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INSIDE TODAY

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DSI hit list

Taxi chiefs arrested for violent extortion as target areas unveiled

By **Saran Mitrarat**

THE Department of Special Investigations (DSI) began its crackdown on Phuket taxi drivers in earnest this week with the arrest of two brothers who run the taxi rank at Central Festival Phuket shopping mall.

Pom Sukkasam, 42, and his brother Sern, 52, were arrested last Sunday and taken to Bangkok to face three charges related to extorting money from some of the 179 taxi drivers who pick up passengers at the Central Festival taxi rank.

"If drivers failed to pay, they were assaulted," Lt Col Somboon Sarasitt of DSI's Bureau of Special Crime Region 3 alleged.

Brothers Pom and Sern both denied the charges, branding the allegations as "completely false".

"Look at me," said Mr Pom. "Do you think I am that kind of person?"

Mr Pom and Mr Sern have since been released on bail, and have returned to Phuket to continue running the taxi service at Central Festival.

Amid fears the Sukkasam arrests were made on the basis of a single complaint filed by a disgruntled former taxi driver at Central Festival, DSI Chief Investigator for Phuket Maj Natapol Ditsayatham told the *Gazette*, "We have all the evidence we need."

However, Mr Pom challenged the DSI to look deeper into the source of the complaint. He believes he knows who filed a complaint against him to the DSI – a member of his group who has repeatedly complained about his taxi rank's rules...



DSI Chief Investigator Maj Natapol (right) has unveiled his list of taxi mafia target areas.

Tourist Court waits as legal eagles enjoy French sortie

PATTAYA'S Tourist Court opened to much fanfare and praise last week, but the Phuket version for expediting justice for tourists is on hold while a panel of legal experts and law-enforcement officials conduct a two-week fact-finding tour in France – at a cost to the taxpayer of 14 million baht – to learn more about how such courts work.

Full story on Page 6

Phuket Town in deep water – floods again

HEAVY rains this week raised eyebrows – and water levels – as Phuket Town suffered a flash flood following a three-hour downpour that saw the Bang Yai Canal nearly burst its banks.

Full story on Page 2

Rawai shooter blames blind road rage

THE man wanted for shooting a Russian tourist in a car on the Rawai beach road during a road-rage attack last month has been arrested by police in Karon after they figured out their prime suspect was already out on bail on a firearms charge.

Full story on Page 3

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This Week



Property

Laguna unveils its huge new development with 2,000 homes. **Page 14**



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Savvy Scandinavian's Asian tourism business booms. **Page 17**



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The tragic rise and fall of Thailand's own top supermodel. **Page 34**



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Do you have the guts to meet a tiger face to face? **Page 40**



Explore

It's time to put down your phone and pick up a bike. **Page 42**



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Fists, knees and elbows in motion for a good cause. **Page 49**

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Phuket Town struck by flash-flooding

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

MANY parts of Phuket Town were briefly underwater on Monday in the wake of a ferocious three-hour morning rainstorm.

A number of roads were flooded and the Bang Yai Canal threatened to burst its banks.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut and Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana led officials to inspect Bang Yai Canal's alarming water levels near the Standard Chartered Intersection in the Old Town quarter.

"The rain fell heavily and continually for three hours, causing floods as water could not be drained out quickly enough," Mayor Somjai told the *Gazette*.

"However, Phuket Marine Police and Phuket City Municipality staff were able to pump the floodwater out in an hour," she said.

Officials inspecting housing areas near the canal for flood damage found that there was none, partly because residents had moved their belongings to higher ground and taken other precautions.

Heavy rains continued throughout the week, in line with seasonal conditions during the Andaman coast August. The rainy season will ease up sometime next month.



The streets in Phuket Town's Samkong area were deluged with floodwater from the three-hour downpour. Photo: Phuket Marine Police

However, Deputy Commander of the Phuket Provincial Police Col Peerayuth Karachedi warns road-users to exercise extra on the roads at this time of year.

"Please be careful when you drive on curvy roads because the road will be slippery during the rain. Basically, slow down."

"Also, car drivers should be aware of motorbike drivers and other road users too: when you drive through a flooded patch of

road, try to avoid splashing bike drivers or pedestrians.

"If you use a two-wheeled vehicle rather than four, keep a raincoat in the storage compartment of your bike. Very cheap disposable raincoats can be purchased at convenience stores," he said.

The Thai Meteorological Department has predicated scattered thundershowers for the Southwest Coast over the weekend of September 14-16.

Corpse with distinctive tattoo washes up twice

THE body of a man first spotted floating in the sea near Koh Taphao Yai on September 8 was recovered a day later when it reappeared 25km away off Koh Racha Yai.

Koh Taphao Island residents notified authorities, but after Marine Police arrived, they were unable to locate the body.

The corpse was seen again on September 9 off the west coast of Koh Racha Yai, and retrieved.

The corpse had a wound to the back of the neck, and police speculate that the man was a Thai or Myanmar fisherman who was thrown into the sea after a fight, said Capt Somkid Ornjai, an in-



The body was recovered off Koh Racha Yai. Photo: Gazette file

investigator with the Wichit Police.

"The man had four 10-baht coins in his pocket, but no identification," he said.

"He bore a distinctive tattoo, the characters 'ROCKE 9' on his left forearm."

"We are working to identify the body," he added.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Search begins for Chalong slasher

CHALONG Police are on the lookout for an employee of the popular expat shopping mall HomePro Village near Chalong Circle after he slashed his supervisor with a knife on September 9.

The incident arose from an altercation between the employee and his supervisor at one of the stores in the mall, Chalong Police Lt Kraisorn Boonprasop explained to the *Gazette*.

"We received a report from a manager of the store at around 9pm. He had been cut on the arm by one of his staff," said Lt Kraisorn.



Police are looking for a man who knifed his manager at the popular expat shopping mall HomePro Village in Chalong. Image: Google Maps

"The two men had a heated argument about their work and started to fight. While they were fighting, the employee pulled out a pocket knife and slashed the shop manager," he explained.

"The manager went to hospital and got five stitches for his wound. The employee fled the scene," he added.

Police are now seeking an arrest warrant for the employee.

"We believe he may come to work today, so we hope to have him in custody soon," Lt Kraisorn said.

— Orawin Narabal

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Road rage shooter arrested

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE have arrested the man who injured a Russian tourist by opening fire on a car in a fit of road rage in Rawai last month.

Officers took Narongsak Saelim, 21, into custody on September 6, the same day they received an arrest warrant for his arrest from Phuket Provincial Court.

"We went to the house where we believed he was hiding, in Karon, found him there and arrested him," said Lt Col Jarun Bangprasert of Chalong Police.

He is charged with attempted murder and possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition in a public place, said Col Jarun, who assisted in the investigation.

"Mr Narongsak denied the charge of attempted murder," he said.

The incident took place on August 17 when Russian tourist Maksim Klocskov was shot when a bullet pierced the trunk of the car he was riding in.

After renting the car that night and going out for pizza, Mr Klocskov's group of friends were driving along the Rawai beachfront road. Mr Klocskov was sitting alone in the backseat.

Mr Klocskov's friends later told police that two youths rode by on a motorbike and then swung around and started to follow their car before the shots were fired.

The friends believed the shooting may have occurred because they had cut the motorbike off.

Mr Narongsak confirmed that anger had made him shoot the car.

"I was riding my motorcycle along the Rawai beachfront with a friend when a car came up behind us, flashing its lights and beeping its horn at us. I was so startled I almost crashed the bike.

"I tried to overtake the car to make him pull over. I was really angry, so I shot into the back of the car two times.

"I didn't intend to harm anyone in the car. I just shot the car



SECOND TIME: Mr Narongsak had been arrested 10 days before on another charge, and was released on bail.

to scare the driver," he said.

Mr Narongsak had been briefly in police custody only 10 days previously when he was picked up for a separate charge,

possession of unlicensed firearms and ammunition.

"He posted bailed. We didn't realize he was the suspect we were looking for in this case," said

Col Jarun Bangprasert.

Mr Narongsak is being detained by Chalong Police. Mr Klocskov has been discharged from hospital and has returned to Russia.

Central taxi brothers arrested

From page 1

... "I have been pushing to make all the taxis at Central Festival legal, but this guy didn't like it," he said.

"I'm not mad at him, but I am upset that he didn't think about Phuket's image and the reputation of taxi drivers," he said.

Col Somboon assured the *Gazette* that the arrests of Pom and Sern were only the first of more to come, and unveiled a "hit list" of target areas where his officers will move in next.

"Our investigation into the operations at Central Festival were only the start. Next on our list are Patong, Kata, Karon, Cherno Talay, Kamala, Surin and Bang Tao," he said.

"We cannot reveal our next target area," added DSI Chief Investigator Maj Natapol. "We do not want our suspects to run away."

Noticeably included on Col Somboon's hit list was Surin Beach, where only last year taxi drivers dragged and beat a tour company driver while he was picking up elderly Australian tourists who were still in the car while the attack was carried out.



Mr Pom has denied the extortion charges. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

The area has since been overlooked in the "taxi mafia" allegations delivered by DSI Chief Tarit Pengdith and Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak at the opening of the anti-organized crime centers in Phuket last month.

Also of note is that local police have a limited role in the DSI crackdown on Phuket taxi mafia and have been relegated to providing information only.

"The DSI has specifically been asked to make sure local police are not involved when we move in and make arrests," Maj Natapol explained.

Celebrity Thai graphic designer latest Phuket drowning victim

ONE of Thailand's best-known graphic designers, Pharuephon "Tum" Mukdasanit, was pronounced dead at Bangkok Hospital Phuket on September 9 after being pulled from the surf by lifeguards at Kata Beach two days earlier.

Mr Pharuephon, known to his many fans by the moniker "Mamafaka", was pronounced dead at 2:50am. He was set to turn 35 on September 14.

He had been in a coma since being transferred to Bangkok Hospital, a medic explained.

Mr Pharuephon was taking part in the Ripcurl Girls Go Surfing Day 2013 event, held at Kata

Beach on September 7.

At around 4:30pm, when he went swimming, a large wave nearly swept him out to sea. He was pulled from the water unconscious by lifeguards and given CPR before being taken first to Patong Hospital and later to Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut visited Mr Pharuephon at the hospital's ICU last Sunday evening, when he handed a bou-

quet to Mr Pharuephon's parents.

Mr Pharuephon's final journey to his hometown Khon Kaen began at 10am on September 9. The funeral will be held this Sunday, September 15.

A graduate from Rangsit University's Faculty of Fine Art, Mr Pharuephon began his career in high style at the prestigious, global public relations and advertising company Ogilvy & Mather.

He won a slew of awards and was viewed as a figurehead for a new, bolder generation of designers and artists.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Additional reporting by Orawin Narabal



Pharuephon
Image: Instagram

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Australian tourist dies after severe asthma fit

AN AUSTRALIAN woman found dead in her hotel room last week reportedly died after suffering a seizure brought on by a severe asthma attack, police have told the *Gazette*.

Tracey Ann Walton, 51, was found dead in her guest room at a Patong Beach resort early on September 4. Hotel staff made the discovery and promptly called the Patong Police.

"Her Australian friend, who was traveling with her but staying in a different room at the same hotel, told us that Ms Walton suffered from diabetes and high blood pressure," said Capt Thawatchai Srimai of the Patong Police.

"However, she also suffered from severe asthma attacks," he added.

"Doctors believe Ms Walton suffered such an attack, and complications brought on by her other health ailments contributed to her death," Capt Thawatchai said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar**

Tourism Court on hold

Pattaya court opens, but Phuket can wait while experts tour France

By Saran Mitrarat

THE opening of a new tourist court in Phuket has been delayed while a sortie of Thai judges, Tourist Police and officers from the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) complete a two-week fact-finding trip to France costing 14 million baht.

The fact-finding tour, from September 7 to 19, is aimed at giving the experts a first-hand view of how such courts can operate.

The news follows Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak officiating the opening of the first of seven tourist courts nationwide, formally called the "Tourist Protections Section" (sic), in Pattaya on September 5.

The goal of the special courts is to make it easier for tourists to settle disputes by providing advice and information and expediting the settlement of cases.

"Tourism cases are different from other cases because tourists are in Thailand for only a short time. I want to provide a fair and



Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak (center) officiates the opening of the Tourist Court in Pattaya. Photo: Ministry of Tourism and Sports

faster process for them," Mr Somsak said.

"We will provide tourists with information that can help speed their cases. If they have to go back to their country, staff will question them and assign officers to

follow their cases and notify the tourists once they are resolved. This is the best way to be fair to everyone under Thai law," he said.

When the idea for special tourist courts first gathered momentum in May this year, Mr

Somsak explained why they were necessary.

"Tourists who are the victims of thefts and robberies may have to face a lengthy trial and experience inconvenience because they only intended to stay in the country for a short time," he said.

Cases involving consumer fraud will be solved the fastest, within one day, said Wirat Shinwinijkul, Secretary-General of the Courts of Justice.

The budget and dates for opening the other planned tourist courts in Phuket, Chiang Mai, Samui, Krabi and the Pathum Wan and Dusit districts in Bangkok have yet to be determined, Mr Somsak said.

In Pattaya, foreign visitors can file civil and criminal complaints from 4:30pm to 8:30pm.

With officials capable of speaking foreign languages to help out, the specialized court can encourage negotiations between parties – mostly for cases about consumer protection, whilst the serious issue would be transferred to the regular court.

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Life-skills instructor Mr Thanawit has denied the drug-possession charge, but police will question him further. Photo: Nonthaburi Police

Prison officer busted for drugs in Bangkok

A PHUKET Prison officer who taught inmates new life skills to use after their release has been arrested for drug possession in Bangkok.

Thanawit Puangnoi, 56, was arrested on September 3 after Nonthaburi Provincial Police received a tip-off that a man would pick up drugs in the neighborhood around Jan Temple in Bang Krui District.

Officers staking out the neighborhood saw Mr Thanawit walking away from the area in a suspicious manner, said Col Kitti Sakunee, Superintendent of Bang Krui Police.

"They stopped and searched him, and found 142 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) packed in blue plastic in his shoulder bag," Col Kitti said.

"When we questioned him, he claimed that he didn't know there

were drugs in the bag. He said a friend asked him to take it to the Southern Bus Terminal," he added.

Mr Thanawit was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell, but he has denied the charge, said Nonthaburi Provincial Police Commander Thanayut Wuthicharasthamrong.

Maj Gen Thanayut said the police doubted the suspect's veracity.

"He has been transferred many times to different prisons across Thailand. He might have been transferred so often because he did something wrong," he said.

Police intend to question Mr Thanawit further.

If found guilty, he will be handed down a sentence triple the normal punishment because he is a government officer, Gen Thanayut explained.

— **Saran Mitrarat**

Beach water quality put on backburner

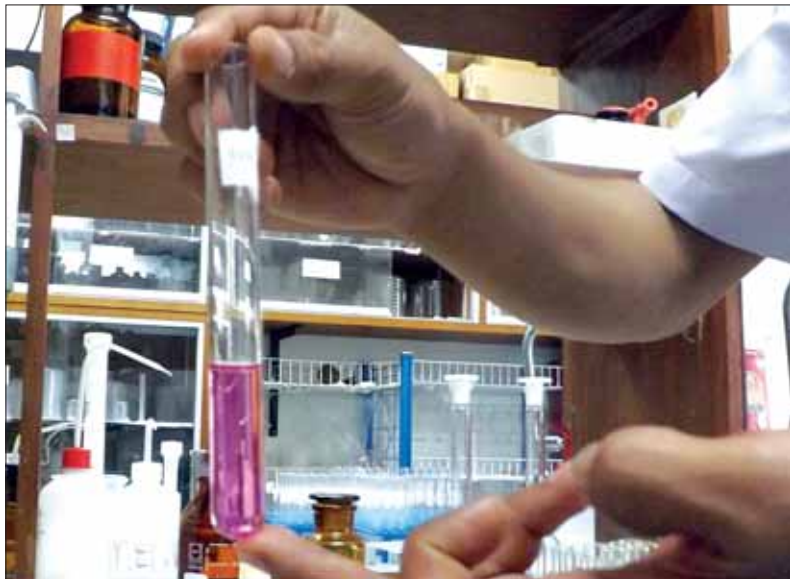
By Irfan Jamdukor

THE results of water quality tests conducted on samples collected from Patong Bay amid an "algae bloom" on August 23 will not be available for at least another two weeks, the *Gazette* has been told.

The news flies in the face of comments made by Phuket's leading environment officer, Dr Pornsri Suthanaruk, director of the Phuket-based Regional Environmental Office 15, who at a public event on August 23 said that the results "should be available within a week".

It also follows Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut on August 20 promising to honorary consults on the island that regular testing of sea water quality at Phuket's key tourism beaches would return.

"We started to carry out the tests on the Patong water samples two days ago," Daroonwan Schwartz,



Staff at the PMBC begin logging the Patong bay water samples.

an oceanographer at the Phuket Marine Biological Center (PMBC), told the *Gazette* on September 6.

"We have four tests to determine water quality and identify the

cause of any contamination, but the bacteria and nutrient tests are the main tests we use. The process will take two weeks," she said.

Ms Daroonwan explained that the delay in starting the Patong water quality tests was due to the PMBC having to collect samples from Krabi first.

"We have been set a schedule to collect water samples from along the Andaman coast every two months. On August 27, we went to collect samples in Krabi, as per our schedule," Ms Daroonwan explained.

"If we carried out the tests on the Patong water samples first, we wouldn't have been able to keep to our schedule and the results from samples collected at other sites would be late too," she said.

"The water quality results will not be affected by the delay in carrying out the tests," Ms Daroonwan assured.

"We now have our samples and we are working on testing them for water quality," she added.

Tiger disco legal team pushes for delay to trial

THE trial of the operators of Tiger Disco nightclub for the deaths of four people, in the blaze of August last year has been postponed until the end of November.

Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and management representatives of Sara Entertainment Co Ltd were scheduled to appear in court on September 2 to face charges of causing deaths and injuries through negligence.

However, the trial has been delayed to permit a review of the case file of the Patong tragedy.

"The defense team requested the Attorney General reconsider the charges," Public Prosecutor Vivath Kitjaruk told the *Gazette*.

"The Attorney General subsequently requested the Office of Public Prosecutor to review the case file. So I sent the file to the Office of Public Prosecutor Region 8 in Surat Thani, two weeks ago and still have yet to receive it back." — **Orawin Narabal**

Patong Beach pee-test raid nets drug user, illegal jet-skis

POLICE apprehended one jet-ski rental operator for testing positive for drugs at Patong Beach on Monday.

Officers from the Phuket Marine Police also seized two jet-skis being rented out to tourists with expired registrations.

The officers arrived unannounced at the popular beach to "pee-test" 15 jet-ski rental operators and speedboat staff.

"One of the 15 men, Wutthipong Thepwoonga, tested positive for drugs and was handed over to Patong Police for further investigation," said Lt Col Chatchai Sakdee of the Phuket Marine Police.

The Marine Police also handed over to the Patong Police Narong Youyen, the jet-ski operator found renting illegal jet-skis to tourists.

"The highest penalty for operating an illegal jet-ski is a 10,000-baht fine," Col Chatchai said.

He added that Monday's exercise was the fourth such raid this month.

"One of the raids this month was at Kata Beach and the other three, including this one, were at Patong Beach," Col Chatchai said.

Further raids will be conducted where jet-ski operators work, he added. — **Chutharat Plerin**



Wutthipong

Lifeguards ordered to pull down beach station

KARON Municipality has decided to remove the Phuket lifeguard stand on Karon Beach on the grounds that it is unsightly and not fit for use.

"Karon municipality officers led by Karon Deputy Mayor Ittiporn Singkaew have inspected the lifeguard station. It does not look nice and it is not well organized," Karon Municipality Chief Administrative Officer Weerasak Anekwong-sawat explained.

"We have contacted Phuket Provincial Administration Organization [PPAO] about the messy facility and have requested they remove it," he added.

Mr Weerasak said the lifeguards have 30 days to remove the station, as the PPAO needs time to design and fund an improved facility.

"The lifeguard station is the PPAO's responsibility. Our duty is



Karon Municipality officers declared the lifeguard station 'unsightly' and ordered it to be pulled down.

to make the beach nice and clean for tourists," he added.

PPAO Tourism Department officer Nararit Touyon told the *Gazette* she had been notified of the municipality's intention to have the lifeguard station pulled down.

"We will talk about this and find a solution. We will release news of developments as soon as we've figured out how best to proceed," he said. — **Chutharat Plerin**

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DSI lands windfall in Phuket illegal taxi fines, no cars seized

EFFORTS to rein in illegal taxi drivers in Phuket has landed a windfall of 868,000 baht in fines since the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) opened its anti-organized crime centers in Phuket on August 10.

The fines were garnered when officers stopped and fined illegal taxi drivers 434 times at six checkpoints across the island from August 10-29, Lt Col Somboon Sarasit, head of the DSI's Bureau of Special Crime Unit 3, explained to the Phuket Governor at a meeting last week.

"The six checkpoints were set up at Phuket International Airport, Thung Thong, Patong, Karon, Kata and Cherng Talay... Each time, the driver caught was fined 2,000 baht," Col Somboon said on September 4.

The checkpoints were set up and policed by officers from the Phuket Land Transport Office and local police officers in the six areas.

However, Col Somboon later told the *Gazette* that no illegal taxis were seized during the period.

"We will not seize any taxis. The illegal taxi drivers will be fined and the DSI will record the driver's name and other details, and the license plate number of the car being used as a taxi," he said.

"We will call the drivers in for questioning so we can move to arrest the people who are behind the illegal taxi business in Phuket," Col Somboon said.

At the meeting at Provincial Hall on the Wednesday, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut reiterated that the government is



The DSI anti-crime center at Phuket Airport.

aiming to have all illegal taxi drivers in Phuket become legal.

"We now have 2,882 vehicles legally registered as taxis, but there are at least 1,133 illegal taxis that we are aware of," Governor Maitri said.

"The owners of the remaining illegal taxis claim they cannot afford the cost of converting their cars to legal taxis. They say they are still paying off loans to finance companies," he explained.

"We have worked hard to find sources of finance to help these drivers. The Government Savings Bank has offered its support by offering special low-interest loans, which the drivers at the Karon Taxi Association are now making use of," Governor Maitri explained.

However, not all drivers are making honest attempts to become legal, the governor warned.

"Some of them are just making up excuses. They are not making any effort to become legal," he said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



Mr. Autthapon was pronounced dead at Thalang Hospital.

Man stabbed to death in feud over girlfriend

A 20-YEAR-OLD man determined to hold on to his girlfriend was stabbed to death by his romantic rival in Cherng Talay on the evening of September 3.

Police arrived at the scene to find a crowd of onlookers and a pool of blood; Autthapon "Adam" Kahapana, 19, had already been rushed to Thalang Hospital.

Iyara Puttaraksa, 20, had fled, but was soon found hiding behind the Bang Tao Sanatorium, said Lt Prasert Tongphrom of the Cherng Talay Police.

Mr Iyara confessed to police that he met Mr Autthapon to tell him to leave his girlfriend alone.

Mr Autthapon refused.

Mr Iyara went home to get a knife and returned to stab Mr Autthapon in the heart and neck.

Medical staff at Thalang Hospital did their best to save Mr Autthapon, but he bled to death.

"Mr Iyara has been charged with murder," Lt Prasert said.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Recounting the fallen

Girlfriend recounts night Aldhouse killed US Marine Dashawn Longfellow

By Irfarn Jamdukor

A WITNESS in the Lee Aldhouse murder trial provided shocking testimony on September 6.

Following the arrival in court, 10 minutes late, of a grim-faced Aldhouse, a female Thai witness explained that she was the girlfriend of the victim, US Marine Dashawn Longfellow, at the time of his death.

She then gave her account of how a seemingly ordinary night in Rawai exploded into deadly violence, just over three years ago.

The girlfriend, who requested the media to not name her, was the only witness to appear at the hearing. Her testimony began with the arrival of a court translator at 2:44pm. The girlfriend testified as follows:

"I was a waitress at the Freedom bar in Rawai. On August 14, at 1:20am, Dashawn [Longfellow] came to the bar to pick me up and take me back to our apartment at Yanui Resort 2.

By the time Dashawn arrived, there were only about 10 people still at the bar, because it was close to closing time. While he was waiting for me, he sat down at a table where one other tourist was sitting. The table was in the center of the bar and there were seats around the table. Dashawn did not



The girlfriend of US Marine Dashawn Longfellow (above), stabbed to death in Phuket in 2010, testified in court last Friday. Photo: Facebook

order anything.

Then at 1:40am, Mr Lee Aldhouse pulled up, on a dark green Honda Click motorbike. He came into the bar looking angry. He ordered a bottle of beer and sat at another table.

At 2am, Mr Aldhouse stood up and started talking loudly, like he was angry, with the remaining customers, before challenging every one of them to a fight.

Dashawn got up to go to the toilet, but Mr Aldhouse wouldn't let him pass. The next thing I knew they were fighting. I looked

up and saw Mr Aldhouse punching Dashawn in the face.

Other customers tried to stop the fight, but Mr Aldhouse started hitting them too.

Mr Aldhouse then left the bar. My friend said he went to the 7-Eleven, about 100 meters away. My friend said he left the shop with a knife. My friend warned me to take my boyfriend [Dashawn] back home as soon as possible.

When we arrived home [at the resort], Dashawn went to a nearby shop to buy water.

At 3:30am, I heard him return

to the house and I opened the [slide-mirror] door, but the door came off its runner. Dashawn and I were trying to fix the door when Mr Aldhouse turned up.

He was wearing a black "hoodie" [hooded shirt]. He came up to Dashawn and stabbed him twice in the chest with a knife.

Dashawn told me to go back inside, but he was beginning to stagger. I stood at the door and threw a clothes rack at Mr Aldhouse to try to make him stay away.

Seeing me trying to protect Dashawn, Mr Aldhouse, said, 'Come on' – but when I called for neighbors to help, he took off on his motorbike.

Rescue workers arrived at around 5am and tried to revive Dashawn. They took him to hospital, but at around 7am the doctors said he was dead.

On hearing what had happened, a friend came to visit me at our house. On her way to the resort, she saw the knife that Aldhouse had used, which he had dropped near the house. She called the police, who came quickly to inspect the area."

With that, Dashawn's girlfriend concluded her testimony.

Judge Montri Saroj declared the court adjourned and set October 21 as the date for the trial to continue.

Beach bar blaze baffles police

A SMALL bar at Bang Tao beach was burned to the ground late on September 3, with no explanation thus far for the blaze.

On hearing about the fire shortly before midnight, firefighters and police officers rushed to the scene.

"When we arrived, we found the bar – which apparently had no name – ablaze. Despite the modest size of the bar, as a result of a heavy wind it took firefighters over 30 minutes to bring the fire under control," Lt Prasert Tongphrom of the Cherng Talay Police said.

"The fire completely destroyed the bar. By the time it was extinguished, there was nothing left," he added.

The bar belonged to Sanong Ondee, 59, and

his partner, Sasiriya Jaideesoraraj, 63.

The estimated cost of the damage was reported at about 300,000 baht.

Although the material damage was considerable, there were no casualties.

"No one was inside the bar when the fire started, as it was open only during the day," Lt Prasert said.

"Mr Sanong went to work, he's a police volunteer in Thalang, and Ms Sasiriya was sleeping in her house about 500 meters away," he added.

"The case has been handed over to the Phuket Forensic Office to determine the cause of fire," Lt Prasert said.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*



Phuket Police have yet to determine what started the blaze that quickly engulfed the Bang Tao bar, destroying it completely within 30 minutes early on September 3.

Parents voice anger over planned school closures

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

MORE than 500 concerned parents last week protested the proposed closure of the kindergarten and primary sections at Plookpanya School in the heart of Phuket Town.

Phuket City Municipality is justifying the closures on the grounds that they are needed to streamline the area's schooling.

The first stop for the protesters, led by Plookpanya Parents Association President Teerapol Limchoo, was the school, where Mr Teerapol on September 6 read out a statement decrying the planned closures.

"As far as we can see, this idea comes out of nowhere. Worse, it appears no consideration was given to either teachers likely to lose their jobs, or students. We do not think the municipality has just cause to close the kindergarten and primary sections that have served Plookpanya for over 100 years," Mr Teerapol thundered.

"Plookpanya School is a very good school and a great credit to the community. We demand that the Phuket City Mayor and the school board have a rethink, mind-



Concerned Plookpanya parents appeal to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut (left) at Provincial Hall.

ful of the fundamental right to an education for every child according both to national law and society's expectations," he stated.

"Finally, we would like to ask the board to stop messing round with Plookpanya's educational structure system, and give us their word that this ill-conceived plan be dropped," Mr Teerapol urged.

The parents then headed to Pro-

vincial Hall to submit a letter of complaint letter to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut, Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkao-sutthirak and Prapan Kanprasang, who is the chief of the Damrongtham Center (Ombudsman's Office).

Mr Teerapol told the officials, "We have talked with the school board but with no satisfactory re-

sult. We are now inviting the Governor to examine the reasons for our actions today."

Gov Maitri responded, "Education is very important, especially at kindergarten and primary levels. I will call on the Phuket City Mayor and the school board to discuss and clarify what is going on. Parents will be invited to attend any such meeting."

Business leaders join fight against corruption

A NETWORK of six influential private and government bodies has announced its intention to fight corruption throughout Phuket, amid concern over alarming levels of graft across the island.

The network includes members of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, Phuket Office of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, Federation of Thai Industries Phuket Chapter, Phuket Tourist Association, Thai Hotels Association (Southern Chapter) and Phuket Real Estate Association.

The founding members gathered on September 6 at the PCC offices in Phuket Town to launch the network under the banner "Anti-Corruption" as part of the nationwide "Act Now" campaign launched by the Anti-Corruption Organization of Thailand.

"We are here to show our strong intention to combat corruption in every way," PCC Deputy Director Charan Sangsarn explained.

"This is the most pressing problem we face, as it affects the work of government officials, which, in turn, leads to bigger problems that strongly affect our economy, society, and national security," he said.



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Airport shops to stay



Mr Thammawat. Photo: Gazette file

BUSINESS operators of concessions at Phuket International Airport have prevailed in their battle to keep their concessions at the airport.

Not only will they be allowed to remain at the airport, but they will be allowed to continue their business in the new airport terminal once it is completed in 2015, Thammawat Wongcharoenyut, one of the operators, said.

The stunning victory followed a meeting on September 5 at the Phuket office of Airports of Thailand (AoT), which operates Phuket Airport.

The meeting was closed to the media, but in attendance were Phuket Vice Governor Somkiet Sangkaosuttirak, Col Winai Sompong from the Ministry of Transport, Phuket AoT officers,

and the airport business operators.

Speaking to the *Gazette* after the meeting, Vice Governor Somkiet explained, "AoT offered the concept of 'meeting halfway' with the business operators, but agreed to do this only if the operators withdrew the complaints they had filed with Phuket Provincial Court.

"The operators readily agreed to withdraw their complaint, in the interests of moving forward," V/Gov Somkiet said.

Mr Thammawat, who has also filed a defamation suit against the Department of Special Investigation for publicly noting that he is under investigation as a Phuket taxi mafia figure, later told the *Gazette* that both he and his fellow operators at the airport's concession outlets are "delighted at this outcome".

"After the meeting, we withdrew the complaints that we had filed to various organizations and the court, as we had found common ground with the AoT," he explained.

"Now AoT is allowing us to remain. My friends and I are very happy that AoT understands and supports us," he added cheerfully.

— **Orawin Narabal**

Silkworms on the menu



ATTENDEES at last month's Thailand Research Expo 2013 conference were unanimous about this year's strangest exhibit: silkworm Chinese buns.

There's less agreement about how appetizing they are.

More than 600 scientific research projects from public and private organizations were on display at Bangkok's Central World mega-mall complex until August 27.

The exhibit that got most people talking was the one offered by Khon Kaen University's Agriculture Department, entitled: "Silkworms: A choice for building the economy and trade".

The project explored the possibility of using silkworms as food

and the exhibition showcased a variety of menu items using the grubs.

Among them: silkworms with crispy basil leaves, silkworm chili relish, silkworm *larb* (spicy Northeastern meat salad), silkworm *tom yam* and silkworm pizza.

The most popular dish was silkworm *salapao*, filled Chinese buns: worms fried with basil leaves then stuffed in soft, white flour buns.

It's not yet clear when these delicacies will be joining the pork and cream buns stocked in 7-Eleven stores across the country.

— **Sanook**



For here or to go? Photo: Satyakam

Phuket's secret

TOGETHER, Phuket International Hospital and Bangkok Hospital Phuket did upwards of 1,600 breast augmentation surgeries — also known as boob jobs, or implant surgeries — last year.

"We've had a 50 per cent year-on-year increase in cosmetic breast surgeries," said Peter Davison, Manager of International Services at Phuket International Hospital (PIH).

Considering that the hospitals also do breast lifts and reductions, and that prices for the three surgeries range from 115,000 baht to 300,000 baht, some pretty serious money is at stake.

The vast majority of women getting the surgeries at Phuket hospitals are medical tourists; about 97 per cent at PIH according to Mr Davison, with most coming from Australia and New Zealand. And there's no reason to think that their interest will wane anytime soon.

First, because breast surgeries — augmentations, lifts, and reductions (for both men and women) — make up four of the 10 most popular plastic surgeries worldwide, according to the International Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, with breast augmentations reaching number two on the list, outranked only by liposuction.

Second, because Phuket prices are a great bargain. Australian prices are up to three times higher, even factoring in the cost of travel to Phuket and accommodations here.

Last, because medical tourism has the support of the Tourism Association of Thailand (TAT), which has been promoting it since 2004 and runs yearly familiarization trips for foreign tourism and health tourism agencies.

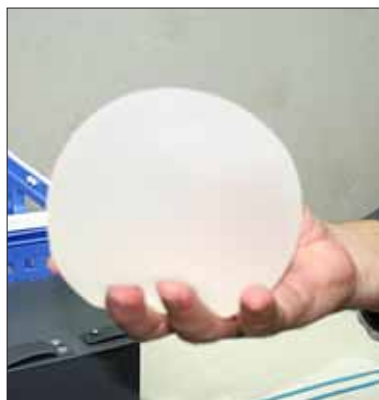
MEDICAL TOURISM

On a TAT website dedicated exclusively to medical tourism, the featured Phuket hospitals are Phuket International, Bangkok Phuket (BHP) and Vachira, but

BREASTS are big in Phuket. Big business, that is. In recent years, both Bangkok Hospital Phuket and Phuket International Hospital have seen dramatic increases in cosmetic breast surgeries, fueled by rising numbers of medical tourists. The *Gazette's* Orawin Narabal reports on one of Phuket's hottest tourist draws: the boob job.

only the first two have active links.

PIH and BHP homepages both have prominent links to their cosmetic surgery centers, and both make it easy for medical tourists to arrange a visit, offering detailed information not only about surgeries but also how many days the patient should plan to stay in



Implants are round or tear drop shaped. Photo: Orawin Narabal

Phuket. PIH even provides an interactive calculator to help estimate total costs.

HISTORY OF IMPLANTS

Silicone breast implants have been around for just over 50 years — the first surgery was performed in the US in 1962. But women have endeavored to increase the size of their bosoms for a lot longer than that — as far back as the 1890s, they injected paraffin, but it didn't stay put. In the 20s

and 30s women had fat from other parts of their bodies moved to their breasts. At other times, implants included polyurethane, cartilage, sponges, wood and glass balls.

There have been health scares: silicone implants were banned in the US from 1991 to 2006 over concerns that ruptures could cause cancer and auto-immune diseases, and a scandal arose around Poly Implants Prothese, a French implant company, in 2010 when their implants, which used sub-standard silicone, were found to rupture at a higher rate than normal. French health authorities — though not those in other countries where the implants were used — urged 30,000 French women to have the defective implants removed.

MOTIVATION

Despite the cost, the pain and the hassle, women are willing to get this unnecessary surgery. Why? The *Gazette* talked to several women, and the comments of one 44-year-old represent the group.

"After I had a child, my breasts were not firm. I was very slim, only 40kg at the time, and I felt like my breasts had disappeared.

"Back then, I liked to go to parties and I wanted to look beautiful and fit when I wore a sexy or open dress. I would not be happy if I looked at myself in the mirror and saw that I didn't have beautiful breasts.

"I am very happy with the results. They meet my expectations.

"The only problem I have is that I lost some sensitivity around my nipples because the incision was there.

"Most of my friends don't know that I've had surgery until I tell them.

"My husband liked my body even before, but afterwards he told me I look more curvy and balanced. He sees how happy I am, and whatever makes me happy, makes him happy too."

THE PROCEDURE

Dr Chirayuth Toertmongkhol, a plastic surgeon at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, explained the steps to implant surgery.

"We start with a physical checkup to make sure the patient can tolerate the surgery. Then we

- Breast augmentation ranks second only to liposuction as the most popular cosmetic surgery

- 4 breast surgeries are in the top 10 cosmetic surgeries worldwide: augmentations, lifts, and reductions for both men and women

- Prices for cosmetic breast surgeries at Phuket International Hospital and Bangkok Hospital Phuket range from 115,000 to 300,000 baht

- About 1,600 breast augmentations were performed at PIH and BHP last year

- Most cosmetic breast surgery patients at PIH and BHP are medical tourists

Boob Job Stats

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souvenir: the perfect pair



Sometimes the souvenir is not the t-shirt but what's underneath it. Photo: Phuket International Hospital

discuss the options," he said.

Patients need to make a number of choices: breast size, kind of implant, and location of the incision.

"When women choose a size they need to keep in mind the size of their bodies. If the patient is small, they won't be able to handle very big implants. The implant needs to be in balance with their body size.

"Implants are either saline or silicone. Nowadays the silicone implants are more popular because they give a better shape and are easier to take care of," Dr Chirayuth said.

"Implants can be rough or smooth, and come in two shapes, round and tear drop. The tear drop gives a more natural shape," he said.

Another major consideration is the location of the incision, since this determines where the scar will be – in the armpit, below the breast, or around the nipple.

While women used to prefer an armpit incision, nowadays they are wearing more sleeveless clothes and so opt for one of the other locations, Dr Chirayuth said.

The implant surgery itself normally doesn't take longer than a long massage – about two hours.

Surgeons first try out tester implants for size. Only when they're sure the size and shape are appropriate

will they proceed.

"It requires a week in the hospital after surgery, Dr Chirayuth said, "and we recommend regular checkups for three to six months after the surgery to monitor



Making decisions before the surgery: size, shape, texture, incision site. Photo: Bangkok Hospital Phuket

the formation of scar tissue around the implant. The scar tissue helps support the weight of the implant and also shapes it."

Following the surgery, patients are advised not to perform any activities that might affect the shape of the breasts. This means some sports are out, as is sleeping face-down.

RISKS

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) says that although implants are tested extensively,

they still bring risks, including: additional surgeries, capsular contracture (scar tissue that squeezes and misshapes the implant), breast pain, rupture with deflation of saline-filled implants, and silent rupture of silicone gel-filled implants.

The FDA recommends that women with silicone implants get MRI screenings to detect silent ruptures three years after their surgery and every two years after that.

One 35-year-old woman interviewed by the *Gazette* (who did not have her surgery in Phuket) wished she had not had the procedure.

"It turned out to be the wrong decision," she said.

"About 50 days after the surgery, I noticed that my right breast was deformed. I went back to the surgeon but he said that it was my own fault, and suggested that I hadn't followed his instructions, or had engaged in some prohibited activity.

"But it wasn't true – I took very good care of my breasts from the first day I received the implants. Actually, a few days after the surgery I noticed that the shape of my right breast wasn't right, but I thought it was because the silicone had not shaped itself yet.

"I couldn't do anything about

it except have a second operation, and that meant more money and pain again, and I couldn't even be sure it would correct the problem.

"So I'm living with it. There are still many other important things in life. Appearance is just on the outside, what is more important is your mind and your thoughts," she said.

A survey by the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons in 2011 showed that the most common overseas surgery needing corrective treatment was breast surgery, at 68 per cent of all revisions.

However, Mr Davison of PIH says "98 per cent of our patients have no issues. The rate of complications and post-operative infections is lower here than in Australia."

He noted that in Australia there aren't many restrictions on which

doctors can do the surgery, which can lead to problems, and said "we have fewer post-operative infections here because we don't have superbugs."

LOOKING FORWARD

The number of tourists coming to Thailand expressly to seek out medical services has risen from 365,000 in 2004 to 673,000 in 2012, according to Department of Health Service Support Chief Somchai Pinyopornpanich.

Both Phuket International Hospital and Bangkok Hospital Phuket opened new plastic surgery departments this year, and Phuket International is in the final stages of planning a new hospital wing for medical tourists of all kinds.

It looks like boob jobs are here to stay. It's a swelling industry.

- How many breast implant procedures do you do each year?
- What is your rate of complications?
- In your experience, how long will my breast implants last?
- How will breast implants feel? Will they alter my breast, skin or nipple sensation?
- How can I expect my breasts to look over time? What do I need to know to maintain them?
- Can I still get mammograms with breast implants in place?

Questions to ask when choosing a surgeon:

Source: US Food and Drug Administration
for more questions, see www.fda.gov/breastimplants

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More than 10 female MPs urged Abhisit to apologize. Photo: The Nation

‘Stupid woman’ comment brings Abhisit trouble

OPPOSITION leader Abhisit Vejjajiva has come under criticism after a speech in which he referred to Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra as a “stupid woman”.

Several female MPs from the Pheu Thai Party are pressing for an apology from Mr Abhisit, who was also attacked over the comments by his own cousin, Suranand Vejjajiva, a senior adviser to PM Yingluck.

During a speech at a school in Bangkok, Mr Abhisit mentioned the Smart Lady reality-show contest – a project under the government’s Thai Women Empowerment Fund.

“The prime minister has often evaded [national] problems. I don’t know what she did over the past week in the country. Just this morning, there was news that she did some project called Smart Lady,” Abhisit said.

“I wondered why they have to search for smart women and hold this contest for clever women. They said if there was a contest to find a stupid woman, nobody would be able to compete [with PM Yingluck].”

Mr Suranand responded by urging opposition politicians to be careful about their choice of words. “It’s because their words will be judged by people to determine who is clever or stupid.”

THAI damage control backfires after crash

AROUND THE nation

THAI Airways’ reputation has suffered a blow after one of its planes skidded off the runway at Suvarnabhumi International Airport last week.

The airline has faced a storm of criticism after it attempted to “cover up” the accident by painting over its logo on the damaged plane.

The accident happened on the evening of Sunday September 8, when a THAI flight from Guangzhou returned to Bangkok, *The Nation* reported.

After touchdown, the Airbus A330-300’s landing gear seemed to malfunction and the plane skidded off the runway.

Kosit Suvinitjit, a former Bangkok gubernatorial candidate who was on the flight, said everything was normal until there was a “sudden brake”.

“The plane slid off the runway into the soft ground and there was a smell of something burning. Then I heard someone scream ‘fire, fire,’” he said.

After the plane came to a stop, all 288 passengers were evacuated. Around 13 of them were injured during the evacuation and taken to hospital.

Channel 7 soap star Weeraparp Suparbphaiboon was also among the passengers.

“This is the most frightening thing that has ever happened to me



THAI has been criticized for blacking out its logo on the plane that crash-landed in Bangkok. Photo: The Nation

– it felt like I died and came back to life just before my 33rd birthday this month,” he said.

It wasn’t only the crash that did damage to the airline’s image. After the accident the airline had workers paint over the Thai Airways name and logo on the plane, seemingly in a bid to reduce the damage to the airline’s image.

The Internet wasn’t impressed, with users of social networks unleashing a torrent of criticism against the airline for seemingly caring more about its brand than its customers.

One tweeter asked if the airline’s actions were the “Most bizarre

piece of corporate spin ever?”

The airline initially told the media that it had tried to obscure the logo because it was recommended by Star Alliance, the 28-member airline network THAI belongs to.

But Star Alliance denied it recommended any such thing.

“The Star Alliance crisis communications policy does not state that logos are to be covered,” in the event of an accident, a spokesman for the airline group, Markus Ruediger, told CNN.

THAI later “clarified” that the policy to remove the logo was in fact one of its own, and not one of Star Alliance’s.

“Though Thai generally practices the de-identifying of an aircraft after an incident ... the company also clarifies that this is not a Star Alliance policy,” it said in a statement.

THAI is not unusual in painting over its logo following an accident, a policy followed by many airlines around the world.

The accident is the second safety incident to hit THAI in recent weeks. Two weeks earlier at least 39 passengers were injured when one of its planes was hit by severe turbulence during an approach to Hong Kong International Airport.

Govt bows to rubber farmers

THE government has agreed to double fertilizer subsidies after rubber farmers across the South launched a wave of protests against plummeting rubber prices.

One protest in Prachuap Khiri Khan province on September 5 turned violent, with protesters torching cars and the police firing tear gas to contain the crowd.

Some observers claim a “third force” deliberately provoked the trouble.

Journalists who witnessed clashes on Phet Kasem Road said they heard firecracker explosions and gunfire – which caused them to flee for safety.

Sombat Limpajeeerawong, a 50-year-old reporter for Thai PBS, said he didn’t believe police or rubber farmers were behind the latest drama as police were only armed with shields and had no teargas. He said the protesters were peaceful.

On Tuesday the Cabinet agreed to double fertilizer subsidies of Bt12 per kilogram from now until



Farmers spending the night at a roadblock in Surat Thani. Photo: The Nation

March next year.

Thailand is the world leader in rubber exports. In recent weeks farmers in the South have blocked roads and railway lines in order to force the government to help prop up their income after rubber prices fell. The region is the heartland of the opposition Democrat Party.

One Surat Thani group of farm-

ers has agreed to a Bt90 per kilo price for ribbed smoked rubber sheets – calling off a protest and cancelling a rally to burn symbolic coffins.

Another group insisted on Bt120 per kilo for its rubber and planned to join Nakhon Si Thammarat farmers in a major protest on September 14.

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All clear in court

Myanmar to draft law creating court monitoring groups

AROUND THE region

By News Reporters

MYANMAR will draft a law to form court monitoring groups that will include the media, says the chairman of Myanmar's parliamentary committee.

Thura Aung Ko, chairman of Lower House's Judicial Affairs Committee, revealed the plan last Saturday during a meeting between Union Parliament speaker Thura Shwe Mann and judicial organizations in Yangon.

He also said the law containing provisions to ban photo and video cameras in courts would be annulled or amended.

The Myanmar Constitution has clearly said that court trials must take place before the public except the cases that could harm the dignity, peace and stability of the state, said Aung Ko.

"When asked why photo and video cameras could not be taken to courts, judges said there is a



Under the law being drafted, journalists in Myanmar will be allowed to record and report on trials. Photo: Reuters

law which bans them. I will look for and submit that law to parliament for amendments," he said.

With such a ban continuing to be in force, Myanmar could have been stuck in an era relating to 50 or 100 years ago, he commented.

The formation of court moni-

toring groups does not mean interfering with the judicial process and it is just for the public record, he said. The groups will include legal experts as well as media and town elders.

"In mature democratic countries such as those in Europe,

judges and lawyers are no longer subjected to bribery and corruption. They will not lose their dignity in exchange for 100 million dollars. So, it is not necessary to monitor their courts. Myanmar needs them," said Thura Aung Ko.

— *Eleven Media Group*

In brief...

MNLF raid takes civilian hostages as human shield

A PHILIPPINE naval special forces member was killed and several others wounded as a navy patrol clashed early Monday with suspected Muslim rebels aboard several boats off Zamboanga city in the southern Philippines.

At least 20 heavily armed men entered Barangay village using civilians as a human shield, Police Chief Superintendent Juanito Vano Jr, Region IX police director, said.

Rebels held hostage 10 to 15 civilians, but noted that authorities were trying to contain the group inside the village.

— *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

Third bridge to link Malaysia, Singapore

A THIRD bridge linking Malaysia and Singapore is being considered, with Malaysian Works Minister Fadillah Yusof confirming feasibility studies on the project are being conducted.

Johor Public Works executive councillor Hasni Mohamad welcomed the move.

The work on the 27km stretch after the bridge over Sungai Johor is expected to be completed within 24 months.

— *The Star*



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Norway votes in rightists

AROUND THE world

By Balazs Koranyi
and Gwladys Fouche

NORWAY'S opposition Conservatives, promising tax cuts and better healthcare, won elections in a landslide September 8, but faced tough coalition talks with a populist party that wants to spend more of the accumulated oil riches and curb immigration.

Led by Erna Solberg, the Conservatives promise to diversify the economy away from oil, privatize state firms, and reduce some of the world's highest taxes rates to give the private sector more breathing room.

Solberg, 52, will become Norway's second female prime minister, as well as its first Conservative prime minister since 1990. At least the top two cabinet posts – and possibly the top three – are likely to be filled by women. "Today voters have given a



Norway's new leader Erna Solberg on the day of her victory. Photo: Reuters

historically strong victory for the center-right," said a tearful Solberg, nicknamed "Iron Erna" for her tough stances when she served in cabinet between 2001 and 2005. "We will give this country a new government."

Norway has enjoyed rare economic success during the past dismal decade, escaping Europe's

economic crisis with little more than a scratch, as its booming offshore oil sector lifted per capita GDP to US\$100,000 and a huge public sector insulated the economy.

But growth is now slowing, competitiveness is stagnating, and the government's record on critical social services is mixed. Voters

have accused outgoing PM Jens Stoltenberg of wasting a once-in-a-lifetime economic boom.

With 76 percent of the vote counted, the Conservatives, the populist right-wing Progress Party and two centrist parties that campaigned together to oust Stoltenberg were set to collect 96 seats in parliament, 11 more than needed for the majority.

Stoltenberg and his allies collected just 72 seats and the prime minister announced he would step down after eight years and two straight terms in office.

"I have waited for a long time to say this: Good bye Jens!" Progress leader Siv Jensen screamed to cheering supporters.

The trickiest task for Solberg, who will become prime minister on her third attempt, will be to tame the anti-immigration, anti-tax Progress party, which will enter government for the first time.

Although Progress has toned down its rhetoric, it is seen by some as too radical for government, and once had among its members mass murderer Anders Behring Breivik, who killed 77 people in 2011 in a gun-and-bomb attack.

– Reuters

In brief...

China pointedly declines to offer congratulations

BEIJING declined to congratulate Japan on its successful bid to host the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

Ties between the northeast Asian neighbors have long been strained by what Beijing says is Tokyo's refusal to properly atone for WWII atrocities, and, more recently, a sovereignty row over uninhabited islets in the East China Sea.

"We have noted the decision by the International Olympic Committee," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said.

Asked specifically whether China had offered any congratulations, Hong said such a question should be directed to the Chinese Olympic Committee.

Aussie parties proliferate after Abbott's victory

AFTER Australian voters brought in Tony Abbott as their new leader, a weird group of "micro parties" set to play a role in the upper house Senate, has emerged.

Such a party is the Palmer United Party, which is likely to secure at least one Senate seat.

Colourful billionaire Clive Palmer's plans include putting mechanical dinosaurs on a luxury golf resort.

"Who knows where they stand on anything? For most of them, there is no policy platform. We're in for interesting times," Greens leader Christine Milne remarked.

Old African foes capitals served by new airline

SOUTH Sudan carrier South Supreme Airlines is operating regular flights to long-time foe Sudan, in a new sign of a thaw between the African neighbours.

The Juba-Khartoum flights began earlier this month. Last week, Sudan dropped its threat to stop oil exports from its landlocked young neighbour, opening a promising new chapter in bilateral ties.

Egyptian forces tighten security over Sinai

EGYPT has tightened control of crossings from the Sinai peninsula and continued assaults on militants after an Islamist group based there said it tried to kill the interior minister in Cairo last week, Egypt's media reported on September 8.

The group Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis claimed responsibility on Sunday for Thursday's suicide bombing aimed at Interior Minister Mohamed Ibrahim.

It promised more attacks in revenge for a crackdown on Egypt's Islamists, raising fears that militant violence in Sinai could spread across the country.

The Egyptian military on Saturday launched a major assault on militants in North Sinai, killing or wounding at least 30 people in clashes close to the Palestinian Gaza Strip.

The assault continued on September 8, with security forces

killing nine and arresting 10 "armed elements" near the Sinai cities of Sheikh Zuweid and Rafah, state news agency MENA reported early on Tuesday, citing security sources.

MENA said Ibrahim decided to boost security surveillance and tighten control of crossings from Sinai to other Egyptian regions in conjunction with a broad security campaign in the peninsula.

Earlier, state television said one supporter of deposed Islamist President Mohamed Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood was killed and 10 people were injured in clashes between soldiers and supporters of the group in North Sinai. Security sources later said two people were killed in the clashes.

In two separate incidents in central Sinai, three soldiers were injured when gunmen opened fire, according to MENA, while secu-

rity sources said two soldiers were killed in attacks by gunmen in Sinai.

Islamist militancy has risen sharply in the often lawless region adjoining Israel and the Gaza Strip, and elsewhere in Egypt, since the army deposed Mursi two months ago following mass protests against him.

Thursday's daylight attack was the most spectacular so far. A suicide car bomber blew himself up next to Ibrahim's convoy as he left his Cairo home for work in an armoured limousine.

The bomber, a passerby and an unidentified person were killed and more than 20 were wounded, some severely.

Security officials said they were assessing the threat posed by Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, which is said to have 700 to 1,000 members and is considered the



Tense eastern border. Photo: Reuters

second-largest Islamist militant group in the Sinai region behind Salafiya Jihadiya, which has an estimated following of around 5,000 members.

Some officials doubt Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis is capable of mounting attacks outside Sinai.

Security officials told Reuters they were especially concerned that the group, whose name means "supporters of Jerusalem", will use stolen government vehicles for car bombs.

– Reuters

US says Syria action would deter Pyongyang's use of chemical weapons

A STRONG response to a Syrian chemical weapons attack would help deter North Korea from using its "massive chemical weapons arsenal", a senior US defense official said in Beijing, as Washington presses its case for a military strike on Syria.

The United States and France say forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad were behind the attack last month in which more than 1,400 people are estimated to have been killed, and that they are considering air strikes to try to deter him from using such universally reviled weapons ever again.

US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy James Miller said he felt compelled

to stress that norms against the use of massive use of deadly chemical weapons," chemical weapons be upheld in scheduled he said.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has urged Washington to proceed with "extreme caution" on Syria and Chinese President Xi Jinping told US President Barack Obama at a G20 summit in Russia earlier that a military strike could not solve the problem.

"I emphasized the massive chemical weapons arsenal, 1 that North Korea has in its possession and that we didn't want to live in a world in which North Korea felt the threshold for chemical weapons use had been lowered," Miller told reporters earlier this month.

"I went through that case and made the argument that it was strongly, not just in American national interests but in Chinese and international interests, that there chemical weapons had to be held be a strong response to Assad's clear and accountable.

Beijing has repeatedly called for an impartial investigation by UN chemical weapons inspectors into the attack in Syria, and has warned against pre-judging the results. It has also said that whoever used

– Reuters



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un with senior officers of the Korean People's Army. Photo: Reuters

Big potential at Russian expo

THE 29th International Real Estate Exhibition DOMEXPO will be held from October 17 to 20, 2013 in Moscow. This is the largest Russian real estate exhibition – all segments of the Russian and international markets will be represented, including: urban, suburban, resort, exclusive, residential and commercial real estate.

With the ever-increasing number of Russian tourists visiting Phuket, and the corresponding increase in Russian property investors on the island, the event provides a prime opportunity for property developers to pitch their commercial and residential projects to the Russian market, which has a huge potential.

Over the years (the first exhibition was held in 1998) DOMEXPO has attracted more than half of a million people. Each year, the event is attended by at least 200 Russian and foreign companies. Among them are leading construction and real estate companies, banks, architectural and design bureaus, insurance companies, law firms and specialized media organizations.

The exposition of foreign real estate will be undertaken by more



than one hundred companies from Europe, USA, Latin America and Asia. Numerous offers of prices and appointments for property, including permanent residences, holiday homes, businesses and investment will be available.

For Russian investors, overseas property located in resort areas is traditionally in demand and international developers will be offering a variety of investment opportunities, in such countries as Thailand, Slovenia and elsewhere.

A strategic partner of international real estate section of the exhibition is the UK based company Domus Alliance.

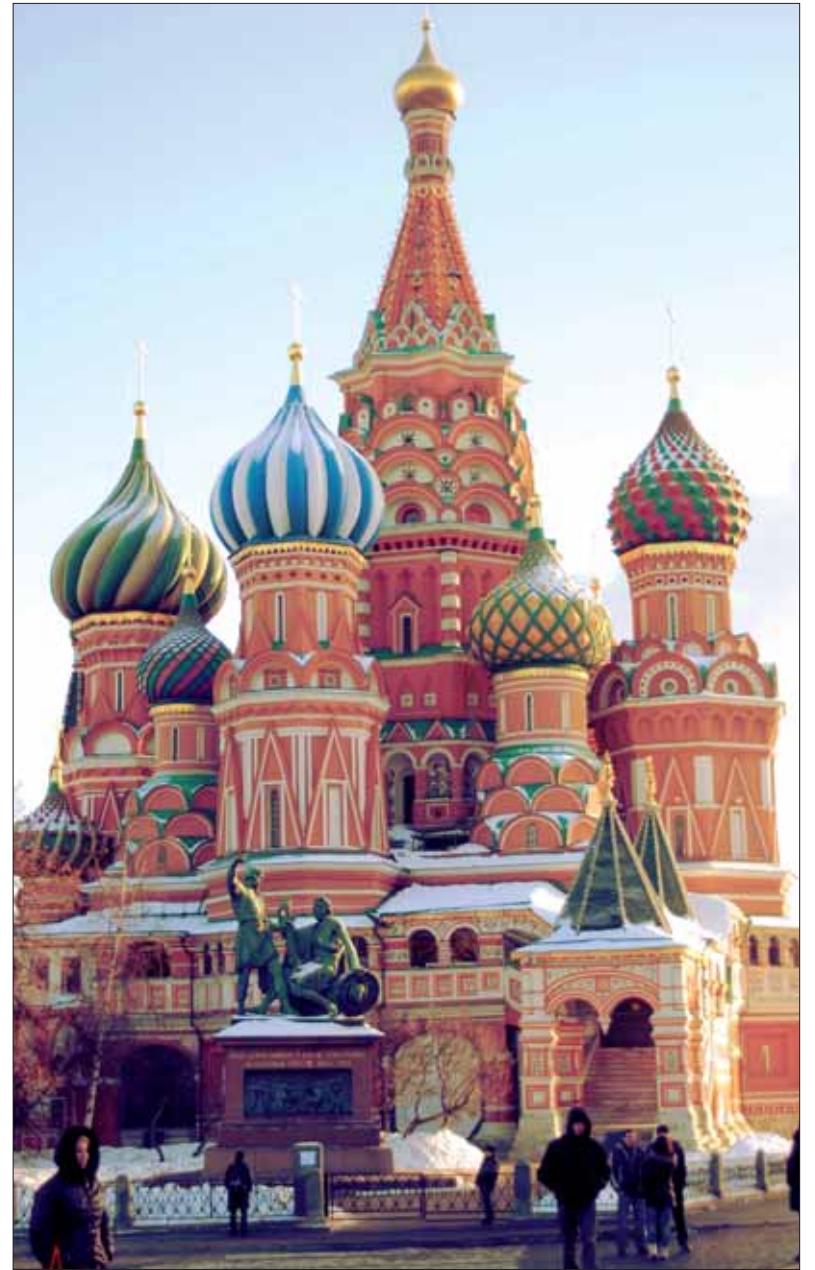
DOMEXPO will not only provide a huge selection of property investments. There will also be a lot of interesting business activities. Information on international property investment will be provided by real estate profession-

als from Russia, the CIS, Eastern and Western Europe and the United States. At these informational events, visitors will get acquainted with the legal and procedural aspects of real estate transactions in Russia and abroad, as well as receive information on government housing programs, mortgages and other types of loans.

Foreign partners of DOMEXPO include the Association of Realtors of Italy and the United States of America (ANAMA and NAR) and the Salon of Spanish property in Madrid (SIMA). The exposition's high level of organization is marked by the prestigious sign of approval of the World Association of the Exhibition Industry (UFI) and the Russian Union of Exhibitions and Fairs (RSVYA).

– *Phuket Gazette*

For information about showcasing your business at the 29th International property exhibition DOMEXPO, from October 17 to 20, 2013 in Moscow see: domexpo.ru or contact Nina Serebryakova: nina@guidesiam.com and/or Natalia Lashkareva at: domexpo3@expo-design.ru



DOMEXPO: The expo provides an excellent chance for developers to access Russian property investors. Photo: George M Groutas



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Lagoon-side leisure living

Laguna Property launches 2,000 home project

Laguna Park Villas exterior

PROJECT plans and fully-furnished show units of the island's latest middle-upper income residential project, Laguna Park, were previewed this week at the project's sales office.

Developed by Laguna Property, part of the Laguna Resorts and Hotels and the Banyan Tree Group, the project will be the island's largest residential community, comprising up to 2,000 homes when fully completed.

Located adjacent to Laguna Phuket and overlooking the golf course, the launch of Laguna Park coincides with growing demands of the market.

"As more visitors experience what Phuket has to offer, an increasing number of people decide to lay down roots here with the purchase of a primary or secondary home. Over the years, Laguna Property has experienced first-hand the increasing demand for

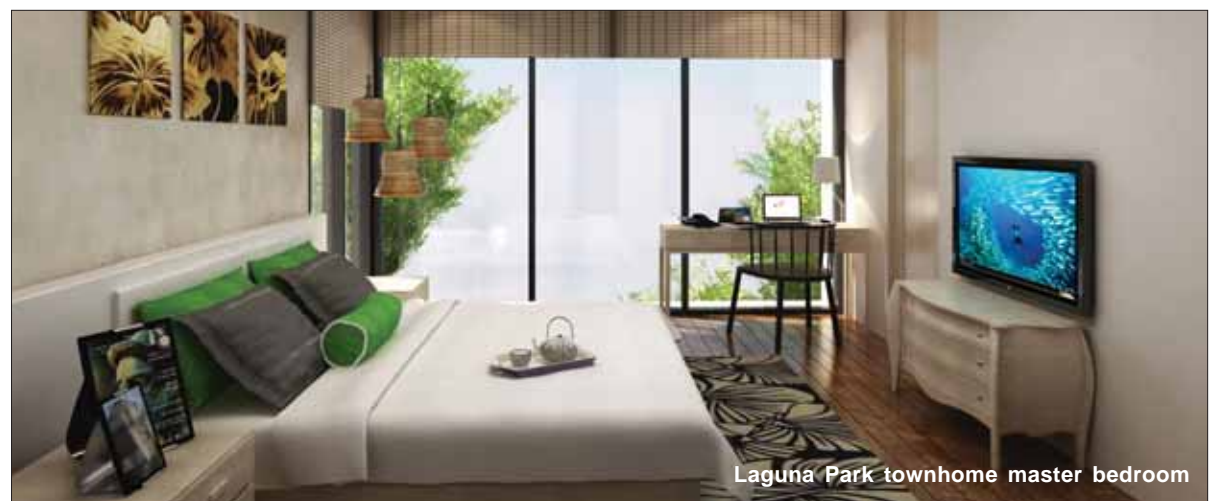
quality homes situated in a safe environment and built by an established, trustworthy developer," said Mr. Stuart Reading, Deputy MD of Laguna Resorts and Hotels.

Laguna Park will be located adjacent to Laguna Phuket, a well-known integrated resort destination comprising five star resorts, a golf course, residences, a shopping village, spas, restaurants and bars.

Positioned to provide primary homes to residents, Laguna Park offers all the appealing facilities, amenities, and services that collectively make up what is referred to as the 'Laguna Lifestyle'.

The gated development will provide a secure environment for a family-friendly community, embodying the project's concept of "Growing Together".

The townhomes measure 173 sqm of built-up area and feature



Laguna Park townhome master bedroom

two bedrooms and four bathrooms, with an option to add a third bedroom and private rooftop Jacuzzi. The three-story residences, suitable for couples or small families, are priced from 6.7 million baht.

The villas offer 340 sqm of built-up area and feature four

bedrooms and five bathrooms, with an option to add a fifth bedroom and private rooftop swimming pool. The three-story stand-alone homes are suitable for families, and are priced from 12.4 million baht.

Facilities include a beach club area, with a clubhouse to be built as part of the second phase of the development. Homeowners will also receive a resident's card which offers privileges and discounts at Laguna Phuket.

The first phase will comprise approximately 500 units, including 240 townhomes and villas, and 280 condominiums. The condominiums, will be one-bedroom in configuration, designed to cater to singles or couples and will be launched in the latter part of 2013. Construction for the initial phase is expected to commence in early 2014.

Having operated in the location for over 25 years, Laguna Property is able to offer homeowners comprehensive after-sales and property management services, so owners can rest assured their needs will be well taken care of.

The addition of Laguna Park will further diversify Laguna Property's already broad property portfolio, catering to varying buyer demographics with different product positioning and corresponding price points. The company also boasts an extensive land bank, for which plans are

in the pipeline for development in the future.

Show units are now open at Laguna Property's new Property Sales Center, located near the entrance to Laguna Phuket, where customers can find more information about Laguna Park, as well as the group's property portfolio on Phuket and worldwide.

Laguna Property is the property development arm of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, a publicly listed company that traces its history back to the early 1980s, with the land acquisition and resort development of what is now Laguna Phuket, at the time Asia's first integrated resort complex.

The company has since established itself as the largest and most established property developer on Phuket, offering a wide range of residential and investment properties, condos, townhouses, villas, and residences. Laguna Resorts & Hotels PLC. listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand in 1993 and has gained a strong reputation as a responsible developer whose interests combine hotels and real estate with an emphasis on quality and environmental protection, having received numerous environmental and tourism awards.

— *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, visit lagunaproperty.com or call +66 (0)76 362 333.

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Patong's newest 'Charm'

Developers of new west coast 'Residence' guarantee a 35% five-year return

LOOKING to lure investors, developers of The Charm Residence, a new "modern luxury" condominium planned in Patong, are guaranteeing an annual return on investment of 7% for an initial five year period, with the rate expected to be as much as 9% thereafter.

The new project was revealed by Proliving Co, Ltd President Prasert Lavichant and Managing Director Sotorn Dansirikul at a launch event on August 31 at Central Festival Phuket.

Under the concept "Condominium for investment", both men were keen to promote the exceptional investment return guarantee.

Located just 50 meters from Patong Beach, the mixed-use condominium and hotel will offer a full range of services and facilities similar to a hotel and has been dubbed a "Residence". Unit prices start from 6 million baht.



From left, Sotorn Dansirikul, Chalida Wichitwongthong and Prasert Lavichant. Photo: Pramook Tipvimalmas

"The demand for condominiums has increased, so it has affected land prices, making them more expensive. The Charm residence is the only project of its kind located within 50 meters from the beach front, a prime location for investors which [we hope will] include both residents and non-residents," said Mr Prasert.

"For this grand opening [promotion] we guarantee a high investment return of about 7% within five years, or a total of about 35%. After five years we expect that the investor will get a return of around 9 per year," he reiterated.

"Since the demand of travellers in Patong is increasing, it is a good opportunity for customers who are seeking to invest in the room rental business like a hotel, as they now provide a higher income than an apartment."

The project's value is expected to be



GUARANTEED RETURN: The Charm residence will be positioned as "the only project of its kind located within 50 meters from the beach front". Photo: Supplied

around two billion baht, and is planned to be completed by March 2014.

The project will consist of 246 rooms in four buildings – three 4-storey buildings of 36 units each and one 6-storey building with 150 units. The units will range from 40 to 100sqm in size.

There will be a "fully-furnished" option and facilities will include a rooftop infinity edged swimming pool with sun deck facilities, a restaurant and lounge area with

rooftop island drink bar, a fitness center, full hotel services with reception and lobby area, 24-hour security and CCTV system, as well as an underground car park.

In addition to a guaranteed five-year return of 35%, the developers also are pitching two Phuket-Singapore airline tickets from Silk Air. – *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about the promotion or project, please call 076-34-4499

Chinese US\$14bn for real estate abroad

CHINESE insurance funds have more than US\$14billion available for overseas real estate investment in high-transparency markets, according to a major global property consultancy.

These include the UK, US, Canada, Singapore and Australia, as well as Asian markets with similar cultural backgrounds such as Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, expected to be among the key targets, according to the latest research from global property advisor CBRE.

Given the present scarcity of investable prime properties in first-tier Chinese cities and the short-term risk from the over supply in second- and third-tier Chinese cities, prime high-end office properties in core international cities are expected to be highly sought after, especially considering the attractive yields they can produce in today's low interest rate environment.

Chinese institutional investors are still relative newcomers to cross-border real estate investment strategies, compared to pension funds, insurance funds and sovereign wealth funds from other regions. However, in recent years Chinese institutional investors have started to increase their investment in overseas real estate markets; a trend that has been driven by several factors, including limited investment channels in China, abundant liquidity, local currency (RMB) appreciation, and the relatively lower valuation of overseas assets in the years following the 2008 financial crisis.

In 2012, the total assets of China's national insurance institutions stood at US\$1.2 trillion. New regulations permit these institutions to invest up to 15% of their assets in "non-self-use" real estate. By this measure, there is in excess of

\$180 billion currently available for real estate investment. Based on patterns of insurance fund allocations witnessed in developed countries in recent years (with most insurance funds typically allocating up to 6% of their assets to direct property investment) and assuming an 80:20 split between domestic and overseas markets, it is estimated that Chinese insurers could invest up to US\$14.4 billion in overseas real estate.



Toronto has the largest Chinese population in Canada. Photo: Tim Evanson

Although the number of investable properties in developing regions has increased sharply in recent years, those of high enough quality are still limited in Asia Pacific when compared with North America and Europe. For this reason, Chinese institutional investors are expected to focus on premier office investment opportunities in gateway cities, which are capable of generating stable Return on Investment (ROI) in the short term, such as the premier offices in international gateway cities.

Markets marked by high transparency, including the UK, US, Canada, and Australia, as well as Asian markets that are adjacent to the Chinese mainland with similar cultural backgrounds, such

as Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia, will likely be the major destinations for Chinese real estate investors in the future.

Marc Giuffrida, Executive Director, CBRE's Global Capital Markets, commented, "Chinese insurance institutions are already well established in domestic markets, but following a series of government policy changes, they will look to target overseas commercial real estate markets."

"The insurance industry, in particular, is thriving; buoyed by ever-increasing funds they will target gateway cities around the world such as London, New York, Toronto, Singapore and Sydney in increasingly large amounts. The low liquidity, value-added potential and stable cash flow of prime office and retail assets offers a perfect match for these investors."

"Compared with developed countries, the allocation by Chinese insurance companies to overseas real estate investment is still relatively low, even with a modest increase in allocations given the

capital base, the flows could be quite substantial. Using the Malaysian and [South] Korean outbound investing experience as a guide, big industry leaders will lead the way, but once they demonstrate success the rest of the industry to follow."

Top Investment Destinations (2007-2013 Q1)

Real estate investing is relatively new for these investors, with Chinese insurance funds only permitted to invest in real estate beginning in 2009 when changes to government policy were made. Further regulation changes now permit insurance companies to invest a

maximum of 15% of their total assets as of the end of the last quarter in 'non-self-use' real estate.

The new regulations are well measured to encourage sustainable investing through the cycle. For example, investing is limited to "mature retail and office properties with stable income, located at the central areas of the major cities in 25 developed markets," including the US, UK, Hong Kong, and Australia. This also includes listed real estate investment trust funds (REITs) in these 25 countries or regions. The investment total is limited to a maximum of 15% of the insurance institution's total assets at the end of its previous fiscal year.

"There has been significant Chinese private and corporate investment in development sites in both Cambodia and Laos, but to date only limited investment in Thailand. Chinese direct property investment in Thailand has been through joint ventures with Thai partners due to the restrictions on foreign ownership," commented David Simister, Chairman of CBRE Thailand Cambodia, who also covers Laos and Myanmar.

– *Phuket Gazette/CBRE*



Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia are among key Chinese targets. Photo: supplied

Scandinavian market boost

12,000 additional Thailand holidays this winter

CLAIMING 50% market share of Scandinavian package tours, reputable and environmentally-conscious tour operator TUI Nordic facilitates holidays for some 120,000 travellers to Thailand per year.

Operating its own direct flights from Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, TUI Nordic is the only package tour operator increasing its Scandinavian volumes to Thailand at the moment, and is also the only Nordic Tour Operator who operates direct flights into the airport of Krabi.

Starting from this winter, TUI Nordic looks to be the first Nordic Tour Operator to fly to Phuket the Boeing 787 Dreamliner – the economically-sound modern jet that's set to change the face of long-haul flying.

"We see a great interest in Thailand, but there are challenges ahead: increased fuel costs, later

[last-minute] booking trends by our customers, and Phuket Airport, which can't accommodate all of our flights due to being fully occupied, and thus having no start or landing times available for us," says Tor Claussen, Product and Aviation Director at TUI Nordic.

Environmental and social engagement is strong in Scandinavia. This is the reason why TUI Nordic's customers want resorts and destinations to put even more focus on environmental and social issues. TUI Nordic is assisting all Blue Village concept hotels with consultants to make them environmentally certified according to the international ISO 14001 standard. But more and visible actions are needed from both destinations and resorts.

"We also see increased competition from online operators. To meet this we will work closely

with our key partners and invest heavily in marketing and on our preferred hotels which is the reason for the maintained exclusivity," explains Mr Claussen.

"Our success in Thailand is due to an excellent hotel program with many of Thailand's best hotels who deal exclusively with us in the Nordic market. It is also due to that fact that we have managed to keep our prices at a reasonable level. Our hotel partners have also contributed with early booking discounts and by maintaining that price level," he continues.

"To be understood, it requires massive effort to secure that our aircrafts always are full as we do keep an average aircraft load factor to 99%. We are therefore dependent on a continued close cooperation with the tourism, and local authorities to succeed in establishing and keep Southern



Ty Collins, GM of JW Marriott Khao Lak (left) accepts an award, presented by Tommy Serban, Product Manager at TUI Nordic. Photo: Supplied

Thailand as the preferred place to visit," says Mr Claussen.

Last year TUI Nordic, together with local partners, opened two new concept hotels in Khao Lak (Mai Khao Lak and Sensimar), and the sales for those hotels are leading the way forward.

Tommy Serban, Product Man-

ager at TUI Nordic, concluded: "We will keep on looking for suitable concept hotels in Thailand and will work hard on this strategy as it is clear that our customers prefer to stay in these hotels. We will also focus on our marketing of these key hotels."

– *Phuket Gazette*

SE Asian major appliance markets soaking up sales

THE Major Domestic Appliances (MDA) sector in Southeast Asia continues to see promising growth momentum, having generated some US\$3.4 billion in the first half of 2013.

According to the latest study by consumer research firm, GfK, washing machines recorded the greatest demand surge, while Vietnam was the fastest growing market in the region. Consumers in the Southeast Asian region are hungry for large appliances such as air conditioners, refrigerators, washing machines and microwave ovens. GfK retail tracking of the MDA sector reported soaring demand that boosted three out of four key segments by more than 20% over the same period last year.

In the first six months of this year, nearly 11.5 million units of large appliances were sold across the eight key markets tracked by GfK in the region – Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. Demand in volume terms spiked by nearly 20% compared to last year, while translating to a 22% growth in total dollar value.

"Rising affluence coupled with multiple retailers expanding beyond first tier cities has been effectively stimulating the penetration of big household appliances with more widespread reach, enabling more rural dwellers to buy their first of such appliances," explained Jasmine Lim, Account Director for Home and Lifestyle at GfK Asia. "This mix of consumer development has incited a strong surge in total MDA sales in recent times."

The most significant growth market during this tracking period was Vietnam, which reported a 31% rise in consumer spending on MDA items. Others which also saw high expansion of their MDA market value of around 22% were Thailand, Indonesia and Cambodia.

"Though sentiments in Vietnam remained volatile on the back of a cautious and economically uncertain 2012, pent up demand amassed over prior years drove strong performance of the market as home owners lifted their consumption appetite for household items," said Lim.

"The hot climatic conditions in Vietnam and several other countries also enhanced the sales volume of air-conditioners in the region."

The overall air conditioner segment across Southeast Asia escalated by 23% in the first half of the year. Its lesser volume increment of 21% during this corresponding period points to a higher average selling price and signifies that consumers are more willing to purchase better models at higher prices. Average local prices of the air conditioners in the respective markets during this period rose as much as 12%.

In contrast, consumer preferences towards refrigerators have remained largely unchanged with one-door refrigerators maintaining their position as the most popular choice amongst the region's consumers at 56% share of total market volume.

Such refrigerators continue to make up the bulk of the volume sales in Thailand, Indonesia, and the Philippines. However, two-door top freezer models posted the largest absolute value growth by 25% and in the first six months of the year dominated more than half of the product's overall value. At the same time, value of the more premium models like the two-door-side-by-side jumped more than threefold in sales value in the emerging markets of Indonesia, Philippines and Vietnam.

"Subsistent segments like single-tub washers and one-door refrigerators will continue to grow as penetration increases in the emerging markets and consumers purchase their first washer and refrigerator," commented Lim. "At the same time, demand for products at the other end of the spectrum by the rising affluent class will continue to fuel strong demand for larger capacities, new features and better technology and together, these will continue to thrust the sector in this high potential region to even greater heights in the years to come," she concluded.

– *GfK*

Cassava traders urge govt not to intervene

PRIVATE sector representatives of the Thai cassava industry are urging the government not to intervene in the cassava market as the price of cassava is already in the appropriate range.

According to Deputy Director General of the Department of International Trade Promotion (DITP) Panjit Pisawong, the Thai Tapioca Trade Association, along with three other cassava-related agencies, do not want the government to intervene in the cassava market, reasoning that the cassava price is now at good level. He added that the production cost for cassava is 2.08baht per kilogram, whereas the market price is 2.4-2.5 baht/kg, which is already appropriate.

He also revealed that the cost of production is the factor that most adversely affects the cassava industry. The costs of labor, fertilizers, and transportation could put Thai farmers at a disadvantage, making it difficult for them to compete in the global market because other countries have lower production and transportation costs. To make matters worse, Thailand has lately been facing labor shortages and the situation seems to deteriorate. Therefore, he suggested the government turn their focus to technology and productivity in order to compensate for the decreasing number of laborers.

– *Thailand PRD*

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Beauty and the beach

THE emergence of Phuket as an important regional center for plastic surgery (see pages 8-9) is great news for the local economy, but raises some important ethical concerns about elective surgeries in general.

Throughout history people – especially women – have wanted to look their best. Until very recently, however, the only certain way to achieve this came, like everything worthwhile in life, through hard work: watching one's diet, exercising and reducing exposure to solar radiation, to name just a few examples.

To a large degree, one's physical attractiveness was predetermined by a set of factors over which one had little or no control.

Aphorisms that remain with us from the great thinkers of yore are rife with apprehension about beauty, which, like love, was often regarded as a fleeting condition fraught with danger for those who were "afflicted" by it.

Socrates described beauty as "a short-lived tyranny", while Ralph Waldo Emerson observed that "beauty without grace is the hook without the bait". Almost all described beauty as posing a real risk to long-term happiness as well as personal and spiritual growth.

Fast forward to September 2013 and one is hard pressed to find people who use the word "grace" in its original sense: as something that trumps mere physical beauty.

In these days of New Millennium narcissism, when so many people seem to feel comfortable walking around in Superman t-shirts, we are bombarded with images meant to remind us that beauty is just another commodity that is available to us all, at a price.

Prime time television advertisements are an endless barrage of images of lithe, pale-skinned beauties with computer-generated flowers flowing from their perfectly white, hairless armpits, all gyrating in an orgy of self-satisfaction. Even ads for household products such as laundry detergent and stain removers seem to convey the same message: buy this and you, too, can be beautiful.

While understanding that Phuket is well positioned to continue taking economic advantage of the global upsurge in cosmetic surgery, we hope that our local plastic surgery practitioners continue to keep ethical factors squarely in mind, warning prospective patients that all surgical procedures carry some inherent risks and that certain choices, such as attaching enormous breasts on small Asian frames, can cause crippling back pain and other chronic, debilitating injuries down the road.

Fortunately, thus far there have been few, if any, reports of medical malpractice or other complaints related to Phuket's burgeoning cosmetic surgery industry. We hope that this remains the case, because for better or worse the trend of people willing to go under the knife in search of beauty and sexual attractiveness seems to be with us for the long term.



Patong poo-lution plain to see

Patong Beach water quality tests to take another two weeks, September 7

At the southern end of Patong Beach, the problem is the human feces. One does not need a scientist to detect or analyze them as you can simply see them.

The reason for the long delay in announcing the results of the water tests probably has more to do with "how to explain things" than any lack in data.

*Felix Rosenbaum
Gazette forum*

Housekeeping tips for fishermen

Hurry up to register for Turtle Fun Run, September 7

It may be time for government agencies such as the Fishery Department to try their best to educate Thai fishermen.

They need to learn to fit their fishing boats with holding tanks for wastewater, toilets and a bin – and to bring back to shore their garbage, especially their old fishing nets which kill turtles, dolphins and dugong when they are discarded into the sea.

*Asterix
Gazette forum*

Tuk-tuk drivers living in glass houses

Patong tuk-tuk drivers lodge second complaint about illegal tuk-tuk drivers, September 7

The other night at 10pm I counted 34 illegally parked tuk-tuks along the beach road, from Bangla to Sawatdirak Road. Not a cop in sight and they had taken up an entire lane of the road, causing major disruption to other vehicles.

About time they got their own house in order before voicing complaints.

*Mister Ree
Gazette forum*

Letters to the Editor

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

Getting things done with island finesse

Business operators win fight to keep shops at Phuket International Airport, September 7

Honestly, Thailand (or maybe just Phuket) has the oddest form of capitalism I've ever seen.

If you have a shop and the lease expires, you lodge court proceedings and have a private chat, and voila – you have a new lease, and in a building not even completed yet!

If you have an illegal taxi or even a fleet, you petition the government to pay to make you legal; until then, you carry on taxiing. Amazing.

*Chob
Gazette forum*

Moral fiber lacking

Phuket Opinion: Relegate the blight of jet-skis to the past, September 8

It's the spine that's missing, not only with this critical problem, but obviously many others as well.

The absence of spine (aka moral character) is our guarantee that Phuket will continue sinking into the mud – because there is simply nothing to stop it.

*Sage
Gazette forum*

Farmers and scions on justice's scales

Phuket Police on guard to face angry rubber farmers, September 5

The maximum punishment for an airport seizure is death, but one

can kill a police officer by hitting him with a car and then driving off and still walk around free.

*Marcel Boeni
Facebook*

Lesson from afar

Phuket beach safety hits tide of resistance, September 8

Years ago they had the same problem in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

They addressed it by fitting a platform to the back of the parasailing speedboats. Ahead of the platform there is a winch.

The speedboat picks up the parasailor on the beach and takes him offshore with the parachute prepared.

Then the boat picks up speed and the parachute inflates, the winch starts paying out rope and off they go. The winch brings them back to the platform at the end of the ride.

*Mr Walker
Gazette forum*

Sleight of meter

Phuket to push for higher taxi fares, despite Bangkok opposition, September 7

How can you raise the fare on something that doesn't exist?

*The Clown
Gazette forum*

Dispatch the drivers

Phuket to push for higher taxi fares, despite Bangkok opposition, September 7

The best solution is for DSI and Minister of Transport to set a centralized dispatch number for metered taxis that visitors and those wanting a metered taxi can call.

Put up billboards and send the number to all hotels and GMs and put it in the local phone books, the *Gazette Guide*, etc.

*Metered Taxi Dispatch
Gazette forum*

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Creating welcome

FIRST PERSON

I HAVE lived and traveled abroad a lot, and it was during those times when I was away from home that my concept of hospitality was formed.

Imagine the feeling you get when you are in a foreign place and need help, and a kind stranger steps forward to help you. That sense of being cared for, of being welcome, is what I want my guests to feel – and what I train my staff to convey. That “from-the-heart” feeling is the epitome of good service.

Of course I want to have a successful business, but my focus is not on making the most money from each guest but on developing long-term relationships with them. I want my guests to like my place so much, to like Phuket so much, that they want to come back. I want my staff to make guests feel at home, but also pampered, so they feel their money is well spent. My staff need strong English skills to be able to do this.

When people consider why English skills are important, they probably think first of providing information – and this is definitely crucial in a hotel. I want my employees to be able to give guests all sorts of ideas about what to do in Phuket – what to see, where to eat, where to go, what tours to take.

But hospitality is not just about giving information. It's about making guests feel welcome, anticipating their needs, and, as I



Here she talks about what hospitality means to her, and the ways she expects her staff to be able to use English.

Yodying Viprakasit, 45, was raised in Bangkok but attended high school in England. She has BA and MA degrees from the US and attended culinary school in Italy. A Phuket resident for over seven years, she is the owner of Cafe Y Te on Phang Nga Road and Casa Blanca, a boutique hotel on Phuket Road.

said, developing relationships.

From the business side, it's about selling things, and sometimes it's about being firm with a guest who has taken advantage of us.

For my staff to be able to do all these things, they don't just need English, they need confidence in their English.

For example, to make guests feel at home, I want my staff to open the door for them when they come in, and chit chat with them a little bit – say “good morning”, “how was your day”, that kind of thing. If they are not confident enough to say these things, they can't really make the guest feel welcome.

If guests need help and my staff can recognize that and act before they ask for help, it creates a better impression. But to do that, staff need to be brave enough to approach them and talk to them.

And to develop relationships, which hopefully will encourage the

guest to come back to Phuket and stay with us again, we need to talk to them and get to know them.

Language skills translate into sales skills. I want front-desk staff to converse with guests when they are checking in, and ask them things like: “how long are you staying?”, “do you have an airport transfer?” and “are you planning on taking a tour?” Time we spend chatting with guests is a chance to sell them things.

Finally, sometimes we have to say things that are embarrassing or unpleasant. It's even harder to do this if your English isn't very good – especially for Thais, who are comfortable making the guest feel important, but not so comfortable with confrontation. If a guest who is checking out is taking something from his room, for example, and we know it, we have to say something, otherwise we're going to lose money.

English is important not just for me in my hotel, but for Thailand as a whole. When the Asean Economic Community gets underway, Thai people will face more competition for jobs, and the country as a whole will have to fight harder to be attractive to investors. We need to get ready now.



Inexpensive, nutritious and authentic Andaman coast fare. Photo: Nick Walker

The cheaper the better

FIRST thing I did when I got out of prison last week was go to my favorite Thai-Muslim eatery and scoff down a brunch of champions – fried fish, veggies, Chernobyl-strength *nam prik* (chili sauce), with plenty of rice and a fried egg to prevent me from spontaneously combusting.

It cost less than the half the price of an equally voluminous plate of farang food at one of Phuket's countless cheap Thai-Western restaurants.

I love eating at truly local places for three reasons. I'm a “cheap charlie” (as I've been told numerous times by various Patong bargirls), the food is authentic and delicious, and, as I always strike up a conversation with a Phuket native son (or daughter), it's helping my command of Thai.

Phuket's gastronomy is divine at the inexpensive-end – Southern Thai, Thai Muslim, Isan, Burmese. Indeed, in common with Singapore [sic], often the less you pay, the better you dine.

I'll go a long way for a really exotic curry.

A while ago I was at Three Pagodas Pass on the Thai-Myanmar border because I was hellbent on trying a Mon curry from Thailand's northwestern neighbor. However, the border was closed to all except Thai and Myanmar nationals.

Then a shifty-looking character with a betal-stained smile and a creepy demeanor that made me

Island View

By Nick Walker

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

wonder if he'd been a grave robber in his previous life, sidled up to me. I was on my guard when he inquired if he could help me with anything.

I explained what I wanted, and he said he'd “borrow” my rented motorbike, cross the border, get the curry and bring it back for me. Yeah, right. Sayonara motorbike, a lot of explaining to do at the rental shop, and a whopping compensation bill.

But in a moment of madness I agreed, and handed him a 100baht note. Off he disappeared down a dirt-track in a plume of dust towards the border-crossing.

Less than 30 minutes later he returned, handed me the keys to my bike, a take-out curry, the receipt (inked in Mon script), and a substantial amount of change. He declined my offer of a tip.

It was the third-best curry I've tasted on Thai soil. The second-best was the *geang phed pla* I had at Phuket prison last week (where I was visiting an inmate, I should add). And Number One was the massaman I had a few years ago at an eatery in the shadow of Phuket Town's clock tower. I've noticed that place is still there. Note to self: must go back.



The Casa Blanca Hotel on Phuket Road. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

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

Can't use airport bus

A friend of mine was visiting Phuket and staying in Patong. I work in Thalang, so when we wanted to meet for dinner, I suggested he take the new airport bus to Tesco Lotus on the bypass road and I would pick him up there.

However, the bus website is not in English, so I couldn't advise my friend how to use it.

How can tourists use this bus if the schedule and bus stops are not indicated in English?

Curious
Baan Lipon

Prakob Panyawai, owner of the airport bus company, replies:

I didn't know the website wasn't in English. I apologize for that and thank you for telling me.

We hired a company to create the website, and when we got the bus service up and running we

were in such a hurry that I didn't check it carefully.

That might be one of the reasons we've had low ridership.

We already have a plan to revamp the site, and I'll be sure to include English too. We expect the new site to be completed in October.

I welcome any comments or suggestions about the airport bus or about the website. Please feel free to contact me directly at 076-328291 or 084-0652122, or via: PhuketAirportBusExpress.com

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Battling with condo developers

Our family paid 70% down on a condo in the Koh Kaew area that was supposed to be ready to move into by June 2012.

It wasn't, and we got only sketchy updates from the developer.

We contacted an office in Phuket Town assisting with consumer protection and were given the contact details of the lawyer representing the developer. We contacted him but never heard back.

We are now worried about the money we invested. Is there a government office which can help us?

Wa
Koh Kaew

Sukanya Sittidamrong, an investigating officer at the Consumer Protection Board Phuket office, replies:

You can file a complaint against

the developer with us.

We can help you get your money back from the developer as long as we can prove non-performance of the purchase contract, but we strongly suggest negotiating with them first.

You will need these documents:

- The original and two copies of the purchase contract
- The original and two copies of all documents involved in the purchase of the condominium
- The original and two copies of your passport and/or the identity cards of the people who signed the above documents
- Photos of the incomplete condominium

We will ask the development company about the delay and invite them to negotiate compensation.

We also will check that the cor-

rect building permits were issued by the local government office and the Phuket Provincial Land Office.

We will prosecute them if they do not have the correct permits.

Please visit us at Phuket Provincial Hall in Phuket Town or call 076-211366 or 076-213203.

Our office hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm.



There's a way for investors to get money back. Photo: Martin D

YOUR Phuket

AMCHAM

At the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) seminar at Indigo Pearl Resort, Nai-Yang Beach



(From left): Suratwadee Phettriang, PR & Marketing and Communications Manager at Laguna Phuket; Jantana Jaikwang, Distribution Manager of Phuket Gazette; Kanjana Sriboonsom, Events Manager of Phuket Gazette; Wichit Na-Ranong, Owner of Indigo Pearl Resort; Oranee Hildebrand, Managing Director of Phuket Gazette; Prapa Hemmin, Director of Sales & MICE and Corporate Events Laguna Phuket.

GOLFER MEDITATION & DEEP BUDDHISM CLASS AT SOFTEL KRABI PHOKEETHRA



Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort was honored to welcome top professional Thai golfers to join the Golf Friendship Tournament and meditation class organized by the Verapuchong Fund and Bodhigalavijalaya 980 foundation. They enjoyed meditation, prayer and deep Buddhism classes for a soul-refreshing experience.

PHUKET CLASSIC 2013



Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut (center) spoke at the opening of the Phuket Classic 2013 at Central Festival Phuket last Sunday. 120 bodybuilders joined the competition.

ANDAMAN CRUISES & FRIENDS



Andaman Cruises and friends congratulated Mr Ian Lancaster (center) on his 68th birthday, which he celebrated on board the company's motor yacht *Olympia 76*. "As he is an outstanding person with a great personality, a good heart and a great passion for life, we wish to him all the best: health, happiness, a good golf handicap and some victories for his beloved Australian rugby team," said Christian Schwind, GM of Andaman Cruises.

CENTRIO "THANK YOU MEDIA" PARTY

Mr. Kasidit Manopinives, Managing Director of Able Assets Co Ltd, the developer of "Centrio" real estate project joined the "Thank You Media" party organized for local Media practitioners and valued customers.



The Centrio Team with a lucky winner at Centrio Condominium. The company held a "Lucky Draw" with a prize of one baht of gold for some fortunate customers who reserved a unit.



(From left): Kaniittha Prasopsirikul, Customer; Kasidit Manopinives, Managing Director of Able Assets Co Ltd – the developer of the Centrio real estate project; Vijitra Nantanavut, Sale Executive at Centrio; Jantana Jaikwang, Distribution Manager of Phuket Gazette.

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

BOAT of the week



See page 31

PROPERTY of the week



Now's your chance to own a property in
Phuket's best condominium development.



MANDALA
VILLAS & CONDOMINIUMS

See page 23

JOB of the week

Zeavola
Step back to simplicity

See page 27

PRODUCTS & SERVICES of the week

Sea breeze
CAFE & TERRACE



See page 29

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Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're **REAL**.

Property Classifieds

Properties For Sale

LAND & HOUSES PARK, CHALONG



Villa for sale. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished and equipped, garden, 240sqm. Price: 6.8 million baht. Tel: 083-394 4536 (English), 084-443 5389 (English & Thai).

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



In Kathu for sale or rent. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm, furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Rent: 13,000 baht/month with 1-year contract and common area included. Tel: 089-472 9118.

LAND FOR SALE

Kata land plot for sale. 444sqm, part of sea view-plans, 4-bedroom villa and pool. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 086-593 3434 (Thai), 089-290 5594 (English).

3-BED DUPLEX HOUSE 2.39 MILLION BAHT

Great value. 3-bed Duplex House. Open-plan kitchen, living and dining room. Furnished. Tel: 085-796 3354 (English), 087-193 7825 (Thai). Email: jasmeek666@hotmail.com

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE, CHEAP PRICE



Twin house with 2 storeys in Palm Villa, Pa Khlok, 5km from the Heroines monument. Price 2.2 million baht. 35.2sq wah, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, car park for 2 cars. Cheaper price than the developer's. Ready to move in October 2013. Contact owner. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana 1225@gmail.com

2 BEDROOM FOR SALE/RENT



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

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

THIDA HOUSE SALE 27 MILLION



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

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.

HABITOWN, KOH KAEW

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Re-sale down 130,000 baht. For more info call 089-772 7012. Email: gyb_giff@yahoo.com

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

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

NAI HARN LAND

Soi Naya. Private estate plot for sale. Mountain view. Please call 081-370 9661, 086-478 0201.

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

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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Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

PATONG TOWER 1BD 4.2 MILLION BAHT

Newly renovated on the 7th floor facing the mountains. Tel: +001-45-5239 3777. Email: deherder@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

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

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



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

HABITIA KOH KAEW



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

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



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

3.5 MILLION BAHT 3 BEDROOMS

For sale. Land & Houses Park, Chalong. Parichart zone. 2 bathrooms, need renovation, 260sqm, big living room, 24hr security. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

NEW COTTAGE ON COCONUT ISLAND

50sqm cottage, 319sqm land, beachfront, solar system, ready to move in. Tel: 089-873 6533 (English & Thai). Email: suwatchana@icloud.com

CHEAP 2BR HOUSE IN KAMALA

180sqm of living space, fully furnished, 5 mins walk to beach. For sale at 5.5 million baht. For rent at 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-474 1124 (English & Thai). Email: indy.jiab@gmail.com

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

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Properties For Rent

NAI HARN BEACH 2-BED CONDOS

Spacious, with large shared pool, gardens, great beach only 3 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

ULTIMATE LUXURY!

Massive 900sqm ocean-facing property, amazing sea views, huge villa, has everything, + more! Cape Yamu. 350,000 baht per month. No agents. Tel: 082-420 3270.

FINEST SEA VIEWS!

Luxury furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool villa, Cape Yamu, 15 minutes to PIA/BIS Schools. Long-term: 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

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.

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



In Kathu for rent or sale. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm, furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract and common area included. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118.

PATONG 2-BEDROOM CONDO

Large 100sqm, maid, WiFi, cable, parking. From 30,000 baht per month. Call for showing at 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

5-BEDROOM POOL HOUSE

Western kitchen, sun decks, 4 bathrooms, pool, jacuzzi, 1 rai. Long-term: 45,000 baht per month. Tel: 092-323 7087. Email: phuketrentals@yahoo.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

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

LAND FOR RENT

400sqm in Soi Pasak: 9,500 baht per month. 800sqm in BanJo: 11,000baht per month. Contact K. Porn. Tel: 087-274 0680. Email: noegabriele@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

1 bed, 60sqm, fully furnished apartment for rent. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-693 0052. Email: c-maylam@hotmail.com

LUXURY POOL-VILLA NEAR LAGUNA

Resort setting, has all, 3-month or 1-year contract. Only 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-383 0936 (Khun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

FOR RENT



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

PATONG EXECUTIVE RESIDENCE

Long lease: 35,000 baht per month + bond (1 month). Furnished, private views, downstairs parking, security, elevator, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spa, laundry, western kitchen, big lounge+dining. Contact Jingjo (English), Janram (Thai). Tel: 093-772 7498.

600,000 BAHT YEARLY RENT-RAWAI

Rawai Beach. Siam BB Resort. 9 rooms, bar+shop, reservation online with Agoda, Booking.com, Asiarooms.com. 60m to beach. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.com

CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

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

Available For Rent Offices / Showrooms

40/80-120 sq. meter units available.

PLAZA DEL MAR Entrance to Laguna Phuket



Contact Khun Nong for details or visit our website
m: 087 266 8400 e: plazadelmar@gmail.com
www.plazadelmar.nphuket.com



CENTRAL PATONG

Luxury 1-bedroom apartment, 65sqm, for rent, short or long term. For details, please call 087-887 9070 or send email to ianscondo@yahoo.com

APARTMENTS PATONG

Nicely furnished in a quiet location. Access to pool and parking. Only long term. Tel: 081-892 1621.

4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

4 bedrooms, all ensuite, 5 bathrooms, 10m x 5m private pool, fully furnished with entertainment systems in every room, WiFi, cable TV and large Western style fully fitted and equipped kitchen. Tel: 081-397 6921 (English), 081-956 1433 (Thai). Email: terryleetuck@hotmail.com

CHEAP RENT

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

CONDOS IN PATONG

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

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. 25,000 baht per month with 30,000 baht deposit. Tel: 086-607 7493.

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.

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

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 all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

CUSTOMER RELATIONS REP.

Must speak and write English. Thai national. Good Salary. Email: info@phuketfit.com

FRONT OFFICE / ADMIN

Thai national office manager. Must speak & write English. Good salary + benefits. Send CV. Email: info@phuketfit.com

NEED LADY DRIVERS

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

DETOX/CLEANSE CONSULTANT

Experience working in Detox, Cleanse or Spa. Must speak English. Thai national only. Good Salary. Email: info@phuketfit.com Check out PhuketFit website for more www.phuketfit.com

SEEKING A SALES MANAGER

We are a foreign company specialized in manufacturing fashionable natural-fibers tote bags. We would like to develop our business in Thailand and are looking for a Sales Manager / Sales Representative. Job Description: Finding and contacting potential clients. Taking orders and managing payment. Arranging product deliveries.

Position Requirements: Living in Phuket. English speaking. Prospecting and sale skills. If you are interested, please send resume to factory@kaloes.com

OUTGOING SALES REPS WANTED

We have already had the busiest bar in town and now we want to have outgoing young foreigners to promote our new nightclub, high commissions paid. Tel: 081-958539 (English). Email: pepumeli@yahoo.com

SALES REP. ENGLISH - SPEAKING

We require a sales rep to build relationships and generate sales with any suppliers involved in the destination wedding market. Excellent commissions paid. Tel: +61-3-9551 8955. Email: angela@wedsaway.com

PR AND EVENT ORGANIZER

Office in Patong. Full time position, 6 days a week. Must read, write and speak English fluently. Must be proficient in Word, Excel, internet, Facebook, social media and Outlook. Must have marketing and event background. Thai speaking would be good. Email: charles@edenrockvilla.com

OFFICE MANAGER

Needed for apartment rental company. Must be Thai, honest and have booking skills, people friendly. 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

SECONDARY EP VACANCY

ELT Phuket is looking to appoint a qualified, enthusiastic and experienced teacher of English (M1-4) to start at PPAO Ban Taladnua School, as soon as possible. Applicants must have a minimum of a bachelor's degree plus a recognised teaching certificate (TEFL). Please email a letter of application and CV. Email: bantaladnuaep@gmail.com

The View Co., Ltd.**Sale Representative****Job Description:**

- Gathering market and customer information
- Experience in sales and knowing Phuket well
- Negotiation skills
- Driving skill
- Computer skills : Microsoft office

Tel : 081-666 6622.

E-mail: info@theviewphuket.com

2 WAITRESSES WANTED

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

FRONT DESK STAFF SAMUI

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

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

MANAGER'S ASSISTANT

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

ADMIN ASSISTANT WANTED

English speaking & writing. Will be trained in detox. Thai national. Good salary. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

BARMAN - THAI COOK - WAITRESS

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

GUEST RELATIONS

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

Career Opportunity

VS Asia Co., Ltd. was established in Phuket, and has experienced over 35 years as professional in printing & information technology and post-production for clients in Europe, Asia and worldwide, which co-operate with our business partnership company as a headquarter in Europe.

Text & Content Editor**Job Description:**

- Command of German language
- Work with editing text program
- Creative with art and design
- Team worker and cooperate with other related department

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, Thai Nationality
- Fluent German Language in reading + writing
- Good knowledge of Computer (Windows or Macintosh) and Internet
- High responsibility and punctuality
- Able to work both with team and independently

Salary & Welfare:

- Salary, Work Permit, Incentive, Social Security Insurance, Tax, Food, etc.

Interested applicants should submit your resume stating qualifications, previous work experience and position applied for along with a recent photograph to:

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department)
42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130
Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605
email: info@vsdma.com

DANISH STAFF

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

ENGLISH-SPEAKING SALES GIRL

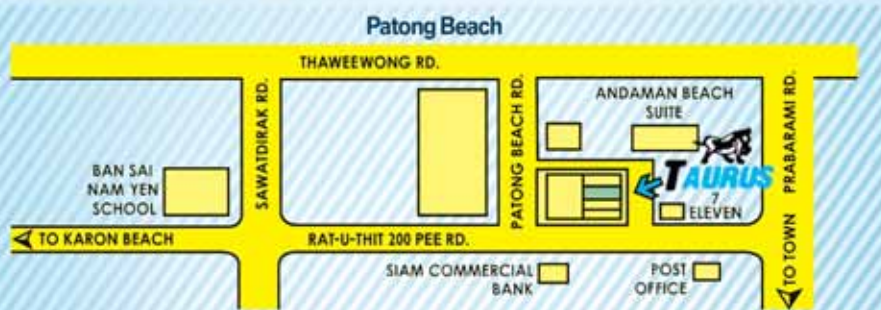
Needed to manage a small souvenir shop in Phuket Town. Good salary and commission. Start immediately, 6 days per week. Tel: 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

ACCOUNT MANAGER - URGENT!

- experience as account manager/chief of over 5 years
- can speak, read, write English; good accounting knowledge and skills; can close financial statements, AR, AP, etc
- good team leader
- can start soonest/immediately. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai).

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!

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

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Need experienced preschool teacher 10-14 children, start immediately, Chalong, 40hr week, send resume to phuket teacher@yahoo.com

ENGLISH-SPEAKING THAI WOMAN

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>

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.

REAL ESTATE STAFF WANTED

We are looking for many staff to work with us in the progressing and increasing branches at Rawai and Patong.

1. Secretary/Receptionist: Thai female.

2. Sale/Rental Manager: Thai or foreign national, male or female.

Both positions require: good personality and outgoing communication skills, enthusiasm, fluent written and spoken English, good basic computer skills, own car is an advantage for Sale/Rental Manager position. Good salary and commission! Tel: 076-388444. Please send resume and recent photo to: info@harvest-property.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

OFFICE ASSISTANT WANTED

to aid in graphic design and administrative work. Thai national, able to communicate clearly in English. Computer skills required. - Marketing and design skills preferred. - Willingness to learn. Basic administrative skills (email, Word, Excel) Please send your resume to info@apr-pfleiderer.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.

THAI NURSE

Thai nurse. Will be trained in detox. must speak English. Thai national. Good salary! Email: Info@phuketfit.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER

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

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

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

Island-Based Positions Vacant

- Room Division Manager / Front Officer Manager
- Restaurant Supervisor
- Asst. Food & Beverage Manager
- Dive Instructor / Dive Master
- Receptionist / Reservation Supervisor
- Activity Receptionist and Admin
- Asst. Financial Controller / Chief Accountant (Phuket Based)

Profile:

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

Benefits:

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

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

Human Resources Department

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

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

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

OFFICE MANAGER

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

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

FOREIGNER SECRETARY WANTED

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

RECEPTION WORK

Thai female for hotel, Nanai Road, English and computer skills required, good wage and commission paid, holidays. Call for more details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

SHOP MANAGER

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

PRIVATE IN-HOME TUTOR

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

PROMOTERS WANTED

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

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

EXECUTIVE FOR PROPERTY

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

ACCOUNT MANAGER - URGENT!

- experience as account manager/chief of over 5 years
- can speak, read, write English; good accounting knowledge and skills; can close financial statements, AR, AP, etc
- good team leader
- can start soonest/immediately. Tel: 081-979 9911 (English & Thai).

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

Tesco Lotus Phuket Town

Bangkok Bank

Adidas **Boots**

Sangho **McDonald**

GATE 3

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!

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

COLD ROOM FOR SALE

Maintained every 3 months. Ready to work. Please call 080-538 4735 (English & Thai). Email: momo_f@hotmail.com

SNOOKER & BABY FOOT

Snooker: like new 45,000 baht. Baby foot: 2,500 baht. Located at Patong. For more information, please send email to nc.residence@gmail.com

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@phuketiwc.com

MAY PLAZA, SOI TA-IAD

9x4sqm commercial space. Start from 10,000 baht per month. 1 year payment in advance. Please call 095-759 5323.

KATA NIGHT PLAZA

Southern Fried Rice, the popular guesthouse with 40-seat restaurant and 8 rooms, 5 minutes from Kata Beach. For sale or rent. Trip Advisor Winner 2013. Tel: 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata37@gmail.com, www.southernfriedrice.com

FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE

Club Asia Fitness, Phuket's Leading Fitness Center. For sale: 8 million baht or nearest offer. Tel: 089-126 5671, 087-275 3614 (English), 080-698 5021 (English & Thai). Email: coco_ivy@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.clubasia.phuket.com

OCEAN VIEW HOTEL FOR SALE

1km from the beach, 3 stars hotel. 10 apartments and 14 rooms, 1,200sqm, pool, bar. For more information, please call 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc.residence@gmail.com

MASSAGE BUSINESSES

Patong main road. 1.5 million baht and 2 million baht. Must sell both. Tel: 081-303 2202.

URGENT SALE OF RESTAURANT

Taina Road, Kata. Please call 090-176 7364 or send email to dhanbirwaiba@hotmail.com

BAR FOR SALE OTOPI MARKET

Good location, low rent, owner is going home. 1.2 million baht. Tel: 087-893 1753.

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

HOTEL + RESTAURANT FOR SALE IN PATONG

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).

GUESTHOUSE / BAR / RESTAURANT

Six rooms, all tenanted; prime location – 2 minutes to Jungceylon and 10 minutes to Bangla Road. Lease: 3+3, nothing to spend. Bar takings excellent, net 30,000 to 50,000 baht a month. Price: 1.6 million baht. Please call 087-896 5219 (English), 084-053 4365 (English). Email: striker_1957@hotmail.com

RESORT FOR LEASE



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

VERY POPULAR RESTAURANT

Top restaurant in Kamala Beach for sale. Please search by Google for "Grill Bill Kamala". For more information, please call 081-089 0543 (English) or send email to iii_sunny_iii@yahoo.com

BANGLA BAR CHEAP!

Absolute stunner! Cheap. Aircon, 2 floors, 160sqm, contact for photos. Only 1.8 million baht, full fitout. Good rent option. Bargain! Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodi.orster@gmail.com

BEAUTY SALON QUICK SALE

Fully furnished beauty salon, 75sqm for quick sale. 300,000 baht. Foreign clients. Busy area. Tel: 090-154 6115. Email: aselia8989@mail.ru

HOTEL WITH 24HR RESTAURANT

Top location at Kata Center, inside entertainment zone, for rent. 19 air-conditioned rooms. Email: yongyut.bauer@gmail.com

PROFITABLE BAR & GRILL



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

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact: realestate.luxurypuketholidays.com

RENT BEACHFRONT RESTAURANT

Excellent location on Surin Beach. Fully operational with outdoor beach furniture, full service kitchen; seating capacity of 120+, 3-year lease for 2.4 million baht + rent 70,000 baht monthly. For more information, please call 091-034 1200 (English). Email: issam.tawil@gmail.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. Please contact 02-673 9280, 081-381 5111.

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. 2.5 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 085-215 8660. Email: fstailslide@hotmail.com

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.

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

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

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

I hereby authorize payment against my Visa ☐ / Mastercard ☐
☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)
☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)
☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)

Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)

Card #: _____ Exp. Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Issuing Bank: _____ Country: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

E-mail address: _____

Please Deliver To:

Street address

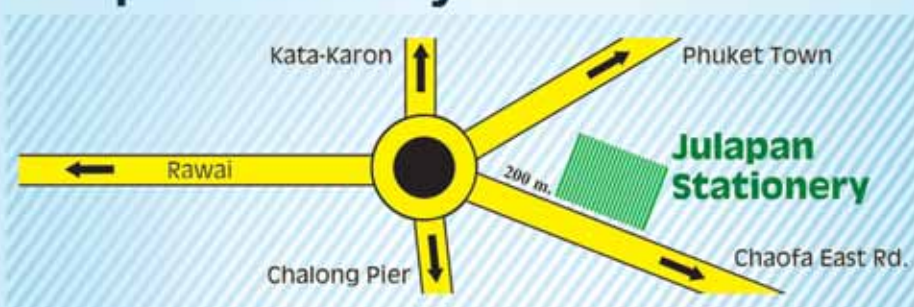
City State or Province Zip Code

Country: _____



To ensure clarity,
please airmail.
Do not Fax!

Live in Chalong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Julapan Stationery



Simply write out your ad,
pay and leave it with
Khun Aoi: (076-282254)

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!

Business Products & Services



All New Seabreeze Café Fresh, live action cooking

Sumptuous Seafood Buffet :
Every Tuesday and Saturday @ THB 899++ per person

Seabreeze Delight Buffet:
Every Monday and Thursday @ THB 699++ per person

Our international a la carte menu is available daily
18:30 to 22:30

Kids eat free
Under 12 years when dining with an adult

Complimentary soft drinks
With all buffet dinners

Free flow beverage offer
THB 450++/person

**Stay
Fresh**

Sea breeze
CAFÉ & TERRACE

**Kids stay & eat
FREE**



DINO DAYCARE CENTER

Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.

- Experienced nannies.
- Nutritious meals.
- Reasonable rates.
- Outdoor activities.
- Skill development activities

CALL NOW:
082-539 8252 (Thai).
081-868 7676 (English).

HOTEL BOOKING LIST SERVICE

Hotel registration and monitoring on AGODA, Sawadee and Booking.com Tel: 083-394 5863. Email: tperke@googlemail.com

TRICK ROPING LESSONS

Showing and teaching the art of western cowboy rope tricks. For more information, please call 084-447 5257.

WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. For more information, please call 081-476 5808.

FREE ITALIAN ESPRESSO MACHINE

Coffee capsules machine on loan, good organic Italian coffee, fair prices, 6 blends available, direct import into Phuket. For more information, please call 076-374760, 088-768 1260 (English & Thai). Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

SLUSH MACHINE

Our two-tank slush machines are great value for the money. We offer you the cheapest rate in Thailand for both the machine and the mix. A fantastic product which will give you an even better return. Inquire now or call us 087-139 9225. Email: info@funfoodthailand.com

Club Memberships Available

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP

Blue Canyon life membership available. Contact Pete Tel: 084-349 2325. Email: peter@lifecartoons.com

Personal Services

MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR

Experienced licensed (US), mental health counseling for children, adolescents and adults now available in Phuket. Email: parwkg@aol.com

Dive Gear

DIVE GEAR FOR SALE

ScubaPro Mark 10 with G250, pressure / depth gages. Decor BCD, with Air 2. Make offer. Tel: 081-091 4335 (English). Email: ray_vallancourt@yahoo.com

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From nothing to nowhere

Twenty years after a teen from Issan became an international supermodel, she's 'homeless' and causing problems. What went so wrong?

By Rakkit Rattachumpoth

FORMER fashion supermodel Rojjana Phetkanha's life has been more full of twists than a melodramatic movie. At age 18 she won a national modeling competition and a chance on the international catwalk. By age 27 her star had fallen and she was back in Thailand with little left but vague memories of glory. And, last weekend, the 37-year-old was being described in news reports as "homeless and insane". She's currently under treatment in a Bangkok psychiatric hospital.

It's been a sharp, caustic descent for a woman who once earned 50 million baht a year. Yui, as she's called, was born in Bangkok to migrant workers from the Northeast. They separated when she was two and left her in the care of her maternal grandparents, in a remote village in Ubon Ratchathani. Her parents occasionally visited. "The longest time I had with them was during Songkran," she told me in an interview a few years ago.

Like any other local kid, Yui helped her elders with the household chores and in the paddy field, including taking care of the buffalo. For lack of money she dropped out of school as soon as compulsory education ended in Prathom 6. At age 15 she decided to follow her parents' example and seek work in Bangkok, where they still lived. "It was the first time I'd lived with my mother in years," she recalled.

Yui started as an assistant at

her uncle's food stall, toiling from 7am to 9pm for about 100 baht a day, which helped finance her tuition for non-formal education courses. "I wanted to finish Matthayom 3 [Grade 9] because hopefully it would land me a better job."

The better job – and the fantastic career that followed – instead came thanks to her statuesque figure and unique facial features.



Rojjana went from the catwalks of Paris and New York to the streets of Bangkok. Photo: Art Comments

In 1994 a photographer noticed her height and her big eyes and lofty cheekbones and encouraged her to enter the Elite Supermodel of Thailand competition. She was an immediate hit. The contest was her springboard into the international limelight.

Despite speaking little English, Yui was soon based in New York and travelling around the globe to work in all the big fashion capitals: Paris, Milan and London. She appeared on several international fashion magazines, including Vogue Asia, and in an advertisement for Chanel perfume, among many others.

She was touted as "The Face of Asia" and ranked among the

world's top 12 models alongside the likes of Kate Moss. Hollywood beckoned. "Many directors were interested in me," she said.

Then she hit the same roadblock that dashes the dreams of so many rising stars. Yui started using illicit drugs, developing a special liking for cocaine, with its instantly cheering energy boost. It wasn't long before her agency rescinded their contract and sent her back to Thailand with nothing but a few suitcases.

Her pockets were almost empty, all the money lost to drugs, luxury goods and high living at the posh restaurants and clubs. "If I had saved it instead, I'd be a millionaire today," she said.

Yui was subsequently diagnosed with bipolar disorder and for at least five years underwent therapy at several psychiatric hospitals. She occasionally made

headlines – for all the wrong reasons. There was a nasty row with her mother and physical abuse by a boyfriend that cost her one of her front teeth.

Then, two years ago, she seemed to re-emerge from the storm a new person. The boyfriend was gone and she'd made amends with her mother. The bipolar disorder was "under control... I'm ready to work again," she said. She'd already begun offering modeling lessons and was expecting fresh contracts of her own and an English photographer was interested in writing her biography.

It remains to be seen what exactly happened next to bring about



Rojjana Phetkanha's life has been the seemingly classic rags to riches to rags story as one of the only Thai women to enter the dizzying heights of supermodel stardom. Photo: The Nation

headlines recently like "World supermodel declining as homeless and insane". There were reports that Yui had caused a disturbance among shopkeepers, so the police were called and took her to a nearby psychiatric hospital.

Is she homeless? Possibly, if it's true that her family rejected her, though no reasons have been suggested why they would. If she's homeless and without support, it could explain why she reportedly failed to take the prescribed medicine needed to contain the troubling behavior associated with the bipolar condition.

Is she insane – in any sense of the word? It's highly unlikely. Bipolar disorder has often been wrongly mistaken for schizophre-

nia and other forms of "madness". But regular medication and medical supervision can control its effects.

What is highly likely is that we'll someday hear directly from Yui what happened. For now, there could be a partial explanation in what she told me during our interview.

"I am vulnerable," she said. "My childhood was defective. I came from the countryside. I never thought of becoming a model even in Bangkok, let alone in the international arena. When I had a chance to work on the international catwalks and be in the limelight, I didn't know how to maintain it. What a shame!"

– The Nation

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Sep 15, 2013, 12pm-3pm, Sunday Poolside BBQ at Westin Siray Bay.

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Sep 15, 2013, 6:30pm-11pm, Sunday Italian Buffet Dinner at La Trattoria Restaurant, Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket.

Have a splendid Sunday with family and friends! Savour our special Italian buffet spread with a variety of choices of antipasti, salads, pastas and pizzas, and a wide range of irresistible desserts at our award winning Italian restaurant, La Trattoria. Priced at THB 1,090++ per person, with 50% off for children aged 6-12 years. Call +66 76-362999, email: dtpfb@dusit.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 phuketiw.com

Sep 20, 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



Phuket Youth Sailing Club Fun Day & Beach BBQ at Ao Yon, Cape Panwa September 22 10am to 4pm

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 on +66-76-286464, email: Info@navrangmahal.com

Sep 22, 2013, 10am-4pm, Phuket Youth Sailing Club Fun Day & Beach BBQ

Come and sail with the Phuket Youth Sailing Club on one of the safest and most picturesque bays on the island, Ao Yon. The club is open every weekend offering recreational sailing, club racing, supervised boat rental, organised day sails, sailing courses for juniors and adults, and a monthly family day barbeque. We have a large fleet of dinghies, beach cats, keelboats, sit-on kayaks, sea kayaks, stand up paddleboards and powerboats. Our facilities include changing rooms and showers, a large undercover area, beach bar & restaurant and a fantastic sandy beach. Come and join the fun! This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only

national television show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58). Contact Katy Gooch on +66-85-2159185, email: phuket youthsailing@gmail.com.

Sep 28, 2013, 6pm-12am, Retro 70's & 80's night at Two Chefs Karon.

Retro Night at Two Chefs Karon. Large buffet with old classics. The band will be playing old favorites from the 70's and 80's. Dress up "retro style" and get a chance to win a Two Chefs gift voucher of 5,000 baht. For more info, visit our website at twochefs.com, like us on Facebook or just give us a call on +66-76-286479.

Sep 29, 10am to 12 noon. Woody's Computer Clinic.

To celebrate the re-opening, re-furbishing and re-dedication of Sandwich Shoppe Patong, Khun Woody will emerge from quasi-retirement to put on a full Computer Clinic, Sunday morning, September 29, 10am to noon. It's a chance to pick up where the Computer Clinics left off more than a year ago. Drop by

and meet many of the best and brightest computer geeks on the island. Bring your questions, comments and tales of woe. Together we just might come up with some answers.

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

Another new and fascinating location for our October lunch: the historic Panwa House at the Cape Panwa Hotel. As usual, booking is required but all are welcome.

Members: 500 baht; non members and guests: 650 baht. Register at info@phuketiw.com or contact Carole Dux on +66-76-316711.

Oct 23, 2013, Chulalongkorn Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

Oct 29-Nov 3, 2013, Phuket Thailand Open Powered by PTT 2013 at Karon Beach.

The Phuket Thailand Open will attract top beach volleyball teams from around the globe. Leading teams to play in the tournament are: Austria, Brazil, China, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Russia, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the USA. There will be in total up to 6 Thai teams taking part in the event, of which 3 are in the main draw and 3 in the qualifying. Over 70 teams from over 30 countries will play in the tournament. Through a tie-up with IMG, each tournament on the Beach Volleyball World Tour receives TV coverage across 5 continents. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58). Call +66-2-311 3414, or visit pentanglepromotions.com

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To celebrate the re-opening, re-furbishing and re-dedication of Sandwich Shoppe Patong, Khun Woody will emerge from quasi-retirement to put on a full Computer Clinic, Sunday morning, September 29, 10am to noon.

Topics: Windows 8.1 – the future of Windows and Microsoft and why Woody's next machine will be a MacBook Pro. (YIKES!) After a short informal presentation, we'll throw the floor open to any questions about anything at all. (XP? Internet? Roku? Kindle? Chromecast? Galaxy? iPhone 5s? Pirate software?)

It's a chance to pick up where the Computer Clinics left off more than a year ago. Drop by and meet many of the best and brightest computer geeks on the island. Bring your questions, comments and tales of woe. Together we just might come up with some answers.

Mark your calendar and get there early if you want a seat – 10am Sunday September 29 at the newly updated, still fabulous, Sandwich Shoppe Patong. One day only, so don't miss it.

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

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Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
True Freeview Channel 58	8 shows a week	MCOT World
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Friday:	04:10am & 07:10pm	
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Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
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Channel 1 - 19	shows a week	
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Channel	Shows a week	MCOT World
Rawai Cable	Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon.	
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Breakfast at Boon Tae Goi

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

THIS story was inspired by Mark Knowles' article "A true taste of Phuket" published in the August 31 - September 6 issue, where the author sampled his way through Baba-style luncheon treats. This week's article takes a look at the less-known but equally popular breakfast snacks known as *Khanom Sod*.

A Phuket friend once told me that the locals almost always eat their breakfast out. As a result, many eateries open up very early to cater for these early-rising gourmands. Selections include *khoa tom* (boiled rice) *gup khao* (rice topped with stir-fried greens or curries); *khanom jeen* (white noodles with curries of all kinds); and *dim sum* (Cantonese steamed dumplings served in bamboo baskets).

Less substantial than above are a variety of banana leaf parcels filled with sweet and savory rice usually on offer in many old-fashioned cafes or the morning roadside stalls all over Phuket. Collectively known as *Khanom Sod*, they offer a casual, but no less filling way, to break your fast.

Boon Tae Goi on Thanon Amphoe road in town has been serving up these breakfast snacks to hungry clientele for decades. Operated by a mother and daughter team, Hua Bee (67) and Maneerat (41), the stall on near the Governor's house, doubles as a cafe as well.

It's a family business, started by Maneerat's grandmother who used to run a stall selling breakfast snacks in the main

market. There are a staggering variety on offer and no less than 20 types are concocted here everyday. *Khanom Sod*, which literally means freshly cooked snacks, consists mainly of a sticky rice base – either plain or sweet – filled with meat, dried seafood, eggs and spiced up with pepper and crispy shallot. The sweet variety will in variably feature coconut, palm sugar, corn, taro and bean, among others.

It's a labor-intensive process, with preparations starting well a day in advance so that all twenty plus types of treats are cooked, assembled and ready by 6am the next day.

The packages are wrapped and tied into different attractive shapes using banana leaves and bamboo pins: some are flute-like while the others upright parcels. Yet others are banana cups filled with sweet goodies. Together, they form an attractive arrangement on the tables in front of the stall. Sadly, some polystyrene dishes and plastic are being used as well. While Maneerat acknowledges the negative impact of this non-biodegradable material on the environment, she finds it hard to strike a balance between being green and the customers' demand for convenience.

Khanom Sod here go mostly by Chinese names and their bestsellers is *Eew Ping*, seasoned sticky rice, topped with roast pork, dried shrimps, boiled egg and fried shallots. Also try *Pao Lang*, somewhat peppery glutinous rice mixed with roast coconut, dried shrimps and a

generous amount of pepper. Wrapped tightly in banana leaf and grilled over low charcoal fire, *Pao Lang* imparts that unmistakable aroma of charred banana intrinsic to many Asian food and is best eaten warm. If spicy breakfast is not your thing, then try some sweet and pretty cups of *Go Sui* – a green-hued steamed pudding flavored with Pandan leaf and topped generously with freshly grated coconut. And don't forget, there are at least twenty more of these treats to sample.

Boon Tae Goi is the pride of Phuket Town and is a constant subject of review by many travel magazines and has been featured in national TV shows. What started as a family business has turned into a heritage of sort, and fittingly so at the time when Phuket is enjoying the revival of its Peranakan heritage. But while Hua Bee and Maneerat are proud to play their part in maintaining the tradition, they admit that *Khanom Sod* is not appreciated by today's young people. "We get orders from school when they need props for teaching Phuket customs. We also sell to weddings to families still wanting to do it the old way. I kind of feel sad knowing that there may not be a future for *Khanom Sod*," says Maneerat.

So go give *Boon Tae Goi* support. Tradition must be upheld!

Boon Tae Goi opens from Monday-Saturday, 6am to whenever the wares are sold out, usually around midday. Add: 16/4 Thanon Amphoe road, Phuket, tel. 076 241 488 089 194 881.



The tireless Hua Bee manning her stall. Photos: Nanthapa Pengkasem



Eew Pung is a popular snack for weddings and announcing baby births.



A sweet pudding cup called Go Sui.



Pretty banana leaf parcels are usually filled with glutinous rice and meat



Dr Anukoolphaiboon Apiwich, a graduate student supported by the PIWC. Photo: Supplied

Horses race, children win

AFTER the success of last year's Melbourne Cup fund raising event the Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) is now gearing up for a repeat performance for the 153rd running of this iconic world-famous horse race.

This year the festivities will be held at the Underwood Art Factory on the Bypass road on Tuesday, November 5, starting at 9.30am. The day promises to be a fun event with raffles, sweeps, silent auctions and entertainment by The Lost Legends and the legendary PJae Stanley.

As usual all profits will go to the scholarship fund for the needy children of Phuket. PIWC President Carole Dux said: "As a result of last year's efforts the PIWC was able to sponsor another 98 students, taking the total to 192 students currently receiving funding and well over 900 students in total since the club's inauguration more than 20 years ago. As a totally voluntarily organisation if we help just one child that is enough. Whatever support we can give we are happy to do."

"At the recent presentation at Satree school a key speech was given by medical Dr Anukoolphaiboon Apiwich, a graduate student supported by the PIWC. He mentioned that the scholarship had meant so much to him that in the future his aim would be to help us sponsor another medical student."

"That is what the PIWC is all about, giving young people the opportunity to

achieve their goals in the community."

The celebrations will run throughout the day, and will include fashion shows, lunch, all forms of liquid refreshments and, of course, watching the big race on even bigger screens.

The Cup, as it is known to Aussies, is recognized as one of the world's premier horse races. It is also the richest "handicap" race – each horse has to carry a designated weight – and this year offers prize money of more than AU\$6 million (about 200 million baht).

The 3,200-meter race was first run in 1861 and is always held on the first Tuesday in November at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne. In recent times the quest for glory has drawn entrants from around the world, many from Europe.

Event organizer Sue Arnulphy said: "The venue is very exciting and more central on the island. It is a little smaller than previous locations so numbers will be limited. Tickets are now available at 2,000 baht each which includes brunch and three free drinks.

"So all that is left now to be done is to organize the outfit and the hat for the Fashion in the Field fun. This will be a great day for those attending and for the children of Phuket."

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information contact Carol on 085-782-1332 or email info@phuketiwcc.com

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Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

I ALWAYS maintain that the only developments worth the name on this paradisaic isle are the ones that have vision – a concern for the environment that is reflected in their desire to create a natural and aesthetic setting for their discerning guests.

Most apartment “blocks” here are just that: huge angular lumps of concrete that have spelled out the death of every tree in the vicinity. Sadly, making big bucks and a concern for environmental stewardship rarely go hand in hand. The graying of Phuket continues unabated.

And yet, there are verdant exceptions to this inexorable march of the back hoe. And it is invariably the high-end resorts and spas that buck the trend, places such as the Movenpick with its “Green Globe” certificate, a much prized award conferred by an organization that demands the highest standards in sustainability practices. Not to mention 22 acres of gardens designed by a famous architect.

The Avista Hideaway is another splendid example of a resort planned with nature in mind. It is not only stunningly beautiful as a piece of architecture, but offers its guests an experience where the green world of trees and verdurous vistas is always just round the corner, or down the steps from their sumptuously appointed suites. Descend from the palatial reception area, and you encounter a lost garden where the atmosphere is jungle, where, *rhaps* palms, bananas, ferns and *alocasias* offer a reminder of long-gone rainforests. The charming manager, Mohnish Chandwaskar, has great plans for this area including fiber optic lighting and soft music, where you can “relax and get transported to another world”.

The hotel boasts a remarkable setting, perhaps unique in Phuket.

It is literally perched on a slope of more than 44 degrees, clinging to a rocky promontory which towers high above Tri Trang and Paradise Beaches. The ultramarine sea winks below, a moving backdrop to this imaginative creation.

The whole resort consists of a system of walled terraces on various levels with open steps leading to each new area, an effective way of retaining what little soil would have remained on this stony outcrop. And in keeping with the natural theme, all the walls are painted in what Californians would call “earth tones”, an easy-on-the-eye textured shade of gray which is complemented by oases of greenery which attract the gaze as you turn each new corner. The element of surprise is never far away.

Nothing is too much. Three swimming pools, offer very different aesthetic charms – a sepulchral marble one, for example, has laser lighting which issues from the depths.

A fresh vista takes the eye as you ascend another stair, a huge pool with water lilies floating on islands and in full bloom.

One issue facing the landscapers concerned the choice of plants. For this is not only rocky terrain but buffeted by salt-laden winds and, as always in Phuket, subject to the glare of the tropic sun. Add to that, the impoverished soil and you “have some idea of the problem.”

In general, broad-leaved trees and shrubs do less well in such conditions since their sail-like foliage will shred and discolor. Some *heliconias*, a few bananas, the taller and more exposed palms are feeling the pinch. A new planting of *schleffleras* next to one of the pools (which are all saltwater) is struggling; in one of the barbecue areas, a row of spider



At Avista Hideaway, the green world of trees and verdurous vistas is always just round the corner, or down the steps from their sumptuously appointed suites. Photos: Supplied



The hotel is perched on a slope of more than 44 degrees, clinging to a rocky promontory which towers high above Tri Trang and Paradise Beaches. The ultramarine sea winks below, a moving backdrop to this creation.

lilies is slow to establish itself.

A range of home-grown perfumed shrubs could find a use in the Ayurveda spa, as could herbs in a proposed organic kitchen garden.

But these are minor cavils – which will be addressed. The Avista Hideaway lives up to its punning

name – an object lesson in how to make the most of a magnificent setting, and even to improve on Mother Nature.

The setting allows shrubs to flourish which would never have made it before: green screens of scented orange jasmine and *wrightia*, lady palms and bamboo

screens thriving next to sheltering walls, glossy leaved fig trees and *alstonias*, a cornucopia of plant life.

Step out from your sophisticated luxury suite into a natural ambience of lush greenery. Here, you can have the best of both worlds.



Avista's Hideaway

Tip of the Week

Outdoor Surfaces

A READER asks about the flat roof of his condominium. At present, it has a pool and a sand washed (*sai lang*) surrounding area. The *sai lang* is discolored and needs to be replaced. Also, plants need to be installed to provide shade. At present he is using potted *plumerias*.

I am no construction expert, but sand wash is over-used in Phuket. True, it grips like coarse sandpaper, but it weath-

ers badly and once stained, it is difficult to clean. On my own area, I used a power sprayer to clean the surface and then applied a clear sealing lacquer. There are at least two proprietary sealants available. The process is laborious and costly, but should ensure the area's future wellbeing. The other alternative is tiles, preferably of the non-slip variety. As for large potted plants to provide shade, *plumerias* are a poor choice. Try *ficus elastica*, neem, *sai* or Indian laurel.



Plumerias. Photo: Allan Donque

~~Not~~ getting ~~any~~ younger

By Maciek Klimowicz

ONE of the main reasons why I moved from Bangkok to Phuket was health. I simply didn't want my newborn baby daughter to grow up in the polluted, extremely noisy, toxic city that is Bangkok. Phuket, with its blue skies, lush green hills and fresh air seemed like the right choice for a healthy lifestyle.

The people behind the success of the Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) agree with and strongly promote this idea. The latest event held in the complex was aimed at improving the quality of life in rapidly aging societies. Twenty high-profile doctors and medical experts met at Thanyapura last week to discuss and share knowledge on the topic of anti-aging and preventive medicine, among them Dr Siti Fadila Supari, Former Health Minister of Republic of Indonesia.

"There is a big future for using science and technology to slow aging down. We met to exchange information on what's happening in anti-aging medicine. There is no place for plastic surgery here, we're talking about preventive medicine and



Professor Dr Michael Klentze (center) believes in a holistic approach to anti-aging. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

natural ways to prevent aging. To keep people healthy longer and keep them in better shape in later stages of life," explained Prof Ganesya Harimurti, the head of the department of cardiology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Indonesia.

"We cannot stop aging but we can delay it and delay all the negative aspects that come with aging," she added.

There are many ways to achieve that goal – starting with changes in your lifestyle and ending with modern technology. Professor Dr

Michael Klentze, chief medical and scientific officer at Thanyapura explained: "We can use cutting edge technology, DNA screening etcetera, to detect problems. Delaying aging is a complex task composing of different stages. Here at TSLC Integrative Health Center

we combine them all – one part is exercising, another is reducing stress, and good diet is also important. And lately, we can go even deeper with stem cell technology that can activate stem cells in the body so as to can repair damaged organs. So we're preventing and repairing at the same time."

Indeed, population aging is a world wide phenomenon starting to affect Asia, and Thailand too. The financial costs of these changes is a great challenge for Western countries and especially for developing countries, where social security systems are still underdeveloped. The weight of taking care of one's health is often left for the patient to deal with.

Prof Dr Jesus Tresguerres, President of European Royal Society of Medicine said: "Life expectancy in Asia is getting longer and longer and it's changing everything. When a country changes from a young one to a more aged one it has to confront several problems. There are more and more people seeking treatment."

The courses in Thanyapura were developed to promote knowledge and help doctors deal with these problems better, both in Asia and around the world.

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Welcome to my Kingdom

By Maciek Klimowicz

HI, My name is Nemo, I am five years old and I come from Chiang Mai. Oh, and I'm a tiger. No, not a fish. A tiger.

I was born in the Tiger Kingdom in Chiang Mai but I recently moved to Phuket where I spend my lazy days in the new Tiger Kingdom in Kathu, just over the hill from Patong. They say I was born in captivity, meaning I never roamed free in the jungle. I hear that some tigers live in the wild but I can't say I envy them that much. They have to hunt for their own food

comfortable and pampered here maybe that's why tigers in captivity can live 17-20 years and longer while tigers in the wild usually don't make it past 15 years of age.

But there is one more important thing – the people. I'm not sure why, but it seems to me that people hate the wild

Tiger Kingdom everyday, out of which, around 400 visit us, tigers. Face to face. Some of them choose to spend some time with the youngest of us, the cute one to five-month-old oversized kittens. Others go for the five to seven month old or the medium sized cats. But we, adult, full grown tigers that weigh over 200kg are a popular choice too.

I've been around people since I was born, I've grown up with them so I can't say I'm that much bothered by their presence.

They approach us with respect, pose for pictures and gaze at us with amazement. And they are at all times accompanied by a keeper, who knows all of us by our names.

Tourists' visits come with a benefit: all the free stroking and scratching is something I really enjoy! I don't even mind a hug from time to time. The only problem is when they are scared of us and don't stroke us firm enough it can be quite itchy! But when this happens I just get up and go to the other side of my enclosure or go take a swim in my pool. Problem solved.

I meet all kinds of people of different nationalities (the majority of them are from Australia and Middle East) and different ages. But not all people who visit Tiger Kingdom come to visit us in

while I get fed twice a day, five kilograms of delicious chicken bones, rich in calcium and potassium (my younger tiger friends get milk too). The tigers in the wild have to fight diseases on their own, while I'm cared for by a professional veterinarian and 20 keepers who make sure I get all I need. Sure, the wild ones get more space to roam free but I can't complain either. The five rai (8000sqm) of space we have here is certainly enough to stretch our legs, it's green and full of trees too. Oh, and I have my own swimming pool. All in all, I feel

The first baby tiger will be born in Phuket in approximately 100 days

tigers, they are scared of them, tell nasty stories about them and worst of all, hunt them down. I hear there is only around 200 tigers living in the wilderness of Thailand while there used to be thousands of us in the jungles. It all makes me a bit sad and confused. That's because people here in the Kingdom absolutely adore us! And to be honest, I like it. After all, I'm a cat, vanity is in my nature.

We do get many visitors here. As much as 700 people visit the



Razor sharp teeth, playful character. Photos: Anthika Muangrod

person. I sometimes see people dining in the Tiger Kingdom's restaurant, enjoying the 450baht all you can eat buffet or dishes from the menu. The food smells lovely and they seem to enjoy dining while looking at us down below.

Even though we are quite busy, we still find time to do what cats, big or small, like to do most – take a nap. I heard some people say that we sleep because we're drugged. Utter nonsense! Are all the rooftop cats

you see napping in the sun drugged? We're tigers and this is what we do. But if you're not convinced just look at us splashing in the pool and playing with our trainers.

There is 26 of us but as I'm the oldest of the herd, I can speak for all of us. Come pay us a visit to our Kingdom, learn more about our species, admire our beauty and grace and take home the best of memories. You are always welcome.



Tigers love water, in contrast to the majority of house cats. In between naps, there's time for bouncing.



The tigers in the Kingdom are used to the presence of humans.



Tigers spend the lion-share of their lives sleeping.

This week in history

SEPTEMBER 14

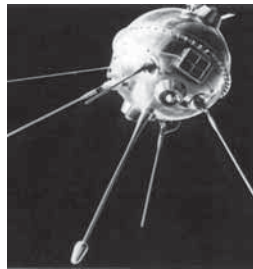
1812 Napoleon's army entered Moscow.
1917 Russia was officially proclaimed a republic.
1959 First man-made object, the Soviet Luna 2 reached the Moon.
1960 The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) was founded.
1984 Joe Kittinger flew a gas balloon alone across the Atlantic Ocean.



EVIL 1935 Photo X-ray

SEPTEMBER 15

1916 Tanks were used for the first time in battle.
1935 The Nuremberg Laws deprived German Jews of citizenship.
1935 Nazi Germany adopted a new national flag with the swastika.
1952 United Nations gave Eritrea to Ethiopia.
2008 Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy.



LUNA 1959 Photo: NASA

SEPTEMBER 16

1908 The General Motors Corporation was founded.
1947 Typhoon Kathleen hit Saitama, Tokyo.
1959 Xerox 914, the first successful photocopier was introduced.
1963 Malaysia was formed.
1975 Papua New Guinea gained its independence from Australia.
2007 One-Two-GO Airlines Flight 269 crashed in Phuket.



UNITED 1963 Photo: Nicolas Raymond

SEPTEMBER 17

1630 The city of Boston, Massachusetts was founded.
1787 The United States Constitution was signed in Philadelphia.
1859 Joshua A. Norton declared himself "Emperor Norton I" of the United States.
1957 Malaysia joined the United Nations.
1976 The first Space Shuttle, Enterprise, was unveiled by NASA.
1983 Vanessa Williams became the first black Miss America.
2011 Occupy Wall Street movement begun in Zuccotti Park, New York City.



EXCENTRIC 1859 Photo: emperornorton.net

SEPTEMBER 18

1809 The Royal Opera House in London opened.
1837 Tiffany and Co. was founded in New York City.
1851 First publication of The New York Times.
1919 The Netherlands gave women the right to vote.
1977 Voyager I took the first photograph of the Earth and the Moon together.
1981 Assemblée Nationale voted to abolish capital punishment in France.



VOYAGER 1977. Photo: NASA

SEPTEMBER 19

1946 The first Cannes Film Festival was held.
1952 The United States barred Charlie Chaplin from re-entering the country.
1970 The first Glastonbury Festival was held.
1982 First documented emoticons :-) and :- (were used.



COMIC 1952 Photo: P.D Jankens

SEPTEMBER 20

480 BC Greeks defeated Persians in the Battle of Salamis.
1519 Magellan set sail on his expedition to circumnavigate the globe.
1977 The Socialist Republic of Vietnam was admitted to the UN.
2001 U.S. President George W. Bush declared a "war on terror".
2008 Terrorist attack on the Marriott hotel in Islamabad.



OIL 1960. Photo: Paul Lowry

IMPACT ready for construction & building expo

CONSTRUCTION & Building Technology Week continues with BMAM Expo Asia 2013, GBR Expo Asia 2013 and CONSTECH 2013 from September 19 to 21 at IMPACT Exhibition Center in Bangkok, with more than 400 companies and brands on display.

Aungsurat Areekul, President of Thai Contractors Association, the organizer of CONSTECH 2013, said: "The construction and building technology play a more and more important role in the industry. When the construction costs are on the rise and competition is high, technology is a key to success. In this edition, CONSTECH 2013 will again be the most comprehensive platform for construction technology and machinery in Thailand."

Ms Pornphan Bulner, Assistant Director of Exhibition Project added: "Realizing the importance of technology and innovation, we launched Construction & Building Technology Week for the first time in 2012 and have got good response from the industry. This year we want to strengthen the show positioning to serve the industry better by co-locating three major shows and one pavilion at the same time."

"Construction & Building Technology Week 2013 will be the showcase of new technology, machinery and business solutions for the construction and building industry and further to maintenance and refurbishment ex-panding over 32,000 sq m. This year we expect to welcome more than 15,000 visitors from Thailand, ASEAN and around the world. Construction & Building Technology Week will also

be a good education forum for the industry through series of seminars, conferences and workshops." Ms Bulner said.

Construction & Building Technology Week 2013 has received strong supports and endorsements from both government and trade organizations. Ms Jaruwan Suwannasat, Exhibition Director, Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), revealed "TCEB, as the government agency working under the supervision of the Prime Ministers Office, has a mission to create long term competitiveness and sustainable fundamentals for MICE industry in Thailand. Especially exhibitions which have played the vital role in country's economy and industry's development and with the ultimate aims to position Thailand as an exhibition platform for AEC, TCEB stands for Partner of Innovative Solution that will attract more exhibitors, trades, and investments to trade fair businesses in Thailand. TCEB provides the support in overseas marketing activities to recruit international attendees joining the significant platform like the Construction & Building Technology Week 2013 which will be the one who gears up Thailand to be the center of MICE industries in Asia."

– Phuket Gazette

For more information about Construction & Building Technology Week 2013, contact Ms. Parintorn Ussawalerdpaiaboon, IMPACT Exhibition Management Co., Ltd. at phone: +66 2-833-5312, e-mail parintornu@impact.co.th or visit impact.co.th/CBT

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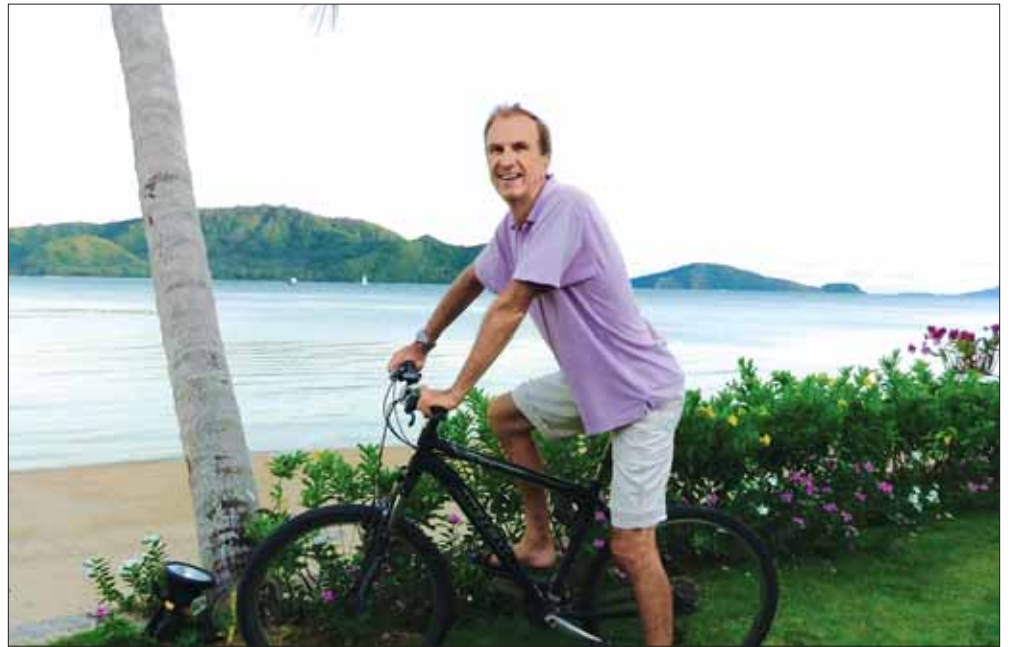
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Sights like this are ubiquitous as smartphone usage increases at a rapid rate. Photo: Miss Karen



Perhaps it's time you put your smartphone down and take a ride in the countryside.

Bicycles versus iPhones

EVERY cyclist in Phuket has probably witnessed a similar experience: I had just finished an invigorating evening ride and pulled into my favorite beachside restaurant for a cool drink while luxuriating in the warm flush of endorphins and contentment that enlivens such an experience. I had survived the vertiginous hills, the ever-terrifying traffic and the challenging heat and now was the time to drink in nature's beautiful scenery as the sun sank below the horizon.

"Ah, life can be good for the fatigued Lycra-Lout!" I thought. Then I looked around and noticed something very strange. The restaurant was quite busy with couples and families, many of whom were obviously tourists. Clearly many of them had flown long distances to be sitting here on our lovely island at this sublime time of day and yet every one of them had their noses deeply buried into their iPhones.

Even the kiddies were watching movies on tablets propped up on the outdoor tables and so were missing the genuine natural visual bounty that surrounded them of sea, tropical vegetation, birds and wildlife – all bathed in the most stunning and dynamically evolving colors of sunset. I was suddenly saddened because a stunning thought occurred to me...we'll never truly be on holiday again, any of us.

The idea of escaping and switching off is

a thing of the past. Even when abroad, we're at home because we're in our usual place, that is...we're online.

What is to become of us? We can no longer live without our iPad and iPhones even while — or especially while — on holiday? Something about being away from our familiar surroundings makes us reach for our gizmos as a drowning man clings to driftwood. We've only had smart-phones for a few years and suddenly we're unmoored, all at sea, without them.

As for the internet itself — how to leave home without it? The places we venture to and stay in are influenced by TripAdvisor. Our tickets and reservations are made online, with barcodes and booking numbers that we show to various receptionists by waving a more-vivid-than-life high-pixel-density mobile screen in their faces. Upon arriving at the chosen holiday spot, we spend hours bent over Google Maps, sometimes first glimpsing a street on StreetView, while actually already walking on that street. We get about with the help of blinking virtual arrows rather than engaging with a local, or taking the risk of losing our way and coming across something unexpected. The joys of getting lost, have been lost forever.

The obsessive work of taking all those happy, happy holiday images and posting them on The Book of



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

Faces actually stops us from really engaging with, and quietly enjoying, the location we are actually in. The

Universe of Twits is ever-beckoning the eruption of our bon mots, all in less than 140 characters, keeping our friends updated on our every meal and blatantly showing off in a way that we'd blush to do in reality.

Then I looked across at my mud-splattered mountain bike propped against the bole of a vaulting palm tree. A surge of warm affection washed through me as I contemplated its low-tech solidity and beauty. I realized that I had always loved bicycles (though not in that weird, unnatural way that can get you arrested of course!) ever since I received my first real bike on my tenth birthday. I can clearly recall the amazed realization I had when I mounted her, that here was a machine that could take me away on unlimited adventures and that I could literally travel anywhere in the world my legs could take me with this beautiful, simple invention.

Years later, I discovered the American iconoclast Richard Buckminster Fuller's sage words suggesting that the bicycle was the pinnacle of mankind's creativity and that since the bicycle, man's transportation inventions had all been (excuse the pun) downhill!

What would Bucky have made of

the iPhone? His was the dictum of "unintended consequences" of course. In this stunning piece of technology, apparently designed to liberate us, would Bucky have seen enslavement and obsession with a mere cipher of beautiful reality, rather than the intense engagement with the real thing that his beloved bicycles promoted?

The fact is, our beings have now become split in two — one occupies the physical world, the other the World Wide Web, and while the real world self may be on holiday, the web-self is not. Or at least not until the holiday photos are posted online. This is true of all of us these days, but it is especially true of our children and their children, the ones who grew up online, "digital natives". It's no longer enough to be somewhere lovely: it's not quite real until the photos have been thumbs-up, re-tweeted or "liked". It's as though if nobody online witnesses you next to the Big Buddha or with a Soi Bangla katoey on your knee, then you weren't really there.

Call me an impossible Luddite if you will, but I'll take the simple bicycle over the Internet and all its hand-maidens any day. The novelist HG Wells was a great visionary and futurologist, and yet he said: "When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race." But sadly when I see all those visitors and their kiddies missing out on a glorious Phuket sunset for the sake of their stupid I-phones, I'm afraid I do.



This is now probably the most common view the modern tourist sees. Photo: Gonzalo Baeza



Buckminster Fuller once said that the humble bicycle was the pinnacle of mankind's creativity.

Ready-to-eat tourism

Indigo Pearl owner gives inspirational talk at AMCHAM meeting

CHANGE – experiencing it, realizing it, understanding it, anticipating it and then trying to figure out how best to implement it for the optimal benefit of Phuket and all of its stakeholders.

Such was the underlying theme of an awe-inspiring speech given last night by Wichit Na Ranong, a key driver, if not the father, of Phuket tourism.

Co-founder of the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) and owner of the Indigo Pearl, the iconic five-star resort in the north of the island, Mr Wichit possesses a wealth of knowledge about Phuket history. As keynote speaker at the latest American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) Phuket chapter meeting, Mr Wichit drew a large crowd that packed the conference room at his hotel.

Representing stakeholders in Phuket's tourism, property, hospitality and service sectors, the audience was captivated as the outspoken entrepreneur brought them back to a time when Phuket was far from the bustling tourism hub that we know today.

"The airfield's runway back then was short, and it would take three hours to fly from Bangkok. Most people didn't understand what tourism was, let alone its value or what it would mean for them and future generations," he reminisced.

Eventually, a master tourism plan was drawn up, but despite a bloated drafting budget, the end result was far beyond the capacity of the central government to grasp it.

After a decade of painstaking lobbying efforts to convince the government to support and invest in critical tourism infrastructure, Mr Wichit and the PTA would eventually achieve a major milestone, and before long, small jet planes full of tourists were landing in Phuket twice

a week – on Tuesdays and Thursdays, he recalls. The rest is history. Just like that, drastic change had overcome Phuket, and with it have certainly come some daunting challenges that persist to this day.

A common term echoed throughout Mr Wichit's speech was 'sustainable tourism'. Asked how he defines such a term, Mr Wichit told the *Gazette*: "There are three main factors I consider. First, the environment must not be disturbed. Next, there should not be negative impacts on the community while also having benefits for the community; and finally, the tourists must be happy."

As for "quality tourism", Mr

'We have to cook the food ready-to-eat for the government to choose which dish they like. Otherwise the government may be too busy to cook their own food.'

– *Wichit Na Ranong*

Wichit considers this term intrinsically related to sustainable tourism. "It [quality tourism] doesn't necessarily need to be defined as 'luxury' tourism. Quality tourism means you have a quality environment, a good standard, good value-for-money, a variety and diverse product and selection of activities, quality service people and so forth."

Asked whether he thought sustainable tourism was still possible in Phuket, the tourism icon was reassuring: "It's never too late for anything if the intentions are there... It depends on the stakeholders of Phuket tourism – those who enjoy the benefits of Phuket – and whether they (we) can unite together, and try to work something out with the relevant government agencies, and among ourselves as well. If it's something

that you want to do, it's always possible."

If change was the primary theme of the evening, then patience was the secondary theme. Anybody who has lived and/or done business in Thailand will understand that 'government' and 'quick-results' don't usually go together in the same sentence. However, Mr Wichit remains optimistic about Phuket's forward momentum.

"In the past 30 years, tourism wasn't well known nor understood by most people, but now it is better known and understood, especially in the government, where the benefits of tourism certainly are enjoyed. However, it [Phuket tourism] must be prioritized, and as stakeholders, it is our job to continue to push and insist that the government will give it priority," he stressed.

"That said, I don't think it will take long before we see action, since the government now understands and realizes the value of tourism, a lot more than before. Most of the hard work has been done," he added.

Not only is it important to maintain a consistent effort in convincing the government to prioritize Phuket tourism, Mr Wichit noted that another important factor is luck. "That is if you happen to talk to the 'right' person in the government who understands you well and has a bright vision for the future, then things will take off much quicker. In conclusion, it will come down to both effort and luck."

Asked if he could offer any advice for the current generation of Phuket stakeholders, particularly in their painstaking lobbying efforts, Mr Wichit said: "For the most part, I don't think much has changed in terms of dealing with the government. Still today, it is necessary for



TIME MACHINE: Mr Wichit brought the audience back to a time when Phuket wasn't the bustling tourist destination we know today. Photos: Anthika Muangrod

private operators to show the government the benefits and impacts for our destination. In other words, we have to 'cook the food ready to eat' for the government to 'choose which dish they like'. Otherwise, the government may be too busy to 'cook their own food'."

As for Phuket's tourism future, Mr Wichit urges that we should do everything in our power to keep the industry "in place and try not to disturb or ruin it. Whatever activities or businesses that will come to Phuket in the future will have to be complimentary to the tourism industry. In the future, this island should continue to be a base for service-based activities," he concluded.

Complimenting Mr Wichit's speech and benchmarking efforts in general, Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and AMCHAM Phuket advocate, Bill Barnett said: "The AMCHAM event was a great demonstration of professionals getting together to talk about upscale tourism."

"We usually hear a lot about mass tourism, but tonight we got to reflect on how the Indigo Pearl has repositioned itself in an up-standing manner, to focus on quality over quantity. Khun Wichit has put his money where his mouth is and continues to reinvest in this property, and I think it's a great demonstration of what Phuket is capable of."

Like Mr Wichit, Mr Barnett stresses that 'quality' isn't only about the numbers, but "about the

yields... We often hear about [promoting] tour groups and specific groups of tourists, but if we look at what the Indigo Pearl has done, they've made a smaller hotel and now have less hotel rooms, straying away from the quantity, to focus more on quality by reinvesting, which is an important point – you can't just make an investment and sit on it for the years. In this business, you've got to keep reinventing yourself."

As for Phuket's immediate future, Mr Barnett is optimistic, likewise. "It's encouraging... We're going to see a lot of new and exciting brands this year including the Rosewood in Patong, the Anantara in Layan and others... Phuket certainly continues to reinvent itself in terms of luxury products as there is a lot of pent-up demand for it..."

As for Phuket's challenges, Bill concluded: "Access is clearly a problem of Phuket's distant past. Now we are dealing with an oversupply of tourists coming to the island and are still trying to catch up. Phuket is not alone in this dilemma, however, as in every destination in Asia, the private sector is outpacing the public sector."

– *Phuket Gazette*

See further coverage of this AMCHAM event on this week's *Phuket Today* show, broadcast daily on TrueVisions ch58 and ch99 and on the local cable networks PC, RC and KDTV



AMCHAM advocates John Magee (L) and Bill Barnett (R) thank Wichit Na Ranong for his awe-inspiring speech.

Last supper at hell's kitchen



Last Call

By Bill Barnett

WHEN Hollywood gets on a roll you can expect the dream weavers to drive a good idea right into the ground. We are not talking about *Driving Miss Daisy*, but more of a full-throttle, head-on collision with no survivors. Only the charred ruins of a good idea are left smoldering for the CSI team to analyze.

Even the once interesting and inquisitive CSI jumped the shark long ago as they say in tinsel town. For those not familiar with the saying, it is tantamount to being the last one left at a painfully boring party.

Over the past several years, cooking shows have gained rising-star status, with manifold variations on the theme including: Master Chef, Hell's Kitchen, Yes Chef and Top Chef. The viewers, who probably don't even know how to boil an egg, sit fixated week after mindless bloody week, contributing to the inexplicable rock star status that these men and women in white have now attained.

I'm not immune to this. I stand before you, guilty as charged, as a man whose culinary skills peak at the level of cooking toast. Eggs? Forget it – there will be blood. I can open cans, unwrap wrapped food and skillfully order in

restaurants, but as a general rule, I'm best kept away from the kitchen. Which brings us to a disturbing food trend, the subject being "Fru Fru".

This year alone, my dining experiences have been shot, wounded, and now practically vivisected by this trend where form has seemingly become more important than function. The latter means tasty well prepared food that makes you sigh with glowing satisfaction. This is what separates humans from monkeys. They are happy enough to grind their lives away on bananas.

So often, this aimless stacking of food has way-laid my food fantasies. If I wanted a club sandwich, I'd have ordered it! How dare you desecrate my juicy rib-eye steak with artful green mash, or anything artisan come to that!

From now on, anyone caught using the words artisan or sun-dried will be hit in the face. Again, there might be blood.

"Fru Fru" extends well past stacking, we now have food on spoons. Mostly, these spoons are intended for Chinese congee, not some smallish morsel of mystery meat that keeps you guessing. Worst of all is the use of stacking on spoons.

I'm not sure what happened to soup, if anyone knows, please email me. We now have to put up with purees, cappuccinos and



HUNGRY AS HELL: Dining out these days can become a hellish experience when chefs go over the top in presenting their dishes and style becomes more important than substance. Photo: Nomadic Lass



Beware the next waiter that serves my steak with an artful green mash. Photo: xJason.Rogersx

other noxious liquids, often served in shot glasses or accompanied by straws. I might be sipping my soup with a straw later in life, but for now make it in a bowl with a spoon. And not a stacked spoon either.

Moving to bread. Again this becomes a complex task with dips, whips, oils or infused liquids, which fail to create any appetite in my overloaded psyche. Hand me a bread-stick and just go away please.

Maybe my tastes are pedestrian but for God's sake leave my meat alone on the plate. No "Fru Fru" dressings, sides, stacking or hieroglyphic patterns on the show plate. Show me the food, not your frustrated loop de loops.

But as we all know, this too will pass. Retro or not. A quick note



Just use the plate, it's right there! Photo: Jenny Dowling

for anyone who decides to become a chef: it's about as much fun as jockeying a camel across the Sahara. It's hot, very hot which could explain Gordon Ramsey's tenure in hell.

It's been said that we are what we eat and if that is correct, then what a pathetic lot of confused,

neurotic individuals we are as we crowd into these trendy eateries. Have I missed some crimes against food? Yes of course, I might have tossed in "molecular cooking" which has now relegated good food to the same category as test tube babies and mutant turtles.

It's hard to dismiss the growing interest in good food, this is one of life's delights and to those monkeys in the back, you don't know what you are missing.

But please just keep it simple and tasty, and if you want to go "Fru Fru" – go get a dress for yourself after closing hours.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hotelworks. He can be contacted through: C9hotelworks.com

Comedy gold: The best one-liners

RESEARCHERS from British survey site 2Brewarded.co.uk recently compiled 180 popular online jokes and asked 6,000 adults to vote for the funniest. Here are the top 25.

1. I met a Dutch girl with inflatable shoes last week, phoned her up to arrange a date but unfortunately she'd popped her clogs – **Peter Kay**

2. Police arrested two kids yesterday, one was drinking battery acid, the other was eating fireworks. They charged one and let the other one off – **Tommy Cooper**

3. Apparently, one in five people in the world are Chinese. And there are five people in my family, so it must be one of them. It's either my mum or my dad. Or my older brother, Colin. Or my younger brother, Ho-Chan-Chu. But I think it's Colin – **Tommy Cooper**

4. I went to a restaurant that serves 'break-fast at any time'. So I ordered French Toast during the Renaissance – **Peter Kay**

5. We are in the stickiest situation since sticky the stick insect got stuck on a sticky bun – **Rowan Atkinson**

6. I can hear music coming out of my printer. I think the paper's jammin' again – **Unknown Origin**



Rowan Atkinson. Photo: Antonio Zugaldia

7. I believe in equality. Equality for everybody. No matter how stupid they are or how superior I am to them – **Steve Martin**

8. You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen. It said: 'Parking Fine.' So that was nice – **Tim Vine**

9. 20 years ago we had Johnny Cash, Bob Hope and Steve Jobs. Now we have no Cash, no Hope and no Jobs. Please don't let

Kevin Bacon die – **Bill Murray**

10. Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect - Benny Hill

11. Two airdals meet on a roof - fall in love - get married. The ceremony was rubbish, but the reception was brilliant – **Tommy Cooper**

12. I had a ploughman's lunch the other day. He wasn't very happy – **Tommy Cooper**

13. I hate when new parents ask who the baby looks like. It was born 15 minutes ago, it looks like a potato – **Will Ferrell**

14. Money doesn't buy happiness? Well it does buy a jet ski. Have you ever seen a sad person on a jet ski? Yeah, I thought so – **Unknown Origin**

15. Bob Geldof...no wonder he's such an expert on famine, he has been dining out on I Don't Like Mondays for thirty years – **Russell Brand**

16. I saw a fat person wearing a sweatshirt with 'Guess' on it. I said 'Thyroid problem?' – **Peter Kay**

17. My wife and I both made a list of five people we could sleep with. She read hers out and there were no surprises...1 George Clooney...2 Brad Pitt etc...I thought 'I've got the better deal here'...1 Your sister – **Michael McIntyre**

18. I'm a post-modern vegetarian: I eat meat - ironically – **Bill Bailey**

19. I went to buy some camouflage trousers the other day but I couldn't find any – **Tommy Cooper**

20. Last night, me and my girlfriend watched three DVDs back to back. Luckily, I was the one facing the telly – **Tim Vine**

21. I hate when I'm on the treadmill and my hand accidentally hits the stop button and I have to get off and eat a bacon grilled cheese sandwich – **Unknown Origin**

22. I went into a French restaurant and asked the waiter, 'Have you got frog's legs?' He said, 'Yes,' so I said, 'Well hop into the kitchen and get me a cheese sandwich' – **Tommy Cooper**

23. I bought one of those anti-bullying wristbands when they first came out. I say 'bought' - I actually stole it off a short, fat ginger kid – **Jack Whitehall**

24. Vegetarians, if you love animals so much then why do you keep eating all their food? – **Unknown Origin**

25. How do you know when you're too drunk to drive? When you swerve to miss a tree then realize it was your air freshener – **Kevin Hart**



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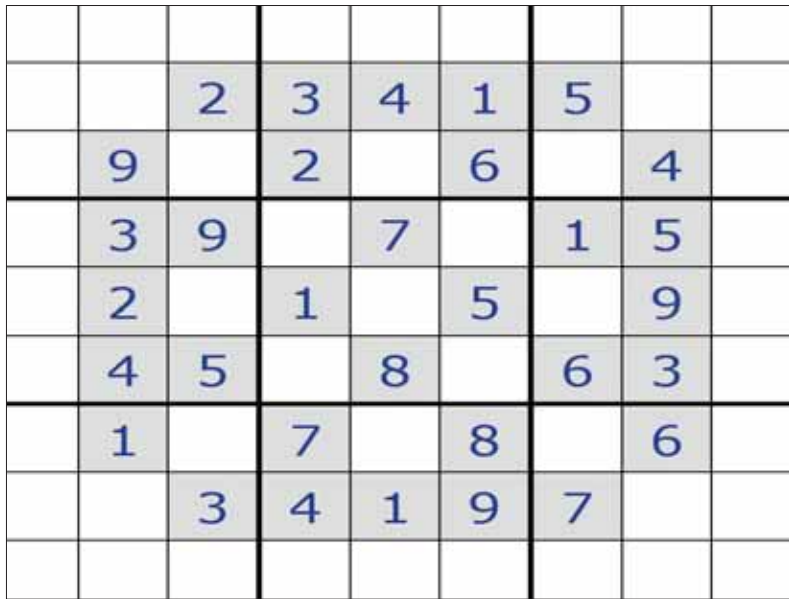
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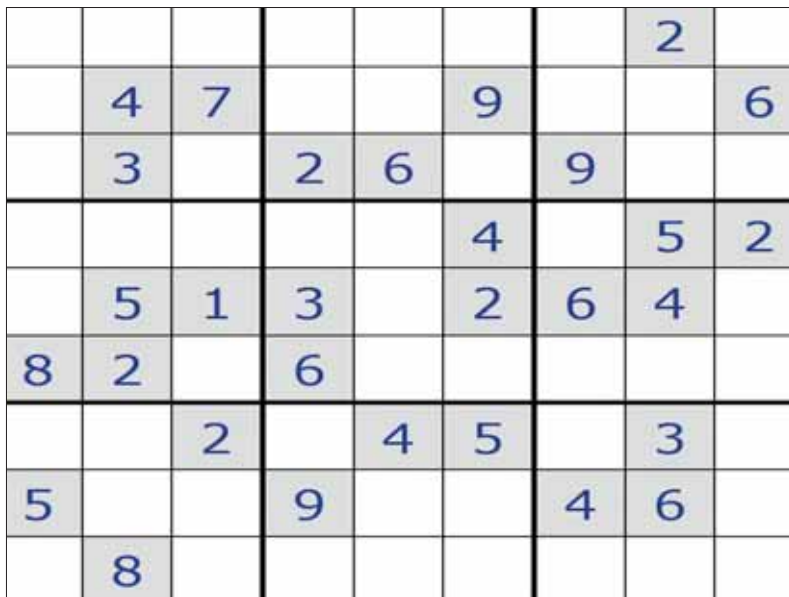
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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)



Your weekly pith:

"The nice thing about meditation is that it makes doing nothing quite respectable."

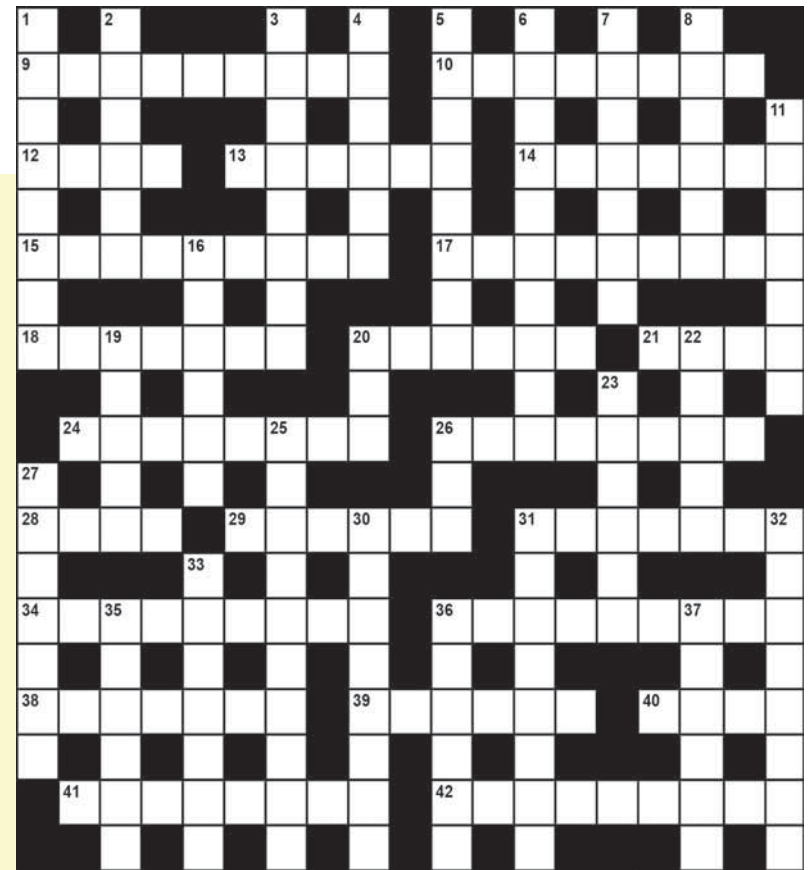
— Paul Dean

This quote was taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

COFFEE break

Across:

9. Doubt scion is up to no good (9)
10. Lo! No port open to a base coward (8)
12. Turn! Park! Back! No! On top! (4)
13. Inert, I become much smaller (6)
14. Choked, out East? Good luck in Thailand! (4,3)
15. Line I can't change in fold in the strata (9)
17. Hut nearly destroyed, that's bizarre! (9)
18. Delight in relation having no right! (7)
20. Cripes! Convoluted summary! (6)
21. Bird may be new around river (4)
24. Laid it on indiscriminately for expansion (8)
26. Give neat elucidation for refusal of assent (8)
28. Unlocked, nothing shut in (4)
29. Fly around one, right, leading on (6)
31. Provisional remit in the making (7)
34. Recouped concerning medical error (9)
36. Assimilation in doing site work (9)
38. Noisy night on a Phuket beach (3,4)
39. Like a night bird, his low activity (6)
40. Peas cooked for primates (4)
41. Called names possibly unlisted (8)
42. Taken right maybe are sure of financial officer (9)



Down:

1. Laces out, out to kiss (8)
2. Corset around companion! (6)
3. Daughter I sight in military unit (8)
4. Note new rite change complete (6)
5. Opening in a saucy turn about (8)
6. Wavering, fling around one hundred thousand note, right? (10)
7. More air circulating in the wardrobe (7)
8. In what way had up in a carriage carried on a big animal (6)
11. Counting on right echo telling stories (7)
16. One hundred and fifty one, man, the culmination (6)
19. Ale around four is living! (5)
20. Strongly criticize camera movement (3)
22. Wander, river pirate (5)
23. Clearly expresses US! (6)
25. Light up, sick maybe a minute after (10)
26. North America unknown for no vote! (3)
27. Violent flow to river rip (7)
30. Communists hide timber from big trees (8)
31. Absorbed in seeding possibly. About time! (8)
32. Short skirts test the priesthood (8)
33. But turn up after changing Baht for a receptacle to wash in (4,3)
35. Left maybe one cent out for the customer (6)
36. Blow up detail differently (6)
37. Mixed up with something I am clean (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The second half of September is a time when Virgoans will need to pick up the pace – if you can prove yourself in the world of work, the future looks promising. Personal matters bring happiness this weekend, with focus on being reunited with old friends. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead are predicted to be more secure in romantic relationships during the coming year. Number seven attracts good luck this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Astral influences encourage Librans to ignore interference from others this week. There are signs that fire signs in particular will try to tell you what to do and how to do it. Generosity from a family member is highlighted to help you see this person in a different light. In the realm of romance, misunderstandings are laid to rest this weekend. Your lucky number this week is five.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

It can be hard finding the right gear during the days ahead and Scorpios are advised to avoid wasting energy by coasting along. The second half of September is an auspicious time to share your hopes and dreams.

Where romance is concerned, a fire sign is waiting to hear how you really feel. Finances are well-starred, but timing is important if you are poised to make new investments. Number eight can be fortunate this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Those born under the sign of Sagittarius who are trying to budget their finances better may have to deal with pressure from friends this week. The stars advise sticking to your new found principles. Affairs of the heart are subject to unbalanced cosmic conditions. Where a relationship with another fire sign is concerned, your feelings are compromised by this person's past connections. Number three appears important this week for Sagittarians.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Capricorns continue to breeze through September, with emphasis on being able to persuade people to see things from your point of view. This should affect your chances in business or at work positively – creating the chance to earn more money is highlighted before the end of the month. The stars indicate that a pleasant surprise is in store where romance is concerned. The number nine has good luck written on it this week.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Aquarians' special talents for being resourceful come in useful this week. The stars suggest that you will navigate the way out of a difficult situation at work while others are still scratching their heads. On the home front, a partner's enthusiasm for redecoration is contagious this weekend and clearing out unwanted items helps fresh energy to flow. Romance sparkles on Monday and Tuesday. Number eight stands out this week.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

You may need a little help from friends and colleagues to accomplish everything around the middle of the month. There are hints that unforeseen circumstances can make this a busy few days, with focus on a work project demanding more hours of your time than expected. In the realm of romance, something you hear this weekend can affect your feelings about an earth sign. Your lucky number this week is seven.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

The tide is about to turn for Arians and this should bring calmer days during the second half of September. Those who have been uncertain about how to approach someone who owes them money find the right words. The stars suggest that Monday is the most auspicious day to have this conversation. Your romantic outlook is sunny – an air sign's interest could be what you have been waiting for. Number one is fortunate this week.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

The second half of September is an ideal time to keep a low profile for those who are saving for something special. The stars suggest that being out and about too much can lead to overspending, with a water sign's influence being hard to resist. In the realm of romance, information received this weekend can cause commitment to be delayed. Number two is highlighted to be lucky for Taureans this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Easy answers and quick fixes can be tempting, but they may not be the best ones this week. The stars recommend taking time out to think things through before leaping into action. This is

especially relevant where financial issues are concerned. In the realm of romance, those who are ready for a more serious relationship with another air sign are persuaded to wait a while longer. Gemini's lucky number this week is three.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Sticking to your principles may take effort, but the stars suggest that Cancerians will command more respect by doing so. Events at work during the coming days are forecast to disturb the peace, but allowing others to have the final word is not the right solution. Younger family members can need reminding of ground rules over the weekend. The stars show that number four can bring good luck this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Worrying too much about what the future might bring will only stress Leos out. The astral atmosphere encourages uncertainty around the middle of September, and your best approach is to go with the flow. Although tolerance can be tested at work midweek, the stars indicate that the outcome of a changing situation will bring benefit to all concerned. Finances are auspicious on Sunday and Monday. Your lucky number this week is six.

Game, set, match to Nadal

By Patrick Campbell

A CROWD of 23,000 vociferous spectators packed into the Arthur Ashe Stadium witnessed a titanic final between the world number one Novak Djokovic and his heir apparent, Rafael Nadal. After three hours and 21 minutes, Nadal triumphed in four sets (6-2 3-6 6-4 6-1). The score line belies the extraordinary quality of the tennis, with both players hitting with great speed and accuracy off the ground. There were many protracted rallies, one a record 54 shots.

In a match expected to be dominated by Nadal's bludgeoning top-spin forehand and Djokovic's rapier-like backhand, it was the Serb's forehand that amassed the most winners.

Alas, not enough against the unyielding defense of the Spaniard's sliced backhand which constantly brought him back into rallies he seemed to have lost.

Djokovic's best chance came in the third set when, level at 3-3, he had chances to break and take the momentum away from Nadal. At 4-4, he had three more opportunities, but the Majorcan surged back remorselessly to claim the set. Too much for Djokovic whose self-belief ebbed away in a one-sided final set. Afterwards, Nadal said: "Playing against Novak is always a special feeling and nobody brings my game to the limit like he does."

The pair have now met 37 times and dominated the last 15 slams in a rivalry that now surpasses that of Lendl and McEnroe. Nadal, seeded second, had a 21-0 record on hard courts this year, but had not won at Flushing Meadow since 2010. Who would bet against him now?

If Djokovic versus Nadal was most people's choice for the Monday shoot-out, there were surprises in the earlier rounds. The men's game now boasts so many world class players that even lowly ranked ones can sometimes conjure up the unexpected. Englishman Dan Evans was a case in point. A qualifier ranked outside the top 200, he beat both the 11th seed Kei Nishikori and Bernard Tomic, ranked 52, before falling in four sets to Spaniard Tommy Robredo. But the sensation of the tournament was Stanilas Wawrinka. Long in the shadow of his compatriot, Roger Federer, he not only disposed of heavy-hitting Tomas Berdych, but then put Andy Murray, defending his US title, to the sword. Hitting the ball with great power and accuracy (he actually hit the lines more than twenty times), he demolished the Scot in straight sets. He then went on to lead Djokovic by two sets to one before running out of steam.

Less than impressive all tournament, a petulant Murray has yet to iron out technical weaknesses



Rafael Nadal of Spain bites his trophy after defeating Novak Djokovic of Serbia in their men's final match at the U.S. Open tennis championships in New York. Photo: Reuters/Eduardo Munoz

in his game – a pedestrian second serve and a worrying inability to dominate rallies. Without being specific, Boris Becker declared: "He needs to set himself new goals, find new reasons to work harder and play better."

Serena Williams, the hottest favorite for years, duly won her 5th US Open by 7-5 6-7[6-8] 6-1. However, as the score line indicates, she did not have things all her own way. She had to overcome both a feisty opponent in Victoria Azarenka and a distracting wind that not only played havoc with her ball toss but also

with her pink mini-skirt. As home favorite Williams declared: "Vika's such a great opponent such a great fighter and that's why she has been able to win multiple Grand Slams." A generous tribute, but in truth, Williams, although nearing 32, is head and shoulders above anyone else in the women's game. Always powerful, she has added mental toughness and greater consistency.

The match looked dead and buried when Serena led 4-1 in the second set, but the Belorussian dug deep to stave off the specter of defeat. Again at 6-5, Williams

served for victory, but uncharacteristically missed two backhands and then double faulted. Having narrowly lost the tie-break, she cantered through the third set to complete victory in a little over two hours. Azarenka was philosophical in defeat: "it's a tough loss...but the best player deserves to win today," adding "I gave it [my] all."

The tournament saw the demise of three former champions: The Bryan twins in the men's doubles, the Williams sisters in the women's pairs, and Roger Federer, the greatest player of the modern era.

US seals World Cup entry by thumping Mexico

THE United States qualified for the World Cup finals in Brazil after second half goals from Eddie Johnson and Landon Donovan gave them a 2-0 home win over Mexico on Tuesday.

With Honduras drawing 2-2 with Panama and Costa Rica held to a 1-1 draw in Jamaica, the Americans stand on top of the CONCACAF standings on 16 points with two games remaining.

Costa Rica, who also qualified on Tuesday, are on 15 points with Honduras on 11 points still fighting for the third automatic

qualification spot.

The defeat leaves Mexico deep in trouble though - they are in fifth place, level on eight points with fourth-placed Panama and with only a slim chance of making third place.

"El Tri", who started qualification as clear favourites to top the group, still have plenty of work ahead to even get the fourth spot and get a shot at Brazil via a playoff with Oceania winners New Zealand. The Americans had to wait for almost an hour after the game to know their spot in Brazil was secure -

needing Honduras to pick up at least a point.

While players sat in the changing room watching the late game on television, hundreds of fans stayed in the stadium hoping to celebrate qualification and were rewarded with the U.S. team returning to the field to complete a lap of honor.

"This is a huge achievement for all of us," coach Juergen Klinsmann told reporters.

"We can all be extremely proud of this team who gave everything. It's a huge milestone whenever you make it to the World Cup, the biggest competition in this sport, especially hosted in Brazil, one of the biggest football nations.

"It means a lot to all of us. To our fans and to this country as well," said the German, who took charge of the team in 2011.

For Mexico, the defeat to their biggest rival was a painful one on several levels.

"I don't know what to tell you, we're in debt with the people and very ashamed," midfielder Christian Gimenez told Mexico's TV Azteca.

Mexico coach Luis Fernando Tena, taking charge for the first time following the firing of Jose

Manuel de la Torre on Saturday, recalled Andres Guardado and Javier Hernandez to the starting line-up and their impact was felt early.

With Giovanni dos Santos and Guardado stretching the US defence, Argentine-born playmaker Gimenez found plenty of space and forced Tim Howard into a fine diving save in the 19th minute.

Moments later, Gimenez fired a free-kick just over the bar as Mexico took the game to the Americans.

Mexico keeper Jose Corona did

well to block a diving header from Johnson from a rare US attack but the danger was still coming from the visitors.

The noisy 24,584 capacity crowd at the compact Crew stadium sensed victory was within reach and that confidence appeared shared by their team, who began to dominate the midfield.

Clint Dempsey's awful penalty in the final seconds, after he had been fouled in the box, barely went noticed by the celebrating fans, who can now start planning their trips to Brazil. – Reuters



United States' midfielder Clint Dempsey (8) takes the ball past Mexico's Diego Reyes (4) and Hector Moreno (15). Photo: Reuters/Matt Sullivan

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Sport

Superkidz power through

THE SUPERKIDZ Junior Tennis Cup took place last weekend, September 7-8, at Thanyapura Sports and Leisure Club, with many young players performing well and honing their tennis skills.

Many new junior players joined in the event and there turned out a few champions and runners up amongst the new comers.

There will be three more tennis junior tournaments for the SUPERKIDZ TENNIS series coming up in the next two months. These are:

- Chang LTAT junior championship, Southern Zone # 7 on Sep 14-15
- SUPERKIDZ Tennis Cup # 3 on Oct 6
- Yonex Junior Championship, Oct 12-13.

For those interested in playing, please send your inquiries to: tslc@thanyapura.com or apply at the club's activities desk. For more information call 076 336 000 ext. 5055.

Three overall leading score juniors of SUPERKIDZ Tennis:

- 1: Tinnapat Tientawach (17 points),
- 2: Lerdchai Ronnarong (15 points)
- 3: Thanrada Totarat (12 point)

Winners and runners up, pictured right:

Girl under 8: Jomkwan Vettayawaikoon (Champion), Amalie Sofie Jansen (runners up)

Girl under 12: Thanrada Totarat (Champion), Sophia Netboot (runners up)

Girls 14-18: Jade sharp (Champion)

Boy under 8: Tinnapat Tientawach (Champion), Massimo Seminatore (runner up)

Boy under 10: Lerdchai Ronnarong (Champion), Sirivit Puangjundang (runner up)

Boy under 12: James Van Herzele (Champion), Tapat Paevagoonakul (runner up)

Boys 14-18: Raphiphat Phuntong (runner up)



Village cruise in, Laguna makes comeback

By Stuart Reading

IN ROUND 9 of the Outrigger T20 league, Phuket Youth took on the Village in the morning session, while Laguna faced ICC in the afternoon session on Sunday, September 8 at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

During the day, respects were paid to Tristen Sanchez Sheridan (a member of the Youth team who tragically passed away during the week). In match 1, the Village team amassed a total of 218-5 from their 20 overs to comfortably run out winners against the Youth side who could only manage 78-7 in reply. In match 2, the ICC set a solid total of 141-4, but Laguna secured a much needed confidence boosting win, reaching their target of 142-1.

In the morning match, the Village team were put into bat and amassed the highest innings total

this T20 season with all of the top-order firing. Openers Roshan Jayasuriya (43) and Dan Taylor (54) set the scene with an 89 run partnership in just 7.3 overs. Martin Platts (36) and Taylor then combined to take the score to 119-2 at the 10 over drinks break. Platts and Simon Wetherell (37) then put on a further 65 runs before Platts fell in the 17th over. By the end of their 20 overs, the Village had reached 218-5.

With what seemed an impossible task, the Youth side lost opener Best (4) in the 3rd over with the score on 15. Only fellow opener Charlee (13) and captain Pao (17) managed to reach double figures while the rest of the Youth batting line up failed to trouble the scorers. The Village managed to wrap up the innings in the 17th over when the Youth innings ran



A nicely judged catch by Shoeib Mustaq (Laguna), ends the 66 run innings of Shah Hidetullah. Photo: Michael Way

out of steam with only 78-7.

In the afternoon match, after winning the toss, ICC decided to bat and continue their good recent form after already securing a semi-final berth. They got off to a strong start with openers Deepak Mehra (16) and Shah Ullah (66) putting on a 57 run partnership until Mehra fell after being found out of his crease and stumped by keeper Damian Clowes shortly before the 10 over drinks break. Big hitting Ali Khan (2) failed to make an impact. Arif Mushtaq (10) and Ullah put on a further 41 runs before Mushtaq fell in the 16th over with the score on 105. Ullah then combined with Iqbal Malik (12) to take the score along to 141-4 by the end of 20 overs.

Laguna coming off the back of one of their worst losing streaks, were looking to get off to a solid start. After losing opener Shoeib

Mushtaq (6) in the 4th over, was another batting collapse on the cards? Not according to Damian Clowes (65 not out) and Manish Sadarangani (56 not out), who together played wonderfully composed innings to guide their side to a much needed confidence boosting victory reaching their target of 142-1 in 19.1 overs.

The league table sees the Village so far undefeated, while ICC remains in second place ahead Laguna who have now secured third, while Youth and Patong battle it out in the final round for 4 spot to assure a semi-final berth.

The final round of the Outrigger T20 league will take place on September 15 with Laguna taking on the Village in match # 1, while Patong take on the Youth side in match # 2. Play commences at 10:00 am.

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Set sail for fun at Phuket Youth Week

THE Phuket Youth Sailing Club will host its annual Phuket Youth Week from the October 21 to 26.

Phuket Youth Week offers young people the opportunity to learn to sail and hone crucial skills in the sport, including starting, finishing techniques, mark rounding, boat speed and general tactical skills essential to racing.

The week will finish with a two-day Regatta with divisions for the Optimist, Topper, Topaz and Laser classes. Prizes will be awarded under two categories one for beginners new to racing, the "Green Fleet" and another for advanced sailors, the "Racing Fleet". The two-day Regatta is also open to all



Youth Club kids sailing a Topaz class boat.

other sailors wishing to join us.

Every Sunday is an Open Day at the club so come along, join in the fun and find out how you can get involved in our dinghy sailing program and Phuket Youth Week.

The club uses a range of boats including Optimist, Topper, Topaz, Laser and Beach Cats and has qualified English and Thai speaking instructors to show you the ropes.

Training will be offered through

Topper Sail Phuket, RYA Training School and Thai National Coaches.

They also have kayaks, SUPs and a great sandy beach for swimming so there's something for all the family.

The club is also open every weekend offering recreational sailing, club racing, sailing courses and supervised boat rental for adults and juniors. Every month a family day barbeque is held or you can order Thai food from the club restaurant. Please park on the main road and walk down to the beach.

For any enquiries please contact us at phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com or for directions please visit the club website: phuketsailingclub.org

Fighting for greater good

By Shela Riva

OVER 600 spectators gathered around SINBI Muay Thai's boxing ring in Rawai last Saturday night to watch a series of ten fights between participants ranging from six to over 30 years old. The gym's Fight Night event raised 110,000 baht through numerous donations and ticket sales. A total of 140 premium tickets were sold to tourists and 480 to Thai locals – the profits will be donated to an injured boxer.

Chalam Kao, or "White Shark", once a Lumpinee Muay Thai champion is now paralyzed and partially blind after being hit by cars twice on two separate occasions. His inability to continue fighting has raised the issue of financial debts among countless other burdens. Sinbi's marketing

manager, David Pritchard, told *the Gazette*, "We are trying to surprise [Chalam Kao] by raising money to help out with his debts and daily life. In total the amount we will



110,000 baht was collected that night.

donate is 110,000 baht, which will be donated on the 22nd of this month when [Somchai Bimad, owner of Sinbi Muay Thai gym] will visit his hometown alongside Muay Thai Raiwan TV Show".

The success of the event was largely accredited to the Thai media as well as social media.

"I made a video to inform people about Chalam Kao and the Thai media heavily talked about the event, which I'm guessing is why so many Thai people turned up," Mr Pritchard said.

Some quality seat-grIPPING fights took place, with fighters' experience ranging from first-timers to those bearing hundreds of fights under their belts. A 40,000 baht prize was given to the female winner, Dam Wan, and 60,000 baht to the men's competition winner, Saengkeng.

The experience wasn't limited to the fighters of the night: with the audience consisting of boxer Saenchai, currently rated the best Muay Thai fighter in the world, as well as Pot Bunpot, listed as among the best Lumpinee fighters in history and currently a renowned trainer. Mr Bunpot's six-year-old son, Nut, fought for the first time



Nut, son of Pot Bunpot, Lumpinee legend, before a fight. Photos: David Pritchard

as the opening fight – fittingly symbolic to the unwavering heart of Muay Thai culture in Thailand, with the igniting of passion in a new generation bringing some renewal to a cause originated from tragedy. "The turnout of this event

exceeded my expectations," Mr Pritchard told *the Gazette*. "Although each time we do an event, they seem to get bigger."

The event was Sinbi's sixth charity event since the gym opened seven years ago.

Laguna Triathlon, Challenge and more

THIS year's Laguna Phuket Triathlon (LPT) will celebrate its 20th Anniversary while welcoming inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket (CLP) to its iconic multi-sports week-long event Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2013

The enduring appeal of Laguna Phuket Triathlon and the unique challenges of Challenge Laguna Phuket are attracting entries from leading international pro athlete personalities, as well as age groupers worldwide.

With the event less than three months away, the excitement is growing by day. To date, a combined 1,500 athletes have signed up for the two main races, the 20th anniversary Laguna Phuket Triathlon on November 24 and the Challenge Laguna Phuket on December 1.

In the Challenge Laguna Phuket, 2012 Champion Melissa Hauschildt of Australia has registered to return to defend her title. She's set to face strong challenges from a field that will

include Vodickova and Granger, who finished second and third respectively last year. Hauschildt said: "I can't wait to come back to Laguna Phuket to defend my title – it has the most unique course, amazing location and friendliest crew I've come across in my triathlon career."

"The swim starts in the beautiful ocean and finishes in a lagoon with a small run in between; the steep hills and descents make for a very interesting bike course on the roads of Phuket; and the run course never has a dull moment, weaving through the scenic Laguna Phuket, along the beach, and around the wedding chapel. It's definitely a must-do race!"

LPT and Challenge Laguna Phuket are once again set to see high-calibre fields of elite men's pros taking on their tropical challenges. Reigning World Champion Pete "PJ" Jacobs has confirmed he will race the inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket half distance triathlon on

December 1 setting up an intriguing contest with fellow Australian Chris Macca McCormack, the defending title-holder, two-time World Champion, and Challenge Ambassador, for a slice of the races 25,000 Euro prize purse.

Italians Massimo Cigana and Alberto Casadei will try to make an impression on the two Australian champions in a field that also features Laguna Phuket Triathlon 2012 champion Ruedi Wild from Switzerland.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, visit challengelagunaphuket.com

To register for 20th Anniversary Laguna Phuket Triathlon visit challengelagunaphuket.com/tri-fest-races/laguna-phuket-triathlon/

To register for inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket, visit challengelagunaphuket.com/tri-fest-races/challenge-laguna-phuket/



1,500 athletes have signed up for the two main races Photos: Supplied



Spectators should brace for a unique sport experience.



The steep hills and descents make for a very interesting bike course on the roads of Phuket.

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TSLC sporting tips

Functional Movement Screen

HOW many of you have heard the term 'Functional Movement Screen or Movement Analysis'?

Over the last 5-8 years these terms have become very popular in the fitness and training world but yet so few people know what they are or understand how they relate to their own training programs.

The most common functional movement screen is actually called the FMS and was designed by two physiotherapists in the USA.



It consists of seven exercises and you are scored based on how well you execute the movement. From these movements, potential injury risk can be assessed and corrective exercises prescribed to help get your body moving correctly. At an Olympic level, most high performance coaches have their own movement analysis based on the demands of the sport they are working with or the athlete they are working with and these are usually much more in-depth – with anywhere from 8 to 20 movements evaluated.

So why so much emphasis on movement? Because research strongly shows that movement will always supersede a physiological response. What I mean by that is if I told you to do 10 squats and on number 7 your movement patterned changed, that is where we will stop.

I will not let you go to number 8 because then your body will start

to compensate and when you compensate and create a muscle imbalance across a joint, you become much more susceptible to injuries and your movements are not as efficient when you are performing your sport or training session.

And like results, injuries do not happen right away they happen over time.

Imagine 3 to 4 years of training and all the while you were doing squats or box jumps incorrectly, the amount of damage that that could potentially do to your knee, hips, or back could have an everlasting effect on your life.

Remember it is not about the weight you lift or the quantity you do, but rather the quality of training that will allow you to see those improvements!

Tip by Thanyapura's Operation Manager, Brian Finniss. Email: tslc@thanyapura.com

Triathlon tips: Why swimming alone just doesn't cut it

DID you ever wonder why almost every world class swimmer is training in a squad as a team? Were you ever amazed by the beautiful technique and discipline once you had a chance to observe an elite swim team?

The answer is simple: They are beyond just swimming up and down in a pool and you can become the same.

A well structured swim session includes different aspects: stroke correction, learning different strokes (fly, back, breast, free), working on a strong kick, better "Feel" for the water, getting more stream-

lined to reduce drag, improving your aerobic and anaerobic fitness by swimming programs with proper rest and different speeds, better motivation by swimming in a group including Triathlon specific aspects (if you're a triathlete)

Thanyapura offers group sessions for adult swimmer and triathletes from beginner to professional.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am and Tuesday, Thursday at 10am.

On Saturday 4pm we offer a "Zack Attack" swim which includes triathlon specific aspects like mass start and

drafting situations.

It helps a lot to use the momentum of a group and get the guidance by an experienced coach.

You might have a chance to observe world class swim squads as the Dutch or Singaporean National Team as well.

Going back and forth on your own without improvement doesn't do it!

Tip by Thanyapura's Triathlon Senior Head Coach, Jurgen Zack Email: triathlon@thanyapura.com For more information about a session and swimming faster visit thanyapura.com



MEN JUNIOR BODYBUILDING OPEN

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Suwitcha Jantarassongkram	D-Workout Gym	1
Mr. Thanawat Wessapan	Sriracha Gym	2
Mr. Witsanu Muangjal	Payao Bodybuilding Club	3

MEN BODYBUILDING 65 KG

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Wichian Jaemjamrad	Chanthaburi Bodybuilding Club	1
Mr. Supachai Somboon	Payao Bodybuilding Club	2
Mr. Panon Onnim	Chanthaburi Bodybuilding Club	3

MEN BODYBUILDING 70 KG

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Chula Tongriam	Fitwhey Gym	1
Mr. Somsri Turintaisong	Nonthaburi Bodybuilding Club	2
Mr. Phuranasiri Panwong	Payao Bodybuilding Club	3

MEN BODYBUILDING 80 KG

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Jagkawat Janrangsri	Fitwhey Gym	1
Mr. Khuntarn Puangpetch	Muscletech Thailand	2
Mr. Suwitcha Jantarassongkram	D-Workout Gym	3

MEN BODYBUILDING 80+ KG

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Surachal Plang-lam	Fitwhey Gym	1
Mr. Panupong Prateep	Chiang Mai Gym	2
Mr. Sawaeng Panapoe	TC Sport Gym	3

MEN ATHLETIC PHYSIQUE 170 KG

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Worapon Tantimanakij	Nonthaburi Bodybuilding Club	1
Mr. Natthakarn Pinno	Nonthaburi Bodybuilding Club	2
Mr. Sarawut Uan-in	Kata Rock Gym	3

MEN ATHLETIC PHYSIQUE 170+ KG

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Pongpat Akaradechthananan	Phuket Bodybuilding Club	1
Mr. Thanongsak Tinkohyao	Muscletech Thailand	2
Mr. Anas Phumisuk	Muscletech Thailand	3

MEN MODEL PHYSIQUE 170 CM

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Jirawat Trakoonma	Balance Gym	1
Mr. Somsak Talkong	Surakul Gym	2
Mr. Sila Rattanalertwarakul	Phuket Bodybuilding Club	3

MEDEL PHYSIQUE 170+ CM

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Pornpaisarn Ruangsangpen	Muscletech Thailand	1
Mr. Athip Anantawan	Power Gym	2
Mr. Jessada Saruetsuk	Smart Gym Fitness Phuket	3

WOMEN MEDEL PHYSIQUE OPEN

Name	GYM	Placing
Ms. Nontanassada Ammart	Balance Gym	1
Ms. Gewalin Grant	Muscletech	2
Ms. Tirada Kakuen	Nonthaburi Bodybuilding Club	3

MEN FOREIGNER BODYBUILDING OPEN

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Hashem Agahianzabi	Nai Ham Gym	1
Mr. Peyman Sadeghipari	Nai Ham Gym	2
Mr. Stavros Papadopoulos		3

POPULAR VOTE

Name	GYM	Placing
Mr. Athip Anantawan	Power Gym	

Phuket hooked by Marlins



PHOTO FINISH. Nlome Berlin makes fun after scoring his 2nd goal. Photo: Sri Racha Media

By Steven Layne

EVERY season since getting promoted to the Yamaha League One (YL1), Phuket FC has had a devastating off-day; in the 2011 season, it was their 7-0 away-loss to Buriram; last year, it happened twice on the road – in their 6-0 loss to PTT Rayong and 5-1 loss to Saraburi.

Last Saturday, the Islanders experienced another such day – losing on the road to a lower-ranked Si Racha FC, 5-1; it was the biggest blowout Phuket had suffered all season, so far.

Opening the goal fest for Si Racha in the 23rd minute was Belgian national Nlome Berlin, who also scored his side's fifth and final goal in the 85th minute to bag his 13th and 14th of the season.

Also scoring two goals for the Blue Marlins, Montenegrin Ivan Boskovic netted the ball in the 29th and 72nd minutes

for his 3rd and 4th of the season.

The Blue Marlins' other goal came from Pradipat Armatanpri on 80 minutes.

It looked to be a shutout, but Phuket's Ludovick Takam scored a consolation goal in the final moments of injury time.

It should also be noted that Phuket were left to play much of the second half with a man disadvantage, after their key Brazilian striker Luiz "Dudu" Purcino was sent off for picking up his second yellow card less than 10 minutes into the second half.

The ejection ended up costing the Islanders three more goals and thus any momentum for a comeback. Phuket fell into 8th place as a result, while Si Racha climbed up into 12th.

Phuket FC's next match is away against 17th placed Rayong FC on September 14. The Islanders will then return home to host Trat FC on September 21, before they conclude the month with a high-stakes away-match in Krabi on September 28.

Lady Elephants downed by Rising Sun

THAILAND fought hard with hosts Japan but found the world No 3 too strong and went down 25-23 25-21 25-10 in their last encounter in Pool A of the FIVB Women's Volleyball World Championship Qualification Asian Zone Final Round at the Park Arena Komaki in Nagoya, Japan last week.

Despite the disappointing defeat, Thailand have qualified for the World Championship Finals in Italy next year along with Pool A winners Japan due to their wins over Vietnam and Australia earlier in the week.

The top two teams of Pool A and two other Asian nations from Pool B will join hosts Italy and 19 teams from other continents in the Finals which will be played next year. The Pool B matches will be held in China from September 27 to October 1.

Thailand fielded a strong line-up, spearheaded by attackers Onuma Sittirak and Pleumjit Thinkaow, against Japan. The hosts surprisingly rested their two powerful attackers Saori Kimura and Yukiko Ebata and instead fielded devastating left-hander Miyu Nagaoka.

Both sides started well in the first game, entertaining a large crowd at the venue

with their skills. The lead changed hands several times until Thailand started to make unforced errors with their serves, allowing the Japanese attacking opportunities. Japan took the hard-fought first game 25-23.

The second game went along a similar script. The going got tough for both teams as they were tactically and technically brilliant. Thailand led 16-14. However, Japan raised their performance a notch higher and claimed the game 25-21.

Japan maintained their exceptional performance, while Thai nerves began to fray. Japan won the totally one-sided game 25-10 and the match. With the win, Japan got 12 points to reign supreme in Pool A. They were followed by Thailand with 9 points. Vietnam, Taiwan and Australia finished third, fourth and fifth respectively.

"We played well in the first two sets, but it was a very disappointing show in the third set. My players made too many unforced mistakes. Their serves were very poor, while the first-ball reception did not live up to staff coaches' expectations," Thai head coach Kiattipong Radchatagriengkai said.

– The Nation



Thailand (right) put up a fight in the first two sets, but Japan took all three sets. Photo: FIVB

PSS warms up for tourney

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) held seven youth training matches at Thanyapura last Saturday afternoon, in preparation for an upcoming 2-day Regional Tournament that will attract 32 teams from all over Thailand.

Head Coach of PSS Martin Hill remarked: "It was important we got to play strong football teams this weekend at Thanyapura to see exactly where our teams stand. From this we can make slight adjustments and structure our training accordingly."

"We still seek a few quality players at U12 and U14 age levels, that's players born between 1999-2002 or 2542-2545 BE. Any interested players should contact info@phuketsoccerschools.com We are extremely excited and look forward to welcoming teams and clubs from all over Thailand for our very first 2 day Regional Tournament on Sept 21 and 22. This week PSS are busy preparing all the ingredients that help make a successful tournament."



PSS' Koji M about to deliver the ball.

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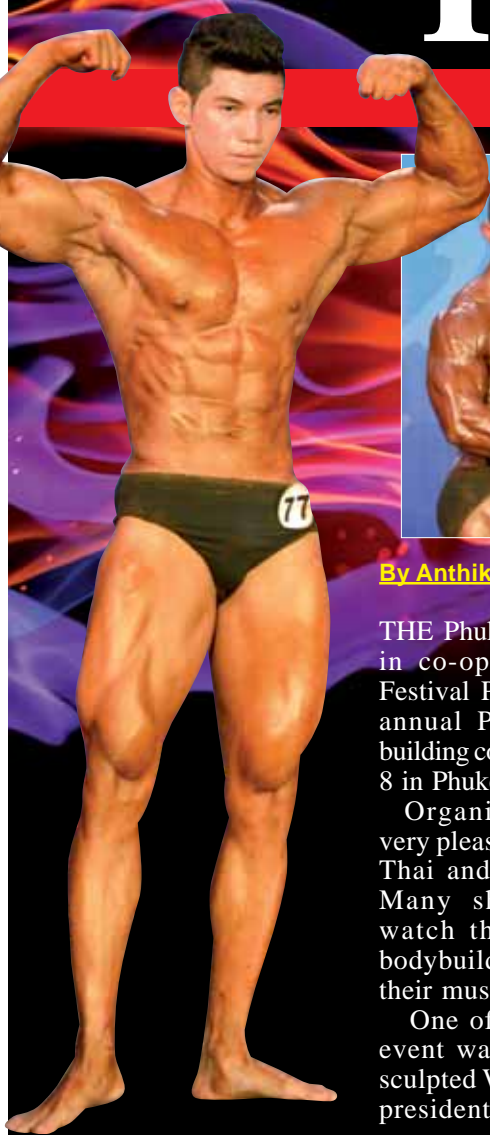
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2nd Annual Phuket Classic Bodybuilding Competition



One of the highlights of the event was seeing the superbly sculpted Wilaiporn Wannaklang, president of Phuket Bodybuild-

"It's beyond my expectations. I didn't expect that there would be this many bodybuilders attending this competition. I'm really happy with that. A lot of people came to see and cheer and this encouraged our competitors a lot. Normally, in this kind of competition, we can't see much

"I hope that the spectators can see the importance of treating their bodies well. Going to the gym and exercising gets people in shape, and when people are in shape, they have a better personality and have more self-confidence. I hope that this competition can encourage our spectators to go to gym and exercise more," she added.

See competition results on page 50



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