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# Phuket Gazette



## Meals on Wheels

**Tuk-tuk diners to tackle late-night munchies with American grub**

INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT THIS'

# CRITICAL

## ■ Dengue cases hit 26-year high, Gov re-launches attack

By **Irfarn Jamdukor**

THE chief of Phuket's Public Health Office has admitted that the "333" anti-dengue campaign launched in April has failed and called for support to re-apply the program with more manpower now that dengue cases in Phuket have reached their highest number in 26 years.

"Everyone needs to be concerned about this," Dr Bancha Kakhong told a meeting held on Monday to outline his plan to bring the disease under control in Phuket.

There have been 1,885 people infected in Phuket from January to September this year, he said. The number is more than three times the number of cases recorded in 2012 and two times higher than the last record year, 1987, when 900 cases were recorded.

Thalang is the hardest-hit district in Phuket, with 707 cases, he said. Two people died from dengue during the period.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut vowed to provide support for the new 333 program and ordered relevant departments to support Dr Bancha.

Present at the meeting were Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, representatives of all hospitals in Phuket, district chiefs from all three Phuket districts, members of local organizations and community volunteers.



The government has doubled down on its '333' plan for controlling dengue fever. Photo: Bkaree1

"We need the cooperation of every local government office to solve this problem," Dr Bancha said.

"Right now, 50 people a week are being infected. We want to reduce the number to three per week," he said.

As before, the campaign will be divided into three sections. In the first three days, officers will identify dengue patients in every area of Phuket and have them taken to hospital, he said.

"We have officers ready to inspect every area and we also have 2,000 cans of mosquito spray to distribute," Dr Bancha said.

"We have to knock on every door," Gov Maitri added, underlining the severity of the spreading problem.

In the following three weeks, officers will spray identified dengue areas...

Continued on Page 5

## Magic Eyes anti-littering gains ground

PHUKET Magic Eyes is set to re-launch its campaign against litter this weekend as it calls on everyone in the province to take part in the multitude of cleanup events being held across the island.

The events this weekend are part of a global initiative known as "Clean Up the World".

Full story on Page 6

## Tourist court to start taking cases Tuesday

THE island's tourist court is set to open this Tuesday to help ensure that tourists are able to quickly settle noncriminal disputes. The court was delayed in opening due to a two-week fact-finding mission to France by officials.

Full story on Page 7

## Greek claims he was duped by girlfriend

A GREEK man who claims his Thai girlfriend hustled him out of his home and about 2 million baht, protested his situation by lying down in the middle of the road with a pack of cigarettes and a coffee mug.

Full story on Page 3

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## This Week



### Property

The island's retail sector is on the verge of a boom. **Page 14-15**



### Business

Find out what brand of cola Phuket likes the most. **Pages 17**



### Arts

Italian DJ to showcase the best of Reggae, beyond Bob. **Page 36**



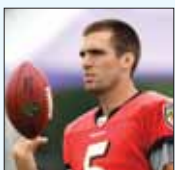
### In focus

Don Battles reflects on Voyager 1 and his days with NASA. **Page 41**



### Explore

The fine line between Hong Kong and mainland China. **Page 42-43**



### Sport

NFL season is underway with some surprises in Week 2. **Page 47**

Saturday



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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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# Man, 79, slays wife for moving to Krabi

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A MAN last week confessed to killing his wife with a hammer because she moved to Krabi to live with her daughter, leaving him alone in the Isarn province of Yasothon for about a year.

Police found Jaran Triphoom, 79, clutching a bouquet of flowers in a rubber plantation hours after the body of his wife, Sangka Triphoom, had been discovered on September 12.

"He wanted to pay his last respects," said Capt Adisak Thabpha of the Klong Thom Police.

Police were notified of the murder at about 7am by Mrs Sangka's 48-year-old daughter, Patchara Saenaprom.

"This morning, I came to their house to invite my mother for breakfast at my place, which is nearby. Outside the house, I found her body, but couldn't find my stepfather," Ms Patchara said.

Officers raced to the scene to find Mrs Sangka's bloodied body on a bed in front of the house and a hammer under the bed.

Police believe Mrs Sangka had been dead for more than six hours, Capt Adisak said.

"My mother used to live in



The 73-year-old woman's body was found on a bed outside her home.

Yasothon with my stepfather. I thought that because of their advanced years, it would be better for them to stay with me. I asked them to move to Krabi so I could take care of both of them," Ms Patchara said.

"My mother came first and stayed here for a year. Five days ago my stepfather moved in," she said.

Though Mr Jaran confessed to killing his wife for having left him alone in Yasothon, police are continuing to look for additional motives for the killing.

"We are continuing our investigation to find the exact motive for the killing, as we believe the man might be suffering from some form of mental illness," explained Capt Adisak.

## French tourist injured in Patong hotel balcony fall

A FRENCH tourist was severely injured when he fell from a fifth-floor balcony at a hotel in Patong early Tuesday morning.

Rescue workers called to the Sea Sun Sand Resort & Spa at 2:50am found Jean-Noel Gregori, 26, with broken limbs and a head injury.

He was taken to Patong Hospital, but later transferred to Vachira Hospital Phuket for treatment of internal bleeding, said Pratuang Polmana of the Patong Police.

Hotel staff told police that Mr Gregori had returned to the hotel with his traveling companion Turan Beytullan, 27, and that both had been drinking. Mr Beytullan



Mr Gregori was seriously injured in the fall. Photo: Patong Police

was taken to the police station for questioning.

Mr Gergori has now been moved to Bangkok's Samitivaj hospital. **- Chutharat Plerin**

## Gold thieves out of gas, out of luck

THIEVES attempting to cut open a safe in a locked strong room at a gold store in Patong last Saturday most likely ran out of gas for their blowtorch, forcing them to leave empty-handed, say police.

Nuchapha Jetsadaruk, the 49-year-old sister of shop owner Sasithorn Jetsadaruk, arrived to open the Yaowarat Gold Shop 9 on Sainamyen Road just before 9am last Sunday to discover the theft attempt.

"When we closed the shop [on Saturday night], everything was still normal. I guess the thieves broke in during the night," she said.

The thieves had broken through the roof and cut through ceiling-mounted bars to enter the strong-room, explained Patong



Police inspect the strong room where the thieves failed to open the safe. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan.

"The shop has three safes kept locked in the strong-room. One of the safes has scorch marks on it

showing how the thieves tried to use a blowtorch to open it.

"We found two 50kg gas tanks, as well as a crowbar, screwdrivers and a kitchen knife in the room," Col Chiraphat explained.

"It was clear that they had cut the power supply cables at the electric meter in front of the shop to switch off the CCTV cameras before they broke in," he said.

Phuket Forensic Police have collected fingerprints at the scene.

"Fortunately, they were not able to take anything," Ms Nuchapha said.

Ms Nuchapha did not elaborate on how much gold was in the safe, or whether or not the gold was insured.

**- Thawit Bilabddular**

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# Big fat Greek hustle

## Expat claims Thai girlfriend swindled him of house, 2 million baht

By Thawit Bilabdullar

A DISTRAUGHT Greek was found sitting in the middle of the road on September 13 in front of a property that he claimed his girlfriend had cheated him out of, along with about two million baht.

When Konstantinos Vardas's mid-road protest caused a traffic jam in the vicinity of Tha Reua Temple, Thalang Police and Kusoldharm rescue workers were called to the scene.

"We found Mr Vardas, 56, in a distressed state. He was shouting something about wanting his property back," said Capt Narong Muangduang of the Thalang Police.

"We used a translator to communicate with Mr Vardas for about one hour, and learned that he was certain that his girlfriend had cheated him out of both the property and about two million baht," Capt Narong said.

After Mr Vardas regained his composure, police brought him to Thalang Police station to try to establish the facts of the case.



In protest of his situation, Mr Vardas sat down in the middle of the road with a coffee mug and cigarettes.

"My partner's name is Kanwee Wanwijit. She is 50 years old, and we had lived together for three or four years. We bought a house at Phuket's Baan Charoen Sook Estate to live together in," Mr Vardas told the police.

"When I came back from my trip to the USA, I learned that the

document of property ownership had been transferred. Moreover, about two million baht had gone missing from my bank account.

"Now I have no money to buy any food," he said.

Mr Vardas was unable to find his partner to sort out the situation.

"I'm in a desperate state, and

would like my embassy to help me," he said.

The Tourist Police have been contacted with regards to the case, Capt Narong explained.

However, as of Tuesday, the Tourist Police denied having been contacted by the Thalang Police regarding the case.

# Cops put the brakes on Chevy staffer who ran off with 1.2 million baht

POLICE arrested an employee of a Chevrolet dealership in Phuket after the man made off with over 1.2 million baht of company cash.

Somkit "Roon" Yukunthorn, a 27-year-old Phuket native, worked for about a year as a messenger for VST Autosales 2002 Co Ltd, the Chevrolet dealership on the bypass road.

But on September 6 he failed to make a cash bank deposit of 1,231,199 baht given to him by the company.

After learning the hard way that the over million-baht deposit had not been made, the manager at Chevrolet called the police.

"We found out that Mr Somkit was hiding at the Phuket Pai Resort in Baan Sakoo [near Phuket Inter-

national Airport], in Thalang, where he was staying as a guest," Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan explained.

"A team of officers and I moved in and arrested him there at about 3:30pm on September 12," Lt Col Prawit said.

The officers also arrested Mr Somkit's friend Kriangkrai "Boy" Khaengrang, 29, at a rented room in Kathu.

Police seized more than 700,000 baht cash, a gold bracelet and a brand-new Honda motorcycle as evidence.

"Mr Somkit confessed that he stole the huge deposit from the company," Col Prawit said.

"Mr Somkit and Mr Kriangkrai spent the money on drugs, girls,



Mr Somkit (left) and Mr Kriangkrai spent over 500,000 baht in six days.

a motorcycle, a gold bracelet, staying at the resort and eating out," Col Prawit said.

Mr Somkit was charged with

theft and Mr Kriangkrai was charged with receiving the stolen property.

— Kraitsada Mueanhawong

## In brief...

### Motorbike taxi driver with axe to grind arrested

A FRIENDLY talk took a serious turn on Wednesday when a Patong motorbike taxi driver took out an axe and struck a colleague two times, sending him to the hospital.

When police arrived at the motorbike taxi queue in Soi Kebsap at about 9:50am, they found only a pool of blood, said Maj Jakkrapong Luang-aon of Patong Police.

Sompong Pukanka, 41, had already been taken to the hospital with wounds to his head and foot.

"We learned the suspect was Saroj Chaiyasit, 34," Maj Jakkrapong said, "and we tracked him to the beach road and arrested him."

### Patong security guard arrested on 8-year-old rape charge

POLICE on Sunday arrested a security guard at a Patong apartment complex on an outstanding warrant for statutory rape in Samut Prakan, near Bangkok, that took place over eight years ago.

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan told the *Gazette* today that the man, 36, originally from Phetchabun, was wanted on an arrest warrant issued by Samut Prakan Provincial Court on July 4, 2005.

### Russian's body found in sea off Patong Beach

BEACH guards recovered the body of a Russian man at Patong Beach Tuesday morning.

The body of Tsybalyuk Alexey, 45, was brought to shore at about 11am. Police suspect that he died about three hours earlier.

"He might have gone swimming alone, as nobody witnessed him drowning," said Teerasak Boonsaeng of the Patong Police.

"There was no sign of Mr Alexey being assaulted," he said.

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# Taxi man stays in control at Central

By Saran Mitrarat

A MAN facing charges of extortion and using violence to force taxi drivers to make payments was re-elected to head the Central Festival Phuket taxi group on September 12.

The election was part of a move to restructure the taxi rank at Central Festival, the latest step in a campaign to eradicate taxi mafia from Phuket, which has the full support of the Department of Special Investigations (DSI) and the Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO).

"We want Central Festival to be a model of taxi management for Phuket," said Maj Natapol Ditsayatham, the DSI Chief Investigator for Phuket. "We want every driver to be able to work freely without worrying about the mafia."

At the meeting last week, drivers rallied behind 42-year-old Pom Sukkasam, who was arrested on September 8 along with his brother.

Both men were handed three charges of extortion, and both men deny them.

"I voted for Mr Pom because he is not guilty [of the extortion charges]. He takes care of us like a big brother, and he wants to improve taxi services and working conditions," said Booncherd Saekoo, a member of the taxi group operating at Central Festival.

"Almost all of us respect him and like his ideas on how to improve our working conditions," Mr Booncherd said.

Mr Booncherd explained that the fees collected by Mr Pom were reasonable: 200 baht a month for all members, and an additional daily fee of 10 baht a day for legal taxi drivers or 20 baht for illegal taxi drivers.

"That money is used to help members when they get sick or are in need," Mr Booncherd explained.

When facing charges in Bangkok, Mr Pom maintained his innocence, insisting that the complaint was filed against him by a member of the group that did not support initiatives to legalize all taxis operating at the shopping mall.

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



Despite charges of extortion, Mr Pom was re-elected to run the Central Festival Phuket taxi group.

During the meeting last week, where Mr Pom was re-elected, Central Festival Phuket Operations Division manager Preecha Ritthirathree made it clear that all taxis operating at the shopping mall must be fully legal by November 30.

"All taxis should complete registration before the high season

begins," said Mr Preecha.

The November deadline pushed by Central runs far ahead of the PLTO extended deadline, which asks that all taxis be registered by the end of February 2014.

In addition, the Central taxi group was asked to arrange themselves as a formal co-operative by the end of the month.

"They need to make all necessary arrangements by September 30. This includes creating a member list with detailed personal information of the drivers, a photo of the driver and cars that meet the legal standards to be operated as a taxi, Chief Transport Technician of PLTO Jaturong Kaewkasi said.

## Elephant heroes rescue jungle-trekking tourists



Four older elephants were called in to rescue the jungle tourists.

A RESCUE party of four elephants was dispatched to safely recover 16 tourists stranded in the jungle north of Phuket on September 11 after a landslide brought on by torrential rains cut off their return path and the elephants they were riding balked at taking another route.

The tourists were on an elephant trek in the hills behind Baan Thung Kamin in Khuk Khak, an area just north of the popular beach resort town of Khao Lak.

"Their mahouts tried taking another route back to the camp, but it meant crossing a canal that was flowing very swiftly because of the downpour," Khuk Khak Deputy Mayor Sirithorn Buakaew said.

"The elephants they were riding are relatively young and were afraid of crossing the strong current. So we called in rescue workers from several stations to head into the hills

on four older elephants to rescue them," he said.

All 16 tourists were safely recovered, while the mahouts spent the night in the jungle with the younger elephants waiting for the current to subside so they could return home.

The Thai Meteorological Department weather-monitoring station at nearby Takuapa town recorded 64mm of rainfall soaking the area between 10am and 1pm on September 11.

Phuket also endured torrential downpours around-the-clock on September 11.

Khuk Khak Deputy Mayor Sirithorn urged tourists to take care in the ongoing wet weather.

"Tourists, please be warned not to swim in the sea or play in the water at waterfalls during this period of time. The heavy rain is making them dangerous," he said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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# Retiring Choti has one regret

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat is troubled by only a single lingering piece of unfinished business as he prepares for retirement at the end of this month – the much-needed high-resolution CCTVs he sought to bring to the island.

Speaking to the *Gazette*, Maj Gen Choti lamented being unable to see the cameras fitted across the island.

“My principal goal as Phuket Police Commander was to make the island a safer place for tourists, and I think I have achieved that. However, I am troubled by the fact that I was unable to bring the 2,000 high-quality CCTVs to the island during my time serving the province,” Maj Gen Choti said.

“I asked for them almost a year ago, but it seems like the request was dropped somewhere down the line,” he said.

“Phuket is a tourist destination of global renown, which means so many people come and go that we can’t really keep track of them all. Thorough CCTV coverage is needed on this island,” he said.

To further his point, Maj Gen Choti cited the tragic case of the execution-style murder of human resources director Jintana Mahattanapak last year.

“That was an example of how bad it can get. The murder scene was captured on



Maj Gen Choti Chavalviwat will retire at the end of this month. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

CCTV, but the quality of the footage was of such poor quality that we couldn’t identify the killers.

“Police are continuing to investigate the case. However, it may take a long time for

our efforts to yield results because we have to go through what little evidence we have very carefully,” he said.

Despite the Jintana case, Maj Gen Choti spoke very highly of Phuket’s police force.

“Even though we are somewhat lacking in manpower, a lot of big cases have been solved, and we are still working hard on closing others. This makes me proud to be leading the Phuket Police force,” Maj Gen Choti said.

Phuket’s top cop told the *Gazette* that he welcomed the help and efforts of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) Organized Crime Center in Phuket.

“Their arrival did not mean that the Phuket police were unable to get the job done,” he said. “We are now working closely with the DSI and assisting them, as needed, with their cases.”

Despite his year of service in Phuket, Maj Gen Choti’s work on the island was never able to replace the satisfaction he had from his previous station in Thailand’s restive Deep South.

“Phuket is good, and the police work hard here. However, I somehow feel closer to Yala and Narathiwat,” he explained.

“In the Deep South my team was tackling far bigger problems than anything we’ve faced in Phuket. It was a lot tougher down there – it made much more of an impression on me,” he said.

Maj Gen Choti intimated that he is aware of who was to be named as the new Phuket Police Commander, but was unwilling to reveal the name before the formal announcement on September 26.



ARRESTED: Suchart Wantong, 39.

## Police catch cop-kickers

POLICE have arrested two of the four suspects responsible for assaulting police officers trying to make an arrest of a suspect wanted for attempted murder.

“I was trying to arrest Wirat ‘Kam’ Prabpet, 36, wanted for attempted murder, possession of illegal firearms and robbery,” said Cherng Talay Deputy Superintendent Sommai On-khum, who was left unconscious by the attack.

“But while we were trying to make the arrest, Wirat asked bystanders for help, claiming we were trying to assault him. Villagers believed him and attacked us,” Lt Col Sommai said.

Police have identified the four suspects who assaulted the officers, explained Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karachedi.

On September 12, Cherng Talay police arrested two of them: Tepnarin Manaboot, 28, and Suchart Wantong, 39.

“The other two suspects in the attack are still being sought, as is Mr Wirat,” he said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Battle against dengue restarts in Thalang



A Vachira Phuket Hospital ambulance used during the first 333 campaign.

From page 1

... for mosquitoes, hand out anti-mosquito lotion, throw away stagnant water and teach people how to prevent the spread of dengue.

In the following three months officers will re-check every dengue risk area and follow up with

dengue patients.

“During this process, we will show the number of infected people in real time on our website,” Dr Bancha said.

Governor Maitri formally launched the new 333 campaign on Wednesday at Baan Laemhin mosque in Koh Kaew.

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## Phuket police ticketing luxury cars gets 80,000 YouTube hits

POLICE dished out parking tickets to about a dozen luxury cars that were illegally parked along Phuket Town's Dibuk Road on the afternoon of September 13.

A video of the mass-ticketing of the vehicles obstructing traffic flow was posted the same day on YouTube and within a day had collected over 10,000 hits. By September 18 it had over 80,000 hits.

Many viewers commented to praise Phuket police for observing the same standard for both evidently wealthy car-owners

and less well-off members of the public.

"There are at least three Lamborghini Gallardo and a Nissan GT," said Hong Kong-based motor journalist Mark Sharp after viewing the footage.

The penalty for parking in a prohibited area is a modest fine of 500 baht (approx US\$15.00).

But according to Mr Sharp, "the schadenfreude effect of the Youtube footage is priceless."

— *Saran Mitrarat*



At least three Lamborghinis like this one and a Nissan GT were ticketed. Photo: Xavigivax

# Anti-litter campaign picked up

By Orawin Narabal

A SERIES of cleanup events are to sweep the island this September as Phuket gears up to celebrate "Clean Up the World" as part of the relaunch of the Phuket Magic Eyes Organization.

The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) is joining hands with the Phuket Magic Eyes Organization and the Society Environmental Economy Knowledge (SEEK) group to participate in one of the largest community-based environmental campaigns in the world.

"Our campaign aims to encourage people in Phuket to take care of the environment. We will all work together across the island," said Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa, who chaired a meeting about the event on September 13.

The event will see cleanups throughout the island fall in sync with cleanups around the globe from September 20 to September 23.

The cleanup schedule is:

- September 20, starting at 9am at Saphan Hin in Phuket Town
- September 20 to 22, starting



Australian Debra Mierczak led a successful campaign against littering at Bang Wad Dam. Photo: Orawin Narabal

at 9:30am Kathu Municipality  
• September 20 to 22 at Phuket Primary Educational Service Area Office

- September 20 to 23 at Patong Municipality and Sri Panwa Hotel
- September 21 at 9am at the

PPAO Office; at Baan Laem Tukkae on Koh Sireh; Karon Beach; Kata Beach

The cleanup is being used to relaunch the Phuket Magic Eye campaign that originally took a foothold on the island in 2001,

Managing Director of SEEK Nick Anthony told the *Gazette*.

Phuket Magic Eyes was organized to tackle the issue of litter on the island. The project will be relaunched with the same goal.

Australian Phuket Magic Eyes

Organization volunteer Debra Mierczak achieved "tremendous success" with the campaign earlier this year after organizing efforts to tackle litter at Bang Wad Dam.

After gaining the support of the local government, Mrs Mierczak was able to have anti-littering signs posted and rubbish bins installed, said Mr Anthony.

"Within five days of putting up signs and placing bins, the area was spotless. And it has stayed that way," he said.

Mr Anthony also praised the government's positive strides against roadside litter over the last six months.

"I was playing 'spot the plastic' from Surin to Phuket Town and saw almost nothing. They are doing a very good job with roadside litter management," he said.

Mr Anthony said local government was able to tackle the issue due to health concerns presented by plastic bags, which can trap rain water and provide a breeding ground for dengue-carrying mosquitoes.

Those wanting to get involved in next weekend's cleanup can contact Mr Anthony at 089-873 2042.



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## Rescuers take bull by the horns

QUICK action by a local Thalang villager prevented a baby buffalo from drowning in an abandoned well on September 13.

Khamsue Chanpet, 37, called Kusoldharm Rescue workers to the area behind Wat Baan Don in Thalang after witnessing the grazing buffalo fall into the well.

"I saw the buffalo walking and eating grass with the other buffaloes, and then he fell. He must not have noticed the well," Ms Khamsue said. "The well is abandoned, but we don't know what to do with it, so we just avoid it."

"A group of us arrived at the scene and quickly tied the buffalo's horns with a rope and tied the other end of the rope to a board to keep his head out of the water," a rescue worker said.

It took the team about an hour to hoist the 2-year-old buffalo from the well. The baby bovine was then set free to join his herd in the nearby area.

— *Thawit Bilabdullar*



The buffalo's horns were roped to keep his head up. Photo: Thawit Bilabdullar



# Tourist court set to open

## Delay caused by officials' two-week-long junket to France

By Chutharat Plerin  
and Saran Mitrarat

PHUKET's Tourist Court is set to open on September 24 with a budget of 1.5 million baht.

Phuket's tourist court is the second such court to open in Thailand; the first opened in Pattaya on September 5.

Five more courts will open across the country by year's end, said Siththisak Wanachakij, spokesman for the Court of Justice.

The opening of Phuket's court was delayed to allow a group of officials – judges, Tourist Police and officers from the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) – to complete a 14-million-baht, two-week fact-finding trip to France.

The fact-finding tour, which started on September 7 and is scheduled to end on September 19, is aimed at giving the experts a first-hand view of how such courts can operate.

While the officials were away in France, Mr Siththisak explained that each tourist court would formally be called "Tourist Protections Section" under the local regional Administrative Court.

"The Tourist Protections Sec-

tion will be upgraded to a "division" in time for the upcoming formalization of the Asean Economic Community," Mr Siththisak said.

The goal of the special courts is to provide advice and information, as well as to expedite the settlement of cases for tourists because they are in Thailand for only a short time, said Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak.

The courts are part of a campaign aimed at helping tourists feel safe in Thailand, in order to facilitate reaching a target of 2.2 trillion baht from tourism this year.

Mr Somsak officiated at the opening of the first of seven tourist courts nationwide, in Pattaya on September 5.

"We will provide tourists with information that can help expedite 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 cases are resolved. This is the best way to be fair to everyone under Thai law," Mr Somsak explained.

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



Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak (center) says the courts will expedite the judicial process for holidaymakers.

the Courts of Justice.

The Phuket Tourist Court will be one of seven such courts established in major tourist destinations in the country.

Aside from Phuket's tourist court and the already open Pattaya tourist court, other tourist courts are to be established in: Koh Samui, Chiang Mai, Krabi and Bangkok.

One of the two tourist courts in Bangkok will be in Dusit District, covering Wat Phra Kaew and the Khao San Road area. The other will be in Pathumwan District.

The seven courts were all to initially open on September 5, but due to lack of preparedness, only the tourist court in Pattaya has been launched so far, Mr Siththisak said. Phuket's is next.



A reassuring presence in Patong.

## Tourist police roadshow hits Patong street

TOURIST Police Deputy Commander Pol Col Achayon Kraithong chaired the opening ceremony of "Thailand Tourist Police Road Show 2013" in Patong's Soi Bangla on September 14.

"We aim to develop efficient public services, enhance tourists' safety and ensure that visitors to Thailand are as safe as they could possibly be. And also to encourage local people to take good care of visitors," Col Achayon said.

The Thailand Tourist Police Road Show 2013 is being presented under the slogan "5S, namely: smart, smile, serve, safe and secure."

"Inside the roadshow's trailer there are brochures and digital facilities available for the tourists to search for information while they drop by," he added.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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## Viral videos expose monk with Phuket mistress

A BUDDHIST monk was exposed by two sensational videos this week in which he was pictured naked with his married mistress in Phuket.

He has since left the monkhood.

Phra Kru Boonyapinant, the former abbot of Wat Pamok in Kapong, Phang Nga, hung up his robes at dawn on Wednesday.

"Ajarn Reed gave no reason for his behavior," confirmed Phra Theppanyamolee, the Lord Abbot of Phang Nga Province, who is based at Wat Prachoomyothee in Phang Nga Town.

"He arrived at the temple at 4am, asking to be excused from the monkhood," Phra Theppanyamolee said on Wednesday.

"He left the temple dressed in white clothes and was picked up by several of

his followers. He did not inform me where he was heading," the senior monk added.

Excerpts of the two videos, which have gone viral on social media networks, were broadcast on national television on Tuesday night, showing Ajarn Reed with a married woman at a house in Thalang.

Two hidden cameras in the house captured Ajarn Reed and the woman in conversation, counting cash and eventually disrobing.

In one of the videos, Ajarn Reed can be heard saying, "It's time."

Then both departed to the bedroom.

"After the video clips and pictures were shown on national news, we began to investigate the incident," said Phra Theppanyamolee.

"We contacted Ajarn Reed, but he denied it, saying it wasn't him," he said.

Hours later, however, Ajarn Reed had a change of heart and told his superior that he would visit the head monk at dawn the next day.

Villagers gathered at Wat Pamok on Wednesday morning. Many shared gossip about the scandal, others cried on learning that Ajarn Reed was no longer a man of the cloth.

"I believe he feels genuinely guilty for what he did. If monks realize they have done something against their faith, they can just leave the monkhood by themselves," Phra Theppanyamolee said.

— **Thawit Bilabdullar and Kritsada Mueanhawong**



IT'S TIME: Ajarn Reed and his mistress.



Sittiporn Karnjul was nabbed with 4kg of kratom at the bus station.

## Six kratom, dope peddlers bagged within 24 hours

A VILLAGE headman busted five men for possession of kratom and marijuana last Saturday. The very next day, in concert with the Phuket Internal Security Office, the same village chief arrested a man bringing kratom leaves from Trang to Phuket by bus.

"We found a suspicious-looking man on the bus, so we asked to search his bag and found 4kg of kratom inside," said Mr Sangkom.

Sittiporn Karnjul, 25, was charged with possession of a category 5 drug with intent to sell. He was enrolled in a drug-treatment program and handed over to Phuket City Police.

Just 24 hours earlier, Mr Sangkom seized 86 kratom leaves, two grams of marijuana and drug paraphernalia from five men on Soi Kiatsin 2 in Rassada.

All five were charged with possession of a category 5 drug.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Protesters rail against bridge, rubber rights

By **Saran Mitrarat**

ABOUT 200 villagers rallied at Phuket Provincial Hall on Tuesday to push for a bridge name change that is already on its way and for the right to plant and farm rubber trees on land that is deemed to be within a protected forest.

Protest leader Utai Suksirisampan of the Phuket and Phang Nga Co-operative Network handed the villagers' dual complaint to Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut.

Mr Utai called for Phuket's most recently completed bridge joining the island to the mainland to be formally granted the name Thao Srisoonthorn Bridge – the same name that has always been agreed to for the structure.

"The bridge opened on August 1, 2011, and is still unofficially called by its project name 'Sarasin Bridge 2' set by the Phuket Highways Office," he said.

"It doesn't make sense. We already have Sarasin Bridge and another bridge named after one of our heroines, Thao Thepkrasattri. As Phuket has two heroines, the third bridge should be named after the other heroine, Thao Srisoonthorn," he said.

"So far there has been no sign



Governor Maitri Inthasut (right) promised the protesters he would order the relevant government agencies to investigate the complaints.

installed showing the name of the bridge, so we are giving the government 90 days to install a sign naming the bridge Thao Srisoonthorn Bridge," Mr Utai warned.

However, Mr Utai did not elaborate on what exactly would happen if the deadline was not met.

Samak Luedwonghad, the di-

rector of the Phuket Highways Office, on Wednesday explained to the *Gazette* that the formal name change for the bridge has been in the works for two years.

"The request to officially name the bridge after a Phuket heroine requires permission from the Royal Household.

"However, after we sent the request to our head office in

Bangkok, the floods of 2011 struck, and officers at our headquarters forgot all about it.

"I have now reminded them and the request is underway again," he said.

Nonetheless, that was not all the protesters were rallying for – they also wanted the right to plant and farm rubber trees on land in Thalang that they say they had already been using as a rubber plantation, but that officers at Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary claimed was inside the park.

"We had cut down old rubber trees and planted new saplings on the same land – but officers destroyed the saplings, saying that we had planted the trees inside the park," said Mr Utai.

"I want the governor to allow us our right to cut down old rubber trees and replant new ones on this land. I don't want officers cutting down our trees.

"I want the government to issue documents that permit us to have the right to work this land," he said.

Governor Maitri said he would look into both matters.

"I will call the relevant departments to find solutions to help you as soon as possible," he said.

## Prison marks anniversary with deity statue

A MODEST ceremony took place at Phuket Prison last week to honor the installation of the Hindu God Chitrugupta, who is deemed special by the Department of Corrections in Thailand.

"Chitrugupta is the Hindu god tasked with keeping fastidious records of all the actions of every human being. This is why he is held in high esteem by the department," Prison Chief Rapin Nichanon said.

"The event this morning [September 13] was held to celebrate both the installation of the Chitrugupta statue and to celebrate

the 113<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the prison's founding," he said.

The Corrections Department has provided identical Chitrugupta statues to every prison in Thailand, more than 140 in total. The statues are made from materials blessed by Brahmins – Hindus hailing from the faith's highest social class.

"Having the god here will encourage prison staff to keep high standards at work, which is especially important now because of our worsening overcrowding problem," Mr Rapin said.

When the prison was build over



Chief Rapin at the ceremony.

a century ago, it was designed to hold approximately 800 inmates.

Currently, there are 2,421 inmates, including 374 women and two babies. — **Chutharat Plerin**

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# Flyover or underpass Chalong?

## Multi-million baht Chalong Circle traffic-congestion study underway

By Orawin Narabal

A 9-MILLION baht pre-construction study on how to ease traffic congestion at Chalong Circle is underway, with consulting companies considering seven options including several flyovers in addition to underpasses.

The yearlong study will analyze traffic flow around Chalong Circle and potential effects of an underpass or flyover on the surrounding environment, said Director of the Phuket Highways Office Samak Luedwonghad.

Three companies – NuMAP, Epsilon, and Asia Lab and Consultant – are now working together on the study, he said.

“The information we receive from the data collected will be used to choose the most suitable of the seven proposed routes,” Mr Samak said.

The proposed routes under consideration have changed from the original six underpass options originally slated for the project.

The newly proposed routes are:

1. A one-way underpass northbound from Wiset Road (from Rawai) to Chao Fa West Road.

2. A one-way underpass southbound from Chao Fa East Road



The seven proposed options utilize either a flyover or underpass to deal with the tailbacks that plague Chalong Circle. Images: Phuket Highways Office

to Wiset Road

3. A one-way underpass southbound from Chao Fa East Road to Wiset Road and a one-way underpass northbound from Wiset Road to Chao Fa West Road

4. A one-way flyover southbound from Chao Fa East Road to Wiset Road and a one-way flyover northbound from Wiset Road to Chao Fa West Road

5. A one-way underpass north-

bound from Wiset Road to Chao Fa East Road and a one-way underpass northbound from Wiset Road to Chao Fa West Road

6. A two-way flyover between Chao Fa West Road and

Wiset Road

7. A two-way flyover between Chao Fa East Road and Wiset Road

“The study-project began on August 17. It will be concluded on August 12, 2014,” Mr Samak said.



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Up to 5,100 train tickets were refunded. Photo: The Nation

## Northern train system derailed

THAILAND's rail network is in crisis after a string of derailments led the country's railways agency to suspend all North-bound trains beyond Uttaradit until the end of October.

In recent months, there have been as many as 10 derailments involving North-bound trains, plus a few other mishaps, *The Nation* reported.

Over the past two weeks there was another accident at a Bangkok terminal and a derailment at Hua Lamphong.

The State Railway of Thailand (SRT) is organizing vans to transport travellers if their destination is beyond Sila At, SRT governor Prapat Chongsanguan said.

Mr Prapat said the suspension should be lifted once tunnels in Uttaradit, Phrae, Lampang and Lamphun, as well as railway tracks at curves where derailments have taken place are repaired.

Up to 5,100 train tickets, worth about 4.3 million baht, were returned on September 16, following the announcement, senior SRT official Jarasphan Watcharothai said.

# Fears of 'judicial coup'

## Democrats seek court ruling on Constitution Amendment Bill

THE Democrat Party will try to halt consideration of the controversial Constitution Amendment Bill by appealing for a Constitutional Court ruling, it announced last week.

Rulings by the court have brought down at least two Thaksin Shinawatra-aligned governments in recent years, leading to fears of a so-called "judicial coup", which could spark a rekindling of Thailand's violent political conflict.

Opposition whips agreed at a meeting on September 13 to ask the Constitutional Court for a ruling on whether or not proposed changes to the charter about the election of senators, now before Parliament, violate the Constitution, *The Nation* reported.

The opposition will also seek a court injunction to halt voting in the final parliamentary reading of the bill, said opposition chief whip Jurin Laksanawisit.

Mr Jurin said that the court would be asked to rule on whether or not the charter amendment process was tantamount to violating Article 68 of the Constitution. The clause states: "No person shall exercise the rights and liberties prescribed in the Constitution to overthrow a democratic regime with the King as head of state or to acquire the power to rule the country by means that are not in accordance with the modes provided in this Constitution."

A vote on the bill, which would make the Senate completely elected, will take place on September 27 – unless the Constitutional



Opposition chief whip Mr Jurin takes a stand against the controversial amendment bill Photo: The Nation



Court stops it.

The opposition fears that if the bill is passed, the more electorally popular Pheu Thai Party will be able to gain control of both houses of Parliament. Half of the Senate's

members are currently appointed.

The bill is not the only controversial item on the government's legislative program this year.

The government will also be attempting to push through a two-trillion-baht infrastructure loan bill, which was set to receive its second reading over two days: September 19 and 20.

The opposition has also vowed to fiercely oppose that bill, which would involve taking on large amounts of debt to finance exten-

sive upgrades to Thailand's transport networks.

Democrat spokesperson Chavanon Intharakomalsut said more than 100 Democrat MPs had already planned to present arguments why the bill should not be passed into law.

"It's a major issue as, in Thailand's history, there has been no such huge borrowing. The government is yet to answer why it has to seek off-budget borrowing," he said.

## Burning rubber – plantation protesters set fire to police vehicle

MORE than 10 vehicles were smashed and set on fire when clashes broke out between hundreds of rubber growers and security officials at the Kuan Nong Hong Intersection in Nakhon Si Thammarat's Cha-ua district on Monday, reported *The Nation*.

Many were injured in the turmoil as officials used tear gas to disperse the crowd and protesters used what they could find – stones or sticks – to strike back.

Deputy PM Kittiratt Na-Ranong said the government had already put sufficient mea-

sures in place to help rubber growers and was not planning to offer anything else.

Initially, most rubber growers found the Cabinet-approved 2,520 baht subsidy per rai per household deal acceptable, reported *The Nation*. However, some demanded the price for rubber be set at 120 baht per kilogram and the subsidy be paid to individual farmers, even those who did not possess title deeds.

The failure of the government to meet these demands led to the road block at Kuan Nong Hong.

Early Monday, police planned to regain control of the area and re-open Highway 41, but protesters began gathering again around noon and youngsters started throwing rocks and firing slingshots at officials.

The police retaliated with tear gas.

As the clash continued and security officials were pushed back. Protesters damaged and set fire to a detention truck and several other vehicles.

A hair salon near the site was also damaged and riddled with bullets, while protester Somnam Rachrong was shot in the leg.



Multiple vehicles were set on fire during the rubber plantation protests. Photo: The Nation

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## BRN to demand special administration zone

THE Barisan Revolusi Nasional (BRN) will demand that part of the Deep South be constitutionally recognized as a special administration zone like Bangkok and Pattaya when peace negotiations over the conflict resume in Malaysia, said a source close to the talks.

The BRN sent the Thai government a 38-page document on September 4 which added the demand to its current negotiating program, *The Nation* reported.

According to the source, the BRN demand said: "Thai authori-

ties shall certify that Pattani is the birthplace and home of sovereignty of the Melayu-Patani people, who are given a chance to administer the area, under a special administrative platform under the Thai Constitution, like models put in place... [by] the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration and by Pattaya City, through an establishment process which will be approved finally by the Parliament."

Additional BRN demands are: that it be recognized as liberators, not separatists; that Malaysia's

role is upgraded to mediator, not just facilitator; that observers from Asean, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and NGOs be present during the dialogue process; and that all detained suspects or imprisoned insurgents be released unconditionally.

The BRN has said that if the demand is agreed to, all insurgents would lay down their arms and take part in all steps of a future peace process, at all levels available.

The document also said that other separatists groups would join the BRN negotiation team.



# Poll protests take hold

## AROUND THE region

By Prak Chan Thul

THOUSANDS of opposition supporters gathered in Cambodia's capital on Monday, a day after police used force to scatter protesters challenging a disputed election win by Prime Minister Hun Sen, sparking clashes in which one man was shot dead.

Hun Sen met opposition leader Sam Rainsy for talks and officials said they had agreed to look at how future general elections are held, but the long-serving premier refused to give in to demands for an independent inquiry into the July 28 poll.

Prak Sokhonn, a senior official of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), told a briefing the two parties had agreed to respect King Norodom Sihamoni's call for



Thousands joined the rally to protest the recent election results that have kept Hun Sen in power. Photo: Reuters

calm. But the election had been decided and parliament would open as planned, he said.

"There won't be a delay ... This meeting of parliament will go ahead with or without the partici-

pation of the CNRP," he said, referring to Sam Rainsy's Cambodia National Rescue Party.

The protests present the biggest challenge in years to Hun Sen's 28-year, iron-fisted rule.

Around 10,000 protesters had gathered in Freedom Park in Phnom Penh, a Reuters reporter said. Some had defied the authorities by camping there overnight.

— Reuters

## In brief...

### Over 100 hostages rescued in south Philippines siege

ABOUT 150 people being used as a human shield by the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) insurgents who have laid siege to Zamboanga City, southern Philippines, have been rescued, said Interior Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II on Tuesday.

The freed hostages were turned over to police, military spokesman Lt Col Harold Cabunoc.

— *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

### Malaysia denies communist burial

FORMER Malayan communist leader Chin Peng's last wish to be buried in his birthplace in Sitiawan, Perak will go unfulfilled as the Malaysian government will bar his remains from entering Malaysia.

"The Malaysian government will not be involved in the burial of this former CPM leader [Communist Party of Malaya] and we believe it will be done in Thailand," Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak told the media.

— *The Star*



Mount Sinabung spewed ash, hot lava, and pelted small rocks onto homes in Karo district, in Indonesia's northern Sumatra province. Photo: Reuters

## Nearly 6,000 flee as volcano erupts

NEARLY 6,000 people have been evacuated from their villages following the eruption of Mount Sinabung in Indonesia's northern Sumatra.

The 2,600-meter volcano erupted early last Sunday morning after being dormant for three years, sending plumes of thick ash into the sky and small rocks pelted neighboring villages.

National Disaster Mitigation Agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said on Monday that 5,956 people had been evacuated from their homes and are being sheltered in seven locations.

Most of the evacuees fled to traditional meeting halls, or *jambur*, and houses of worship.

Most of the displaced were from six villages located within a three-kilometer radius of the



Thousands sought shelter in traditional meeting halls and places of worship. Photo: Jakarta Post

mountain in Karo district, Mr Nugroho said.

Mount Sinabung's last eruption in August 2010 killed two people and forced some 30,000 to flee.

The eruption caught many scientists off guard because the volcano had lain dormant for four centuries and therefore was not being monitored. — *Jakarta Post*

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## In brief...

## Facebook back in Iran four years after being blocked

FACEBOOK became widely accessible to Iranian users on September 16 for the first time since 2009, when the website was blocked amid anti-government protests.

This is according to reports emerging from within the country, and external monitors such as the San Francisco-based Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil liberties organization.

The new president, the moderate cleric Hassan Rouhani who took office last month, has signalled – on social media, no less – that he will adopt a much softer tack from that of his hardline predecessor, former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Marking the Jewish New Year earlier this month, PM Rouhani and his Foreign Minister wrote on their Twitter accounts to wish Jews a “Happy Rosh Hashanah”.

## Anthrax outbreak in Hungary leads to farm closure

AN INFECTION of the deadly anthrax disease has been identified in sheep at a farm in Jaszladany, a village 120 kilometers east of Budapest, the Hungarian agriculture ministry said on September 16.

Authorities found last week that one sheep in a herd of 210 heads died of anthrax, a disease which can spread to humans. The farm was placed under quarantine, the ministry said in a statement.

“Humans have not got the disease yet so we don’t have that problem,” said the ministry.

## US and Cuba in talks about postal ties resumption

CUBA and the United States are in a second round of talks on re-establishing direct mail services between the two countries after a 50-year ban.

The US State Department, said the meeting was “to work out details for a pilot project to provide direct mail service.”

Both sides ended their first encounter in June with statements characterizing the meeting as positive and constructive.

## Twin storms pummel Mexico

By Luis Enrique Martinez

TWO powerful storms struck Mexico as they converged from the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico on September 16, killing at least 42 people and stranding some 40,000 tourists in the resort of Acapulco amid some of the worst flooding in decades.

Tropical Depression Ingrid battered Mexico’s northern Gulf coast, shutting some of the country’s oil operations, while the remnants of Tropical Storm Manuel lashed the Pacific coast, inundating popular tourist spots.

Even as Ingrid and Manuel weakened, the storms continued to unleash massive rains that have killed at least 42 people in the states of Veracruz, Guerrero, Puebla, Hidalgo, Michoacan and Oaxaca, national emergency services said.

Landslides buried homes and a bus in the eastern state of Veracruz, while thousands were evacuated from flooded areas, some by helicopter and taken to shelters.

Residents waded neck deep in brown muddy waters, while some wended down flooded streets in dinghies, pedal boats and on jet-skis. Waters churned through streets, converting them into dangerous rapids that swept away cars.

State oil monopoly Pemex said it had evacuated three oil platforms and halted drilling at some wells on land due to the storms.

Acapulco Mayor Luis Walton told reporters that 40,000 tourists



Soldiers search for survivors after landslide in Altotonga, on Mexico’s Gulf Coast, September 16. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

ists were stranded in the city.

The popular Princess Hotel’s parking lots and golf course were under water, as was much of the city’s plush Diamante district home to top-end hotels.

“Tomorrow is another day, and

we will just have to check whether or not the highway re-opens,” hotel worker Martila Flores said by telephone.

In the resort city alone, at least 21 people were killed as buildings collapsed and roads were transformed into raging rivers, said Constantino Gonzalez, an official with Guerrero state emergency services.

“Unfortunately, the majority of the deaths have occurred here in Acapulco due to landslides that completely buried homes,” said

Gonzalez.

President Enrique Pena Nieto inspected the damage in Acapulco by air. “We have a plan to arrange for government funds to help,” he told reporters.

The resort’s international airport was closed due to power failure, and two major highways were blocked, in the wake of Manuel.

“The storms have affected two-thirds of the entire national territory,” a government spokesman told reporters. – Reuters

## Navy-yard shooter’s past peppered with violence

SIGNS that Aaron Alexis had a violent streak surfaced at least as far back as 2004, when he pulled out a gun, chambered a round and shot out a man’s car tires in a burst of anger triggered by what he said was “disrespect.”

What drove 34-year-old Alexis, the man the FBI believes was responsible for the murders, to enter the Washington Navy Yard and open fire from a fourth-floor balcony overlooking a busy cafeteria in a spree that left 13 people dead, including himself, is now the subject of intense scrutiny by law enforcement.

Despite his worshipping at a Buddhist temple and earning two awards for service during his four years in the US Navy Reserves,

flashes of violence have long pointed to Alexis’ dark side, his record shows.

Alexis, born in New York City’s Queens borough, was discharged from the military in 2011 after a series of what a Navy official described as “misconduct issues.”

His police record reveals Alexis was arrested over the tyre-shooting incident in Seattle in 2004, and once again on gun-related charges in Texas in 2010, for shooting through his noisy upstairs’ neighbor’s floor.

His father, Algernon Alexis, said he believed his son suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, triggered by his involvement in rescue efforts during the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

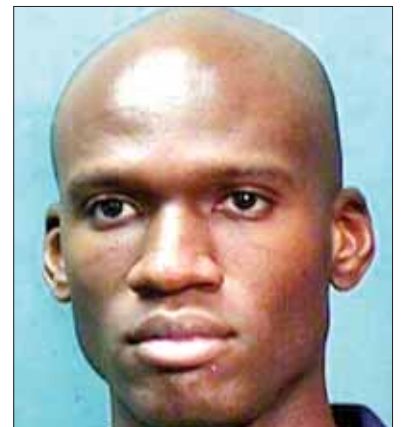
Seattle police said in a report the son told them he was deeply disturbed by the experience.

Years later, in 2010, Alexis was arrested in Fort Worth, Texas, for shooting through his apartment ceiling into the upstairs apartment of a neighbor whom he complained made too much noise.

Authorities did not press the case after determining the gun accidentally fired while Alexis was cleaning it.

Alexis has lived in New York, Washington State, Texas and Japan. At some point in his itinerant past, Alexis worked at a Thai restaurant in White Settlement, Texas.

The restaurant owner, Kristi Suthamtewakul, 35, described



Shooter Aaron Alexis. Photo: Reuters

Alexis as a friendly man and a great conversationalist, but carried a gun tucked into the side of his pants every time he worked at the restaurant. – Reuters

## Specter of creeping ‘Singaporization’ looms over Hong Kong’s press

HONG KONG’s English-language daily *South China Morning Post* (SCMP) this month appointed William Zheng Wei, a former Singapore Press Holdings editor, to head its new Chinese-language website, unleashed earlier this year. His mandate? Don’t carry anything controversial.

“The softly-softly approach to the territory’s news may not go far in a city whose 7.5 million residents are growing increasingly impatient with a government that is regarded as being too willing to align itself with Beijing officialdom to the detri-

ment of Hong Kong itself.

“The determination to remain rosy and anodyne seems ill-advised given Hong Kong’s vibrant and politically diverse free-press-driven media,” said veteran Asia media-watcher John Berthelsen.

Robin Hu, chief executive officer of the SCMP Group and himself a former Singapore Press Holdings executive, said the revamped Chinese-language website would avoid coverage of Hong Kong’s increasingly rancorous political scene and instead play the role of booster for the city’s

attractions as a travel, financial and business center.

Mr Hu’s remarks echo the Singaporean approach to news, where media outlets are de facto cheerleaders for government policies. Indeed, concerns have been growing inside SCMP in recent months, according to sources in its newsroom, over what might be termed its “Singaporization,” a reference to the *Straits Times* of Singapore and its family of other newspapers, which enjoy a reputation for rarely criticizing the Singapore government. – Asia Sentinel



High-rises in mainland China overlooking Hong Kong’s New Territories. Photo: Nick Walker



# Light up your life

LIGHTING is one of the most important aspects to consider when trying to create the right ambience for your home, restaurant or hotel. Well positioned lights set the mood and can turn an average room or area into a real feature of your property. Knowing this, Franck Chaudron, owner of Alarms Phuket Services, seized the chance to bring some innovative lighting products to Phuket's homes and businesses.

"One day a friend returning from a tour of China brought me a ball LED [light emitting diode] light. The product enchanted me immediately and I tried it in the pool without losing a moment. The lighting effect was wonderful and I was immediately hooked," said Franck.

Before long, Franck had found an exporter who could offer him a wide range of the durable plastic items which are internally lit by multicolored LEDs.

The decorative homewares come in a wide variety of shapes and styles, some functional, others purely decorative. They include ice buckets, flower pots, glowing cubes and spheres, a range of different seats and tables.

The innovative products feature low energy LEDs which are very durable, having an expected life of 30,000 hours, which is many times more than conventional lighting products. They are operated by

**PROPERTY**  
**Gazette**

remote control and can be illuminated in any of 16 brilliant colors or set to cycle through them. Another amazing feature is that many of the products are completely water-proof, and can be used in outdoor settings or even as pool or fountain lights.

They are made from heavy duty polyethylene plastic and take four to six hours to charge – once fully charged they can provide up to 10 hours of continuous illumination. They come complete with remote control and charger, with prices starting at as little as 2,000 baht.

Alarms Phuket Services is the exclusive supplier of these products in Phuket and the company also plans to extend their business into other parts of Thailand and even to Europe.

"We began our distribution initially in Phuket, but we already have many inquiries and orders in Thailand and Europe. So we are moving one step after another," said Franck.

If you're looking for new lighting style in your home or business these products could be the perfect solution for creating a new and inviting ambience.

Franck's first store, LED Light, just opened in Home Pro Chalong and there is another dealer, Skyline, located in Cherng Talay. For more info visit: [airledphuket.com](http://airledphuket.com)



Many of the products are water-proof, making them ideal for outdoor use.



Alarms Phuket Services General Manager Franck Chaudron and Staff member Oil, show some of the unique lighting products at their shop, LED Light, in Home Pro, Chalong. Photos: Supplied



The plastic LED lights come in a wide range of styles and can be operated by remote control with 16 different light color settings to choose from.

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# Retail sector booms

PHUKET has been famed (and defamed) the world over for its “s” attractions (and distractions) – sea, sun, sand, surf, sailing and sport... among others.

NOWADAYS, the island is increasingly associated with one more “s”: shopping. Although residential projects – condos, housing subdivisions, hotels and villas – continue to make up most of the island’s construction sites, a budding retail sector seems to indicate a bright commercial and economic outlook for the island’s not-so-distant future, with a number of newly-completed, under-construction and in-the-pipeline projects dotting Phuket’s map for 2013-2014 and beyond.

## Name says it all

As the public and private sectors continue to expand on and invest in crucial infrastructure, Bangkok-headquartered, Central Group leads the retail charge (no pun intended). Living up to its name, the group’s local flagship retail artery, Central Festival Phuket is smack in the middle of what is rapidly becoming the island’s 21st century commercial-residential

heart. At the recent official launch of its Central Festival East annexed shopping wing (Homeworks), the group’s local management hinted at plans for a new luxury shopping center to be developed on the lot to the mall’s south side, at the site of the Thainaan restaurant.

In the short run – more traffic, shopping and of course, more money for the economy. In the long run? Just have a look at the neighborhoods surrounding Bangkok’s Central BTS station (Siam Square, Chitlom, Central World and so forth) – this is Phuket’s destiny.



Jungceylon in Patong

## Patong keeping pace

Looking to attract more Thai and foreign tourist shoppers, Jungceylon Shopping Center is currently undergoing significant renovations to the tune of 50 million baht. Covering an area of 3,000 sqm, this represents the mall’s biggest refurbishment in



**CENTRALIZATION:** Central Festival Phuket is the island’s 21st century retail heart. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

seven years of operations. Three prime zones being renovated include the Banking Zone; The Port, which includes bakeries, coffee shops and ice-cream shops; as well as the Spa Zone, which as its name suggests, features shops selling spa products, a beautifying area, and massage parlors.

In addition to this, Jungceylon will welcome 30 more select retailers for leading clothes brands, as well as restaurants, namely, Esprit, CPS, CC-OO, Melisa Jelly Dreams, Beauty Buffet and Charles & Keith, among others.

As for the bigger picture, unlike Phuket Town and Kathu, Patong is quite limited in space, but that certainly doesn’t mean future development will be capped. Look at Hong Kong, Honolulu or even Pattaya Bay, for an idea of where the once quiet town’s skyline will be heading in the coming decades.

Beyond the mega shopping malls, there’s a handful of other interesting if not innovative retail projects worth noting:

## An evening stroll in Old Town

“Lard Yai Walking Street” is set to begin operating from Sunday, September 29, on a section of the historic Thalang Road in Phuket Town. Out of the planned 150 stalls, more than half have already been booked, with 4sqm retail units starting from as little as 300 baht per day. Don Rimnanthapisit, Project President, stresses that the idea is to have high quality merchandise on sale. “Items to be sold must not come from a factory, the sellers have to put effort to ensure they are unique,” he said. The high quality, eco theme of the market means no counterfeit goods and no styrofoam. Moreover, no smoking and alcohol consumption will be permitted. About half of

the retail space will be allocated for food with the remaining 50% dedicated to clothes, souvenirs and local products. “Thalang is Phuket’s cultural road, so the goal of this activity is to make people feel they are in Phuket,” says Mr Rimnanthapisit, “to achieve the goal reflected in the slogan “Let Phuketians be Phuketian.”

The vendors will be encouraged



**VIBRANT:** The colorful, historical Thalang road will be the site of a new walking-street evening market.

to wear traditional clothes like scoop-neck T-shirts for men and well-fitting shirts with sarong for women. As for food, there will be both local and international dishes to try because as Don Rimnanthapisit, explained “Phuket is a multicultural city.” The walking street will be open every Sunday from 6pm to midnight. Thalang road will be closed from traffic from 2pm to allow vendors set up their stalls.

## Night is right

Just a few blocks east of the Weekend Variety Market on Wirat Hongsyok road is Suan Luang Market, just opposite King’s Park. Suanluang Market will provide one more stop for night market enthusiasts, tourists and locals alike. Having launched last year as the Benzy Mall, the project was recently rebranded following a change in ownership.

A project manager revealed that the new shopping plaza is undergoing a transition. “We’re open for business and still accepting new tenants, and will be

undergoing some renovations in the coming months to implement unique ‘This is Phuket’ themes. For example, we have plans for a ‘Tin Mine’ corner, and other suitable themes that will highlight Phuket’s history and unique character,” she explained.

Initially launched under a “kids play while parents shop” concept, the current project has canned the original plans for a miniature water park, repositioning from an “afternoon leisure shopping” zone to a “casual and cultural evening affair”.

The new owners will utilize the area where the water park was intended, as a zone for staging special events, activities and even small exhibitions, with ample space for setting up temporary booths.

Explaining what will differentiate the market from other night markets, the project rep said: “Instead of just having a crowded market where you walk and shop, we will give shoppers places to sit down and take a rest, take pictures as well as enjoy and take part in special events or



Suan Luang Market is Phuket’s newest

## Laguna

PROPERTY RESALE

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| <p><b>1 Allamanda Studio THB 6.2 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 bed 1 bath Condominium</li> <li>lagoon view • fully furnished</li> <li>foreign freehold</li> </ul>                          | <p><b>2 Allamanda 2-Bedroom Suite THB 7.5 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2 beds 2 baths</li> <li>lagoon view • leasehold</li> <li>fully furnished</li> </ul>              |
| <p><b>3 Laguna Home Land Plot THB 12 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>land area 1,054.4 sqm</li> <li>company freehold</li> <li>golf view • quiet location</li> </ul>                            | <p><b>4 Laguna Village Townhome THB 20 M</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 beds 4 baths Townhome</li> <li>lagoon view • fully furnished</li> <li>company freehold</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>5 Banyan Tree Residences USD 3,880,000</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three-Bedroom Pool Villa</li> <li>tranquil lagoon view • 1.5 rai land</li> <li>Residence Club Membership</li> </ul> |   |

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# Too much of a good thing

OUR BEAUTIFUL BACKYARD: In the present day marked by mass tourism and rapid urbanization, it's easy to forget that we are living on a paradise island. Photo: Andy Mitchell



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

IN THE age of excess, is there such a thing as too much fun? Or too much sun, sand, surf, or just a life spent on an island paradise? I first moved to Phuket in 2000, immigrating from an urban high-rise existence in Hong Kong. My mind was bent, though not permanently from life in the concrete jungle.

I recall with angst those mornings in Central Hong Kong with the stampede of office drones forging ahead at great speed and purpose. Lunchtime remains chaos as hungry groups hovered waiting for you to finish eating and greedily snatch their place at the table.

By the end of my tenure in the city, I found myself leaving nearly every weekend or holiday to some tropical place that would soothe my soul. The only time I ever

visited Kowloon was on the train trip to the airport. At the end, I traded one island for another one – but a very different place.

My first stop in Phuket was down in Rawai, which oddly now I refer to as Northern Malaysia. A trip to the airport took minutes, not hours from north to south. There was no Central, nor hypermarkets except for Tesco Lotus. And Don's, dear Don's down south was a bolthole for comfort food. Things changed over the years before our very eyes, and it's hard to imagine now that it has come to pass.

As of late, some thirteen years later I can't help but read the internet headlines or hear expat residents talk about the island. From bad, it goes to worse and onward to unbearable. Which does seem odd given many of the same people have run business here and contributed in some way or another to the urban shift. The same goes for me, I've worked on many hotel and residential projects and indeed there is a form of shared ownership in our present situation.

Yet, everywhere changes – not just

Phuket. I've had the chance to revisit the neighborhood where I grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles. It's an entirely different place, no longer the sense of neighborhood, and sadly, even the home I grew up in is fading fast into oblivion.

Things change the world around. A few Sundays ago I spent time with my children at Layan Beach, as we often do. The sky was so blue, it hurt my eyes and the waves lapping up at my feet in the emerald blue waters. Sure, friendly soi dogs hunted along the coastline and Burmese workers fished close by. Even a water bottle washed ashore, from some foreign place.

Paradise is indeed an imperfect place but look at the island today; there remains friendly people and a certain pace that you cannot find anywhere else. Trust me, I've spent a lifetime trying and this island is where I have landed. Will Phuket be lost to the emerging tourism markets or urbanized beyond belief? It's impossible to say but Asia remains a very crowded place.

There are others that want come here, for a visit or for their rest of their lives, and those who came here years ago, while they may think themselves entitled are in reality only placeholders with a end game of mortality as we all have.

I'm not exactly religious, though heaven and hell are strong nightmares that come and go. Day by day the past thirteen years have rushed by like a strong wind in the trees just before a rain storm. What will the next thirteen hold? There is no way to say, except it's one day at a time and no matter what, be it people or places, things change every day, every minute for good, bad or indifferent. Phuket is no exception to the rule. In fact throw the bloody rule book out the window and just take a second and think what drew you here in the first place. Can you remember?

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

activities going on."

The project offers two primary types of retail units: three-by-four-meter, glass-window units with annual leasing rates ranging between 55,000-80,000 baht, as well as two-by-two-meter, retractable metal door units available from 35,000 baht a year.

Most of the existing tenants are selling clothes, apparel and other types of personal accessories, as well as souvenirs and handicrafts. There is also a "food court" zone comprising

about 10 units, half of which are currently occupied.

### Boat Avenue

An eye-catching development in Cherno Talay is the Boat Avenue shopping street, being developed on a 30 rai 48,000sqm plot which is just a stone's throw from Laguna. Unofficially open for business, the project includes a container mall (shops made out of refurbished shipping containers) and will also include a "B-mall", Villa Market and 24 three-storey buildings. About a tenth of retail lease space is still available.

Monthly leasing rates start from 300 baht/sqm, units ranging from 25 to 100 sqm units, or 7,500 to 30,000 baht/month. Also, there are two units available for sale, from 10 million baht.

About 30% of the space is allocated for food and beverage retailers and another 30% for clothes. A 1,000sqm portion of the development will be occupied by Villa Market (under construction) and the rest will be offices, ticket agencies, tailor shops, spas, a bike rental shop, among others.

There is parking space for 200 cars. Some shops are already opening but the grand opening of Boat Avenue is planned for November.

### If you build it

While this article only mentions several highlights of Phuket's up and coming retail sector (if you think your project should have been mentioned, email us on [info@phuketgazette.net](mailto:info@phuketgazette.net)), it goes without saying that the local economy is expanding, and rapidly at that.

As far as the property sector as a whole, we need not only focus on the onslaught of new hotels, shoebox condos and other like-and-like residential projects breaking ground, but must also be prepared to embrace the inevitable commercial, and eventual industrial boom to engulf our ways of life.

In short, bigger and better shopping malls, along with new and bespoke retail projects is only a precursor for... well, as the saying goes, "if you build it, they will come". Make no mistake, they are indeed coming.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Boat Avenue in Cherno Talay.



evening market, located near King's Park.

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# Mastering art of diversification

EVERY financial adviser or expert will talk about the need for investment diversification or at least

## Island Investor

By Don Freeman

the importance of not putting all your eggs in one basket. Unfortunately, diversification tends to be more of an art rather than an exact science, as some of the so-called tools out there are rather crude. For example subtract your age from 100 to get the percentage you should have in stocks with the rest being in bonds.

Moreover, a well-designed and diversified portfolio (which limits your exposure to risk) is counter-intuitive for most investors, as it will always have something that's not doing well (but will hopefully improve if market conditions suddenly change), a few investments that have an average performance (but could become home-runs) and (it is hoped) one or two investments that are home-runs.

### Think beyond stocks and bonds

Diversification is more than just about owning different stocks and bonds – you should also take other asset classes such

as gold, commodities, currencies, real estate and foreign equities into consideration. You will also need to take a look at the whole picture (as in your whole net worth).

For example – if most of your net worth is actually tied to the value of your home and the real estate market in your area crashes, so will your net worth, as you were not properly diversified.

Likewise, if most of your investments are concentrated in shares of your employer (or in companies or sectors you are personally familiar because of your profession), you could end up like many employees of Enron who not only lost their jobs, but also just about all of their retirement funds. With that in mind, proper diversification will likely have you owning a REIT or a real estate ETF which invests in various types of real estate in other geographic areas along with stocks, bonds or ETFs in companies or sectors you don't work for or in.

### More investments is not necessarily better



If the majority of your net worth is tied up in your home and the real estate market crashes, it could be a financial disaster for you. Photo: Respres



The first thing most investment advisers or financial experts will tell you is not to keep all your eggs in one basket – diversification is the key to sound investing. Photo: Slightly everything

Common sense should tell you that if you hold 10 stocks in your portfolio and one performs poorly or even goes bust, it will have a far bigger impact on your overall performance and net worth than if you held a portfolio of 100 stocks. On the other hand, do you honestly think you are capable of fully understanding 100 different stocks?

So called high-conviction funds or fund managers tend to compromise on diversification by holding portfolios of 20 to 25 stocks which they take the time to thoroughly understand. In fact, there have been a number of research studies which seem to suggest these fund managers are right and that a concentrated, low-turnover investment approach leads to greater returns and less volatility.

### Uncertain income and taxes

Many retirees with what they thought were safe pensions (those from the public sector for example) have found out the hard way that the income from such pensions can change and it can change without warning. And it's not just your pension income that you need to worry about because there are many examples of stocks (automakers or the big banks immediately after the financial crisis) cutting or eliminating their dividends or bonds and

suspending bond payments (Detroit for example), while interest rates are at near record lows in many developed countries to the point where having US\$100,000 in most CDs will yield only a few hundred dollars a year after taxes. Finally, don't forget that some forms of US retirement income are taxable (and tax rates can change) while other types of income may not be depending upon where you live and the accounts holding the investments.

For those reasons, you need to consider all of your income sources in retirement and ensure that you have some sort of income diversification with any pensions, stocks, bonds, real estate and CDs plus tax deferred retirement accounts all being part of the mix. If portfolio diversification sounds overwhelming, call me to discuss simple options to get your portfolio growing.

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

# Deutsche Bank's new Platinum X range

## Retirement Years

By David Mayes

DEUTSCHE Bank has recently revamped its asset management business, re-branding it as DBX and launching a series of new funds.

Several of these are new feeder funds, which allow those with smaller portfolios to access some very good fund managers, and have really caught my attention. I have written on a few occasions about Winton, which has averaged about 15% since its inception in 1993 with only a few down years and each less than 10%. In addition to a low minimum feeder fund for this fund, there are also feeders for Lynx, Tewksbury Trading, among others.

On top of this, they have launched two new funds which have a mix of great managers with long consistent track records.

What really excites me about these funds is that I have been restricted for many years from using

some of these great managers with the exceptions of my largest portfolios. Now even my smallest portfolios can have access to the kind of managers that I always speak of as the all-stars of Wall Street. Many of these funds have typically had their largest returns in years when the stock market crashes because they are able to take both sides of the market.

With tight risk control and the ability to go short (make bets that the market drops), it is actually easier to make money in bear markets because while it may take many years for a market to gradually climb higher, the panic involved when the bottom falls out allows for an abnormally large percentage move in a very short period of time. Many of these funds trade systematically and completely remove the human element, so that historical probabilities guide decision making as opposed to emotions.

We are now into our fifth year of an advancing stock market while the underlying global economy

remains questionable. These kinds of funds may be able to save your portfolio from decimation, if I am right, that we are due for a crash in the global stock markets.

Lynx has averaged about 13% over the last 12 years or so, also with all down years less than 10%. Tewksbury Trading's trend following fund has a very similar steady long term performance despite the world economy going through a once in a lifetime environment. The funds I have just discussed are only one strategy, and there are many others available via the new series. Many other managers are now accessible through the new Deutsche Bank Platinum X line of funds at a fraction of the normal minimum investment levels.

*David Mayes, MBA, resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. He can be reached on 085-335-8573 and email: david.m@faramond.com.*



Deutsche Bank's headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany. Photo: Dontworry





# Poll: Phuket prefers Coke

JUST under half (49.6%) of respondents to a recent *Gazette* poll said they prefer the taste of Coca-Cola (Coke) over that of three other competing brands on the market – Pepsi, Est and Big Cola.

The poll, which ran online from August 2 to September 1, was answered by 514 unique respondents, who were asked which cola brand (sold in Phuket) they thought tasted the best.

Six choices were: Big Cola; Coca-Cola (Coke); Est; Pepsi; Undecided and Don't know, haven't tried them all.

Respondents were broken up into three demographics as follows: Thai nationals (40 or 7% of all votes); Local Foreign Residents (335 or 65% of votes) and Tourists/Visitors to Phuket (139 or 27% of votes).

Coke had an undisputed margin in all demographics, claiming exactly half the votes from both tourists/visitors as well as foreign residents/expats; the iconic brand had a slightly lower preference penetration rate (43%) among Thai respondents, however.

Claiming the second most votes in the poll overall, and in each demographic, Pepsi drew 21% or 108 total votes (20% of Thais, 21% of expats and 22% of tourists).

Despite commanding an undeniably strong market presence in a short window – now going on 11 months since debuting on the Thai cola market – Serm Suk Pcl's Est brand failed to win over a loyal following among *Gazette* readers, with only 5.8% of respondents choosing it (8% of Thais; 7% of expats and 4% of tourists).

Not surprisingly, generic brand, Big Cola had the least amount of votes with 4.3% or 22 total votes, while 4.1% or 21 respondents said they were undecided and 15.2% or 78 respondents admitted that they had not tried all brands and thus could

not choose just one.

Despite Coke's clear margin in the poll, Phuket area manager at local distributor Nam Thip, said that the results probably did not reflect the actual market.

"I definitely think we [Coke] have a higher loyalty and market reach in Phuket than the poll results [49%]. For one, Phuket has a lot of foreigners, who tend to lean towards Coke.

"Secondly, our market [penetration] reaches nearly 100% of the area, whereas the other brands don't... Coke has had a loyal following, around the world and in Thailand for a long time coming, and we're definitely not falling behind in Phuket," he said.

In distant 2<sup>nd</sup>, Pepsi remains ever-fluid in the Phuket market. The sales manager of its local distribution arm, Supercheap, told the *Gazette* that the brand is starting to reclaim some of the market share that it had lost late last year following the launch of similarly-branded, Est.

"I think many customers were initially confused about the new [Est] brand. Since it looks and tastes similar to Pepsi, I think many assumed we had just changed names [from Pepsi to Est]," she said.

Not only are the two brands similar,

consumers' confusion may have further been fueled by Pepsi's repositioning strategy of moving away from Thailand's refillable glass bottle market, in which Serm Suk – the producer of Est – has long had a logistical stronghold over.

Prior to Pepsi selling its majority shares in Serm Suk to Thai Bev Pcl (the producer of Chang beer) late last year, Serm Suk was Pepsi's Thai bottler and distributor nationwide for nearly six decades.

And despite Pepsi's claim that Thailand's refillable glass bottle segment is on the decline, it is undeniable that this segment still has a significant consumer reach, especially at local Thai eateries across the Kingdom, where as of late last year, Pepsi had vanished overnight, immediately replaced by the newer and similarly branded, Est cola.

However, Supercheap's sales manager responsible for Pepsi sales and distribution in Phuket, Krabi and Phang Nga provinces, says that sales are starting to pick up again.

"Consumers are more aware of the difference in the brands now. Taste is one important factor, but our stronger and more

established brand is also a major factor," she said.

Serm Suk's sales manager responsible for Est's distribution across Southern Thailand (based in Surat Thani), didn't think the *Gazette* poll reflected the brand's actual market share.

"As far as I know, our market penetration is not that low [5.8%]. From my point of view, our brand should have a better result... I think the poll must reflect the opinions of only some in Phuket, many of whom are probably foreigners that tend to be branded to Coke.

"Our target customers are mainly Thai people. So, I think poll results will vary depending on the market. All in all, it's possible that preference [for Est] in Phuket and the Southern region is lower, but it's definitely higher in the whole of Thailand," she concluded.

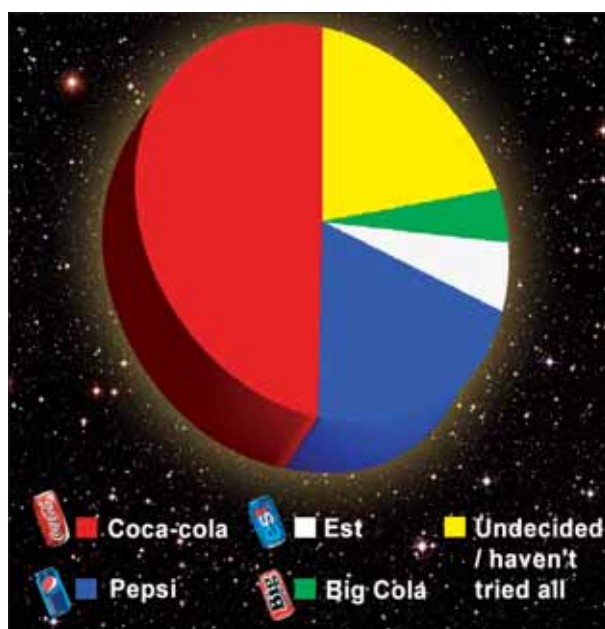
Last but not least (well, technically, last and least) – Big Cola, with its product differentiation of being caffeine-free and competitively-priced, continues to claim a bigger share of the pie.

A Southern Thailand area representative of the generic brand's local distributor, AJE Thai Co Ltd, said that the *Gazette*'s taste preference poll results reflect the company's actual market share.

"Our market share in Southern Thailand is about 5%, and our sales have continued to increase every month since January. They dropped a little in June but rebounded after that.

"We aim to maintain our momentum in the market reinforced by our two key selling points: a caffeine-free cola [sold] at a lower price for everyone," she concluded.

*Do you have a poll suggestion? Email editor@phuketgazette.net. Have your say in the latest poll at: phuketgazette.net/poll/*



Half of *Gazette* readers who took the poll said that Coca-Cola tastes best; Pepsi came in 2<sup>nd</sup>, Est 3<sup>rd</sup>, Big Cola last.

## Patong mall shoppers

SHOPPERS visiting Patong's Juncceylon Shopping Center in the first six months of the year increased over the same period last year by 30%, according to a press release from the Patong mall's operators.

Normally, our average [traffic is] 45,000-50,000 persons per day, and now we're averaging about 58,500 to 65,000 daily. There were six million tourists coming to Phuket in the first two quarters of the year, which is 18% more tourists compared to [the

same period] last year, Prawit Janyasitthikul, CEO Phuket Square Co Ltd said.

According to the press release, this year, the company has allocated a marketing budget of 42 million baht, half of which is for organizing events. The other half is being used for sales and communications. Jungceylon expects full year income to be about 800 million baht, which would equate to a 7% increase over last year.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Jungceylon looks to generate 800 million baht this year. Photo: S Layne



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# Holiday justice

THE opening of a new court to resolve non-criminal cases involving foreign tourists in Phuket is a welcome step in the right direction, but only time will tell if the initiative will achieve its goal of bringing about prompt justice for visitors and improving Thailand's image as a tourist destination abroad.

When the idea of establishing such a court was raised earlier this year, we were skeptical. We opined that the sheer number of legal and bureaucratic hurdles that would need to be cleared to establish a new, independent court under Thailand's rather arcane judicial system would probably end up becoming just another "pie in the sky" dream that would never be realized.

Fortunately, we were wrong. The Administrative Court system has displayed a great deal of flexibility and efficiency in setting up the court, not as a completely independent body, but under a pre-existing mandate.

The court will technically be known as the regional "Tourist Protection Section" until it is eventually upgraded to full division status (see page 7).

While cautiously optimistic, we have many concerns about the functioning of the new court. Will it be administered under a framework similar to that commonly in use in "small claims" courts in the West and, if so, what criteria will be used to determine which cases can be adjudicated therein?

What criteria will be used to determine who qualifies to seek justice through the new body? Will it be restricted to foreigners here on tourist visas or will those with non-immigrant visas or even resident status qualify? Stateless people? Will foreigners who have overstayed – quite possibly as a result of having been victimized – be allowed to lodge cases as plaintiffs?

Many questions remain, yet one thing is clear: whether the court is effective will depend to a large degree on whether tourists are aware of its existence. This will require a great deal of publicity and assistance from honorary consuls, district police branches, Immigration Police and the Tourist Police, to name just a few.

A good first step would be to set up a comprehensive "tourist court" website detailing the exact scope of the court's jurisdiction and procedures, accurately translated into the languages of all major tourist source markets.

We have reservations about the ethics of establishing a "special" court specifically for tourists, especially if cases involving Thais are delayed as a result.

The extraordinary nature of this kind of court is itself a cause for reflection on the extent to which Thailand relies on tourism.

Theoretical issues aside, if the court functions as hoped it could be a big practical improvement over the existing system that has needlessly inconvenienced and in some cases wreaked havoc on the lives of both Thais and foreigners, delivering benefits only to lawyers and corrupt officials.



## Parking violations, a growth industry

Re: Gazette online, VIDEO REPORT: Phuket police stick it to luxury-car owners, September 14

The police should go one better and tow them all away as 500 baht is nothing to rich people.

It would also be good to start a new growth industry on the island – towing cars away, for the benefit of both the police and the public!

Gt  
Gazette forum

### ... and ticket roadside shoppers too

Re: Gazette online, VIDEO REPORT: Phuket police stick it to luxury-car owners, September 14

Wonderful! They should do this every single day as this happens all over the island every day.

A good place to do it is just before the Koh Kaew intersection in the morning when one lane of traffic is often blocked as folks stop wherever it's convenient to have breakfast.

The curb is red and white there; please enforce that. Get some money generated and help us all out!

Dave Williams  
Gazette forum

### On the run, again

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: The 90-day hassle, September 14

Great article, and so true. "How can requiring foreigners to leave Thailand every three months for a 'rubber stamp', despite the fact that they [already] hold the requisite documents... be good for Thai businesses... or the economy as a whole?"

Great question. And one more: Whenever I ask a Thai Immigration officer about the real reason for this absurd "visa run" process, I hear "National Security". I would like to know how my visa runs (to a country, where I sometimes stay

## Letters to the Editor

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

as little as five minutes) can make Thailand a more secure nation.

Art Anderson  
Gazette forum

### Make plan B for pets

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Providing a safe haven for abandoned pets, September 15

Spay or neuter your pet so the problem of unwanted animals does not increase. Have a plan B for your pets should something happen to you, just as you have plans for the care of your children.

I wish this man all the best for doing such a good thing.

The Original Steve  
Gazette forum

### Over the rainbow

Re: Gazette online, Think globally, act locally – Environment, September 13

After a heavy rainfall, on my way back from Koh Yao Noi to the pier, I saw a rainbow pop up in the sky over the mangroves, a full arc stretching across the stormy sky over the lighthouse and mangroves nearby.

A ray of hope seemed to shine down on this bustling beach town. That gave me hope for the conservation and protection of the mangrove forest.

Paiboon (Pat)  
Gazette forum

### Mosquito control

Re: Gazette online, Phuket dengue numbers critical, says public health chief, September 17

The government spraying by vector control needs to be regularly scheduled, so that it is

preventative. Spraying should take place more often during dengue season and officials should find ways to get the storm drains and klongs cleared of their mosquito hatcheries.

Cindy  
Gazette forum

### Goodbye to Phuket's top cop Choti

Re: Gazette online, Single lingering regret for Phuket's top cop as he prepares to retire, September 13

A lot is still not corrected in terms of enforcement, but Gen Choti was a man to be respected.

Given another couple of years to work here, I think he could have made a significant difference. The important thing about him was that he actually wanted to do that, unlike some of his morally handicapped predecessors.

Dave Galloway  
Gazette forum

### Court junket

Re: Gazette online, Phuket tourism court on hold, September 14

If it is really necessary to go somewhere, why was this not done before Pattaya started operating? The budget is also way over the top. This is a very sad reflection on the leaders.

Alfadiamond  
Gazette forum

### Help for the conned

Re: Gazette online, Greek claims Thai girlfriend swindled him out of Phuket property, two million baht, September 14

This is an excellent opportunity for the Tourist Police to have Mr Vardas as a tenant at one of the two donated bungalows built last year at their Phuket City compound for just this type of situation.

Michael Arvin  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Hailing a new era

## FIRST PERSON

EVERY taxi in Phuket should be metered, and fare rates should be higher than they are now. This would help eliminate violence in the taxi business, and also improve tourists' taxi experiences in Phuket.

Raising taxi fares will help bring taxi drivers' earnings in line with the cost of living, and by doing so, steer them from the temptation of overcharging customers.

I have heard a lot of stories about drivers who don't turn their meters on. There are a couple of reasons why they don't.

The first reason is connected to the cost of living in Phuket, which is higher than in other provinces. At the same time, gasoline costs are constantly going up. Not only that, but Phuket is a fairly hilly island, and going up hills increases fuel consumption.

With the current fare rates, it is difficult for drivers to earn enough to provide for their families and save money for the future.

The second reason is that non-metered, green-license-plate taxis charge a higher fare than we do for going the same distance. Some metered drivers feel this is unfair, so they don't turn on their meters.

Therefore raising fares would encourage drivers to turn their meters on.

At present, the first two kilometers is set at 50 baht per kilometer. Then, up to 22 kilometers, the rate is seven baht per



**Prasat Pechwang**, 56, is a Phuket native. He earned a BA from King Mongkut's University of Technology in North Bangkok, majoring in Electrical Engineering. He started working at Saudi Oger Company Ltd in 1981 and moved to We-Ef Lighting Company Ltd in 1987. He has been a taxi driver with Phuket

Taxi Meter Service Company Limited for ten years.

Here, he talks about overhauling Phuket's taxi system.

kilometer. In excess of 22 kilometers, the charge is six baht per kilometer.

In my opinion, the first two kilometers set at 50 baht per kilometer is fair enough, but we should raise the other two rates. Up to 22 kilometers, the rate should be set at 11 baht per kilometer and in excess of 22 kilometers the charge should be 10 baht per kilometer. This is the

same rate metered taxis on Koh Samui use.

The next thing we need to do is put a meter in every taxi on the island. We should not have both metered and unmetered taxis. We must all be on the same footing.

Right now, the airport is the only place metered taxis can park to wait for customers. We can't drive around the island looking for passengers because influential taxi operators in other areas may threaten or assault us if we do so.

This has happened in the past and it has caused metered drivers

to be fearful.

The threat of violence keeps us from providing service all over the island and prevents us from driving around to pick up passengers on the street.

Raising rates and making every taxi metered would go a long way towards eliminating dangerous friction between drivers.

We will also need strict enforcement by police and officials to make sure everyone follows the rules.

Phuket should be like Bangkok and Singapore, where taxis must be metered and can operate freely around the city, and limousine taxis are restricted to serving hotels and their guests.

In fact, it's not just Bangkok and Singapore that have got it right. "Metered-taxis only" is now the standard around the world. The meter determines the fare, not the driver. This is how it should be.

I'm keenly aware of how tourists feel. When drivers don't turn on meters or charge a flat rate, tourists can feel cheated.

Taxis are the first thing that tourists encounter when they arrive. Let's make sure that we give them a good first impression.



Getting four on the bike isn't on the test. Photo: Nick Walker

## The testing paradox

OBTAINING a driver's license on our island is a paradoxical task.

It is an ostensibly simple process, all done within one building and in eight hours, driving lessons optional – which may rev your confidence up – but it's fussiness has been known to trip up even those with decades of driving experience.

A mere inch of yellow line-overstepping during the practical test or a confused incorrect selection of a theory exam answer to the same question asked five different ways are obstacles waiting to descend upon unsuspecting applicants.

As you begin to doubt your road knowledge, you witness another driver repeatedly knock over boundary poles for 15 minutes while trying to parallel park, and learn that despite her poor skills she is given a license. Why? Because the examiner pities her – this is her third week's attempt. And you are reassured. It's just Thailand.

But let us reminisce upon the times when a 500-baht fee was the sole requirement to be a legal driver in Phuket. This new, though questionable method of assessment is considered progress in comparison – at least we have surfaced from the nonexistence of safety procedures.

One puzzling nature of the test is the possibility of re-sitting the exam immediately after the first failed try, and the unveiling of the correct answers at the end of aforementioned failed try – mak-

## Island View

By Hitchens

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

ing the exam much closer to a memory test – with bonus points for deciphering the English.

Despite the generous leeway during the theory exam, the practical part is unforgiving. Never mind that you aced the multiple choice test with 29/30 marks, if you overstep or miss the yellow footpath line as you drive up to the registration booth at the beginning, you're out.

Sure, feel free to re-take the theory test immediately after being exposed to the answers if there is time remaining, and please do parallel park in vain for 15 minutes; but missing that yellow line by one inch is absolutely unforgivable. Come back next week.

After hurdling such challenges and paying a several-hundred baht fee (depending on what vehicle you are finalizing a license for), you receive the freshly printed legal blessing that you are able to mobilize a vehicle.

Then you hit the road, only to be greeted by law-enforcement officers who are too apathetic to care whether you overstep a yellow line framing a footpath and a legal system in which your license will only be asked for at a standard, static checkpoint, unless in the case of an accident. It is just Thailand.



Every taxi in Phuket should have one. Photo: Soranan Ananchotikul

## Issues & Answers...

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

### Can boss dock pay for unsolved theft?

A large amount of money recently went missing from a chain hotel in Kata. Unable to find the culprit, management decided to recuperate the money by docking the pay of each of their front office staff by approximately 12,000 baht. (This is about one month's salary for a supervisor.) Is this legal?

Concerned Relative  
Chalong

### Yudhakarn Ovasith, Phuket Labour Office Chief, replies:

According to the labor law, it is not legal. However, it depends on the agreement between the staff and the hotel. If the staff agreed already to pay, then we cannot take any action with the hotel.

If the staff did not agree to this arrangement, they should come to either our office or to a labor court

to file a complaint.

The staff could request that we investigate the hotel, or report to us that they want to get their money back from the hotel. In that case, we will call the hotel owner in and discuss the problem.

The correct procedure for any hotel if money 'disappears' is to call the police and file a complaint.

Our office is located on Sakdidee Road in Phuket town, Monday to Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm. We can also be reached at 076-220760.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/  
IssuesAnswers

## Who is in charge of sand on the road?

On the bypass road near the intersection with Thepkasattri Road, there is a lot of sand in the motorcycle lane. I believe it comes from a nearby sand supplier depot. It creates a danger for motorbike riders.

Whose responsibility is it to clean up?

Safe rider  
Chalong

### Pranon Kaewprang, Chief Administrative Officer, Koh Kaew Municipality, replies:

Thank you for notifying us. Recently there hasn't been construction in that area, so I think the sand is from construction trucks driving by which accidentally drop it along the road or from the company you mentioned.

I will send our Maintenance Services Department staff to check it

and find out where it's coming from.

If it's coming from trucks passing through the area, our staff will clean it up.

If it's coming from the sand company, we will tell them to clean it up and warn them to be

more careful in the future. We will follow up to make sure they fix the problem.

If you continue to see sand in the motorcycle lane, please report it to us at Koh Kaew Municipality. Tel: 076-239263.



Sand can be dangerous when left unattended. Photo: Nepenthes



# YOUR Phuket



Cape Sienna Hotel & Villas gave away helmets to all of its staff to increase road safety and because "we care", explained Frank Dreist – General Manager.

## HELMET GIVEAWAY AND AWARDS CEREMONY



The management team of Cape Sienna Hotel & Villas, headed by Frank Dreist (5<sup>th</sup> from left), General Manager, proudly poses just having received for the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row highest awards in its category by TUI Nordic, one of the biggest European tour operators working in Phuket.

## PHUKET'S MANGROVE FORESTS GROW



Surasak Somnam, KEE Resort managing director.



A sixty-strong team of nature lovers from the KEE Resort & Spa in Patong joined local school children on Friday to replenish Phuket's mangrove forests with 500 new trees.

Led by KEE Resort managing director, Mr Surasak Somnam, the green-fingered hotel staff and about 30 students from Verastreeanusorn School planted the 500 mangrove saplings in Pa-Klok on the east coast of the island.



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

## PROPERTY of the week



See page 22

## JOB of the week

DEWA

NAI YANG BEACH  
PHUKET

See page 27

## WHEELS & MORTORS of the week



See page 30

## BOAT of the week



See page 31

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LAND, SALE BY  
OWNER

Thalang and Mai Khao plots. Tel: 089-723 4278. Email: chalit9999@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.

## HOUSE &amp; FURNITURE

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

Condo in Patong  
for Sale/Rent

87 sqm. beautiful condo with 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee machine, toaster etc., bed sheets, towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. available from Nov 2013; 50K baht for 1 month, 35K baht/month for 6 months and 28K baht/month for 1 year contract.

CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

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 NEAR KATA  
CENTER

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

HOUSE IN  
VILLA DOWROONG

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

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.

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

## 30 RAI IN TOWN

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

SINGLE HOUSE  
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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

## 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.

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.

## D CONDO 1, KATHU

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-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.

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

## NAI HARN LAND

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

NEW HOUSE FOR  
SALE, CHEAP PRICE

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



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Tel: 076-310507

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.

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

HOUSE FOR SALE  
IN KATA

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 500m from the beach. 5 million baht. Contact Amorn. Tel: 081-569 6030.

## 5 RAI (8,400SQM)

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

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NEXT TO PIA

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## LAND FOR SALE

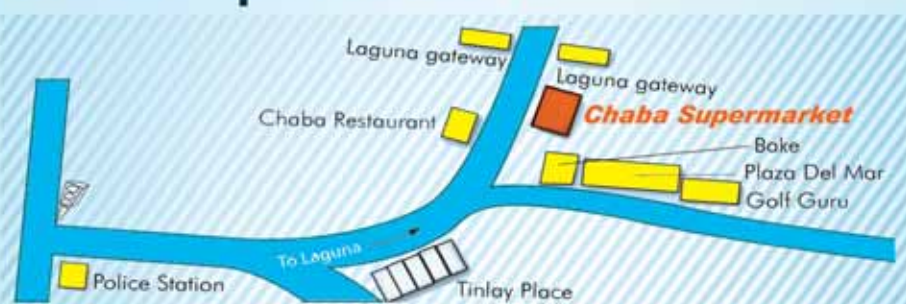
Kata land plot for sale. 444sqm, part of sea view-plans, 4-bedroom villa and pool. 5.5 million baht. Tel: 086-593 3434 (Thai), 089-290 5594 (English).

PATONG SEAVIEW  
BUILDING LAND

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

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### LUXURY POOL VILLA

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### KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

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### 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.

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### KAMALA POOL VILLA, 3 BEDS/2 BATHS

A private 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom villa. Short-term and long term lease available now. Also have other properties in Kamala for rent and sale. Tel: 084-446 8965 (English), 085-917 1046 (Thai). Email: haroldmccarthy@gmail.com <http://phuketrenthouse.com/6341/kamala-villa-house-near-beach-3-bedrooms-furnished>

### ROYAL PLACE CONDO-PRIVATE

Fully furnished 1-bed apartment with washing machine, available October 1, 2013, rent negotiable. Tel: 085-069 0938. Email: nnorthwo@hotmail.com

### LAND FOR RENT

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### 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.

### 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.

### APARTMENTS PATONG

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

### 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.

### 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.

### CHEAP RENT

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

### SALE/RENT LAND APTS

House, pool villas. Email:nok andjorentalservice@hotmail.com

### 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

### 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

### 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>



### CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE

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



houseinphuket.com

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

### KAMALA

Pool 14m. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, furnished. Rent: 30,000. Sale: 12.2 million baht. Tel: 087-382 3058. Email: kradanresort@gmail.com

### MAIKHAO DREAM PROPERTY

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

### CONDOS IN PATONG

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

### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



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

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](mailto:AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net)

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



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

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

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



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



# Island Job Mart

## 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

## 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

## NEED LADY DRIVERS

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

## PIZZERIA STAFF WANTED

Pizzaiolo Patong Beach. cooks, waitress, bartender. speak English, Thai national only, good salary. Contact Mathias. Tel: 084-322 4816.

## PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties real estate is urgently looking for Personal Assistant/Office Manager. Must have very good knowledge of spoken and written English, and basic accounting and good computer skills are essential. Must be able to organize and work independently and be in a position to start work almost immediately. Thai national only! Tel: 087-882 2856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.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

# 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, Thepkrasatttri Rd, Koh Kaew  
A. Muang, Phuket 83000  
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

## HORSE RESCUE NEEDS HELP

Must have experience. Also horse, cat, house sitters needed over Christmas. Tel: 084-842 4581 (English). Email: Christy KSweet@gmail.com

## LISTING REPRESENTATIVE

Tropical Properties is expanding its business and is urgently requires a listing representative. Candidates must have good knowledge of English, written and spoken. Must also be able to work with computer (Microsoft Office) and have own transportation. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.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

## 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

## 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

## 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 national 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 written and spoken English skills. Email: liam@phuketfit.com Please email for details.

## 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

## DESIGN STUDIO

Looking for image keywords. 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

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

### CHALONG

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

### PATONG

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

### PHUKET CITY

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

### CHERNG TALAY

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

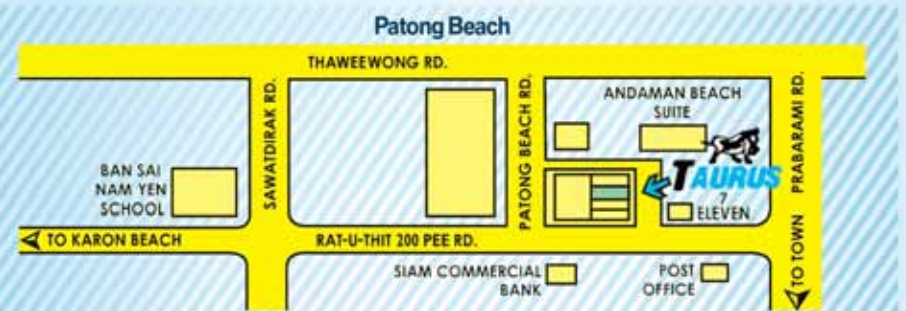
### RAWAI

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

### KARON

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

## Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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

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

**Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!**



## OFFICE MANAGER

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

## 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

## FITNESS INSTRUCTOR /SALES

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

## 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 advantages for Sale/Rental Manager position. Good salary and commission! Tel: 076-388444. Please send resume and recent photo to: [info@harvest-property.com](mailto:info@harvest-property.com)

## MANAGER ASSISTANT

Woman, Thai & Eng speaker, computer skills. Tel: 076-612843, 083-737 7878. Send CV to [md@expertmedia.asia](mailto:md@expertmedia.asia)

## 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](mailto:c@bayshoreprojects.com)

## ACCOUNTANT

Thai or foreigner, start immediately. English is a must, Thai an advantage. Full or part time. Tel: 087-897 0501 (English). Email: [aleksa@thai-evagroup.com](mailto:aleksa@thai-evagroup.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](mailto: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](mailto:bliss@online.com.kh)

## PROMOTERS WANTED

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

## PRIVATE IN-HOME TUTOR

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

## 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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:info@newspaperdirect-phuket.com) Find out about us on [www.newspaperdirect.com](http://www.newspaperdirect.com)

## THAI NURSE

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

## NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Need experienced preschool teacher 10-14 children, start immediately, Chalong, 40hr week, send resume to [phuketteacher@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketteacher@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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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).



## Food & Beverage Manager

### Job Description

As Food & Beverage Manager, your area of responsibility covers all the food and beverage outlets including bar service, room service, poolside service, kitchen, stewarding and food store. You will be required to plan, organize, coordinate, employ, control and evaluate all F&B operations and staff.

You will be responsible for the preparation of budget, costings, departmental profit and loss analysis, planning and execution of projects related to the department as well as managing staff turnover at a reasonable level through regular training programs and other staff retention programs.

You must also be results driven and highly motivated to organize regular promotions and events to ensure a profitable business.

### Desired Skills & Experience

- ➔ Excellent knowledge and previous experience in the food and beverage business
- ➔ Event and promotion background
- ➔ Strong leadership and managerial skills
- ➔ Strong skills in driving results
- ➔ Strong people management and development skills
- ➔ Excellent communication skills in English
- ➔ Basic Thai communication skills would be preferable
- ➔ Fluent in a third language (German, French, Swedish, etc.)

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. Please email your resume to [lillian@dewaphuket.com](mailto:lillian@dewaphuket.com)



## THE KARMA ROYAL GROUP NEEDS YOU NOW IN BALI!!

An amazing opportunity has just been created by Asia Pacific's most successful Holiday and Lifestyle Company. The Karma Royal Group is expanding again and requires 10 energetic, fun loving and goal oriented people to join them in BALI as Holiday & Lifestyle Consultants and earn in excess of 6 figures.

- Full training provided to the successful applicants.
- No experience required.
- Come join in the FUN in the SUN.
- Successful applicants will be required to be in Bali in 3 weeks

Email CV to: [ekayanti@royalperspective.com](mailto:ekayanti@royalperspective.com)

## FRONT DESK STAFF SAMUI

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

## 2 WAITRESSES WANTED

Good salary. Speak English. Thai national only. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto: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](mailto:toddplay@hotmail.com)

## TEACHERS WANTED

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

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

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

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

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

Looking for a **JOB?**  
Looking for a better candidate?  
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET](http://WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET)!



## 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. 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-IA**  
9x4sqm commercial space. Start from 10,000 baht per month. 1 year payment in advance. Tel: 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. Tel: 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

### SOLID CASH FLOW 34 ROOMS

Buy the business and take 8 years lease for this 34 room guesthouse in Patong, Phuket. Plus the large restaurant on sub lease pays you 175,000 baht per month! Please call Real Pro. Tel: 076-346875, 084-078 2753. Email: info.realpro@gmail.com Please see our website at www.realprophuket.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).

### LONG-TERM RENTAL SPACE

750sqm area for food center and souvenir sales. Tel: 087-026 1362. Please contact by email: chalongmarket@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.

**BANGLA BAR CHEAP!**  
Absolute stunner! Cheap. Aircon, 2 floors, 160sqm, contact for photos. Only 1.8 million baht, full fitout. Good rent option. Bargain! Please call 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@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

## HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact: realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.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

### 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

### SPORTS BAR KARON

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

### LAUNDRY KATHU 975,000 BAHT

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

### 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.

### 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

### NO-NONSENSE OPPORTUNITY

30 rifle laser tag system, complete. High potential income. Low overheads. Team Building, tourist attraction and local business. Cash purchase 300,000 baht. Please call 089-071 0169 (English). Email: nigelburt51@gmail.com, www.youtube.com/watch?v=08xcTTGHYU0

### VERY POPULAR RESTAURANT

Top restaurant in Kamala Beach for sale. Please search by Google for "Grill Bill Kamala". Tel: 081-089 0543 (English) or send email to iii\_sunny\_iii@yahoo.com

### INVESTOR NEEDED: MOBILE APP

Zom Ammara, a famous Thai celebrity, is raising 6 million baht from investors to promote and monetize on lady safety mobile app project called "GuardMe". We will gain US\$4 million profit within 3 years with celebrity marketing strategy. 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

### 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

### HOUSE&BUSINESS ON 24 RAI



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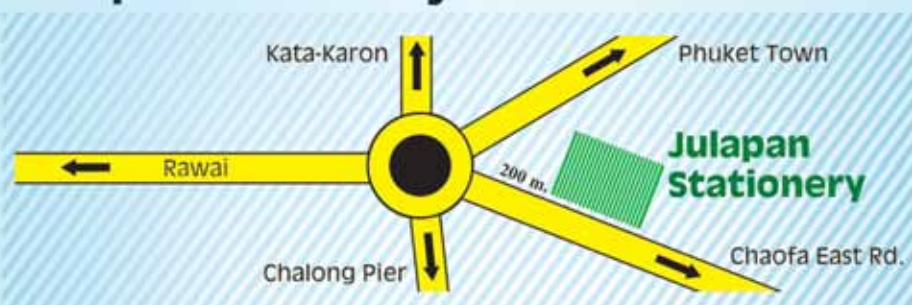
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# Meals on wheels

By Maciek Klimowicz

WE LOVE them, we hate them, we can't live without them (or can we?) – tuk tuks have been getting a lot of bad press in Phuket recently. But all that is about to change thanks to Tom Somsanuk, better known as DJ Tank, and his new business idea – the Tuk Tuk Diner.

"In the States we have diners, where you have your burgers and fries with friends, but I couldn't find

a diner here. There're street food carts, noodle carts and they are great too, but I wanted a diner. So I thought I'd make a miniature diner, a late night venue for clubbers," he explains, adding "My dad used to do food carts and food trucks in the 70s and 80s in America so this is our version of it."

And it has America written all over it, starting with the two Tuk Tuks in the fleet – a blue one named the Munchy Machine after the Mystery

Machine from Scooby Doo cartoon and an orange one going by the name General Sab E-Lee after General Lee from the Dukes of Hazard and meaning "very delicious!" in Isaan dialect – and ending with the menu.

"The menu is simple, the Tuk Tuk cheeseburger is beef and cheese with tomato and lettuce. We have a bacon double cheeseburger, hot dogs with chilli and cheese and we have something called the 'All-nighter' which is a spicy pork sausage sandwich with bacon and egg, crispy, yummy. The onion hash browns or chicken nuggets are awesome too," exclaims Tom. "It's comfort food that you can enjoy with your friends," he adds.

I begin my tasting with the chilli, deep red in color, thick, with fat glistening on the surface. I cover my fries with some, take a bite... and lick my fingers. And I go for another bite, and another. It fills my mouth with the greasy, spicy sensation that makes your mood fly high and your heart beg for mercy. Same goes for the burger – with every bite my smile gets wider and my arteries get narrower. The nuggets are as crispy as they get and the hot dogs puts the ones from 7-eleven to shame. And keep in mind I'm tasting all this in the midday, scorching sun. Imagine having this stuff late into the night of partying, dancing and drinking? Count me in!

And that's exactly where Tom sees his new Tuk Tuk fleet performing at its best – outside of the nightlife venues of Phuket, deep into the night or even early morning hours. A spot to take a break from clubbing and replenish your energy supplies with a savory bite. "I'm aiming for people living in Phuket looking for something different, something high quality and made fresh everyday. I wanted something good, fresh and Western." And Western it is – although knowing that most Westerners living on the island manage to get used to a bit of spice in their food, Tom doesn't skimp on chilli. After all, this food is supposed to keep you going late into the night. And if a fat-dripping, mouth-watering "All-nighter" won't, nothing will.

For more on the Tuk tuk Diner watch 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 85 and 59) and KDTV Channel 4



Beef, pork, chicken – no vegetarian choices here. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



Licking one's fingers is essential with the chilli fries Photo: Maciek Klimowicz




Giving the tuk tuk its good name back. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



Tom (center), his father (second left) and the diner's staff. Photo: Mark Knowles

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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

**Sep 22, 2013, 6:30pm-11pm, Sunday Italian Buffet Dinner at La Trattoria Restaurant, Dusit Thani Laguna.**

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. Contact F&B Team on 076 362 999, email: dtlpfb@dusit.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! Contact Katy Gooch on +66-85-2159185, email: phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com 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 85 and 59) and KDTV Channel 4.

**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.

## Sunday Italian Buffet Dinner at La Trattoria Restaurant, Dusit Thani Laguna September 22, from 6:30-11pm



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 076 286 479.

**Oct 8, 2013, 6-10:30pm, Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards 2013.**

The Wine List of the Year Thailand Awards is a National competition recognizing the efforts and expertise amongst the hotels, restaurants, cafes and wine bars in the development of wine culture in Thailand. The competition is open to all food and beverage establishments with wine lists. The online registration opens in May 2013 and culminates in the announcement of Thailand's best wine list at the Awards ceremony in October. Contact Jon Hyams on 080 471 8713

**Oct 17, 2013, 11:30am-2pm, Phuket International Woman'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. contact Carole Dux on 076 316 711 or register at info@phuketiwcc.com

**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 2013 Beach Volleyball tournament at Karon Beach - Powered by PTT.**

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 up to six Thai teams taking part in the event, of which three are in the main draw and three in the qualifying. Over 70 teams from

**Oct 30, 6pm-12am, Halloween Night at Two Chefs.**

Time to find your scariest costume and get ready for the yearly Halloween party at Two Chefs. We will be serving a large international buffet. The Two Chefs band will rock the house until the late hours. Best costume of the evening will be rewarded with a Two Chefs gift voucher of 5,000 baht. Bring your Two Chefs member card and get a 15% discount on all food. For those who haven't got it yet, you can receive it for free at any of our restaurants. For more info, call 076 330 065, email: katacenter@twochefs.com

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

Registration will be on November 13 from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are November 13-16. Prize giving party on the 16th. For more info, please see our website: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com or contact Khun Uwe Schitteck on 076 282 036, email: uweschitteck@yahoo.com. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show.

**Dec 5, 2013, His Majesty the King's Birthday**

HM The King's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday, also Father's Day in Thailand.

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## KHUN 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.

**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 Gazette

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Online: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)  
And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.



# 360 degrees of reggae

By Mark Knowles

WHEN I wrote an opinion piece a few months ago decrying the fact that reggae bars on the island were playing Bob Marley to death, I figured my plea for them to play a wider variety reggae music was unlikely to have much effect. But when Italian-born DJ "Unity Selekt" or as he is otherwise known, Riccardo Palmitessa, read the article he got in touch to let me know that he was on a mission to bring some great reggae to Phuket's ears.

When Riccardo moved from London to Phuket, he left his babies behind—a collection of over 2,000 vinyl reggae records, many of them rare, which he had painstakingly collected over many years. He has now been re-united with them and he wasted no time in organizing an opportunity to showcase them to a Phuket audience.

His vast collection runs the full gamut of reggae styles, covering the 50-some years of continuous evolution that this unique Jamaican export has undergone.

"I like to play almost all the styles from the very beginnings of ska in the early 60s right up to the modern dub that is coming out now," says Riccardo.

Having played sets in London, Miami, Barcelona and all over his native Italy, Riccardo has fine-tuned his DJing skills to a point where he can tailor his sets

to suit the vibe of any crowd in any venue.

"After 10 years of doing it, you realize every party is different and you have to play different styles of reggae. Usually you can judge it on the night.

"If you have a reggae crowd that knows about the music you can play something more particular. But if it's a crowd that just wants to party and have good vibe, you have to keep the tempo up," says Riccardo.

He is also a die hard devotee of vinyl and says there is something about having a DJ spin his set on turntables that gets them closer to the crowd and helps to create a fantastic vibe.

"I think it's very important for people to see the DJ with the proper vinyl records rather than just looking at a computer screen. I can't play reggae like that because you're always looking at the screen and never get to look at the crowd."

Riccardo is launching what he hopes will become a regular reggae night at the Vinyl Cafe in Phuket Town on Saturday, September 28. Cafe owner Yah, prides herself on playing more than just the standard pop music at her venue and welcomed the chance to let Riccardo hit the decks and play some rarely heard old-school reggae.

"The vinyl cafe likes to play quality music, various styles of it, not just the commercial pop you

hear all over Phuket," says Riccardo.

Not having the chance to play his records in over six months, Riccardo is eager to dust them off and create a fantastic set for his first gig in Phuket.

Knowing that many people might not have an in-depth knowledge of reggae's development he is planning make a set which covers the many periods and styles of reggae which have evolved over the years.

"I'm planning the night to be like '360 degrees of reggae', so I will play stuff from the very beginning of reggae, right up to the modern dance-hall. I want to play some of the classics from various periods of reggae," he says.

Riccardo is also looking for other venues to DJ in all across Phuket, so if you are interested in having some unique tailor made reggae beats at your bar, get in touch with him on 090-951-2916.

*DJ Unity Selekt will be spinning his decks through the history of Reggae at the Vinyl Cafe on Saturday, September 28 from 8:30pm. Vinyl Cafe is located near the corner of Chao Fa East Road and Kwang Road (the road that joins Chao Fa East and Chao Fa West Roads) near the Siam Bank (purple bank) in the south of Phuket Town. Look for the Real Sound Thailand sign on the front of the building.*



DJ Unity Selekt, also known as Riccardo Palmitessa, will be taking patrons on a journey through the history of reggae at the Vinyl Cafe.

# A rare and brave switch

DENNIS Leane's turf is the Irish neighborhood of South Boston, the scene of his previous crime novels *Mystic River* and *Gone, Baby, Gone*.

This year he broadened his range with *Live By Night*, the tale of a Boston gangster, Joe Coughlan, transplanted to Tampa, Florida, in the 1920s. But this was the offspring of a bigger novel *The Given Day* (William Morrow, New York, 2008, 702pp) which marked Leane's first departure from the confines of the crime novel.

In this book, the crime writer has, as it were, gone straight. *The Given Day* is an epic, sweeping historical novel about the state of America at the end of the First World War. Babe Ruth is the most prominent of historical characters who populate this tale of the bloody conflict between radicals and reactionaries as the new decade of the 1920s dawns.

Making appearances are J Edgar Hoover (known as John Hoover in those days), Calvin Coolidge, John Reed, Eugene O'Neill and US Attorney General A Mitchell Palmer, who led the fight against the bomb-throwing immigrant anarchists and communists of the day.

Framing the action is politically innocent Babe Ruth. He is on a train with his team, the Boston Red Sox, and their World Series

## Books

By James Eckardt

rivals the Chicago Cubs, when a delay on the line finds him wandering into a meadow to join a black American baseball team.

The star hitter and base stealer is Luther Laurence – one of the two heroes of the novel.

The other is the Boston policeman Danny Coughlan, older brother of the future gangster Joe Coughlan who is a baseball-obsessed schoolboy in 1918.

His father is Captain Thomas Coughlin, Irish immigrant and pillar of the Boston Police Force.

As a means of obtaining his detective's gold shield, Danny Coughlan agrees to infiltrate the various radical movements of the day who are waging war against the capitalist system.

Ironically enough, he winds up taking a leadership role in the nascent labor union for the Boston Police Force, almost exclusively Irish, with no Jewish or Italian members, who are grossly overworked and underpaid.

Luther Laurence, meanwhile, has taken a job as houseman in the household of Captain Coughlin.

He is on the run from a shootout with black gangsters in Tulsa, Oklahoma, having left behind his new wife and child. Now he finds himself working alongside

the housemaid Nora O'Shea, a waif who'd been rescued from hunger and cold by Captain Coughlan five years before.

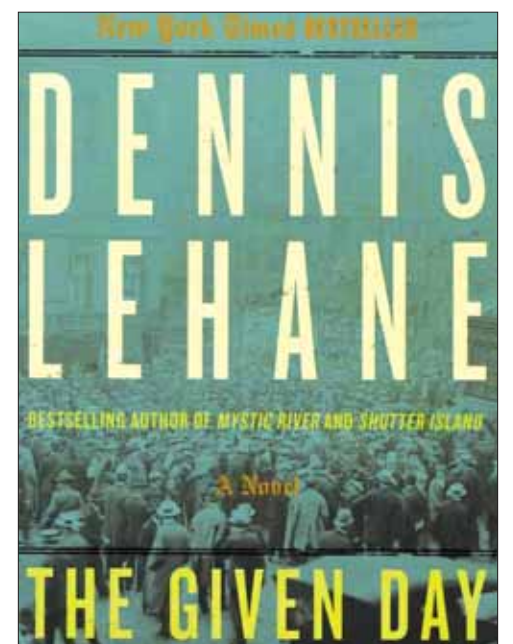
Danny has a love/hate relationship with Nora as he does with his father. Danny admires him for his certainty that he was doing good.

"The question remained as to what exactly the good was. It had something to do with loyalty and something to do with the primacy of a man's honor. It was tied up with duty . . . It was, purely of necessity, conciliatory to the Brahmins on the outside while remaining firmly anti-Protestant on the inside. It was anti-colored, for it was taken as a given that the Irish, for all their struggles and all those still to come, were Northern European and undeniably white and the idea had never been to seat every race at the table, just to make sure that the last chair would be saved for a Hibernian before the door to the room was pulled shut."

An obtuse Boston Brahmin takes over the police force after the Irish commissioner dies of a heart attack. He precipitates a strike by the new police union.

A devious governor, Calvin Coolidge, takes credit for putting down the citywide riots that follow. And the Coughlin family is in the middle, torn asunder by forces that run wildly out of control.

But the novel ends on a note of hope



as its characters join Babe Ruth on a train ride from Boston to his new home with the New York Yankees. "On the train to New York, everyone was drunk. Even the porters. Twelve in the afternoon and people were guzzling champagne and guzzling rye and a band played in the fourth car, and the band was drunk. No one sat in their seats. Everyone hugged and kissed and danced. Prohibition was now the law of the land."



# Michael's grand plan for Centara

THE *Phuket Gazette* had the chance to speak with Centara Grand's new hotel manager, Michael Gaarde-Nielsen, who has worked on the island for three years – only recently joining the five-star hotel. The Danish manager shared with us a little about himself, his ideas and the approach he has brought with him to Centara Grand.

## What do you see as the challenges and what are your goals in your new role?

In my previous job with Centara Kata, we were involved with a lot of environmental projects, such as ISO 14001:2004 and Earthcheck and hope I can continue to undertake such initiatives, as sustainability is of great importance.

## What was the university did you graduate from and what qualification did you get?

I obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management from Oxford Brookes University in Oxford, UK in 2004, in collaboration with Copenhagen Hospitality College in Denmark.

## What influenced you to forge a career in the hospitality industry?

## try and what keeps you going?

My passion for travelling came as part of growing up in a family of expats. My grandparents were outside Denmark for a long period. My parents and sister were living in Taiwan for couple of years while I was in college in Denmark, so my urge for travel came early in life. I believe the best jobs are in the hospitality industry, where you have the opportunity to see many parts of the world and many different cultures.

## What is your motto?

"To travel is to live" – a quote from famous Danish writer HC Andersen.

## What are your hobbies?

Trying to stay as active as possible with golf, football, squash and tennis. The best way to keep stress free is by staying active.

## What is your favorite thing to do/place to go in Phuket?

I love Phuket Town and exploring the different restaurants. Unfortunately many tourists miss out on Phuket Town, which is a shame, since it has such an interesting history.

## What, for you, is the biggest

## attraction about working and living on the island?

There is always something to do, you have the beaches, the hills and the city so it doesn't really feel like you are living on a island.

## How often do you visit your home country, what do you miss about it?

I visit once or twice a year for two to three weeks at a time, I was most recently home in June, at that time it is perfect to enjoy the bright summer evenings in Denmark. I really miss the Danish pastry *Wienerbrod* and a traditional sandwich called *Smorrebrod*.

## Tell us a bit about your background and previous work.

I'm originally from Denmark, but I've been working in London, Taiwan, Oman, Kota Kinabalu, the Dead sea in Jordan, now Phuket. I've been here three years with the Centara branch, first at Centara Karon then Centara Kata, and now I'm at Centara Grand.

## What would you like to see improved in Centara Grand? Are there any specific areas you



Long-standing Centara employee Michael Gaarde-Nielsen brings a wealth of experience to his new role at Centara Grand. Photo: Supplied

## would like to focus on?

Right now, just to make sure we maintain our service and standards and that our guests return. More objectives will become clear as I become familiar with the hotel, as I've only been here for one week!

## Does it differ from your previous hotels?

Yes, as my previous Centara hotels in Kata and Karon were 4-star and Centara Grand 5-star, so there are different guest expectations to fulfill.

## What is the key to a good hotel?

Staff is one of the most important. Staff will always play the main role in hospitality and often are the reason why guests decide to come

back to a resort. It is always a pleasure to hear a guest recommend our staff.

## What is your approach to managing staff?

Leading by example. Basically being there to support them, listening to them if they have proposals for improvement, and seeing if they can be implemented.

## What is, to you, the most important aspect for efficiency within a hotel?

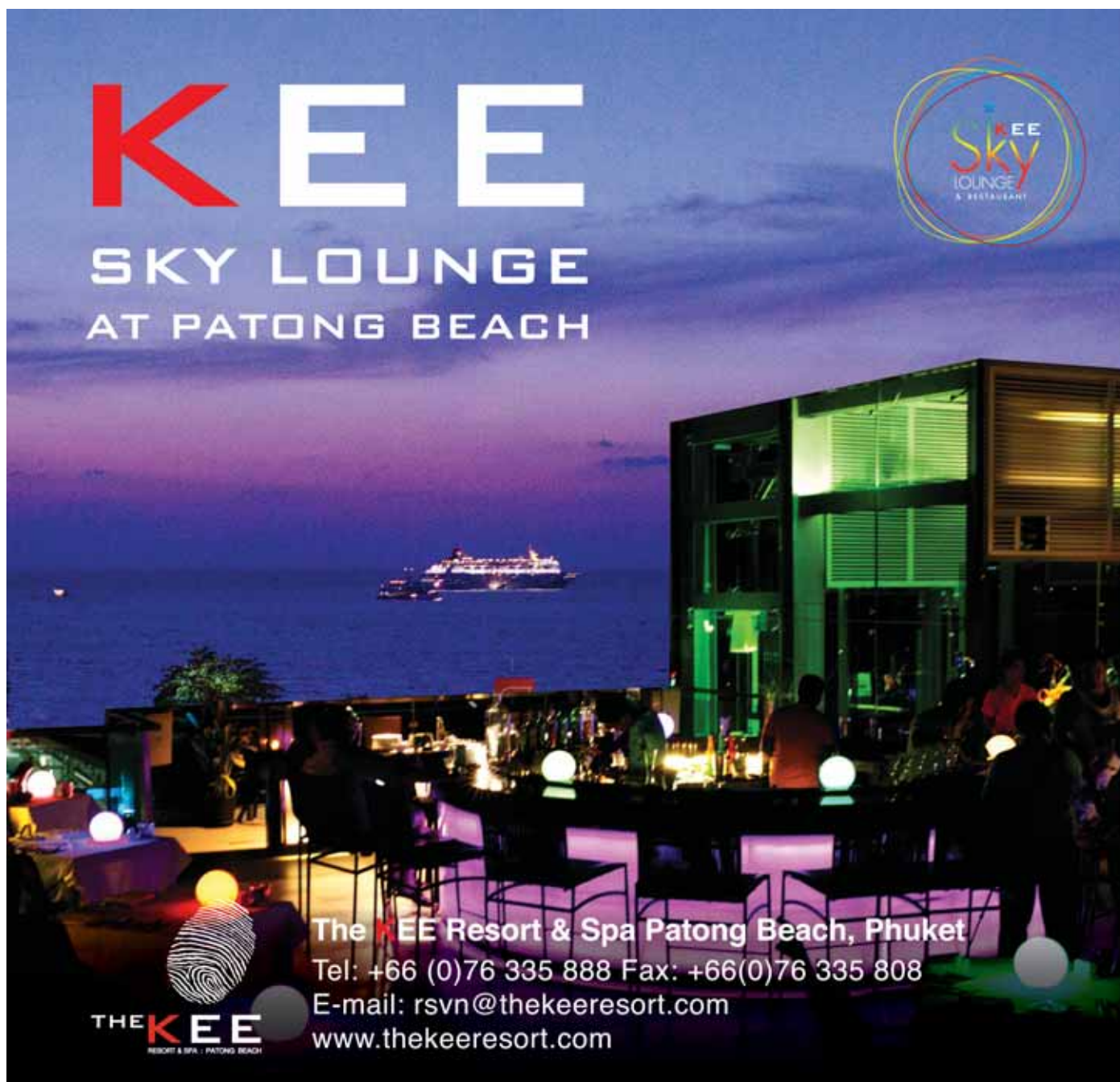
Communication throughout the hotel. Making sure people contact each other, from staff to guest and staff to staff. Making sure we understand the needs of the guest and respond to them. – *Phuket Gazette*



# KEE

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# High on herbs: Intoxicating plants



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

NEXT time you stare at that eye-catching array of bottles behind a bar, think of all the plants that have given up their flavors and fragrances to make your tippie taste exactly how you like it.

For a start, consider the base ingredient, alcohol. Just about any plant can, with the help of yeast, be transformed into molecules of intoxicating ethyl alcohol. Think grapes, potatoes, sugarcane, barley, wheat, rice, apples, agaves and then some.

But that is only the first stage in the process. It gets more interesting, as the characteristic taste of a drink is created by the addition of leaves, fruit or seeds during the process of fermentation or distillation, maybe just before the final bottling. Even then, the flavor imparting process is not finished, as the barman adds a sprig of borage or mint to your Pimms, a slice of lime to your gin and tonic, grenadine syrup to your agave-based tequila sunrise, an olive to your dry martini or fruity extras to your cocktail. Maybe you didn't realize you were surrounded by a global botanical garden, but you are.

Take "Mother's Ruin" or gin for example – its ethyl alcohol, like rum's, generally comes from a tropical source – sugar cane (*sacharrum officinale*), but its aromatic taste is down to two trees: the hard berries of a conifer, the juniper, and the rind of a citrus. In fact, the white spirits' name is a shortening of the Dutch word for juniper, *genever*.

And if you take your gin with tonic, then the slightly acerbic taste derives from the bark of a tropical tree known as the *cinchona*. If you want a sweeter, more personalized drink, you can steep your gin in blue-black sloe berries – a kind of wild plum – and sugar.



Mint makes a flavorful addition to many popular drinks as well as a nice garnish. Photo: Kham Tran

Of course we all know that the grape (*vitis vinifera*), first used in Georgia 8,000 years ago, is the basis for all the world's great wines, but the range is surprisingly large. If we think *cabernet sauvignon*, *merlot*, *tempranillo* or *shiraz* for most of the red brigade, then there are more than a hundred other grape varieties, many peculiar to individual countries.

Red wine, fermented with the skins still on to retain the color, contains beneficial anti-oxidants. But while you are congratulating yourself on your choice of tippie, remember that many alcoholic drinks would be the poorer without that noble tree, the oak, *quercus*. Using barrels may have begun as a way of storing sherry, whisky or brandy, but people soon discovered that contact with the flavinoids in the wood that escape in contact with alcohol, led to wondrous results.

There are up to 600 varieties of *quercus* around the world, but three are especially important to the vintner or spirit maker. *Q. robur*, high in tannins which add pungency to wine, is also used for the casks that age cognac and armagnac, while American white oak (*Q. alba*) releases the same flavor molecules found in vanilla, peach, apricot and cloves. Perfect for slightly sweeter bourbon. Japanese oak or *misunara* contains esters which add a distinctive hint of coconut to the whisky.

One other point is worth a mention. The curved staves of oak barrels are subjected to heat during the coopering process; this causes elements in the wood to caramelize: hence those references in pretentious taste notes to "hints" of caramel, chocolate, butterscotch or toast.

What has all this to do with Thailand's flora? Sugarcane for one. Thailand is the fourth leading producer of *sacharrum*, a plant responsible for much of the world's drinkable alcohol. And grenadine syrup? An essential ingredient in hundreds of cocktails from the Jack Rose to the aforementioned tequila sunrise, this concoction is made from the juice of the pomegranate (*punica granatum*). As I look out from my window, I can see my own *taptim* tree (the Thai word); one day its seedy fruits will be pressed into service as an ingredient in a cocktail. Exquisite.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email me anytime at: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com)



Juniper berries, are what gives gin its distinctive flavor. Photo: Fungus Guy



Pomegranate is used to create grenadine, a dark red syrup used to flavor and color drinks. Photo: Anton Croos

## Tip of the week

### Indoor plants again

I GET many enquiries about plants that will tolerate life indoors. The short answer is that no house-bound plant will put up with incarceration without needing a recuperative spell outside in shade. "Two weeks in, one week out" is not a bad rule of thumb.

Conditions indoors are simply not natural. Few plants can endure drafts such as are produced by air-conditioning, or withstand permanently low levels of light. *Aglaonemas*, *clerodendrons* and *dieffenbachias*

are understorey forest dwellers in the wild; they do not take kindly to the low humidity in most homes.

Oddly, one of the better indoor performers is a desert plant, *yucca recurvifolia*, a member of the sun-loving agave family. It has large, bright green, strap-shaped leaves arranged as a rosette. A vigorous grower, my potted outdoor specimens are a meter wide.

One downside: the curved leaves are serrated along their edges, so be careful where you position it indoors.



Clerodendrons struggle with the low humidity levels in most homes. Photo: WLCutler

## Dog of the week

HI, MY name is Oreo and I am a lucky dog as I was rescued from the dog meat trade in Thailand.

Thank goodness I was rescued from being skinned alive and served up on someone's dinner plate. I am about 2-3 years old and a very handsome male Thai/mixed breed. I like to be top dog of the house and get all the attention, so I would prefer to be adopted by a family with no other pets.

If you are interested in adopting me I would love to join your family. I make a great guard dog who would love you forever.

I can be adopted into the USA, Canada, UK or Thailand.



For additional information on adoption or see other dogs, contact: [Sherin.peace@gmail.com](mailto:Sherin.peace@gmail.com) or visit [doggieheaven.net](http://doggieheaven.net).



# BIS students fly high



Students receive one-on-one training on the trapeze. Photos: Supplied

AT THE British International School, Phuket (BISP), students are being exposed to a unique class – quite possibly a world first – as part of the school's vision to provide world class experiences and opportunities in its Physical Education and Sport programs.

The school has teamed up with Mid Air Circus Arts to allow students to undertake curricular and extracurricular lessons in the flying trapeze.

The trapeze enables students to face their fears in order to improve self esteem and self confidence, and dovetails neatly with the school's philosophy which embraces "risk-taking" and encourages students to push themselves to their limits.

With this innovative partnership, the Physical Education Department is incorporating trapeze into curricular models across key stages 1-4.

With the new PE curriculum imminent in 2014, trapeze is an area of activity which underpins much of the subject content in gymnastics and outdoor

adventure activities.

Students will have opportunities to develop their strength, coordination and flexibility. According to a National curriculum draft document, the program will encourage students to: "solve intellectual and physical challenges while working as part of a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems either individually or as a group".

BISP prides itself on creativity and shaping a generation of leaders who are prepared to challenge and take risks. Head teacher, Neil Richards, is an advocate of the initiative and was at the heart of the vision to expand the program within the school. Indeed, he was the first staff member to try the trapeze and was completely enthused by the experience.

Since its inception, many of the school's students have benefited from the thrill and focus that the trapeze offers.

Though limited, school-initiated research into this activity suggests that the brain is stimulated after



AERIAL STUNTS: A BISP student attempts some trapeze acrobatics as part of the school's new Cirque Ed program.

just a short time on the trapeze and initial evidence shows that students perform significantly better in cognitive tests following this type of physical activity.

The school would welcome any further research into the cognitive benefits that the program may bring and would be happy to work with any interested university education department in this regard.

Founder of the Mid Air Circus Arts, Ben Martin, has established a clear and structured developmental program, which builds on belief, timing and technique before translating it into confidence and strength. In his words:

"The muscle which defeats us is the brain". It has been his enthusiasm and passion and that of his colleagues that has culminated in the production of the school-based program called "Cirque Ed".

Head of PE, Richard Stockings and Athletics Director, Jeff Lamantia share a vision for PE and Sport at BISP that is centered upon providing world-class programs and innovative opportunities for students.

They have fully backed the program and are working with Mid Air Circus to explore its future growth and development. Modules are being planned to create schemes of work in the curricu-

lum which will bring together aesthetic units and adventurous activities.

A further development would see criteria being established to implement in the Ed-excel GCSE PE course through a local need model. Richard Stockings invites any school that has experience with a similar program or is interested to learn more about the development of "Cirque Ed" to enter into a professional dialogue with the BISP staff.

*This article was written by Richard Stockings, Head of Physical Education at the British International School, Phuket.*



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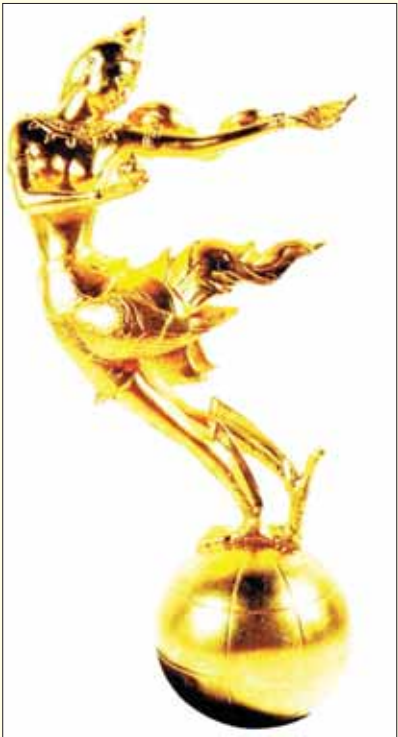
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# Sea Bees awarded



The 9<sup>th</sup> Thailand Tourism Awards recently were announced and Phuket's Sea Bees Diving has been honored with an award for Outstanding Performance: Tour Programmes.

This award signifies "Quality and excellence in tourism and hospitality operations and demonstrates a readiness to support and strengthen Thailand's tourism industry."

Holger Schwab, proud owner and Managing Director, will collect the award in Bangkok on September 27 at the awards ceremony.

For more information, contact Simone All ne at Sea Bees Diving on marketing@sea-bees.com or on +66 (0) 83 596 0018.



## SEPTEMBER 21

- 1792 France was declared a republic.
- 1934 A large typhoon killed 3,036 people in Japan.
- 1937 JRR Tolkien's The Hobbit was published.
- 1942 The B-29 Superfortress maiden flight.
- 1964 Malta became independent from the United Kingdom.
- 1991 Armenia was granted independence from Soviet Union.

## SEPTEMBER 22

- 1499 Switzerland became an independent state.
- 1869 Richard Wagner's opera Das Rheingold premiered.
- 1888 First issue of National Geographic Magazine was published.
- 1955 In the UK, the television channel ITV went live.
- 1980 Iraq invaded Iran.



Automobile 1908 Photo: Ford Motor Company

## SEPTEMBER 23

- 1846 Discovery of Neptune.
- 1909 The Phantom of the Opera was first published.
- 1913 Roland Garros' first flight across the Mediterranean.
- 1941 The first gas chamber experiments conducted at Auschwitz.
- 1999 Celebrate Bisexuality Day was first observed in the US.
- 2002 The first public version of Mozilla Firefox released.



Arena 1957 Photo: Mutari

## SEPTEMBER 24

- 768 Charlemagne crowned the first King of the Franks.
- 1664 The Dutch Republic surrendered New Amsterdam to England.
- 1946 Cathay Pacific Airways was founded in Hong Kong.
- 1948 The Honda Motor Company was founded.
- 1957 Camp Nou, the largest stadium in Europe, was opened in Barcelona.
- 2007 Largest anti-government protests in Yangon, Burma in 20 years.



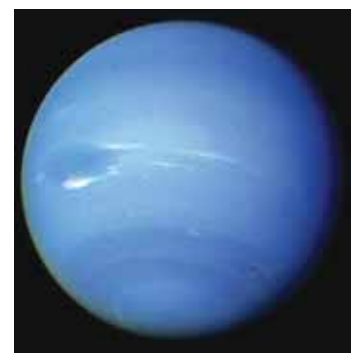
Competition 2002

## SEPTEMBER 25

- 1066 The end of the Viking invasions of England.
- 1955 The Royal Jordanian Air Force was founded.
- 1977 About 4,200 people took part in the first Chicago Marathon.
- 2003 A magnitude 8.0 earthquake occurred just offshore Hokkaido.
- 2008 China launched the spacecraft Shenzhou 7.

## SEPTEMBER 26

- 1580 Sir Francis Drake finished his circumnavigation of the Earth.
- 1934 Steamship RMS Queen Mary was launched.
- 1950 United Nations troops recaptured Seoul from North Korean forces.
- 2008 Yves Rossy flew a jet engine wing across the English Channel.



Neptune 1846 Foto: NASA



Chase 2005 Photo: momokacma

## SEPTEMBER 27

- 1590 Pope Urban VII died 13 days after being chosen as the Pope.
- 1777 Lancaster was the capital of the United States for one day.
- 1821 Mexico gained independence from Spain.
- 1908 The first Ford Model T automobile was built.
- 1937 Balinese Tiger declared extinct.
- 2005 Tom & Jerry aired its final episode for the first time.



Know your Disney princesses: Ariel, Belle and Mulan. Photo: Loren Javier

# Mulan - from the heart for the heart

PIDA Dance Academy, a leading dancing institute originating in Australia, together with the Rotary Club of Sino Phuket, is organizing a stage performance of "Mulan the Musical" to be delivered by Phuket's Simon Star theater students on September 29.

In the past, PIDA Dance Academy organized stage performances of "Tarzan" and "Beauty and the Beast" and got a very good response from the audience. This year, the academy got a chance to work with the Rotary Club of Sino Phuket. The performance will also see more singers with extra voices coming from Yamaha Thailand Music School (Phuket). There will be more than 200 people working on the play.

The income from the event will be donated to the Vachira Phuket Hospital's Heart Center Fund which was established on World Heart Day (September 29) in 2010. The collected funds will be used to develop the facilities and provide necessary equipment for patients with heart diseases.

The organizers expect more than 1,200 spectators to attend the event.

Mulan The Musical will be performed twice, at 12am and at 3pm.



# Venturing into the unknown

An image of Jupiter's moon Europa captured by the Voyager 1. Photo: NASA

By Don Battles

NASA's Voyager 1 spacecraft recently became the first human-made object to venture beyond the boundaries of our solar system and into what is known as interstellar space, a part of space which our own sun has little to no influence on. The 36-year-old probe is now about 12 billion miles (19 billion kilometers) from our sun. New and unexpected data indicates Voyager 1 has been travelling for about a year through plasma, or ionized gas, present in the space between stars.

Aside from all the self-proclaimed "trekkies" (someone who has an obsession for Star Trek), also celebrating the news right here in Thailand, is former Phuket expat, Don Battles, who spoke to the *Gazette* via phone from his current home in Chiang Rai. Before his Thai chapter commenced decades ago, Don was a NASA engineer who worked on the team responsible for launching Voyager 1. The *Gazette* asked Don to comment about and reflect on this latest milestone and this is what he had to say:

"I started to work on a rocket launch team at Cape Canaveral Florida in 1958 shortly after graduating Aerospace Engineering. As you might imagine, we were in a cold war and missile race with the Russians. We had to work night and day to accomplish: Strategic Missile Parity; Communication Satellites and Outer Space exploration.

The initial Pioneer Satellites were the beginning, followed by Voyager. I would like to note that I am not an astronomer but love everything that I have ever learned about it. My best friend in high school, Lavonne Hales, tried to get me to study astronomy with him in college. I was more of a hardware and systems guy from my previous experience in the USAF. He went on to be a great astrono-

mer and contributed greatly to many of the developments of astronomical hardware.

In 1960, it was determined that many planets would be in a line at a point in the future and if we could do a fly-by, we could capture a lot of information from many



Don Battles Photo: Private archive

different planets in the nearby [section of our] solar system that we were familiar with. This program was called "Grand Tour".

Our launch vehicles then were quite limited and some depended on converting Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles equipped with an upper stage to do deep space missions. This is how we put John Glen into earth's orbit for the first time. We used an Atlas Rocket. These Ballistic Missiles were not designed for these missions but we had to further develop them and the rocket engines were reasonably dependable. We had to modify them to meet our missions.

Thank god we had scientists then that wanted to explore outer space along with a government that believed in what we were doing and they funded the work.

I think that very few people understand or appreciate the importance of the Voyager mission and how successful it has been. The work started long before many people were born and they still do

not know what it has accomplished, let alone understand that the deep holes of space are not known nor understood. It took us 20 years to develop the Hubble Telescope and it has given us visions into another part of the universe that we never dreamed of knowing.

By the early sixties we needed high-lift capability to reach the outer fringes of outer planetary space.

The Voyager work started in 1972 and launched in 1977. People wanted to know what was beyond the solar system away from the control of the sun. We never dreamed that its [Voyager 1's] plutonium power supply and radio transmission equipment would last 36 years and is expected to last to 2025. Now Voyager is some 19 billion miles away from the sun. We were just praying to get into deep outer space and after that anything would be a bonus.

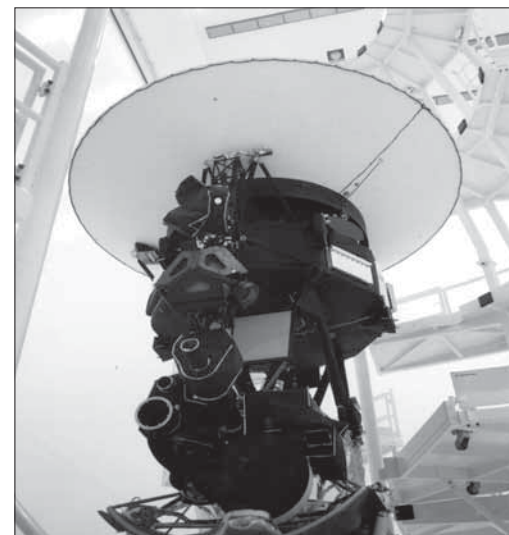
Besides the Apollo Project where we landed a total of 12 men on the moon in 6 missions, I think that the following missions were great and gave us a lot of insight into the world that we have such a limited knowledge of: the Hubble Telescope and the Mars Lander Rover.

After working with the German Rocket Team for 17 years, we were well on our way with a manned mission to Mars using a nuclear powered rocket. We would have landed on Mars in 1986 but the program was killed by the Nixon Government when they decided they could not keep the war in Vietnam and also go to Mars. He needed to maintain the war to get re-elected. The Mars

mission carried very little political weight on the voters. Dr Von Braun [a former Nazi scientist who after the second World War, led the US rocket/space programs] fully believed that we could get to outer deep space and land on other planets. He was a great visionary. When he was taken out of his job and given a desk job in Washington, it was the end of these dreams. He died in 1976 in Washington DC. All of my other German Rocket friends I knew have died. Most of us old Rocket Engineers don't die, we just fade away. At 80, I have faded away to a small farm in the foot hills of Doi Hang in Chiang Rai, which is not so bad.

As many know, I disagreed with the future of NASA and the Space Shuttle as I saw nothing new to be learned from the International Space Station and its low earth orbit mission. I was classified as a non believer and given the opportunity of being fired or taking an early retirement. I took the early retirement but miss the exciting work that we did.

Starting with Nixon, future presidents thought more of war than they did space. The Bush boys set the record with dragging us into three wars. They did nothing to further outer space exploration. We now have turned



Voyager 1 spacecraft. Photo: NASA

over our manned space business to the private sector for earth orbit and resupply of the International Space Station. Elon Musk and his Space X was the first private company to build a new rocket and a maneuverable resupply space craft from scratch. He launched it from Cape Canaveral and represented the first private company to do this. He is now well into the development of a manned 7-person resupply vehicle for the International Space Station. Currently we are paying the Russians US\$70 million per man for our resupply.

If the world were behind this kind of the work, the human resources are available and the hardware and work could be done by the private sector to keep an important mission for man to explore the planets and black holes."

## Voyager Planetary Spacecraft according to NASA

THE Titan III-E/Centaur, first launched in 1974, had an overall height of 48.8 meters (160 ft). Designed to use the best features of three proven rocket propulsion systems, this vehicle gave the US an extremely powerful and versatile rocket for launching large spacecraft on planetary missions.

The Titan III-E/Centaur was the launch vehicle for two Viking spacecraft to Mars, and two Voyager spacecraft to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. It also launched two Helios spacecraft toward the Sun. All provided remarkable new information about our solar system. The Vikings and Voyagers produced spectacular color photographs of the planets they explored.

The Titan III-E booster was a two-stage liquid-fueled rocket with two large solid-propellant rockets attached. At liftoff, the solid rockets provided 10.7 million newtons (2.4 million lbs) of thrust.

The Centaur stage, still in use today, produces 133,440 newtons (30,000 lbs) of thrust from two main engines, and burns for up to seven and one-half minutes. The Centaur can be restarted several times which allows for more flexibility in launch times.



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# A village on the edge

By Nick Walker

IN THE bad old days of the Cold War and Mao's Cultural Revolution, this part of Hong Kong, San Tin, used to be called the "Bamboo Curtain" – the 30-kilometer border, and a few kilometers either side, between what was a British Crown colony and the People's Republic of China.

Just to the southwest of the Lo Wu border-crossing between Hong Kong and mainland China – the second-busiest land-crossing in the world after San Diego's San Ysidro into Mexico – lies a remarkable village that time seems to have forgotten. There are no ATMs or convenience stores or glaring illuminated shop-signs here. And in futuristic, fast-paced Hong Kong, San Tin is the largest of now just a handful of villages that are unique in their total lack of modernity.

San Tin literally means "new rice-paddies" – and was named by the first inhabitants, members of the Man clan who arrived in this swampy corner of present-day Hong Kong, in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, from their homeland in China's Jiangxi province, approximately 700 kilometers to the north-east.

At that time, Kublai Khan and his hordes were rampaging through the Middle Kingdom, and the Man Clan was one of many Han Chinese clans displaced by the Mongolian invasion.

Since then, San Tin has been the turf of this clan, one of the five major historical clans of Hong Kong, who are all descendants of the 13<sup>th</sup> century scholar-general Man Tin Cheung. More on him later.

Today, San Tin – in places a shantytown – is a time-warped border-village with an long, epic past and a precarious future.

At night the skyscrapers of the China's Shenzhen City cast reflections in neon colors on the duck ponds between San Tin and the mainland. And yet 21<sup>st</sup> century China seems eons away, as dragonflies flit in elliptical circles above the greenery and wetlands around the village, the kinetic clatter of mah-jong playing reverberates through the the maze-like alleyways, and feral dogs yip-yap in the distance.

Since the 1980s – the blink of an eye in the history of one of the world's longest continuous civilizations – Shenzhen has mushroomed out of the paddy-fields north of what is now simply called "the boundary" by both the mainland and Hong Kong governments, and into a city with a bigger population than Hong Kong itself. This boundary however is still very much a border, and a rather expensive one to cross

for non-Chinese visitors.

San Tin's population hovers around just under three thousand, and the majority of inhabitants here are still surnamed Man.

While most of the New Territories – the rural land between the sky-rises of the Kowloon peninsula and Shenzhen – has become increasingly urbanized as Hong Kong's suburbs encroach northwards, San Tin remains quirkily undeveloped. Indeed, many parts of the town resemble movie-sets for productions of the Hong Kong of the 1960s.

There's not a single dwelling over five-storeys, and large number of centuries-old, uninhabited buildings are crumbling to the ground, especially in the heart of the village. These give San Tin the appearance of a ghost-town when the sun arcs down into the nearby Mai Po marshes at the end of each day.

A still-intact protective wall constructed by villagers during the Yuan Dynasty of the 14<sup>th</sup> century, can be found in the village's center, though it takes some effort – and often the assistance of an obliging Man – to find it.

During the day in San Tin, there's a gentle buzz in the streets. Old-timers play mah-jong in the open-fronted fan-cooled ground-floor rooms of Qing Dynasty shophouses. Young children make their own fun, playing tag, catching frogs, fishing, playing cards, riding their bicycles and enjoying other non-digital joys long-forgotten by the rest of Hong Kong's youth.

The village is a pocket of poverty in a wealthy city, and very few people of working age can be found in this corner of Asia's most economically dynamic city (as the city has dubbed itself). There are simply no employment opportunities in San Tin or its environs, except for drivers for the shuttle-buses to the nearby Lok Ma Chau checkpoint, and the village's two *cha chaan tengs* (cheap, no-frills eateries). Most of San Tin's denizens are poor, but community life is rich.

Neighbors natter about the weather instead of the Hang Seng index. Traditional festivals are fulsomely enjoyed and feature communal feasts prepared by the clan's welfare organization. And residents watch out for each other, and their children.

Mandarin has a much greater verbal presence here than other parts of Asia's premier Cantonese city. Indeed, San Tin is basically bilingual, and linguistically feels like an offshoot of Shenzhen, which is a 15-minute bus ride away.

The non-human sounds of San Tin are pleasing to the ear. Plovers and lapwings

tweet away in the boughs of vast centuries-old banyan trees, and in the bamboo groves that flourish between old masonry. And bullfrogs croak at dusk.

The village truly belongs to an earlier, gentler, less consumerist age. Unlike most other Hong Kong communities, San Tin is not a 24-7 beast. She sleeps soundly from dusk to dawn, when the only sounds are the faint traffic noise carried on the breeze from the mainland.

The most unifying aspect of the village is hereditary. The Man Clan cherishes its past. And because many Mans stay here for evermore (or return on retirement), the village is home to one of Hong Kong's

best-preserved ancestral halls.

The Man Lun Fung Ancestral Hall was declared a historical building of notable merit by the Hong Kong government in 1983, nearly 400 years after it was constructed in honor of Man Lung-fung, an 8<sup>th</sup> generation Man patriarch of great distinction. The building, a baked-brick structure, features exquisitely ornamented fascia boards depicting scenes from Chinese folklore.

The "soul tablets" of ancestors are placed in the middle hall to honor deceased Mans in the after-life. The hall remains in use in the traditional manner, as a place for worship of ancestors and a focal point



The Shenzhen River snaking between the high-rises of mainland



during cultural festival and ceremonies, of which there seems to be one every other week.

Nearby stands the Tai Fu Tai Scholar's House. Built in 1865 during the Qing Dynasty, this was originally the residence of the bookish Man Chung-luen.

Recently restored, this most impressive structure is one of the best-preserved examples of traditional scholar-gentry Qing architecture in greater China, and features a beautifully decorated roofless room that Chuen-luen retreated to in order to pen poetry under the moonlight and the stars.

The most famous Man, though, throughout the clan's long history remains the scholar-general Man Tin Cheung, one of the great heroes of the Song Dynasty. And a memorial statue of the great soldier – revered for his strict moral righteousness – stands atop a hill just east of the village. Perhaps the second most famous Man is Wen Qimei, who was the mother of Zedong (Wen is the Mandarin form of the Cantonese surname Man).

Life in San Tin has changed little over the centuries – with one abrupt exception – the dark days of the Pacific War. The Japanese occupation of Hong Kong was especially harsh here, with random killings of villagers of all ages being a routine occurrence. So many were slaughtered that a mass grave had to be dug behind the ancestral hall.

In the post-war years, the Man clan has spread overseas, principally to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands, where westward-travelling Mans have opened and operated a large number of Chinese restaurants. As such, the first question a rare Western visitor to the village is asked is the quaintly odd: "Are you Dutch or British?"

As timeless and restful as this unspoilt village feels today, a faster pace of life is rapidly approaching. Work has already started on a mass-transit rail link that will join Hong Kong's West Rail route to Shenzhen by means of a spur-line with three new stations. And one of these proposed stops will be San Tin.

When this happens, nobody – in the village or outside – will be able to keep the 21<sup>st</sup> century at bay. And San Tin's time-warp bubble will burst.

Completion is expected in the next three years. In other words, the San Tin of centuries gone-by now has a visit-by date.

Currently it takes over two hours to reach San Tin from downtown Hong Kong, by means of two buses, to reach San Tin. But the new line will cut that time by two thirds, and will likely wipe the village off the time-travellers' map.

The statue of Man Tin Cheung will then gaze down on a vista of a homogenized New Territories settlement with, like all the others, a vast anodyne shopping mall built adjacent to the station. San Tin will get its own Golden Arches and all the



Two duck-ponds south of the border. Photos: Nick Walker



A small business located in the maze of alleys in the center of San Tin village.

rest. But how much will it lose, and who will record the loss?

The Man Clan are set to see more turbulence than at any time since the 1960s, when Mao's Red Guards bellowed revolutionary slogans across the Shenzhen River, and fear of an invasion by the People's Liberation Army was very real. Today, however, the threat is emanating from the south.

Barely discernible in the mix of birdsong and clattering mahjong tiles is the faint bass-heavy pounding of construction work from the direction of the encroaching transportation link. It's snaking north – and will surely gobble-up San Tin like a tiny rodent.

### How to get there:

TAKE Hong Kong's MTR subway to Yuen Long station, located in the northwest New Territories. From Yuen Long, take a taxi or a red-top mini-bus (number 17) to *San Tin yau gok, m'goi* (San Tin Post Office, please). With the PO to your right, walk directly into the village. The Tai Fu Tai Scholar's House will soon appear on your left. Hong Kong Airlines and Dragonair fly direct Phuket to Hong Kong daily.



China (right) and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.



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# Bright future for solar



Photo: Public Domain

**ENERGY EMPOWERED:** Demand for solar power has traditionally been higher in developed countries. Above: Barack Obama looking at solar panels at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

By David Arturo Teran

WE modern Homo Sapiens are addicted to energy. Energy is the main driver for development and economic growth and for over a century, we have been powering our addiction with fossil fuels. As someone that comes from an oil producing country and having worked with different indigenous communities in the Ecuadorian Amazon that have been affected by oil production, I have seen the decline of their livelihoods, environmental resources, culture and the triggering of different types of diseases.

You don't need to be a scientist or a PhD to realize that it has been a fiasco; we have caused irreparable damages to our environment and have put our future generations at grave risk. This is why I believe renewable energy resources hold promises for the development toward a more sustainable future, a future in which we can live in harmony with *pachamama* (mother earth) and countries with vast natural beauty, like Thailand do not have to become victims of our past mistakes.

Solar PV (photo-voltaic) is currently the renewable energy of choice for most countries. Solar PV attracts more capital for private investment and public spending than any other types of renewable energy. According to a new report from Navigant Research, annual worldwide revenues from solar PV installations will surpass US\$134 billion by 2020.

This is a result of different forms of incentives to induce consumers to invest in solar power. Developed countries have traditionally led the market (particularly the EU countries, Japan and the US), but since last year there has been an important shift toward developing countries that are now proving to be the future for the development of the PV market. So what does this mean?

## For consumers

When the technology first became commercially available in the 1970s, the total cost to produce one watt of electric power from a PV cell was close to \$100. Since then, the price of solar PV panels has

dropped more than 80%. Currently, this price has gone down to lower than \$1 per watt – a price that is competitive with the cost of traditionally generated energy in many areas around the world. Over the past five years, solar PV has averaged an annual growth rate of over 50%. This drop in the price of PV production and distribution has become a global trend, resulting in great strides in the technology's availability for the general population worldwide.

On a global scale, solar could provide about 30% of global total electricity by 2050, up from the 0.1% it provides now. One can imagine the repercussions this could have on the way we as individuals use energy. The fact that solar is becoming a possibility for the average person to acquire is a global economic game changer. It is a stepping stone for individuals to be able to be energy self-sufficient, not to mention the positive effect this could have for climate change. Despite this positive scenario, the solar PV market is still in a phase of growth but it's safe to say that the PV industry has reached a point of maturity and is now considered a viable and promising energy resource for the future.

According to a study by Chi-Jen Yang, "Reconsidering Solar Grid Parity," From 2000 to 2010, global solar PV deployment increased from 0.26 gigawatts (GW) to 16.1 GW with an annual growth rate of more than 40%. Government incentives for consumers and producers, coupled with technological innovations that significantly reduced manufacturing costs, are at least in part responsible for the more widespread deployment and use that PV cells have enjoyed in recent years. Studies have predicted an additional 438GW of solar PV to be installed between 2013 and 2020, by which time it is believed that solar PV would be cost-competitive with retail electricity prices, without subsidies, in a significant portion of the world.

The initial investment in transitioning from fossil fuels to solar power for a private residence, for example, may still seem like a significant one to many, but in real-

## Common Cents

### Opinion

ity these systems – thanks again to reductions in manufacturing costs and technological ad-

vances – have an ever-increasing potential to not merely pay for themselves, but to generate actual revenue.

## For developing countries

The European market that historically has led global solar demand is slowing as regional market conditions become less attractive. The dependence for the demand and production from European and North American markets have faded due to the loss of incentive programs in many of these countries coupled with economic instability since 2008.

Now, when we consider the continued development of incentive policies in developing nations – along with the decreasing system costs, it is clear the solar power industry will have increased importance and priorities in countries like Thailand. Indeed, the growth in Thailand is in line with many industry reports predicting that emerging markets in Asia Pacific, Latin America, the Middle-East, Africa and "emerging Europe" will help strengthen the solar industry in 2013. According to IHS Solar Emerging Markets report, "up to 30 GW of PV will be added throughout various emerging markets in the next four years, helping to stabilize an industry that's strengthening itself against the elimination of critical incentives in several European markets."

Thailand has been recognized as a potential solar PV leader due to its strong year-round solar radiation, and with Thailand importing more than 60% of its fuel, the argument for renewable, domestically-produced energy seems obvious. It was among the first countries in Asia to introduce incentive policies for the generation of electricity from renewable energy sources, leading to rapid growth, particularly in solar power. Due to the country's abundant solar capacity and attractive solar feed-in tariffs offered between 2007-2010 and recently in mid-2013. Thailand has most of the ingredients for solar power to play a major role.

The incentive program, in its early phase known as ADDER, has drawn global developers such as SunEdison and Kyocera, 99% of this capacity addition comes from large-scale solar farms (with installed capacity that exceeds 1 MW).

Currently there is positive news for solar rooftop development in Thailand. After three years of a pause in support, the Thai government reopened a feed-in tariff (FiT) program for rooftop and ground-mounted solar power investment in July, 2013. The government will support 200 MW of rooftop solar power through these policies. The FiT rates send a strong signal to attract foreign investment as well as to inspire local start-ups to enter the business of solar power installation. In the past, complex and lengthy permitting processes have been a persistent barrier to the expansion of Thailand's solar market. To bring solar PV to the mainstream, obstructive laws and regulation would have to be overcome. It remains to be seen if such strong incentives will result in a vibrant residential rooftop market.



David Arturo Teran has a BA in International Relations and Political Science with a Minor in Environmental Law from the Universidad San Francisco de Quito. He is a graduate student in the Environment, Development and Sustainability Program at Chulalongkorn University, where he also works as a Research Assistant with the Energy Research Institute. He can be contacted through 0849105232 or email: teranda08@gmail.com



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**JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:** Find the 10 differences between these pictures.

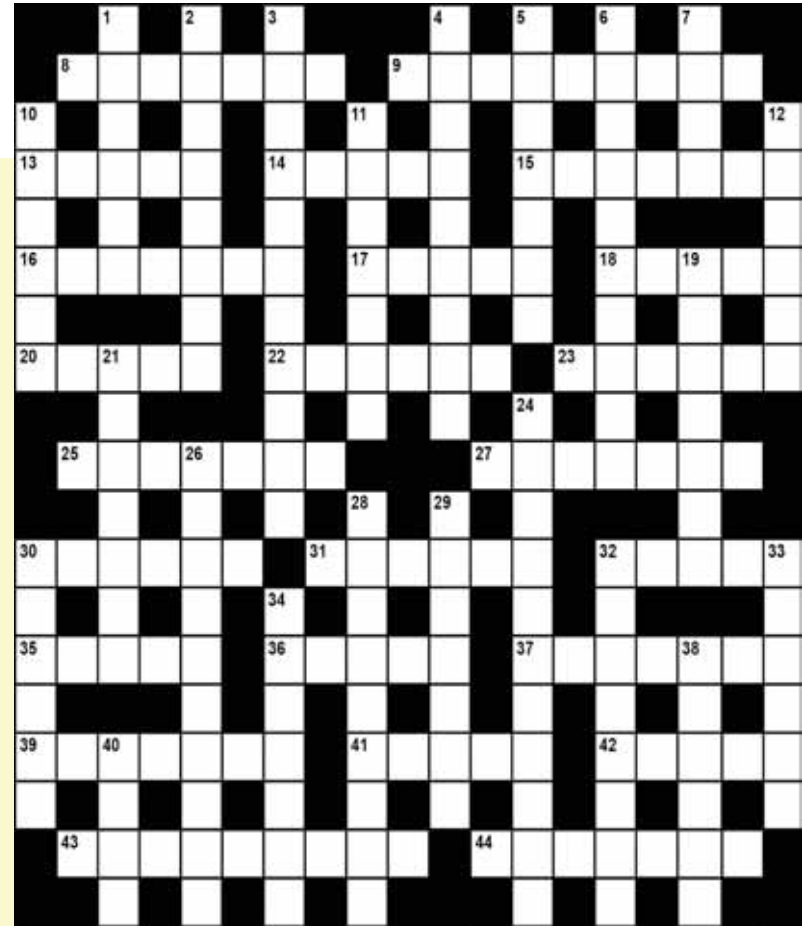


Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See [juksadventures.com](http://juksadventures.com) for more information.

## COFFEE break

### Across:

8. Or point out the part (7)
9. Gosh, rank rearranged! New in Thai festival (9)
13. Cooked pea is brown color! (5)
14. Hold down a news medium (5)
15. Retained energy open, try anew (7)
16. Searcher for long time, right? (7)
17. Weight of stone in a cart traveling (5)
18. Topsy Liberal I put out (3,2)
20. Gun disturbed, fire out of line (5)
22. Pirates may be not with a band (6)
23. Past one, caught back in, caught a meal outside (6)
25. The French sang out a recipe from Italy (7)
27. In this place involuntary movement of unbeliever (7)
30. Can a father make this country? (6)
31. Fine angle change in the collar (6)
32. Quickly moving a large number of vessels (5)
35. Mails out to a religious persuasion (5)
36. Ruffle father badly (5)
37. Note, primed about the outer skin (7)
39. Sort of perfume to enrage (7)
41. Indefinite area in treatise (5)
42. House let back as establishment providing accommodation (5)
43. Cry, so case thrown out for accomplice (9)
44. Re. scare about ways of making a living (7)



### Down:

1. Catch for each policeman (6)
2. Liberal in strange squeeze (8)
3. Maybe soon cramps one in similarities (11)
4. Pressed, man, against text (9)
5. Concur with a welcome round (5,2)
6. Ah, clean tie arranged by the hostess! (10)
7. Goa's pudding? (4)
10. Request to behave in a provocative manner (3,3)
11. Copper merry about Roman god (7)
12. Short-sighted copy I'm editing (6)
19. Listen out! Echo can be stretched (7)
21. Ann fell out with smooth talk (7)
24. Respectful, put off settlement of estate (11)
26. Also as a name scattered all round Phuket! (7,3)
28. It's closer maybe to covered walks (9)
29. Not sure which lane cur messed up (7)
30. About Sir turning up, is an emergency! (6)
32. Fine, correct, note new alarm (8)
33. My, I let out at the right moment (6)
34. Crime not on, seen rotten (7)
38. To obtain by force former wife, a legally wrongful act (6)
40. Firm about South American stimulant (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**

### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

The little things in life are forecast to bring Librans most happiness during the last part of September. You have extra reason to be grateful for friendships. Another air sign is forecast to give good advice this weekend and a water sign's generosity can be welcome to those with shaky finances. If your birthday is due in the coming week, romance should be steadier in the year ahead.

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Physical exercise takes on more importance for Scorpios who are inclined to be couch potatoes. The stars suggest that this could be connected to a recent romantic interest – whatever the reason for your newfound determination to get fitter, a healthier routine will bring many benefits, including sharper mental power. Affairs of the heart continue to be well starred until the end of the month. Money matters are auspicious on Monday and Tuesday.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

The stars suggest that downcast Sagittarians should brighten up this week. Personal relationships become easier to maintain, with

focus on a heart to heart talk clearing the air with another fire sign. Your talents in the world of work are forecast to be in demand as others fail to meet the mark. Those who are single and shy can find they have a lot in common with a water sign this weekend.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Your preference for dealing with logic can cause ripples in the world of work this week. The stars advise Capricorns that thinking more creatively can open up interesting possibilities. An air sign colleague's ideas are not as wild as they first appear and a fire sign has the right experience to turn dreams into reality. Where romance is concerned, it would be wise to remember that no-one is perfect.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Major decisions should be postponed until the end of September. The stars show that influence from others can send Aquarians in the wrong direction this week. This is an ideal time to gather more facts, with an earth sign predicted to give helpful information this weekend. Those involved with a fire sign can be faced with an awkward question this weekend. Love is luckiest on Wednesday and Thursday.

## YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Meeting people outside their usual social circle is highlighted to make this a week to remember for those born under the sign of Pisces. The cosmic climate encourages you to be more outgoing, which will lead to some meaningful encounters. Your enthusiasm to try new places is appreciated by a romantic partner who is tired of staying at home. Those who are single have more opportunity to change this status.

### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Plans that were pushed up into the air can take shape again, with Arians who needed to take a break seeing this happen. Those who have been trying to get a new business venture off the ground are helped by an influential earth sign. Romance is hot this weekend as Cupid works on your behalf to encourage a relationship with another fire sign. Finances are most fortunate on Wednesday.

### TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

The stars indicate that certain Taureans may have to settle for being second best. If this relates to missing out on promotion in the world of work, you could soon be relieved that someone else has the extra responsibility. Freelance projects are better starred, with focus on dreams of opportunities overseas becoming reality by the end of the year. Money matters improve as you get used to living on a tighter budget.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Many of those born under the sign of Gemini will be glad to have a quiet few days this weekend. A social whirl since the start of September gives way to a quieter period as this month draws to a close. You may be able to influence a fire sign friend who has been burning the candle at both ends, but tact is advisable. Finances are fortunate midweek.

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The stars advise following up on delayed communication this week. There are hints that crossed wires can cause problems, particularly where work is concerned. On a social level, friendships are affected

by misunderstandings this weekend – another water sign is particularly likely to take your words the wrong way. Romance is low key and those who are single are encouraged to consider what they are really looking for in a partner.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

This is an auspicious week to tackle issues that have been causing you stress. The astral atmosphere is ready to support Leos who are tired of living with financial worries. Those who have been considering taking out a loan are advised to wait a while as the end of the month is forecast to bring good news. In the realm of romance, an earth sign partner has a practical approach to problems.

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Encouragement comes from an unusual source for those born under the sign of Virgo this week. Those who have been struggling with work related matters should receive a boost from a water sign. If changes in your personal life have been hard to accept, a fire sign's words of wisdom will help you see light at the end of the tunnel. There are signs that unattached Virgoans will appreciate their single status more.



# Don't like my style? I don't care

MAROUANE Fellaini joined Manchester United to win trophies, not friends, and will not be changing the abrasive style that made such an impression during his time at Everton.

The fuzzy-haired Belgian midfielder, who joined United for 24 million pounds on the final day of the transfer window, gave his first news conference since joining on Friday and left no one in any doubt about what he will bring to the party.

"I came here to win trophies. For me, it's a dream to join the biggest club in the world," Fellaini, who is in line to make his debut against Crystal Palace on Saturday, said.

"I will prove myself on the pitch. Some people don't like my qualities, but I don't care. The manager, staff and players here know me. The manager gave me confidence (when he signed him at Everton). I didn't know anyone, but he helped me."

Fellaini was United's only high-profile addition to the United squad that won the title last season in former manager Alex Ferguson's swansong.

A strong, powerful player who is not afraid to mix it, he is not from the same mould as the likes of Paul Scholes, but manager David Moyes believes Fellaini will have a big impact.

"Fellaini's presence is very noticeable for



Manchester United's new signing Marouane Fellaini poses with a club shirt during a photocall at the club's Old Trafford stadium in Manchester. Photo: Reuters/Phil Noble

many reasons, including his size. But you can't overlook his technical ability," Moyes, who signed him from Standard Liege, said.

"He is effective in different areas of the field. If he keeps improving as he has done, we could have a really top player on our hands. Every time I watch Belgium, Felli is the best player."

Moyes was asked to explain why United

had left it so late to sign Fellaini when he had been linked with a move to Old Trafford from the moment Moyes left Everton to replace Ferguson.

"We didn't want to give up on (Everton defender) Leighton Baines so we kept the deals together and only split it (for Fellaini) at the last minute," Moyes said.

Moyes is not sure whether to risk striker

Wayne Rooney against Palace, especially with the Champions League starting in mid-week and the derby against Manchester City next weekend.

Rooney missed both of England's World Cup qualifiers with a gashed head sustained in training ahead of the defeat by Liverpool and while the wound has healed, Moyes said there was a risk of it re-opening.

## Texans, Dolphins impress in week 2

By Somchai Huasaikul

AFTER nine long months of hype and waiting, Phuket fans of American Football can once again indulge themselves in the National Football League, heading into a third week of play this weekend.

There are too many games and story lines to cover comprehensively, so we'll just look at some of the trends that have emerged from the first two weeks of play and provide some tips on how to enjoy the games here in Phuket.

### Parity prevails

In the days leading up to opening week, the so-called experts took part in an annual orgy of speculation and the release of so-called "power rankings". These are subjective, team-by-team rankings based on a variety of factors: personnel, coaching and management, ease of schedule, performance last season, injuries and a host of other factors. These change from week-to-week in what may be one of the world's most highly organized exercises in establishing "conventional wisdom".

To my knowledge, most national soccer leagues on the planet reward teams that play well with championships or promotion to a higher division, while those that do poorly face "relegation". Teams that do well also typically enjoy big fan-bases and can rake in ever more money and buy up all the best players, thus ensuring further success in the future.

The opposite is the case in the NFL, where a "salary cap" is in place and the teams that perform the worst are, in fact, handsomely rewarded with the top picks in the next season's draft as well as an easier schedule.

### Flying starts

After the first two weeks, eight of the league's 32 teams have emerged at 2-0,

### Viewing tips

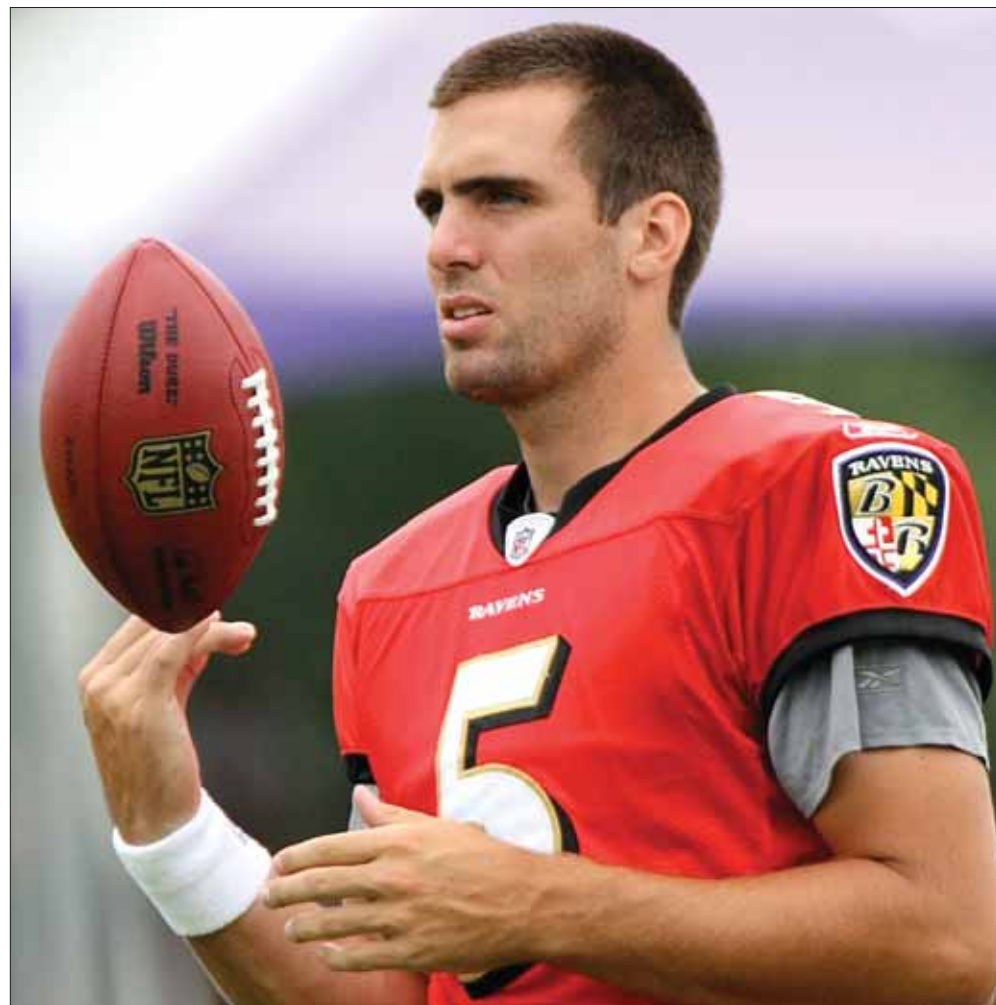
For computer-savvy fans who want to enjoy all the action with minimum distraction, downloadable torrent files of every game are now available, with all the time-outs and huddles removed. Be warned it's like crack for NFL fans. The 11+GB files, which must take a long time to edit and upload, typically become available on torrent sites around midweek. The file for Week 1 is labeled NFL2013.W01.CG  
Feedback: khabarphuket@gmail.com

including several top-rated teams and a few surprises, while eight other teams are win-less and the remaining 16 are in "parity land": 1-1.

Among the surprises at 2-0 are: the Houston Texans, who came back from a 24-7 deficit to beat San Diego Chargers on the road in Week 1 and then pulled out another come-from-behind overtime win at home against division rivals the Tennessee Titans in Week 2.

The Texans, who lost in the second round of the playoffs last year, play in the AFC South, regarded by many as one of the weakest divisions in the NFL. As such, they are well positioned to make the playoffs again for a third straight year.

Despite some preseason buzz, another surprise at 2-0 are the Miami Dolphins, who also benefit by playing in a weak division: the AFC East, which has been virtually owned by arch-rivals the New England Patriots over the past decade. All that could change this year, however, because the Dolphins are now not only 2-0, but got there with consecutive road wins. The Patriots are also 2-0, but only by squeaking out narrow, unimpressive victories against the Jets and Bills.



Baltimore Ravens QB and reigning Super Bowl MVP Joe Flacco was a topic of discussion in Week 2, when he took the field an hour after the birth of his second child. Photo: Keith Allison

A third surprise at 2-0 are the Kansas City Chiefs, who pounded the hapless Jacksonville Jaguars in Week 1 and then clipped the Cowboys in Week 2. However, they will have to fight it out in the AFC West with the high-flying Denver Broncos, also 2-0 with a pair of very impressive outings under star quarterback Peyton Manning. Last week Peyton led his team

to another convincing 41-23 win in "Manning Bowl III" against a New York Giants team led by his younger brother, two-time Super Bowl MVP Eli Manning.

Over in the NFC, the Seattle Seahawks will likely lead in many power rankings after crushing highly-rated division rivals, the San Francisco 49ers. Chicago and New Orleans also remain among the undefeated.



# Ronaldo sparkles

By Martyn Herman

CRISTIANO Ronaldo's hat-trick for Real Madrid illuminated an opening night goals bonanza as the leading contenders began the Champions League group stage with a bang on Tuesday.

Thirty goals rained in around Europe with Real trouncing Galatasaray 6-1 in Istanbul, holders Bayern Munich winning 3-0 at home to CSKA Moscow and Manchester United putting four past Bayer Leverkusen at Old Trafford.

Paris St Germain fired a warning that they will be a real threat with a 4-1 victory away to Olympiakos Piraeus while Manchester City won 3-0 at Czech outsiders Viktoria Plzen.

Ronaldo's reign as the world's most expensive footballer ended this month when Real paid Tottenham Hotspur 100 million euros (\$133.49 million) for Gareth Bale but he underlined his role as chief conductor of Los Blancos with a dazzling display.

Bale, who is still building up his match fitness after missing most of pre-season, had the honour of becoming the world's most costly substitute until he joined the party in the second half, playing a part in Ronaldo's second goal.

Midfielder Isco began Real's rout while their France forward Karim Benzema scored twice in a satisfying evening for Real's new coach Carlo Ancelotti who was treated to a feast of counter-attacking football by his expensively assembled side.

"Things couldn't have started better for us. Scoring six goals is really good and will give us a lot of confidence," Ronaldo, who performed a stunning silky dribble for his third goal in stoppage time, told reporters.

While Real, beginning their quest for a long-overdue 10th European crown, issued a powerful statement of intent, the strength of some of their rivals for the silverware would not have gone unnoticed by Ancelotti.

## First goal

Less than four months after Arjen Robben's last-minute goal secured the trophy for Bayern Munich, the Bundesliga giants registered the first goal of this season's group stage after only four minutes courtesy of David Alaba's powerful free kick.

Robben was on target again along with Mario Mandzukic as Bayern's new coach Pep Guardiola's saw his side ease to victory.

Guardiola, who twice conquered Europe during his glittering reign at Barcelona, said he was relieved to start another Champions League journey without any stumbles.

"I'm very satisfied with the performance," he said. "The first game after winning the Champions League is never easy. Everyone always thinks it is, but it's not."

Ronaldo's former Manchester United team mate Wayne Rooney scored twice in the English champions' 4-2 victory over Bayer Leverkusen as the Old Trafford

club began their first European venture without Alex Ferguson at the helm since 1985.

Ferguson, who twice steered United to Champions League success, watched as Rooney's double and goals from Robin Van Persie and Antonio Valencia gave new boss David Moyes a pleasing, if sometimes anxious, first taste of the group stage.

"I said several months ago Wayne Rooney could join the real greats with his goalscoring. He could have got a hat-trick tonight," Moyes said of the England striker whose double took him to 200 goals for United.

"Robin van Persie's goal was also great. If we can get those two scoring, they can be formidable for us."

## Better omens

Striker Edinson Cavani justified Paris St Germain's faith in signing him from Napoli with the opening goal in their Group C victory over Olympiakos in Greece, although he played second fiddle to Italian midfielder Thiago Motta who scored twice.

The Parisians could even afford a late missed penalty by Zlatan Ibrahimovic.

The omens look better for Manchester City after the disappointment of group stage exits in the previous two seasons despite the hundreds of millions spent assembling their squad.

Wily Chilean coach Manuel Pellegrini was recruited with a mission to improve City's form in



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo smiles after scoring a goal against Galatasaray in Istanbul. Reuters/Osman Orsal

Europe and goals from Edin Dzeko, Yaya Toure and Sergio Aguero provided a launchpad for the challenges ahead, which include facing Bayern.

"Winning away in the Champions League is very important," said Pellegrini who took Malaga to the quarter-finals last season. "Those three points might be very important in getting to the next round."

Twice former European Cup

winners Benfica enjoyed a 2-0 victory over Anderlecht but not all the European aristocrats had things their own way with Juventus being held to a 1-1 draw in Denmark against FC Copenhagen.

Real Sociedad's return to the Champions League group stage for the first time since 2003-04 also went flat as Shakhtar Donetsk returned from Spain with a 2-0 victory in Group A. — Reuters

# Rooney hits 200, but has plenty left yet

WAYNE Rooney scored twice against Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday to reach 200 Manchester United goals as he enjoys a new lease of life under David Moyes who thinks he can become one of the club's greatest predators.

The striker's commitment to Old Trafford had been questioned and he was

left out of key games last season under Alex Ferguson, who also took to playing him in more of a midfield role as Robin van Persie took the goalscoring glory.

Rooney is fourth on United's all-time leading scorers' list, behind Bobby Charlton (249), Denis Law (237) and Jack Rowley (211), and his manager can see

him going further.

"I remember coming in and saying you've got a real chance to be one of the all-time leading goalscorers at this club and I tell you what if he keeps playing like he did tonight he will get there," Moyes told a news conference.

Along with the rousing reception Rooney has been getting from the Old Trafford crowd, despite a turbulent few months, Moyes' faith in him seems to have lifted the England striker's mood and his game.

Ferguson had said in May that Rooney wanted to leave the club, triggering a close season of speculation over his future and an ultimately unsuccessful but very public pursuit by Chelsea and Jose Mourinho for his signature.

As the rumours swirled, Rooney himself never spoke publicly on the matter and on Tuesday when asked about it he was still keen to avoid the issue of whether he wanted to stay or go.

"Listen, I will concentrate on my football as I have done all summer," he told ITV after a 4-2 victory over Leverkusen in their Champions League opener. "I got my head down in the summer, worked hard and I'm concentrating on my football."

"The fans here have been fantastic with me and the reception I get here is great. Hopefully I can reward them with goals and

performances like tonight."

Moyes had long said Rooney was training well and was in a good frame of mind and slowly but surely he has been proven right as the striker - deployed in his more traditional role - has enjoyed a good start to the season.

Having been United's best player in last month's 0-0 draw with Chelsea in the Premier League and having scored from a free kick in Saturday's 2-0 win over Crystal Palace, Rooney took his performance to a new level against Leverkusen.

He volleyed in a 22nd-minute opener, netted the third with a right-footed shot to bring up 200 for United and then passed superbly to assist the fourth scored by Antonio Valencia.

His goals have come since he started wearing a headband to protect his forehead after suffering a deep gash and, whether that is a lucky charm or a mere coincidence, Rooney is delighted to have reached another milestone.

"It's something I'm very proud of, I'm pleased to score 200 goals for a club like Manchester United and hopefully there is more to come," he said.

"I'm delighted to be back playing and scoring and this was a good result. The first game in the Champions League is always important and thankfully we got the victory." — Reuters



Wayne Rooney (right) has notched up his 200th goal for Manchester United. Reuters/Phil Noble





Patong Cricket Club Captain, Antony Van Blerk blocks a delivery from Ball (Youth). Photos: Michael Way

# Village sneak victory, Patong in finals

IN THE final round of the Outrigger T20 league, Laguna took on the Village in the morning session, while Patong faced the Youth side in the afternoon session, on Sunday, September 15 at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

In the first match, the Village team batted first to set a solid total of 183-4 from their 20 overs but were almost chased down by Laguna in a thrilling match that went down to the last ball. In the second match, the Youth side hit a competitive total of 151-6, thanks largely to an excellent 90 not out by Andrew McMillan, but Patong secured the win, and a semi-final spot, with 152-4 in reply.

In the morning match, the Village team won the toss and elected to bat. They lost captain Paul Stamp (7) in the fourth over with a great in-swing from paceman Sohail Rehman. However, fellow opener Roshan Jayasuriya (54) and Simon Wetherell (45) then combined for an awesome display of big-hitting churning out an 88 run partnership before Jayasuriya fell in the 13<sup>th</sup> over with the score on 101. The onslaught continued when Martin Foster (43 not out) joined Wetherell for a 61 run partnership to take the score to 162 before Wetherell fell in the 17<sup>th</sup> over. By the end of their 20 overs, the Village had reached 183-4.

With such a large target to chase, Laguna needed to get off to a good start. Openers Shoeib Mushtaq (22) and Manish Sadarangani (62 not out) did just that start until Mushtaq holed out with a skied ball with the score on 42 in the 7<sup>th</sup> over. The next over saw Laguna capitulate with three golden ducks. Damian Clowes run out, Mudasir Rehman bowled, followed by Tassarwar Ali trapped in front LBW off the bowling of Craig Murphy. With Laguna reeling at 46-4 in the 8<sup>th</sup> over, it looked like an impossible task with 12 runs an over required to reach the target.

Pir Sami (18) and Sadarangani got the innings back on track with a 54 run partnership before Sami fell with the score on 100 in 14<sup>th</sup> over. When Stuart Reading (29) joined Sadarangani in the middle and hit three successive boundaries, there looked to be a glimmer of hope. He and Sadarangani put on a 54 run partnership from just 25 balls to take the score to 154 before Reading was bowled by Craig Patterson, leaving 30 runs from the final 20 balls, to set up for a thrilling finish. Sohail Rehman (18 not out) joined Sadarangani for the final assault but Laguna finished just 4 runs short of the target with a total of 180-6 from their 20 overs.

The winner of the afternoon match would secure a place in the semi-finals so both teams had everything to play for. After winning the toss, the Youth side decided to bat first looking to set a solid target. However, they got off to a less than perfect start losing 3 early wickets to be at 36-3 in the 7<sup>th</sup> over. Opener Andrew McMillan (90 not out) anchored the innings, batting all the way through, and was unlucky not to score the first century of the T20 season. He was well supported by Pan, and together they put on a 111 run partnership to guide their side to 151-6 after 20 overs.

Patong got off to a great start with openers Imtiyaz Mushtaq (60) and Paddy Morton (30) setting a solid platform of 78 runs before the loss of their 1st wicket shortly before the drinks break. Kevin Bishop (4) supported Mushtaq as they combined to take the score to 107-2 before Bishop was stumped early in the 14<sup>th</sup> over. With 45 runs required from 46 balls to win, Patong just needed to keep cool heads and captain Anthony Van Blerk (26 not out) did just that to guide Patong home for the win in 17.3 overs.

The standings after the final round sees the Village go through undefeated, while ICC

remains in second place ahead Patong who secured third on net run rate, with Laguna taking the other semi-final spot.

Next Sunday September 22 sees the semi-finals take place in the Outrigger T20 league with ICC taking on the Patong in match 1, and the Village versus Laguna in match 2. Play commences at 10:00 am.



Patong Captain Anthony Van Blerk strikes again



## Amazing Thailand AM LP Championship 2013 at Loch Palm Golf Club.

PLAYERS enjoyed a challenging day of competition at Loch Palm Golf Club on Saturday, September 7. Tae Kon Park, with a 0 HC (handicap), won the Overall Low Gross with a

score of 70. In Flight A (HC 0-12) honors went to Kenneth Abday (HC 9) with a score of 81. In Flight B (HC 13-18) the winner was Yossakrit Tengrungr (HC 14) with a score of 86. In

Flight C (HC 19-24) Surasit Kekinak (HC 20) prevailed with score of 92. Finally, Flight D (HC 25-36) winner Nithikorn Chandadaan (HC 25) scored 98.

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# Masters grow on court

AUGUST and September have definitely been two busy months for many aspiring young tennis players in Phuket.

There were about 100 junior tennis players who joined the Chang LTAT junior championship Southern Zone #7 competition last weekend. In two weeks, the SUPERKIDZ tennis cup #3 event will commence, to feature more exciting competitions between talented players. All the players look to be raising the bar in order to win a trip to train with Thailand's National Tennis Coach in Bangkok.

Upcoming event dates:

- SUPERKIDZ Tennis Cup #3: Oct 6
- Yonex Junior Championship: Oct 12-13

The overall leading score juniors of SUPERKIDZ tennis:

1. Tinnapat Tientawach (21 points)
2. Lerdchai Ronnarong (18 points)
3. Thanrada Totarat (14 points)



To participate in upcoming tournaments, send your inquiries to [tslc@thanyapura.com](mailto:tslc@thanyapura.com) or apply at the club's activities desk. Photos: Supplied

## Run for a good cause



Victory for runners, victory for turtles

MAI Khao Marine Turtle Foundation, in conjunction with JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and supporters, held the 9th Turtle Fun Run and Mini Marathon 2013 on September 15, with more than 700 runners participating in the event at Pru Jeh San Lake, Mai Khao Beach, Phuket.

The event started in the early morning with a keynote address from Phuket Governor, Maitri Inthusut and a welcome speech from JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spas Acting General Manager Philip Spencer who is acting chairman of the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and followed with the 3.5 km and 10.5 km races, along with the environment activities.

For both runs, trophies were awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> place getters and cash prizes of 800-1,500 baht for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place getters (male and female category). The first 600 registered runners received a running shirt and medal.

The annual Turtle Fun Run and Mini

Marathon while also aiming to encourage in people a healthy lifestyle is a collaborative effort by the Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation and JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa to raise funds and awareness of the conservation work done by the Phuket Marine Biological Center and its The Injured Sea Turtle Rehabilitation Program to rescue, rehabilitate and release injured turtles, dolphins, whales and dugongs.

Phukets sea turtles are facing multiple threats and their numbers have severely depleted in recent years. Commercial fishing kills thousands of them every year. Many more die from eating or becoming trapped in plastic debris littered in the ocean

For more information about the foundation, please contact Mai Khao Marine Turtle Foundation Coordinator, via email [info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com](mailto:info@maikhaoturtlefoundation.com) or call +6689-733-8830.

## Changes in latitudes



### Swimming Tips

By Randy Simon

"CHANGES In Latitudes/Changes In Attitudes" is a song by Jimmy Buffet. Perhaps you've heard it or depending on your age and taste in music, perhaps not. The interesting thing about this song is the idea that the further south Mr Buffet travels, the more his mood improves! Many times, something as simple as different surroundings can improve our mood. But more often, simply deciding that we are going to act differently will bring us a positive change.

I tell people that when they are not in the best spirits, they should have fun or fake it. The power of positive thinking has been proven to be very effective at helping us change our mood and our actions. Unfortunately, the power of negative thinking can be just as destructive. If we are feeling tired, and complaining to anyone that will listen, then it shouldn't come as a surprise that we are going to look and act tired. When that happens, are we training ourselves to be better or to be tired? When this happens, we need to step back, change our latitude, and start to act how we want to feel. Put a smile on your face, give a genuine compliment to someone around you and let the positive power take over. Soon you'll be in a better state of mind and able to focus on the tasks at hand!

This week, see if there are times when you are training yourself to be tired. If so, adjust your attitude and see if that doesn't help change that rut into a groove!

This tip was written by Thanyapura's Aquatics Head Coach, Randy Simon. Email: [aquatics@thanyapura.com](mailto:aquatics@thanyapura.com)

## Patience pays for two



### Tennis Tips

By Roger Cochrane

MANY players try to win the point with their first or second shot. Have a little bit more patience and give yourself a plan for the first two shots, don't try to kill either of those balls!

If you are the server, of course your first shot will be the serve; your second shot will either be a volley, chip or a ground-stroke. You should have a definite plan for your second shot, this is where most doubles breaks down and the play becomes random. Be disciplined and strive for rhythm during the set and with your second shot. Let most of the points start the same with the goal of you moving in after you hit cross-court.

You have two valid targets on the second shot. You should either aim for the deep cross-court corner or for the

cross-court side-T (Side-T is where the service line meets the singles sideline). With either of these targets, your goal is to keep it away from the receiver's partner. As soon as your ball goes past the net person, it is a great idea to move forwards to the net if you are not already moving in. Remember, in doubles your goal is to GTTN (Get To The Net!)

If you are the receiver, you basically have the exact same two targets. You should aim cross-court so that you take the server's partner out of the point and move forwards if you can. Before the serve comes to you, it is a good idea to already have your target in mind.

The key point though is to mentally put the leash on and try and not make an error for the first two shots you hit. Hit the serve and make the 2<sup>nd</sup> shot cross-court, or hit the return and make your second shot cross-court. If you can make these two shots and move in, you will have many opportunities at the net to put away the third shot. Also, many times you won't even have to hit the



Strategy is as important as fitness

third ball as your opponents will have made a mistake by then.

Be patient, have a plan, make the first two shots. The key is realizing they don't have to be great shots, they just have to be in.

To contact Thanyapura's director of tennis Roger Cochrane Email: [tennis@thanyapura.com](mailto:tennis@thanyapura.com)



# Phuket tamed by Stallions

## Only six games left, relegation threat looms

By Steven Layne

ALLEGATIONS of fixed matches and crooked referees have become rampant in the Facebook fan club forums of several Thai football teams, including Phuket FC, as the Yamaha League One enters its final stretch of the 2013 season.

Although no concrete ties have been made between match-fixing and the shooting earlier this month of controversial Thai referee, Thanom Barikut, there is no question of a connection in the eyes of many fans.

"It's no wonder Thai referee's are getting shot, it's 100 per cent clear this match was fixed," wrote one fan in response to a video clip posted of the highlights between Rayong FC and Phuket FC.

The match, both sides 28<sup>th</sup> of the 34-fixture season, was played out to a 1-0 scoreline on Saturday in Rayong, the winning result going to the home team thanks to a penalty kick that was granted after what many Phuket supporters deemed a questionable call.

Netting the spot kick for Rayong was Chantaphon Sikkhamondol.

Although Phuket had put the ball past the goal line at least once in the match, they were denied by the official's checkered flag.

Two red cards were given, one to Rayong's Anukorn Sangram for accumulating two yellow cards in the 43<sup>rd</sup> and 45<sup>th</sup> minutes, and likewise, to Phuket's Tongchai Kuenkhunthod for yellow cards in the 26<sup>th</sup> and 55<sup>th</sup> minutes.

In the end, the result was determined by a spot kick – never easy to swallow for any team.

Fans of at least two more teams suspect Rayong of match fixing, with the second-to-bottom team also recently beating the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed Port Lions and 10<sup>th</sup> placed Trat FC thanks to questionable calls, similar to those made in their Phuket fixture.

Dwindling in 17<sup>th</sup> place of the 18-



In two meetings with Phuket this season, lower-ranked Rayong earned four points. Above: Geoffrey Doumeng (right) defended by Rayong player.

team league, Rayong are in immediate danger of being relegated to the Division 2 regional leagues, and it's clear that only wins will save them from relegation.

However, motive and suspicion alone do not equate to actual evidence.

"Although it's obvious and in your face that these calls [against Phuket] were bogus, we all know why Phuket will not appeal [as] nothing will come out of this," read another comment.

With 35 points, nine points ahead of 17<sup>th</sup> place, the final relegation spot, 10<sup>th</sup> placed Phuket are still not safe from relegation. Only two teams will be relegated this

season, as there will be 20 teams in the first division next season.

The Islanders return home for their next match, this Saturday against Trat FC – the White Elephants. Kickoff will be at 6:30pm at Surakul Stadium.

Win, lose or draw, Phuket look ahead to their final fixture in September, away against Southern rivals, Krabi FC – the Andaman Eagles.

After that, the Islanders have two more home matches – on October 6 and 26 vs Gulf Saraburi and Rayong United – and two away matches, against PTT Rayong on October 19 and against Nakhon Ratchasima on November 2.

|    | TEAM          | P  | F  | A  | GD  | PTS |
|----|---------------|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 1  | Air Force     | 28 | 39 | 22 | 17  | 58  |
| 2  | PTT Rayong    | 28 | 33 | 18 | 15  | 55  |
| 3  | Port Lions    | 28 | 48 | 31 | 17  | 52  |
| 4  | Bangkok       | 28 | 55 | 46 | 9   | 49  |
| 5  | Korat         | 28 | 35 | 27 | 8   | 42  |
| 6  | Saraburi      | 28 | 38 | 31 | 7   | 40  |
| 7  | BBCU FC       | 28 | 28 | 33 | -5  | 38  |
| 8  | Nakhon Pathom | 28 | 38 | 37 | 1   | 35  |
| 9  | Phuket        | 28 | 32 | 32 | 0   | 35  |
| 10 | Trat FC       | 28 | 45 | 52 | -7  | 35  |
| 11 | Sriracha      | 28 | 43 | 43 | 0   | 33  |
| 12 | Royal Navy    | 28 | 36 | 39 | -3  | 33  |
| 13 | Krabi         | 28 | 34 | 40 | -6  | 32  |
| 14 | TTM FC        | 28 | 26 | 34 | -8  | 31  |
| 15 | Khon Kaen     | 28 | 31 | 40 | -9  | 31  |
| 16 | Ayutthaya     | 28 | 27 | 35 | -8  | 28  |
| 17 | Rayong FC     | 28 | 34 | 48 | -14 | 26  |
| 18 | Rayong Utd.   | 28 | 28 | 42 | -14 | 22  |

|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
|  | <b>HOME</b><br><b>SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21</b><br><b>PHUKET vs TRAT</b> |  |
|   | <b>AWAY, SEPTEMBER 28</b><br><b>KRABI FC vs PHUKET</b>                |   |
|   | <b>HOME, OCTOBER 6</b><br><b>PHUKET vs SARABURI</b>                   |   |
|   | <b>AWAY, OCTOBER 19</b><br><b>PTT RAYONG vs PHUKET</b>                |   |
|   | <b>HOME, OCTOBER 26</b><br><b>PHUKET vs RAYONG UTD</b>                |   |
|   | <b>AWAY, NOVEMBER 2</b><br><b>KORAT vs PHUKET</b>                     |   |

## Futsal league

THE Thailand Futsal Premier League (TFPL) is scheduled to kick off with a new season on January 25-26, 2014, to be organized by Thai sports media company, Siam-Inter Multimedia company (SMM).

The news was announced following a recent meeting between the Football Association of Thailand (FAT) and SMM, held on September 12 at the Golden Tulip hotel in Bangkok.

At the meeting, FAT, the governing body in Thailand for both 11-a-side outdoor soccer as well as 5-a-side indoor "footy", or futsal, signed a contract with SMM, securing the exclusive rights for the company to orga-

nize the TFPL for the next five years, from 2014 until 2018.

In addition to the league, SMM will also have the rights to organize the Thailand Futsal FA Cup during the same five year period.

The TFPL 2014 season will most likely include 16 teams like before, but official confirmation has yet to be given as to which teams will compete, as it depends mostly on the finances (or lack thereof) of each team who has priority.

Phuket United, who finished 5<sup>th</sup> in their first ever year in the TFPL – the most recent 2012-2013 season – have not yet confirmed whether or not they will send a team.

– *Phuket Gazette*

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