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INSIDE TODAY

November 2 - 8, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net | In partnership with [The Nation](#)

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# Permit to stay, alive

## ■ Visa-run fatality ignites worries over road travel risks

By **Orawin Narabal**

THE visa van crash that took the life of Filipina singer Renita Dequina Polido on October 21 sent shock waves through the Phuket expat community, once again raising questions about the logic of a system that requires foreign workers to frequently leave the country to get new visas or renew 90-day permits-to-stay.

The fatal accident occurred on a rain-slicked road in Trang when the Penang-bound van spun out of control and struck a tree, killing Ms Polido and seriously injuring four other passengers.

Polish national Friedrich Menning broke a leg and several ribs in the accident.

"It was worse than the worst nightmare I've ever had," he said. "My girlfriend and I...

*Continued on Page 6*



Allegations of reckless van drivers fuel concerns over visa-run risks. Photo: Saran Mitratat

## Island's first speed cameras snapping speed demons soon

FOUR speed cameras will be up and in operation in the province next year. The 16.8-million-baht project is expected to be up and running by January.

The cameras are being installed in an effort to reduce high-speed traffic accidents and increase the public's general awareness of the speed limit.

*Full story on Page 2*

## Gov pushes to stop tourist drownings with Racha guards

GOVERNOR Maitri Inthasut has called for a lifeguard station to be established on Racha Yai Island to prevent further drownings at the popular destination.

The governor's action comes in response to the head of the Racha Conservation Club, Sarit Jandee, demanding that something be done to prevent tourists from drowning. At least eight tourists have drowned at Racha Yai within the last 10 months, said Mr Sarit.

*Full story on Page 5*

## Officers nab camp operator for baby 'jumbo' trafficking

A PHUKET elephant operator in Kathu was busted for smuggling an 18-month-old elephant onto the island last week.

Prasob Jerkaew confessed that he didn't have the proper documentation for the elephant to be living and working in Phuket. However, he insisted that it was a legal, domestic elephant. Officials are continuing their investigation into whether or not the baby elephant was poached or stolen from another elephant camp.

*Full story on Page 8*

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## This Week



### Property

Local developer reveals its seven-billion-baht ambitions. **Page 13**



### Business

A new 'upside-down' house and hedge-maze attraction. **Page 17**



### Food

An escapade to the world of delicious Thai veg food. **Page 40**



### Aviation

Flying in the monsoon skies is easier than you think. **Page 42**



### Charity

Famous Danish football player helps kids hone their skills. **Page 44**



### Sport

The region's largest footy tourney of its kind coming up. **Page 43**

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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# Speed cameras in action by January

By Irfarn Jamdukor

FOUR speed cameras are being set up on Phuket roads in an effort to reduce road traffic accidents and increase awareness of speed limits, police have announced.

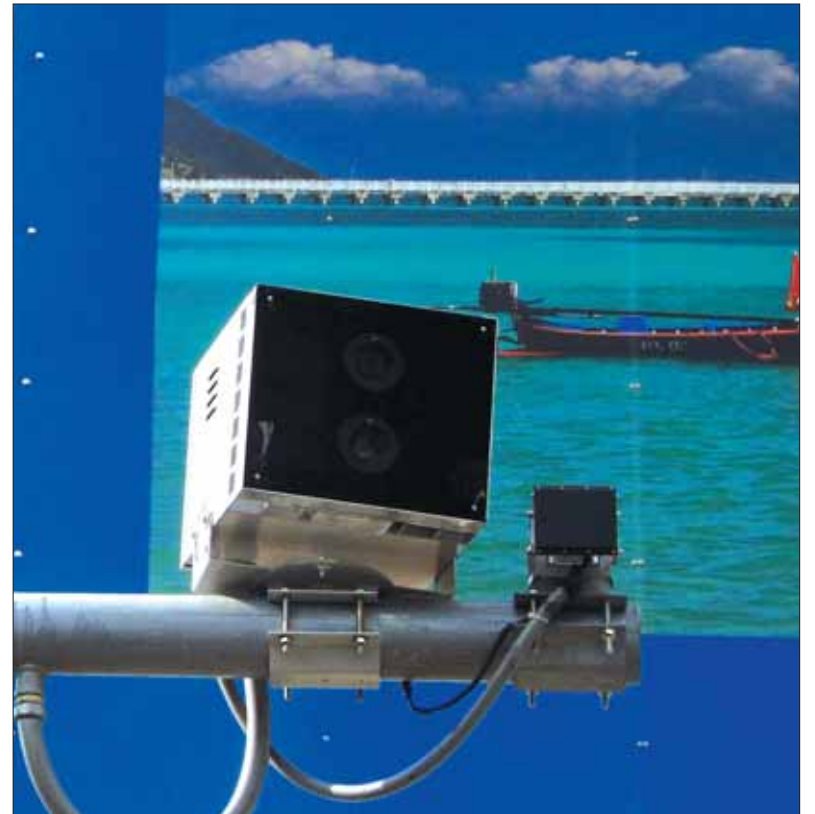
The cameras may also help police solve crimes, as they may capture images of suspects fleeing the scene, said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Saneh Yawila.

The total cost of the cameras, which are expected to become operational by January, is 16.8 million baht, Col Saneh said.

Two of the cameras will be deployed in Phuket City, and two in Thalang – one along Thepkasattri Road and one in the Tah Chat Chai area, he explained.

"We can't reveal the exact location of the cameras; it's an official secret," Col Saneh said.

"When someone drives over the speed limit, the camera will record a video with a time stamp. From the video, we can capture a clear image of the driver and the car's license plate. Then a computer will check the plate



Four speed cameras will be set up in two areas, Phuket City and Thalang.

number against our car registration records and print a speeding ticket," Col Saneh said.

Police are in the process of setting up the cameras, testing them,

and training officers how to use the system.

"When we're ready to start the program, we'll inform the public about it," he said.

## Line app finds missing father

A MAN with Alzheimer's disease who went missing last Saturday was found just hours after a notice was posted via social networking.

Benjawan Moonket, 29, reported her father missing to Thalang Police at about 5pm last Sunday. Officers shared the information via Line, a networking app, and three hours later a message popped up, "Found him! He's at Chalong Police Station."

Ms Benjawan's mother had taken her father, Muan Moonket, 60, for a health check on Saturday and left him unattended to return home for a forgotten ID card.

When her mother returned, her father had already wandered away.

Officer Somkid Kaewkrai of the Thalang Police said, "He



Mr Muan at Chalong Police Station.

walked out of the center along the road, then caught a motorcycle taxi. He had no money to pay, so eventually the driver just dropped him by the side of the road."

After searching for him all night, Ms Benjawan went to the police

"I am so thankful to the officers for their help," Ms Benjawan said, "and so glad he is alright."

— Chutharat Plerin

## SuperCheap staff missing at PPEO

NONE of the 100 Burmese staff who reportedly resigned from SuperCheap after the fire at the megashop had reported their resignations to the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) as the *Gazette* went to print.

The workers are required by law to report their resignation by November 1, said Yaowapa Pibulpol, chief of the PPEO on October 24.

"I have no idea why none of them have shown up yet," Ms Yaowapa said.

Human Resources Chief at SuperCheap Sirirak Kongkum reported on October 22 that by that date, 100 Myanmar employees had quit.

Ms Yaowapa noted that the PPEO had made a special agree-



Many staff stayed on after the fire at the megastore, but 100 Burmese employees have yet to report their resignations to the Employment Office.

ment with SuperCheap to help Burmese staff who resigned get new jobs with other companies that also hire immigrant workers.

"We will put them on a job search list and help them find new

jobs," she said.

"Before the fire, there were 700 Burmese workers at SuperCheap. Right now we cannot confirm the number who work there," she added.

— Orawin Narabal



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# Frenchman extorted by drug buddies, one a cop

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A PHUKET police officer and two accomplices have been arrested for extorting money from a Frenchman at gunpoint while the men were taking drugs together.

Police are continuing their search for three additional suspects.

Henry Richer, 54, told police that on October 14 he joined Picharn Kaewkongtham and five other men in taking *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) at the Happy Inn Hotel on Wichit Songkram Road.

They had taken drugs together before, he said.

Suddenly, Mr Picharn, who is a Wichit Police squad leader, told Mr Richer that he was a police officer. The five other men pretended to be officers too, Phuket Provincial Police Commander Ong-art Phiwruangnont told the press last Friday.

Sgt Maj Picharn handcuffed Mr Richer and threatened him with a gun as the group demanded that he pay 3 million baht for his release.

When Mr Richer replied that he didn't have the money, the group asked him for his ATM cards and PIN numbers, said Maj Gen Ong-art.

"Using the cards, they transferred 490,000 baht from Mr Richer's accounts into various other accounts," Gen Ong-art said.

Once they had the money, they



Picharn Kaewkongtham, left, a Wichit Police squad leader, and Kanassanan Patarn after their arrest.

warned Mr Richer not to report the incident to the police, and fled.

Fearful, Mr Richer said nothing for nine days. On October 23, he told Wichit Police his story.

Within a day, three of the six suspects had been arrested and charged with deprivation of liberty under Section 309 of the Criminal Code.

One of the men arrested, Boonpink Kiewngarmdee, 42, had helped Mr Richer in a 2-million-baht land deal and was upset that he had received a commis-

sion of only 2,000 baht.

"That's the reason we threatened him for money," Mr Boonpink later told police.

Mr Boonpink accepted the charge, but Sgt Maj Picharn and Kanassanan Patarn, 48, denied it.

Police continue to search for the three remaining suspects.

Following a recommendation made by Gen Ong-art when he took office this month, the press were allowed to photograph the suspects only during the press conference, while the suspects

upheld their right to remain silent.

The suspects were not subjected to re-enacting the crime, but Maj Gen Ong-art supplied information about the case privately, in his office.

Sgt Maj Picharn remains in custody at Wichit Police Station, Wichit Police Superintendent Chaowalit Phetsipear said.

"He has been denied police bail and we will apply for him to be incarcerated at Phuket Prison while we continue our investigation," Col Chaowalit said.

## Police grab privates in cop property thefts

THREE privates in the Thai Army were arrested last Sunday on charges stemming from the theft of a handgun and other property from the home of a policeman.

"On October 12, Police officer Sgt Rongrot Pecharat reported that a .38 caliber handgun had been stolen from his house, along with other items," Thung Thong Police Superintendent Thitirat Asakit said.

On October 27, police learned from an informant that the thief would return to Sgt Rongrot's house, in a police housing estate.

"We staked out the house," said Pol Maj Chawapol Sabtisassanakul, "and when the



Private Narubet, seated center, stole the goods.

suspect came, we were able to catch him."

The officers took the man, Private Narubet Bunyayurn, 22, to his house in Patong where they found stolen government officer uniforms,

items taken from Sgt Rongrot's house and .48 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Mr Narubet confessed that he had stolen the items, and said he planned to use the uniforms as disguises in future robberies.

"He said that he sold the gun for 13,000 baht to friends who are also in the military," said Maj Chawapol.

He identified the friends, and shortly afterwards, Kittayot Wichaidith, 23, and Jeeradet Sorrin, also 23, were arrested.

They were all taken to Thung Thong Police Station to be charged, Maj Chawapol said.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

### In brief...

#### Patong hotel employee arrested on murder charge

A HOTEL employee at Banthai Beach Resort & Spa in Patong was arrested on October 23 for allegedly taking part in a gang attack that led to a death in Phitsanulok five years ago.

Danai Thonglaima, 35, is alleged to have joined in a roadside attack in May 2008, after which he fled to Phuket and lived a secret life.

Officers from Phitsanulok joined Patong Police to make the arrest at the hotel where Mr Danai worked.

#### Chinese, Russian tourists drown within hours

TWO tourists, a Chinese and a Russian, drowned within hours of each other on October 24 at Karon Beach.

Lifeguards reported that both tourists ignored red warning flags marking the area as dangerous to swim.

Oleg Ozerskikh, 52, was pulled from the water unconscious by lifeguards at about 11:30am and pronounced dead shortly thereafter at Patong Hospital.

By 3:30pm, lifeguards at the beach had also rescued Chinese tourist Liu Haifeng, 33, when he was caught in a rip current. He too was rushed to Patong Hospital but pronounced dead on arrival.

#### Ex-security guard at Central robs shops at mall

POLICE arrested a former Central Festival mall security guard on October 27 for stealing over two dozen phones from the mall.

After watching an evening movie, Kitti Pueanrak, 23, had slipped undetected into the mobile phone section one floor below and stolen the phones.

Mall security staff viewing CCTV images recognized Mr Kitti, who had until recently worked with them, and gave his address to police, who quickly arrested him.



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South African Amb Ruby Marks exchanges a gift with Gov Maitri.

## Phuket may get South African consulate

SOUTH African Ambassador Ruby Marks met with Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut last Friday to discuss the possibility of opening a consulate on the island.

"South Africa has a consulate in Chiang Mai, and they are considering adding one in Southern Thailand," Gov Maitri said.

"Phuket is a logical choice because we have so many South African visitors – 77,915 last year," he said.

Amb Marks also plans to bring steel industry investors to Phuket, Gov Maitri said.

"More foreign business means more job opportunities and more income," the governor said.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# Statue defenders demand Russian vandal's apology

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

ABOUT 200 Phuket residents rallied to demand an apology last Friday from the Russian tourist who damaged a statue of revered abbot Luang Por Kongdet during a drunken spree three days before.

If the tourist, Oleg Fomenko, 31, or the Russian honorary consul for Phuket do not apologize within seven days, there will be protests, the residents warned.

"Police should bring him to apologize here," said local village chief Aroonsri Klunma.

"We will give seven days. If we do not receive an apology by then, we will stage a protest and block access to Karon Police Station," she stated.

Ms Aroonsri explained, "We all respect Luang Por Kongdet. If a statue of him is damaged, our hearts are damaged too."

After Mr Fomenko's actions were captured on CCTV footage

at Wat Karon, officers learned from locals that a man matching his description was staying in Soi Patak 18, Karon Police Superintendent Weerawat Jantarawichit said.

Officers moved in and arrested Mr Fomenko and showed him the CCTV footage, of a man dressed in black pushing over the statue.

Mr Fomenko admitted that he was the man on screen, but said he could not remember anything about his antics that night, said Col Weerawat.

Police believe Mr Fomenko was also responsible for using a crowbar to smash the window of a six-wheeled truck parked nearby.

"Mr Fomenko was charged with 'attempted theft at night' and with damaging private property," Col Weerawat said.

During Friday's protest, Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Pachai Matthayan arrived to address the crowd of angry devotees.



Lt Col Pachai vowed he would try to get the Russian to return to apologize.

"The suspect is now in court custody. Whether or not he can be released to make an apology is up to the Phuket Provincial Court," he explained.

"However, we will do our best to have him or a representative make an apology."

"Just give us seven days to make it happen," he added.

## Three injured after tour bus brakes fail

THREE people were injured when a Phuket tour bus slammed into traffic waiting at the busy Slaughterhouse Intersection in Phuket Town just after midday last Saturday.

No tourists were on board the bus at the time of the accident, but the juggernaut slammed into two cars and three motorbikes before it came to a halt when it plowed into the front of a shophouse on Bangkok Road.

"One man and two women on motorbikes were hit by the bus while they were waiting at the traffic light," said Capt Weerachart Srira of the Phuket City Police.

All three were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town, he added.

Chuchart Wornwanitcha, the 64-year-old bus driver, told police that the brakes failed.

"I was heading to a depot on Koh Sireh for regular maintenance. I tried to brake before the



The bus driver hit the shophouse to avoid running into people.

intersection, but nothing happened," he said.

"All I could do was sound my horn and go through the intersection, but as soon as I could I stopped the bus by driving it into the building," he added.

"I thought it was best to do that where I could see no people walking along the street, rather than to keep going," Mr Chuchart said.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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# Gov asks for Racha guards

Response to urgent pleas from island residents to help stop surge in tourist drownings

By Chutharat Plerin

ACTING to bring an end to tourist drownings at Racha Yai Island, Governor Maitri Inthasut has called for a lifeguard station at the popular day-trip location.

"There are no lifeguards on the island now. Among the many things we need to do in Phuket to support tourism, having a lifeguard station there is an important one," he told the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview on October 25.

Earlier this month the head of the Racha Conservation Club, Sarit Jandee, had presented the Governor with an urgent appeal to stop the drownings.

According to Mr Sarit, at least eight tourists have drowned at the island in the past 10 months.

Gov Maitri is not relying solely on lifeguards to save tourists in the water, but resort staff as well.

"We are pushing hotel staff and anyone who works near the beach to learn how to rescue people from drowning," he said.

"We've already put in place res-



Eight tourists have drowned at the island in the last 10 months, says conservation club head. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

cue training courses, and some of the staff on Racha Yai have taken the class. We have another class scheduled for next month," he said.

The Phuket Provincial Admin-

istration Organization (PPAO) manages lifeguards on Phuket beaches, and Gov Maitri said he had relayed his request to PPAO President Paiboon Upatising.

Nararit Touyon of the PPAO has confirmed that a study of Racha Yai beaches is planned.

"We'll complete the study as soon as possible and present it to

Mr Paiboon. Then it will be up to him to decide what to do," he said.

"It's always a good thing to have lifeguards around to rescue people," he added.

During the Governor's visit to the island on October 12, Mr Santi urged tour operators to take action.

"The tour companies need to do more – provide life jackets to swimmers, not operate day trips on bad weather days, give their guides more safety training and also teach them to take more responsibility for their customers," he said.

Mr Santi also asked for a health center to be established on the island, so that tourists could receive immediate first aid.

"Right now victims need to be transferred to the mainland for advanced medical help, and it takes too long, about 50 minutes," he said.

Krit Sakulpat, deputy chief of the Phuket Provincial Health Office, said he would conduct a feasibility study for the center.



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Tawee Malangpoo was attacked after the karaoke closed.

## Police search for karaoke assault gang

POLICE are still on the lookout, as of Wednesday, for a gang of youths wanted for a vicious attack on two men outside a karaoke bar in Thalang on October 26.

Officers were called to the scene, an unnamed karaoke bar in Soi Ta Mhen, Muang Mai, at 3am.

"When we arrived we found Wicharn Mueanprasart, 34, with a knife wound to his forehead," said Capt Narong Muangdong.

"His friend Tawee Malangpoo, 33, had bruises on his face and a large abrasion on his left arm," Capt Narong said.

Capt Narong said his officers had descriptions of the attackers and believed his officers were already familiar with the gang.

"We are now obtaining statements from the karaoke staff so we can arrest the suspects," he said.

— **Thawit Bilabduar**

# Visa run mayhem

From page 1

...were sitting in the back of the van with Ms Polido. The driver was going very fast – I'd say about 130 to 150kmh; the road was slippery from the rain. The van slid a little at one point, but the driver managed to correct the vehicle. Then it slid again, and he lost control," Mr Menning said.

"We spun 180 degrees and the back of the van, where we were, hit a tree at full speed. It happened so fast. Afterward, I realized I was stuck in the van and called for help. The experience left Mr Menning questioning the immigration system that requires him to leave the country in order to stay in it.

"I'm scared," he said. "I have to put my life in the hands of an unprofessional driver, and risk my life for a paper, for a stamp," he said.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sanchai Chokkajaykij expressed regret over the accident.

"What happened was really sad. No one wants something like that to happen," he said.

"Unfortunately, we don't have the authority to issue visas or 90-day permits-to-stay at our office in Phuket Town," Col Sanchai said.

"For those people who are unable to obtain one year permits-to-stay... the best option



A Non-Immigrant B visa is no guarantee you won't have to leave the country every 90 days for a new permit-to-stay. Photo: Gazette file

might be to fly. It's more expensive, but it's safer," he said.

Phuket Immigration Inspector Napat Nusen explained that certain requirements needed to be met in order for foreigners to receive a one-year permit-to-stay along with their one-year visa.

The two major hurdles for most one-year permit-to-stay applicants are minimum salary requirements and ratio of Thai to foreign workers at the business registered on their work permit, Lt Col Napat said.

"There are other requirements, but those two tend to be

the ones that are the biggest obstacles," he said.

"These requirements are not in place to make life difficult for foreigners," he said.

"They are in place to protect Thai workers. For example, if a company can pay foreigners a low salary – below the legal minimum – then they may prefer to hire foreigners over Thais. The salary requirement also helps us screen people. The assumption is that foreigners who can command at least our minimum will have higher skills than those who cannot.

The 90-day permit-to-stay that many foreigners in Phuket repeatedly renew was created for businessmen and women who live elsewhere, but need to travel to Thailand to work, he explained.

Those expats who are required to cross the Thai border regularly will need to continue relying on visa-run companies, or pay for flights.

Repeated attempts by the *Gazette* to contact the owner of Phen Phet Visa Run, that operated the van Mr Menning rode in, were unsuccessful. However, the owner of another company in Phuket, Thai Visa Run, explained her firm's safety procedures.

"My company has been in operation for about seven years, and we've never had an accident," she said.

"Our vans have GPS which links to our computer system, so we can monitor the drivers and see where they are and how fast they are driving. If they are driving too fast, we call to tell them to slow down," she said.

Until the day that 90-day permits-to-stay are issued on Phuket or requirements for one-year permits-to-stay are lessened, careful consideration of method of transport may be the best offense, Col Sanchai said.



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If successful, the mission will make India the fourth space power to have explored the red planet. Photo: The Nation

## Ships warned of Indian rocket to Mars fallout

SHIPS and planes were warned on Sunday to stay away from the Phang Nga coast on November 5 as India may launch a rocket that could jettison a fuel tank into the area.

"India's space center told us that the launch would possibly be on November 5, because the weather on that day is expected to be suitable for the mission," said Anond Snidvongs, executive director of the Geo-Informatics and Space Technology Development Agency (GISTDA).

The Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh alerted GISTDA that its Mars orbiter spacecraft would tentatively lift off between October 21 and November 20. Once launched, the C25 Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle will release five huge fuel cylinders

after they are spent and all of them are expected to fall into the ocean.

"Our calculations indicate that the fifth tank could possibly land in the Andaman Sea, about 360 kilometers off Phang Nga province," he said.

The risk that it would hit land is very minor, he added.

Aviation and maritime regulatory agencies are usually informed of space missions, so he was not worried about international aircraft and vessels.

"What concerns me is that Thai craft could possibly wander into the area during the period," he said.

"GISTDA wishes to provide the public with facts and information about the launch to prevent any possible misunderstanding and misinformation that could lead to panic," he said.

— **The Nation**





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## QUEER news

### Monk retreats up tree after stabbing

A DISGRACED monk spent several hours hiding up a tree in the grounds of his temple after stabbing a fellow clergyman.

On October 20 Muang Phatthalung Police were informed that a monk at Khuan Kruat Temple in the Southern province had been stabbed by another monk and was in a serious condition.

Arriving at the temple, they found a crowd of around 200 local people. On the ground was a large pool of blood and a big knife.

Phra Vachira, the 27-year-old monk who had been stabbed, had already been rushed to the local hospital. He had several stab wounds in his back and one in his head. He had also been stabbed in the middle finger, which was hanging off his right hand.

Happily, doctors were able to save Phra Vachira's life, though he required about 80 stitches.

Officers then turned to finding the culprit. Fifteen meters up a Bodhi tree on the temple grounds, they found Phra Pha, 59. The monk had used his own saffron monk's robes to tie himself to the tree to ensure he wouldn't fall down.

The police tried to use his relatives to persuade him to come down from the tree, but without success.

Eventually they had to send Phra Pha's son and rescue workers up the tree in a hydraulic platform and – after seven hours – they coaxed him down. He was then sent to hospital.

Police questioning revealed that Phra Pha had only been in the temple for one year. Before ordaining he had been an alcoholic, but had completely given up drinking once he put on the robe.

He had become depressed and emotionally volatile, leading to his attack on Phra Vachira.

– **Thai Rath**

## In memory of 'Mrs Palmer of the Phuket Hash House Harriers'

*Well-known local healer and Phuket tri-athlete Richard Patrick Cracknell, 66, passed away in Hawaii in the care of his son Jesse on October 24. He succumbed to complications arising from an idiopathic degenerative motor neuron disease (MND).*

THIS singular American athlete and healer, known by the Phuket Hash House Harriers as Mrs Palmer, arrived in Phuket in the early 90s. He started cracking backs, banging guitar strings, surfing and running in the rubber groves with the Hash.

He quickly set up a makeshift outpatient office, created the extraordinary one-man-band "Mrs Palmer and the psychedelics", created the Phuket surf scene and was our resident mature-aged tri-athlete champion.

Once met, never forgotten – Richard

Cracknell broke the mold.

The first chiropractor naturopath to establish himself on the island, Richard was a true health and fitness nut. A raw food aficionado and natural remedy healer, he established "The Wellness House" and "Living Food Caf" in Nai Harn, cracking backs upstairs while creating raw organic vegetarian concoctions downstairs. Dr Cracknell retained a dedicated returning client base throughout the region.

Blessed with excellent diagnostic skills and healing hands, his unique style of rough magic helped hundreds.

Richard always forgave others quickly and laughed off his inability to satisfactorily correct some of his own character defects.

He would say, "We're all human and, as such, we're incomplete works in progress – the good with the bad, the yin and the yang all



Richard died at the age of 66. Photo: PGTV

mixed up inside this primitive reptilian-minded meat sack. It's best we forgive ourselves and others permanently and do it quickly – so we can get on with this joy of living."

Richard is survived by his sister Kerry Ann Nagel, his son Jesse Cracknell, and three daughters: Cynthia Hamilton, Ray-lee Cracknell and Rikki Cracknell.

– **Bill O'Leary**

## Elephant smuggler charged

### Police pounce on elephant camp operator over baby pachyderm

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

LOCAL wildlife conservation officials seized an 18-month-old elephant on October 26 at a camp in Phuket after the infant pachyderm was smuggled onto the island.

Acting on a tip-off, Kathu District Chief Veera Kerdsirimongkol led the raid on the camp located in Bang Thong in Kathu.

Joining Mr Veera were officers from the Phuket Provincial Livestock Office and the Khao Pra Taew Wildlife Conservation Office.

"The young female elephant, named Phang Sutjai, was chained to a coconut tree," Mr Veera said.

The owner of the elephant camp, Prasob Jerkaew, 37, was at the camp during the raid.

"Mr Prasob said he imported Phang Sutjai from Song Phraek, in Phang Nga, two days before so she could be reared and trained to work in the Phuket elephant-trekking tourist business," Mr Veera said.

"Mr Prasob confessed that he did not have a permit to bring the elephant into Phuket, but main-

tained he had legal registration documents for her," Mr Veera said.

Phuket Livestock Officers confirmed the microchip number on Phang Sutjai's left ear as 116-417-513 A.

"We formally seized the elephant, but she can stay at the camp and be cared for while we continue our investigation," Mr Veera said.

Mr Prasob was taken to Thung Thong Police Station and charged with importing an elephant into the province without a permit.

"Officers will continue their investigation to determine the origins of Phang Sutjai to make sure she was not poached from the wild or stolen from another elephant camp elsewhere in Thailand," he said.

The elephant camp raid last Saturday was one of Mr Veera's last official acts in Phuket, as he recently received an unexplained "urgent order" from the Permanent Secretary of the Interior Ministry to vacate his post and report to Don Sak in Surat Thani.



Case investigators plan to dig in to determine whether or not the baby elephant was poached. Photo: Rashane Songdaeng

## Illegal tour van operators granted interim amnesty

THE Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) will issue documents to certify illegal tour van drivers who have applied to become legal so they may continue working.

The news follows a group of illegal van drivers appealing to Governor Maitri Inthasut on October 25 for the right to keep working until their applications to become legal are approved.

"We are willing to register and become legal, but the process can take up to six months. In that time, we are not allowed to use our vehicles to work," said Phuket van operator representative Wirat Jong.



The illegal drivers were desperate to work.

applications to become legal so they will not be arrested in the meantime," V/Gov Chamroen told the drivers.

"This is a problem for us. We need to work to earn money. If we cannot use our vans, how can we pay our bills? And the application process takes quite some time, not just a couple of days," he said.

The request received by Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada resulted in good news for the drivers.

"We will issue documents to certify any van drivers who are waiting for their applications to become legal so they will not be arrested in the meantime," V/Gov Chamroen told the drivers.

– **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

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# Power to push through Phuket's high season

By Irfarn Jamdukor

PHUKET will have plenty of electricity supply for residents and tourists during the coming high season, Natthaporn Kochsiripong,

an officer at the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA) ensured amid rumors of possible shortages.

"We have a capacity of 580 Megavolt Ampere (MVA) to support Phuket residents," Mr Natthaporn said.

"Demand has never exceeded 420 MVA, and this high season we expect a demand of about 440 MVA, so we are not concerned about electricity shortages," he said.

New substations will also help ensure that electricity supply

remains constant – two new substations were established in Thalang and Patong in April, and another station will be installed in Karon in December, he said.

In total the island will then have seven substations.

Additionally, the PPEA has drawn up plans for how to deal with any regional shortages on Phuket.

"When there is an electricity shortage in any area, we can re-direct power to the area within 15 minutes from a nearby substation," Mr Natthaporn said.

"It used to take us 30 minutes to an hour to correct shortage problems, but with the new system we can do it much more quickly," he added.

There's no reason to be con-

'When there is an electricity shortage in any area, we can re-direct power to the area within 15 minutes from a nearby substation'

– PPEA officer  
Natthaporn Kochsiripong



By the end of the year Phuket will have seven power substations.

cerned about having the same kind of electricity shortages that have struck Koh Samui, Mr Natthaporn said.

"Samui has only two sources

of electricity; if they have a problem with one of them, it can create serious shortages. Phuket receives power from four difference sources," he said.

## Subsidy deadline looms for island rubber farmers

MORE than 300 Phuket rubber farmers have been approved to receive national rubber subsidy funds and officials are working to certify nearly 2,000 others who have applied for the money before a November 15 deadline.

"The government has budgeted 21 billion baht for Thai rubber farmers," Chalee Sittabut of the Phuket Provincial Agricultural Extension Office said.

"Rubber farmers who own their land are entitled to receive 2,520 baht per rai for up to 25 rai," he said.

The subsidies was given to rubber farmers as a peace-keeping measure after violent protesters last month demanded an increase in the guaranteed price for rubber. Protesters have



Gov Maitri presents a farmer with a certificate for the subsidy. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

recently returned to the streets of Prachuap Khiri Khan province (see page 10).

By the October 15 deadline to register for the funds, 2,127 Phuket rubber farmers had

submitted their documents.

"We've certified 102 of those already and distributed 1,877,460 baht to that group. For another 213 farmers, the money is on the way," he said.

"Staff in district agriculture offices have to work quickly to process the remaining 1,812 applications we have on hand before October 30," he said.

After that, subdistrict chiefs (kamnan), village headmen and local volunteers will research the claims in their areas to certify that they are genuine before the November 15 deadline, he added. Almost half of the rubber farmers in Phuket did not apply for the subsidy, Mr Chalee noted.

– Irfarn Jamdukor



Close encounters of the slithering kind. Photo: William Warby

## Raining snakes

RECENT heavy rainfall has led to a jump in large snakes being nabbed in Phuket, with four rounded up in Phuket Town within 24 hours on Monday night.

One of the four giant snakes, a three-meter python, made a dramatic entry into a Phuket Town bedroom by tumbling through a vent.

"I heard noise that sounded like something had fallen off my roof into my bedroom. I got up and went to take a look – it was a huge python," the resident, Somporn Kankanok, said.

Mr Somporn called on Kusoldharm Rescue workers for help.

"The snake was about three-meters long, and moved to the bathroom when we arrived," said a rescue worker. "We quickly captured it and released it later at an undisclosed jungle location."

Mr Somporn believes that the snake was washed into the Bang Yai Canal near his home by the recent rain and was seeking shelter.

Rescue workers confirmed the recent snake-spike.

"Just last night [Monday] we caught four snakes," said Kusoldharm rescue worker Poonsab Sae-Ng said.

"Most of them have been longer than three meters," he said.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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## In brief...

## Rubber farmers in Chumphon warn police not to act

RUBBER farmers in Chumphon province on Monday threatened to launch a mass rally if police forcibly disperse the ongoing protest by fellow farmers in neighboring Prachuap Khiri Khan province.

Local politicians, who lead the rubber farmers' group, made the decision despite promising to provincial authorities that they would not organize any mass protests.

Some 1,500 police officers have been stationed in Prachuap Khiri Khan to possibly break up the rally of 400 farmers at a key intersection in Bang Saphan district.

## Migrant worker DNA tests receive Minister's backing

JUSTICE Minister Chaikasem Nitisiri said on Monday that he agreed with the Institute for Forensic Medicine's recommendation that the government collect and store DNA samples of all migrant workers and inmates.

He explained that this should not be viewed as a violation of human rights, as the workers would benefit from protection in case they are injured, go missing or become victims of crime while in Thailand. He added that other than collecting DNA samples, the authorities could opt for collecting fingerprints and recording workers' history instead.

## Ao Phrao to re-open after oil spill disaster

KOH SAMET'S Ao Phrao, hit by an oil spill several months ago, will re-open to tourists this Friday.

Seawater-quality tests have confirmed that the bay is now ready for visitors to enjoy safely.

During the past few months, extensive clean-up operations have taken place and the oil spill's environmental impacts have been closely monitored.

Chote Trachu, permanent secretary of the Natural Resources and Environment Ministry, on Monday announced that the ecological system around Ao Phrao was clearly recovering.

## Thailand in mourning

## His Holiness the Supreme Patriarch passes away aged 100

THAIS nationwide are observing a 30-day period of mourning following the death of the Supreme Patriarch, the country's most senior Buddhist monk.

Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara Suvaddhana Mahathera died on October 24 of a blood infection aged 100 years, *The Nation* reported.

Born Charoen Gajavatra in Kanchanaburi Province on October 3, 1913, he became a novice at the age of 14 and ordained as a monk when he was 20.

In a long and distinguished career, His Holiness rose through the ranks of the Buddhist Sangha, becoming Thailand's 19th Supreme Patriarch (*Sangharaja*) on April 21, 1989.

On October 25, Thailand began a 30-day period of mourning to pay respects to His Holiness. Flags are being flown at half mast, while government workers have been told to wear black clothes.

Following his death, the body of His Holiness was moved from Chulalongkorn Hospital, where he had been receiving treatment, to Wat Bowonnives Vihara, where he had served as an abbot.

An estimated 3,000 people gathered solemnly along the roads as the Supreme Patriarch's body was moved from the hospital to the temple shortly after noon.

People of all ages – from school students to the elderly – crouched



Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara Suvaddhana Mahathera's death has left the Kingdom in mourning. Photo: The Nation

## AROUND THE nation

respectfully next to the heavy traffic. Most were dressed in the mourning colors of black or white.

The Supreme Patriarch was a friend of His Holiness Dalai Lama

of Tibet, who called him "my elder brother".

Several political activist groups currently protesting against the Yingluck Shinawatra government decided to suspend activities out of reverence for the deceased holy man.

The Supreme Patriarch had been receiving health treatment for several years. In 2004, Somdet Kiaw was appointed acting Supreme Patriarch.

Traditionally, the Supreme Patriarch alternates between Thailand's two largest Theravada Buddhist orders. Because His Holiness was a member of the Thammayut Nikaya order, the next Supreme Patriarch is expected to be from the Maha Nikaya school.

Somdet Kiaw is the favorite to take the position, though his appointment has been opposed by some influential monks.

## Award-winning bomb expert killed in Deep South blast

THE Deep South's most famous bomb-disposal expert was killed in a roadside bomb attack in Narathiwat Province last week.

Police believe insurgents detonated a second bomb while Sub-Lt Shaen Warongphaisit, 50, and his team were trying to disarm a different device. The explosion killed all three men.

The other dead men were named as Sgt-Maj Nimit Deewong, 32, and Sub-Lt Charoon Metruang.

Lt Shaen had become well known in the violence-stricken Deep South region after disarming at least 200 bombs over the past decade, *The Nation* reported.

Lt Shaen, whose vast experience and demeanor made him widely liked by the local population and well-known to both local and

national media, received an award from Nation Multimedia Group four years ago as an Outstanding Policeman.

A 1985 graduate of a constabulary school in the Deep South, Lt Shaen served mostly in the field doing combat-related duties. He held non-commissioned ranks and was promoted to sub-lieutenant in June 2001.

Lt Shaen had already survived a multi-device bomb attack in 2011, in which he was severely injured.

Provincial police chief Maj Gen Phatthanawut Angkhanawin said the attack may have been specifically targeting bomb-disposal personnel.

The lethal bomb was detonated by a two-way radio, while the first, possibly planted as a decoy, was being defused by Lt Shaen.



As Lt Shaen was defusing a bomb, a second blast killed him. Photo: The Nation

## Abhisit and Suthep to face trial over red deaths

PROSECUTORS are to put former premier Abhisit Vejjajiva and his deputy Suthep Thaugsuban on trial over the deaths of protesters during the 2010 red-shirt protests.

The news comes as the controversial Amnesty Bill is heading through Parliament. Despite the passing of the bill possibly making the two Democrat leaders immune from prosecution, they both are fiercely opposed to it.

The prosecution review against Mr Abhisit and Mr Suthep is based on a report compiled by the De-



Abhisit Vejjajiva Photo: Gazette file

partment of Special Investigation (DSI), *The Nation* reported.

The leaders will be tried for investigating the Army crackdowns on the protests that resulted in the

deaths of at least 90 people.

The pair are alleged to have ordered the blockade of the Ratchaprasong rally site, and the use of arms against the protesters.

In the original wording of the Amnesty Bill, leaders of political movements involved in Thailand's recent political crisis would not be covered by the law. Following the first reading, a House committee revised the wording to include leaders, a move the Democrats believe is intended to result in the dropping of all charges against former premier Thaksin Shinawatra.

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# Time slipping away for justice in Killing Fields

By Prak Chan Thul

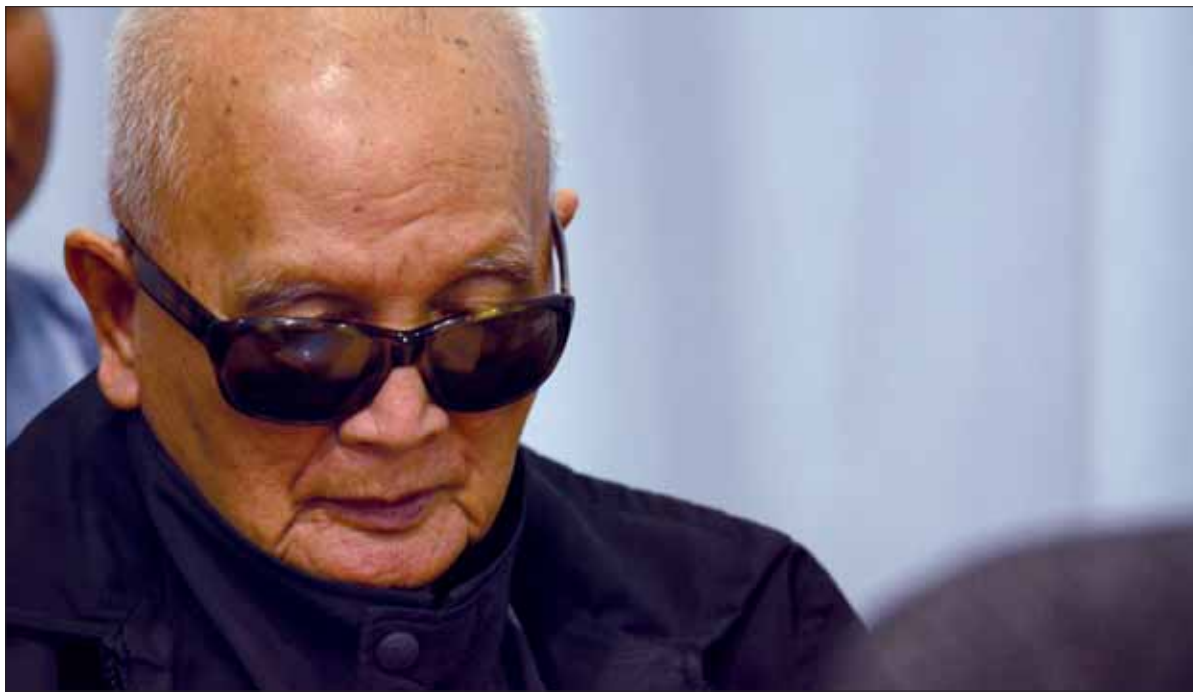
THE clock is ticking at Cambodia's Khmer Rouge war crimes tribunal, where the two elderly defendants are in poor health and funds vital for bringing some semblance of justice for the horrors of the "Killing Fields" era are fast drying up.

On trial are 87-year-old "Brother Number Two" Nuon Chea and former president Khieu Samphan, 81, the right-hand men of the late Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, whose dream of a peasant utopia claimed as many as 2.2 million Cambodian lives from 1975 to 1979.

The hybrid UN-Cambodian tribunal has so far reached a verdict in just one case, the life sentence in 2010 for Kaing Guek Eav, alias "Duch", chief of the S-21 torture center where 14,000 people died. Prosecutors face a race against time to ensure Duch is not alone.

They are asking for life imprisonment for the two cadres in a complex case being fast-tracked to salvage something from a court set up in 2005 ostensibly to bring Cambodians closure for one of the darkest, bloodiest chapters of the twentieth century.

Khieu Samphan was no figurehead, but a "skilful, manipulative" leader, while Nuon Chea was as much an extremist today as he was when almost a quarter of Cambodians died of execution, starvation, torture or disease, international deputy prosecutor William Smith said in his final arguments.



'Brother Number Two' Nuon Chea, in poor health, attended much of the trial by video from his cell. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE region

International civil party lawyer Christine Martineau launched a scathing attack on the defendants' claims they had no role in directing the bloodshed.

"You followed Pol Pot until his last day, you were the two men he trusted. You never distanced yourself from him," Ms Martineau said at the court last week.

"You continue to lie to this day," she said.

Many fear that only Khieu

Samphan will live to hear his verdict. Nuon Chea is in poor health. Former foreign minister Ieng Sary died earlier this year and his wife, former social affairs minister, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and declared unfit for trial.

To try to secure a conviction, case 002 was broken up into smaller cases. The current hearing is about the two men's alleged role in the forced evacuation of Phnom Penh in 1975 and execution of government troops. The court expects a verdict within the first half of next year.

Kuy Ke, a rural farmer, said he feared facing Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan in the afterlife if there was no ruling soon.

"We want punishment," he said.

"In one to two years, they will die."

Due process takes time the court does not appear to have. It also takes funding from increasingly reluctant donor countries, US\$ 173 million from 2006 to 2012, and three foreign judges have quit, two citing "political interference".

Cambodia's government, which includes some former Khmer Rouge members, has not helped much either. It is obliged to foot the bill for the local staff and running costs of the chamber, but instead asks for donations, fueling claims that it wants to ensure no more cases go to court.

Activists and rights groups fear it will get its way.

— Reuters

## In brief...

### Floods kill at least 168 in Cambodia

SINCE October 18, floods in the country have killed 168 people, and affected around two million others, according to a Cambodian government report released recently.

The report said that around 30,000 flood-affected families out of 38,000 had been evacuated to safer places during the deluges, which were caused by heavy rains.

— The Cambodia Herald

### Vietnam lashed by typhoon Nari

TYPHOON Nari knocked down trees and damaged hundreds of houses in central Vietnam early on Tuesday, forcing the evacuation of tens of thousands of people, state media said.

More than 122,000 people had been moved to safe ground in several provinces by late Monday.

Soldiers were sent to help people reinforce their homes and guide ships to shelter in Danang.

— Reuters

### Malaysian business environment surges

MALAYSIA has surged to the sixth position among 189 economies in the latest World Bank Doing Business 2014 report, putting it ahead of economies such as South Korea, Norway, the United Kingdom, Australia and Finland.

International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said Malaysia achieved this well ahead of its target to be among the top 10 by 2015. Last year, Malaysia was ranked 12th.

— The Star

## No more monkey business in Jakarta

ON THE congested streets of Indonesia's capital, chained monkeys are a surreal sideshow. Some ride tiny bicycles wearing baby doll masks or shake people's hands for small change, but not for much longer.

Jakarta Governor Joko Widodo has banned all such entertainment, reinforcing his image as a can-do politician cleaning up one of Asia's most frenetic cities ahead of presidential elections next year in which voters expect him to run.

Governor Widodo has criticized the shows as animal abuse and an unwelcome distraction for motorists who slow their cars to gawk at macaques outfitted in skirts, cowboy hats or plastic baby doll heads that cover their faces.

The ban, which comes into force at the end of the year, is an unusual departure from the big, bold initiatives Gov Widodo has pushed through in his first year as governor. Nevertheless, it has received the same widespread



Chained monkeys perform in the streets. Photo: Mohammad Rizky

praise from Jakarta's 10 million residents, many of whom are desperate to see tangible improvements in their daily lives.

Gov Widodo's popularity has surged since he took office in October 2012. Polls place him as the frontrunner in next year's presidential election if he decides to run.

For now, the 52-year-old governor, known widely as Jokowi, has shrugged off questions over his political ambitions, saying he is focused on Jakarta's biggest problems: poor infrastructure, rampant corruption and abject poverty.

His biggest headline-grabbing initiatives include the start of construction on a long-delayed subway system, the relocation of hundreds of illegal street vendors to ease traffic congestion, and the dredging of reservoirs to prevent flooding.

Police last week started to raid neighborhoods and confiscate the monkeys, which animal rights groups have long said were being mistreated by their handlers — they say the animals are tortured to remain obedient and their teeth are pulled so they can't bite.

Gov Widodo said he will compensate monkey owners and the animals will receive proper care before being sent to a zoo.

— Reuters

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## In brief...

### Somalia journalists beaten, two stations taken off air

SOMALI security agents stormed and shut down two radio stations, beat and detained reporters and impounded their equipment, their union said.

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) said the raid in Mogadishu on October 26 was connected to stories Radio Shabelle and SkyFM had aired touching on accusations of corruption within government.

Police said they were carrying out an eviction order after the network failed to vacate the government-owned building.

### Risking Russian ire, Georgia to better ties with Europe

GEORGIA'S new president said on Monday that he would press ahead with efforts to deepen the former Soviet republic country's ties with the West despite Russian concerns.

European leaders and observers hailed Sunday's "clean" election won by Georgy Margvelashvili as a sign that democracy is maturing in the small South Caucasus state.

### Kung Fu champion punished for Mursi symbol, says family

THE family of an Egyptian kung fu champion says he has been banned from representing the country after he showed support for ousted President Mohamed Mursi during a tournament in Russia. However, the government has denied the accusation.

In a photo on the state-run Al-Ahram website, Mohamed Youssef was shown on stage in St Petersburg holding his medal and wearing a t-shirt with a symbol commemorating a pro-Mursi protest camp.

## Chinese anti-graft activists plead not guilty in historic trial

THREE Chinese anti-graft activists who agitated for officials to disclose their assets went on trial on Monday in the first case of its kind, underscoring the limits of government tolerance of challenges to its authority.

Despite an official drive against corruption, China has detained at least 15 activists recently who were involved in a campaign pushing for officials to disclose their wealth.

Rights groups describe the detentions as the first major crackdown against activists by the new government. The trial of Liu Ping, Li Sihua

and Wei Zhongping is the first prosecution of anti-graft activists.

The three were detained in late April in Xinyu and accused of illegal assembly.

Zhang Xuezhong, one of two lawyers defending Liu, said police had tried to prevent the legal defense teams from entering the court in the morning, though the court intervened and they were eventually allowed in.

"All three are pleading not guilty," Mr Zhang told Reuters, adding that he was not optimistic about the case given its sensitivity.



New Citizens' Movement insignia.

The three are involved in the New Citizens Movement, which advocates working within the system to press for change. Its founder, the prominent activist Xu Zhiyong, was arrested in August.

— Reuters

# Obama aware of spying on Chancellor Merkel

A GERMAN newspaper said on Sunday that US President Barack Obama knew his intelligence service was eavesdropping on Angela Merkel as long ago as 2010, contradicting reports that he had told the German leader he did not know.

Germany received information this week that the US National Security Agency (NSA) had bugged Mrs Merkel's mobile phone, prompting Berlin to summon the US ambassador, a move unprecedented in post-war relations between the close allies.

Reuters was unable to confirm Sunday's news report. The NSA denied that Mr Obama had been informed about the operation by the NSA chief in 2010, as reported by the German newspaper. But the agency did not comment directly on whether Mr Obama knew about the bugging of Mrs Merkel's phone.

Both the White House and the German government declined to comment.

The *Wall Street Journal* (WSJ) reported on Sunday that the NSA ended the program that involved Mrs Merkel after the operation was uncovered in an Obama administration review that began this summer. The program also involved as many as 35 other world leaders, according to the report.

In response to the WSJ report,



Chancellor Merkel speaking on a mobile phone during the period of time that the NSA was tapping her phones. Photo: Reuters

Merkel", said NSA chief General Keith Alexander informed Mr Obama in person about it in 2010.

Mr Obama in fact wanted more material on Mrs Merkel, and ordered the NSA to compile a "comprehensive dossier" on her, the paper said.

The NSA first eavesdropped on Mrs Merkel's predecessor after he refused to support President George W Bush's war in Iraq and continued their project when Mrs Merkel took over in 2005, the paper said.

The rift over US surveillance activities first emerged this year with reports that Washington had bugged European Union offices and tapped half a billion phone calls, emails and text messages in Germany in a typical month.

Mrs Merkel's government said in August that the United States had given sufficient assurances it was complying with German law.

This week's news has reignited criticism of the US surveillance. Volker Kauder, head of Mrs Merkel's party in parliament, called it a "grave breach of trust" and said the United States should drop its "global power demeanor".

Interior Minister Hans-Peter Friedrich told *Bild am Sonntag*: "Bugging is a crime and those responsible for it must be held to account."

— Reuters

## AROUND THE world

US surveillance capabilities.

"Through this review, led by the White House, the United States is reviewing the way that we gather intelligence to ensure that we properly account for the security concerns of our citizens and allies and the privacy concerns that all people share," Ms Hayden said.

German paper *Bild am Sonntag*, citing a "US intelligence worker involved in the NSA operation against

National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden noted in a statement that Mr Obama had ordered a review of

## West African bloc approves single customs regime, 2015

LEADERS of the 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) agreed on October 25 to implement a single customs tariff regime from 2015 in an effort to accelerate economic integration.

The Common External Tariff is designed to harmonize customs charged on imported goods to the bloc of some 300 million people.

"This is an objective ECOWAS has pursued since its creation 38 years ago and today we have crossed an important stage in the integration of our peoples," the president of the Ecowas commission, Kadre Desire Ouedraogo, said.

ECOWAS aims to introduce a single currency throughout



ECOWAS aims to have a single currency. Photo: epSos.de

the bloc by 2020.

Mr Ouedraogo said the introduction of a single tariff regime would kick-start stalled negotiations with the European Union on an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA).

— Reuters

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# Tri Property attracts investors with seven billion baht portfolio

URBAN lifestyle developer Tri Property last weekend launched sales of its Zcape III Condominium, located in Phuket's Central Business District. The project adds another excellently located living concept to the company's multi-billion-baht portfolio of premium properties in Phuket. The developer says it plans to expand its portfolio to a total value of seven billion baht over five years.

Following the success of Zcape Condominium and Zcape X2, both near Bangtao Beach in Cherg Talay, the 417-unit Zcape III condominium is a billion-baht project in the heart of Phuket, launched with perfect timing and positioning to rapidly mature in value in line with the central district's growth as a tropical metropolis.

Behind Tri Property's push to be a dominant player in the Phuket



condo market is the company's new Chief Operating Officer (COO) and risk management specialist Bandid Chotiwanaporn, who has built a reputation for successfully streamlining and revitalizing the finances of some of Thailand's largest PLCs.

"Central Phuket is about to explode with growth as the island becomes a central hub for South-east Asia," said Bandid.

"Over the next few years, the area surrounding Zcape III is really going to take shape as the island's central business district,

putting it on a par with landmark locations in Bangkok such as the financial and commercial institutions along Sathorn and Silom roads."

"Central Phuket has the added attraction of being one of the region's most popular shopping and tourist destinations, as well as having excellent medical and educational facilities. All this is set to grow extensively over the next five years, by which time we expect Tri Property's total project value to be worth at least seven billion baht with the addition of one to two new properties a year," he said.

"Zcape III is the answer for single frequent-flyer executives and socially active couples who want an affordable but stylish place from which it's quick to commute anywhere on the island



An artist's impression of the Zcape III exterior. Photos: Supplied

and has the kind of business hotel-style facilities that make working from your home office easy," he added.

An entire third of the development is dedicated to fostering a trendy, friendly community with a vast central courtyard comprising a large pool and kids' pool surrounded by sunken lounging areas and a kids' play area. Indoor leisure and business facilities include a fully-equipped gym with a view of the courtyard and a large library, or "third living space" which is designed to be a convenient executive meeting space.

The fully furnished one and two-bedroom living spaces at

Zcape III went on sale recently with pre-sale prices from just 1.69 million baht attracting investors looking for a premium asset with long-term earnings potential from rental returns as central Phuket grows in diversity and value.

The Zcape III sales gallery is located off Chao Fa Rd West (Soi Eakwanit 1), before the Central Festival intersection. Alternatively, visit the Zcape III sales booth at Central Festival Phuket on the second floor near the banking zone. For more info visit: [z-phuket.com](http://z-phuket.com) email: [sales@z-phuket.com](mailto:sales@z-phuket.com) or call: +66 (0)84 4440 7079.



The interior of Zcape III's 2-bedroom apartment is spacious and bright.



The one-bedroom apartments are ideal for single frequent flyer executives.

## Proposed tax on unused land welcomed by developers

PROPERTY developers have welcomed the Finance Ministry's plan to tax unused or empty land at a rate of at least 0.5% of the value of the plot, which should increase the availability of land for development to create economic value.

"We agree with a tax for unused land because that will force landlords to manage their property and distribute it for others to use, which will increase the value of the land," said Kanda Group chief executive Issara Boonyoung and adviser to the Housing Business Association.

He said that if landlords sitting on unused property had to pay tax on it, that would introduce a cost that might give them incentive to put it on the market.

However, such a tax would have little impact on land prices, which are primarily determined by location and market demand, SC Asset Corporation CEO Kree Dejchai said.

Last Tuesday, Fiscal Policy Office director-general Somchai Sujjapongse told a seminar on

"Impacts of Fiscal Policy and Public Sector Investment on the Thai Property Market Development", held by the Real Estate Information Center, that Finance Minister Kittiratt Na-Ranong had approved the measure. It is included in a draft bill on land and building taxes that the minister wants imposed as soon as possible.

The FPO expects to conclude guidelines on this issue by year-end before the bill is forwarded to the House of Representatives to consider.

Somchai added that this tax on unused land had been in the pipeline for more than a decade. The tax would be assessed on land and buildings based on their use and under rate structures set by local authorities.

The draft bill, which was first proposed when the Democrat Party was in power, calls for penalty tax rates to be assessed on unused land to deter speculators. The rates would start at 0.5% of the value of land and buildings in the first year and

double every three years to a maximum rate of 2%. That maximum may not be high enough to deter land speculation, Somchai said.

The government wants to legislate the tax to support broader policies aimed at easing wealth inequality as well as encouraging landowners to use their property more efficiently and productively, he said.

The National Economic and Social Development Board recently said people aged 65 and over would account for 20% of Thailand's population by 2021. Hence tax revenue in the future will depend less on individual incomes and more on consumption and wealth assets, such as land.

In another idea to narrow the income gap, the FPO has studied a negative income tax. This would be a progressive income-tax system where people earning below a certain amount received supplemental pay from the government instead of paying taxes to the government, Somchai said.

— The Nation

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# Centara rebrands Khao Lak resort

WITH the completion of an extensive renovation and upgrading program, Centara Hotels & Resorts has re-branded its Khao Lak Seaview Resort & Spa to Centara Seaview Resort Khao Lak.

Centara had signed a management contract for the resort in March of this year and 70 million baht has been invested to ensure that the property is in full compliance with the four-star Centara Hotels & Resorts core brand.

"Khao Lak is an exciting tourism destination and we are delighted to have this beautiful resort, in its prime beach-front location, in our portfolio," says Thirayuth Chirathivat, chief executive officer of Centara Hotels & Resorts.

"Centara Seaview Resort Khao Lak has a great future as one of

Khao Lak's premier resorts."

The resort is less than an hour's drive from Phuket International Airport. The resort's 230 rooms include deluxe, pool villas, beach villas, family suites and family residences. Deluxe category rooms have the option of one king-size bed or two queen-size beds for families wishing to stay in one room and connecting rooms are also available.

Dining facilities include the



The resort's expansive pool.

Orchid Restaurant, serving Western and Continental breakfasts, while Talay Tong, set on the beach, serves drinks, lunch and dinner with a Thai and international flair including homemade pizzas and exciting, themed buffet evenings.

Rim Nam, the pool restaurant, is open for lunch offering light refreshments and snacks while the Beer Garden, located in the Plaza, offers evening drinks with a wide selection of local and imported beers and live entertainment.

The newest addition is Time Out, a sports bar where guests can keep up with the latest sports news, watch the premier games, catch up on emails and enjoy bar food favorites. All of the restaurants and bars offer indoor and outdoor seating.

Spa Cenvaree has seven treatment rooms plus a sauna and



Centara Pool Villa. Photos: Supplied

steam room, and there is an extensive fitness center that is equipped with the latest cardio equipment. Leisure attractions include tennis courts, a squash court, new water sports facilities, snooker and pool, table tennis, and a Kids' Club that features Camp Safari for the youngsters and E-Z one for the teens. The resort also features three large swimming pools.

Centara Seaview Resort Khao Lak is designed for meetings and events, with the largest function room able to hold 400 guests for

cocktails or theater style. The room is also divisible into two for more intimate meetings with smaller numbers.

Centara Hotels & Resorts is Thailand's leading operator of hotels, with 42 deluxe and first-class properties covering all the major tourist destinations in the Kingdom. A further 18 resorts in the Maldives, Vietnam, Shanghai, Bali Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Mauritius Indian Ocean, Ethiopia brings the present total to 60 properties.

— *Phuket Gazette*

# Chonburi, Pattaya condo market soars

DEVELOPERS have expanded into the condominium market in tourist destinations, especially resort beaches in Chonburi including Pattaya, where more than 200 billion baht in projects will have been launched this year to date and land prices have doubled in five years.

According to a survey of the Government Housing Bank's Real Estate Information Center (REIC), over 200 condo projects worth 170 billion baht have already been introduced to the market as of the middle of this year.

CB Richard Ellis (Thailand)

also reported that 41,000 condo units in Pattaya will be completed and delivered to customers this year and 50,000 units in the next two years. About 40% of them are located in Jomtien, 20% in Wong Amart, 20% in central Pattaya, 13% in Kho Pra Tamnuk and 7% in Na Jomtien. About 60-80% are located close to the beach.

Since 2012, projects have gone down market from luxury units to units priced not over 2 million baht.

"This means the customer target has changed from foreign buyers to domestic buyers who work in the area," managing

director Aliwasa Pattanathabutr said recently.

Among the new developments in Chonburi is the 440-unit Supalai Vista Sriracha-Laem Chabang project worth 1 billion baht that was debuted by Supalai Plc early last week.

A joint venture of Thai and Israeli investors, Heights Holding Co, is bringing out the 391-unit Wongamart Tower worth 1.28 billion baht on Wong Amart beach in the second half of this year.

SC Asset Corporation Plc's latest project is the 999-unit Centric Sea Pattaya valued at over 2 billion baht.

Nusasiri Plc decided to embark on a single family home project worth 3.9 billion baht in the second half of this year when it saw strong demand in this market.

Veranda Resort and Spa Co has unveiled the 360-unit Veranda Beach Pattaya condo project worth 3 billion baht.

Kingdom Property Co is following up its popular Southpoint Pattaya project with two more worth 10 billion baht next year.

Earlier, top listed property firms such as LPN Development, Sansiri and Supalai christened residential projects in Pattaya and other locations in Chonburi.

Samma Kitsin, director-general of the REIC, said condo supply in Pattaya-Chonburi is the largest in the country outside Bangkok. Last year saw 96,600 residential units enter the market in Pattaya-Chonburi, of which 56,400 were residential condos, 66% of which have been reported sold. The others are single family homes and townhouses.

"We expanded our condo project launches in Chonburi when we saw strong demand in the market after



New condo developments continue to transform Pattaya's skyline.

the company succeeded in selling the first condominium, Supalai Mare@Pattaya, worth 2.4 billion baht in June," said Atip Bichanond, managing director of Supalai.

Demand for residential projects in Pattaya-Chonburi comes from both domestic and foreign buyers who work in industrial estates in the Eastern Seaboard and in the hospitality business in this province, he said.

Naruthai Phodej, deputy director of Heights Holding Co, said the company has developed 13 condo projects worth over 10 billion baht in Pattaya-Chonburi since 2006 aimed at both domestic and foreign buyers. Two more projects worth more than 5 billion baht are slated for the second half of this year.

"Most of our customers buy for occupancy, but some also buy for investment because demand for residences in Pattaya and Chonburi shows strong growth from people who move their workplace from Bangkok to the Eastern Seaboard. They are both locals and foreigners," she said.

The rush to release residential projects in Pattaya-Chonburi has pushed land prices up more than 100% from five years ago. Chana Nantachankul, managing director of Century 21 Realty Affiliates (Thailand), a real estate broker, said prices for land located close to the beach in Chonburi have risen an average of 20% a year over the last five years to 20 million baht per rai.

Wasan Kongchan, managing director of Modern Property Co, another sales agency, said land prices in Pattaya are going up because of both new condominium projects and the new mass transit route that will pass through the province under the government's 2 trillion baht infrastructure scheme.

"When the government's 2 trillion baht infrastructure project kicks off and is already completed, land prices will rise to 500,000 baht per square wah following the growth in demand," he said.

— *The Nation*






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# Slicing Phuket's watermelon

I LIVE my life three hours at a time. There are more days than I want to re-

member, or shall I say – wish to forget. Some of these days follow that “ninety-minute window” which can be segmented somewhat like a large juicy watermelon into three oversized chunks. These slices of life are juicy, sweet and flowing over in a way that you can't really say where it all started, or where things are going to go.

Mind you, my “inner-specifics man” needs to add some labels here to the three amigos of absolute mind-boggling boredom and insufferable derision. I am of course talking about those three hours spent at Phuket International Airport. One hour parking, one hour trying to either find a seat, dodge corpses on the floor or just get to the Dairy Queen. Last but not least, the final leg, where you try not to hit the wall but make it alive through the chaotic boarding process and onto the plane.

More often than not, the game of death goes into extra time as you wait for stranded passengers at immigration or for a “yoyo line” of planes to land. Of course there is always the chance of that static-filled onboard announcement and the near Biblical apocalyptic proclamation that come out of the PA in broken English – “Eck Q Mee”,



**Property Watch**  
By Bill Barnett

followed by either an almost undecipherable explanation about mechanical

issues or off-loaded passenger luggage. Or perhaps both at the same time.

Let me interject but for a moment and return to a Biblical reference: Moses standing tall in the face of disaster and shouting out for heaven to hear – “Let my people go!” Sadly Thai Airways does not have any pilots named Moses. Of course the pain of waiting goes well beyond religions or races, sexes or age. Basically, in the quagmire of humanity known as HKT, we are all in the same dire circumstances. Gandhi may have found solace and hope in this. I on the other hand only sink deeper into depression.

What bothers me the most about the current state of affairs is that we have only hit the autumn days of late October.

Yes, as I view the giant 747 Boeing Transaero charter sitting on the airport apron, the change in the wind is not the end of the island's rainy season but it's the beginning of winter for Europe and those pesky snowbirds who fly south each year. I can almost visualize the sight of the first snowfall in Moscow, and... is that a flock of wild geese on a migration road trip?

Looking around at my fellow madhouse patients in the depar-

	Airlines	Flight	Gate
10:10	Suvarnabhumi	THAI TG 206.	8-9
11:15	Suvarnabhumi	PG 276.	6
12:25	Hong Kong	THAI KA 213	4
13:40	MOSCOW	TRANSAERO UN 528	8-9
14:40	Khabarovsk	nordwind NWS 2488	66
15:35	Kuala Lumpur	AirAsia AK 1927	4
16:40	Suvarnabhumi	THAI TG 208.	8-9
17:05	Kuala Lumpur	MH 795	7
18:35	Suvarnabhumi	PG 274.	9-10
19:45	Hong Kong	THAI TG 608	6
20:55	Singapore	SINGAPORE AIRLINES SQ 5053	4

HIGH SEASON IS HERE: Winter has definitely hit the arrivals board at Phuket International Airport. Photo: Supplied

ture area, I do realize I could actually pass for a Russian. My physique is made for it, and I've been known to down vodka and more. But delving deeper, what about the man sitting across from me dressed in a pirate costume, or the couple with a postmodern digital boom box listening to what? The soundtrack of Jesus Christ Superstar, headed by Helen Readdie.

The time passes slowly as I start to make up imaginary Russian names for myself. Boris, Milo, or something more classical like Victor, no, no it has to be more exotic – Viktor with a K. I cannot recall ever having *Borscht* – in fact what exactly is *Borscht*? I'm not sure how I'd have fared in the whole Communist regime, given I tend to stay out of organization and for years didn't even join the Blockbuster Video Club as I was too worried over the infringements to my personal liberty.

Welcome to the up and coming winter of my own discontent. Yes

things may get Shakespearean, or possibly not. He and I are both Williams, and without a doubt no one in the gulag was ever called Willy. Soon the days will start to get shorter and the lines will go on for days (and days). Yet somehow I am reminded of those flawed tragic heroes in the leather-bound literature classics.

The image spurred on by an arriving passenger wearing a cape and a brown fedora. Weird. Not at all, just stick around for the coming of high season – yes it's going to be strange from here on out.



747 Boeing Transaero charter. Photo: Alex Beltyukov



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# Telly just like back home

AS EXPATS, we all have things that we miss about our home countries. For me, I have to say what I miss the most is American television. I miss having hundreds of channels (all in English) that I can watch whenever I want. There's nothing quite like ESPN, HBO, Showtime, Starz (NASDAQ:STRZA) and AMC Networks (NASDAQ:AMCX) with their hit programs like *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men*.

The first thing I did when I knew that I was moving to Thailand was sign up for Netflix (NASDAQ:NFLX) thinking I could watch shows online. After all, Netflix is one of my favorite stocks and has been a huge winner for me. The stock is up about 375% in the past year! Unfortunately, when I got to Thailand I discovered that Netflix doesn't work here. I assumed that Netflix worked everywhere. Boy was I wrong!

Then I decided to get Apple (NASDAQ:AAPL) TV. It works, but I have had to purchase each show individually through iTunes and, as I soon discovered, that can get expensive... fast! I then went the route many of us go and surfed the web looking for clips on Youtube. It's still not what I wanted though because I want to watch complete shows.

I was explaining my situation to a regular attendee of my seminars for the Chiang Mai



Finance

By Don Freeman

Money Club and he told me that he has a Slingbox. He explained that a Slingbox is hooked up to your cable box so you can then watch your cable TV subscription wherever you have an Internet connection. The problem I have is with this possibility, is that I have canceled my cable service back home, since I'm gone for so long at a time.

I started thinking that one of the cable or satellite providers *must* offer the type of service I'm looking for. As a shareholder in Sprint (NYSE:S), I soon realized that the CEO of DISH Network (NASDAQ:DISH) has the same vision as I do. DISH CEO Charlie Ergen believes in cutting the cord and that TV should be viewed on mobile devices anywhere at anytime. Checking out DISH's website, I soon discovered that they offer what I'm looking for with "DISH Anywhere".

This is the future of television. That's why DISH wanted to buy Sprint. DISH wants to bundle its satellite television service with your mobile plan and connect all facets of your life. Even though DISH lost the bidding war over Sprint, the firm has been buying wireless spectrum to fulfill Ergen's vision. Even here in Thailand, the government has been selling

spectrum licenses worth billions of dollars. Spectrum is extremely valuable.

While I have not signed up for the "DISH Anywhere" package yet, I have purchased shares in DISH. DISH Network has a market cap of US\$ 20 billion and is the second largest satellite cable provider in the US after DIRECTV (NASDAQ:DTV). There is some speculation that the two satellite providers could merge, but that remains to be seen because the FCC blocked a potential merger between the two over 10 years ago. A merger would be great for both companies and reduce their overheads by billions of dollars. I like Direct TV stock too, as its price has moved up 200% since March 2009. It has emerged as a strong leadership stock out of the banking financial crisis.

Shares of DISH Network have risen 44% in the past year. The company is sitting on almost \$ 10 billion in cash for acquisitions and the forward price to earnings ratio (P/E) is a reasonable 22. But what I like most about DISH Network is the vision of CEO and founder Charlie Ergen. He knows the business and has amassed a fortune of over US\$ 10 billion for himself in building the company. It's safe to say he has a vested interest in this new model of TV distribution and has the most to gain going forward.



TV should be viewed on mobile devices anywhere, any time. Photo: redjar

Shares of Netflix are getting a little pricey. The company's P/E is an astronomical 353. However, the company's growth potential is enormous just by looking at the map of countries where Netflix is unavailable. As we know here in Thailand, the demand for all things American is huge, and there's a growing middle class that is becoming more sophisticated with computers and mobile devices. Just take a look at how many Thais are using Facebook (NASDAQ:FB), Google and Skype these days.

I just returned from the US and am considering signing up for the "DISH Anywhere" package. I'm looking forward to being able to access my

favorite shows and watch what I want, when I want. As I'm able to do more things here that I was able to do in the US, I find the desire to go back less and less and I'm able to make my home in Thailand the ultimate paradise!

*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.*

## How and why to get a Thai credit card

By David Mayes

I AM so often asked about the issue of how to obtain credit cards as foreigners living in Phuket that I thought it might be helpful to explain the how and why of the situation. While some may be able to qualify for the traditional unsecured revolving card that we normally think of as a credit card, the normal situation is that Thai banks will have you deposit an amount slightly in excess of the credit limit into an account and freeze

it as a guarantee on the credit. For example, if you deposit 100,000 baht they are likely to give you a limit of 90,000 baht.

Obviously, this sure doesn't seem like a credit card arrangement, but more like a debit card, since it is in fact secured by your deposit. What's the point then? Well, if you travel a lot like I do, you will find that a Thai debit card is rarely accepted when making online reservations at hotels and for booking flights in other countries. It is also tough to shop online with a Thai debit card, whereas the credit

card makes it very simple.

The other benefit of a credit card is that there is a higher level of identity theft protection and information which could be possibly used to drain your bank account won't be floating through cyberspace.

While I am on the subject, a good practice in today's world of ATM skimmer gangs is to set up two Thai bank accounts, and they can be with the same institution. One account should be used to hold your significant baht holdings and you should never access an ATM with this account. Sign up for online banking and every few weeks transfer a bit of spending cash to your second account. Use this account when you go to the ATM and if you ever get skimmed, it won't be so painful.

Back to the credit card situation, if you look at it from a bank's perspective, it is far too risky to give unsecured credit to non-citizens or non-permanent residents who can easily vanish to another country and leave the bank in the lurch. To be frank, if your financial situation is such that a revolving line of credit at extortionate levels of interest is really needed, you are in big trouble. The only difference between a credit card loan and one received from a loan shark is that



Convenience and safety is what a Thai credit card can give you. Photo: redjar

the bank won't break your legs. It doesn't mean it is any better of an idea.

Credit cards were originally charge cards, which were settled at the end of month. The purpose was to make business easier and avoid the risk of carrying around large amounts of cash. Of course, financial intuitions were quick to realize how profitable it was to let people run up a balance they couldn't pay and then charge ridiculously high interest on that debt. If you are ever that short of cash, find some family or friends to give you a short term loan at a reasonable rate of interest. If you are that down and out that nobody

will lend to you, you may need to consider a career change or going back home and getting some public assistance to get you back on your feet. If you just like to order gadgets and flights from the convenience of your smartphone however, a Thai credit card will meet your needs just fine.

*David Mayes MBA resides in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expats around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. To contact David send him an email at david.m@faramond.com or call 085-335-8573. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and advises on pensions and taxation.*



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An artist's impression of what Baan Teelanka (upside-down House) should look like in early 2014. Photo: Supplied

# Oh what a feeling... walking on the ceiling

LIONEL Richie's feel-good 80s tune is about to apply in a more literal sense, with the opening of Phuket's newest quirky, off-the-wall attraction which will enable visitors to actually dance, or walk, or crawl, or slide... on the ceiling.

The beginning of 2014 is set to welcome a three-story, fully furnished house which will become the newest tourist attraction in Phuket – to be built completely upside-down. The eccentric modern Western-style house will feature a garage, staircase, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom – all with the furniture hanging from the ceiling, or as it were, the floor.

This project, entitled “Baan Teelanka”, which, fittingly, means “upside-down house” in Thai, will be accompanied by another brain-puzzling activity: a 1,000-square meter hedge maze will be grown alongside the house, expected to be completed within a couple of months after the house has opened its “roof” to the public.

Alex Riva and Wah Yodying, the minds behind Baan Teelanka and A-Maze-in-Phuket, spoke to the *Gazette* about their upcoming additions to the island's attractions.

“We are targeting people in Phuket and tourists alike, so we needed to make sure that we're creating something that is fun and generates curiosity. With all the activities, attractions, and amusements available, Phuket's got a lot to offer – so we wanted to be different and find something that is lighthearted, easy going and appealing to all,” said Alex.

“We put into consideration that not everyone who comes to this island wants to be active – if you do want to be active, there is so much to do... Scuba diving, golf, activities in the jungle and so on. But we wanted to attract people that are on a bit more of a laid back holiday, whether they are old or young, regardless of nationalities.

“Here in Phuket, 30 to 40 per cent of the days of the year we have some rain – so we are providing something not only for a sunny day, but also for rainy days. It gives something extra to do, whether it is a standalone activity, or on the way from other activities in the area,” he added.

Alex, a Swiss national, is no stranger to the tourism industry. A hotelier for all his life and most

recently General Manager at several Le Meridien and Sheraton hotels in Thailand and within Southeast Asia, he is now taking a sabbatical from his career, and together with his wife Wah, they are now pursuing a long held dream – to create something for the island they call home.

“Alex and I met and worked together in a hotel, here in Phuket, twenty years ago. But after I had to stop working to look after our children, he continued working within hotel management for fifteen years outside Thailand.

“We always had a dream to come back and create something for our hometown, within the industry that we are both so passionate about.

“Bringing Baan Teelanka and A-Maze-in-Phuket to reality is great fun, not only for both of us to find ourselves working together again, but also for our three daughters, who were instrumental in the conception of both logos and mascots,” said Wah.

“We are very encouraged by the feed-back received so far from some of the key tour operators – they have shown great interest in including the facility in their leisure programs. All of them can't wait to see it and promote it to their travellers.”

Alex and Wah also plan to work with individual groups in the community, such as schools and other institutions.

“We will be associating closely with government schools and private schools to make sure we give some special privileges, so kids can come and see something different on special occasions – children's day for example,” Wah said.

“We hope that schools can benefit from our facility, and we will be working together with them to arrange hosted activities for children – we want to give



Phuket's first hedge maze (not pictured) will be available to visitors shortly after the opening of Baan Teelanka. Photo: Jose Manuel

something back to help the community.”

The house itself is set to be a great piece of architecture: “We do believe that our house, which is 350 square meters, 13 meters high, with three floors, will be very impressive – with a lot of attention to detail,” said Alex.

“The architects had never done anything like it before, so we're all very excited about the result,” added Wah.

A-Maze-in-Phuket was also designed by an expert in the field. Adrian Fisher, a well-known maze designer, who has designed over 500 mazes in 30 different countries, was brought onto the team.

His works include the hedge mazes at the Scone Palace in Scotland, as well as the Blenheim Palace in England, among other mazes in India, Japan, South Korea, the US, the Netherlands, France, Germany and the Ripley's mirror maze in Pattaya – just to name a few.

“Yes, the maze was designed by Mr Adrian Fisher, a famous maze designer from the UK. It has been made with different gates so that alternating routes can be opened, so it can be changed on different days of the week and visitors are not always repeating the same route. It is definitely very challenging, and we're sure visitors will have a lot of fun,” Wah told the *Gazette*.

The attractions will be located on the bypass road, between the Factory Outlet and Siam Niramit, right next to Wat Ratsadaram.

“We chose the location strategically. As we know ten or twenty years ago the strategic location would have been on the West coast of Phuket, but around the world, and in Phuket, tourism has changed. Though beaches remain the most important attraction of Phuket, it is no longer just about the beaches,” Alex explained.

“The geographical location of tourists has changed, with different tourists, so different cultures and expectations – meaning the center of tourism industry has moved a little bit to central areas of the island. So for us, the bypass road, which is a main connecting road between the airport and beaches was a perfect location.”

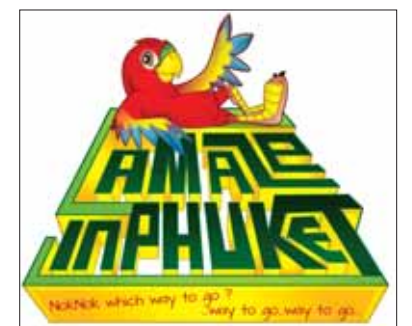
The sensory experience will come at a very affordable price too, with entrance fees planned to

be as low as 150 baht. “We wanted to create something of good value for money,” they explained.

In the meantime, bypass road passers-by can catch glimpses of the wacky and exciting house coming to life as its early 2014 opening nears.

– *Phuket Gazette*

You can also visit the website: [upside-downhouse-phuket.com](http://upside-downhouse-phuket.com) to keep an eye on the project's latest developments.





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The Riva family have all been involved in the development of the Baan Teelanka and A-maze-in-Phuket projects. Photo: Rungthiwa Yodying



# Tourism hub tomfoolery

REPORTS of government plans to raise both arrival and departure taxes on foreign tourists reflect an almost complete lack of cohesion on tourism policy by government officials, and fly in the face of previous pronouncements that Thailand stands at the ready to become the "tourism hub" of the Asean region.

The proposed increases, a 100-baht hike in airport departure tax on international flights and a 500-baht "arrival" tax to help cover the costs of treating uninsured foreign tourists, need to be evaluated independently. The fact that they were put forward in the same week by different government ministries is likely to reinforce the perception abroad that Thailand's reputation for hospitality is becoming increasingly eroded by greed and over-dependence on its premier cash cow: the tourism industry.

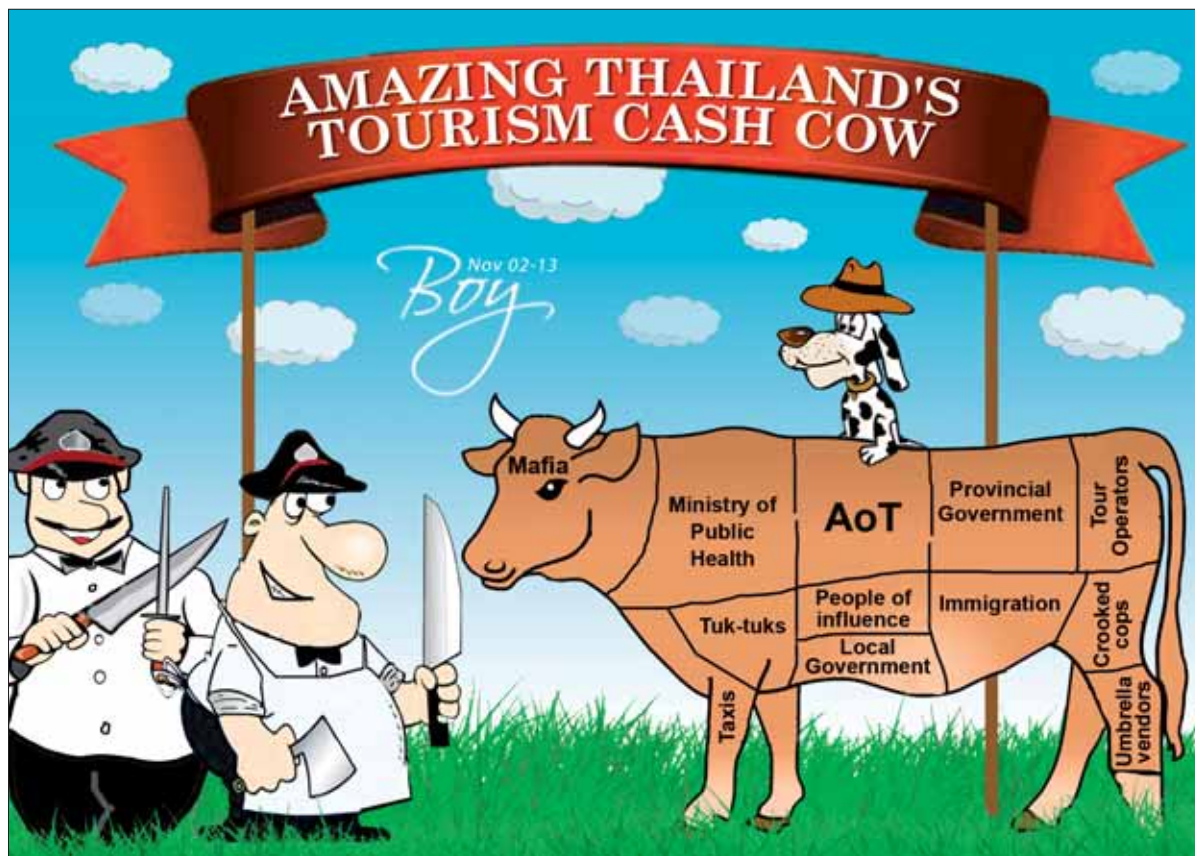
Some observers were quick to point out that the proposed increases, which still need to be approved by the relevant ministries, as well as the Cabinet, only account for a small percentage of increase in the cost of a holiday in Thailand.

The departure tax proposed by Airports of Thailand (AoT), which would rise from 700 to 800 baht on international flights and from 100 to 200 baht for domestic flights, is ostensibly justified by the need to improve services and facilities for passengers, such as the provision of free wireless and reimbursement for passengers affected by flight delays exceeding three hours. The expenses were not included in AoT's original five-year capital expenditure plan for 2011 to 2015, or so the story goes.

How nice it must be to exist in a financial realm where planning oversights are so conveniently compensated for. According to respected industry analyst Bualuang Securities, the hike in price would increase the public company's long-term core profit by 27 per cent and drive up short-term share prices dramatically. Under such circumstances it appears unlikely that the Civil Aviation Commission will reject the proposal, especially as those footing most of the bill to subsidize potential profits for AoT will be the all-too-familiar victims: foreign tourists and small-scale tourism industry operators.

As discouraging as the AoT increase might be for Phuket's tourism industry, it probably would have slipped by with little notice had it not been proposed just days after the Ministry of Public Health put forward its amorphous plan to impose a 500-baht arrival tax to cover the cost of treating uninsured foreign tourists whose medical bills need to be absorbed by the Thai state.

There is simply no reason why Thai taxpayers and "quality tourists", radically defined here as those who have enough sense to take out a travel insurance policy prior to arrival, should foot the bill for those who do not. This is an issue that needs to be urgently addressed in a systematic way, not bandied about as a potential new sluice gate into the seemingly endless, corruption-ridden trough of wasted taxpayer earnings, both Thai and foreign.



## Risking our lives to secure our livelihood

Re: Gazette online, Phuket hotel singer dies in visa run crash, October 25

I took a similar visa run this past February. The driver was a maniac, on the phone the whole time, speeding and passing other vehicles on dangerous bends.

I'll never put myself in that situation again. I think most people who don't live here have no idea how truly dangerous it is!

Nipper  
Gazette forum

### Rules for one should be rules for all

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's illegal tour van drivers granted temporary amnesty, October 26

Can I please have a similar document so that I can continue to work while I wait for my work permit application to be processed?

I also need to work to earn money, and the application takes quite some time. Just like these drivers, I am also willing to register and become legal, but the process can take months.

Me too  
Gazette forum

### Marketing would be better than subsidies

Re: Gazette online, Subsidy deadline looms for Phuket rubber farmers, October 25

This may be a well-intentioned move by the government to assist farmers, but my gut tells me that it will just be wasted on nonessentials.

It would have been better to give them vouchers to buy farm supplies. However, subsidizing anything is a short term solution. Marketing and improved farming practices are the answer.

I am a retired farmer and never needed subsidies.

Dave  
Gazette forum

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Apology isn't enough

Re: Gazette online, Phuket devout demand apology from drunken Russian, October 26

An apology is fine, but this idiot must also pay for the damages he caused, do a bit of jail time and be deported after that.

Dr No  
Gazette forum

### Act, don't react

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: SuperCheap inferno inevitable, October 27

There are a lot of truths in this report, which confirms one obvious issue: the Phuket officials and those responsible are mostly reacting rather than taking preventative action. The next disaster is just a question of time.

Chiara  
Gazette forum

### To each his own

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's middle path - Lifestyle, October 25

Roasted ants' eggs, and deep-fried wasps? Sounds more like my wife having a bad day in the kitchen than something I'd order.

Agogohome  
Gazette forum

### Create a better place for the Heroines

The field on the southeast corner of the Heroines' Monument intersection in Thalang is for sale, and the Phuket Provincial government should buy it, for two reasons.

First, people who want to pay their respects to the Heroines must now brave heavy traffic to get to them. Why not move the statues to the field and build a lovely park (and parking lot) around them, to make it easier and safer to honor them? The location is just in front of the Thalang Museum, which would offer crossover of patrons as well.

Second, the intersection is already clogged and causes traffic to back up both north and south. This jam is destined to get worse as more housing and shopping centers are built in Thalang. Ultimately, traffic lights or an underpass will be needed there.

Let's lay the groundwork now.

Francoise  
Pa Khlok

### Like it or leave it

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Warding off bad luck with a smile, October 27

I support the intent of this article 100 per cent. As with any country, there are positives and negatives; however, let us make it very clear that Thailand is in general a very welcoming country, populated by gentle and respectful people.

The negatives are minimal, the positives significant. Those who do not see and appreciate on a daily basis the uniqueness of this country should perhaps move on.

David  
Gazette forum

### Elephant monitoring

Re: Gazette online, Baby elephant seized at Phuket trekking camp, October 27

It's amazing that these illegal elephants can pop up suddenly everywhere. And investigating their pedigrees takes so long! Perhaps a new, paperless system is needed.

Liliana  
Wichit

## Phuket Gazette

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# Improving the island step by step, his way

## LETTER FROM THE GOVERNOR

I WAS recently accused of sweeping problems under the carpet. The best way to counter such allegations is to present the positive steps I've taken to address problems in Phuket.

Like any other tourist destination, Phuket has problems – I know that. I just don't think it would be useful to broadcast the fact. Imagine if a governor was over sensitive to these dangers and made unfair proclamations such as, "Hey everyone, this place is too dangerous, tourists shouldn't come!"

I know what the problems are and I'm doing my best to address them. But I have to do this in my own way. It's hard to satisfy everyone. However, I've found over the years that once people get to know me and understand my methods, they come to like me.

The way I see it, we need to have two approaches – one is to prevent problems from happening, and the other is to solve them when they do happen.

Our emphasis is on prevention, and for this we rely on the police a great deal. As you may know, the number of police officers on Phuket is not in reasonable proportion to the number of people they need to protect. Nonetheless, they are doing their best.

Recently, we asked them to make more frequent checks at motorbike taxi, tuk-tuk and taxi stations to make sure those drivers are polite, and providing customers a fair price.

We also rely on the police to do regular patrols in areas where we've experienced more crime. We've instituted 27 safety zones



**Maitri Inthusut** arrived on the island to take up the position of Governor of Phuket on October 8, 2012. With a master's degree in political science from Thammasat University, he joined the National Security Council, rising to the position of NSC Secretary-General, before taking up the position of Chief Secretary for Secretariat of the Cabinet. He has also served as Governor for the provinces of Trang and Phayao.

Here, he describes how he is tackling Phuket's problems.

across the island to help us ensure public safety.

Another safety issue we've face is tourist drownings. Lifeguards are working hard to save people's lives, but more needs to be done. We are working on adding a life-guard station to Koh Racha Yai (see page 5), as a number of deaths have occurred there within the last few months.

The last thing that needs to be addressed is education. We've worked on providing important information to both Thai and foreign business owners – we brought jet-ski operators together to tell them what standards of behavior we expect from them, and we brought foreign operators together to help them understand Thai labor laws. When people know the law and what is expected of them, it helps them to act in a legal manner.

These are some of the steps we've taken to prevent problems. But problems will occur no matter what we do, so we have to be prepared for that too.

I have an agreement with Phuket

Provincial Police Commander Ong-art Phiwruangnont – whenever we have a tourist victim, we both step in to help out immediately.

We want police and hospital workers – first responders – to help visitors in the best way they can. I go out myself and visit police stations and hospitals to see what's going on and find out what plans they have to provide for visitors in need.

Patong Hospital takes care of a lot of patients, both Thai and foreign. In the high season, they have even more. Hospitals coordinate with each other to provide better service. A medical team from Vachira Hospital stands by to support Patong Hospital. Patong itself provides a total of four emergency medical services vehicles to stand by at Kamala and Karon Municipality in case patients need to be transferred to Patong Hospital.

There are other problems we're dealing with too, step-by-step. The problems are interconnected and can't be fixed in a short time period. We have to be persistent and patient.



Damian's telephone does all he wants it to do. Photo: Saran Mitratat

## Why I'm keeping my dumb phone

LIFE today is inundated with myriad marvelous advances in technology, not least in the realm of personal telecommunications. I can't go anywhere without encountering the latest news, entertainment, music or point of view being delivered by a screen a short distance away, a friend within range of such a screen, or by someone's smart phone.

Even on this idyllic paradise isle, people are turning to their phones for instant communication satisfaction, often at the expense of those sharing their real time and space, like the person who has accepted their invitation to lunch, ("Hang on a minute... Hey! Hi...") or the person they're conversing with face-to-face ("Sorry, I need to get this...").

The extent of interruptions and some people's compulsion to answer, text, Facebook or Tweet using a palmful device beggars belief that people come here to "get away from it all".

Some people answer the phone no matter what they're doing. One time I was deep into a conversation with my brother, who lives

## Island View

By Damian Evans

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

halfway round the world, before I noticed a strange echo.

"Where are you?" I asked.

"On the toilet," he replied.

"I'll call you back."

The ability to never be out of touch today leaves me gasping for downtime. Sometimes I feel like I could be lucid dreaming that I'm in a Stark Trek movie as Crewmen 444 with a communicator pinned to my chest.

At work, I spend on average 10 hours a day in front of a computer, facing a torrent of incoming messages. When I get home, I open my modern mailbox and do it all again.

So for now, the last thing I want to do is have all my remaining minutes accessible to instant e-contact, and I'll be sticking with my dumbphone.

If I'm to be hauled into being overwhelmed by underwhelming information, it'll be inch by inch.

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

### Where to take a loris

I know someone who has a loris without a permit. How can he turn it in without getting into trouble?

Selle  
Thalang

**Awat Nitikul, chief of the Environmental Conservation Unit at Phuket's Khao Phra Thaeu wildlife sanctuary, replies:**

Tell your friend to bring it to our office near the Bang Pae Waterfall in Thalang. When he arrives, he should ask for Thavorn Seeorn and explain that he wants to turn in the slow loris. Mr Thavorn will take the animal, no questions asked.

If your friend is worried that he could get stopped by police on the way over, call me first at 086 689-7040. That way, if police stop him, I can vouch for him and

explain what he is doing.

You should let your friend know that the slow loris is a protected species, and to possess one without a license puts him at risk of a 40,000 baht fine, four years in prison or both.

The last permit to own a slow loris was issued in 2004. Since the loris has a short life span, just eight to nine years, anyone who says they have a permit for an animal now is likely to have a fake permit.



You can turn in a slow loris without fear of arrest. Photo: Saran Mitratat

## Taking over car finance payments

My Thai partner bought a Toyota on a six-year finance contract. Now I'd like to transfer the car to my name and carry on the payments.

Am I able to do this and what are the costs involved?

Helen P  
Phuket

**Bantita Phanurai, Finance Staff at Tisco Bank, Phuket branch, replies:**

Tisco Bank does a lot of car financing. If your loan is with us, yes, we can cancel the current agreement in your partner's name and draw up a new one in yours. It will cost about 6,000 baht.

You and your partner should come to our office with the car. We will inspect the vehicle and its

condition. Please bring along:

- the original and a copy of your partner's ID card
- a copy of your partner's house registration (*tabian baan*)
- your salary stubs dating back six months
- the original and a copy of your passport and work permit

You will also need a guarantor who is a Phuket resident to submit the following documents:

- a copy of *histabian baan*
- the original and copy of his ID card;
- salary stubs dating back six months.

It usually takes about three days to process applications like this.

In addition to the fee of about 6,000 baht, you will need to pay three of the monthly payments

in advance.

The last thing you will need to do is take the car to be inspected at the Phuket Land Transport Office.

We will have one of our staff there with you to make sure the details of who holds the finance contract for the vehicle is correctly entered into the car registration book.

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

Submit your issue at

[www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)



# PHUKET GAZETTE IN MOSCOW



**ORANEE  
HILDEBRAND**

Managing  
Director

The Phuket Gazette team recently travelled to DOMEXPO in Moscow – the largest exhibition for national and international real estate in Russia – to distribute the special Russian/English language supplement *Phuket Property Review* to expo attendees. The supplement showcases luxury real estate in Phuket directly to Russian investors, a rapidly growing market segment for Phuket-based property developers. This foray into the Russian market is leading the way for local developers to strengthen their presence and brand recognition in this large and lucrative market which has an incredible potential for growth.





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

## PROPERTY of the week

 **Baan Yamu**  
Residences



See page 22

## JOB of the week



# HORIZON GROUP

See page 26

## PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

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



See page 25

## BOAT of the week



*Happiness is a Choice*



See page 31

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POOL VILLAS**

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**HABITOWN,  
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**CONDO AT  
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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 per month with 1-year contract. Common area included. Tel: 089-472 9118.

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**CHEAP LAND &  
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The land of 35 rai and a house with aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen at Tumbon Bomok, Prachuap Kirikhan, 20km from Prachuap Kirikhan town. The land is 1.3km from Petchkasem Road. Price is only 10 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title deed. Please call 085-894 6118, 086-615 9719 or send email to nana1225@gmail.com, lamkookaiz@yahoo.co.th

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

#### 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.

#### HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 086-607 7493.

#### SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/ SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sqm, 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

#### SERVICED APARTMENT PATONG

Fully furnished, swimming pool. Daily and monthly special rates now. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivilla.phuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at [www.nanaivilla.com](http://www.nanaivilla.com)

#### PATONG 2-BEDROOM CONDO

Nicely furnished in quiet location. Maid, WiFi, cable, pool & parking. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate@aol.com

#### LOOKING FOR HOUSE TO RENT

Swiss family looking for a house to rent. Require 3 bedrooms and pool, in Rawai/Nai Harn area. Needed for two months, from February 1 to April 1, 2014. Tel: +41-79-211 6264 (English). Email: loretz@lapartner.ch

#### PRIVATE POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

3 bedrooms, ensuite bathrooms, swimming pool, private carport. Weekly, monthly rent. Tel: 080-789 4500. Email: sales@phuketpondockvilla.com For further details, please see our website at [www.phuketpondockvilla.com](http://www.phuketpondockvilla.com)

#### APARTMENTS & VILLAS FOR RENT



Great value accommodation, available for short and long term. Daily from 900 baht or 14,000 baht per month. Contact us for your enquiry by:

info@resavaholidays.com  
www.RESAVAHOLIDAYS.com

#### B.L. APARTMENT

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

#### RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, 24hr/ 7 day security, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

#### KATA BEACH APARTMENTS

1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, spa. 6,000-16,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

#### APARTMENT PATONG

140sqm, fully furnished. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, plus storage room. Spacious living and dining rooms with Western kitchen. Large balcony. Full aircon, WiFi, UBC ready. Quiet location near Nanai. Long term: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

#### VILLA FOR RENT IN RAWAI

3 bedrooms, ensuite bathrooms, 1 maid room, living room, kitchen, swimming pool. Weekly, monthly rent. Tel: 080-789 4500. Email: Christophe.soula@hotmail.fr

#### SEAVIEW POOL VILLA PATONG

3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, kitchen, sea view, private pool. For rent monthly. Tel: 080-521 1222, 081-883 9983. Email: Jakrapopw@yahoo.com

#### LUXURY POOL VILLA

Near Laguna, has all in a lush tropic garden. 1-year lease. 28,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

#### PATONG TOWER GORGEOUS CONDO



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

#### NOW AVAILABLE!

1,2,3,4 bed different private pool villas for rent, Nai Harn-Rawai, from 15,000 baht per month. Holiday/short or long term. Tel: 087-877 2320 (English), 084-854 9889 (Thai). Email: namphung@andamanhorizon.asia

#### STUDIO APARTMENT IN PATONG

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

#### NEWLY MODERN TOWNHOUSE

18,000 baht/month. Fully furnished 3 bedrooms, kitchen, aircon, fridge, bedding, sofa, hot water. Available now. Tel: 085-055 9576, 089-892 6174. Email: intira.boonsith@gmail.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). Pls contact 086-4769612. Email: annanot1@hotmail.com

#### Live in Rawai?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at The Network property office



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

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

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

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



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

Mail: [AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net](mailto:AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net)



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



**WAITRESS WANTED**

Thai national, waitress in restaurant. Good salary + benefits! Email: info@phuketfit.com

**SALES STAFF NEEDED URGENTLY**

A busy Phuket Town gallery requires a Thai national with good spoken English. Excellent salary + commission given. Tel: 086-509 7510. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

**ENGLISH-SPEAKING SALES JOB**

New business at Patong Beach needs sales associate to assist customers. We will train. You must speak English. Good pay plus commissions. Tel: +1-702-985 3004 (English). Email CV to Steve at steve@footefx.com if interested.

**DRIVER (MULTI-FUNCTIONAL)**

Swiss manager seeks a multi-functional driver, administrative and household assistant. Thai national, male, 25-40 years old, car driving license, good knowledge in English language, good education and appearance. Non-smoker and non-alcohol drinker is a plus. Also night shifts. start ASAP. Salary according to abilities, experience and references. Please send your CV (resume) with picture and salary request by Email only. Tel: 083-551 3373 (English). Email: ppv37@bluewin.ch

**HORIZON GROUP**

A HOTEL GROUP IN PHUKET HAS TWO FOUR-STAR RESORTS, SET IN PATONG AND IN KARON, WITH THE FOLLOWING VACANCIES:

- **Guest Relations** (Salary 15,000-20,000 baht depending on experience)
- **Receptionist** 1-2 years experience minimum (Salary from 15,000 baht)
- **Restaurant Manager** (Salary from 20,000 baht)
- **Assistant Front Office Manager** at Horizon Patong (Salary negotiable)
- **Assistant Housekeeping Manager** at Horizon Karon (Salary negotiable)

WELFARE: SALARY, SERVICE CHARGE, LIFE INSURANCE STAFF APARTMENT, TRANSPORTATION, UNIFORM, MEALS, SOCIAL SECURITY, BIRTHDAY PARTY, STAFF PARTY, STAFF PICNIC, ETC.

If you are confident, please send your full details with recent photograph to HR of Horizon at E-mail: [apply@horizonbeach.com](mailto:apply@horizonbeach.com)  
Tel: 076-292526-30, 076-284555

**OAK MEADOW INTL SCHOOL**

We have the following positions available: 1) a Qualified Thai teacher, and 2) a bus driver. Tel: 076-521550, 084-847 0732. Please email your CV with a photo to [info@oakmeadowphuket.com](mailto:info@oakmeadowphuket.com)

**BAR / BREAKFAST ATTENDANT**

Resort looking for 1 bartender + 1 breakfast attendant. Salary 11,000 baht. 1 day off per week. Tel: 076-398422, 080-698 8335 (English).

**JOB OPPORTUNITY PHUKET**

RMC Client Services are seeking to employ appointment makers / telesales staff in Phuket. The job roll will be to arrange appointments for one of our consultants and market the companies services. OTE 80,000 baht per month plus bonuses. Spoken English must perfect. Email: [kevin.hodges@rmc-client-services.com](mailto:kevin.hodges@rmc-client-services.com)

**OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Thai national, female, 25-40 years old, self-motivated and attention to details, enthusiasm for learning new things, good communication skills in English and good computer literacy (Microsoft office). Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Send CV to [helena@phuketabc.com](mailto:helena@phuketabc.com)

**Phuket Gazette**

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

**WEB GRAPHIC / CSS DESIGNER 1 POSITION**

- ▶ Thai Nationality
- ▶ Minimum one year experience in web design
- ▶ Working knowledge of standard graphics tools, e.g. Photoshop, Illustrator
- ▶ Excellence in web design, CSS, web layout, HTML, template design and JavaScript
- ▶ Experience in creating pages for portable devices (iPhone, Windows Phone, BlackBerry, etc) would be a plus
- ▶ Excellence in web/mobile user experiences
- ▶ Knowledge of HTML5 would be a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of responsive web design a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of JQuery a plus
- ▶ Knowledge of SEO a plus
- ▶ Good communication skills including ability to convey creative concepts and rationale to other team members
- ▶ Able to work efficiently under pressure with careful attention to detail

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Big (IT Manager), by email, fax or post to:

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

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

Tel: 076-273555, ext 705 Fax: 076-615240

Email: [Big@phuketgazette.net](mailto:Big@phuketgazette.net)

**HOUSEKEEPER**

Thai housekeeper with good English for one expat, and other staff. Good salary. Please call. Tel: 081-787 9774.

**KARON CLIFF**

Hostess, maid, engineer, waiter, and kitchen staff wanted. Tel: 087-265 6089.

**PROPERTY RENTAL AGENT**

Tropical Properties is looking for a Thai national to join our company as rental agent. Good command of English, written and spoken, is a must. Experience preferred. Good salary + commissions for the right person. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: [luc@phuket-tropical-real-estate.com](mailto:luc@phuket-tropical-real-estate.com)

**DRIVER**

Thai driver with good English for one expat. Good salary. Please call. Tel: 081-787 9774.

**MARKETING MANAGER**

Thai only. Min 2 years experience at vacation or holiday club, or similar field. Salary + bonus + com. Tel: 076-376186, 088-450 1833. Email: [george@davidvacationclub.com](mailto:george@davidvacationclub.com)

**MARKETING STAFF**

Motivated, English speaking. Thai national only. Salary, commission, bonus. 4 staff + leader. Tel: 076-376186, 088-450 1833 (English). Email: [hr@dvcproperty.com](mailto:hr@dvcproperty.com)

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

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

**PATONG**

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

**PHUKET CITY**

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

**CHERNG TALAY**

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

**RAWAI**

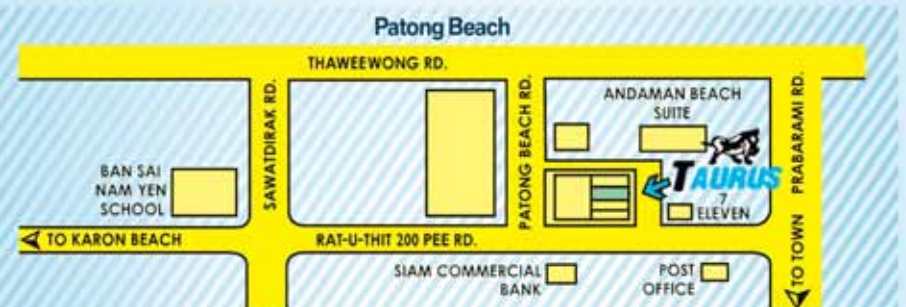
- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

**KARON**

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

## Live in Patong?

### Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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

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

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



**DIVE SHOP IN KATA**

Needs Padi OW Instructor.  
Teach in English and German.  
Tel: 089-847 9147.

**TEACHER**

Looking for teacher, teaching  
online marketing, SEO. Tel: 091-  
654 6249. Email: jittraming  
@gmail.com

**THAI COOK WANTED**

In Kata Beach sports bar & res-  
taurant. Good working condi-  
tions. Salary + tips. Tel: 080-038  
2462 (English), 091-159 0122  
(English). Email: gary.mathe-  
son@internode.on.net

**ENGLISH TEACHER  
URGENTLY NEEDED**

At The Genius Language  
School in Patong. Tel: 076-  
296029, 089-203 9270  
(English). Email: aood16  
@hotmail.com

**THAI TEACHER  
NEEDED**

Qualified Thai teacher wanted  
for small kindergarten. Email:  
millingtonjackie@hotmail.  
com

**MARKETING  
EXECUTIVE**

Working at the booth in Cen-  
tral. Thai female, good com-  
mand in English, we pay basic  
salary plus commission and  
bonus call Alexander by phone  
Tel: 089-594 6888. or Email: at  
info@arthouse.asia

**SALES STAFF NEEDED  
URGENTLY**

A busy Phuket Town gallery  
requires a Thai national with  
good spoken English. Excel-  
lent salary + commission  
given. Tel: 086-509 7510.  
Email: simon@colonial-con-  
nection.com

**Phuket Gazette**

*The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the  
following position:*

**WEB PROGRAMMER**

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

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

**Phuket Gazette**

*The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the  
following position:*

**REPORTER**

- ▶ Thai national (able to read, write, speak fluent Thai)
- ▶ Ability to communicate clearly in English
- ▶ Clear thinking in order to identify what makes a good news story
- ▶ Initiative and enthusiasm to track down a story
- ▶ Photography skills
- ▶ Able to manage own time effectively
- ▶ Knowledge of Burmese an advantage
- ▶ Driver's license

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to  
Um@PhuketGazette.net

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Ext.402 Fax: 076-615240

**Phuket Gazette**

*The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:*

**GRAPHIC ARTIST 1 POSITION**

- ▶ Graphic-design skills and knowledge of Adobe Illustrator, PageMaker, Indesign, Photoshop required
- ▶ Freehand drawing and web-design skills a plus
- ▶ Responsible, hard-working, attention to detail
- ▶ Able to work in a fast-paced environment and meet deadlines
- ▶ Good communication skills, team player
- ▶ Thai-English speaker

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna (General Manager), by  
email, fax or post to:

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

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

Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240 Email: anna@phuketgazette.net

**FITNESS TRAINER  
WANTED**

Experience required. Please  
send CV to be considered at  
info@phuketfit.com Check out  
our website: www.phuketfit.com

**CUSTOMER  
RELATIONS REP**

Must speak and write En-  
glish. Thai national. Good  
Salary. Email: info@phuket  
fit.com

**PROPERTY RENTAL  
ASSISTANT**

Tropical Properties is hiring a  
rental assistant with experi-  
ence. English, written and  
spoken, is a must. Good sal-  
ary and commissions for the  
right person. Must be able to  
start very soon. Thai nationals  
only. Tel: 087-882 2856 (En-  
glish). Email: luc@phuket-  
tropical-real estate.com

**OFFICE MANAGER**

Thai male wanted, in Patong,  
know English and have com-  
puter skills. Tel: 081-088  
1451

**OPERATIONS  
MANAGER**

Western English speaker, able  
to understand Thai, mainte-  
nance experience. Flexible  
hours, own car and must have  
license. Send CV to: phuket  
villasrental@hotmail.com

**STAFF WANTED**

New beach club in Surin Beach  
is seeking for positions: Manager,  
Supervisor, Waiter & Waitress,  
Beach boy, Chef. Fluent spoken  
English and helpful with team  
work. Please contact by send-  
ing CV to Catherine or Jariya at  
info@morel-catherine.com or  
call. Tel: 081-367 7965, 081-271  
5415.

**MASSAGE THERAPIST  
ABROAD**

Zueri Home massage in Swit-  
zerland is looking for 2 massage  
therapists (female) to work in  
Switzerland's biggest city. We  
bring a 5-star spa to guests  
home. Are you interested? I am  
in Phuket doing interviews until  
5 November. Tel: 093-620 2260.  
Please contact George by  
phone or send email to info  
@zuerihomemassage.ch

**OFFICE ASSISTANT  
WANTED**

To aid in graphic design and  
administrative work. Thai na-  
tional, able to communicate  
clearly in English. Computer  
skills required. Marketing and  
design skills preferred. Willing-  
ness to learn. Basic administra-  
tive skills (email, Word, Excel)  
Please send your resume to  
info@apr-pfleiderer.com

**GUEST RELATIONS  
MANAGER**

Thai national with overseas ex-  
perience; Excellent English  
and other languages is a plus.  
Tel: 076-370100. Please call  
or send email to Saowapha.yo  
thathoon@lemeridien.com

**THAI REAL ESTATE  
MANAGER**

Requires perfect written and  
spoken English, and com-  
puter skills. Mon-Fri: 9:00-  
16:00. Salary: 20,000 baht  
per month. Tel: 088-178  
2535. Email: anastasia@thai  
villas.ru

**SALES MANAGER**

Real Estate agency looking  
for foreign national to join our  
company as Sales Manager.  
Good command English. Sal-  
ary+ commission+work per-  
mit. Tel: 089-594 6888. Contact  
Alexandr. Email: info@art  
house.asia

**Phuket Gazette**

*The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the  
following position:*

**SUB-EDITOR**

- ▶ Fluent in English
- ▶ Able to work to strict deadlines
- ▶ A team player
- ▶ Naturally curious about the world, especially Phuket and what affects its residents
- ▶ Newspaper experience and/or layout skills, especially in PageMaker or InDesign, required.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV and  
writing sample by email to editor@phuketgazette.net

**The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd**

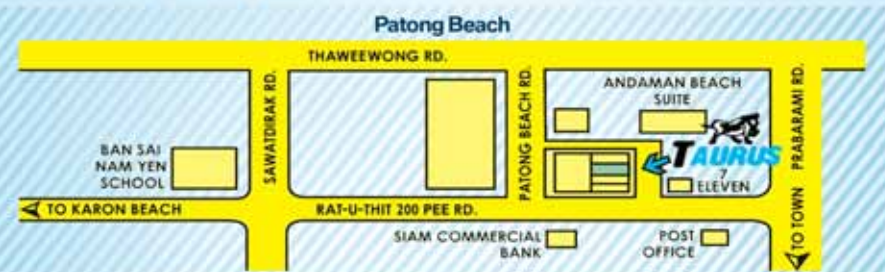
79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew

A. Muang, Phuket 83000

Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

## Live in Patong?

### Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



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**Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

**GAZETTE CLASSADS** - they work  
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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)!



## Bulletins

## Business Opportunities

## Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink  
that is your business

If you want  
to stop  
that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town,  
Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763  
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

### 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. Please call 087-417 8860, 087-277 6948.

### 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. For more information, please call 081-894 8446. Email: sfrkata37@gmail.com, www.southernfriedrice.com

### Bar & Restaurant Equipment

### PIZZA REFRIGERATOR

Pizza topping refrigerator, stainless steel, containers. Sale: 45,000 baht. Tel: 084-845 4743.

### COLD ROOM FOR SALE

Ready to work. Maintained every 3 months. For more information, please call 080-538 4735 (English & Thai). Email: momo\_f@hotmail.com

### COFFEE & GELATO

2 group coffee machine and grinder, 7 gelato showcases and 16 pans, 2 gelato makers / pastuerisers, 2 kitchen cabinets, all in new condition, only 12 months old. Tel: 087-894 1384. Email: milnelaur2@aol.com

### SCANDINAVIAN HOTEL/RESTAURANT FOR LEASE - PATONG

High occupancy rate, perfect location, easy to start business! High ranking on online travel agents, such as booking.com, agoda.com, tripadvisor.com. Legally, current and up-to-date contracts with overseas tour operators that have high sales volume and many loyal customers with repeat business. Current sales channels and property management software, you can run your business online from anywhere in the world. 30 rooms. Restaurant and terrace with 40 seats, huge roof terrace, fully equipped kitchen. 7 years lease left, rent paid until 31 December 2013. Turnover 7.5 million baht per year, profit 2 million baht per year. Price: 7 million baht includes business, Thai company limited (Co.,Ltd) with 3 work permits, and many legal things you don't need to waste your time on if you started from scratch. Everything is included! Contact Scandinavian owner directly (speaks English). Email: shincorp1@yahoo.com.sg

### BAKERY & RESTAURANT FOR RENT

3 years on contract or more. Ao-nang, Krabi, great location amidst lush garden surroundings. Full furniture and equipment, ready to move in. For more information please call 086-270 8223, 087-887 7857.

### BAR FOR RENT SOI TIGER 1



Soi re-opening soon, opposite Tiger live band. Bars for rent, good business opportunities in the best location in Bangla Road, Patong. Tel: 083-640 4400. Email: asiau bin@hotmail.com

### HOTEL SALE FREEHOLD

21 quality rooms, nothing to spend. 2 large penthouses, 85% occ. 40 million baht freehold. For more information, please call 086-601 1196. Fax: 076-296129. Email: kellyshotelphuket@hotmail.com, www.kellyshotelphuket.com

### FOR SALE

Email: info@gokaron.com For further details, please see our website at www.gokaron.com

### NEARLY ON THE BEACH

1. Building and business for sale. 2. Guesthouse, high class 10 rooms for rent. 3. Commercial shop, street floor for rent. Attractive prices. Tel: 085-789 5701 (English & Thai), 080-884 0661 (English). Fax: 076-390820. Email: chanisara.guesthouse@gmail.com

### GUESTHOUSE RESORT

Sale or long-term rent. Also 3-bedroom villa, 2 bathrooms, pool, quiet Soi, 118,000 baht per month. Must be seen to much to list. Tel: 081-808 1804. Email: ttpitstop1@hotmail.com

### CHALONG GUESTHOUSE

22 beds, pool, with parking Tel: 089-729 8365. Email: sudaves2002@yahoo.com

## HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Contact: realestate.luxuryphuketholidays.com

### VERY POPULAR RESTAURANT

Top restaurant in Kamala Beach for sale. Good location. Please search by Google for Grill Bill Kamala. For more information and photos, please call 081-089 0543 (English & Thai) or send email to iii\_sunny\_iii@yahoo.com

### A REALLY COOL BUSINESS

After many proposals, we found a fun business in a huge international industry. Be open-minded enough to have a look. That costs you nothing and you may change your financial future as we are doing. Contact us to arrange a short presentation. Please call 081-895 7727 (English). Email: jmlphuket@gmail.com

### FREE BIRD BAR IN NAI HARN FOR SALE

Great location, 3 TVs, 2 pool tables, seating 60 pax, includes fully equipped beauty salon, parking: 10 vehicles, 8 years left on lease. Sale: 1.8 million baht. Negotiable! Tel: 087-884 8972, 087-892 6204, 087-244 1322 (Thai).

### 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.

### V.I.P LOUNGE BAR PARTNER WANTED

Working partner 50% of new VIP private lounge bar club in Bangla area, will manage all cash flow, buying and staff. 1.5 million baht. Tel: 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

### BUSINESS FOR SALE!

Original Thai massage. Nai Yang. Close to the airport. 3 floor building, 5 massage rooms, 1 kitchen, reception (lobby). Space for 24 customers. Fully equipped and furnished. 1.2 million baht! Contact Bow. Tel: 084-445 4654 (English & Thai).

### HOTEL + LAND FOR SALE

31-room hotel with 1.5 rai land in Nanai 2. Special offer 72 million baht. Tel: 087-886 5360.

### INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

Luxury project for sale. 50% process done. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 080-891 1611. Email: aopoproject@gmail.com

### A FUN & HAPPY BUSINESS

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## Club Memberships Available

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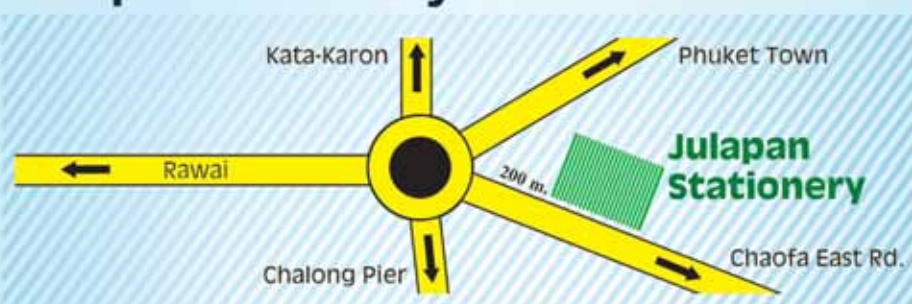


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► Riviera 37 (2007)

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► Sea Ray Sundancer 355 (2005)

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► Riviera 43 Offshore Express (2010)

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► Nicholson 35 (1977/2012)

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► Catana 50 (2008)

**\$774,900 USD**

► Orchard 48 (1992)

**\$225,000 USD**

► Spirited 380 (2008)

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Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman  
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Email: marcus@leemarine.com

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Mobile: 081 891 3237  
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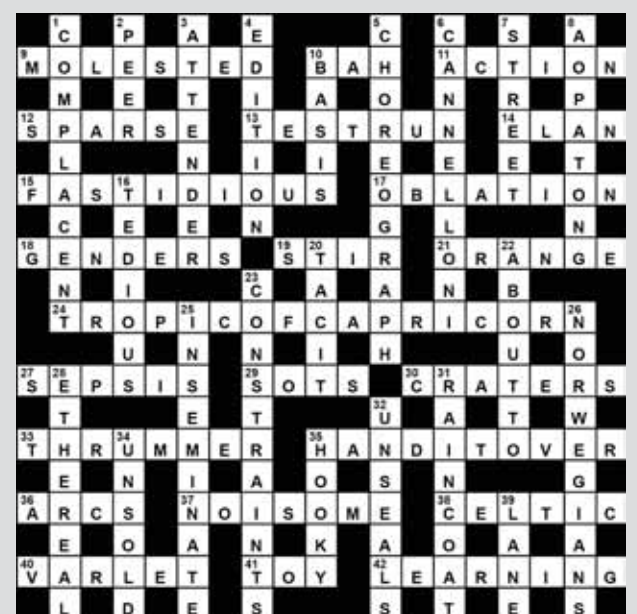
2007. Cummins 270Hp diesel, aircon, generator. Great little boat! US\$99,950. For details contact Alan Giles. Boatshedphuket.com Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alan.giles@boatshedphuket.com

**SELLING YOUR BOAT?**

With high season just around the corner, now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshedphuket.com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for quality boats. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

**JEANNEAU SO 35 (2003)**

Many recent upgrades, new sails. Yanmar diesel, Thai registered. US\$79,950. For details contact Alan Giles. Boatshedphuket.com Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alan.giles@boatshedphuket.com

**SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S****Cryptic crossword****COFFEE break**











## Beach volleyball finals at Karon



Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

GET down to Karon Beach this weekend to catch the finals of the 2013 Phuket Thailand Open Powered by PTT women's beach volleyball competition.

Teams from all around the world have been battling it out since Tuesday for their spot in the final and a share of the US\$ 116,600 in prize money up for grabs. Saturday sees the quarterfinal matches start at 9am and the semifinal matches at 3:30pm. Sunday is the final day of competition, with the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> place playoff match beginning at 3:30pm and the final at 4:30pm.

For more information, including results and photos, see: [fivb.org](http://fivb.org) or [phuketgazette.net/phuketsports/](http://phuketgazette.net/phuketsports/)

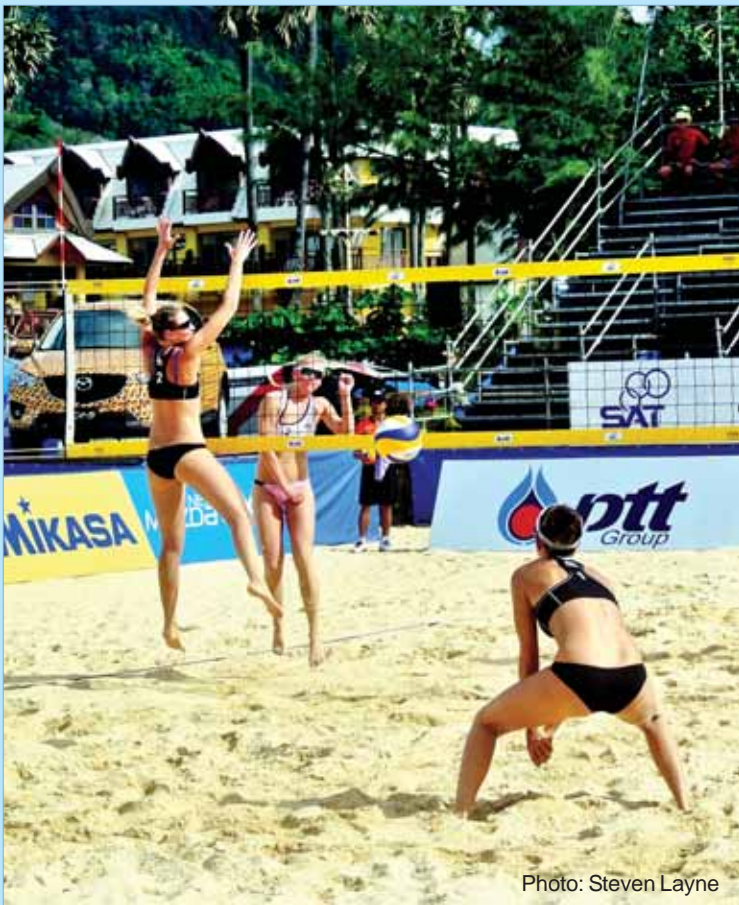


Photo: Steven Layne



### NOVEMBER 2

- 1895 The first gasoline-powered race in the United States.
- 1898 Cheerleading was started at the University of Minnesota.
- 1914 The Russian Empire declared war on the Ottoman Empire.
- 1930 Haile Selassie was crowned emperor of Ethiopia.
- 1953 The Islamic Republic of Pakistan got its name.



CHEER 1898 Photo: Mike Morbeck



LEADER 1960

### NOVEMBER 3

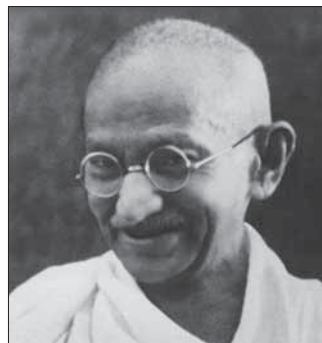
- 1493 Christopher Columbus first sighted the island of Dominica.
- 1838 The Times of India was founded.
- 1913 The United States introduced an income tax.
- 1954 The first Godzilla film was released.
- 1957 The Soviet Union launched Sputnik 2 with a dog on board.

### NOVEMBER 4

- 1429 Joan of Arc liberated Saint-Pierre-le-Mo tier.
- 1847 Anesthetic properties of chloroform were discovered.
- 1890 London's first deep-level tube railway opened.
- 1921 Japanese Prime Minister Hara Takashi was assassinated in Tokyo.
- 1952 The US government established the National Security Agency.
- 1995 Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated.
- 2008 Barack Obama elected President of the United States.



PRESIDENT 2008



PROTEST 1913

### NOVEMBER 5

- 1895 George B. Selden was granted the first US patent for an automobile.
- 1912 Woodrow Wilson was elected to the presidency of the USA.
- 1943 Bombing of the Vatican during the World War II.
- 2006 Saddam Hussein was sentenced to death.
- 2007 China's first lunar satellite, Chang'e 1 went into moon orbit.



DRAGON 1954 Photo: eugeneflores

### NOVEMBER 6

- 1789 Father John Carroll became the first Catholic bishop in the US.
- 1913 Mohandas Gandhi was arrested in South Africa.
- 1935 Parker Brothers acquired the forerunner patents for "Monopoly".
- 1943 The Soviet Red Army recaptured Kiev.
- 1944 Plutonium was first produced at the Hanford Atomic Facility.
- 1991 The last burning Kuwaiti oil field was extinguished.



EMPEROR 1930 Photo: British Press Service

### NOVEMBER 7

- 1885 The completion of Canada's first transcontinental railway.
- 1908 Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid were reportedly killed.
- 1916 Jeannette Rankin was the first woman elected to the US Congress.
- 1944 Franklin D. Roosevelt was elected as President of the USA.
- 1991 Magic Johnson announced that he is infected with HIV.

### NOVEMBER 8

- 1519 Hernán Cortés entered Tenochtitlán.
- 1889 Montana was admitted as the 41st U.S. state.
- 1895 While experimenting with electricity, Wilhelm Röntgen discovered the X-ray.
- 1960 John F. Kennedy defeated Richard Nixon to become the 35<sup>th</sup> president of the USA.
- 2004 Siege on the insurgent stronghold of Fallujah, Iraq.



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## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### Nov 1 - 2, 2013, 7pm - 1am, Charity Halloween Ball to raise money for The Good Shepherd at XANA Beach Club

Tickets are 700 baht and 100% of the proceeds will go to charity. Each ticket will give the bearer entry, a free drink on arrival, a 2-for-1 drinks voucher and free jelly shots. There will also be a seafood BBQ buffet by the beach, priced at 900 baht++ per person, until 9:30pm. Watch out for a raffle and a prize for best dressed on the night! For more information contact Annabel Fox on 076-324101

### Nov 2-7, 2013, 10am-6pm, Chang ITF Pro Circuit 2013 (Women's, US\$15,000) at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club

ITF Future professional circuit for women at US\$ 15,000 level. There will be two tournaments held in two consecutive weeks at the club. For more information, contact Mr Virapol Cholvibul on 081-490-9814.

### Nov 5, 2013, 9am-4pm, PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup

Once again the PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". A day of fun, fashion in the field and entertainment, featuring PJ Stanley. Tickets @ THB2,000 which includes all of this plus lunch and three drinks. Check out our Facebook Melbourne Cup page to see a list of sponsors and Prizes. For more information contact Carole Dux on 085-782 1332 or visit website: phuketiw.com

### Nov 8 - 9, 2013, 7am-5pm, BIS Phuket International Football Tournament

British International School Phuket (BISP) is proud to host for the 12<sup>th</sup>

consecutive year our International 7-a-side Football Tournament on November 8-9, 2013. This year we are expecting more than 1,000 young football players from all over Asia, and we are looking forward to another year of exciting competition. For more information, contact Jeff LaMantia on +66-76-335555 or email: jlamantia@bisphuket.ac.th

### Nov 8, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For more information, contact Jaspal Singh on 076-286464 or email them at info@navrangmahal.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 16<sup>th</sup>. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show. We hope you will join us for another great tournament! For more information, contact Uwe Schitteck on 076-282036

### Nov 15, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For reservations, contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464, email: info@navrangmahal.com

### Nov 22, 2013, 7pm-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold Mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious Mutton Vindaloo, Dal Makhani, Bombay Aloo, Mutter Paneer, Butter Chicken and mouthwatering Chicken Tikka, Samosas, freshly baked Naans and more. For reservation contact Jaspal Singh on +66-76-286464, email: info@navrangmahal.com

### Nov 24-Dec 1, 2013, 5am-11:30pm, Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2013 at Laguna Grove, Laguna Phuket

The Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest gets underway on November 24 with the 20<sup>th</sup> Laguna Phuket Triathlon, and culminates with the inaugural Challenge Laguna Phuket a week later on 1 December. Between these back-to-back world-class triathlons, take in the excitement of the Challenge Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest. Rub shoulders with visiting pro athletes; take part in training camps led by triathlon experts; and enjoy social events at our award-winning hotels. To register for our triathlons visit: challenge.lagunaphuket.com or contact Nantane Chuaychu on +66-76-362300.

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

HM The King's Birthday. This day is also celebrated as Father's Day.

### Dec 16 - 18, 2013, 6pm-11:30pm, Asia Superyacht Rendezvous

The Asia Superyacht Rendezvous is a prestigious invitation-only event for superyacht owners, captains and their VIP guests. This year's event takes place December 16-18 at Kata Rocks. The annual Rendezvous is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV, and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 99 and 58). For more information contact: +66-817-974100.

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DejaVu Sans Condense 12 B I U

## KHUN WOODY'S COMPUTER CLINIC

Have a question about your internet connection? Want to know where to get a computer fixed? Wondering about buying a new laptop, or tablet, or phone? Can't figure out torrents? Facebook have you bamboozled? Need to get mail on your Samsung phone, or a calendar for your iPhone? Want great apps for your kids? Your business? Your mother-in-law? Is Windows driving you NUTS?

You're not alone. Computer stuff is changing so fast, it's very hard to keep up - and some of the new stuff is so insanely great, it makes living overseas much, much easier. If you know the tricks. Join "Khun Woody" Leonhard's US-based friend, Live Wire (who's a geek emeritus and well-known computer author), in this final series of FREE Computer Clinics, now through the end of January. Bring your questions, bring your problems, bring your hatchets, don't forget your sense of humor, and we'll see what kind of headway we can make. No experience necessary - "beginner" questions are the best ones of all, because they usually have definitive answers.

The clinics run from 10am to noon on Sunday mornings, at the new Baketastic. It's in Kathu, just east of the gas station, opposite the new Krung Thai Bank. Parking around back. Seating's limited, so get there early for a chair.

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# Paintings to make you happy

By Maciek Klimowicz

I MEET Christine Wyler (or as friends call her – Jani) at her apartment in Kamala and the moment I step inside I feel like I'm in an art gallery. The spacious interior is tastefully decorated with numerous paintings, some of them her own, some by other artists she has befriended – all of them are eye-catching enough to make me forget the stunning vista from the panoramic window of her living room.

Before Jani moved to Phuket in 1999, she worked as a fabric designer in Switzerland. It's enough to take a look at her paintings to know it's true. Strong textures, numerous layers, vivid colors all combined to an abstract, intense effect.

"My style comes from my experience in the textile industry. I was always working this way, but now using these materials in a much bigger area," she says.

But when I ask her to explain her technique in more detail, she just smiles and says: "I don't want to go into detail about how I do it because I don't want people to copy it."

"But basically I'm using color and fabric, sometimes up to four or five layers, until I reach the structure for a three dimensional effect, with depth in the painting," she explains.

The paintings I see on her apartment's walls have the comforting, cheerful quality of a sunny Phuket day and Jani is sure that had she stayed in Switzerland,

her work would be of a very different character. "There's so much energy flowing here. Much more than in Europe where everyone's living in their own, private box."

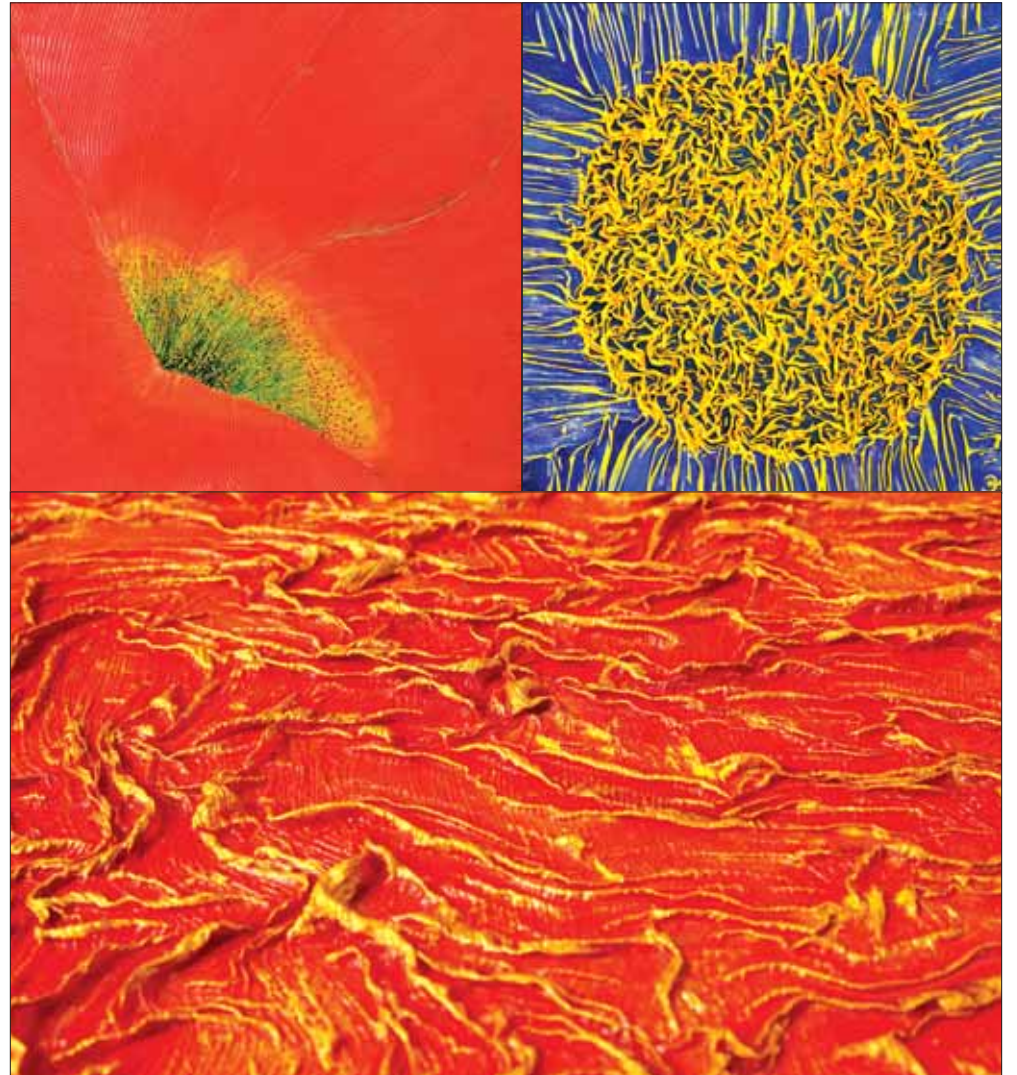
"I think there's a strong influence from the tropics [in my work], the warm weather and so on. Especially the last three paintings I did are very much Phuket. The blue of the sea, the warmth, the friendliness of the people – and this is reflected in my work."

"I think all my paintings are positive. There's nothing negative in them. And I think in the process of making a piece, I try to be positive and always enthusiastic about it," she says.

Achieving this energizing effect is very labor intensive and time consuming – it takes up to three months to finish one painting. During this period Jani has a lot of time to imagine where the finished piece will end up.

"I wish for my paintings to be with people who look at them everyday and are happy for the rest of the day because they looked at them," she says.

To see Jani's paintings visit the VR Gallery Adjacent to Mom Tri's Villa Royale on the only road into Kata Noi, Phuket where an exhibition of Jani's works opened last Saturday, October 19. There are 25 paintings waiting for both private collectors as well as hospitality industry representatives. To learn more about Jani and her works visit: [christiane-wyler.com](http://christiane-wyler.com)



Positive energy and joy radiate from Jani's paintings. Photo: [christiane-wyler.com](http://christiane-wyler.com)



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# A fly in the ointment

INSECTS are one of the most successful forms life has taken on earth.

There are as many as 1,800,000 different species, probably more. And there is no shortage of them here in Phuket. Any self-respecting gardener will be aware of these "critters": they lurk everywhere in our carefully tended flower beds, shrubberies and vegetable plots. And they are a mixed blessing. While many pollinators such as bees are beneficial both to the environment and to humans, others are pests, especially those that bite or sting, or worse, transmit diseases.

In this regard, public enemy number one is the mosquito which has acquired extra publicity and menace in Thailand because one species, *aedes aegypti*, a large striped species, is a vector for dengue fever. Reported figures of dengue here in Phuket have risen sharply to nearly 2000 cases in the past year. Almost certainly, this increase is related to heavy rains and the existence of casual puddles of water favored for breeding purposes by *aedes*. Oddly, malaria, which is the world's leading killer, (two million annually, especially of the young), is virtually unknown in the Kingdom.

But even mosquito or midge bites are unpleasant enough, the more so if you are allergic to them. The female *anopheles* mosquito is the most common bloodsucker, (the male feeds harmlessly on pollen) needing the transfusion to provide sustenance for eggs which she will later deposit in water. Having pierced the host's skin with her sharp proboscis, she injects an anti-coagulant saliva which allows the blood to flow more easily. It is this fluid which dilates our capillaries, and causes both the swelling and subsequent irritation.

As gardeners, we can take precautions. Ensure that any standing water (fish or lily



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

ponds, or lotus pots), actually *contain* fish. Even small varieties such as guppies or sword tails will immediately gobble up any eggs or larvae. Other natural predators include insect-eating birds and large insects such as dragon flies, spiders and praying mantises. Try to avoid gardening in the early morning or before sunset when "mozzies" are on the prowl, and avoid areas of deep shade where they hide. Wear a repellent on exposed skin: DEET is effective for several hours and though less potent, natural products based, for example, on citronella, eucalyptus oil or neem, are a useful deterrent. Enclose feet and ankles: the levels of CO2 which attract the insects are higher in these areas of the body.

If mosquitoes are enemy number one for the gardener, others can prove equally, well, irritating. Take ants. They are ubiquitous and indestructible, having colonized every part of the globe bar Antarctica. Here in the tropics, they bite with their mandibles and sting, especially the aggressive weaver ants that create leaf nests in trees, or the large black ants that breed underground or in saucers at the base of flower pots. Typically, the sting is caused by the ant spraying formic acid; after a massed attack by red ants, one can smell it on the skin.

What makes ants more of a problem, is that they are, unlike mosquitoes, social creatures – with colonies which they protect so effectively that they have few natural enemies. Even spiders will not venture near these fortresses manned by soldier ants. But their principal nuisance for the gardener is their capacity to forge relationships with other creatures such as aphids and mealybugs. These tiny insects feed destructively on plant sap and produce a sweet substance called honeydew which is "milked" by the ants. In a symbiotic relationship with the ants, these sap-suckers



Carpenter ant. Photo: Bob Peterson



Praying Mantis. Photo: Yvan Leduc



Ants, aphids and lady birds  
Photo: Alejandro Erickson



Spider. Photo: klynslis

are protected from predators such as ladybirds. Plants weakened by such attacks often develop fungal diseases or die.

Oddly, neither mosquitoes nor ants are top of the most feared or hated insect list. That dubious honor goes to the spider. Perhaps because there are many venomous species of spiders. But in Phuket they are the gardener's ally, consuming mosqui-

toes and other flying nasties ensnared by their webs. Nonetheless, it has been estimated that up to 50 per cent of women are arachnophobic. It seems that the fear of spiders runs deep in many of us.

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

## Tip of the week

### Leaf Coloration

FOLIAGE plants, grown principally for their leaf color, need the right conditions to display their best and brightest hues. Popular, broad-leaved *cordylines* such as *fruticosa*, only attain that rich magenta hue when given plenty of sun, though over-exposure to noon-day glare may, as with shade-loving species, lead to leaf scorch. Older forms of *euphorbia cotinifolia*, with hybrids such as *atropurpurea* now available in glowing shades of crimson, will only produce red foliage in a sunny location.

The reverse is also true of some plants. Some rainforest plants or those unused to high levels of heat or humidity, may change their color in tropical conditions. Some bromeliads, especially red leaved ones or those with a scarlet inflorescence, may revert to plain green at sea level, but regain their coloration at



Bromeliad. Photo: Sheila in Moonducks

cooler, elevated altitudes. *Brugmansias* grow wonderfully well in the highlands of Southern Spain or Chiang Mai, but struggle here in Phuket.

## Dog of the week

### Petra

PETRA loves nothing more than finding a comfortable couch and snuggling up on it with someone who will cuddle up with her. She would be best suited to an elderly couple or someone less physical and who spends a lot of time at home. She prefers a slow walk everyday as she has arthritis and her hips are a bit stiff. She also has cataracts and needs some special eyedrops every day to hopefully slow down the process of old age. Other than that she is a very happy and quiet dog, you properly wouldn't get a bark out of her and she never snarls.

Petra needs to find someone who could give her a sweet life with lots of love, as she has had a very tough life before arriving at Doggie Heaven 10 months ago. Since then, she's been very spoiled and treated like the queen of Doggie Heaven and has become quite



accustomed to this life. So if you can give Petra a special home where she can get the royal treatment, contact Doggie Heaven.

Doggie Heaven helps place homeless dogs with loving families and is located in the Laguna area. If you'd like to adopt an animal please contact: [sherin.peace@gmail.com](mailto:sherin.peace@gmail.com) or visit [doggieheaven.net](http://doggieheaven.net)



# Windows 8.1 disappoints

MICROSOFT just released Windows 8.1 last week and for those of you running Windows 8 (yes, there are some of you), upgrading to Windows 8.1 is a no-brainer.



easier to play the music and videos that you've already downloaded and don't try quite so desperately to cajole you into buying stuff from Microsoft. Metro Music and

Video still don't hold a candle to the old-fashioned VLC Media Player – which can play just about anything on the old-fashioned Windows desktop – but they are improving.

## What's new in 8.1 Desktop

I know very, very few people who spend much time on the tiled Metro side of Windows 8 or Windows 8.1. Almost everyone I know uses the Windows desktop, which in Windows 8.1 is similar to – but not identical to – the Windows 7 desktop.

In Windows 8, on the desktop, if you hover your mouse in the upper left corner too long, Win8 brings up thumbnails of all running programs (where the entire desktop is considered one “program”), so you can switch to running Metro apps quickly. Blech. If you hover your mouse too long in the upper right corner, Windows 8 brings up a black bar with “Charms” – Metro icons that let you do very, very little on the desktop. Windows 8.1's most important feature is the ability to disable those hot corners.

Windows 8.1's second most important feature lets you boot to the desktop, not the Metro Start screen. Yes, if you're reading between the lines you read it right – the two most important improvements in Windows 8.1 are both things that turn off madly frustrating “features” in Windows 8. That's progress.

## The dark underbelly of Windows 8.1

Windows 8.1 has so much good stuff, I heartily recommend it for people who are already running Windows 8. But it has a dark side, too. As I see it, there are three really grating problems with Windows 8.1, and you would be well advised to take care of them in short order.

First, Win8.1 does all it can to convince you to use a Microsoft account in order to sign in the Windows. While there are



The Windows 8.1 'Metro Tiles' are more suited to touchscreen tablets than desktop PCs.

benefits to using a Microsoft account – your settings come along for the ride, your free SkyDrive space is immediately available, Mail gets hooked up automatically, and so on – there are also downsides. In particular, if you use a Microsoft account, then Microsoft will know when and where you log on to Windows. In addition, your Microsoft account may get attached to all sorts of things, including activity on Internet Explorer, that you may not want.

Unless you have an overriding need to use Microsoft accounts for logging on to Windows, I suggest you stick to so-called “local” accounts. You have to click through on most of the sign-up screens, but the added privacy is worth the effort, I think.

Second, Windows 8.1 turns on a feature called SmartScreen, automatically. Unless you disable SmartScreen, Microsoft keeps a record of every search that you conduct on your own, personal computer. I'm not talking about searching the web, where the search engine watches everything. I'm talking about local searches, on your hard drives and your (or your company's) network.

To turn off Smart Search, on the Metro side, press Windows Key + C to bring up the Charms bar on the left, choose Change PC Settings. On the left, choose Search and Apps, then Search, and move the “Get search suggestions and Web results from Bing” slider to Off.

## Bottom line in Phuket

It is hard enough getting support for

Windows 7 and XP in Phuket (although I'm trying to improve the situation a bit, by bringing back the free Computer Clinics (see below). Getting support for Windows 8 is going to be much more difficult. In addition, unless you have a touch-sensitive tablet with a high quality screen, Windows 8 is an exercise in futility: It doesn't work worth beans on a normal, non-touch system. (I know, I use it all day, every day.)

Finally, while you can find reasonably-priced “genuine” copies of Windows 7 (ask at a Computer Clinic meeting!), there aren't any reasonably-priced genuine copies of Windows 8, anywhere in the world: The copy of Win8 you get with your machine is your only chance, and we all know how many “real” copies of Windows come installed on new machines around here.

For those reasons, I strongly recommend that you move to Windows 7, and stay there until Microsoft comes to its senses and ships a better Windows 9. Or 10. Yes, with all new players in the Windows development camp, it could happen.

*Mr Livewire is bringing back regular weekly, Sunday-morning computer clinics, at a new venue – Baketastic in Kathu. (Location: opposite Krung Thai Bank, just east of the gas station, 10am to noon.) If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, a tablet or phone or TV, or just about anything associated with computers, drop by. No experience necessary. It's always free, as in beer. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Add's Baketastic.*



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# Mark's quest to Veggieland

By Maciek Klimowicz

"Sorry, we only serve vegetarian during the festival," I was told by the waitress in one of my favorite noodle joints when I tried to order a bowl of noodles with pork about two weeks ago. True, in some parts of the island it might have been tricky to be a carnivore during the veg fest. But while trying to swallow my share of rice

with veggies I started thinking – if I find it hard in the festive times, do vegetarians have it difficult here all year round?

I decided to ask a food expert. Mark Wiens first came to Thailand at the beginning of 2009 and since then has gained a reputation as one. His websites, *migrationology.com* and *eatingthaifood.com* have almost 20,000 followers on Face-book and among Mark's

ebook guidebooks about living and eating in Asia, there's one on being a vegetarian in the land of grilled chicken and barbecued pork.

## Are you a vegetarian?

I'm not normally vegetarian but I do enjoy eating healthy, and occasionally meatless.

## Yet you wrote a book about eating veg food in Thailand.

Yes, about two years ago, co-founder of *eatingthaifood.com* and friend Dwight Turner and I decided to go on a one month Thai vegetarian food eating spree to raise money for charity, and to further our knowledge. After completing our quest, I had accumulated a file of photos, notes, and blog posts about the best vegetarian dishes, how to order them and where to eat. Noticing a lack of information written about vegetarian Thai food was the main reason I decided to compile all the information into a helpful guide in ebook format.



Many Thai dishes can be ordered in a vegetarian version. Photo: Klimowicz



Mark Wiens: 'There's a bounty of delicious vegetarian food available here'.

## So is staying vegetarian a hard task in Thailand?

It really depends on how strict of a vegetarian you are. There are two main words that describe vegetarian eating in Thai: *je'* and *mang-s -w -r t*.

*Mang-s -w -r t* is a loose vegetarian diet that doesn't permit eating visible pieces of meat or seafood. However, meat stock, fish sauce, and eggs are all in. *Je'* on the other hand is the Thai word for a strict vegan diet; There's no stock, no fish sauce and no meat or seafood or egg product of any form allowed.

*Mang-s -w -r t* food can be ordered at just about any local street food stall or restaurant in Thailand, simply by ordering a dish of vegetables or tofu with a few personal requests. *Je'* or vegan food, on the other hand, can only be eaten at specific restaurants serving it.

## Is there something that makes life of a vegetarian easy?

Thailand is a country blessed with an abundance of fruits, vegetables, herbs and spices. There's a huge variety of greens, tropical fruit, and non-meat dishes to eat. One thing that helps is having a little Thai language skills for communicating, and if you can handle a bit of fish sauce or perhaps some meat residue from the bottom of the wok, it's feasible to

eat delicious vegetarian food in Thailand, without eating the same ingredients every meal.

## Thailand isn't particularly famous for its salads, except Som Tum. Are there any? Are they suitable for vegetarians?

Western lettuce based salads aren't so common, but there are a few Thai vegetarian salad possibilities. The main issue is that Thai dressing is a mixture of palm sugar, lime juice and fish sauce. That being said, you can order salad without fish sauce.

During my vegetarian challenge, I ordered salads like *yum makua yao*, a roasted eggplant salad that normally includes minced pork, but I asked for it to be omitted. Another favorite salad is *yum woon sen*, or glass noodle salad, which must also be ordered without meat as well.

Thai street food vendors might look puzzled when you order basil chicken, with mushrooms instead of chicken, but even your meat-loving friends will love you for ordering it! There's a bounty of delicious vegetarian food available in Thailand, but it does require some specific choosing and requesting.

For more info on Thai food (not only vegetarian, check Mark's websites: *eatingthaifood.com* and *migrationology.com*)

## Full day veg menu

### BREAKFAST

- Fill of tropical fruit: mango, banana, pineapple, guava, papaya, and durian.
- A bag of *patongko* (unsweetened fried bread) and a bowl of *nam tao hoo* (fresh sweetened soy milk).

### LUNCH

Order your food "*mai sai goong haeng*" – without dried shrimp, and "*mai sai neua sat*" – without any meat.

- Green mango salad (*yam m -m ang*)
- Green papaya salad with rice noodles (*dtam sua*)
- Herb vegetable soup (*gaeng om*)

### DINNER

Order "*mai sai neua sat*" – without any meat

- Mushrooms with holy basil (*p tgr prao h t*)
- Mixed vegetables with red curry sauce (*p t p k ruam prik gaeng*)
- Mixed tofu (*dt o-h o song kr uang*)

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Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series 2013 champion rallies spectators before his dive at Hong Island in Phang Nga Bay last Saturday – he went on to win with 1,030 points. Photos: Red Bull

# Silchenko conquers Krabi's cliffs

ARTEM Silchenko, the 29-year-old from Russia, achieved what he has been working hard for in the previous months – taking the crown from three-time winner Gary Hunt of England. He was awarded the title of the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series 2013 Champion in a highly-anticipated final in Krabi on October 26.

"I cannot believe it – at this moment it is pure emotion and there is nothing really you can say. I'm starting to understand that I'm the best high diver for 2013 and that has always been my dream. Now I have it! It's a beautiful dive, close to my best one and I felt it under water," he said.

To top it off, the season's early back-to-back winner performed best in an epic eight-dive final and wins the last stop in impressive style ahead of America's Steven LoBue and Orlando Duque from Colombia.

After six competitions in Europe and North America, 14 of the world's best cliff diving athletes came to Asia to showcase their pure sport during eight dives in four unique locations in the translucent turquoise waters on the Phi Phi Islands and on Hong Island in Phang Nga Bay. Over 1,400 spectators on boats and in the water were in as the divers hit the water at 85kph after three seconds of aesthetic freefall.

Silchenko's first World Series title was secured in sensational style last Saturday with the last 27-meter cliff dive of the 2013 season – a back armstand with two and a half twists, two and a half somersaults, and a blind entry. Standing on the edge of the platform knowing that he was one three-second dive away from victory, Silchenko was pure focus as he took off, smashing through the water and then emerging, fists raised, to 9s and 10s from

the judges. His effort garnered the highest score for a single dive, competition victory and an overall win on 1,030 points. Placing fourth in the competition, Gary Hunt, with 980 points, had to finally hand over the crown after winning three consecutive years. Colombia's Orlando Duque, the 10-time world champion and World Series winner in 2009, placed third overall on 860 points.

"Artem has dived very well throughout the whole competition.

With eight dives you have to be consistent. I love looking at that dive of Artem's and I wanted to see it go down like that and that's exactly what happened so hats-off and a big congratulations to him," said Hunt.

Thailand's idyll of islands was the setting for the last of seven competitions and was the perfect backdrop for a grand finale. The athletes were challenged to perform their difficult maneuvers directly off the cliffs, as well as from platforms almost three times the Olympic height, into the Andaman Sea. Although Artem Silchenko was soon out of reach (1,010.00pts), Steven LoBue from the US, steadily closed the gap from the bottom of the standings to second place (924.25pts), performing his quint half for 9s and 9.5s. In third, after twice as many dives as usual, 39-year-old Orlando Duque completed the podium only 8.95 points behind the American. The unwelcome fourth place today went to Gary Hunt, who missed the podium for the very first time this year.

From daunting and chilly France and Denmark, to the wavy and pure Azores, a castle in Italy and a cantilever rooftop in the US, to a former slate quarry in Wales and Thailand's limestone monoliths – the fifth season of what has become the sport's most prestigious



Orlando Duque, Artem Silchenko and Steven LoBue celebrate their success.



Cliff diver, stunt man and acrobat Kent De Mond, plunges off the 27-meter-high dive platform.

series of competitions drew more than 150,000 spectators all around the globe and demanded high-level dives and consistent performances from all competitors. Seven individual victories were up for grabs between May and October and were divided among an unprecedented four different

winners, among them a new face – David Colturi. With each diver performing at the very top of their game, the 2013 World Series has seen seven podium finishers in 32 competition dives progress with very high scores.

Only the top eight from the 2013 rankings qualify automati-

cally for next year, with the two other athletes making up the permanent line-up for 2014 to be nominated by the World Series' sports department by the end of the year, with an announcement also of the calendar for the Red Bull Cliff Diving World Series 2014. – *Phuket Gazette*

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# Monsoon season skies

By Somchai Huasaikul

**AIR.** Of all the things we take for granted in our life, few are as easily overlooked as that chemical soup that surrounds and sustains us, breath by breath.

Air is easy to take for granted; after all, it is colorless and odorless. Unless you are climbing Mt Everest, trapped in an air-tight vault, or happen to live near the smoldering remains of a burning retail complex, there is usually more than enough high quality air to go around, right?

That might be true most of the time as we plod through our daily routines, but pick up the pace a little and we quickly get a sense of what a crazy substance air can be. Try throwing a cotton ball as far as you can, or stick your arm out the window of a fast-moving vehicle. Watch a Formula 1 car that has spun out on a straightaway quickly go airborne, or images of a space shuttle during re-entry.

With all this in mind, flying a small aircraft above the island during Phuket's notorious monsoon season might seem to be tempting fate with a mysterious, potentially dangerous mistress. After all, the crash of the ill-fated One-Two-GO (OTG) Airlines Flight 269 came during very strong monsoonal conditions – and that was a big jet. What chance would a tiny, two-seat ultralight aircraft have under adverse conditions aloft?

To learn more about monsoon season flying, we headed to Pa Khlock to visit Phuket Air Park, the only privately run airfield in the South of Thailand.

Here we spoke with Pat James, managing director of Aero Pro Man-



agement, which provides a wide range of aviation services. Pat has flown countless hours in monsoon conditions in a wide variety of aircraft in South America and throughout Asia, including two tours as a combat helicopter pilot for the US Army during the Vietnam War.

Asked if it was more dangerous for small aircraft to take to the skies when monsoon conditions prevail, he replied: "Well, a smaller aircraft has a higher level of limitations in terms of the winds it can be subjected to. It's a question of scale. For example a large airliner can hit a large air pocket and hardly even bump, whereas a small general aviation aircraft might lose – or rise up – a thousand feet.

"When an aircraft is flying, you are in the air mass. The wind could be moving at 100 knots, but if you are flying in it you would not even know, provided that it is not turbulent wind, other than the fact that you would see your ground speed affected."

So, like everything else in the universe, when it comes to flying it is all relative.

"There is no limitation on the speed of the wind you can fly in, but there is on the turbulence level, and that depends on the individual aircraft. I have flown over the Rocky Mountains when the wind was moving at over 100 knots and



Pat James has flown in monsoon conditions in a wide variety of aircrafts in South America and throughout Asia.

I basically flew sideways, but that does not make it rough or turbulent or dangerous," said the Texan.

But isn't the monsoon famous for creating turbulent conditions? Who in Phuket hasn't seen calm weather turn nasty in a matter of seconds, blowing laundry off the line or even knocking over half-empty beer bottles, spilling their precious contents onto the ground? Who in their right mind would enter that realm in a tiny aircraft?

The real dangers of flying during the monsoon season stem more from lack of visibility than turbulence, which under normal circumstances can be easily avoided, he explained.

Both the recent crash of an aircraft into a river in Laos and the OTG 269 flight here in Phuket in September, 2006 were both due to poor visibility, he explained.

According to the investigation report of the OTG crash, the aircraft experienced a 'microburst' that could have been avoided if visibility had been better.

"Monsoon season weather is generally very benign, but embedded in the monsoon can be thunderstorms that can create microbursts, which are tremendous wind forces pushing down," he said.

"When you are close to the ground these microbursts can be very dangerous, but they are generally confined to very small areas beneath moving thunderstorms," he explained.

"On a normal hot summer day, you can see a thunderstorm 10 or 15 miles away. You can see them, so of course you avoid them. But thunderstorms embedded in rainy monsoon conditions with poor visibility – therein lies the danger," he said.

Microbursts are an extreme version of turbulence known as "wind shear", a difference in wind speed and direction over a relatively short distance. Using an analogy, Pat said that wind shear



An airliner can hit a large air pocket and hardly even bump. Photo: Dave Heuts

is to air what rip currents are to the sea: both are quite limited in extent and easy to avoid if one knows what to look for.

"Microbursts" are probably the most extreme version of wind shear that local aviators would ever possibly encounter, but they are typically very easy to avoid at

not stay over your target for very long," he said.

Pat concluded that visibility is typically excellent in the Andaman region during the monsoon season and, while something to keep an eye on, should be no barrier to general aviation.

"On a day like today," he said looking at the cloudy sky, "it has been 'severe clear'; you can see forever, as the expression goes. You go up a thousand feet and you can see Phi Phi on a day like today. Those clouds you see are very high up, maybe nine or ten thousand feet. Most of our flying is well below that."

Asked why the sky was not filled with small aircraft, he said it was only a matter of time.

"General aviation in Phuket is in its infancy. Until recently, there was no place to fly out of. It was only this year that Phuket Air Park allowed general aviation activities. Before it was more of a real estate proposition, but over the past 14 to 18 months activity has picked up tremendously," he said.

For more information about going airborne in Phuket and in general, contact Pat James on 085 258 0006 or email: pat@aeropromgr.com



AIR IS EVERYWHERE: Visibility is more important than wind-speed when flying. Photo: Oliviero Riemer

altitude as well as when preparing to land a plane – of any size.

"It's easy, you just increase your air speed, or circle at a distance, and let the thunderstorm pass over the airfield. The visibility might still be bad, but the thunderstorm and all the associated winds will be gone. Rather than fly into the jaws of a demon, you just let the demon go away. You don't tempt fate. It is not necessary because these things are small and moving fast, so they do

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# Light shined on blackouts

THE death of PADI professional and freediving enthusiast Denis Lipatov last month brought into sharp focus the specter that continues to haunt the sport of freediving – shallow water blackouts.

Even the term “shallow water blackout” is rife with confusion within the freediving community, and even more so within the scuba diving community and general public, according to Richard Wonka, Southeast Asia representative of the International Association for the Development of Freediving (AIDA).

The term, often used to describe a variety of freediving accidents, has for many become a catch-all that fails to adequately describe the circumstances leading to an unconscious freediver. Rarely do freediving accidents lead to fatalities. In fact, taking the safety precautions that are taught in any freediving course make a staggering difference.

In an attempt to clarify and demystify shallow water blackouts, Divers Alert Network (DAN) recently developed a new terminology for blackout accidents. Most fall into three categories: duration induced blackout, ascent induced blackout and hyperventilation induced blackout.

Asking why we black out leads to an even more basic question... why do we have the urge to breathe? Most of us, professional scuba divers included, keep it simple: because we need oxygen – and for anyone but elite freedivers, that is simply wrong.

Without extensive training, we are not even aware of our oxygen levels, but we quickly register changes in our carbon-dioxide levels. The urge to breathe is actually the desire to exhale, rather than to breathe in.

Normally, as we exhale we are breathing out vast amount of usable oxygen. How-

## Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

ever, that unmonitored supply of oxygen is exactly what keeps us conscious above and below the water's surface.

Our carbon-dioxide level can give us clues to determine our oxygen supply, but reading these clues requires specialized training.

As we descend below the water's surface the pressure of the water above us increases the partial pressure for oxygen, despite the actual amount of oxygen within our system remaining the same. So, effectively we can function on less oxygen than we could at the surface.

As we ascend, that partial pressure decreases, and though it was sufficient for maintaining consciousness at 20 meters, it is very possible to have used enough oxygen that the partial pressure will drop below the level needed to remain conscious at five meters, leading to a blackout.

Very simply, a person blacks out because the partial pressure of oxygen drops below a certain level.

This is what is described by the term ascent induced blackout. A blackout can also be caused by freedivers pushing beyond their duration limits and unsafely ignoring their body's carbon-dioxide levels – duration induced blackout. Hyperventilation, which was once taught as a standard practice for increasing freediving times, is another major factor that can lead to a blackout – hyperventilation induced blackout.

Less than ten years ago, scuba diving agencies and their scuba diving instructors, taught hyperventilation as a method for freediving. I too was taught that rapid exhalation allowed me to increase the amount of oxygen I was able to fill my lungs with on my final breath.

This, like many other preconceived notions about freediving, is completely wrong.



Photo: Jayhem

**CONTROLLED CONDITIONS:** There have been no reported deaths in freediving competitions.

Hyperventilation simply down regulates the carbon-dioxide levels, which allows you to dive with lower levels of oxygen before your body's alarm system starts to warn you of worrisome levels of carbon-dioxide.

“They [freedivers after hyperventilating] feel nothing, they feel no warning signs, they feel comfortable because they can not feel the carbon-dioxide increasing and they run out of oxygen without any warning signs,” Richard explains.

There is really only one thing that prevents a freediver from becoming a corpse – a trained buddy on the surface.

“I’ve had to pull a diver out of the water once when there was no sign of distress, no visible sign of anything and then suddenly he was out. I just saw him stop moving and sink to the bottom,” Richard says. It was later confirmed that he had used hyperventilation in an attempt to extend his bottom time.

Many of those who have died freediving alone (none have died during competitions) were not professionally trained, or vowed that “they know the risks, that’s why they

are extra careful”.

“That is what every single freediver who has ever died performing the sport says,” Richard says.

“Denis had told me that on several occasions,” Richard said. Divers who utter the phrase are breaking the most basic freediving rule – never freedive alone.

As an untrained freediving enthusiast it is frightening to discover that I fall into this category. With no one wanting to go freediving, I have found peace in gliding above the corals at Ao San on a single breath. Aware of the risk and playing it safe by never going “too” deep or staying down for “too” long, it’s now clear that I simply had no idea what I was talking about.

“It is the most common rationalization of a very real risk, and it’s what everyone who has gone freediving alone and never came back thought. I’d wager very few people went out saying ‘I will go freediving without a buddy because I want to kill myself. Everybody thought they were staying safe, but they didn’t come back,’” Richard warns.

## Fortnight Foto



This exquisitely decorated harlequin shrimp was found in the waters surrounding Phi Phi Island this ‘low season’. Photo: Vincent at Kiwiver

If you’ve got some fantastic photos from your diving adventures and you want to share them with your fellow Phuket Gazette readers email them to [isaac@phuketgazette.net](mailto:isaac@phuketgazette.net) and the best photo will be featured each fortnight.



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BIG ACTION: Youth, aged 6-15, got a chance to hone their skills.



WIN-WIN: Peter Rasmussen (center, in green) encourages youngsters at the charity camp. Photos: Steven Layne

# Fielding a fine future

By Steven Layne

PETER Rasmussen, 46, a former striker for the Denmark national squad and Danish Superliga AaB Fodbold, among others, put his footy skills, knowledge and experi-



Heads up for a fine future.

ence back to good use last week, to lead his second, annual charity soccer camp in Phuket.

Sponsored by Dusit Thani Laguna and Albatross Leisure restaurant and tour agent, this year's camp was held at Baan Chong Thalay (Tuntiwit) School for 69 aspiring local youth, aged 6-15.

For five days – from Monday, October 14 to Friday, October 18 – the youngsters honed their skills, practicing and perfecting a wide array of footballing fundamentals, rudiments and techniques.

"Similar to our inaugural camp in Kathu last year, the program featured various activities, challenges and matches for the kids to practice, including passing, shooting and other technical skills. We tried to make it more fun this time, which is an important part," says Peter, who although is based in Bangkok, has been coming to Phuket for the past 20 years.

Asked about his motivation for organizing such camps, Peter remarked: "I'm so amazed with how popular football is here in Thailand – whether young or old, they

all love it. It's unbelievable to see the level of passion and potential of all the nearly 70 kids participating in this camp... Just to see the happiness in their eyes gives me great pleasure."

Other than football skills, Peter highlighted other important life and people skills that the camp has fostered – namely relationship and friendship building.

"Many of these kids didn't know each other when they started the camp on Monday, and now it seems like they've known each other all their lives. When you do something you really like, it's much more easy to [foster] development. I think they will take these [new skills] back to their schools and lives," he continued.

"We've worked a lot on a coordination, which will help them concentrate much more in school and ultimately when they grow up and work."

In addition to children of Dusit hotel staff, the camp also took on a number of non-affiliated kids from around the neighborhood.

"On the first day of the camp, there were about 10 kids who were

curious about what we were doing and asked to join. As long as we have enough shirts and balls, we take them all," he said, adding that each participant received a camp shirt, diploma, a medal and soccer ball, in addition to daily free lunch courtesy of Khun Robert and Odd of Albatross Cafe.

Peter's Wife, coordinator, Ms Linette Bodhcher-Hansen, who is also from Denmark, revealed that there was an additional surprise for the kids this year.

"We've had a generous benefactor, our friend in Denmark, who has donated 100 pairs of football shoes for this camp," she whispered so that some kids nearby would not learn about the surprise prematurely.

Linette explained that the shoes had been held up at Phuket airport customs for the past week, but that they had just received the good news that the goods had finally cleared – just in time for the final day of camp.



Girls can enjoy soccer just as much as boys.

After lunch on the final day, one participant, Nowell, a 12-year-old student at Kajonkiet school, told the *Gazette* that he was pleased to join the camp for his second year.

"I usually play defender position but I like shooting the most. This camp gave me a good opportunity to improve on my skills. It was a lot of fun and I also got to practice different types of passing – namely inside and outside passing," he said.

Though it is mostly male athletes that get popularized by the media, football is indeed a world sport meaning its benefits can be enjoyed by both sexes; and so it was a great pleasure to see this fact reinforced in the camp with many young females participating side-by-side with their male friends.

One such girl, Chadathan Rachai, a sixth grader at Chong Thalay municipality school was really happy to join the camp.

"This is my first camp but I've played football for three years now," she said.

Asked what position she likes the most, Chadathan giggled, "I like playing defender... because I don't have to run as much."



LIFE SKILLS: The camp not only fostered learning about football, but also gave participants valuable social and relationship-building skills.





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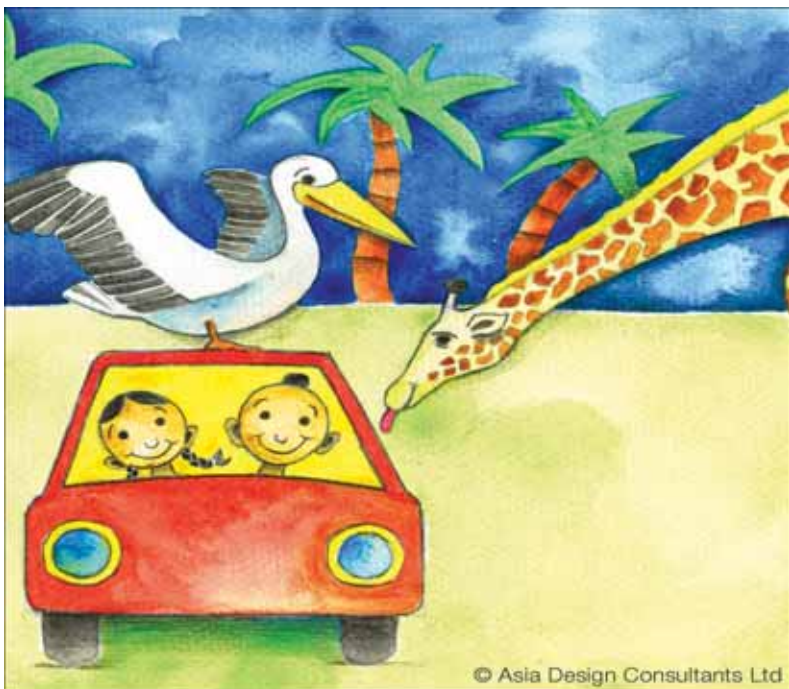
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**JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:** Find the 10 differences between these pictures.

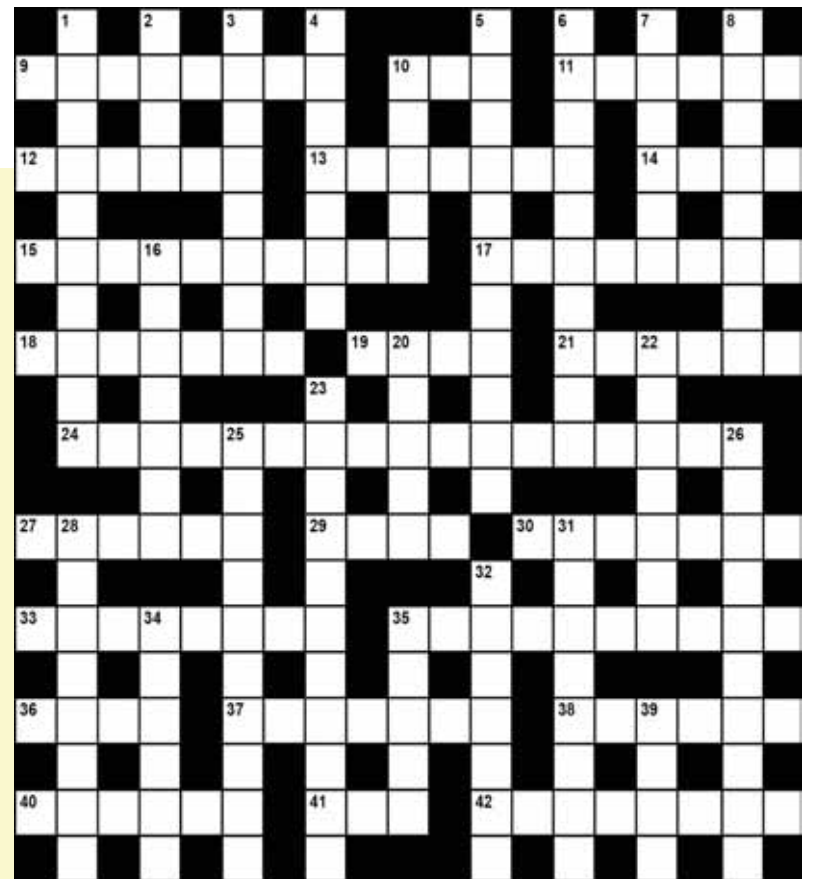


Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See [juksadventures.com](http://juksadventures.com) for more information.

## COFFEE break

### Across:

9. Pestered lest demo broken up (8)
10. Contemptuous interjection for devalued baht (3)
11. Account it no new battle (6)
12. Few and far between, re-pass carefully (6)
13. Turn set about for trial to make sure (4,3)
14. The Spanish article shows panache (4)
15. Pernickety, to aid fuss I agitated (10)
17. Offering to a god a boon 'til damaged! (8)
18. Gen reds assembled in masculine or feminine persuasions (7)
19. Back its right to agitate (4)
21. Color of an organ out East (6)
24. Or Pacific port moves corn to limit of Southern temperate zone (6,2,9)
27. Electroplate in vessel is contamination (6)
29. Toss out the drunks (4)
30. Tracers can make bomb holes! (7)
33. Aimless piano player maybe hurt male, myself, right? (8)
35. Surrender the article, have no dirt exposed (4,2,4)
36. Cars twisting in curves (4)
37. Soon I' m out East, very unpleasant (7)
38. Irish, Scottish, Welsh excel? Tick inside! (6)
40. Gentleman' s gentleman right in, the rascal (6)
41. Turn-over unknown for knick-knack (3)
42. Leaning right into scholarship (8)



### Down:

1. Self-satisfied, firm, maybe palm small coin (10)
2. Look closely at an equal (4)
3. One who is present, new, could be treated outside (8)
4. It done, I made an issue (7)
5. Boring job, go up, harp about designer of ballet (11)
6. Can arrange no line left in Italian food (10)
7. Trees, possibly about time, in the thoroughfare (6)
8. Apt, a no-go order in a Phuket bay (2,6)
10. Graduate' s is the starting point (5)
16. Boring, nothing possibly suited outside (7)
20. Understood to act it out (5)
22. A contest to be on the point of (7)

23. Art costs inn, makes for restrictions (11)
25. I am intense, about to sow seed (10)
26. Scandinavians can be wearing, son (10)
28. Otherworldly, note the real! (8)
31. Train a C.O., possibly in a waterproof (8)
32. Opens a French sales, working (7)
34. Maybe sound, left in, still on the shelf (6)
35. Hoy! Hiding! OK to be truant? (5)
39. Byway in the French Northeast (4)

**Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.**

### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

The stars suggest that Scorpios will be washing their hands of a trying situation at the start of November. This clean break will give you a positive start to what promises to be a challenging month. Those with a birthday this week are forecast to develop more earning power in the coming year. Romance with an air sign is harmonious, but finding common ground with an earth sign is not easy.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Sagittarians should be able to make better sense of what is happening around them this week. The stars promise a smoother passage during November, with more focus on fun and relaxation. Being on the same page as another fire sign means that work is plain sailing. Where cash is concerned, some creative money-spinning ideas can lead to gain by the end of this year. Lucky days for love are Tuesday and Wednesday.

### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Keeping your emotions under control can be a challenge for those born under the sign of Capricorn. The first week of November is forecast to be a time of ups and downs –

practicing detachment will be a useful tool. In the realm of romance it would be wise to consider what you really want from a relationship that has been a source of stress. Money matters are fortunate this weekend.

### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Spreading your wings is highlighted at the start of November. If this relates to the world of work, expect to receive offers to diversify. This is likely to require learning new skills, but the stars are ready to support your efforts to do this until the end of the month. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, a new relationship with an earth sign should not be rushed.

### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

It can be tempting to start things you know will be hard to finish this week. Pisceans are advised to contemplate carefully before committing or they will find themselves swimming against the tide in November. The second half of the month is a more auspicious time for signing agreements and closing deals. Your romantic life is well starred, with more honesty highlighted to have a positive effect on relationships.

## YOUR horoscope By Isla Star

### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

After a somewhat dull time during October, new friends can be stimulating for those born under the sign of Aries this month. The stars suggest that your need for excitement should be satisfied during the first half of November. In the world of work, too many critical comments could lead to an uncomfortable atmosphere. Giving constructive advice will show Arians in a better light. Hot days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

### TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

Hasty decisions are not well-starred during the first two weeks of November. Taureans who have not thought things through are forecast to find themselves caught between a rock and a hard place. The astral atmosphere improves during the second half of the month, with emphasis on a property agreement being finalized to your satisfaction. Luckiest days for love this week are Wednesday and Thursday. Money matters are most auspicious on Sunday.

### GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

November can be a fulfilling month if you are prepared to make some changes. Putting yourself in someone else's place will be the key to understanding for those born under the sign of Gemini. The stars advise that seeing beyond your own needs will lead to success at work and better balanced personal relationships. Another air sign partner will appreciate being the center of attention this weekend.

### CANCER (June 22-July 23):

There are signs that Cancerians can be too defensive as November starts. Your feelings that certain people are keen to put you down appear to be unfounded and it would be wise to focus on being calm this week. In the realm of romance, patience should pay off for those interested in a fire sign. If you are single and seeking, the stars indicate that a worthwhile connection can be made this weekend.

### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Your mood is upbeat as November gets under way and this will encourage others to seek out the company of Leos. Where work is concerned, the stars advise that useful contacts can be established

during the first half of the month. In the realm of romance, too much attention can go to your head. It would be wise to beware of a water sign's true motives. Finances are fortunate midweek.

### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Your perception can be clouded by an unsettled astral atmosphere this week. Virgoans who are seeking different employment are advised to wait a while before making any serious moves. Where personal finances are concerned, those who have ignored warning signs could receive a wake-up call during the first half of November. In the realm of romance, going with the flow helps a relationship with another earth sign to flourish.

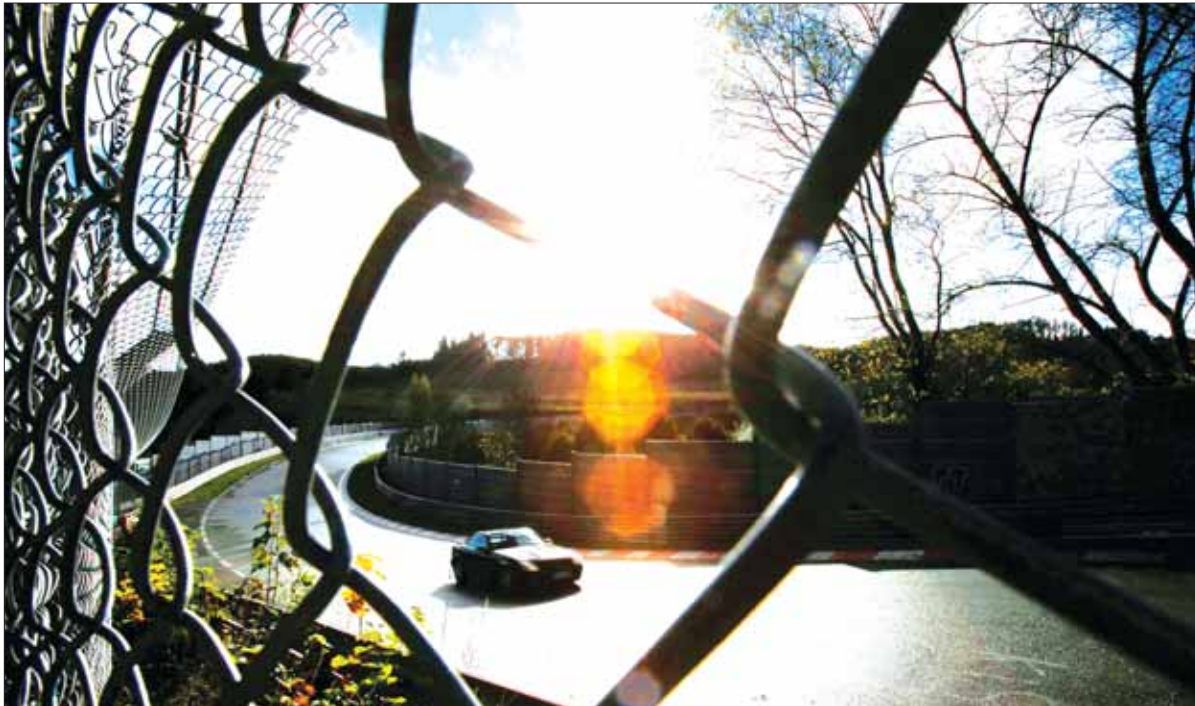
### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Librans' luck increases as November starts and the stars recommend making the most of an auspicious cosmic climate this week. If you have been nervous of approaching an influential person in the world of work, now is the time to do it. Where personal relationships are concerned, you should have reason to see that an earth sign is worthy of your trust. Sparkling days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday.



# International Sport

## Nuerburgring for sale



A hobbyist racing driver steers his car towards the "Bergwerk" section of the legendary 13-mile (21-km) Nuerburgring race track, in Western Germany. Photo: Reuters/Wolfgang Rattay

By Christiaan Hetzner

EVER since Niki Lauda's Ferrari exploded in a fireball on the Nuerburgring in 1976, the circuit has been deemed too dangerous for Formula One, instead hosting car companies putting new models through their paces and amateurs trying to set records on a rush of adrenaline.

But after local politicians loaded it with debt equating to around 50 years worth of profit, the famed and feared track went into administration and is now looking for a new owner.

Completed in 1927, the Ring was built to showcase German auto engineering and racing prowess, and now the country's deep-pocketed carmakers have been cited as potential bidders.

The assets include the track and adjacent amusement park that features a rollercoaster that mimics the cockpit g-force in an F1 car – although after four years, safety concerns have delayed its maiden voyage until the end of this month.

There are precedents for such interest. Volkswagen's Porsche bought the Nardo Ring circuit in Italy in May 2012, while Silverstone, the home of the British Grand Prix, is owned by a group of more than 800 drivers including F1 stars such as Lewis Hamilton.

Indicative bids are currently being assessed for the track and park, which typically has an annual revenue of 50-60 million euros and underlying profits of 6-8 million, making it more profitable than many carmakers. By law, any buyer must keep the circuit open to the public and the motor industry.

The administrator, Thomas Schmidt, said he has a "sufficient number of legitimate non-binding bids for all the Nuerburgring assets" and hopes for a deal early

next year. Daimler, BMW and Volkswagen declined to comment.

"The Nuerburgring is without a doubt the cradle of German motorsports," said Peter Meyer, President of German motoring club ADAC, which has also said it is seriously considering making a bid.

"It's an automotive cultural treasure," he said.

German carmakers in particular have long had an affinity with the track. Daimler traces its "Silver Arrow" heritage back to the 1934 Eifel Race around the Nordschleife, or north loop, which it won after the Mercedes team famously scraped the car's white paintwork off the metal body to shave weight.

Manufacturers still use the Nordschleife to test handling and durability against the gruelling wear-and-tear it inflicts on chassis and suspension. Setting a new lap record confers ultimate bragging rights on carmakers.

It also brings risks – over 230

the latest prototypes.

The rest of the year, the Ring remains open to amateur racing fiends who pay 26 euros per lap to put their hot-rods and supercars through its exacting corners.

German police even applaud the practice, arguing the Nordschleife serves as a valuable outlet for speed freaks that otherwise would pose a danger to road safety.

Professionals, however, advise extreme caution.

"It's the toughest track by miles," Vincent Radermecker, a Belgian driver who has raced in the World Touring Car Championship among others. "If you make a mistake here, you destroy the car, and yourself."

It is by far the world's longest race track at 13 miles with a mind-boggling 73 bends, too many for neophytes to remember, and sharp crests that can catapult a car into the air at break-neck speeds. To help with learning the terrain, drivers bestowed nicknames to sections over time like Bergwerk, where Lauda crashed, Carousel or Gallow's Head, where legend has it a local earl once staged public executions.

In the course of a lap, cars tackle altitude changes equivalent to London's Shard skyscraper and on a circuit this big, parts can be slick with rain while others are dry. Tyre grip is further complicated by the irregular mosaic of rough and smooth surfaces, the result of years of subsidence and repaving.

Undulations in the decades-old track prompt professional test driver Dirk Schoysman to advise newcomers to first learn the course virtually with the aid of a racing game like Sony's Gran Turismo before taking to the asphalt.

After 16,000 career laps there is "nothing else in the world like it," said Schoysman. – Reuters



Car enthusiasts watch racers come into the Breidscheid section of the track. Photo: Reuters/Wolfgang Rattay

accidents and three deaths in the last two years – mainly involving motor enthusiasts who flock to the track on days when it is open to the paying public.

Barring ice or fog, the track closes only for secretive "industry pool" days staged between April and October, when various carmakers rent the course for their own tests and paparazzi lurk in the trees, hoping to snap



## Young shows resilience in Indian race

PHUKET based Australian racing driver Dylan Young demonstrated a strong performance in front of the most important eyes in motorsport by finishing 10<sup>th</sup> out of 19 of the world's best junior drivers.

His performance took place at the opening two races of the 2013 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship, held alongside the Airtel Indian Formula 1 Grand Prix.

Young, who hasn't raced since last December due to budget constraints, qualified 12<sup>th</sup> for the first race of the weekend which was held immediately after the Formula 1 qualifying session. After two cars crashed into Young and forced him to retire from damage in Race 1, he made a strong comeback and bolted into 10<sup>th</sup> position in Race 2 which was held on Sunday as the curtain raiser to the Airtel Indian Formula 1 Grand Prix.

The 2013 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 grid features some of the best junior drivers in the world, including drivers with Formula 1 testing experience already behind them and once again Young proved that he has the natural ability to take his career far when given the opportunity. Young thanked his sponsors – Wahoo Phuket, Kata Rocks and Indigo Pearl – for providing him with the opportunity to kickstart his season.

Young instantly made a great start in Race 1 of the weekend as he jumped from 12<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> place but two separate incidents where cars crashed directly into the back of Young, through no fault of his own, forced him to retire with damage to his MRF Formula 2000 car. The grid for Race 2 is set by the finishing positions of Race 1 and since Young had to retire from the opening race he faced a tough challenge to break into the top ten from a grid position further back.

If you'd like to support Dylan's career by making a donation visit: [gofundme.com/dylanyoungdriving](http://gofundme.com/dylanyoungdriving)



# Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events.

Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

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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.



# Dinghies race in King's Regatta

THE SECOND race of the Phuket Dinghy Series was relocated from Bang Tao in anticipation of the prolonged monsoon season, and was instead held at Cape Panwa in front of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Naval Command Center last weekend. A fresh gentle breeze greeted the fleet in a rather calm bay after a rain the night before. There were five Lasers class dinghies and 16 in the Optimist class competing in light winds.

Improved performances by the junior sailors were clearly observed, as many of them had recently completed a weeklong advanced Optimist training clinic held by the sailing club of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Naval Command. Organisers complimented the Phuket Fleet, led by Nalinmas Nitsuwan for optimist Girl and Sumate Pandam for Optimist Boy, on their much improved performance. The competition between the two fleet leaders, Nalinmas and Sumate, was fierce, and both finished six races with scores tied at eight points each. Sumate managed to pull ahead to finish in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the final race of the Series, taking him to the top of the overall score sheet.

Another hard-fought battle was seen between Tritub Maneecharoen and Keeratika Klongboon who had a tied score of 24, before the last race when Tritub gained a better position in the last leg, helping him to clear the finishing line first.

The weekend results for Optimist Boy class had Sumate from Phuket stand the winner's podium followed by Charef from Songkhla in second, and Tritub in third. In the Optimist Girl class, Nalinmas Nitsuwan from Phuket claimed the victory over Silawan Jinda from Songkhla leaving the third place to the champ from previous Series, Keeratika from Phuket. The Laser fleet had seen a new star in

Phuket Surassawadee Sukpraw, who gave a strong challenge to the all time leader of the fleet, Chat Dawrueng. In the light wind conditions, which require extra skills and concentration, Chat still managed to retain his position throughout the first day's race. On the second day, conditions improved and Surassawadee was soon in hot pursuit of Chat. An improved wind speed of 8-10 knots, with clear blue skies, saw Pongpak and Surassawadee take turns in getting the line honors in the first two races. Whereas Chat only manage to find his way out in the third race after a close battle. Combined, the results for all six races over the two day series landed Chat in 1<sup>st</sup> position.

Phuket Dinghy Series is part of Phuket King's Cup Regatta where the overall winner will be awarded the much sought-after trophy during a Royal Award Ceremony at Kata Beach Resort and Spa on December 6. The Cup will be presented together with awards for winners of the international fleet of keelboats, ocean multihull, dinghies, and windsurfers. The pre-event series race has now entered its fourth successful year and is sponsored by PTT Global Chemical. The race helps inspire young talents in Phuket and other provinces to get involved in the sport of sailing – and environmental friendly activity, popular in most countries with seashore. The final Phuket Dinghy Series will be held at Cape Panwa on November 23 and 24, a week prior to the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, which will be held off Kata beach from November 30 to December 6. –*Phuket Gazette*

*This event is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV. For more information go to [kingscup.com](http://kingscup.com)*



## Young sea wolves clash

ORGANIZED by Phuket Youth Sailing Club (PYSC), 28 sailors from Phuket and Sattahip between the ages of 6 and 18 years took part in the inaugural Phuket Youth Week Training Camp & Regatta 2013.

The two-day regatta sponsored by The Sponsorship Experts – PP(SEA)CL and Topper Sail Phuket produced some exciting and close racing across the four divisions.

18 Optimist sailors and 10 Topper sailors joined the racing under the watchful eye of Principle Race Officer, Royal Thai Navy K. Sutee Poonpat.

The undoubted star of the event was Nattapon Yoangngam, who won all three races in the Optimist Division B fleet to secure the title ahead of Sakarin Tongnoon and Akasit Geudtong who finished second and third respectively.

In the Optimist Division A fleet and after six races there was nothing to separate the first two sailors on points, but Tanakorn Mervillder secured overall victory as winner of the last race ahead of Jeeran Taesakdatam 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pawat Pongwilai in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

With a record number of 10 sailors who entered the regatta we also saw some close racing in the both fleets.

In the Topper Junior fleet and after seven races the first two sailors were on equal points, with Salawutt Kullaatt declared the winner, courtesy of having more first-place

finishes putting Nattapon Yoangngam into 2<sup>nd</sup> place with Cartoon Juladej coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Two top sailors from Sattahip joined the Topper Youth Fleet. Again we saw some very close racing and after seven races, there was nothing separating the top two sailors on points. Phuket sailor Teerapong Tohratoak secured the Topper title as winner of the last race, beating Sattahip sailors Akkarapong Jjunyim and Jarapong Meeyousamsen who were second and third, respectively.

Phuket Youth Sailing Club provides competitive sailing opportunities for youngsters in Phuket and since the program started in 2008, the club has trained young sailors from complete beginners to those competing at national and international level. The sailors have been successful in a number of regattas and even represented Thailand at the Double Star Cup, Qingdao, China last year. The club is open to all youth.

Phuket Youth Week has given 10 new youngsters the opportunity to learn sailing and their first taste of racing. The more experienced sailors have had the opportunity to hone their racing skills and techniques in preparation for the coming season.

*This event is sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and PGTV. For further information contact Katy at [phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com](mailto:phuketyouthsailing@gmail.com)*

# Turn obstacles into opportunities



## Swimming Tips

By Randy Simon

I RECENTLY completed a week of a juice only diet. Proud to say I lost seven kilos in the process! So the week for me was challenging both mentally and physically. It is the kind of week that is stressful but very rewarding if you choose to look at it in a positive way. Some would see the obstacles and complain about having so much to do and not enough energy to do it all, where I see it as an opportunity to learn about myself and where some of my own weaknesses are.

Obstacles are not always road blocks or problems. They are opportunities for you to learn new problem solving skills, and learn things about ourselves. We don't become better by tackling the easy tasks that confront us each day. We turn our weaknesses into strengths by understanding where we are weak and focusing our attention there. So the obstacle is not something to shy away from then, but something that we should instantly recognize as an opportunity to expose a weakness in ourselves and a challenge to rise above it.

In sports (and in life), these moments are what constantly help us to become better athletes (and individuals). There will always

be another difficult training session, a day where it is hard to focus, a hard race to swim, and a competitor that is tough to beat. Remember the saying "a chain is only as strong as its weakest link"? or "when the going gets tough, the tough get going"? I think these two sayings are actually closely related. In order for us to make our mental and physical "chains" stronger, we have to develop our weaknesses and make them stronger, and we can only do that by facing obstacles. Obstacles determine what our next level of achievement will be. Whether it will be a stepping stone to greater heights or the place where we stop our forward progress is largely a matter of how you choose to view it. I believe that when "the going gets tough" shouldn't be a finish line, but a starting point. For it is at that moment that we define what our strengths and weaknesses are. It is usually when "the going gets tough" that we are on the verge of our biggest breakthroughs. Yes, the level of our effort needs to go up! Yes, the challenges that are facing us may seem insurmountable. Yes, the likelihood that you will fail (sometimes repeatedly) is difficult to face. That is when it is time to focus on the little things.

We face many obstacles in life. Some are easy to overcome, and others take a lot of effort to get past them. Often, you will find that getting through one obstacle

will present you with another one that requires more effort and more focus to get passed. When you are faced with these obstacles, you will also face your own weaknesses. Whether these moments will be stopping points for you, or stepping stones to greater achievements, will largely be determined by whether you will recognize the weakness in yourself and make an effort to get stronger. Sometimes the success may have a reward (a better grade, winning a medal or a promotion at work)

and sometimes the reward is knowing that you are a stronger person than you were last week, or having a better understanding of what your strengths and weaknesses are. Whatever the situation, it is up to you to define whether the task ahead is an obstacle that will stop your forward progress, or an opportunity for you to succeed.

*Tip provided by Thanyapura's Aquatics Head Coach, Randy Simon. To contact the coach, email: [aquatics@thanyapura.com](mailto:aquatics@thanyapura.com)*



Obstacles determine what our next level of achievement will be. Photo: the US Army



# Pro tennis tournaments

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Center will be hosting consecutive weeks of US\$ 15,000 Women's International Tennis Federation (ITF) events.

Daily action will commence with the first day of qualifying for the first week's event on Saturday, November 2 and will come to a close with the second week's finals match on Saturday, November 16.

There are players ranked in the top 300 of the WTA rankings attending and each day will bring fierce competition during the two weeks of play. These are players on the verge of stardom and each and every match is critical in their pursuit of tennis glory.

Attendance to all Women's ITF events will be free of charge and club members, tennis enthusiasts and visitors are all welcome to attend the "Welcome Dinner" buffet. This is Thanyapura's "Kick-off" event and is scheduled for Sunday, November 3 at 6pm. This will give junior and adult players alike the chance to socialize

with world-class athletes. The event will be held at Thanyapura's Divine restaurant and will cost 550++ baht (children 275++ baht.)

Also on the agenda for the two weeks, along with the countless showcase matches on the Thanyapura tennis courts, is the rare opportunity for the Intermediate/Advanced Men's Night participants on Thursday, November 7 and Thursday, November 14 to get the chance to play doubles with some of the top-tier players. It's a first-hand chance to see how good these players truly are and to possibly learn some humbling tips along the way. Thanyapura's Intermediate/Advanced Men's Night is a weekly event and is free to all members and 300 baht for non-members.

Thanyapura will also be



**GET READY:** The two Women's ITF tennis events in Phuket will take place on November 2 and 16.

Tennis Session for any and all junior players in Phuket on Saturday, November 9 from 4-5pm. It's a chance for local junior players to come and see the talent on display, ask questions and learn from these professional women tennis players, up close and personal.

For more information, please call us at 076 336 000 extension 5055 or email: [tslc@thanyapura.com](mailto:tslc@thanyapura.com)

## Keep your forearm safe

THE recreational tennis world is full of players putting on "Tennis Elbow" arm braces. You may even be one of those players yourself. Although we appreciate your willingness to play tennis with obvious discomfort because you just love the game so much, it might just be possible to play without the discomfort and the arm brace. Wouldn't that be wonderful? The following are three different mistakes often made on the Forehand side which may cause you pain:

### Hitting with a straight arm

When we first hit tennis balls there are sometimes motivating factors which encourage us to hit harder than necessary. This may stem from being a youngster and having parents and coaches shout words of encouragement because you hit the ball over the net, or if we were learning a little later on in life when we started learning, it could be because we had this image in our heads that tennis was difficult and you needed to hit with all your might if there was any chance of you succeeding.

Either way, it led to us having a big swing and a locked arm in an effort to get the best chance of hitting the ball farther and harder. Repeatedly hitting the ball with a straight arm is the number one forearm issue for arm injuries.

### 'Late' contact with the tennis ball

Imagine you are going to push against a wall with your hands. The great majority of us will naturally put our hands far enough in front of ourselves so that our elbows are closer to the wall than our stomachs. This is



### Tennis Tips

By Roger Cochrane

because our bodies are stronger when our elbows are there instead of when they are beside us.

This is worth noting. Even though the tennis ball weighs less than 60 grams, our bodies would far rather repeatedly strike the ball (or anything) in front of our bodies, than beside our bodies.

Making contact in front of ourselves will not always be possible and the degree with which we can do it on a regular basis also depends on the grip(s) you use for your forehands. However, consistently hitting the ball "late" is not good for our arms/elbows and injuries will occur over time.

### Gripping the racket too tightly

Also connected to this image embedded in our minds, that tennis is difficult and therefore a

lot of strength and force are required to hit the ball to the other side of the net, is the fact that recreational players often squeeze the racket far too tightly on their forehands. Locking your hand and wrist when hitting a forehand is a terribly inefficient way of hitting the ball because it puts a whole lot of stress on the wrist and elbow area and makes you work far harder than necessary. Repeatedly doing this will injure your arm.

In recap, the best way for us to make contact on the forehand side to minimize the likelihood of injury is to a) hit the ball with our hands closer to the net than our bodies; b) hold the racket loosely before, during and after contact; and c) ensure our elbows are slightly bent. Happy, pain-free, hitting.

Tip provided by Thanyapura's Tennis Head Coach, Roger Cochrane  
Email: [tennis@thanyapura.com](mailto:tennis@thanyapura.com)



**FOREHAND:** Do it right and avoid the discomfort of the 'tennis elbow'.

## Cricket on steroids

PHUKET Cricket Group Chairman Mark Ashman recently announced Sunseeker Thailand as the title sponsor for its inaugural cricket sixes event to be held at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) from November 8-10.

The Sunseeker Thailand International Cricket Sixes will see Phuket's local cricketer's line up against international teams from Australia and Singapore in an action-packed three days, vying for the title.

"We are proud to be associated with the event, which will showcase the great cricket scene on our tropical island paradise," said Craig Murphy, managing director of Max Marine Asia, the authorized and exclusive dealer for Sunseeker Yachts in Thailand.

Sixes cricket is the shortest form of the game and has been described as T20 cricket on steroids. Games are played between two teams of six players, and each game consists of a maximum of five six-ball overs bowled by each side. Each member of the fielding

side bowls one over, with the exception of the wicket-keeper. Batsmen retire not out on reaching 31 runs. The idea being to reach 36 runs by hitting 6 sixes. A retired batsman can return to the crease after lower-order batsmen either retire or are out.

The tournament, which starts on Friday, November 8, will have something for everyone, including live commentary on all the action. Play will climax on Sunday afternoon after the teams have battled it out in the round robin stages to secure a place in the cup final.

So mark down the dates in the diary, and relax in the comfort of the clubhouse with a cold drink in hand to see if you can discover the next Chris Gayle.

— *Phuket Gazette*

To enter a team please contact [chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com](mailto:chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com) or [tours@phuketcricketgroup.com](mailto:tours@phuketcricketgroup.com). For more information, visit the website [phuketcricketgroup.com](http://phuketcricketgroup.com)



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# Last home match a letdown

By Steven Layne

MOST of the nearly 1,800 fans who attended Phuket FC's final home match of the season had little to cheer about after their side was downed 1-0 by last-placed Rayong United in a disappointing match last Saturday night in Phuket Town.

Indeed, the half-time presentation of "Mizsy Phuket" finalists proved to be the evening's highlight for home fans, with 17-year-old Nong Chompoo formally crowned as official club ambassador for next season in a ceremony headlined by Phuket Governor Maitree Inthasut, club president Pamuke Achariyachai – along with his wife and Phuket Senator Thanyarat Achariyachai.

While eyes were opened wide and jaws dropped during half-time – fixated on the glamor and beauty that had stole Surakul Stadium's spotlight – the tense sentiment on match-play was a different story.

Playing the penultimate match of the 34-scheduled fixtures for the Yamaha League One (YL1) 2013 season, neither side had anything to gain beyond pride – Phuket's place in the YL1 was not under threat while Rayong have already been guaranteed relegation back to the Division 2 regional leagues next season.

Nonetheless, Phuket fans were hoping for – expecting – a goal fest, but were only disappointed, as attack after attack by a hungry Phuket offensive unit led by Kengne Ludovick (Takam), Cristian Alex and Eakartit Somjit sustained heavy pressure on Rayong's backs, but to no avail.



**PLAYED OUT:** As usual, French playmaker Geoffrey Doumeng (with possession) created many chances on Saturday, but to no avail. Photos: Steven Layne

As usual, it was French playmaker Geoffrey Doumeng creating many chances in the midfield, feeding the ball to strikers on the wings and in the area, but Rayong proved to be having a rare "on-day", which was finally cemented midway through the second half by South Korean, Kwon Dae Hee.

Some would argue that Rayong's advantage was in fielding a number of former veteran Phuket players – including Sutee Sakdiwong, Kittithach Kraithong and Marcio Santos – who apparently had more to prove.

"I truly do miss all my friends

in Phuket and playing at Surakul Stadium, but this is football – nothing personal," Santos told the *Gazette* after the match.

Phuket fell into 11<sup>th</sup> place ahead of their final match, this Saturday, November 2 away to 5<sup>th</sup> place Nakhon Ratchasima FC. Kickoff for that match at Chalem 80 Pansa Stadium, will be at 6pm.

Both sides will be playing for pride only.

In the final matches on Saturday, November 2, the second and final relegation spot will be decided, with Rayong FC, Si Racha, TTM and Khon Kaen all at risk of joining Rayong United back down to the regional leagues.

Meanwhile, the second and third promotion spots will also be finalized on Saturday; out of PTT Rayong, Singtharua and Bangkok FC, only two will be promoted along with Airforce AVA FC.

## YL1 2013 results: Week 33/34

- Korat 3-2 PTT Rayong
- Gulf Saraburi 2-1 BCCU
- Trat 2-1 Si Racha
- Ayuthaya 2-1 Royal Navy
- Airforce 1-1 Khon Kaen
- N Pathom 2-3 Port Lions
- TTM 2-3 Rayong
- Bangkok 3-1 Krabi
- Phuket 0-1 Rayong Utd

## YL1 2013 Fixtures: Week 34/34

- 2 PTT Rayong vs 4 Bangkok
- 9 Krabi vs 15 TTM
- 17 Rayong vs 10 N Pathom
- 3 Singtharua vs 1 Airforce
- 14 Khon Kaen vs 8 Ayuthaya
- 12 Royal Navy vs 7 Trat
- 16 Si Racha vs 6 Saraburi
- 13 BCCU vs 18 Rayong Utd
- 5 Korat vs 11 Phuket



Cristian Alex breaks away, guarded by Rayong's Sutee Sakdiwong.



From Top: Eakartit Somjit dribbles; Ludovick Takam helped up after fall in the area; Mizsy Phuket finalists, the winner, Nong Chompoo, far right.



# 12<sup>th</sup> BIS footy tourney

BRITISH International School Phuket (BISP) will host its annual International Football Tournament over two days on November 8 and 9, using all 10 grass football pitches on its 39-acre campus. The 12<sup>th</sup> annual BISP International 7-a-side Football Tournament, sponsored by Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort and the *Phuket Gazette*, will see over 1,100 young footballers aged 8 to 18 years old, from nine different countries, converge on the island for another year of exciting competition.

Last year's tournament numbered almost 1,000 competitors (and more than 2,000 spectators), but with every year the BISP football event grows even bigger. Mr Jeff LaMantia, BISP Athletics Director and event organizer said: "The 12<sup>th</sup> annual BISP 7-a-side Football Tournament is the largest international schools' football tournament of its kind in the world, with over 1,100 competitors registered from 26 different international schools."

Competitors, along with their coaches and supporters, will travel to Phuket from as far afield as South Korea, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Philippines and Brunei. Closer to home, over 100 students

will represent BIS Phuket, along with local teams from the Phuket Youth Football Home and QSI. The BISP tournament will employ 23 football referees from Phuket Rajabhat University.

BISP Headmaster Neil Richards acknowledged the logistical efforts necessary to bring so many young competitors to Phuket: "I am also very aware of how much effort it takes to prepare and bring teams to Phuket and I would like to acknowledge the commitment of the coaches and the support of so many international schools in giving this opportunity to their young sportsmen and women. Thank you. Surely, the memories created here will resonate throughout their lives."

Throughout the tournament, the BISP basketball court near the refectory transforms into a musical entertainment, eating and shopping hub with over 25 food, beverage and other vendors.

BISP Head of Arts Neill Thacker said: "The music entertainment on offer will again be first-rate. On both Friday and Saturday, from 11:30am there will be a solid two hours of musical entertainment featuring the BISP Parent Choir, Keystage 2 Choir, student rock bands and

well-known BISP teacher band 'Elephant in the Room'. In addition, BISP student Benjamin "Gift" Boonyasit will be performing. Out of thousands who auditioned throughout Thailand, 13-year-old Gift recently won the national Channel 3 TV competition 'Singing Kids' in Bangkok. After hearing Gift perform, the audience will be in no doubt that he was indeed deserving of this prestigious victory."

Athletics Director Mr LaMantia provided his counsel to the 1,100 competitors: "You are all ambassadors for your respective schools and regardless of winning or losing it is our goal that everyone plays with respect and sportsmanship."

At the tournament BISP Headmaster Mr Neil Richards MBE will be announcing the launch of the BISP/Cruzeiro Football Academy. He said: "The aim of the Academy is to develop a center of footballing excellence in Asia under the coaching auspices of the premier Brazilian football club, Cruzeiro EC. This week Jonathas Candido, Cruzeiro FC Youth Coach, relocated to Phuket and is now employed by BISP to work alongside the BISP sports staff, to develop the Academy concept and program."

In addition, Mr Richards said that



Photo: Gazette file

The BISP international football tourney is the largest of its kind.

the new Academy will work closely with Phuket FC. "BISP/CRUZEIRO Football Academy will cooperate with Phuket FC to develop coaching clinics and develop youth football leagues and representative teams on Phuket, and to produce professional footballers for Phuket FC, Cruzeiro EC or other professional clubs seeking Asian players."

"Other BISP sports academies in the pipeline are Tennis, which will

use the new covered courts facility due to be completed shortly, and Golf. Negotiations and discussions are well under way to make these a reality," said Mr Richards.

— *Phuket Gazette*

Play starts at 8:30am on November 8 and 9. For further information about the 12th BISP International Football Tournament, please send an email to: [jamantia@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:jamantia@bisphuket.ac.th)

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