivals. What has replaced them are Asian regional travellers and the emerging Russian segment,” noted Bill Barnett, managing director of consultancy C9 Hotelworks.

According to the firm, in the first

half of this year, nearly half a million Chinese travellers visited the resort island, compared to under 40,000 in 2007. Most of them arrived by air, which spurred a surge in direct flights to 22 from only seven in 2007.

“We forecast a record high 3 million international visitors for the full year 2013 with the duo of China and Russia boosting 44% of the total overseas volume at the end of June. The mantra of demand is clearly Thailand’s strategic location in the sweet spot ‘window’ of six hours and under airline travel time.”

C9’s report shows that midyear Phuket market-wide occupancy stood at 76%, which is the highest level since 2008. More importantly, average rates year on year rose by 7% for the same period.

“We looked inside the numbers and spoke to hoteliers regarding the trend of Eastern European tourists upgrading room categories or using higher-rated hotels, which is on the way up. This is apparent in the performance of the upscale tier and beach-specific west-coast locations where room rates have ticked higher.” – *Phuket Gazette*



# Isle of Caprice

THE naming of 11 parties that will be investigated by the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) for so-called “mafia” activities in the island’s tourism industry (see page 5) have piqued the interest of even some of the most jaded Phuket media observers. However, only time will tell if this initiative turns out to be the first dose of the long-awaited elixir the island so badly needs to end the abysmal state of affairs in the public transport sector.

News that the DSI would set up its own “organized crime centers” on the island was initially met with derision by critics, and not without reason: a brief glance at the DSI’s current English-language webpages make it virtually impossible for a foreigner to launch a complaint in that language; even the webpage intended to accept complaints in English is incorrectly labeled “compliant”, and if one enters it all the subsequent information is in Thai.

Many critics viewed the development as mere window dressing: a political reaction aimed at showing foreign governments that something was being done to address the endless stream of complaints about tourist rip-offs on the island. More cynically, some even viewed the initiative as an effort to use the state law enforcement apparatus to extort the extortionists.

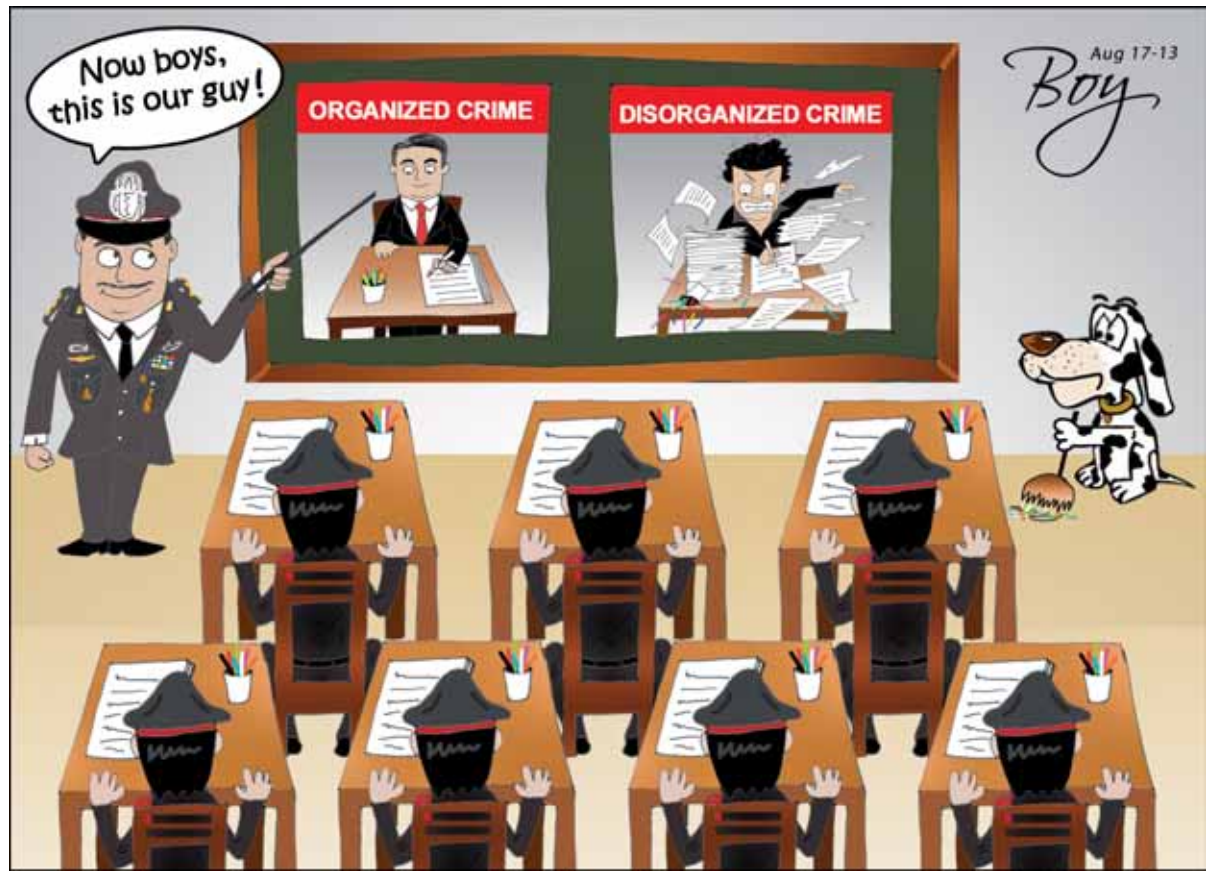
The release of the names of the first 11 parties to be probed raised more than a few eyebrows, especially as it included one of the island’s most powerful local politicians, Pian Keesin, and his son Preechavude, better known as Prab, who now runs the family’s business empire, which includes the well-known Pisona Group and affiliated business interests.

It certainly would not be the first time a sitting Patong Mayor has been accused of serious crimes while forces loyal to former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra – ironically, himself currently a fugitive from the law – were in office. This has led many to liken this latest probe to those launched during the height of Thaksin’s powers in the early 2000s, when many rich Phuket landholders who supported the locally-powerful Democrat Party were investigated for illegally acquiring state land through the Agriculture Department’s *SorPorKor* program, intended to make degraded state forest land available for use to landless farmers.

However, a review of the list of parties that will be subject to probes this time reveals that most are directly involved in the public transport sector, operating taxi ranks or tour counters. Few, if any, of the names released are typically associated with politics, at least not at the national level.

For these reasons, we join those who view this latest development with guarded optimism – after all, the situation could hardly get any worse than it already is.

If the DSI can bring to light sufficient evidence to prove in court that those accused of “mafia-like” activities are guilty, we hope that the evidence collected will be used to extend the investigations to target corrupt government officials – including police – who allowed mafia to continue, either through negligence or in return for payoffs.



## DSI going in the right direction

Re: Gazette online, Patong Mayor Pian Keesin targeted in DSI’s investigations list, August 10

I’m sure there are other names that could be added to the list, but it’s a good start.

It’s almost common knowledge that many officials in various forms are responsible for the injustices and practices which have been the cause for major concerns on how Phuket has been operated in the past.

This must be stopped, and finally we now see positive action on the part of the government. Long may it continue!

Reader  
Gazette forum

### They shouldn’t have published the names

Re: Gazette online, Patong Mayor Pian Keesin targeted in DSI’s investigations list, August 10

It’s not fair for the DSI to make this list publicly available before the investigations even begin.

The names of these people are now sullied, and even if they are proven innocent, the stain will remain.

That’s how gossip and rumors damage reputations.

Disappointed  
Cherng Talay

### Creating danger for good samaritans

Re: Gazette online, Citizen rescue to bolster safety at Phuket beaches, August 8

Reading through this article I was hoping to see something about prevention, but all I found was cure.

It was all about learning how to rescue people who get into trouble in the water, rather than preventing them from getting into trouble in the first place.

The major priority on beaches everywhere should be to stop

## Letters to the Editor

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

people from getting into danger. To that end, trainees could be learning how to identify dangerous rip currents by watching videos online, for example.

I hope I am wrong, but I can foresee a terrible tragedy occurring when some good-hearted person drowns trying to rescue someone else, when they could have been taught how to stop them from going in the water in the first place.

Anthony Lawson  
Gazette forum

### Electric nightmares

Re: Gazette online, Phuket blaze guts bedroom in Patong apartment, August 5

Thai electricians are pretty mean. From a parent’s point of view, they are up there in my three big concerns: road safety; trivialization of guns and shooting people on TV soaps and “works ok without an earth wire unless there’s a fault.”

But what happens if there is a fault?

Hector  
Gazette forum

### The fruit that keeps on giving: Durian

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Food: For the love of durian, August 8

Excellent cultural story, Khun Nanthapa. I too have a story.

I was at Honda getting my scooter serviced and was offered durian. I was hesitant due to the aroma, which can be offensive to foreigners’ noses.

The man asked, “Can you eat durian?” I accepted and it tasted good. Little did I know, he really

did mean “Can you eat durian?” I thought there was a loss in translation and he meant, “Do you eat durian?” I passed gas and belched for two days, and could smell the durian on my breath.

I later found out he was aware that this reaction is common in some foreigners.

Skip  
Gazette forum

### Patong flooding due to new construction

Re: Gazette online, Heavy rain brings minor floods across Phuket, huge tailbacks, August 6

“Flooding will no longer be a problem when it is done,” Mr Chairat said. This statement is as clueless as the assertions made by the rest of the “planners”.

Flooding will always be a problem in Patong because the infrastructure cannot cope with the new buildings which have gone up and continue to go up.

One example is the huge complex going up at the north end of Nanai Road, which ensures that water drains off the sloping concrete and into Nanai Road, blocking all the drains and ultimately flooding Soi Banzan.

The drains too are a problem – just a few inches above road level and very often filled with rubbish. And it is only going to get worse.

Cyril  
Gazette forum

### Lead by example

Re: Gazette online, Trio of top cops gather to promote Phuket safety, again, August 10

Phuket might have been even safer last night if the convoy of their cars had driven slower through cities, not with the speed they were racing through Kata on the way to Chalong.

Fritz Penguin  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Not backing down

## FIRST PERSON

MY WORK as District Chief is focused on reducing illegal activity, and my goal is to bring Phuket people back to a legal way of doing things. It's relatively easy to prevent new problems, but quite difficult to solve entrenched ones. My philosophy is to be flexible with old problems and not allow new ones.

I've only been here four months, but I've been busy dealing with a variety of issues in Kathu such as illegal logging, illegal land possession and drugs.

The first problem I tackled was land encroachment, such as building on protected forest areas. We took action and made a number of arrests, especially on Kamala Hill.

I can say that right now in Kathu, we have dealt with all the new land encroachment cases.

However, land that was taken illegally in the past and already has buildings constructed on it is a lot more difficult to deal with. It requires going through a detailed and lengthy legal process, checking land possession documents, construction permits and so on. It can take eight to 10 years to finish a single case. That process is out of my hands.

To deal with the drug problem, I am using the same strategy I used successfully in Palian District.

I set up special teams of officers and volunteers to man checkpoints and conduct raids. Our team in Kathu is called "Siharat". We've already set up checkpoints and arrested a lot of drug users and dealers.

These checkpoints will be ongoing, at a variety of locations and times. My officers will be relentless in pursuing and arrest-



Here, he talks about what he has done to stop illegal activity in Kathu, and his plans for the future.

**Veera Kerdsirimongkol**, 57, originally from Nakhon Si Thammarat, has been District Chief of Kathu for four months. He was a district chief for 13 years before coming to Phuket, most recently in Palian, Trang. He has a master's degree in Management Sciences from Prince of Songkla University.

ing offenders – there will be zero tolerance for drugs and absolutely no under the table money accepted.

My next project is the Patong Beach "free zone". I want to make about 500 meters of Patong Beach free of all businesses – the stretch from Loma Park to the area opposite the Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa.

This would mean no hawkers, no sun bed operators – no businesses at all on the beach. Then anyone could use it without being hassled to buy something, and tourists could sit down freely wherever they liked.

I've already passed along my request to Patong Municipality, the police and other government officers and gotten good feedback and support. I want to ask one of the local universities to create a poll to find out what local residents think.

After that, the next step would be checking which businesses would be affected and thinking about other employment for people who will be displaced.

This project is going to take some time. The beach operators have been there a long time and it's difficult to move them.

The important thing to remember is that beaches in Thailand are public and free for everyone to use.

The strict stance that I'm taking is going to upset some people – the people who are doing things illegally and have lost money because of me.

Some of these people have already taken steps to try to get me out of office, by spreading rumors about me. They don't want the rules to be enforced. They don't want things to operate in a legal way.

These people want to replace the rule of law with mob rule, which means that if they don't like something, or something makes them lose money, they protest. They think that by protesting, they can continue doing things illegally.

But I'm going to continue doing what I've been doing – pursuing illegal activity and putting a stop to it. My goal is to make Kathu District a legal place.

I need the help of everyone, residents and tourists alike, to inform me about illegal activities in Kathu. You can come to our office on Vichitsongkarn Road to file a report or talk to me directly.



Do we really want to buy garbage to make energy? Photo: Steven Layne

## Dave's wake up call

### Island View

By Steven Layne

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

I was recently contacted by a man named David, a graduate-level research assistant from a reputable University in Bangkok, who had come to Phuket for the first time – but not for the typical reasons.

The destination luring David to our "paradise island" was not any particular beach, cove, resort, restaurant or bar, but was in fact the Waste Incineration Power Plant and Landfill in Saphan Hin – not exactly post card material, I'd say.

Having read several articles on the *Gazette* website – in particular, one that I'd written entitled "Phuket Waste 101: Dousing the burning issue", published online July 11, 2013 – David was looking to obtain more data as part of research for a thesis he is writing.

After giving him some leads, I inquired further about his motivations, to which he revealed that he is exploring the viability of Thailand's budding Waste To Energy (WTE) industry, of which Sweden is a model country.

In contrast to the situation in Phuket, there is actually a shortage of consumer waste in Northern Europe, where rubbish is in high demand thanks to the highly efficient WTE plants there.

In Europe, consumers' demand for incineration-sourced energy has far surpassed their capacity to produce and supply the

necessary fuel – trash.

To keep up with such swelling demand, both Sweden and Norway are now paying top dollar to ship in trash (not just recyclables, but all types of refuse) from neighboring countries to feed their WTE plants, and thus power and heat their homes, schools and cities.

Just a few paces behind, Thailand is headed down a similar path, highlighted by the Department of Energy's goal to double the amount of energy produced by incinerating municipal solid waste.

This means moving from the 80 Megawatts produced by burning rubbish now – about a fifth of which is produced by Phuket's rubbish alone – to up to 160MW by 2021.

As a keen researcher like David would agree, perhaps the path we are treading – one that is focused on boosting our dependency on producing and eventually, like Scandinavia, importing waste – is the wrong one.

Instead, wouldn't it be wiser to reduce our dependency on waste and energy, and in fact to stop wasting energy? What do you think, Dave?

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

### Tax on bank interest

I have to keep 800,000 baht in a Thai bank account in order to renew my retirement visa every year. I make a tiny amount of interest on it.

This year the bank deducted about 25 per cent of the interest for taxes. Is this the correct rate?

In my country there is a minimum earnings that is exempt from tax.

**Jannie Breytenbach**  
Kathu

### Janpaka Chamnarnkit, officer at the Revenue Department, replies:

According to the law, only 15 per cent of the interest on savings accounts may be deducted annually.

If an account is billed more than that, it indicates that the account holder has made some financial transactions with the bank, in addition to depositing savings there.

## What are the zoning laws for nightclubs?

Last week a nightclub opened its doors with music resonating far and wide. The club is at the same location as a club that was closed two years ago due to complaints of music disturbing residents in the area.

There are two other bars located 100 meters up the road that play live and recorded music. They have been in operation for some years, as they tend to keep the

volume at a respectful level and therefore do not disturb the peace of the neighborhood.

Nai Harn is home to the well-known Buddhist temple Wat Nai Harn, and is no place for bass-thumping hip-hop depriving the monks and local residents of peace and quiet – and sleep.

When prospective entertainment establishments apply for the required licenses to start business, does the local municipality consider the applicants' intended locations?

**Anonymous**  
Nai Harn

### Rachian Phantarakij, Rawai Municipality Chief Administrative Officer, replies:

Yes. Before issuing the appropriate permits, the District Office

and our officers check that the location of the venue is not near a temple, school, hospital or other building that could be disturbed by noise. Section 7 of the Entertainment Act BE 2509 (1966) specifies this and also says entertainment establishments must not be in residential communities.

Please let us know where the entertainment venue you are concerned about is located so we can check it out. You can contact us at 076-613801.

### Nussara Thampradit, Chief Administrative Officer at Muang District office, replies:

We do not have authority to arrest club owners operating without correct licenses.

You can file a complaint with the Damrongtham Center at

Phuket Provincial Hall.

If the venue is open after midnight, the officers will arrest the staff and press charges.



There's a time and a place for everything, even noise. Image: Geralt

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

Submit your issue at  
[www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)



## YOUR Phuket

# HER MAJESTY QUEEN SIRIKIT'S COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY FOR THAI FABRICS



The Phuket Red Cross group in popular and different styles of Thai costumes made with Thai fabrics.



(From left): Pramuk Achariyachai, President of Phuket FC and KATA Group; Thanyarat Achariyachai, Phuket Senator; Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut and his wife Palinee Inthusut; Korkiet Supolpong, Phuket Provincial Court Chief Justice; Natthakanya Saengpho, CEO Paradise Group; and Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana and her granddaughter.

## GRAND OPENING OF THE CLIFF RESTAURANT & BAR



The Cliff Restaurant & Bar team.



## THE RELAXING MOM

The Attitude Club held "The Relaxing Mom" spa workshop at Saiyuan Estate on Friday, August 2. This workshop was attended by villa owners, the press and agencies. They enjoyed learning how to make bath salts, how to do foot, neck and shoulder massages from home, courtesy of the professional therapists of Sukko Cultural Spa. There was also a little surprise for the mothers: jasmine garlands prepared by their children, who also gave them all a big hug.



Hotel manager Santichai Boonrasri (right) welcomed guests to the opening night.

## JD POOLS' WELCOME PARTY FOR MAYTRONICS



(From left): Dan Kwaczynski, Chris Papa, JD Pools' Thanusak Phungdet and Eyal Tryber.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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

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### Princess 42 Yacht For Sale

See page 31

## JOB of the week

the  
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coconut island

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Coconut Island.



See page 27

## PROPERTY of the week



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**MANDALA**  
VILLAS & CONDOMINIUMS

See page 23

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See page 30

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### HOUSE FOR SALE IN KATA

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### D CONDO 1, KATHU

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

### LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

### HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

### PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

### BOAT LAGOON LAND

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

### HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

### PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

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

### LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

### NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/ RENT



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

### 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.

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### HOUSE & FURNITURE

Single house, 60sqm. 2 floors, 3 bedrooms and 3 toilets. In Chaiyapruet 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@tarntarasp.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

### 5 RAI (8,400SQM)

With Chanote, between Chalong and Rawai. Idea for resort. 53 million baht. Tel: 082-420 7052. Email: stayonphuket@yahoo.com

### 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

**Land For Sale In Patong**

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

Call owner. Tel: 081-370 0162.

### 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.

### 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@tarntarasp.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.

### 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.

### 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.

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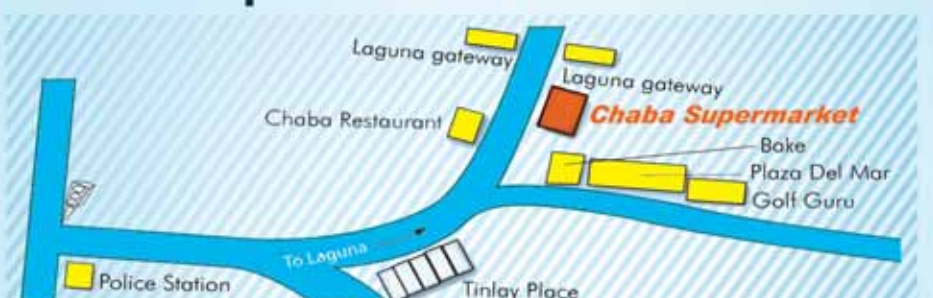
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### GOLF VIEW VILLA ON PRIVATE HILL

For rent. Kathu. 3 and 1 bedrooms, big pool, overlooking lake and valley on Loch Palm Golf Course, 4km to BIS, furnished VIP, WiFi. Long-term: 65,000-32,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-269 8492.

### CONDOMINIUMS



Kathu. Fully furnished, 1-bed suite, WiFi, cable TV, guard, pool, fitness. Rent: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-894 9042, 081-970 1499.



### 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: annanoli@hotmail.com

### THAI VILLA AND POOL

Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, luxury villa. Long term: 37,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-421 1020. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

### MAIKHAO DREAM PROPERTY

For rent or sale. 20 rai of land with Chanote title. Located on Thepkasattri Road (main road). 12km from airport. Tel: 081-738 7099.

### KATA BEACH FURNISHED APARTMENTS

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

### 5-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

Views, cabanas, WiFi, UBC, pool, jacuzzi, maid, sun decks, furnished. 45,000 baht for long term. Tel: 092-323 7087. Email: tucsonhouseforrent@yahoo.com



houseinphuket.com

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



### HOUSE NEAR LOCH PALM GOLF COURSE

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

Tel: 086-476 9612

### 4-BED POOL VILLA, BOAT LAGOON

Great 4-bedroom pool villa in Boat Lagoon for long term rent at 120,000 baht per month. Call for viewing: 081-891 6143 (English). Email: norbertfun@hotmail.com

### RENTAL POOL VILLA KATHU

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

### CONDOS IN PATONG

Both at Phuket Palace and Patong Tower. Long term only, newly renovated and well furnished. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### LONG TERM RENT NEAR BIS

4-bed villa plus maid, unfurnished. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-465 8883. Email: info@mindproperties.net

### LUXURY 1 BEDROOM

Ground floor, condo 65sqm, fully furnished, 1 month minimum rental, located in very heart of Patong. Please call 087-887 9070 or send email for details to ianscondo@yahoo.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

### 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 TOWER GORGEOUS CONDO



Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280° panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap around balcony. Completely renovated, Internet and washing machine. Available now. Email: PatongTowerRental@yahoo.com. For further details, please see our website at www.Patong TowerRental.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

### PATONG STUDIO RENTAL

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

### 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://chalong apartment.com

### NEW CONDO FOR RENT



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

### LATIKA MANSION



Kathu. 1 bedroom, 1 living room apartment, fully furnished, kitchen, WiFi, cable TV. Rent: 9,000-12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-894 9042, 081-970 1499.

### HOUSE



Near BIS, Koh Kaew. Detached house, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, garden & car park. For long-term rent: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-894 9042, 081-970 1499.

### FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

### HOUSE FOR RENT - RAWAI

Long term, private pool, new, in development with security. Tel: 087-893 8747.

### CHEAP RENT

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

### KATA OCEANVIEW CONDO

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

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

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!**



**Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.**  
**Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.**



**DESIGN STUDIO**

Looking for Image Key-words. You will be creating the content of images, including titles, descriptions and keywords. Also, uploading images to agency's web page. Applicant must have an excellent command of English. Thai national or have the necessary visa to work in Thailand. Only English resume and cover letter will be accepted. Contact manager. Tel: 083-035 9632. Email: photomorphimages@gmail.com

**FRONT DESK STAFF SAMUI**

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

**DRIVER 16,000+, COOK 15,000+**

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

**GYM ATTENDANT WANTED**

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

**2 WAITRESSES WANTED**

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

**HOUSEKEEPER - SURIN BEACH**

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

**DANISH STAFF**

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

**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

**MAID / HOUSEKEEPER**

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

**Phuket Digest Magazine****Looking for an ADVERTISING SALE EXECUTIVE**

- Strong spoken English & Good written English
  - Experience Selling magazine advertising
- Interested please send resume to: [phuketdigest@gmail.com](mailto:phuketdigest@gmail.com)

**BARMAN - THAI COOK - WAITRESS**

Barman, Thai cook and waitress wanted. Thai national only. Tel: 081-895 5852. Please call or email to phuket8757@gmail.com

**MANAGER'S ASSISTANT**

In international company. Woman. Thai & English speaker. Computer skills. Tel: 076-612843, 083-737 7878. Email: md@expertmedia.asia

**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@molokophuket.com Please see our website at <http://molokophuket.com>

**THAI NURSE**

Thai Nurse. Will be trained in Detox. Must Speak English. Thai National. Good salary! Email: Info@phuketfit.com

**THAI CASHIER WANTED**

Thai cashier wanted! At Kata. Tel: 089-401 8506. Email: vladim1r@me.com

**NEED LADY DRIVERS**

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

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING MAID**

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

**gsd**  
graphic solutions digital**Translator German - English**

Join the customer support team of an international media production company. Good pay and development opportunities.

**Requirements:**

- Good reading comprehension of German and English.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Good communication and people skills.
- Thai nationals or Thai speakers preferred.
- Good basic computer skills.
- Willingness to learn the workflow and production process.
- Ability to work on a two-shift schedule (morning/afternoon).

**Location - Phuket Town**

Please submit your resume with a recent photograph to: [namphueng@gsd-digital.com](mailto:namphueng@gsd-digital.com)

**GSD Graphic Solutions Digital Co., Ltd.**  
1 Patipat Road, Talad Nuea, Muang, Phuket 83000  
(YeeTeng Complex Building)

**DETOX / CLEANSE CONSULTANT**

Experience working in Detox, Cleanse or Spa. Must speak English. Thai national only. Good Salary! Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**GUEST RELATIONS**

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

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Thaimale wanted, in Patong, know English and have computer skills. Tel: 081-088 1451.

**ACCOUNTANT**

Thai or Foreigner, start immediately. English a must, Thai an advantage. Full or part time. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: aleksa@thai-evagroup.com

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

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

**PATONG**

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

**PHUKET CITY**

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

**CHERNG TALAY**

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

**RAWAI**

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

**KARON**

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

**Live in Patong?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Taurus Travel**



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

**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!**



**DIVE SHOP**

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

**DRIVER WANTED**

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

**WAITRESS WANTED**

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

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**

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

**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

**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



Phuket's premier property management company is looking for suitable, qualified candidates for the following position available in the field of villa rental and management services.

**Property Operations Manager**

- 3 years experience in property management operations
- Leadership skills and team player
- Excellent written and spoken English
- Thai national only
- Microsoft Office and email proficient
- Applicants must have their own car
- Salary 40,000 baht upwards, plus incentives and service charge

Please send application and photo to Human Resource Dept.  
Email: [personnel@pipsphuket.com](mailto:personnel@pipsphuket.com)



393/2 Moo1 Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherngtalay, Thalang, Phuket 83110  
Tel: 076 270 750 Fax: 076 270 751

**HEALTHY FOOD COOK**

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

**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@newspaper direct-phuket.com Find out about us on [www.newspaperdirect.com](http://www.newspaperdirect.com)

**CLEANER WANTED**

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

**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, 081-4590152. Please send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com



As Phuket's most exciting and unique resort, nowhere else comes close to The Village, Coconut Island.

Set on a private island just five hundred metres off the east coast of Phuket, The Village offers a range of beautifully designed luxury villas and suites to rent, superb leisure facilities, and fantastic dining options.

**EXECUTIVE CHEF****Responsibilities :**

- Monitor and maintain cleanliness, sanitation and organization of assigned work areas
- Design and implement restaurant menu and menu for staff canteen
- Operate efficient food and labor cost controls and play an active role in contributing to the restaurant's profits
- Maintain operational control of purchasing, receiving, and inventory of all kitchen items
- Establish measurable goals and objectives that focus on profit, product and people
- Ensure kitchen equipment is properly maintained and functioning
- Actively interact with guests and consistently coach staff on guest relations skills
- Maintain positive guest relations at all times
- Resolve guest complaints, ensure guest satisfaction
- Review the market list
- Monitor performance of staff and ensure all procedures are completed to department standards
- Manage and co-ordinate services for the management team and staff
- Be responsible for appearance, ambiance and decoration of all outlets
- Develop new menu items, test and write recipes
- Review sales and food costs, daily; resolve any discrepancies
- Minimize waste and maintain controls to attain forecasted food and labor costs

**Qualifications :**

- At least 5 years of management experience in food and beverage
- Experience in labor and food cost control
- Experience planning and developing menus and recipes
- Strong verbal & written communication and organizational skills
- Strong coaching and development skills
- Excellent customer service skills
- Able to lead and mentor a team
- Able to speak, read and write in English

**Sales Manager / Senior Sales Manager****Essential Duties And Responsibilities :**

- Develop sales strategies and set targets
- Build relationships with existing and new partners
- Report to DOSM on sales figures, leads and issues
- Work closely with the MICE department to drive new business and manage in-house groups
- Establish new routes to market and effectively utilize them
- Monitor competitors' pricing and product offering
- Assist reservations department with invoicing of personal accounts

**Chief Engineer****Essential Duties And Responsibilities :**

- Oversee the maintenance of the resort mechanical systems, including electrical, air conditioning, swimming pools, generators, plumbing, waste water treatment systems and fire & safety procedures
- Evaluate contractors with General Manager and select contractors that are reliable, honest and provide good value for their price
- Maintain both the exterior and interior of the resort, including painting, aesthetic repairs and additions
- Schedule repairs and maintenance with the General Manager so as not to interfere with resort operations
- Oversee ongoing and emergency repairs required to keep the resort in a marketable condition at all times
- Take primary responsibility for safety and fire training of managers and oversee the training of all colleagues in emergency and safety procedures
- Seek out cost reduction methods which do not negatively impact guests' perceptions of the resort
- Keep maintenance staff overtime to a minimum, while ensuring adequate maintenance coverage for the resort
- Troubleshoot maintenance problems and determine when to call for outside repairs
- Analyze costs in terms of supplies and labor needed to complete specific projects
- Suggest changes in working conditions and use of equipment so as to increase efficiency of work

**Contact: The village coconut island**

51/7 Moo. 6 T.Kohkaew A.Muang Phuket 83200 Thailand | Tel: 076-352153, 081-9686912  
E-mail: [Ladawan@thevillage-coconutisland.com](mailto:Ladawan@thevillage-coconutisland.com) or [hr@thevillage-coconutisland.com](mailto:hr@thevillage-coconutisland.com)  
[www.thevillage-coconutisland.com](http://www.thevillage-coconutisland.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 a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

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



## Business Opportunities

**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

**RESTAURANT**

Urgent sale. Indoor-outdoor, in Chalong area, equipped. 14 months on lease. Rent: 5,000 baht per month. Contact Eye. Tel: 082-807 9312.

**BAR FOR SALE  
OTOP MARKET**

Good location, low rent, owner is going home. 1.4 million baht. Tel: 087-893 1753.

**HOTEL WITH  
RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE**

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

**SPA/ MASSAGE  
FOR RENT**

In a large estate at Bangtao between Laguna and Surin. 3 rooms, fully equipped for immediate operation. Operator must speak good English. Contact by email: bp\_oc@yahoo.com

**INVESTOR NEEDED:  
MOBILE APP**

Zom Ammara, a famous Thai celebrity, is raising 6 million baht from investors to promote and monetize on lady safety mobile app project called "GuardMe". We will gain US\$4 million profit within 3 years with celebrity marketing strategy. Contact Zom Ammara. For details, please call 02-673 9280, 081-381 5111, 086-784 7488.

**LAUNDRY KATHU  
975,000 BAHT**

High capacity machines only two years old. Wash, dry, iron, roll iron. Automatic soap dosing. Reason for selling is expansion. Shophouse with 4 bedrooms. Rent: 22,000 baht per month. Possible cooperation for the right buyer. Ready to take over. For more information, please call 089-882 0894 (English), 089-652 0975 (Thai). Email: peter@conceptfeeling.com

**NO-NONSENSE  
OPPORTUNITY**

30 rifle laser tag system, complete. Low overheads, high potential income. Team Building, tourist attraction and local business. Cash purchase 300,000 baht. Tel: 089-071 0169 (English). Email: nigelburt51@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.youtube.com/watch?v=08xcTTGHYU0

**SPA/ SAUNA LEASE  
FOR SALE**

Busy established Spa and Sauna business for sale. Great location. Junction of Nanai Road and Nanai 2. Renewable lease. Price 2.5 million baht. Tel: 087-078 6379, 082-286 5171 (English & Thai), 080-718 1226 (English). Email: nanaisauna@yahoo.com

**21 ROOMS + REST +  
BEACH ROAD**

Located central on the Beach Road. 3.7 million baht key money, 8 year lease, modern rooms. Call today. Contact Frank. Tel: 076-346875, 084-078 2753 (English). Email: info.realpro@gmail.com

**STEAKHOUSE  
NEAR BEACH**

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

**GOGO BAR /  
NIGHTCLUB**

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

**PATONG BEACH HOTEL  
AND RESTAURANT**

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

**TOURIST SUBMARINE**

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

**HOTEL  
BEACHFRONT  
PATONG - RENT**

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

**HOTEL  
BEACHFRONT  
PATONG - RENT**

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

**KARON  
GUESTHOUSE**

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

**FITNESS CENTER  
FOR SALE**

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

**HOTEL - 24 ROOMS  
OCEAN VIEW**

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

**SPORTS BAR KARON**

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

**PATONG HOTEL  
FOR LEASE**

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

**RESORT  
FOR LEASE**

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

**HOUSE&BUSINESS  
ON 24 RAI**

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

## Bulletins

**SPONSOR A CHILD**

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

**RENT GUESTHOUSE  
PATONG**

Nanai, cheap rent, 8 years on lease + strong starting. 12 rooms. 1.3 million baht. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

**RAWAI INVESTMENT**

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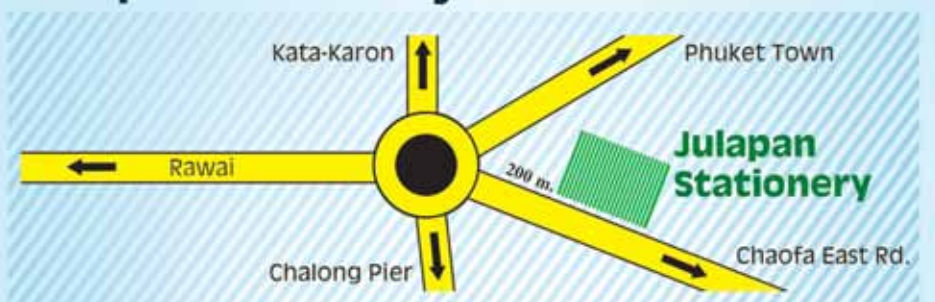
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THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic Crossword

COFFEE

break









## PIWC SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION AT SATREE PHUKET SCHOOL

The next annual fundraising event will be on November 5 at the Underwood Art Factory.



Phuket International Women's Club committee members (from left): Wipa Tanmanatrakul, Jureewan Smulders, Maggy Wigman, Carole Dux (PIWC President), Nittaya Darroch and Susan Arnulphy.

## CAPE PANWA HOTEL PHUKET WELCOMES PHUKET GOVERNOR

Kasemkij Hotels' Travel Industry Group Director Poomiphat Navanukroh (2nd right) recently welcomed Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut on his visit to the hotel. Cape Panwa Hotel Sales Coordinator Krittiya Butlakorn (far right) and Kasemkij Hotels' Travel Industry Senior Sales Manager Sirapa Anakesithisin are also seen welcoming the Governor.



## HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Darasamut School arranged a special Mother's Day party so mothers and kids could get close together.



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# Governor Maitri Inthusut

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

GOVERNOR Maitri Inthusut has just come back from a long meeting – part of the “fin free” campaign to dissuade the public from consuming sharks’ fin. The day before it was a group discussion with various government agencies on tsunami awareness and early warning systems. The whole week prior to this has followed more or less the same pattern – government and NGO meetings back to back, all to do with the welfare of Phuket and its inhabitants.

It’s late Friday afternoon when we finally sit down for our interview but even after a long day, Governor Maitri manages to look sharp and composed. His long career as a top-level civil servant has taught him to regard all problems and challenges with equanimity.

“I have come to realize that the role of the Ministry of Interior was one of peaceful resolution of all conflicts and opinions. It holds true especially in a multi-cultural society like Phuket, where values vary greatly. My job is to find a middle ground for differences so we can all co-exist and prosper together,” he says thoughtfully.

Governor Maitri, 57, was born to a family whose members

served under various governmental offices and as such he is no stranger to political affairs and national or local conflicts.

After being schooled at the King’s College in Samphan, Nakhon Pathom, Governor Maitri graduated with a master’s degree in Political Science from Thammasat University. Further study at the National Defence College qualified him as a top-ranking national policy maker.

His first job as a civil servant was with the National Security

experience with these distinguished statesmen, who by turn brought their strong leadership qualities to bear on the nation and also on a then-fledgling officer, Maitri. But by far the most influential person in his life was his father, himself a former governor of Phrae province.

“Observing my father at work, I was inspired to follow in his footsteps and become servant to the people and to work at the grass-roots level. Now that I myself serve as governor, I realize it’s not as easy as it looks,” he says with a smile.

Phuket, says Governor Maitri, is a place with its inherent problems quite unlike others. In a province where the population is made up of many nationalities and regional variations, he believes Phuket needs a special approach to rise up to the challenges – from safety for tourists, to settlement of the Urak Lawoi (Sea Gypsies), through to the registration campaign for migrants from other provinces, and Phuket’s own environmental concerns, to mention but a few.

“We need,” he declares, “to re-design the government system from the inside out and to be more citizen-centered and get away from the kind of bureaucracy the local government used to exercise in the old days. Above all, Phuket needs professional civil servants to drive all its policies to success and fruition.”

This is where Governor Maitri’s strength and passion come to the fore. A leader who strongly believes that people are the most important resources, capable of being molded into ethical and upstanding individuals, he has taken it on himself to draw up numerous “guidelines” for local government officers to follow. The principles devised by



him are based on his sharp observations and understanding of human psychology and are equally applicable to people from all walks of life whether civil servants, leaders, teachers, politicians and even villagers. In so doing, Governor Maitri hopes to inspire individuals to do their best not only for their personal growth, but also for the community as a whole.

Alongside his career as a civil servant, Governor Maitri is essentially a writer and educator, who continues to record his experiences and memories of places and people, in order to gather materials for his lifelong interest in “shaping the human psyche,” (his

well-known motto: “sang kon sang ngarn,” roughly translated as “make people, make work”).

An ambitious policy by any stretch of the imagination, but as its maker, Governor Maitri believes he only has a minor role to play: “As a team player, I consider myself a quarterback feeding balls to the real shooters. As a leader though, I do have stories to tell and by writing, I leave a legacy to the next generation.”

Governor is married to Khun Pawinee Inthusut, president of Phuket Red Cross, who works as Inspector-General at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Together, the couple have one child.



Governor Maitri has authored several books on philosophy.

Council. Later on, he transferred to the Prime Minister’s Office where he was a secretariat officer to no less than five of Thailand’s prominent politicians, including Prem Tinsulanonda and Anand Panyarachun.

He has learned much from his



Governor Maitri meeting with local taxi drivers. Photo: Gazette File

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Governor Maitri presenting a gift to UK ambassador Mark Kent during his recent visit to Phuket. Photo: Gazette File



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**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 076-286464.

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

On Friday the August 16, we are serving a large Crayfish & Seafood buffet, including imported crayfish boiled the traditional Scandinavian way. All you can eat for only 795 baht, children 350 baht. Our house band will entertain you until the late hours, and we'll have happy hours on selected drinks all night. For more info, log onto our website or follow us on: facebook.com TwoChefs Thailand. 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 076-286464

**Sep 7-8, 2013, 9pm-1am, Phuket 80s Night**



## September 8, Phuket Classic 2013 competition at Central Festival

XANA beach club will be holding a Phuket 80s Night, bringing the best music from one of the most iconic decades. On the night there will be 80s themed cocktails, canapes and entertainment. And of course a dress code.... so glam it up with 80s clothes and accessories! More information contact Annabel Fox on 076-324101 or visit website xanabeachclub.com

**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 080-4718713

**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 076-316711.

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

Registration will be on 13 November from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are 13-16 November. Prize giving party on the 16th. For more info, please see our website: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com or contact Khun Uwe Schitteck on 076-282036 or email uwe@schitteck@yahoo.com. This event is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show.

**Nov 17, 2013, Loy Krathong Festival**

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

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Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
<b>TrueVisions HD Channel 99</b>	8 shows a week	MCOT World
Monday:	05:10am	
Tuesday:	11:10pm	
Wednesday:	10:10am	
Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	
<b>True Freeview Channel 58</b>	8 shows a week	MCOT World
Monday:	05:10am	
Tuesday:	11:10pm	
Wednesday:	10:10am	
Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	
<b>Phuket Cable Company (PC)</b>	Covers all Phuket.	
<b>Channel 1 - 19 shows a week</b>		
Monday - Friday:	10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm,	
Saturday & Sunday:	10:30am, 9:10pm.	
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<b>Channel 1 - 28 shows a week</b>		
Monday - Sunday:	10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.	
<b>Channel 43 - 8 shows a week</b>		
Monday:	05:10am	
Tuesday:	11:10pm	
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Thursday:	01:10pm	
Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
Saturday:	01:10pm	
Sunday:	06:10pm	

**Online:** [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)

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



# The devil is in the detail

By Mark Knowles

WALKING into *Les Diables* bakery to interview creator and master pastry chef Peter Webber, I find him hunched over his work bench, meticulously crafting a tiny toilet out of white chocolate. Curious, I ask him what on earth it is for and he replies matter-of-factly: "It's for a customer, they were having a trailer-trash party and they wanted the cake to have a drunken barbie doll throwing up into the toilet. I guess it's one of the more extreme cakes I've done recently," he says with a laugh.

Creating specialty cakes is Peter's passion and over the years he has crafted hundreds of cakes of all shapes and sizes, including Formula One cars, helicopters and yachts – all from a simple palette of chocolate, sugar and flour.

He has worked as a pastry chef for more than 20 years, much of that time at high-end hotels such as the Savoy and the Four Seasons in England and for 14 years he was head pastry chef at the Oriental Hotel in Bangkok.

"I've done some more extreme, weird [cakes] in Bangkok, ones that you couldn't put in the paper! I became quite an expert on the dirty ones," he says with a cheeky grin.

After leaving the Oriental, he came to Phuket and co-created *Les Anges*, a specialty bakery at the Royal Phuket Marina, where he was manager and baker, before leaving for a contract job in Malaysia.

His latest solo venture, *Les Diables* – a cafe, bakery and workshop for his specialty cake business – is on a much smaller scale. Located in a small shop-front at the Boat Lagoon complex north of Phuket Town, the cafe has a treasure trove of delicious baked good on offer including pies, croissants, biscuits, quiches, bagels, sandwiches, and of course, cakes.

There are also plenty of drinks on hand including great espresso

coffee and smoothies which change regularly depending on what fresh fruit is available; when I was there it was a choice between, banana-berry, mango-chocolate and pineapple-ginger.

It is clear that Peter is happy to be working for himself for a change and he says it allows him the freedom to focus on his passion for specialty cakes.

"I wanted to concentrate on my specialty, which is cakes and wedding cakes, but I also wanted to have more customer contact, somewhere people can come in



Peter's creations can take up to two days to make. Photo: Supplied

and have something to eat," he said.

When he returned from Malaysia, where he had stayed for a year, he came up with the plan to open his own business in Phuket.

"When I finished my contract in Malaysia I was wondering what to do. When I came back to Phuket, I spoke to a lot of my old customers who were event organizers and they told me they couldn't get their wedding cakes the way they wanted them, so I saw an opportunity for some business here," he says.

Peter began taking orders for cakes at *Les Diables* in January this year and opened the cafe to customers about three months ago. So far business has been booming.

"We got off to a really good start, I think it was because I had my regular customers from my time at *Les Anges*," he says.

"I chose boat lagoon because I find it's an easy address, you can just say I'm at the Boat Lagoon, rather than having to give directions. And I live here as well so that makes it even easier."

Chalked onto the menu board are the words "If you want something special just ask. We will do our best!" and this pretty much sums up Peter's approach to both his cafe and his specialty cake business.

He says he tried to vary the menu often and try new recipes and combinations to keep the food interesting and in his words the food is "simple fare, good fare".

"We do different pies all the time, now we have chicken and mushroom, pork and garlic, but sometimes we do fish pie, salmon, prawn, sausage and onion... everything," he says.

Both sides of the business are doing so well that Peter says he's looking to get someone new on board to help him with cake decorating.

"I started small, because its easy to manage and grow with, but now I'm looking for a pastry chef, or just someone who's very interested in it and wants to work hard," he says.

With wedding cakes being his bread and butter, so to speak, I ask Peter about which styles of wedding cake are popular at the moment.

"Some people are very definite about what they want for their wedding cakes. The trend is changing a little bit now and going back to retro, classic looking cakes.

"We also do a lot of cupcake



This unusual cake was made for a client who was throwing a White Trash themed party. Photo: Supplied



*Les Diables*' master pastry chef Peter Webber

tea parties for kids' birthdays, where the kids can decorate their cupcakes and they become the birthday cake.

"We can do cakes for any event, whatever people want. Often people give us a picture

and we can redo it in chocolate," he says.

When it comes to type of filling, some things never go out of style. Peter's chocolate truffle cake remains far and away the crowd favorite.



A fruit tart with kiwi, peach, pomegranate and pistachios shows Peter's attention to detail.



Peter Webber with another satisfied *Les Diables* customer. Photo: Supplied





Photo: arne.list

# Meet the Logos Hope crew

THE world's largest floating library, the *Logos Hope* docked in Phuket last Thursday to facilitate cultural and educational activities with local students. Over 5000 titles indexed on the massive 132-meter-long ship offered plenty of bane for curiosity, and if that wasn't tempting enough, a fun itinerary of special events certainly drew the crowd.

There is still a chance to hear stories of

the 400 volunteer crew members, who left behind their families, security and jobs to volunteer on board the ship for two years.

To learn more about the personal choices of the crew members, attend *A Radical Step* event this Sunday, August 18. Listen to their personal life-changing stories and discuss some deeper questions about life and what is really important. The event lasts

from 6pm to 8pm, entrance is free.

The faithful crew first met with locals on August 16 during a Cultural Cafe event. On that initial evening, crew members gave talks, presenting the cultures of the 50 nationalities they represent. A show featuring music and dances from around the globe was enjoyed by local university and school students. — *Phuket Gazette*

*MV Logos Hope will dock in Phuket Port Ao Mak ham, Sak didet Road from August 15 to 18 and August 21 to 22. The opening hours are from 10 am to 9:30 pm and from 1 pm on Sundays. The tickets cost 20 Baht, children under 12 enter for free but must be accompanied by an adult.*

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# Trellises and a treasure trove

ACCORDING to *Wikipedia*, a trellis is an architectural structure, usually made from wood, bamboo or metal with an open framework or lattice of interwoven or intersecting parts and made to support and display climbing plants, especially shrubs.

My father had a wooden trellis made expressly for his climbing roses, but such a construction in Phuket would quickly fall victim to termites. I know; I've tried it.

Trellises are especially useful where there are restriction of space – going upwards instead of



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

outwards. And apart from the mandatory metal frame, they are ideal for select plant vines which can weave their growing tips and shoots in and out of the lattice to create, in time, a dense mass of greenery. If you are using bulky climbers which do not naturally attach themselves to available structures – and we are talking *allamandas*, Rangoon creepers, chalice or Indian rubber vines, and *mandevillas*, then these profuse bloomers will need to be initially tied to the bare structure, or intertwined with tendril-bearing vines which can attach themselves to anything.

One iconic garden here in Phuket constantly comes to mind. The “piece de resistance” of this particular garden – a roof garden five storeys up, is a system of arching trellises which frame a ground-level cover of dense, evergreen shrubs: *tabernaemontanas* and jasmines, plus sculptural yuccas and

bonsai trees, thereby creating decorative frames through which to view the azure sky or rioting plant life. Moreover, the owner has done the right thing: he has combined his non-clinging golden *allamandas* and white *mandevillas* with tendril-bearing climbers – rarely cultivated but brilliant *odontaneas*, coral vines, morning glories and passion flowers. Prompted by lots of tender loving care, they have clambered en masse over the now invisible metal trellis frames and now display a dense canopy of greenery adorned with trumpet-shaped flowers in golden, white and pink. Visually spectacular? Absolutely.

But there is more to come. After dinner, we climb the stairway again and are met by the fluttering and whirring of tiny wings. For there, in these shrubby havens, are sun birds, nesting pairs and their fledglings, surprised into flight at this ungodly hour by human activity.

“About fifty nesting pairs here,” said my host with obvious satisfaction. What an achievement. I do not know how many rai of woodland would be needed to support such a colony of olive-backed sun birds and little spider hunters, but it would be considerable. Moreover, in the wild, birds would lack the complete protection they so obviously enjoy here in their rooftop eyrie. No predatory cuckoos or honey guides to rob their flimsy nests, no marauding cats, no pellet guns. And a plenitude of food. Those nectar loving creatures have hundreds of bell-shaped flowers all around them, a constantly renewable source of honey for their foraging tongues. No need to go elsewhere. No wonder the plants look so healthy. A constant process of pollination and no destructive insects and. Nature always repays the considerate.

“Of course, I do feed the other



The beauty of the intricate passion flower is just one benefit of having a passionfruit vine, the other being of course, the fruit. Photo: xlibber

birds too,” explains our host. “Every day, we put out bird seed.” Clearly it is enough of a feast to keep the broad-billed visitors happy. Tree sparrows, nesting under the eaves, have a daily supply, so too any other callers such as baya weaver birds, munias, or finches that might happen on this bounty.

The lesson is obvious. We

really are, as gardeners, the principal guardians of what remains of Phuket’s natural heritage. What our friend is doing is a not only a lesson for us all, but an inspiration. As Voltaire said a long time ago: “Il faut cultiver notre jardin.” The adage is now more than ever true. We must indeed cultivate our gardens....



**Mandevilla sanderi** has attractive red blooms. By Oeropium



Birds like this olive-backed sunbird helps control pests. Photo: Kip Lee



Jasmine is an attractive and fragrant plant ideal for a trellis. Photo: Hoverflyz



Rangoon creeper has abundant pink and white flowers. Photo: Atamari

## Dog of the week

SUGAR was rescued about three months ago from a very miserable life. When Doggie Heaven found her, she was covered in ticks and had a very bad case of blood parasites and suffered from anemia. She was locked up in a filthy and damp concrete cell that was full of other more aggressive larger dogs. After a few days back at Doggie Heaven sanctuary to rest, she was groomed properly and was put on a one-month course of antibiotics to kill the blood parasites.

After many baths with some gentle oatmeal shampoo, she now is a different girl. As you

can see from her photo, she is one very happy dog now. Sugar now weighs a healthy nine kilograms and has the sweetest temperament, is very relaxed and easy going. She has a bit of a snort, like a bulldog and when she's out on her walks in the morning, she needs to have a bit of a sit about halfway round, as she is a little unfit and out of breath. But she loves to play at the lake edge with the other dogs.

If you would like to adopt Sugar, come to Doggie Heaven in Thalang, where you can also meet other dogs that are looking for new homes. Please contact Sherin.peace@gmail.com or check out our website doggieheaven.net



**LAKESIDE:** Sugar enjoys playing by the lake after being rescued by the team from Doggie Heaven

## Tip of the Week

### An unsavory topic: hot stuff

I HAVE just collected a consignment of what we might politely call a soil amendment. Actually it is chicken manure mixed with top soil and some coconut fiber. It's great stuff and my plants, especially the potted ones, really appreciate a top-dressing. Within days, the leaves acquire a new gloss. Moreover, it will speed up the process if put on your compost heap.

Poultry droppings are especially rich in nutrients: 1.8

nitrogen, 1.5 phosphate and 0.8 potash. But as with all organic manures, be careful. As the man said, this is “hot stuff”.

What he meant was that it had only recently been collected from source, and needed time to mature. “Raw” manure (usually smelly) is too rich in nitrogen for plants, and putting it on straightaway can cause “burning” of stems and foliage. Leave it to cool off for a few days before you apply it.



# Bitcoin ban in Thailand

BITCOIN is only one among hundreds of its kind, collectively known as cryptographic protocol currencies or cryptocurrencies, which are only a small part of all digital currencies. More than 90% of almost every single currency in the world today is digital. Still, cryptocurrencies are unique while having only existed for four years, the total value of Bitcoins alone surpasses the GDP of many countries.

All cryptocurrencies transactions are handled by encrypted servers known as miners. The miners are also given the opportunity to earn freshly created blocks of coins for their work by the design of the system. This in itself is a very profitable endeavor; a person who sets up a miner could see a return on investment in as little as two months or less.

Bitcoins make it possible for people who don't know each other to do business together. You can access your Bitcoins at any time and from any place in the world and use them to pay for anything... and no one else will be able to know what you're doing. This effectively makes taxation impossible, and unless you actively give up your Bitcoin information, there is almost no way for anyone to know how

much money you have.

Today there are bars in New York where you can pay for drinks in Cryptocurrencies, grocery stores in California that accept them, fashion houses in Italy, tour groups in Japan and South Korea, hotels in France, and even NGOs in Thailand that have been accepting donations to help those in need. This is but a small part of the literally hundreds of thousands of services which are offered right now. Every day tens of thousands of transactions occur worth millions. Bitcoin is the largest growing market in the world right now and there is a very good chance this will become the preferred method of payment in the coming years.

Yet, in one single act, all Thai citizens, and anyone who ever comes to Thailand is now being told that if you come here, you will be put in prison simply because of the method of payment you use. No other country on the planet has done what Thailand just did and, if the announcement becomes law, it will be impossible for anyone in Thailand to buy or sell Bitcoins, buy or sell any goods

or services in exchange for Bitcoin and to send or receive Bitcoins to and from anyone located outside of Thailand. As a result, Thailand will lose millions if not billions of baht in potential revenue in this year alone.

What of the miners handling transactions? They are receiving Bitcoins, but not from real people – they come from a computer equation. What of those who have Bitcoins? Does this mean that any



Is Thailand missing out on big business? Photo: zcopley

Thai citizen who currently has Bitcoins is now unable to get rid of the currency, and if they do they face the possibility of jail time? If so this is guilt by association.

But most of all, what of the hundreds of other cryptocurrencies? Are all of them going to be banned as well? Is it going to be a game

of cat and mouse banning every single currency as it becomes big enough to be noticed? Or is there going to be a vague and blanket-law banning all digital currency? No matter how you go about this, the prohibition does not work except to inflate prices and to make criminals out of people who were not so before.

If the law does not respect the choices of the individual to decide what form of currency to use, why would individuals, or companies, do business in Thailand? As cryptocurrencies become more widespread, why would anyone choose to do business in Thailand, when anywhere else in the world you can go about business as usual?

Ultimately, this gesture is utterly meaningless and unenforceable. A scofflaw only needs to switch to a different cryptocurrency, and their activities are legal again. Due to the way the cryptocurrencies are created, you can still use them and unless you willingly give up the information, there is no way for the authorities to know or enforce this ruling.

In this act, Thailand has signaled its wishes to shut itself off

from not only a growing market and another source of revenue and growth, but also from a very possible future economic system. As a result, Thai people may never be at the forefront of innovations in this sector.

New technology can be scary, the power it gives, the way it redefines our world. It gives new opportunity to those who use it. Innovators and independent thinkers should not be turned into criminals by the stroke of a well-meaning but uninformed pen.

This ban should be lifted so that honest citizens are not treated as criminals, and as a gesture to the millions in the cryptocurrency community to return to Thailand with their business. I suggest BOT put together a work-group to study the economic benefit of cryptocurrencies to Thailand.

Finally, a request to the Board of the Bank of Thailand: please do not shut yourself out of what may well become the largest economic growth in the history of this planet.

– Reader submission

*Editor's Note: Until Bitcoin transactions are traceable and thus taxable, the ban will likely remain in place. In fact, for this reason, other governments may also soon consider a ban.*

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# ENCHANTMENT OF THAI TRADITIONAL DRESS

By Anthika Muangrod  
and Kanyawarat Premprasert

A CHARITY fashion event, "Dancing and Thai Silk Fashion Show Party" – hosted by the Phuket Provincial Office and presided over by Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut was held at the Rajabhat University Convention Hall on August 8.

Over 1,200 guests attended the gala event aimed at promoting Thai silk fashion while raising money for various Phuket based sport and charity funds.

Silk is an essential part of Thailand's cultural heritage – the highly refined techniques of its production for use in clothing has been passed down from generation to generation over hundreds of years.

Historical evidence reveals that people who lived in the area of Thailand in the past knew how to weave silk and create silk clothing since ancient times, or since roughly between 2,000 and 4,000 years ago. Archaeologists have discovered pieces of silk cloth and weaving machines fashioned

from baked clay as well as other textile manufacturing machines at Baan Chiang, Nong Harn in Udon Thani province in Northeastern Thailand. These artifacts are regarded as the most ancient evidence of Thai silk production.

In more recent history, Thai clothes were known among some neighboring societies where people traded and used Thai style silk. But it was not until recently that Thai silk clothes were famous in distant lands.

Her Majesty the Queen Sirikit has had a vision to create a bright future for Thai silk clothing. She has been championing the quality and desirability of Thai silk and Thai traditional dresses around the world.

Thai silk production and design has become an important industry employing a huge number of people. Nowadays Thai people, particularly older people, like to wear Thai silk for special occasions such as weddings, social events, graduation days and important Buddhist holidays.





Traditional style Thai silk clothes are also worn by dancers and singers in cultural performances.

In the past, people from the North and Northeast of Thailand known as "Thai Yuan" had their own traditional clothes. They weaved and created patterns on cloth on their own. Many murals show that people in the North had Xin wearing tradition.

In Northeast Thailand, after working in a rice field, a common expression is "women weave silk, men weave rattan". The saying shows that weaving is a central part of the lifestyle in the region, and indeed weaving has long been one of the primary occupations among women.

The process of weaving begins with growing cotton and mulberry bushes to feed silk worms, then the cocoon woven by the worms are turned into natural silk, before being dyed and woven into cloth with a weaving machine.

There are two kinds of famous Thai textiles: clothes from cotton and clothes from silk. Nowadays, people mix rayon (an artificial fiber) with the silk to increase durability and flexibility.

The patterns in silk cloth are often inspired by nature and the local environment, and include figures of animals, plants and so on.

Local Thai clothes in rural areas of the Central region used to be much more popular than today, but after the modern fashion era budded and boomed, local clothes production all but faded. After the 1932 coup d'etat, Thai fashion and clothing culture changed considerably.

People followed more fashion trends from the West. This was driven by foreign educated government elites who encouraged Thai citizens to dress in the Western style.

Nowadays, people still weave clothes but they use ready made yarn and follow patterns based on market trends.

Producers still preserve classic patterns but have also adapted with new interesting patterns when producing clothes. Famous Southern Thai styles

can be found in Nakhon Si Thammarat, Surat Thani, Songkhla and Trang.

Times have since changed – women now grow their hair long, ceased using loincloths and even sarong, and now wear shirts or blouses.

Men also had to change their dressing style from wearing silk pants, to now trousers.





# Our neighbors, the Sikhs

By Maciek Klimowicz

TRAVELLING is my thing. And chances are it's yours too. For many of us it was the love of travel that brought us here to Phuket. But what's the point of living on one of the world's most famous islands if you end up leaving it every weekend? Khao Sok, Khao Lak, Phang Nga, Phi Phi...all very tempting. But once in a while it's good to stay back, explore and find out that Phuket has more to offer than just beaches and nightlife.

One of the places where I liked to spend my weekends when I was still living in Bangkok was India Town, a small area where air is filled with the aroma of paan and frying samosas, where you can have a cup of Indian chai and stock up your masala supply. Sadly, there is no India Town in Phuket. Luckily, there are Indians. You can look for them in Patong's tailor shops or local Indian restaurants, but I decided to look elsewhere – in Phuket Town.

It's easy to find the Gurudwara – the Sikh Temple. Just ask for Wat Sikh. The massive building is hard to miss due to the golden domes topping its roof. It has been here for about 70 years. In the beginning, it was just a small structure; in 2002 it was developed into a three-storey building.

Don't be shy, leave your shoes on the door step and enter. One thing is for sure, you'll be welcomed with a smile. Walk around, take pictures, admire the intricately decorated ceilings, the carpets in the main prayer hall and the golden throne in the center. Accept a glass of water or a cup of tea when offered. Enjoy the atmosphere. But as with all travels, the best, most fascinating thing you'll encounter is the people. Sit down and have a chat, let one of the portly, bearded men introduce you to Sikhism, one of the world's biggest religions with almost 30 million followers that for many, remains mysterious and confusing.

"We Sikhs are not very good at marketing," Sharon Singhsachakul, a member of the local Sikh community, tells me. "The essence of Sikhism is one god that is present

everywhere. He's inside everyone and everything. That's why it's impossible to hate someone as god is in everybody. There's no hatred, no fear, no heaven or hell, god is everything," he proceeds to explain.

As hard as it is to miss the Gurudwara in Phuket Town, it's hard to miss a Sikh man on the street. The large turban, the long beard, the dagger dangling at his side. I ask Sharon what is this all about and he explains the meaning behind the symbols of Sikhism – the long hair hidden in the turban and the uncut beard (*Kesh*) symbolizing holiness, strength and detachment from bodily matters; the dagger (*Kirpan*) designed to protect the weak; a steel bracelet (*Kara*) representing god without end or beginning. There's more – *Kanga* – a wooden comb, *Kachha* – special underwear. Together they make the 5 Ks of the Sikhs. At the end of his short lecture, Sharon invites me to come back on Sunday to see the prayers and take part in the *Langar*, a traditional temple meal.

I'm back the next day, leave my shoes outside, cover my head with a piece of cloth and take the elevator to the third floor. When the doors open, I enter the vast prayer hall and sit at the back to observe the ceremony. Women are seated on the left side, men – on the right, all facing the golden throne on which rests the *Guru Granth Sahib* – the holy scripture. But what strikes me most is the traditional music, originating in the Indian state of Punjab. It's live, performed by a "band" from a small stage on the side of the throne. Drums, harmonium and a male voice of incredible power and scale. It's simply beautiful.

Once the service is finished, I'm invited to the ground floor to eat. All food here is vegetarian and all delicious. A toothsome combination of Indian and Thai curries, rice, noodles and sweets. Everybody dines sitting on the floor to underline the equality of all. The food tastes great, the setting is unusual, the atmosphere remarkable. When I'm invited again, I already know I will accept and go.



OUTFITS: Sikhs stand out from the crowd but are often mistaken for Muslims or Hindus. Photos Maciek Klimowicz



TRADITIONS: Kirpan – Sikh dagger (upper left), Langar – temple meal (lower left) and the golden throne in the temple.



WORSHIPERS: 75 per cent of Sikhs live in the Indian state of Punjab, while 30-40 Sikh families live in Phuket.



GURUDWARA IN PHUKET : One of 17 Sikh Temples in Thailand.



# Phuket duo win TAT comp

A PHUKET based duo, comprising Richard Brownsdon from the UK and Vimalin Chalermpon from Thailand, were recently selected as the winners of "The Little Big Project" Thai destination promotion and development competition.

Mr Brownsdon and Ms Vimalin won the competition with their project, which focused on responsible eco-tourism and marine conservation in Phuket, executed in collaboration with openmindprojects.org.

Since May of this year, the Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) online "Voluntourism" campaign received an overwhelming response of 4,695 applicants from around the world which was shortlisted to just 10 finalists five teams of two vying to raise US\$5,000 for tourism development initiatives, during the course of a two-week stay in Thailand.

Throughout the past three months, all finalists showed their



volunteering spirits with project development activities in five chosen areas, namely Phuket, Phang Nga, Chiang Rai, Petchaburi and Prachuap Kirikhan.

They also shared their experiences via personalized blogs and online media, with the winner determined by racking up the highest number of votes through

designated social media channels.

The project's organizers say the campaign has created global awareness and inspired huge numbers of travellers from around the world to examine the emerging volunteering-based tourism trend going on in Thailand, with over 5 million views checking in on the project via social media.

TAT Governor stated: "The Little Big Project is the first online campaign in Asia to promote the new trend of volunteering while travelling, more commonly known as Voluntourism, which is a response to the new generation of travellers whose attitude is to make a difference and make the world a better place, starting with themselves."

He announced that the digital campaign won the inaugural Digital Innovation Asia Awards as the most influential initiative to highlight the growing industry trend of Voluntourism.

The award was conferred by Digital Innovation Asia with the support of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, and we are glad to see that our efforts have been recognized, he said proudly.

TATs Governor further emphasized, The most important benefit of this campaign was to give the project participants new perspectives on life, some of which will certainly be formative and which they can always share with their friends, families and loved ones about how wonderful their experiences in amazing Thailand really were.

The editor notes that even volunteering in Thailand technically still requires a work permit.

— Phuket Gazette

## Elite captains release latest edition of pilot guide

A GATHERING of Phuket's elite captains and core sailors of the local yachting community last Friday marked 24 years of dodging rocks with the launch of the fourth edition of the essential cruising guide, *Southeast Asia Pilot*, that made it possible.

The latest edition covers the area from the Andaman Islands in Indian territorial waters to Darwin, Australia. In total, the guide offers 244 pages featuring 533 cruising locations with charts and illustrated recommended anchorages in each locale.

The sections for Thailand, Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam, Hong Kong, the Andamans and Singapore have been overhauled and updated, Pilot co-founder Bill O'Leary explained to the gathering at Royal Phuket Marina.

"New chapters for the Philippines, with a whole new section focusing on Palawan, as well as Indonesia, including Raja Ampat, and Palau in Micronesia

are now included," he said.

The tome, priced at 1,800 baht, includes hundreds of detailed new charts with GPS anchorage positions, stunning photos of the locales and the latest cruising information for popular sites.

Explaining the inspiration for the first edition of the Pilot that surfaced in 1989, Mr O'Leary recounted a conversation with fellow Pilot founder Andy Dowden during which the unforgettable – but all too common – question was asked: "Did you hit that rock, too?"

Thus the Pilot was born, mainly as a guide for local captains and visiting yachtsmen taking Sunsail charters from Phuket.

Since then, the guide has grown to include expanded coverage of cruising grounds in the area, changed its name to the Andaman Sea Pilot, and been expanded again, becoming the Southeast

Asia Pilot that it is today.

Special thanks went to Grenville Fordham for his exquisite skills in recreating the charts and other maps critical for the safe navigation of Asia's key boating grounds.

Also receiving special mention for their contributions were Mark Holroyd, Olly Wingate, Morgan Hayes, Ian Hewitt and Ed Shiels.

The book's creators say they aim to have a copy on the bridge of every superyacht in the region

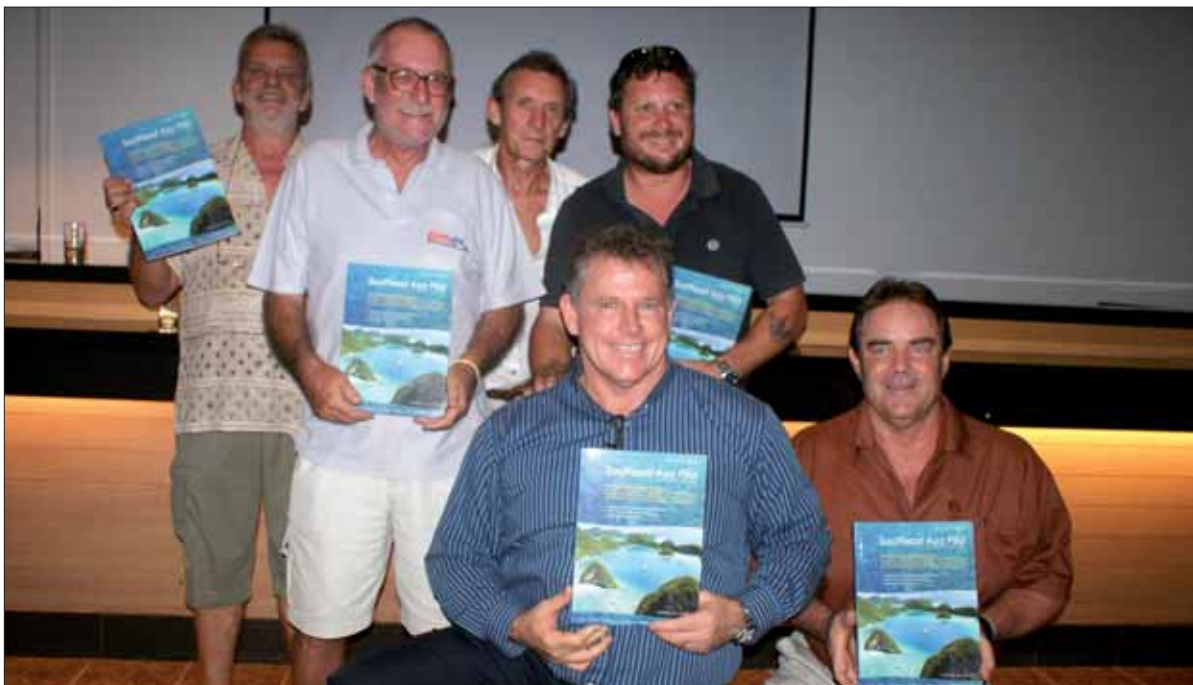
"As a quintessential guide, the Southeast Asia Pilot is probably the most stolen book among a seafaring captain's possessions," Mr O'Leary said, jokingly, holding up the copy that is kept literally padlocked at the Ao Chalong Yacht Club (ACYC).

— Chris Husted

The book is available at the office of Image Asia Events, at Asia Marine, Simpson Marine and Lee Marine offices and other outlets in Chalong.



The mainstay of the Southeast Asia Pilot crew: (from left) Bill O'Leary, Andy Dowden and Grenville Fordham. Photo: Mark Knowles



The creators and contributors of Southeast Asia Pilot at the launch event last week. Photo: Mark Knowles

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A typically idyllic beach scene at the tranquil Cape Panwa. Photo: Mark Lehmkuhler



The author taking in the spectacular view at Khao Khad Lookout. Photo: Baz Daniels

# Capering 'round the cape

SEEKING quieter backwaters where the cycling is relaxed and relatively traffic-free, the locals laid-back and the scenery dramatic, is a challenging task these days in Phuket. However, one corner in the island's southeast certainly ticks all these boxes with the added bonus of offering one of the island's cleanest, most beguiling swimming beaches.

Last week I took a trip around Cape Panwa on one of our blessedly cooler "green season" Sundays and discovered the abundant pleasures of cruising through this quieter corner of the island and meeting a few of the local eccentrics who choose to hang their hats there.

Cape Panwa, as its name suggests, is a peninsular jutting out into the Andaman Sea from the main island of Phuket. Just south of Phuket Town, the cape commands spectacular west-facing views across Phang Nga Bay. The access to the ride around Cape Panwa itself is not particularly attractive, but once you leave behind the traffic, bric-a-brac shops and houses of the approach roads, you will immediately start to enjoy this peaceful sanctuary.

Highway 4023 is the main road running parallel to the east coast of the Cape. It is wide and undulating and carries more traffic than the smaller road which snakes down the peninsula's west coast. The 4023 becomes the 4129 at the Ban Ao Makham-Laen Panwa Muslim Cemetery then climbs over a couple of hills and runs down to the southern tip of the Cape. Here you'll find the Phuket Aquarium which is well worth visiting, and there are a couple of nice waterfront restaurants in which to break your ride for a drink while you watch the world drift by.

You can make a circuit of the ride by cutting through from the main east coast onto the smaller west coast road at the signs for "Cloud 19 and Khao Khad Lookout" where you can get some terrific views across Chalong Bay towards the Big Buddha, who sits serenely atop the



## Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

Nakkerd Hill. This little road winds through abundant groves of trees and vegetation and also offers a number of good, leg-pumping climbs followed by breathtaking descents into such treasures as Ao Yon Beach.

As the actual circuit around Cape Panwa is only about 13 kilometers long, many riders make a few loops to give them the work out they are seeking, which of course they get from several ascents on the steep west coast road. If you are really fit, you can cycle up to the stunning Khao Khad Lookout which is well sign-posted off both the west and east coast roads, a climb that's guaranteed to get your adrenalin pumping!

Talking of adrenaline, the quietude of Cape Panwa seems to attract a breed of eccentric resident whose very lifestyle involves a veritable symphony of terror-inducing activities.

Take my friend Ian Jamieson, who lives in a beautiful little cottage on the steep hillside overlooking Ao Yon Beach. Ian came to Phuket many years ago to open the island's first

Bungee Jump, having spent a lifetime risking body and soul as a stuntman jumping off huge towers into piles of cardboard or over a row of as many as five single-decker buses on his motorbike.

Below Ian on this same hillside lives the famous Finnish Birdman Jari Kuosma, inventor of the modern commercial wingsuit who has over 5,000 jumps to his credit. Further down the hill lives legendary base-jumper Jani Makinen who was honored after the 2004 tsunami for his extreme bravery in helping save dozens of people. Finally, you can often see one of the world's free-diving champions Paul Bettard holding his breath for endless periods off the beautiful sands of Ao Yon amidst the flotilla of marine craft lulling at anchor.

All these alarming acolytes of adrenalin ended up on this tranquil hillside, with its stunning views and beach, quite

independently and by coincidence. I can't help but think that it's the beautiful quiet anodyne to their regular life's activities that this blessed spot provides that must have attracted them all.

My own Sunday ride took me to Ian Jamieson's house at the top of the hill by about noon and after a cold drink and a chat, we decided we would swim south across Ao Yon Bay to the rustic grass-roofed restaurant and bar "The Ship Inn" for lunch. Ian donned gigantic fins for this escapade as he is in training for his next death-defying caper which will involve a motorbike jump over a helicopter gunship with its huge 17-foot rotors flailing. Why an otherwise serene and centered 61-year-old would want to do

such a thing is beyond me... but then some people look at me as though I am mad when I tell them I enjoy cycling around Phuket!

We swam the kilometer or so around the headland to the south of Ian's cottage to "The Ship Inn" and there replenished ourselves with fried rice and watermelon juice while looking out on the peace and tranquility of this amazing Phuket hideaway. Sail boats bobbed at anchor, children fossicked in the sand looking for crabs and two long-legged girls in red bikinis sauntered by. It felt a million miles away from the hassles of daily Phuket life and we can only hope that it stays that way for many more "capers around the cape".



Baz enjoying a refreshing watermelon juice at The Ship Inn on Cape Panwa. Photo: Baz Daniels



DAREDEVIL: Stuntman Ian Jamieson in training for his next dardevil performance (above). Ian, seconds before coming to some serious grief when a stunt when wrong (below).





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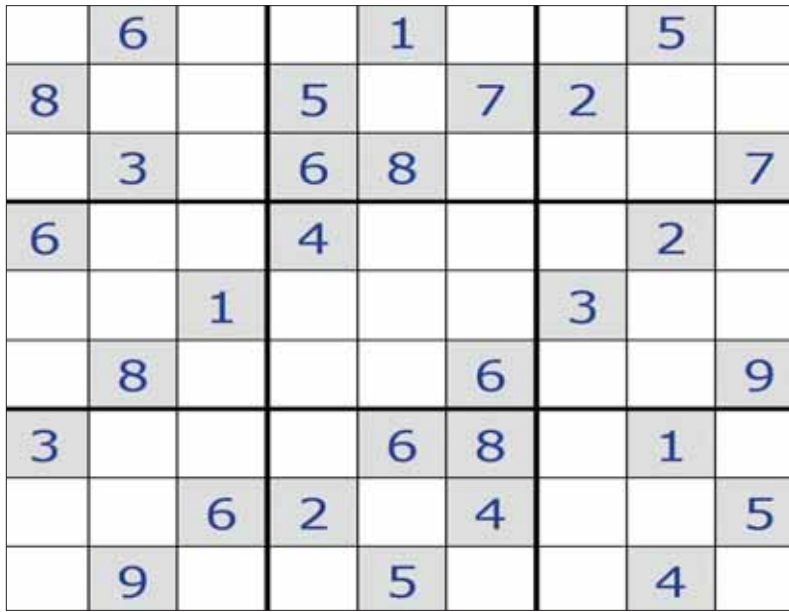


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**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)



**Your weekly pith:** "There's a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore like an idiot."

— Steven Wright

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book  
'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

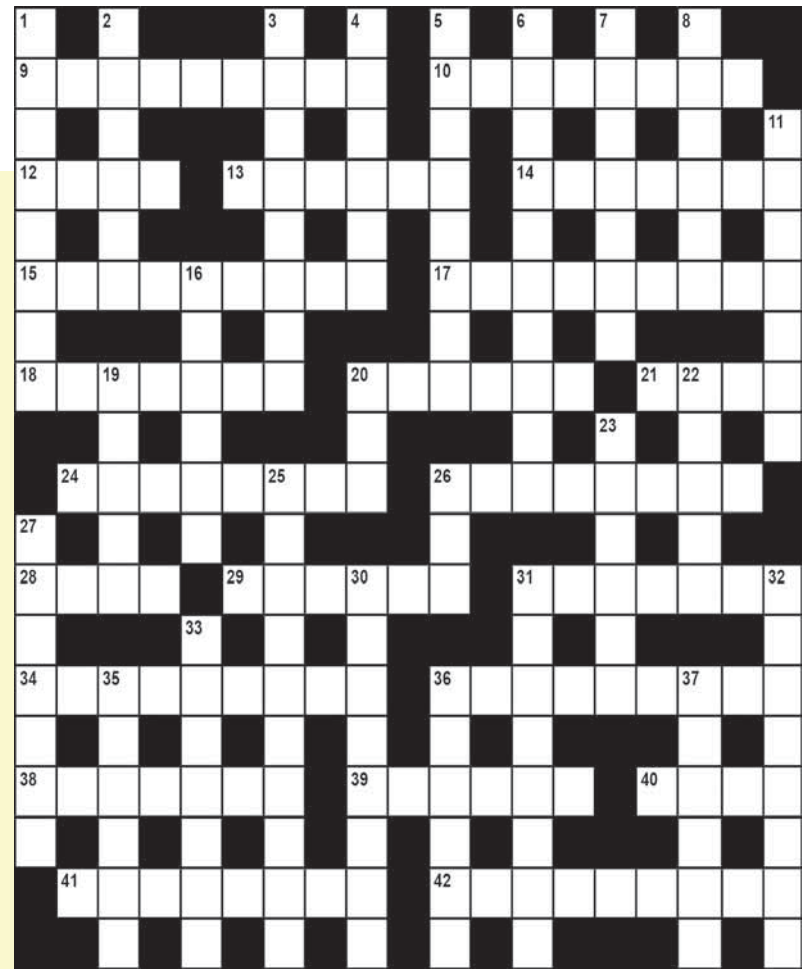
## COFFEE break

### Across:

9. Adult Officer Commanding hard beside sea area in Phuket (2,7)
10. Liking to write a repetitive song (8)
12. Light ray I scattered (4)
13. In pure movement more stunted (6)
14. Object to demonstration (7)
15. One who sets free working bar toiler (9)
17. In several different ways vary proofs of debt left covered (9)
18. Liberal I exist, try out freedom (7)
20. Lug ale out of empty space in barrel (6)
21. The crude shade at the center (4)
24. Liberal at one on offering of drink (8)
26. Purpose of social event (8)
28. Finished, rove around (4)
29. Florida fling ostentatious (6)
31. Petitioner is past chief (7)
34. In favor of iron vessel round River Don (9)
36. Could be rat, forbye, in shuttle vessel (9)
38. Her act set out right for hire (7)
39. Fill to capacity, give up (4,2)
40. Lots back initially requiring a short strip (4)
41. Journalist in terror, disturbed about extended play (8)
42. Last gone, I arranged diplomatic missions (9)

### Down:

1. Pal real broke, left side by side (8)
2. Mark sailor with sacred charm (6)
3. Quote, cry about flirtatious behavior (8)
4. Nastier gruel I cooked (6)



5. Leave application showing valor! (8)
6. Flower in photograph with mythical monster (10)
7. Took ham to make a Thai dish (7)
8. In case the French are in scattered sun (6)
11. Do not move as putty goes off (4,3)
16. Badly reared, look again at the book (6)
19. Salty liquid cream cheese around the North (5)
20. Run around for pot (3)
22. Bird died in flock (5)
23. Yes, let become inflexible (6)
25. Show how bad turn treats rottenly (10)

26. Fine, yes, for a fairy (3)
27. Shop crushed ice for home for the sick (7)
30. Paint removers spoiled press car (8)
31. Prig rode out for food for breakfast (8)
32. Cruel, maybe hurt not so much (8)
33. Revised notices for the department (7)
35. Nor age wither the wild ass (6)
36. Capricious, note caught in like disposition (6)
37. Possibility of blended potion (6)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**


### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

 Burying the hatchet is highlighted for those born under the sign of Leo this week. The stars are ready to support your efforts to leave an argument behind and this should give you the freedom to move on. Creativity is important; an idea you can't shake off has promise of bearing fruit. If your birthday is due in the coming days, the stars promise more work-related rewards in the year ahead.

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

 This is not an auspicious time to make too many arrangements, particularly long-term. Virgoans are advised to keep plans flexible; water and air signs are most likely to come up with last minute changes. In the realm of romance, going with the flow can result in unexpected excitement this weekend. Finances are forecast to be fortunate early next week – the stars indicate a loan being repaid sooner than you thought.

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 Your charisma is strong this week, but the stars advise that not everyone will respond in the way you hope. Librans are advised to tone down their behavior around those who they don't know very well. Where

romance is concerned, flirtation is fun this weekend, but if you are already committed, a partner is forecast to show their disapproval. Where money matters are concerned, a lucky break should boost your income.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

 Opportunity comes knocking for many of those born under the sign of Scorpio during the second half of August. The timing may not be perfect, but any inconvenience will be worthwhile. In the realm of romance, the stars suggest that an unresolved disagreement with another water sign is a storm in a teacup. Those who are single should finally be able to make contact with an earth sign they've been admiring from a distance.


### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 Life is quieter during the second half of August and Sagittarians should utilize this time to take care of overdue personal business. In the world of work, the stars suggest that a water sign is ready to prove their capabilities. Forming a partnership with this person can be the right way forward for those who are tiring of going it alone. Romance with an air sign is rosy this weekend.

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

 Red tape can be an issue for those born under the sign of Capricorn this week. The stars advise double-checking documents to make sure that your situation has been correctly understood. There are hints that crossed wires can cause delays and possibly result in financial loss. Long distance romance is auspicious; a relationship with another earth sign picks up when you learn that a reunion can happen sooner than expected.


### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 The stars indicate that Aquarians will be setting a good example somehow this week. Whether this is due to your successful approach in the world of work or your loyalty to friends, there are signs that others will be influenced in a positive way. Romance is forecast to bring more enjoyment during the second half of August as recent problems can now be seen as water under the bridge.


### PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

 Details can be overlooked at work during the coming week. A cloudy astral atmosphere affects Pisceans who have a lot going on at the moment. The stars advise that new projects should be more carefully considered before you commit. This may have particular impact on relocating for those who are in a hurry to leave their present home. Romance with another water sign can be confusing this weekend.

### ARIES (March 21-April 20):

 Life moves into a smoother gear for those born under the sign of Aries during the second half of August. The focus leaves your working life and moves into the area of personal relationships. There are indications that you may decide to take some distance from an earth sign who has shown that they can't be counted on when you need them most. Money matters are lucky this weekend.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 21):


 Distractions are forecast to be pleasant during the coming days. Those Taureans whose lives have seemed uneventful so far this month will be ready to accept invitations on the spur of the moment. One of these can lead

to a romantic connection with another earth sign for those who are single. If you are already spoken for, a partner's unusual suggestion for a holiday will add some excitement to this relationship.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 Your intellectual power is strong during the second half of August, but Geminis are advised to adopt a calm approach. The stars suggest that too much enthusiasm can be overwhelming and send the wrong message. This can also apply to the realm of romance; those who are trying to impress a fire sign will see that this person appreciates a more subtle style. Fortunate days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Cancerians could get caught up in a wild goose chase during the coming days. Progress at work is subject to being misinformed, especially where fire and air signs are concerned. You are advised to double check facts before investing too much energy. In your personal zone, friendliness can be read the wrong way this weekend. A fire sign who has been holding a candle for you is keen to misinterpret your natural charm.



## International Sport

## Bolt takes back 100m title

By Mitch Phillips

USAIN Bolt was made to look human by a combination of a Russian rainstorm and a fired-up Justin Gatlin on Sunday but the Jamaican superstar was still good enough to regain his world 100 meter title in a surging 9.77 seconds.

With former world and Olympic champion and twice-banned dooper Gatlin leading at halfway, Bolt was forced to race a rival, rather than the clock, although his time was still the second-fastest of the year behind the 9.75 of Tyson Gay, absent from Moscow after testing positive for dope.

The victory made amends for the one blot on the Jamaican's extraordinary copybook, his disqualification from the 2011 final after a false start, and underlined his priceless value to his sport in the wake of a surge of doping cases.

"It was not revenge for Daegu (2011), I just came here to win this title," said Bolt, who finished ahead of Gatlin (9.85) and compatriot Nesta Carter (9.95).

"My legs were sore after the semis and the world record wasn't on so I came

out just to win," Bolt said.

However, it seems that even the presence of Bolt and local heroine Yelena Isinbayeva was not enough to persuade Muscovites to give up their Sunday evening as his performance, devoured by millions around the world on TV, was witnessed by maybe around 30,000 fans in the 81,000-capacity Luzhniki Stadium, reduced to 50,000 for this event.

The swathes of empty seats will come as something of an embarrassment to the organizers, already fighting a rearguard action in the wake of a series of damaging high-profile doping cases.

There were also impressive victories for Americans Ashton Eaton in the decathlon and Brittney Reese in the long jump while Ethiopia's remarkable Tirunesh Dibaba claimed yet another 10,000m title and hot favourite Croatian Sandra Perkovic won the discus.

But the night was always about the 100m final and that means it was all about Bolt.

He had gone through the rounds comfortably enough, though he looked a little pensive and when a hot, humid day gave way to a thunderstorm minutes



**LIGHTNING BOLT:** Usain Bolt of Jamaica runs to win in the men's 100 meters final during the IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow. Photo: Reuters

before the race, there was the merest hint that things might not go so smoothly.

Gatlin, who handed the Jamaican a rare 100 defeat early in the year when he was short of full fitness, started well and was leading at halfway but Bolt reeled him in at

60m and drove through the line.

Carter held off two more Jamaicans – Kemar Bailey-Cole and Nickel Ashmeade for bronze as a potential relay time finished in the top five.

– Reuters

## Nadal crushes Raonic in Rogers Cup

RAFA Nadal thumped Canada's Milos Raonic 6-2 in both sets in the final of the men's Rogers Cup on Sunday to capture his eighth ATP title this season and boost his confidence ahead of the US Open, starting later this month.

Playing in his first tournament

since his shock opening-round loss at Wimbledon, Nadal showed he was back to near his best and his ailing body was ready for the gruelling demands of the North American hardcourt season.

Less than 24 hours after his hard-fought semifinal win over



**Rafael Nadal of Spain** after his win over Milos Raonic of Canada during the men's finals match at the Rogers Cup. Photo: Reuters

Novak Djokovic on Saturday, Nadal easily beat the dangerous Raonic in just over an hour, playing with all the conviction and freedom of a man near the peak of his powers.

"To win here, I had to be playing my top level," Nadal told reporters.

"I'm very happy the way that I played almost every match in this tournament. It's very important for me, this title."

Sunday's victory provided Nadal with his third win at the Rogers Cup and his 25th career Masters title and the Spaniard will rise to three in the world rankings when they are released on Monday.

Raonic will move into the top 10 for the first time after becoming the first Canadian man in more than half a century to reach the Rogers Cup final.

"The breakthroughs I've had this week, with everything from ranking to results, it's all great things to have happen, especially

here at home," he said.

"Even though I don't have the time now, there will be a time when I can stop, reflect upon it, learn as much as I can from it."

Nadal was ruthless from the outset and never allowed Raonic to settle his nerves in front of a partisan capacity crowd in Montreal.

The Canadian's big first serve, normally one of his most reliable weapons, was nullified by Nadal's aggressive returns, with the Spanish left-hander twice breaking Raonic's serve in the opening set.

By contrast, Raonic was unable to make any inroads on Nadal's serve with the fourth seed giving up just one solitary point on serve in the entire first set, which lasted a mere 32 minutes.

Raonic fared better in the second set and earned three breaks points, but was unable to convert any of them while Nadal capitalised on the two opportunities to get the double break and secure the title after 68 minutes.

"At some points, I wasn't mak-

ing him play enough," said Raonic, who enjoyed a hard-fought win over in-form Argentine Juan Martin Del Potro on his way to the decider.

"I think I was rushing a lot of the first set and a half.

"The top four guys, when they get ahead that much, it's very hard to get back."

While Nadal's troublesome knees showed no signs of giving him problems this week, they remain under constant scrutiny, especially when he's preparing for the US Open, played on the most physically demanding surface of the four grand slam events.

But Nadal also won the Indian Wells Masters on hardcourt earlier this year and said he was steadily growing in confidence on the surface.

"I am doing things very well... on hard courts," he said.

"Today is an important example that I can play this way in the future.

– Reuters

## Oracle withdraws from four regattas

ORACLE Team USA admitted it had violated the official rules on yacht modifications and would withdraw retroactively from the last four AC World Series regattas, which are part of the lead-up to the final America's Cup race.

Russell Coutts, chief executive for the team owned by software billionaire Larry Ellison, said in a statement last week that unauthorized modifications were made a year ago to its 45-foot catamarans without the knowledge of management. The team will return its prizes and trophies, he said.

An Olympic gold medalist who

has won the America's Cup four times, Coutts said the modifications "had no impact on the performance of the boats."

"Our team is very disappointed by this turn of events, and I believe that voluntarily withdrawing from these past AC45 regattas is the appropriate corrective action," he said.

Oracle plans to race a different boat, a 72-foot double-hulled yacht, starting next month in its quest to keep the America's Cup, the world's oldest sporting trophy.

Three teams have challenged Oracle. On Saturday, Italy's Luna Rossa will race against Sweden's

Artemis Racing. If Italy wins Saturday's race, it would then race Emirates Team New Zealand to decide who will compete against Oracle.

Meanwhile, an international jury is investigating how weights were inserted into the wrong places on three of Oracle's 45-foot boats, which the team last sailed in April. One of the boats belonged to Ben Ainslie, a four-time Olympic gold medalist who is training alongside the Oracle team for the America's Cup races, which are set to begin September 7.

– Reuters

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# Thai teen makes sporting history

By Lerpong Amsa-ngiam

TEENAGE badminton prodigy Ratchanok Intanon made the country proud this week after she defeated world No 1 Li Xuerui of China to become the youngest World Badminton champion in history.

At 18 years, six months and six days, the precocious Ratchanok relied on her court skills, wits and consistency to beat the London Olympics gold medalist 22-20 18-21 21-14 in a hard-fought women's singles final showdown in front of a heart-broken Guangzhou crowd.

Ratchanok, or "May", entered the final as the underdog with a humble record of 1-4 against the 22-year-old Chinese, who beat her in their last four meets. And it appeared to be the same old story when the Chinese ace romped to a 19-12 lead in the opening game before the world No 3 started her revolution.

The Thai teenager, with her back against the wall, proved she

had the heart of a lion as she intensified her attacks to exert pressure on her more experienced rival. She saved three game points at 17-20 and reeled off five points en route to running away with the game to everyone's surprise.

Although Li took charge in the later stage of the second game to level the tie, she could not live up to the intensity and hopes of Chinese fans, who were expecting to see the title fall into the hands of their player for the ninth consecutive year. Uncharacteristic errors kept tumbling from the Chinese racquet while the Thai, who stuck to the game plan of her on-court coach Xie Zhi Hua of China, combined a fierce and solid game to easily win the showdown after 65 minutes.

Ratchanok was in tears after the biggest victory of her career. She returned home last night in order to attend a Mother's Day ceremony at Amphorn Gardens this morning, where she will receive a

"Grateful Child" award.

"I am going to bring my victory to my mother and godmother as a gift," Ratchanok said during an interview with foreign media.

"Before this match I didn't have confidence when I was competing against the top players, but after today I will. Li was not playing like herself. I felt really relaxed and I think she was nervous. I have played her five times and she has won four, so it was amazing that I beat her today."

"Being the champion has been my dream," she said. "At the end of the match all the tough moments from all the years came into my mind and I thought, 'Finally, I've got it.'"

Apart from reaching a career-high ranking of No 2 this week, Ratchanok will be awarded a 1 million baht incentive from the government plus a 500,000 baht bonus from new Badminton Association of Thailand



**CREAM OF THE CROP:** The 18-year-old World Champion received bouquets and praise from the Royal family (above). Photo: The Nation

president Khunying Patama Leeswadtrakul.

Born on February 5, 1995, Ratchanok was raised in the Banthongyord sweet factory, where her parents were workers. In concern for her safety, factory owner Kamala Thongkorn, her godmother, sent the young Ratchanok, then five, to train free of charge with other kids at the Banthongyord Badminton School.

With strict training and her talent, it did not take long for the girl to shine in the international arena. She became World Junior champion at only 14 in 2009, the

youngest in history, and dominated the event for the next two years.

She gained national recognition with a formidable performance at the London Olympics where she engaged in a tough three-game battle with world No 2 Wang Xin of China, before losing in the quarter-finals.

Ratchanok's achievement helped redeem the country's badminton pride after the controversial on-court brawl between Bodin Issara and Maneepong Jongjit during the Canadian Open men's doubles final in Vancouver last month. — *The Nation*

# Scot boss relishing feisty England clash

THERE was more to Gordon Strachan's words than mere hype when he claimed on Tuesday that no match between Scotland and England could ever be bracketed as merely a friendly.

The oldest fixture in world football has disappeared from view in the past decade but at Wembley on Wednesday Scotland have the chance to give the auld enemy a bloody nose as the Football Association marks its 150th anniversary.

Gone are the days when Scotland would regularly qualify for World Cup finals and European championships and the domestic game north of the border has hit hard times compared to the glamor and glitz of the English Premier League.

Any sense of inferiority will go out of the window at Wembley, however, where 20,000 Scots are expected to roar on their team against Roy Hodgson's side in the first clash of the two nations since 1999.

The timing is hardly ideal, just three days before the start of the Premier League, but Scotland manager Strachan believes neither side will be holding back once the whistle blows.

"There is pressure there, trust me," said Strachan, who is trying to revive the fortunes of the Scotland team which has slumped to 50th in the FIFA rankings.



**Scotland manager Strachan attends a media conference north of London.** Photo: Reuters

"Because if there wasn't pressure it would be one of these normal run of the mill friendlies that you play," he told a news conference.

"It's a fixture we all want to see more often. Players, fans, media, even people who are not really football fans are interested in

that Scotland-England game.

"I know we play them in other sports but this is the sport where everybody can really attach themselves and enjoy it.

"It's a friendly, it's a celebration of football but as a game it's got to be competitive, that's for sure. You can tell the difference.

"When I was a player or a manager, friendly games didn't really turn me on. I think players could sniff that from me but it's a bit different this one," added Strachan.

Hordes of Scotland fans were milling about London on Tuesday, a throwback to the days when they arrived en masse from north of the border to watch the now defunct Home Championship games between England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Not all the Wembley clashes between the sides were memorable for the right reasons, as was the case in 1977 when Scotland fans celebrated a 2-1 victory by invading the pitch, digging up the turf and snapping the crossbar.

While greeted with derision by the authorities, the "desecration" of Wembley by the so-called Tartan Army was greeted by some proud Scots in the same way as the portrayal of William Wallace in the Hollywood movie Braveheart years later.

The death of Alex Torrance, the man

whose weight finally did for the Wembley crossbar that day, was even marked in national newspapers when he passed away aged 54 in 2010.

Such incidents, and the changing nature of world football, hastened the demise of the annual meetings between the two nations who have locked horns 110 times.

Scotland have had their fair share of victories, winning 41 compared to 45 for England and prevailed the last time they played, winning 1-0 at Wembley in the second leg of a European Championship playoff in 1999.

While Scotland's standing has declined since that match, the long wait for another crack at England will add some feeling to Wednesday's encounter, according to former Scotland striker Kevin Gallacher.

"The longer you keep the teams apart the more feisty it will become," Gallacher told the BBC.

England skipper Steven Gerrard said any thoughts of the looming Premier League kickoff would be cast aside.

"It is important we go in with confidence, because this is a big game for us," he told reporters on Tuesday. "There'll be no holding back and we want to win."

— *Reuters*

# Michael Jackson to play alongside John Lennon, Mahatma Gandhi

MICHAEL Jackson will join forces with John Lennon and Mahatma Gandhi after signing for Brazilian Serie B club Atletico Goianiense, the club said in a statement.

The 25-year-old's real name is Carlos Adriano Sousa Cruz but he is known by his nickname which he earned for his eccentric goal celebration where he imitates the late American pop star's dance.

He will line up alongside defender John

Lennon, who was baptized John Lennon Silva Santos, and Mahatma, full name Mahatma Gandhi Heber Pio, at the mid-table side.

The squad also includes a player known as Rafael Gladiador (Gladiator).

Brazilian footballers can be known either by their Christian names, surnames, nicknames or a combination of all three, often leading to exotic results.

A forward named Alain Delon, named

after the French actor, is regarded as one of the most successful players to have represented Vitoria, while a Michel Platini, namesake of the former France captain and current UEFA president, plays in midfield for Bulgaria's Ludogorets Razgrad.

Another Michael Jackson, real name Marileia dos Santos, once played for the Brazilian women's team.



— *Reuters*

**Michael Jackson.** Photo: Zoran Veselinovic



## Sport

# Italy ends Thais' GP chances

THAILAND failed to make it to the six-team volleyball World Grand Prix Finals in Sapporo, Japan, after they succumbed to in-form Italy 25-18 25-14 29-27 in their last Pool J match at the Divis Uralochka Hall here on Sunday.

The latest loss in the women's premier volleyball tournament has relegated Thailand to 10th position among the 20 participating teams. After six matches in the first two legs, Thailand collected only six points from two wins over Algeria and Cuba against four losses.

After three weeks of matches, all teams will be classified for the last time. Only the top five teams plus hosts Japan will qualify for the finals in Sapporo between August 28 and September 1. Last year, Thailand advanced to the finals for the second consecutive time and finished fourth.

After two weeks of competition in the World Grand Prix, China and

Japan top the groups with 17 points, followed by Serbia with 16 points. Title-holders USA and Italy have 15 points. Olympic champions Brazil are trailing in sixth place with 14 points. Turkey and Bulgaria have 13 points while Russia are in ninth place with 12 points.

With the last three matches in the third week starting next week-end, all 20 teams make a final attempt to qualify. Thailand will return home to play matches in Pool L against defending two-time world champions Russia, Germany and Puerto Rico. The Bangkok meet will take place at the Hua Mark Indoor Stadium from August 16 to 18.

Against the World Grand Champions Cup winners Italy on Sunday, Thailand made too many unforced mistakes and went down tamely in the first two games but fought gallantly in the third, which turned to be a

thrilling see-saw battle. The Italians played calmly in the hotly contested game to win the match.

Thailand's head coach Kiattipong Radchatagriengkai praised the Ekaterinburg fans. "They supported us in every match we played. Italy were just too strong for our girls."

"It's very difficult to win points from them. It's a pity we were not successful with our playing system. We tried to come back in the third set. The experience the new players gained will be pretty useful in the future. I think they have learned a lot from the matches here. We have to improve our game at home."

Thailand's captain Wilavan Apinyapong said, "We did our best. Italy were in top form and showed plenty of variety in their tactics."

Hosts Russia pulled off a dramatic 3-1 (25-17 25-14 16-25 25-17) win over Cuba. Russia



The Russian team celebrating their victory over Thailand. Photo: FIVB

made a clean sweep of the three matches they played to collect nine points in Pool J. Italy had two wins against one loss to have

six points, while Thailand beat Cuba to have three points. Cuba had no points.

— The Nation

## Phuket beach volleyball interest spikes

THE return of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour to Karon beach Phuket has sparked plenty of interest among both players and fans.

With the tournament still just under three months away, over 40 teams from 19 countries have already entered the US\$75,000 Phuket Thailand Open powered by PTT, which will be held from October 29 to November 3.

Early entries in the tournament have been received from several leading countries such as Canada, Germany and Italy, as well as teams from Australia, Austria, Columbia, Czech Republic, England, Finland, Greece, Japan, Kazakhstan, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Vanuatu and Venezuela.

Local interest will be focused on Thailand's No 1 team of Radarong and Udomchavee. Currently ranked No 42 in the world, the team last month achieved their highest ever finish on the World Tour finishing 5th in the Anapa Open in Russia.

Thailand as host country is allowed two automatic slots in the main draw, with the Thailand No 2 team of Numwong



Action from a match held in April where Thailand played Hong Kong. Photo: FIVB

and Hongpak also making their entry into the tournament.

This is the 8th successive year that

Thailand has hosted a leg of the FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour and the event in Phuket is the biggest annual beach sporting

event in the Southeast Asian region. Past winners of the tournament in Phuket include the current Olympic Champions, Walsh and May-Treanor from the USA.

The 6-day beach volleyball tournament includes a number of supporting activities including the PTT Schools Cup and PTT Beach Volleyball camps on the finals week-end, as well as a large sponsor activity zone featuring sponsor booths, a beer garden and games and competitions for beach volleyball fans. Admission to the tournament is free throughout the week.

The Phuket Thailand Open is produced annually by Pentangle Promotions Co Ltd of Bangkok in association with the FIVB and the Thailand Volleyball Association.

The 2013 FIVB Beach Volleyball World Tour Phuket is proudly sponsored by the Phuket Gazette, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show on True Visions. 'Phuket Today', co-produced by PGTV and MCOT World, will be covering this event. The weekly half-hour show runs eight times a week, every week, on channels 99 and 58.

## Barca show hunger in their friendly win over Thailand

GERARDO Martino, coach of Spanish football champions Barcelona, was happy to see his charges show their hunger for victory in a 7-1 win over Thailand's under-23 side in a friendly match at the packed Rajamangala National stadium last week.

The result meant Barca managed to score a total of 15 goals in two games.

The Argentine coach has been in charge of the team so far after succeeding Tito Vilanova, who had to step down from the post due to health problems.

Leaving aside what seemed

a predictable win for the champion club, Martino was particularly pleased with the way his side put the hosts under intense pressure just like they did in the 8-0 victory over Brazilian club Santos in the previous match.

"I insist on what I said the other day (after the match against Santos), we pressured well, we had the ball and we attacked quickly."

"Independently of the opponent, we had the ambition to win the game. It's clear that this team is hungry," added Martino.

— The Nation

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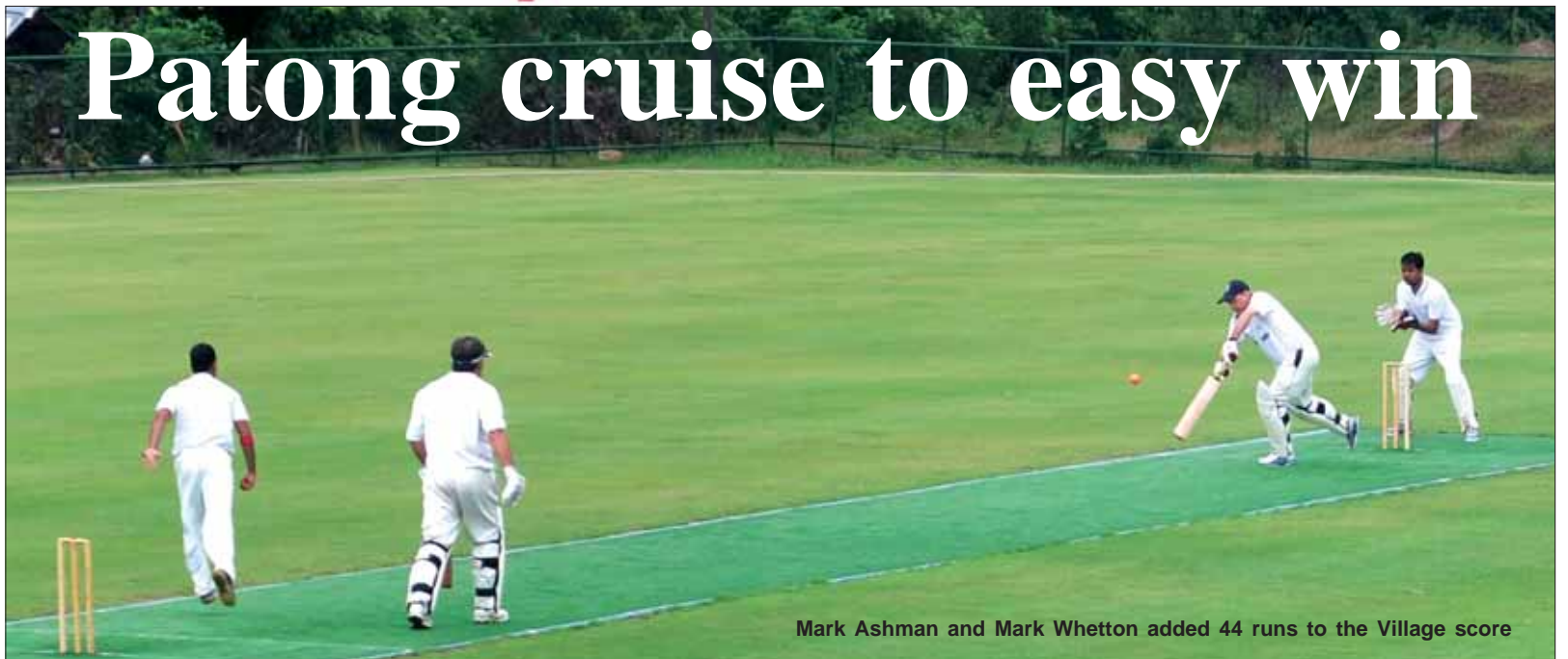


## T-20 CRICKET

ON an overcast Sunday for Round 6 of the Outrigger T20 league, Laguna squared up against Patong in the morning session, while the Village took on ICC in a rain-affected afternoon session.

In the morning match, Patong cruised to a comfortable win over Laguna who could only manage 90 runs during their innings with Patong reaching their target of 91 in the 14th over securing their second win of the season. The afternoon encounter between the Village and ICC was a closely fought rain-affected match which had to be reduced to 15 overs under heavy rain and failing light which the Village running out winners on the average run rate target of 114 despite a valiant effort by ICC who reached 106 in reply.

After winning the toss, Laguna chose to bat and set a target, but lost openers Damian Clowes and Darren Shaw in the first and second overs, respectively. Manish Sadarangani (15) and Sami Ullah (36 not out) were the only batsmen in the Laguna line-up to reach double figures in a dismal batting performance which saw them reach only 90-8 from 18.4 overs. Laguna has now lost three consecutive matches and will need a substantial turn around in form if they are to successfully defend their title.



Mark Ashman and Mark Whetton added 44 runs to the Village score

With such a small target, the Patong batsmen went about their chase in a cautious manner, without taking any unnecessary risks. They accomplished this with a solid opening stand of 50 runs between openers Mike Khan (15) and Seemant Raju (42) followed up with another 36 run partnership between Raju and Imtiyaz Mushtaq (22 not out) to comfortably reach their target of 91-2 in the 14th over.

In the afternoon, heavy clouds came in from the west coast and the match between the Village and ICC got underway with light showers. However, this did not phase Village openers Paul Stamp

(27) and Divan Mydeen (24) who placed the ball well to pick up easy runs as well as being punishing to any loose bowling dispatching balls to the boundary. Stamp, eventually fell in the 8th over with the score on 60 and Mydeen following him in the next over with the score on 72. Simon Wetherell (14) helped push the score along to 100 before he fell along with Martin Foster just 2 balls later. Rain then interrupted play for about 30 minutes.

However, Mark Ashman (19) and Mark Whetton (34 not out) then returned to a wet pitch but remained unphased by the trying conditions, putting on a valuable 44-run

partnership to take the Village total to 152-6 from their 20 overs.

Rain once again interrupted the start of play for ICC's innings and the match was shortened to 15 overs. A run rate of 7.6 runs per over was required by ICC and knowing this, they put big hitter Ali Khan (23) to open the innings with Shah Hidayatullah (11).

A fired up Craig Patterson achieved the breakthrough in the 4th over bowling Shah and then followed this up in his next over removing Khan with the score on 42. However, ICC were matching the run rate amidst heavy rain. Arif Mushtaq (13) and Balesh Desai (8)

pushed the score along to 70 in the 10th over before they both fell victim to the bowling of Olly Wingate. Ravi Naik (13) and Paneent Thakur (15) then combined to take the score along to 98 runs in the 14th over.

Surender Kumar (4 not out) and Iqbal Malik (6 not out) were then left with the challenging task of reaching target of 114 runs from the final over but could only manage 106-6 in a closely contested match.

The league table sees the Village consolidate their lead at the top remaining undefeated with 10 points while Laguna, ICC and Patong battle it out on 4 points each.

— Stuart Reading

# Moya Hin, Hurricane, Aqua sail forth

Scott Duncanson

BEAUTIFUL sunny skies and a cool, gentle 10-15 knot South Westerly breeze greeted over 45 sailors competing in race one of the Ao Chalong Yacht Club, Series Two. The first of the eight race series was proudly sponsored by ISS Security Services. After hearty breakfasts from the club restaurant and some of the best coffee on the island, sailors of nine yachts left the beach to compete on a course set around the beautiful Southern islands of Koh Bon, Koh Lon, North to Ao Makham and finishing back in Chalong Bay.

Under the watchful eye of Race Officer Chandran all yachts started at the scheduled

time of 12:00, however, it appeared some of the racers were a little rusty with only three of the nine boat fleet anywhere near the line as the start signal sounded. *Hurricane* and *Moya Hin* lead the fleet out of the bay and extended their leads on the upwind leg to Koh Bon. Some confusion over the location of some rigging equipment on *Moya Hin* resulted in a very slow spinnaker hoist that saw *Babe* closing in quickly after a very late start. Eventually sorting out their problems *Moya Hin* then extended to be clear winners in the racing class.

*Hurricane* sailed well to win the Multihull class with *Moto Inzi* in second and *Nina*, third. Although known as the "cruising class" quite a battle developed between Series One

winner *Aqua* and local favourite *Fidji*, helmed by sail-maker Ket Mangklaseranee, after several "close crosses and lead exchanges *Aqua* held on take first place by just under a minute with *Fidji* and *Iruvai* in second and third respectively.

A late afternoon squall and heavy rain failed to dampen competitors spirits as prizes of fine red and white wine were awarded by local Australian expat legend Phil Vidal. Race two is scheduled for Sunday, August 25, and all yachts are welcome to participate. The club is open daily and features a unique waterfront dining experience for visitors and members alike, for more information please visit the website at [acyc.asia](http://acyc.asia)



The crew of *Babe* had a slow start.



Belinda Granger will co-lead the "Women Only Triathlon Training Camp" from August 23-26.

# Run like a girl... ahead of the rest

## Triathlon Tips

DID you know that "Long Distance Running" for women was illegal in the old days? Participation in Marathon events was impossible for women. It was considered unfeminine and unhealthy. It took the IOC till 1984 to finally hold the first marathon for women.

The first known marathon finish of a woman was in 1967 when Katherine entered the Boston Marathon. She had to hide her gender by registering with her initials only and by

dressing up like a guy.

After a few kilometers, one of the race directors tried to stop her by yelling "get the hell out of my race and give me that number!" She kept running and finished in 4 hours and 20 minutes.

Seven years later she won the New York Marathon and in 1975, she set her personal best in Boston (2:51:37). That brave run started a boom. Her explanation was simple: "I just feel better through running than through any other sport!" The rest is history.

In Triathlon, women were welcomed right from the start in the late 70s. But it took a while to make sure women were

treated equal to the men. Thanks to the ambitious engagement of women like Erin Baker (NZ) in the early days and Belinda Granger (AUS) in the last decade men and women get the same recognition nowadays.

The largest Triathlon organizations (WTC-IRONMAN; ITU and Challenge) are paying equal prize money to both genders now.

Women are rapidly catching up in sponsorship endorsements and media coverage.

To honor the emancipation of women in endurance sport, Thanyapura is organizing a "Women Only Triathlon Train-

ing Camp" with Belinda Granger from August 23-26.

Belinda has been a great role model for female triathletes for a decade and inspired men as well with her refreshing attitude. Her 15 victories at long distance Triathlon events speak for itself.

The camp is open for beginner and advanced levels. As "Head Senior Triathlon Coach" at Thanyapura I will be training the participants side by side with Belinda. I am just a lucky guy, right?

This article was written by Thanyapura's Senior Head Triathlon Coach, Jurgen Zack. For inquiries, email: [triathlon@thanyapura.com](mailto:triathlon@thanyapura.com)



## Sport

# Birthday wish granted

## Phuket prevail over Nakhon Pathom to pleasure of President Pamuke



STARTERS: Phuket FC's starting lineup in last Sunday night's match against Nakhon Pathom.



FINISHERS: An exuberant Phuket FC celebrate the team's second goal. Photos: Steven Layne

By Steven Layne

THE Islanders last Sunday won their first match in 50 days – and first at home for 112 days – beating Yamaha League One (YL1) rivals, Nakhon Pathom United 2-0 on a waterlogged pitch at Surakul Stadium.

Marking the occasion, Phuket FC President Pamuke Achiriyachai at half time was presented flowers, a birthday cake and a framed picture of a famous temple, a gift from fans, but the real pinnacle of his delight came at the final whistle of the match.

Prior to the triumph, Phuket FC's last league win was away to Rayong United on June 22, while the last time they claimed three points on home ground, was on April 21 to Khon Kaen.

The match's 6:30pm kickoff followed an afternoon buildup of August Southern Thai downpours, which finally subsided about 20 minutes into play, leaving a dampened and slippery pitch throughout the first half.

Scoring from long range for Phuket was veteran Thai left-back, Tongchai Kuenkhunthod, whose shot was deflected towards the far post and into the back of the net.

Tongchai was later named Man-of-the-Match.

Making a positive impression on fans in his first match in charge, Phuket's Brazilian coach Stefano Rodrigues, or "Coach Teco" rested Dudu and Ludovick in the second half putting in Giorgio Tsimakuridze and Cristian Alex, who displayed smooth chemistry with Thai striker Sukree E-tae on the front line.

Coach Teco's deployments bore fruit when Alex was awarded a free kick, near the left touch line. Nakhon Pathom's keeper didn't have a chance from the missile of a kick, a legendary goal that sent Phuket players, coaches and two thousand-odd fans erupting into celebration.

After the match, Coach Teco told the *Gazette* that he was very satisfied with the result: "Although we are still 8 points shy of 3rd place, we will focus on recovery and try to do the same in the coming matches – play good football, and get the [winning] result."

Coach Teco admitted that the road ahead will not be easy, considering the narrow time window.

"I didn't have much time to train with the team [one week], and now we don't have any training before and in between the next four

matches in two weeks.

"The difficult thing will be to keep everyone motivated and on target, as it's always difficult on the road, and we need to recover from playing and travelling"

Indeed, Phuket FC are in the middle of a hectic away-away-home-away-home run.

At the time of going to press, the Islanders were playing Thai Navy FC away in Chonburi.

After that, the Islanders traveled up to the North-

east, to take on the Khon Kaen FC this Saturday, August 17, and will immediately return home for their next match, against Airforce United on Wednesday, July 21.

They will then fly back to Bangkok for a Sunday, August 25 showdown with Singtharua FC – the Port Lions.

Phuket FC's final August match is at home on Saturday, August 31 against Ayuthaya FC.



## Chonburi have tough task in Japan tourney

THE reigning Thailand futsal champions, Chonburi Bluewave have a difficult group stage ahead of them in the upcoming AFC Futsal Club Championship final round, to be contested in Nagoya, Japan at the end of this month.

The Thai champs were drawn into Group B, alongside the tournament's reigning champions Sanaye Giti Pasand – the most recent winners of the Iranian Futsal Super League – as well as last year's runners up and current Uzbekistan champs, Ardus, and Qatar powerhouse, Al Sadd.



Chonburi in a recent friendly match vs a Vietnamese side.

their campaign against Ardus on August 27 at Nagoya's Ocean Arena at 12pm (10am Thai time). Their match against the Iran champs will take place in the same venue on August 28 at 2:30pm (12:30pm in Thailand), while their final group match, against Al Sadd, will kick-off at 4:30pm (2:30pm) on August 29 at Park Arena in Komaki, Komaki.

Group A, meanwhile sees hosts and 2011 champs, Nagoya Oceans battling it out against Shenzhen Nanling Tielang of China, Vietnam's Thai Son Nam and

Chonburi will commence Al Sadaka from Lebanon.





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