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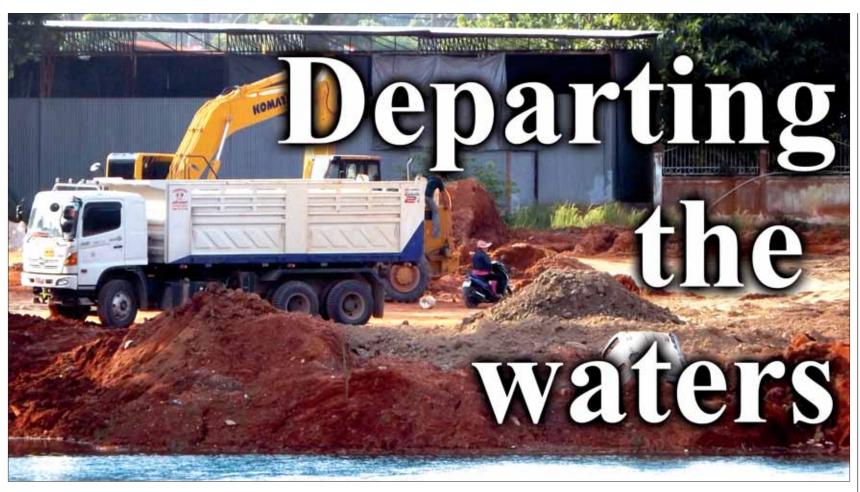
Phuket Gazette

Search starts for missing 7-year-old Island-wide search underway after girl goes missing

INSIDE TODAY

December 14 - 20, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net | In partnership with The Nation

25 Baht



LAKEVIEW DEVELOPMENT HALTS AS SOIL REPLACES WATER

By Irfarn Jamdukor

AN ORDER by Rassada Municipality for a developer to contain bankside erosion at a lake north of Phuket Town has left local residents fearful that their scenic lake is being filled in.

One property agent has even halted work on a housing project as the "lakeside view" is fast disappearing.

"The buyer of one unit in the project has asked for – and received – his money back after pointing out that his interest in the property was based on the advertised lake view," a property agent told the *Gazette*.

"We have also had to throw away contracts drawn up for at least four clients who pulled out in the middle of negotiations. This [lake filling] has affected our project and everything is now on hold," the agent said.

The company filling in the lake is none other than Srisuchart Grandview Co Ltd, headed by renowned Phuket developer Boonkeng Srisansuchart.

Mr Boonkeng has been in the news before. He was shot in an assassination attempt in Bangkok in 2005; that attack came one year after he was ordered by the Anti Money Laundering Office (AMLO) to relinquish four plots of state land off the bypass road after a court ruled he had illegally acquired it.

On Wednesday, Ratree Juntet of Srisuchart Grandview Co Ltd, which built the large housing estate of the same name that borders the lake, assured the *Gazette* that the lake was not being filled in so that more commercial or housing units could be built upon it.

"There is no plan to fill in the lake. All we are doing is stopping the banks from eroding, as per the order issued by Rassada Municipality," she said

Mr Boonkeng was abroad on business, Ms Ratree added.

Rassada Mayor Phudit Raksarat confirmed that his office had ordered the company to start taking steps to prevent further erosion.

"We had received complaints from a local restaurant owner and several residents pointing out that the water had begun eroding the bank that supports a street that runs alongside the lake," Mayor Phudit explained.

"So we ordered the company to take immediate steps to prevent further erosion as a safety measure. However, how they achieved...

Continued on Page 6

Refugees sold to traffickers by officials

ROHINGYA refugees sold for as little as 11,000 baht to human traffickers by Thai officials are being smuggled into jungle camps in the Deep South.

Several of those who escaped the beatings, hunger and inhumane conditions of the ransom camps give insight to the plight the 'boat people' are now facing as they flee the violence in Myanmar.

Full story Pages 8-9

Police snatch ATM thieves in Bangkok

A TRIO of thieves that left 1.4 million baht in an ATM machine they robbed in Patong were caught in a Bangkok hotel.

The men used a blowtorch to break into the machine, but ATM skimming equipment and safe cracking gear was seized in the police raid.

Full story Pages 2

Star-studded carnival set to start Sunday

PATONG Carnival ushers in Phuket's tourism high season with a parade on Sunday, followed by days of top Thai musicians taking the stage in Patong.

Full story Page 5







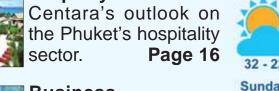


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This Week



Property





Business

McCormack - worldclass athlete turned businessman. Page 17



Technology

Read this before you buy your 4G device in Phuket. Page 36



Cycling

The good ol' Land Of Smiles lies just outside Page 40 Phuket.



Food

From the tables of the North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival. Page 42



Sport

Ultimate roundup of the 27th King's Cup Regatta. Page 48



Sunday



Monday



33 - 22 Tuesday



Wednesday



Thursday



33 - 23

ATM thieves caught with skimming tools

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE trio of professional thieves who were busted in Bangkok on December 8 after robbing an ATM in Phuket were caught with what police believe to be ATM skimming equipment in addition to safecracking tools.

"We found a piece of equipment that looks like a camera that can be attached to an ATM to skim cards. We are further investigating the possibility that the men are part of an ATM skimming gang," Phuket Provincial Deputy Commander Arun Kaewwatee said.

In addition to the camera, police seized four mobile phones, two receipts for money transfers abroad, 15 steel tubes, a magnet, copper tubing, a blowtorch, a universal gas head adapter, a safe auto-dialer, a borescope and piles of cash.

After the Patong Thanachart ATM was robbed of almost 300,000 baht on December 3, police were able to track down the thieves by tracing the purchase of equipment they had abandoned after using a blowtorch to break into the ATM - namely, a gas canister and pair of gloves.

CCTV images from the Thai Watsadu store in Thalang of two



A Mexican and two Colombians were apprehended in Bangkok.

foreign men and their Red Suzuki Swift led to the apprehension of the men five days later in a rented room in Bangkok.

Mexican Yesid Alexander Ledesma Gutierrez, 50, and Colombians Luis Fernando Guarin Suta, 44, and Carlos Arturo Amariles Marin, 57, were returned to Phuket where they demonstrated how they had broken into the ATM.

"After they got the money, they dropped the empty ATM cassettes about 200 meters from the scene," Lt Col Somsak Tongkliang of the Patong Police said.

In the process of cutting through the ATM, the men severely burned the bottom ATM cassette, which contained 1.4 million baht worth of 1,000-baht

"They probably thought they had burned the notes inside, but in fact, they were fine. They ended up leaving most of the money behind, "Col Somsak said.

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Female body pulled from sea likely a westerner

THE body of a woman believed to be a westerner was found by a Taiwanese tuna-fishing boat off Ranong on November 30, and brought to Phuket on December 9.

The woman, estimated to be between 40 and 50 years old and about 170-180cm tall, had white skin and blonde hair, which led authorities to believe she was a westerner. She was wearing a green shirt and brown underwear and her body showed no signs of violence, said Capt Weerachart Srira of the Phuket City Police.

After the captain of the boat tried but failed to contact government offices in Myanmar and



The body being removed from the fishing boat's cool container.

Thailand, the boat owner instructed him to deliver the body to Phuket, where it was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital to be examined.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Teen's stabbed, burned corpse found in woods

POLICE are investigating the murder of a 16-year-old boy who had been stabbed multiple times and whose throat was cut before his body was dumped and burned at a wooded location in a remote part of central Phuket.

Police called to the scene on Muang Chaofa Road on December 6 said the boy, identified by the ID card in his wallet as Pawarisorn Sae-Ung, had likely been dead for about three days, said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karachedi.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



Police search for missing girl,

By Saran Mitrarat

A DISTRAUGHT mother has made a heartfelt plea to find her seven-year-old daughter, Natthapa "Nong Dear" Papkaew, last seen in a Chalong neighborhood last

Nong Dear is about 120cm tall and weighs about 16kg.

"She has long black hair and is missing her two front teeth," the girl's mother, Jaroon Papkaew, 45, told the Gazette.

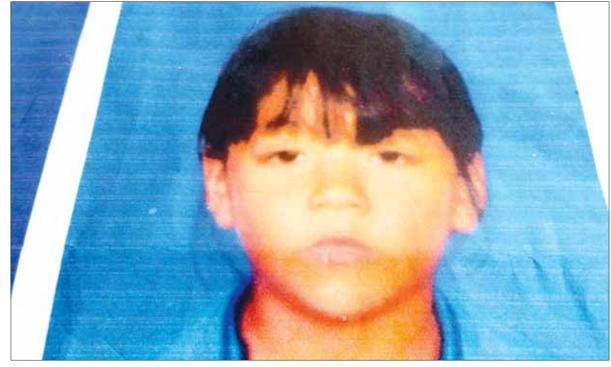
"She was wearing a yellow shirt with a cartoon print on the front and red shorts," she added.

Nong Dear was last seen in Soi Koktanode, across Chao Fa East Road from Wat Ladthiwanaram (Wat Tai), last Friday afternoon.

"She went to my sister's house in Soi Koktanode 9. We live in Soi Koktanode 4," Ms Jaroon said.

"Nong Dear left my sister's house at 2pm. A friend of the family, Khun Boy, was bringing her home on his motorbike when Nong Dear asked him to drop her off at Soi 5.

"She said she wanted to go play



Pictured here in her most recent photo, taken about a month ago, is Natthapa Papkaew. Photo: Supplied

with some friends before coming home. She has a lot of friends in Soi Koktanode, which is why we didn't worry," she explained.

"But she hadn't come home by

started searching for her," Ms Jaroon added, her voice becoming emotional.

7pm, like she usually does, so we a small restaurant near Soi Koktanode 2 at about 3pm.

"The woman who runs the restaurant saw Nong Dear when she Nong Dear was last seen near went out to buy stock, but she didn't see her when she got back," Ms Jaroon said.

Ms Jaroon reported Nong Dear as missing to the Chalong Police on Friday night.

"I know that police are working hard to find my daughter, but it's four days already and I am so worried about her," Ms Jaroon tearfully told the Gazette on Tuesday.

After seeing an advertisement for the government's One Stop Crisis Center (OSCC), run by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, Ms Jaroon contacted that office for help.

"The staff at the OSCC have contacted all rescue workers in Phuket to help find my daughter," she explained.

Capt Sukarin Tunsuriwong of Chalong Police told the Gazette, "Police are now questioning people in the area, but so far the most recent information we have is that she was last seen on Soi Koktanode 2 at about 3pm."

Anyone who believes they have seen Nong Dear is urged to call Chalong Police Station at 076-



Ukrainian passenger Dmytro Kolot was sitting next to the driver when the visa-run van collided with a motorbike in Malaysia. Photo: Dmytro Kolot

Visa-run van crashes in Malaysia

Phuket for Penang last Sunday collided with a motorbike in Malaysia at about 9:30 Monday morning, killing the motorbike

Ukrainian Dmytro Kolot, 30, was sleeping in his seat next to the driver when the accident occurred.

"After the accident, the driver asked me what happened," he said. "He walked around the car for a few minutes, then walked about 50m down the road. When he came back, he was crying.

A KBV Visa-run van that left Gazette that the van had been traveling at about 120-140kmh.

"I felt three bumps," he said. "I feel sorry for the Malaysian man who died."

None of the visa-run passengers was hurt in the collision.

Malaysian Police arrived on the scene and transported the passengers and driver to a police station to give statements. From there the passengers were taken to their hotel in Penang to continue their

Instead of returning to Phuket by van, Mr Kolot decided to fly

Retirement visa law for couples to be interpreted more strictly

PHUKET Immigration Superintendent Napat Nusen issued a statement to the press on Monday clarifying that the rules regarding retirement visa extensions will remain unchanged, but will be interpreted more strictly.

"Nothing has been changed. It has been the same since 2008. A wife can still use the same type of follower visa as before if her husband applies for a Non-immigrant O visa," Lt Col Napat Nusen explained.

For couples where one spouse applies for a Non-Immigrant visa one-year extension, the spouse may receive a "follower" permit to stay in Thailand without having to show income or a specific



Lt Col Napat Nusen

amount in a bank account, Col Napat said.

The spouse must be able to show that he or she has a minimum income of 65,000 baht a month or 800,000 baht in a Thai bank. However, if the account is a joint account, it must have a

balance of at least 1.6 million baht. If the spouse does not wish to

have "follower" status, but prefers to have retiree status, the spouse must meet all the requirements for a Non-immigrant O visa.

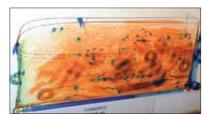
If the couple both apply for retirement visas using a shared joint account in Thailand, the account must contain 1.6 million baht.

Regardless of the approach applicants take, they must be able to show that the money has been in the account or accounts for at least two months for the first extension application, and for three months for subsequent applications, backed by a letter of confirmation from the bank, Col Napat said. – *Phuket Gazette*





Coke-toting Romanian arrested



The spools of ribbon were visible on x-ray. Photo: Phuket Airport Customs

ACTING on a tip-off from the US Drug Enforcement Agency, officers at Phuket International Airport arrested Romanian Pop Florin, 52, last Friday night after finding more than 3kg of cocaine in his baggage.

The cocaine was foil-wrapped, attached to spools of ribbon with black tape, then covered in ribbon, Phuket Airport Customs Director Montira Cherchoo said.

Mr Florin came to Phuket from Brazil via Dubai, Ms Montira said.

Mr Florin confessed to being paid 3,000 euros – more than 120,000 baht – to smuggle the cocaine. He faces charges of possession and trafficking of a Category 2 narcotic with intent to sell. – *Irfarn Jamdukor*

Amnesty not for foreigners

By Chutharat Plerin

WHILE illegal taxi, tuk-tuk and tour van drivers continue to work freely in Phuket under a government pledge of immunity from arrest, foreigners waiting for work permits will receive no such protection.

In their long-accommodating efforts to encourage drivers working in the tourism industry to become legal, the provincial government has granted amnesty to all illegal transport drivers in Phuket until December 31.

Foreigners who have applied for work permits, however, will receive no such courtesy – regardless of whether or not the foreigners have filed all the correct paperwork with the appropriate authorities.

"We are not permitting any exceptions to allow foreigners to work while they are waiting for their work permits to be issued," Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) Chief Yaowapa Pibulpol told the *Gazette*.

"It takes time to process and verify the documents submitted in each application, and filing an application does not guarantee the applicant will be given a work permit," she explained.

The only reprieve given foreigners was during the two and a half days last week when the PPEO was closed due to anti-government protests.

"All authorities involved in enforcing work permit regulations have been told not to arrest any foreigners whose permits expire while our office is closed due to the protests," PPEO chief Yaowapa told the *Gazette* during the period her office was shuttered.

Once her office re-opened on December 6, Chief Yaowapa promised to do her best to expedite the processing of work permits.

"I understand that work permits are very important for foreigners working in Phuket," she said. "Our job is to serve, and we will do our best to do so regardless of which government party is in power in Bangkok," she said

However, rules remained rules.

"Even though some drivers are allowed to work before they are fully legal, we stand by our rules. Foreigners cannot work without



PPEO Chief Yaowapa Pibulpol (left) and V/Gov Chamroen Tipayapongtada (center) checking foreigners' work permits in January. Photo: Gazette file

being issued a work permit," Ms Yaowapa stated.

Illegal transport drivers on the island have until December 31 to comply with the law.

"From January 1, anyone found working illegally as a taxi driver will be fined 20,000 baht for each

infringement," Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada warned late last month.

Meanwhile, any foreigner caught working without a work permit faces arrest, detention at Phuket Immigration, prosecution and subsequent deportation.



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Male delivered to Mayor

POLICE are questioning residents in the central Phuket area of Srisoonthorn after a baby was found abandoned in front of the local mayor's house last Sunday.

A maid discovered the newborn boy in front of Mayor Worrawut Songyot's house when she arrived for work at 9am.

"When we arrived, the infant male was wrapped in a yellow towel. His skin was quite red and the umbilical cord was still attached," said Lt Col Sarit Butnongsang of the Thalang Police.

"We took him to Thalang Hospital, where doctors cut the umbilical cord. He weighs 2.89 kilograms and seems to be in good health," he added.

"We believe the mother may be



The newborn is in good health.

a teenager from a poor family in the Thalang area. She might want the mayor to help support her son," Col Sarit said.

"Temporary custody of the baby boy has been handed over to the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security's One Stop Crisis Center," Col Sarit confirmed.

- Thawit Bilabdullar



High season arrives in style

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE island's premier party town of Patong is set to kick off the Phuket tourism high season with its annual carnival from December 15 through December 20.

"Phuket is ready to host thousands of tourists this coming high season. Be assured that you will have a wonderful time here and be impressed with the beauty of our island," said the new Kathu District Chief, Sayan Chanachaiwong. "Authorities will do their best to make sure you have a good, safe trip."

Organized by the Patong Municipality, much of the live entertainment throughout the festival will be performed on two stages. Stage One will be beachfront next to the police box at the end of Soi Bangla; Stage Two will be at the football pitch next to Loma Park.

In addition to live entertainment and the traditional parade, there is still a possibility that a giant Ferris wheel may appear on the scene.

"All the equipment is here, and the wheel can be set up in three days, so it may yet be ready for the start of the carnival," Patong Deputy Mayor Chairat Sukban told the *Gazette* early this week.

"The sticking point is where to install it. The owner wants it set up in front of Soi Bangla, but beach vendors and other operators rejected that idea," he said.

"The owner is abroad, but once he comes back, we can negotiate where the wheel should go," he added. "We can even set it up after the carnival has begun."

The theme of this year's carnival, "Patong Fun Fest" was chosen to show everyone the joys and pleasures they can have when they visit Patong, Mr Sayan said.

Patong officials are hoping to generate up to 100 million baht during the six-day event.

"On the final day, there will be a scuba diving competition to see who can pick up the most trash," Mr Sayan said. "There will also be several other activities to encourage people to take care of the environment so we can keep the nature around us beautiful forever."



Patong officials believe the six-day "Fun Fest" could yield revenues of up to 100 million baht. Photo: Gazette file

Highlights of Patong Carnival events

December 15

9am Monk offering, Loma Park **5pm** Patong Carnival Parade, from Phang Muang Sai Kor Road to Loma Park

7:50pm Stage 1: Opening ceremony **8pm** Stage 1: Traditional dance and music

9pm Stage 1: Country singer Jakrapun "Got" Arbkornburi

10pm Stage 2: Country music band Maleehuanna

Dec 16 -20, 7pm Stage 1: Traditional dance and music by students

December 16

9pm Stage 1: Pop star Rattapoom "Film" Toekongsap

10pm Stage 2: Folk rock singer Pongsit "Pu" Kamphee

December 17

9pm Stage 1: Rock singer Nakarin "Pang" Kingsak and Country music singer Takkatan Chonlada

10pm Stage 2: Country band Kangkeng

December 18

9:30pm Stage 1: Country music

singer Pai Pongsathorn

10pm Stage 2: Country music singer Bao Wee

December 19

9:30pm Stage 1: Pop singer Worakarn "Punch" Rojjanawat 10pm Stage 2: Reggae star Job To Do

December 20

9:30pm Stage 1: Pop singer Sarunyu "Ice" Winaipanit

10pm Stage 2: Concert by Labanoon – *Saran Mitrarat*





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Even the elephants got involved in the celebrations for high season.

Phang Nga gets jump on Phuket for high season

PHANG Nga kicked off its tourism high season with a colorful parade down the main street of Khao Lak to the Tsunami Memorial last Friday.

The event comes a week ahead of the unofficial opening of the Phuket high season with the Patong Carnival (see page 5).

"Everyone needs to come together, including the private sector, to support the tourism industry," Phang Nga Governor Thamrong Charoenkun said.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) is continuing its campaign of promoting regions along the Andaman coast outside of Phuket, leaving the island province time to help its infrastructure catch up with the mounting pressures of mass tourism.

With that in mind, the TAT is focusing its marketing campaign on the leisure holiday and ecotourism markets, and avoiding targeting mass markets.

Phang Nga has a high density of Green Leaf hotels and the activities being promoted have low carbon footprints, and hence a low environmental impact, explained a TAT officer.

- Isaac Stone Simonelli

British tourist withdraws complaint of drink spiking in Patong

THE British woman who told police that she tumbled from the second-storey balcony of her Phuket hotel room on November 11 because she was given a spiked drink on Soi Bangla has asked police not to pursue the case.

Extensive media coverage of the night's events, which included 21-year-old Romany Mitchell's claim that she was escaping an assailant in her hotel room when she fell from the balcony, allegedly led Ms Mitchell to drop the complaint filed with police.

Officers had been waiting for the results of a blood alcohol concentration test and a toxicology report before continuing their investigation.

'Ms Mitchell withdrew her complaint after she recovered and was released from hospital," Capt Nattaya Suwanpong of the Patong Police said. "She said she did so to protect her privacy."

tacted doctors for the toxicology report as the complaint was withdrawn, ending the investigation, said Capt Nattaya.

"It's her privacy and we need to respect that," she said.



Romany Mitchell Photo: Facebook

- Saran Mitrarat

Protest becomes victory parade

By Saran Mitrarat

THOUSANDS of jubilant antigovernment protesters were gathered outside of the main government buildings in Phuket Town on December 9, celebrating the decision of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to dissolve her administration.

The protesters, however, vow to carry on protesting until the People's Council proposed by Suthep Thaugsuban, the former deputy prime minister and protest leader in Bangkok, is set up (see page 10).

The whistle-blowing, flag-waving, ribbon-wearing crowd continued to grow as protesters from all over Phuket, including government workers, hospital staff and students gathered in front of Phuket Provincial Hall.

Protest co-ordinator Amnuay







Anti-government protesters celebrate Prime Minister Yingluck's dissolution of her administration.

Kumban said that groups had paraded all over Phuket Town to celebrate the dissolution of PM Yingluck's government.

But he vowed that protests would continue despite the dissolution. "We can't stop now,

because PM Yingluck's team will keep working until a new government is set up. We will continue to protest until Suthep Thaugsuban sets up the People's Council," he said.

Another protest co-ordinator,

Theerawuth Sritulalak agreed. "We will continue protesting, as they're doing in Bangkok. I want to see the People's Council first. Actually, we'd be even more satisfied if the Shinawatra family left

Governor affirms Phuket Prison's 'white' status

A PRE-DAWN search of Phuket Prison on Wednesday failed to uncover any drugs or contraband being hidden by prisoners.

The mass raid of the entire compound was held to establish the facility's status as a Department of Corrections "White Prison".

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut led about 100 officers in conducting the mass search, which began at 5:30am.

Each of the 2,142 male prisoners and 379

female prisoners were searched, as were their personal lockers, sleeping quarters, the infirmary and other areas where officers believed contraband could be hidden.

A total of 1,300 inmates were randomly selected and tested for drugs. None tested positive.

Governor Maitri credited the prison officers' thoroughness for the prison's drug-free - Kritsada Mueanhawong





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Erosion leads to lake-filling fears

From page 1

...that we left them to decide.

"The land and the lake is privately owned, so we have no authority to order them to specifically take certain steps. All trails of dirt along the road and dust we can do is make sure that the was flying into people's houses. street and public areas are kept So we ordered them to stop and

safe," he noted.

An ironic twist to the lake-filing saga was that the company began filling in the wrong area, Mayor Phudit explained.

"Also, the trucks were leaving

rectify that problem – and to start filling the area where the erosion is causing a problem," he said.

Erosion aside, Mayor Phudit pointed out that because Srisuchat Grandview owns the land and the lake, they have the right to entirely fill the lake if they so desired.

"The company has a Chanote for land, which gives them the full legal right to do as they please with the site," he said.

Mayor Phudit also confirmed that Rassada Municipality does not use the lake as a water source to supply local residents.

Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority Manager Pisak Chonlayut and his counterpart at the Waterworks Department at Phuket City Municipality both confirmed likewise: the water is not used to supply residents in Phuket Town or other areas nearby.



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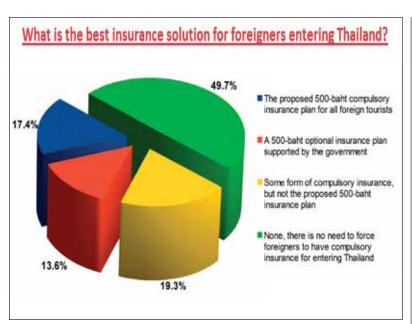
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Gazette readers pro-choice in mandatory insurance debate

A CLEAR majority of Thai nationals believe foreigners should not be compelled to buy health insurance when entering Thailand, but fewer than half of all tourists and expats living in the country shared that view, at least according to the results of the latest *Gazette* online readers' poll.

The poll – asking "What is the best insurance solution for foreigners entering Thailand?" – was drawn up after Public Health Minister Pradit Sintavanarong announced that related agencies were discussing a plan to charge tourists for compulsory health coverage, up to 500 baht for a three- to 30-day stay, and 30 baht for stays of less than three days.

Voters in the poll delivered a wide spread of responses to the question, with 49.7% of respondents overall voting, "None, there is no need to force foreigners to have compulsory insurance for entering Thailand."

Of the other options, 19.3% of respondents voted, "Some form of compulsory insurance, but not

the proposed 500-baht insurance plan."

A further 17.4% voted, "The proposed 500-baht compulsory insurance plan for all foreign tourists" and 13.6% voted, "A 500-baht optional insurance plan supported by the government."

However, a whopping 80% of respondents presenting themselves as Thai nationals voted the top choice, that there was no need to force foreigners to have compulsory insurance for entering Thailand.

This opinion was matched by only 46% of respondents presenting themselves as "Local Foreign Residents" and 47% of respondents presenting themselves as "Tourists / Visitors to Phuket".

Yet Thai nationals taking part in the poll were outvoted by more than 10 to 1 by foreigners, whose opinions varied greatly.

If the poll results highlight anything, it is that nearly all respondents support foreigners' right to make their own healthcare choices

- Phuket Gazette

Trafficking

AN in-depth investigation by Reuters reveals the horrifying truth of behind the human trafficking of "Boat People" who wash ashore in Phuket, Phang Nga and other Andaman provinces.

Sold for as little as 11,000 baht each, refugees unable to buy their freedom are starved, beaten and killed in Deep South jungle camps.

ONE afternoon in October, in the watery no-man's land between Thailand and Myanmar, Muhammad Ismail vanished.

Thai immigration officials said he was being deported to Myanmar. In fact, they sold Ismail, 23, and hundreds of other Rohingya to human traffickers, who then spirited them into brutal jungle camps.

As thousands of Rohingya flee Myanmar to escape persecution, a Reuters investigation in three countries has uncovered a clandestine policy to remove Rohingya refugees from Thailand's immigration detention centers and deliver them to human traffickers.

The Rohingya are then transported across southern
Thailand and held hostage in a series of camps hidden near the border with Malaysia until relatives pay thousands of dollars to release them. Reporters located three such camps – two based on the testimony of Rohingya held there, and a third by trekking to the site, heavily guarded, near Baan Klong Tor.

Thousands of Rohingya have passed through this tropical prison. An untold number have died there. Some have been murdered by camp guards or have perished from dehydration or disease, survivors said in interviews.

The Thai authorities say the movement of Rohingya through their country doesn't amount to human trafficking. But in interviews for this story, the Thai Royal Police acknowledged, for the first time, a covert policy called "option two" that relies upon established human-smuggling networks to rid Thailand of Rohingya detainees.

Ismail was one of five Rohingya who said that Thai immigration officials had sold him outright or aided in their sale to human traffickers. "It seemed so official at first," said Ismail, a wiry farmer with a long narrow face and tight curly hair. "They took our photographs. They took our fingerprints. And then once in the boats, about 20 minutes out at sea, we were told we had been sold."

Ismail said he ended up in a camp in southern Thailand. So did Bozor Mohamed. The camp was guarded by men with guns and clubs, said Mohamed, and at least one person died every day due to dehydration or disease.

Mohamed and others say they endured hunger, filth and multiple beatings. Mohamed's elbow and back are scarred from what he said were beatings administered by his captors in Thailand while he telephoned his brother-in-law in Malaysia, begging him to pay the ransom they demanded. Some men failed to find a benefactor in Malaysia to pay their ransom. The camp became their home.

HOLDING BAYS

What ultimately happens to Rohingya who can't buy their freedom remains unclear. A Thaibased smuggler said some are sold to shipping companies and farms

'When I cried they beat me. I had already decided that I would die there.'

- Mohamed Hassan, refugee who escaped from a Deep South jungle camp

as manual laborers for 5,000 to 50,000 baht each.

"Prices vary according to their skills," said the smuggler, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Presented with the findings of this report, Thailand's second-highest-ranking policeman made some startling admissions. Thai officials might have profited from Rohingya smuggling in the past, said Police Maj-Gen Chatchawal Suksomjit, Deputy Commissioner General of the Royal Thai Police. He also confirmed the existence of illegal camps in southern Thailand, which he called "holding bays".

Tarit Pengdith, chief of the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) was also asked about the camps Reuters discovered. "We have heard about these camps in southern Thailand," he said, "but we are not investigating this issue."

Besieged by a political crisis and violent street protests this week, Thailand faces difficult questions about its future and global status. Among those is whether it will join North Korea, the Central African Republic and Iran among the

world's worst offenders in fighting human trafficking.

A SECRET POLICY

After their arrest, Ismail and his friend Ediris were brought to an immigration detention center (IDC) in Sadao, where they joined another 300 Rohingya rounded up from a nearby smuggler's house. The two-story IDC, designed for a few dozen inmates, was overflowing.

With about 1,700 Rohingya locked up nationwide, the Thai government set a July deadline to deport them all and opened talks with Myanmar on how to do it. The talks went nowhere, because

the Myanmar government refused to take responsibility for what it regards as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

Men and teenage boys languished for months in cramped, cage-like cells, often with barely enough room to sit or stand. In June, Reuters journalists visited an IDC in Phang Nga. There were 269 men and boys crammed into a space built for no more than 100. It reeked of urine and sweat. Some detainees used crutches because their muscles had atrophied.

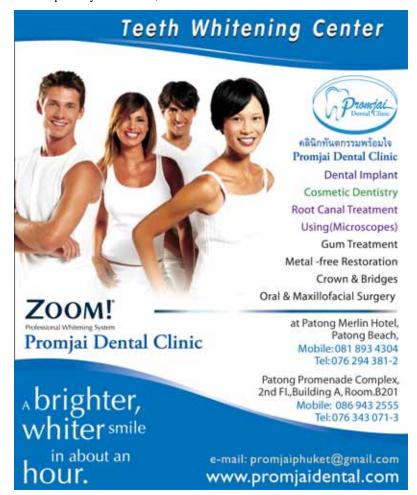
As the plight of Rohingya detainees made world head-

lines, pressure mounted on Thailand. But Myanmar wouldn't take them, nor would Malaysia. With thousands more arriving, the UN's refugee agency issued an urgent appeal for alternative housing. The government proposed building a "mega camp" in Nakhon Sri Thammarat. It was rejected after an outcry from local people.

Thailand saw its options rapidly dwindling, a senior government official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. It couldn't protest to Myanmar's government to improve the lives of Rohingya and stem the exodus, the official said. That could ruffle diplomatic feathers and even jeopardize the access of Thai companies hoping to invest in Myanmar.

That growing problem gave birth to "option two" in October, a secret policy to deport the refugees back to Myanmar that led to Rohingyas being sold to human trafficking networks.

Police Lt Gen Panu Kerdlarppol, chief of the Immigration Bureau, announced that immigration authorities would take statements



rings net Rohingya

from the Rohingya "to arrange their deportation".

By early October, 2,058 Rohingya were held in 14 IDCs across Thailand, according to the Internal Security Operations Command. By the first week of December, there were 154, Thailand's immigration department said.

Rohingya were fast disappearing from Thailand's IDCs, and nobody knew where they were going.

'WE NOW BELONGED TO THEM'

Central to the policy was Ranong, a smugglers' paradise. By late October, hundreds of Rohingya were being packed onto immigration trucks and driven to Ranong for processing and deportation. Among them were Ismail and Ediris, who arrived in the port town after a grueling, standing room-only journey of 1,200km from Nong Khai in northern Thailand.

"They said no other countries were accepting Rohingya, and Myanmar had become peaceful," said Ismail.

Then they were driven to a Ranong pier and herded onto four long-tail boats, each with a three-man crew of Thais and Burmese. Once at sea, the Rohingya asked the boat driver to help them. The Burmese-speaking driver shook his head and told the Rohingya they had been sold by Thai immigration officials for 11,000 baht each.

"They told us we now belonged to them," said Ismail.

After about 30 minutes at sea, the boats stopped. It was early afternoon on October 23. The vessels waited until about 6pm, when a large fishing boat arrived. They were loaded aboard and sailed through the night until they reached a jungle island.

Ismail said he saw about 200 other Rohingya in that camp, mostly sleeping and guarded by men with guns. The guards shoved Ismail and the others into a muddy clearing. He was told he must pay 60,000 baht. Did he



An Immigration Police van carries a group of Rohingya to a port outside Ranong Town. Photos: Reuters

have family who could send the money? If he did, he could go wherever he wanted, Ismail said he was told. "If you don't, we'll use this," one guard said, showing an iron rod.

Ismail had some cash but not enough. "We need to escape," he whispered to Ediris. After an hour at the camp, just before dawn, the two men made their move. A guard fired shots in the air as they ran through the jungle and waded through a river to reach the mainland. For the next 24 hours, they survived by drinking stream-water and eating the bark of banana trees. They emerged onto a rubber plantation, and met a Burmese man who promised to spirit them into Malaysia for 8,000 baht each.

They agreed and were driven to a house in southern Thailand, where Reuters interviewed them hours before they were smuggled by pick-up across the Malaysian border.

THE JUNGLE CAMPS

Mohamed Hassan, 19, also escape the jungle camps of Thailand's trafficking network. He said he arrived at the camp in September.

The camp was partially skirted by a barbed-wire fence, he said, and guarded by about 25 men with guns, knives and clubs. Hassan reckoned it held about 300 Rohingya. They slept on plastic sheets, unprotected from the sun and rain, and were allowed only one meal a day.

One night, two Rohingya men tried to escape. The guards tracked them down, bound their hands and dragged them back to camp. Then, the guards beat the two men with clubs, rods and lengths of rubber. "Everybody watched," said Hassan. "We said nothing. Some people were crying."

The beating lasted some 30 minutes, he said. Then a guard drew a small knife and slit the

throat of one of the fugitives.

Afterward, Hassan vomited with fear and exhaustion, but tried not to cry. "When I cried they beat me. I had already decided that I would die there."

His only hope of release was his older brother, 42, a long-time resident of Thailand. Hassan said he had his brother's telephone number with him, but at first his captors wouldn't let him call it.

Eventually, Hassan reached his brother, who was able to raise about \$3,000 to secure Hassan's freedom, after 20 days in the camp.

THE RED LINE IN THE SEA

Maj Gen Chatchawal admitted there was an unofficial policy to deport the Rohingya to Myanmar. He called this "a natural way or option two". But he said the Rohingya went voluntarily.

"Some Rohingya in our IDCs

can't stand being in limbo, so they ask to return to where they came from," said Maj Gen Chatchawal. "This means going back to Myanmar."

Rohingya at the IDCs, for instance, sign statements in the presence of a local Islamic leader, in which they agree they want to return to Myanmar.

These statements, however, were at times produced in the absence of a Rohingya language translator. When reporters visited the Sadao IDC for this story, the translator was a Muslim from Myanmar who spoke only Thai and Burmese, and was thus unable to explain what the detainees were signing.

Maj Gen Chatchawal was also presented with recent testimony from Rohingya who said they weren't taken back to Myanmar.

Until now, the Thai government has denied official complicity in the smuggling or trafficking of Rohingya. But in a break with that position, Maj Gen Chatchawal said Thai officials might have received money previously in exchange for Rohingya, but not anymore.

"In the past, and I stress in the past, there may have been cases of officials taking payments for handing over migrants to boats," he said. "I am not ruling it out, but I don't know of any specific cases recently."

He said it was possible the Rohingya were intercepted by brokers and never made it to Myanmar. "Once they've crossed that border, that red line in the sea, they are Myanmar's responsibility," he said.

He also admitted the camps uncovered by Reuters exist in breach of Thai laws. He referred to them as "temporary shelters" for a people who ultimately want to reach Malaysia. The smugglers who run the camps "extort money from Rohingya" but police don't accept bribes from them, he said.

As for the trafficking way stations in Padang Besar and Sadao, Chatchawal said: "I do believe there could be more camps like these. They could be hidden deep in the jungle."



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Yingluck Shinawatra called for snap elections. Photo: Reuters

Elections set for February

FRESH elections are scheduled for February 2, though the Election Commission has voiced doubt that they will take place.

Under pressure from mass protests in Bangkok, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra dissolved Parliament on December 9.

One day earlier, every remaining member of Parliament from the Democrat Party – 152 MPs – resigned to join Suthep Thaugsuban's protests aimed at ousting Ms Yingluck and "cleansing" Thailand of the influence of her family. Mr Suthep himself and eight other MPs resigned last month.

The move was aimed at ensuring the party itself could not be dissolved due to any actions the protesters might take.

A source in the party told The Nation that it still planned to contest the next election.

In a statement from the State Department, the US said it strongly supported the democratic process in Thailand.

"Prime Minister Yingluck has called for elections as a way forward amid ongoing political tensions and demonstrations," State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki said in the statement.

"We encourage all involved to resolve political differences peacefully and democratically in a way that reflects the will of the Thai people," Psaki said.

Appointed Senator Somchai Swangkarn said that to defuse political tension, the government, Pheu Thai Party, coalition partners and the opposition party should together announce they would not run in the election yet.

They should instead join in political reform to boost people participation – which could take six months to one year, he said.

Two governments 'in charge'

nation

TWO "governments" were claiming to be in charge of running Thailand last week, both claiming the support of "the people".

On Monday, Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra dissolved Parliament and announced fresh elections in a concession to protesters demanding the end of the Thaksin regime in Thailand.

The same day 250,000 protesters marched through the streets of Bangkok in what protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban claimed was the "final battle" to take control of the government.

After surrounding Government House with protesters, Mr Suthep declared that the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) had "recalled the power" from the government, The Nation reported.

Mr Suthep claimed that Article 3 of the Constitution gave the PDRC the right to do so.

It states: "The sovereign power belongs to the Thai people. The King as head of state shall exercise such power through the National Assembly, the Council of Ministers and the Courts in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution."



With protesters still on the streets of Bangkok, two groups claim to be running the country. Photo: Reuters

Mr Suthep summoned government officials to report to the PDRC and suggested that a "peacekeeping force of volunteers" be set up in every province, which he said would "serve as an important force" for protesters in their fight in the future.

Mr Suthep demanded that Ms Yingluck resign as prime minister immediately – a demand the Pheu Thai Party firmly refused to accept.

Pheu Thai secretary-general Phumtham Vechayachai pointed out that the Constitution stated the PM was to continue in a caretaker role until a new election is held.

"House dissolution is the best the prime minister can do. We may be called the losers if you like, but we just want peace to be restored in the country. We are not afraid of losing. Winning or losing, let's fight it out in the election," Mr Phumtham said.

There was no sign that Suthep's movement had assumed any government powers, or that Ms Yingluck's administration would cede any to them.

PDRC moves similar to coup attempt: academics

WHAT the Suthep Thaugsuban-led People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) is doing is tantamount to an attempted coup and could lead to civil war, a group of 22 academics warned on Tuesday.

The group, calling itself the Assembly for the Defence of Democracy (AFDD), accused PDRC of trying to create a power vacuum so undemocratic elements could wind the clock back on democratic progress, pointing out that such a move would destroy democracy, reported *The Nation*.

AFDD, which has won support from more than 100 citizens, held a press conference at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Political Science yesterday. They said Mr Suthep and his supporters' push for a royally appointed



Academics concerned over Mr Suthep's 'People's Council'. Photo: Reuters

premier and a people's council was unconstitutional.

Worajet Pakeerut, a lecturer of law at Thammasat, said Suthep's demand for caretaker PM Yingluck Shinawatra to step down went against the Constitution as she was serving as caretaker premier while awaiting a snap election. He said even if Ms Yingluck vacated her seat as prime minister, her first deputy would automatically assume her duties, and if none of her deputies were able to carry out their duty as premier, then a senior Cabinet member would have to take over.

"There's no other way," Mr

Worajet said. He went on to say that he believed the House dissolution was the best thing the premier could have done given the circumstances and that she was duty-bound by the Constitution to continue serving as caretaker premier until the election.

Piyabutr Saengkanokkul, another Thammasat law lecturer and member of AFDD, said the idea of a "people's council" was inspired by Benito Mussolini's fascist regime.

"Calling for a people's council is tantamount to an attempted coup," Mr Piyabutr reiterated.

Kasian Tejapira, a noted political scientist at Thammasat University, also asked how such a council could be held accountable and scrutinized.



Prime Minister in emotional appeal

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra came close to tears in a speech last week in which she refused to resign her post ahead of elections.

Protesters led by Suthep Thaugsuban, a Surat Thani political godfather and former deputy premier, are demanding that the country be purged of the influence of Ms Yingluck's family and her brother Thaksin Shinawatra.

Mrs Yingluck dissolved Parliament on Monday, in a move

endorsed by HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

In a press conference Tuesday, Mrs Yingluck told the media: "I must do my duty as caretaker prime minister according to the constitution.

Mrs Yingluck was then questioned by reporters about her family's political role.

"I'm not without emotion," she said, her voice quavering. "I'm also Thai. Do you want me not to step a foot on Thai soil anymore?"



Protesters demand Shinawatra clan leave Thailand. Photo: Reuters

"I have retreated as far as I can. So I ask to be treated fairly," she said.

Riot rocks Singapore

AROUND THE region

By Robin Chan

SINGAPOREAN Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Monday that a committee of inquiry (COI) will be set up to investigate the causes of the riot that broke out in the city-state's Little India district last Sunday night.

"The COI will look into the factors that led to the incident and how the incident was handled on the ground. It will also review the current measures to manage areas where foreign workers congregate, whether they are adequate and how they can be improved. MHA (Ministry of Home Affairs) will provide more details when ready," he said in a statement.

PM Lee said the riot was an isolated incident arising from the unlawful actions of an unruly mob reacting to a fatal traffic accident.

"The vast majority of foreign workers in Singapore are law-



abiding workers. They contribute Kumaravelu, who was run over by

to our economy, working hard to earn a living and support their families back home. We must not allow this bad incident to tarnish our views of the foreign worker community here," he said.

He also offered his deepest condolences to the family of Sakthivel a private bus in the incident that sparked the riot by about 400 people, mostly Indian nationals.

On Tuesday, 24 Indian men were charged in connection with the riot. As of midday on Monday, 22 police officers and five auxiliary police officers had been

discharged from hospital after receiving treatment for injuries and

Singapore, which has tough laws against rioting, has not seen a riot of this scale since 1969, when Chinese and Malay residents clashed violently.

- The Straits Times/ANN

Typhoon death toll may exceed initial estimate of 10,000

A MONTH after super typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) wrought havoc on central Philippines, Tacloban City is still counting the dead as workers continue to find bodies, raising the possibility of the death toll exceeding the original estimate

As of Monday, the death toll was 2,321, said Snr Supt Pablito Cordeta, but the number of people listed as missing had now exceeded 8,000.

- Philippine Daily Inquirer

Former party boss gets 16 years for graft, laundering

THE Jakarta Corruption Court sentenced former Prosperous Justice Party (PKS) chairman Luthfi Hasan Ishaaq to 16 years in prison for graft and money laundering on Monday. The judges also ordered Luthfi to pay 1 billion rupiah (US\$84,000) in fines.

- Jakarta Post

Myanmar readies to open Yangon stock exchange

THE Yangon Stock Exchange (YSE) will open in two years at the former headquarters of Myawaddy Bank in Yangon, the Myanmar deputy minister for finance has announced.

'Technical preparations are under way for the exchange to be opened before the AEC [Asean Economic Community]. The committee has to teach local companies to have transparency," Deputy Minister Maung Maung - Eleven Media

Fireball erupts as gas truck hit by commuter train

AT LEAST five people died and 91 were time and the train slammed into it. There was injured when an electric commuter train crashed into a gasoline tanker on a railroad crossing in South Jakarta on Monday.

Nine of those injured in the accident were seriously burned.

Based on eyewitness accounts, the state oil and gas firm PT Pertamina tanker hauling 24,000 liters of fuel slipped past a closing crossing barrier as a train headed through at about 11:20am.

The tanker failed to get across the tracks in

an explosion on impact and flames engulfed the front part of the train, which was reserved for women and children.

Though some passengers on the train said they had not heard the crossing alarm, one passer-by, Ms Maryati, said that the crossing alarm had definitely sounded.

"There was even an officer who warned [the driver of the gasoline tanker truck] not to pass through the gate," she said.

– Jakarta Post



The gas truck exploded on impact. Photo: P.J. Leo



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In brief...

Ukraine opposition ready for talks, fears police action

UKRAINIAN opposition leader Vitaly Klitschko said on Monday he was ready, with other opposition leaders, to hold compromise talks with President Viktor Yanukovich but added he feared that police action to break up peaceful protests was imminent.

"I am sure that the current government must resign... we are ready to talk with Yanukovich because no one else is making decisions," Mr Klitschko said.

US to fly African troops to CAR to ease violence

THE US military said on Monday that it will fly African forces into the Central Africa Republic to bolster international efforts to halt escalating violence between Christian and Muslim militias.

Pope calls hunger 'global scandal,' urges changes

POPE Francis denounced the "global scandal" of hunger on Monday, calling for an international "wave of prayer" to bring attention to the plight of the needy and homeless.

"We are in front of a global scandal of around one billion – one billion people who still suffer from hunger today," he said in a video message.

Fully furnished

World honors Mandela

By Stella Mapenzauswa and David Dolan

WORLD leaders from US President Barack Obama to Cuba's Raul Castro joined thousands of South Africans to honor Nelson Mandela on Tuesday in a memorial that celebrated his gift for bringing enemies together across political and racial divides.

Mr Obama's plane, carrying the US leader and former president George W Bush and their wives Michelle and Laura, touched down at Waterkloof airport as singing, dancing South Africans made their way in the rain to the Johannesburg football stadium where the homage to Mr Mandela was held.

Mr Obama and Mr Castro, whose countries maintain an ideological enmity lasting more than 50 years, were among the designated orators at the Soccer City stadium where 23 years earlier Mr Mandela – freshly freed from apartheid jail – was hailed by cheering supporters as the hope for a new South Africa.

Coinciding with UN-designated Human Rights Day, the memorial service for Mandela in the 95,000-seat Soccer City stadium was the centerpiece of a week of mourning for the globally admired statesman, who died last Thursday aged 95.

Despite the rain, the atmosphere inside the stadium was celebratory, with people dancing, blowing vuvuzela and singing songs from the anti-apartheid struggle.

"I was here in 1990 when Mandela was freed and I am here again to say goodbye," said Beauty Pule, 51, one of the grow-



People started singing as they arrived for a mass memorial for Nelson Mandela (pictured). Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE WORLD

ing crowd in the stadium to pay her respects to Mr Mandela. "I am sure Mandela was proud of the South Africa he helped create. It's not perfect but no-one is perfect, and we have made great strides."

The memorial event paid tribute to a life of imprisonment and political struggle that ended in triumph and consecrated Mr Mandela as a global symbol of integrity and forgiveness.

The fact that the visiting leaders – more than 90 were expected – included some from nations still locked in antagonism, such as Cuba and the United States, added resonance to the homage paid at the gigantic bowl-shaped stadium, the venue of the 2010 World Cup final

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair both attended. Mr Blair has called Mr Mugabe a dictator who should have been removed from power. Mr Mugabe has called Mr Blair an imperialist and once told him to "go to hell".

Such antagonisms were put on mute on Tuesday as the life of someone who put his faith in reconciliation into practice to unite a multi-racial nation is remembered.

"What he did in life, that's what he's doing in death. He's bringing people together from all walks of life, from the different sides of opinion, political belief, religion," Zelda la Grange, Mr Mandela's former personal assistant, told Reuters.

Mr Mandela will be buried on Sunday, December 15, in Qunu, his ancestral home in the rolling, windswept hills of the Eastern Cape province, 700km south of Johannesburg.

Only a few world leaders are due to attend the Qunu ceremony, which is likely to be a more intimate family affair. - **Reuters**



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North Korea's 'reign of terror' sets South's leaders on guard

NORTH Korea is engaged in a purge amounting to a "reign of terror" that has claimed the scalp of the country's second most powerful man and risks further damaging relations with the South, President Park Geun-hye said on Tuesday.

Mrs Park took office in Seoul earlier this year as North Korea conducted its third nuclear test, provoking worldwide condemnation, and threatened to engulf its southern neighbor and its ally, the United States, in a war. The isolated state shelled a South Korean island in 2010 and is widely believed to have sunk a South Korean naval vessel in the same year.

"North Korea is currently carrying out a reign of terror, undertaking a large-scale purge in order to strengthen Kim Jong Un's power," Mrs Park told a cabinet meeting, part of which was broadcast on television.

"From now on, South-North Korea relations may become more unstable."

In her usually carefully scripted manner, the president called for



Jang Song Thaek (circled) was dismissed from his posts. Photo: Reuters

vigilance to safeguard the achievements of the wealthy south.

"In times like these, I think it is a nation's duty and politicians' job to keep people safe and free democracy strong," she told the meeting.

State media on Monday said Jang Song Thaek, the uncle of North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un, had been dismissed from his posts for "criminal acts" ranging from corruption and leading a "dissolute and depraved life". Television in the tightly controlled and impoverished state showed him being frogmarched by uniformed personnel out of a meeting of the ruling Workers' Party.

Associates of Mr Jang are believed to have been executed in the purge of a man once viewed as a regent for Kim Jong Un, aged about 30 and the third of his family dynasty to run the country.

- Reuters

An invitation to Sleep With Me

A NEWCOMER to the island's hotel industry, "SLEEP WITH ME Design Hotel @ Patong" is comprised of 258 guest and suite rooms, overlooking the highrises of Patong Bay. Located in the heart of Patong, close to Jungceylon Shopping Center, "Bangla"

Road" walking street and only a three minute walk to the beach, the hotel offers modern facilities, personal service and international standards of comfort. However, the hotel has its own individual character while reflecting the local flavor. Rooms are designed with the diverse needs of today's world traveller in mind. Whether they are business, leisure, families, groups, or couples, they will find the details and amenities are suited for everyone.

The *Gazette* spoke with GM Sittichai Tanakorncharoen as he busily prepared the hotel for the upcoming high season.

How has the initial response been?



Sittichai Tanakorncharoen

We have been taking reservations since October this year and the feedback from our guests is very good. We also have very positive feedback from social media and all channels where we advertise our hotel, and best of all, the hotel is already

almost fully booked over the new year period.

What is the concept of the hotel?

We would like to make this branch a model for future hotels by the SLEEP WITH ME group. That's why we are trying to bring modern hotel design concepts with high technology equipment and facilities to ensure we manage the hotel efficiently for the convenience of our guests and staff. We are also guided by the concept of environmental responsibility at the same time.

What was the thinking behind the hotel's humorous name?

Well, "SLEEP WITH ME" Hotel may sound a bit funny, a bit

strange, a bit sexy, even a bit naughty... or just normal, we leave it up to our guests' imagination.

Is the hotel part of a group of hotels, or have the owners had a history in the business?

Our owner, Khun Theerapan Choprasertchok, became interested in the hotel business after developing his immovable property business, Baycliff Co Ltd. That is how the project started and I am responsible for the whole project and managing hotel operations. Our target is to expand our brand and to develop a portfolio of hotels in the future.

What type of guests are you aiming to attract?

We are mainly focusing on leisure guests, which are normally couples travelling. However, we also hope to get many MICE, corporate and airline guests as well.

What unique features does the hotel have that help it stand out from the competition?

We trust strongly in our sales, marketing and public relations structure, as well as our year-



The hotel is centrally located in Patong. Photo: Supplied

round flexibility. I believe that all these will help us remain a successful business no matter what the economic conditions.

Tell me a bit about the design and furnishing of the hotel, what themes have influenced them? We have created a hotel 'story' to make us different as well as an attractive hotel design and unique theme colors that we selected to build up brand awareness. We also use the sheep mascot to link us to our guests to make their stay more memorable in order to encourage them to return.

Please tell me about the dining options at the hotel?

Because of the large number of rooms, we expect to have about 500 people a day, so we also see how important it is to our guests to have multiple dining options

during their stay. With this in mind, we decided to build five different theme restaurants which are: 'SMILE WITH ME' lobby bar; 'SABAI WITH ME' all-day dining; 'SWAY WITH ME' garden restaurant and bar; 'SWING WITH ME' the chill out bar; and 'SANOOK WITH ME' pool bar and sky lounge.

How many staff do you employ? We have about 200 staff members who we selected for their positive attitude and thinking.

Why this location?

Well, its proximity to Patong's most popular facilities such as Jungceylon Shopping Center, Bangla Walking Street and Patong Beach. I think these would be the most attractive reasons for our guests to choose to stay with us.

- Phuket Gazette



A case of tech-induced nostalgia

Phuket's 'Property Insider' waxes philosophical on the decline of libraries and the endangered printed word

IT'S festive time in the US, which is where I am, hacking out this column

springs to mind.

Property Watch By Bill Barnett

the metal and speed down a straightaway. Turns are for the indecisive or

caught in the joys of the holiday season. Or perhaps not. Having spent three days here since taking the great plane trip over the ocean, my mind calculates the time-line as some thirtyeight hours. But who's counting? The short and sweet "me"

What has been so annoying is walking into restaurants, coffee shops and stores or about

anywhere, and having to sit through the scripted offering? Do I want to save \$10 dollars today by applying for a credit card, or donate books to children some where in the third world or what is my zip code? The latter always tends to have me looking downtown to make sure things are tucked away correctly.

All I really want to do is order, pay and leave with the minimum amount of plastic glee. But I, once again as is the case all too often, inserted a left turn while wishing to instead put the pedal to

burned-out-early types.

"Boys, we are steering clear back on course," comes a chorus from my inner shipmates. So back we go. Suddenly the name Phelps springs to mind - Jim Phelps from Mission Impossible. In the original television series, before Tom Cruise came along, each episode would start out with the message that would be destroyed once relayed to Phelps who com-

manded a small but lively band of secret agents.

Immediately after playing, the device would self-destruct. In the old days of spying when coded messages where the norm, the standing instruction was to burn after reading. Get rid of the evidence or else take one of those small suicide pills in case the enemy captured you.

Strange how memories of the Cold War still linger around like a former childhood friend on Facebook.

My mission today took an absolutely freaky turn and I



HISTORICAL: At least the ruins of ancient libraries are still cherished. Above: Ephesus Celsus Photo: Benh LIEU SONG

have ended up in a public library. With a bit of time on my hands and a twinge of nostalgia, the lure to visit a public library was too hard to resist. Plus, its location is a historical building so not only an earning of karma bullets but my selfesteem and bloated regard for a superior intelligence could be ramped up. Call Socrates, tell him to meet me after for a wrapup espresso.

It's been far, far longer than I can recall since I stepped foot into one of these lounges of learning. Growing up, my rabid hatred of school was thankfully offset by a lust for spending days or weeks going from section to section in the library devouring books.

These days, I wondered: had the hallways remained relevant? Passing through the doors was similar to a trip down a memory well. Sure it was dusty but rich with

an echo of days long past. Once inside, it seemed I had never left.

Yet, as I passed through the rooms, walkways and areas, a fear crept into my heart. Things turned for the worst and a dread that cannot be spoken about found a new home on my lips and in my head.

Where was everyone? This was only a temporary seizure and as I came into the main library a scene out of Starbucks confronted me. Tables were lined with folks, old, young and in-between staring into their laptops or smartphones. Not a single book appeared on any table.

So this is the library in a tech world gone mad. Yes, there was free Wi-Fi and the shelves were heavily laden, yet whatever was happening in the library these days, was on a screen and didn't involve turning paper pages. Disappointed, I retreated to a nearby mall and a Barnes and Noble mega bookstore.

Certainly this had to be a shoein or a dead ringer. Bingo, in my absence two main sections of the store had been turned into a Nook corner which kind of resembled an Apple shop together with droned out people asking canned question and on the other side a Starbucks franchised to the book chain. Over half the space that used to be dedicated to books was now tech and caffeine. Mind you I consume heaps of these.

I'm not quite sure about the fate of the library rolling into future decades, maybe it's up there in the iCloud with Jesus and Steve Jobs and Elvis. While memories and institutions fade over time, it's good to see that books remain a life force but an electronic one at that. Jim Phelps, wherever you are, please call home.





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Scenic, cliff-top resort in Patong renovated, rebranded

CENTARA Hotels & Resorts has acquired the management contract for The Blue Marine Resort & Spa Phuket, and will assume management from January 5, 2014.

Located on the cliff at the northern end of Patong Beach, the resort is owned by Patong Cliff View Co Ltd, and will temporarily be renamed as "The Blue Marine Resort & Spa Phuket managed by Centara Hotels & Resorts".

A renovation program was recently carried out, completed in October last year, and further renovations will now be undertaken to harmonize the property with Centara's four-star Hotels & Resorts core brand.

Following completion of this renovation, which is projected for October 15, 2014, the resort will be rebranded as Centara Blue Marine Resort & Spa Phuket.

"We are pleased and proud to be announcing that The Blue Marine Resort & Spa is to join the Centara portfolio," says Thirayuth Chirathivat, chief executive officer of Centara Hotels & Resorts.

"This will bring to nine the total number of Centara properties on the island, which illustrates the enormous confidence we have in Phuket, one of the most famous holiday destinations in the world."

The Blue Marine Resort & Spa features panoramic views from its cliff-top location, and is backed by a green forest on the hillside.

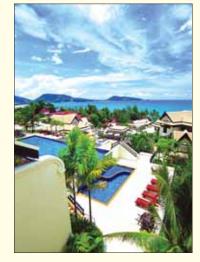
"We are delighted to be adding a further superb resort property to our Phuket portfolio," says Chris Bailey, senior vice president for sales and marketing at Centara Hotels & Resorts.

'This means we are entering the New Year with another very powerful addition to our marketing strategy in the south of Thailand, and broadening our appeal to travellers by adding a four-star resort to Patong Beach, one of the island's premier des-

Accommodation at the resort is a mix of rooms, suites and villas, the latter offering a choice of one and two bedrooms, with each having its own private pool. There are three swimming pools, plus two pools for children. Other leisure facilities include a spa, fitness center, and a kids' club.

The restaurants include Blue Pacific, which serves international cuisine, and Tub-Tim, which serves Royal Thai cuisine. Extensive meeting facilities are included, with the Mediterranean Room able to hold a maximum of 180 guests for cocktails, and the Caribbean Ballroom 90 guests.

- Phuket Gazette



The resort features panoramic views from a cliff-top location.

Centara anticipates tougher times ahead

THE insight, influence and impact that the Bangkok-headquartered Central Group employs and exerts across nearly every sector of Phuket is undeniable. The group's interests encompass retail, infrastructure, construction, real estate, and especially hospitality – through its flagship hotel chain Centara Hotels and Resorts (CHR).

The Gazette recently caught up with CHR Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing Chris Bailey to discuss the leading conglomerate's view, outlook and plans for the island in the near-future

In addition to the Blue Marine rebranding project (see story above) in Patong, are there any other projects Centara is undertaking in/around Phuket?

We plan to open Centara Bangtao Resort Phuket, which is a new-build project that will stand on 1.6 acres of land. Currently in the design and planning stages, construction will begin in July 2014 and the resort will be opened in the third quarter of 2016.

The resort will have 150 rooms, with a swimming pool and sundeck. There will be one restaurant, a Cense by Spa Cenvaree, a minigym, a business corner and a kids' corner. Centara hotels are designed to deliver the Centara style of service with quality accommodation and facilities, but without facilities that may be superfluous to guest



Despite breathtaking views like this one at the Blue Marine Resort and Spa, Phuket's hospitality sector may see declined occupancy. Photos: Supplied

How would you describe the past and current positioning/segmenting of the Centara brand, especially in respect to the Phuket market and related economic fac-

Centara adopts a mixed market policy with all its properties; in other words, we do not want to be focused and target on any single market, however strong, as it can be a very dangerous strategy if situations change.

Blue Marine will be no different and will target European, Australian, Russian/CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States], South Asian, Chinese, regional markets and of course domestic, which is and will remain a very important market for

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Email:

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siamint@loxinfo.co.th

Centara; our new alignment with the Central Group, and the "1 Card" loyalty program, will form a major part of our strategy to attract more domestic guests to all properties in 2014.

This [mixed market policy] is supported by our 18 global sales locations within the group. Actually, for economic issues, we are starting to see some positive changes, especially in the UK and Europe but still expect guests to remain valueconscience when it comes to selection of a resort. Our domestic advertising and promotion will also see significant increases. That said, it [advertising and promotion] will not replace international distribution, but complement it as our growth in inventory means we have considerably more rooms to fill in 2014.

of Phuket's hospitality sector? Where is the market now and where do you see it heading in the next 1-5 years?

For Phuket in general, I do believe there will be tougher times ahead. Traditional mature markets are giving clear signals that they do not like what they see happening on the island and are starting to move more guests to other locations, especially in the South like Khao Lak, Krabi and Koh Lanta. Currently this inventory [of rooms in Phuket and vicinity] is being filled with the fast growing newer



A British national, Chris Bailey has a wealth of experience gained from almost 30 years in the travel and tourism industry. His knowledge of the Asian markets has been gained from a variety of roles and positions, including Managing Director of Tour East Thailand and Hong Kong, and Vice President for Marketing and Sales of Sun Cruises. He has also been Marketing and Sales Director for the UK division of Norwegian Cruise Lines and Orient Lines, responsible for the UK, Europe, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand markets, and has held senior management positions with UK long-haul specialist tour operators including Saga Holidays, Tradewinds and Colours of Asia.

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markets from China and Russia.

Indeed most of the growth in 2013 hails from these two specific markets. However, even these two markets are sending signals to the destination for a need to control product, experience and safety. The hope is the destination as a whole understands and accepts these signals and acts upon them now, rather than be wrapped up in current volumes and success.

The Phuket industry needs to be a long-term player; globally, we see the industry littered with destinations that have lost their market by not understanding that customers are not a god-given right, regardless of what you do to them. That said, I see shifting market volumes, shorter stays overall and an experience-driven customer, rather than those just looking for beach and sun exclusively. – *Phuket Gazette*

One more challenge for MacCormack

By Maciek Klimowicz

FROM a race track to a company board room – seems like change of pace for a world class athlete. But Chris McCormack proves otherwise. The same passion that let him win over 200 triathlons is about to help him achieve his goals as the new Executive Chairman of Thanyapura.

He is certainly not a newcomer to the world of business and finance though: "I graduated from a university with a Bachelor of Commerce degree with majors in marketing and accounting. I took a job straight out of that university at Banker's Trust, I was heading straight into international finance," he told the Gazette in an exclusive interview.

It took Macca a few months to realize that he wanted more from life than just more money.

"After about six or seven

months of working in international finance, I hated it. I just felt I was very young, and I hadn't travelled. So I decided one day that I would quit my job, sell everything I had and take my bike, swimming goggles and running shoes and try and do races around the world," he recalls.

The next few years made the Macca we know today - a world class athlete, a permanent winner striving to achieve perfection in the water, on the bike and on the running track. But even now, after years of sporting career acheivments, McCormack is grateful to his parents for making him study hard. "It's been the biggest blessing I've ever had. I'm a lot more analytical and I think that's my biggest strength."

Macca believes that the things he learned while competing in triathlons might add to the success of his work at Thanyapura, as much as his education and experience in the world of finance.

"I think my greatest strength has been putting great people around me and empowering them to give the best they can do. My success on the sporting field is without question due my lack of arrogance, my realization that I don't know everything. The worst thing you can have is a leader who thinks he knows everything... And I think great leaders pick the path, and they lead and empower the people below them."

But there is one more quality McCormack developed as an athlete that will help him succeed at Thanyapura – competitiveness, a desire to win.

"I'm a winner and a sore loser. Sport is simple, there is one objective – to win. In the professional world, any athlete is there to win. Winning in business is not crossing a line first. Winning is understanding where this machine wants to go and making it get there. And when you get there, you ask yourself a question 'is this where we want to be?' and if it's not, you reassess and figure out where you want to be and get there."

So what is the path for Thanyapura according to Mc-Cormack? "I came here to Phuket as a professional athlete. I was staying down at Laguna and I'd never heard of Thanyapura. I was fortunate enough to meet people who trained here, they brought me here and I was absolutely blown away by all the facilities. And not just the sporting facilities, but the backup facilities all in one spot, with a training environment sec-



Business education plus sports motivation is Macca's recepie for success.

ond to none."

"I was then introduced to Thanyapura's founder Klaus Hebben and I said 'Look, Klaus, how didn't I know about this place? I am your market!' I took out my phone and and typed in 'swimming' and 'Phuket' into Google and Thanyapura didn't even come up! And I know people around the world are stinging for a center like this. We need to get the message out! There's a market out there that's enormous."

But even with all the marketing talk – the goals, the PR – Macca is still an athlete.

"I'm on the start line of another race, I'm going to work out ways to get there and there's going to be some things we fail at. But the ultimate end game for us is to win. Winning, for me, is seeing people utilizing this center.

"Triathlon has given me my life and I wouldn't trade it for anything. This is the best lifestyle you can possibly have. I don't care if being a corporate banker would've made me more money. So that's how I want my success to be measured, by seeing people utilizing this center and enjoying life."



Thanyapura has world class facilites, Macca is here to let the world know.

Land Rover eyeing up Phul aguar I

exploring Phuket as one of several key upcountry markets to open an official dealership in the near future, an executive of the Thai authorized dealership confirmed.

Speaking to the Gazette at the awards ceremony for the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, an event which Land Rover is a key sponsor (see story on page 34), Major Mom Ratchawong Biranubongse Bhanubandh, representing Prestige Motorcars, said, "We have plans to open dealerships in different parts of Thailand – Chiang Mai, Pattaya and hopefully Phuket as well."

Mr Biranubongse explained that Land Rover is woven into the history of the island: "The first few cars that were able to travel to the deeper South were all Range Rover cars." A dealership in Phuket may very well be an inevitability.

Indeed, Phuket represents an area of important focus for the premium car maker with a growing population of affluent Thai and foreign residents. Jaguar Land

JAGUAR Land Rover Thailand is Rover has a range of vehicles that are particularly suited to the Phuket market; the newly launched All-New Range Rover Sport delivers amazing levels of acceleration and stability on all terrains, and is ideally suited to sand, gravel, standing water and broken tarmac typically found on island roads, while Jaguar's "looks fast, feels fast, is fast" sports car, the F-TYPE, is designed to offer exploitable performance and open-top thrills on scenic and twisting roads.

Jaguar Land Rover customers in Thailand are supported with sales and service provided by City Automobiles, Jaguar Land Rover's authorized distributor and service agent. City Automobiles recently completed successful launches in Thailand of the Jaguar F-TYPE and all-new Range Rover Sport; both sector-leading vehicles in two distinct luxury-sports vehicle classes. The company has made a solid commitment to customers in Thailand, and stands ready to support Jaguar Land Rover's own



Prestige Motorcars representative, Major Mom Ratchawong Biranubongse Bhanubandh with a new Range Rover. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

commitment to growing its brand says MR Biranubongse. in the country.

Jaguar Land Rover's commitment also extends to their support of the sport of sailing in Thailand. "This year we are not only sponsoring the King's Cup, all of the major sailing events in Thailand are sponsored by Jaguar Range Rover,"

MR Biranubongse was a competitor in this year's King's Cup Regatta and has every intention of not only continuing his participation, but to ensure the on-going support from Jaguar Land Rover.

- Phuket Gazette



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Mixing danger

THE recent claim of drink spiking by a young British tourist who survived a two-storey fall from her Patong hotel room is just the latest in a long string of similar accusations by foreign tourists, the vast majority of which go unreported.

Reliable sources in several units of the local Tourist Police have over the years said that claims of drink spiking are very common in the island's nightlife entertainment districts, especially Patong. Such claims, whether true or not, tend to be sensationally reported in the international media and cast yet another pall over the island's reputation as a safe, cosmopolitan party hub — especially when the alleged victim is an attractive young Caucasian tourist.

The case of 21-year-old Romany Mitchell [see news pages] ended far better than many that had come before. Injuries sustained in her fall, which allegedly resulted from trying to escape an assault by an unspecified assailant, were not permanently debilitating and she was released from hospital on crutches about 10 days later.

Unfortunately, her withdrawal of a police complaint over the incident has ended yet another investigation that could have shed some much-needed light onto the murky subject of drink spiking in Patong. The most recent case reported to conclusion was in 2011, when a gang of bar girls used drink spiking to rob tourists, apparently targeting middle-aged men. They were charged with illegal possession of prescription drugs.

Though these women confirmed that they had robbed many tourists by dumping drug cocktails into their victim's drink, it is probable that the vast majority of claims related to drink spiking are fabricated by people who, either consciously or subconsciously, seek to distance themselves from responsibility for their own actions while under the influence of alcohol.

It is a convenient, albeit unimaginative way of shifting blame from oneself onto some nebulous scapegoat that can never be questioned, pinned down or held to any level of accountability. More often than not, reports of such claims surface in the international media when the alleged victim is young, female, and in the Phuket context, "farang".

But with all these considerations in mind, and with the presumption that local police will struggle to battle against such slippery crime, there remains one very simple way of limiting the possible recurrence of such incidents: better enforcement of existing laws that forbid the sale of benzodiazepine drugs such as Xanax and Valium, which despite being classed as Category V restricted drugs are still openly sold over the counter at many pharmacies on the west coast.

These are the drugs commonly implicated in cases of drink spiking and date rape, yet authorities continue to look the other way, even though Patong has developed a well-entrenched reputation internationally as a place to stock up on dangerous, psychoactive pharmaceuticals.

Phuket Gazette

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Bruised and battered Patong streets

Now the high season has started and as usual in Patong, so have the road works. There are traffic jams down Rat-U-Tit 200 Pee Road and traffic colliding at the junction between the beach road and the coast road from Kamala. The new road, "Soi Dirty" – oh sorry it is now at least four years old – is still a quagmire and is closed at different points along the muddy way. And when, oh when, will the sensible reverse of the one-way system be implemented?

I hate to think what holiday makers and other visitors take back with them, when they leave this "Island Of Smiles": awful traffic, disgraceful pit-ridden roads, inadequate beachfront parking and expensive tuk-tuks and taxis. Even Singapore with its large air-conditioned taxis and very expensive fuel taxes can operate cheaper rates than Phuket.

Hats off to the Governor and the police chiefs for trying to control the tuk-tuks, car hire companies and taxis from taking up too many parking spaces, but maybe they should also push for completed roads and a revision of the one-way system.

Uncle Roy Kamala

Protesters are contra free choice...

Re: Gazette online, No arrests for work permit delays caused by protests, December 4

The current prime minister was chosen in a democratic election. If an election were held tomorrow, the results would be the same.

Suthep wants to exclude millions of people from voting for anything. Would you like to see your government constructed through appointments? That would mean losing your freedom and your right to choose. Many people hate Obama, but he was elected.

Capealava Gazette forum



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

...no, they just want Thaksin out...

Re: Gazette online, No arrests for work permit delays caused by protests, December 4

I'm glad they closed the office. I agree wholeheartedly that the Thaksin Regime has to go if Thailand is ever to have a chance at peace. Let's put the big picture well on top of the little anecdotal matters such as our work permits, which really don't matter much in the overall scheme of things.

Andrew Bausted Gazette forum

...they should focus on Phuket problems

Re: Gazette online, Phuket protesters promise not to target airport, bus station, December 2

Better if this crowd demanded to close all illegal businesses along Bangla Road and call on police to start doing their job. They only make noise going around the island.

> Slava Gazette forum

When being wired isn't an advantage

A long line of huge power poles have been erected from Chalong to Kata where underground wires would have been so much better.

One of the best views of the sea off Kata used to be as one drove down the hill from Chalong into Kata. Now there is a veritable forest of poles and wires obscuring the view.

Phuket depends on tourism. Tourists hate to see wires which make Phuket ugly. It is common sense. If Phuket wants tourists, they must get rid of the wires and poles, especially in scenic areas

The Admiral Kata

Good service from the government

In general, I think government services have become better over the past 20 years.

The main problem is the huge number of people trying to use these services, of which government hospitals may be the most obvious.

If you approach a government office with a positive attitude and politeness, you will probably get good service, as long as you are able to wait patiently in the queue.

> Glen Dunkley Facebook

Impressive cops

Re: Gazette online, Colombians, Mexican arrested in Bangkok for Phuket ATM robbery, December 9

I'm impressed that the police managed to track down the ATM thieves so quickly.

I wish the cops could catch Khun Jintana's killers, or the goldshop shooter. But it's probably easier to catch foreigners, since we leave a paper trail.

> Marni Thalang

Van safety first

Re: Gazette online, Phuket visarun van crashes in Malaysia, December 9

This is one industry where advertising with low prices won't be as effective as advertising good safety rates.

Sue Rawai

When democracy requires protest

First PERSON

THAILAND'S political crisis began with protests last month against a proposed blanket amnesty that would have exonerated former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was forced out by a military coup in 2006 and later found guilty of corruption. The government, led by the current prime minister, Yingluck Shinawatra – Thaksin's sister, has stood its ground. The latest round of brinkmanship is unlikely to be the last, as Thailand tries to find a new balance between competing sources of elected and unelected political legitimacy.

Suthep Thaugsuban, a veteran Democrat party MP who resigned to spearhead the protests, has publicly indicated that the protesters' goal is to replace Yingluck with a "people's government" and to elevate the role of the monarchy in Thailand's electoral democracy. The protesters are fed up with the electoral system and the money politics that lubricates and underpins Thai democracy. Exemplified by Thaksin, unscrupulous politicians buy their way to success at the polls and then recoup their "electoral investments" with a hefty profit from corruption when

Suthep's supporters, comprising roughly two-fifths of the active electorate, want to abandon electoral democracy in favor of unelected figures of integrity and moral authority. They have been calling for "good people" to run Thailand's government and chart



Thitinan Pongsudhirak is a political science professor and Director of the Institute of Security and International Studies at Chulalongkorn University. He has a PhD from the London School of Economics and an MA from Johns Hopkins University, and from 1998 to 2005, worked at the Economist Intelligence Unit.

Here, he explains the recent Thai protests as a battle between those wanting elected leaders – even corrupt ones - and those wanting unelected, but truthworthy technocrats.

its future direction.

Thailand is going through a critical test of its electoral democracy, of how to have sufficient checks for an acceptable balance. While the electoral side of the Thai divide enjoys popular legitimacy and international credibility, the non-elected side emphasizes integrity, morality and a sense of noblesse oblige. An elected politician who can move Thailand forward in spite of corruption which is seen as common and unavoidable – is the preference of the Thaksin-Yingluck supporters. An unelected and incorruptible technocrat with policy expertise working tirelessly for the common good is the ideal leader for the anti-government protesters on Bangkok's streets.

In the future, the forces of elected power will have to show more integrity and policy-making skill. They will need to bolster the trust of voters and avoid abuses of power. The forces of appointed

and unelected authority will have to come up with electoral legitimacy and policy delivery to cater to the vast majority of the electorate. They need to at least have a chance at triumphing at the polls.

This means Thaksin-Yingluck's Pheu Thai party will have to be more attentive to the grievances of the electoral minority, whereas the opposition Democrat party will need a complete overhaul of its leadership and policy ideas to have a chance of winning after a 20year hiatus. And smaller parties will need to be promoted to bring a more level electoral playing field.

Thailand's latest bout of political crisis is a major improvement on recent years. The military has not intervened, the airport is unlikely to be shut again, and the judiciary has not disbanded a ruling party.

Thailand must build on this progress as it grapples with the right mix of elected sources of power and unelected centers of moral authority.



Parking, especially at the airport, requires creativity. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

Seduced by parking

I DIDN'T know what the Thai Watsadu superstore in Thalang sold when I pulled into the parking lot over the weekend, but I wasn't there to shop in any case. I went just to enjoy the parking lot, which I had admired from the road. It's completely covered, offering protection rain or shine, and very well laid out.

That I could be lured by a parking lot says something about the state of parking in Phuket.

One of the first things I had to do as a new driver on the island was get over my reticence to park unconventionally. My Thai friends guided me.

Of yellow and white striped curbs, one smilingly said, "That means parking is up to you!"

Another, spying a metal barrier reserving a space in front of a shop in Phuket Town, ordered me to jump out and move it so we could take the spot. "It's fine!" she shouted.

When a security guard told a third friend that we had parked in a no-parking zone, she responded that we'd just be a minute, when in fact we were on our way to lunch.

Over time, I've developed my own solutions to the parking challenges here. Everyone knows that the HomeWorks lot is an alternative to the claustrophobic underbelly of Central Festival, but how many have thought of parking behind Big C and walking over?

Island View

By Leslie Porterfield

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

At the airport, I go to the row nearest the street, find one of the ever-friendly security guards stationed there, and ask where to park. They're invariably helpful and once one jumped on a motorbike to lead me to a spot. A double-parking spot, of course. Taxis and tour vans occupy the preponderance of the actual spots.

Even where spaces are relatively easy to find, hidden obstacles may await. I scraped a friend's new car as I was parallel parking in Phuket Town. Î didn't see the power pole protruding into the street.

Parking lots tend to be unsightly and environmentally unhealthy, but in Phuket, they have a strange allure.

I didn't buy anything at Thai Watsadu that day, but I went inside, and next time I need a 100-gallon water tank, a Jacuzzi or just cleaning supplies, I may very well swing by, secure in the knowledge that I'll find a cool spot to park my car.

The photo run last week was of the Phuket Airport Express, and not the 'hero' of the story, the Airport Bus. The error is regretted.

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

Letting light shine on dark island areas

IT MAY have taken years and a few lives, but thankfully brightwhite street lamps were installed along the west side of Wichit Songkram Road, just past Kathu and is very hilly. Wittaya School.

Will more lights be installed at other notorious "black spots" across Phuket? If so, where and when?

Flying Blind, Kathu

Samak Luedwonghad, Phuket Highways Office director, replies:

Yes, there are plans in motion to rid the island of "black spots". We expect to have the road system of the entire island completely lit within three years.

We have already had a 30-million-baht budget approved to install

about 20 street lamps along a stretch of dark road between Patong and Karon. We expect to start construction on this project in February.

We are pushing to have this section of road done first, as it connects major tourist centers.

We are also in the process of moving forward with plans to illuminate an unlit section of road between Muang Thong Intersection and Cape Panwa, as well as parts of Srisoonthorn Road.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/ **IssuesAnswers**

Unhappy consumers fighting back

I HAD a fiberglass pool made for my villa in Kalim but it has been leaking from the start. The pool company has tried many things but has not yet succeeded in finding and repairing the leak. We have had the problem for more than six months and now it seems like the pool company has given up – they don't return emails or phone calls. What are my legal options?

> Mr Leak Kalim

The International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd. replies:

Consumer protection law governs every purchase you make, every advertisement you see and every service you order. It may be the law that most directly affects our day-to-day lives, yet few know of its ability to protect us.

Briefly stated, the consumer

core rights: the right to be informed, to be able to choose, to be safe, to have access to redress and to have fair contract terms.

The right to redress, in general, allows a consumer who purchased a faulty product or service to either lodge a complaint with the Consumer Protection Board or directly to the competent court in order to recover damages against business operators.

In seeking redress, one must be mindful of time limitations, as filing too late could prevent the consumer from recovering dam-

Sections 474, 600 and 601 of the Civil and Commercial Codes state that unless agreed otherwise, claims for defects against a business operator must be made within one year of the delivery of the

protection law is based on five work. The time limitation is five years for structures on land other than wooden buildings, but claims must be filed within a year after the defect appears.



What to do when excuses don't hold water. Photo: Roy Luck

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YOUR Phuket

PHUKET PARTICIPATES IN THE CELEBRATION OF HM KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ'S 86TH BIRTHDAY



The Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket team, led by Natalie Kamolwattanasoontorn (third from right), recently participated in the celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 86th birthday.



The Amari Phuket team led by Director of Human Resources Ms Rinrapat Puwanutchotchai, recently participated in the celebration of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 86th birthday.



The Kee Resort and Spa team also participated the celebration His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 86th birthday.

CULINARY FESTIVAL



Founder and Chairman of Minor International PCL, which owns Anatara Resort and Spa, Mr William E Heinecke (third from left) poses with top chefs and staff members during the North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival seafood extravaganza dinner at Anatara.

GRAND OPENNING PHUNAWA RESORT KARON



(From left): General Manager of Phuket Gazette Natthira Susangrat; Managing Director of Phunawa Resort Karon Stefan Hermansson; Executive Assistant Manager of Phunawa Resort Karon Janya Nakvijit; and Director of Phunawa Resort Karon Haris Boonsop.



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December 14 - 20, 2013 | PhuketGazette.Net



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







All Property, Boat and Business Ads are



your assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.
 Gazette Classifieds – they work! Because they're REAL.

Property Classifieds

Properties For Sale

Land for sale Khlong Muang, Krabi

Beachfront Near Sofitel 13-2-06 Rai 30 MB./Rai

Prime land on mountain, seaview close to Sofitel 12-2-20 Rai, 2.5 MB./Rai

Tel: 081-921 5981

TOWNHOUSE FOR SALE



50sq wah, 3 storey, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, balcony. Convenient for restaurants with too many car parking. Sale by owner. Price 13 million baht. Tel: 087-2709093.

LAND FOR SALE LAYAN

11 rai, beautiful flat land, Chanote. Near beach. 3.9 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-927 4027 (English), 089-813 1447 (Thai). Email: atrennie@yahoo.com

600,000 BAHT KAMALA

Leasehold hotel room, 2 pools, jacuzzi, 29sqm, no kitchen, 16.5 years left. Tel: 084-716 0502.

LAND NEAR KATA **CENTER**

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

LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

Location: Amphur Phanom, Suratthani, near Khao Sok National Park.

-Land: 120 rai + rubber plantation, 8 years old. 6 million baht.



- House: 1-rai area, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. 1.9 million baht. Tel: 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

LAND FOR SALE

1 rai + 81sq wah, 192sqm, Rawai, Soi Salika. Ready to build. Tel: 089-645 5049.

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.

-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.

-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.

-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.

Contact Vutdy. Tel: 081-892

LAND IN LAYAN



Sale 18-2-61 rai. Chanote or subdivide in smaller plot, road, electricity, lake. Please call 081-787 4383 (English), 081-968 3549 (Thai).

BEAUTIFUL, CLASSY VILLA KARON

This very beautiful modern villa has it all - sparkling saltwater pool, 3 huge bedrooms, 4 baths, maid quarters. Fully furnished, secure estate close to the beach. G4S alarm system. Relax and enjoy all the hard work that has been done. A must see. Tel: 081-719 4688, 085-237 1366 (English). Email: elbej@hotmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

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

CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



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

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

NEW HOUSE FOR SALE. CHEAP PRICE



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

HABITOWN, **KOH KAEW**

115sqm, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, includes built-in furniture, 2 floors. Resale down 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012. Email: gyb giff@yahoo.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

1 ngan, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5. Price: 2 million baht. For more information, please call 089-472 9118

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

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

CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

Natai Beach - Beachfront

20 minutes from Phuket Airport

10 MB. / Rai

Tel: 081-921 5981

Land for sale

Prime plot of Koh Yao Yai

Plot 1:

64 Rai, 3.2 MB./Rai

Plot 2:

71 Rai, 4 MB./Rai

Plot 3: 51 Rai, 6 MB./Rai

Koh Yao Noi

4-2-72 Rai, 18 MB.

Tel: 081-921 5981 Email: samxact@gmail.com

NEW CONDO: URGENT SALE/RENT



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



SEAVIEW

call 081-968 3549 (Thai). 081-787 4383 (English).

PRIVATE SALE OF HALFARAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. Please call 081-891 5932.089-0356702.

ONE RAI ON KOH YAO YAI

Beautiful island. 1.1 million baht. Chanote. 5 minutes to the pier. Tel: 081-892 8208.

HABITIA KOH KAEW



Modern style, Sino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approx. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500.000 baht. Tel: 087-270 9093.

All classifieds in these pages are



 vour assurance that whatever's advertised here is seriously for sale.

Gazette Classads - they work!because they're real.

Live in Cherng Talay?

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Chaba Supermarket Laguna gateway



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with Khun Na: (076-325586) or(081-3977307)

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!

Property Classifieds PHUKET GAZETTE

Properties For Sale

30 RAI IN TOWN

School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

HOUSE & FURNITURE

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

NAI HARN - UNIQUE THAISTYLE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms - 1km to Nai Harn Beach. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-081 9875 (English & Thai). Email: soundofmusic 999@yahoo.co.ukForfurtherdetails, please see our drop box at www.dropbox.com/sh/ixn 53lu67undl4e/uEaXCFm_I5

URGENT SALE/RENT



Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircons, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Near Sea Pearl Project Patong. Tel: 086-476 9612.

Condo in Patong for Sale/Rent



87 sqm. beautiful condo with bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee machine, toaster etc., bed sheets, towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. available from Nov 2013; 50K baht for 1 month, 35K baht/ month for 6 months and 28K baht/month for I year contract. CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

CHERNG TALAY LAND PLOTS

3,750 baht per square meter. Tel: 086-950 2707, +32-49-329 7948 (English & Thai). Email: datacenter50@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.zoutdesk.nl/

THE SANDS, NAI HARN

2-bed unit, ground floor, 150 sqm. A bargain at 6.6 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1951. Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

HOUSE IN PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR SALE



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

Private Home For Sale 21 Million Baht



Private home in Kathu on 650sqm. 2 storeys, 3 ensuite bedrooms, 1 office, 4 bathrooms. Spacious living/dining area with access to a large pool and Jacuzzi. The kitchen is fully fitted, the house is 85% furnished. 5-10 mins to shopping centers, Phuket Town, 4 golf courses, 15 mins to Patong. Security 24hrs. View online www.youtube.com: type in "pool house in Phuket". Viewing by appointment only. CALL 084-293 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT



In Thanapa Park View Village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner directly. Tel: 089-615 9719. Email: nana 1225@gmail.com

SEAVIEW VILLA IN TOWN FOR SALE

650sqm. 4 bedrooms, pool, near BIS. Price: 38 million baht. Email: jin_koy@yahoo.com

BEACHFRONT LAND

10 rai of land in Ao Yon. Fantastic sea views. 6 meters from beach. 40 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-895 0475 (English & Thai).

HOT! POOL VILLA



Large luxury 1-bedroom pool villa, high quality buit, change to 2 bedrooms, near Rawai Beach. Tel: 081-691 3029. Email: kris.silanachai@yahoo.

CONDOMINIUM PATONG LOFT

58sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Aircon, balcony, pool. 3rd floor, lift. Includes car (Ford Laser Tierra) and motorbike (Yamaha Nouvo). Leasehold 3x30 years. Price: 3.9 million baht approx. Tel: 081-893 2566 (English). Email: martin6@loxinfo.co.th

HOTEL 1KM FROM BEACH PATONG

24 rooms, nice, 500sqm land, pool, sea view, Chanote, freehold, 49 million baht. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc. residence@gmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR **SALE**



A high-quality built home at Sai Yuan Soi 9, only 5 minutes to Nai Harn & Rawai Beach, 2 bedrooms ensuite, 1 guest toilet, large living & relaxing garden with BBQ terrace. Only 8.5 million baht with built-in kitchen, 2 water heaters, 2 aircons, For more information, please call 086-319 8570 or send email to zsense.estates @gmail.com

ONLY 6.5MB

auto gate, 336sqm land. 135sqm house, easy

LAND 1KM FROM **BEACH KAMALA**

Nice, 700sqm Chanote, electricity and water supply, foreign neighbors. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 080-528 1536 (English & Thai). Email: nc.residence@ gmail.com

PALM BREEZE CONDO **FOR SALE**

Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Urgent sale: 6.xx million baht. No agents! Tel: 081-956 1077.

6-RAI LOVELY LAND -**PAKHLOK**

Mountain and valley views, build now or investment, very quiet area, 3 minutes to the Monument. Only 3.25 million baht per rai o.n.o. Tel: 081-894 5848 (English & Thai). Email: doburtay@yahoo.com

DOUBLE UNIT TOWNHOUSE

Two adjoining 2-storey Town Houses with total land area 240sqm. Currently 4 double bedrooms, 6 bathrooms and large living space. Only 2 kms from Tesco Lotus on Praphuket Road to Patong, and very close to Kajongkiet International School. For sale as a double unit or as 2 single houses. 6.9 million baht or very near offer. Private sale, no agents. Tel: 076-612836, 081-970 3526 (English), 081-676 2629 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-612836. Email: petersoffshore@hotmail.com

A Luxury Villa REDUCED to 42 MB. from 48 MB.

This villa sits on 1.8 rai in Kathu, comprising 1 main villa, 1 detached apartment, 1 leisure building, fitted kitchen, 5 ensuite bedrooms, 9 bathrooms Separate office/maids quarters. A large swimming pool and much more. 5-10 mins to shopping centers, Phuket Town, 4 golf courses, 15 mins to Patong. Secured by CCTV alarm system and electronically controlled gates. This villa has to be viewed to be appreciated. View online www.youtube.com: type in "big house in Phuket". Viewing by appointment only. CALL 084-29 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com



LAND CHANOTE PHUKET

1 to 5 rai, Sa Koo, 10 minutes south from airport. 5 minutes to beach. 3.5 million baht per rai. Tel: 087-076 6016. Email: kanchanajit09@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR SALE

Bang Tao, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, 350sqm land, Chanote. Please call after 5pm. Tel: 093-713 2278.

LAND FOR SALE **KATHU**

A residential "Land Block" measuring thirteen hundred and sixty square meters (1360sqm) approx. This land is sloping and has a wide frontage (30m). It represents excellent value for money 6.5 million baht. Nor Sor 3 Gor title. Tel: 081-719 6088. Email: info@gardenisland phuket.com

BEACH FRONT LAND

Land and house at Naka Island. 150sqm. Price: 1 x,xxx baht per sqm. Tel: 081-691 2446 (English). Email: wut@tarntaraspa.com

PRICE DROP

Pa Khlok house valued at 4.2 million baht by Siam Commercial Bank, reduced to 3.5 million baht, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 112sq wah. Please call 085-248 3462 for photo and details.

Classified Advertisements

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

|_|_|_|_| (heading)

Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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

Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

STYLIST HOUSE FOR RENT



Fully furnished 3-bedroom house for long-term rent in a gated community. Internal 230sqm & covered external 60sqm. Must see. Tel: 076-219892, 089-472 5834 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-219893. Email: charupan@yahoo.com

CONDO AT



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.

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

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

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, gym, cable TV, security, WiFi, maid, 54sqm studio, furnished. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkreal estate@aol.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, 46sqm studio, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@ yahoo.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA-RAWAI

3/4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 3-storey, fully furnished luxury pool villa in Rawai/Nai Harn. Available on January for long-term rental: 52,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-267 1282 (English). Email: david_rosa mond@yahoo.com

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAIHARN



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

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



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

rooms. Heritage Suites. 1 2-BED APARTMENT month: 25,000 baht + de-

140sqm furnished with 10sqm balcony, spacious sunken living / dining, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, full build-in Western kitchen, storeroom, European standard, quiet, full aircon, fast WiFi free, LCD. Satellite etc. Long term: 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-185 8536.

PATONG

PRIVATE POOL VILLA

3-bedroom private pool villa located minutes from the famed Laguna area. Available for christmas and new year period. Tel: 084-842 2262 (English & Thai). Email: lita.hine@ hotmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms for vacation or long-term rental. Tel: 087-465 8883 (English & Thai), 089-724 6026 (English & Thai). Email: info@mindproperties.net

HOUSE FOR RENT

Bang Tao area, 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, from 20,000 baht. Please call after 5pm. Tel: 093-713 2278.

SEA VIEW POOL VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, stunning property offers amazing ocean views! Large pool, private garden, Cape Yamu, only 15 minutes to BIS/PIA schools. Long term only. 85,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283.

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, Bypass Road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2 floors, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished, 2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable, 24hr security with key card etc. Please call for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1 @hotmail.com

LUXURY VILLAS FOR RENT-KAMALA

2 villas in modern style. one of 3 bedrooms and one of 2 bedrooms, private swimming pool, big garden, jacuzzi. Contact Francesco. Tel: 085-790 7816. Email: francesco bonta@gmal.com www.villlacheloni.com

5-BEDROOM POOL **VILLA**

5-bedroom and 4-bathroom pool villa, available for vacation rental, close to beach, 10 pax. Tel: 092-323 7087. Email: tucsonhouseforrent@ yahoo.com

5 LUXURY VILLAS & APARTMENT

In Laguna and Bang Tao, available for Christmas period. 2,3,4 and 6 beds. Contact Lee by call. Facebook: Lee Phuket to view. Tel: 081-787 9767. Email: woodlee1976@hotmail.co.uk

KATA SEAVIEW APARTMENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 120sqm inside, 50sqm terrace, western bathroom and kitchen, fully furnished, parking, quiet location. Minimum 4-month lease: 35,000 baht per month. 1-year lease: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: gordy240@ hotmail.com

A high-grade built house, fur-

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE

CONDO AT

ROYAL PLACE

ded) Pls contact 086-476961

KATHU CONDO

SHORT TERM

Kathu, 1 bedroom, 2 bath-

posit. Tel: 081-828 0972.

Email: sbolls@hotmail.com

Studio, kitchen, balcony.

Weekly: 4,000 baht. Monthly:

8,500 baht. Tel: 086-057 7714.

RAWAI BEACH



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

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount! Oranee Hildebrand 176547 Exp: 27 April 14 Ad Power Card The discount card for Classifieds at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace 500 baht . Good for 1 year

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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!

Property Classifieds

Property Services

HOTEL/CONDO **MANAGEMENT**

Asset management + preopening services by experienced hoteliers. Email: resort gm@gmail.com

BUILDER CAN WORK NOW

Home construction, repairs, renovations at fixed prices. Tel: 081-892 8526 (Khun Peter). For further details, please see our website at www.phuketbesthomes.com

HOME RENOVATION

We provide services: home and pool renovation, sauna and stream room construction. Tel: 084-191 1288. For further details, please see our website at www.home renovationphuket.com

HOSPITALITY MGR. **AVAILABLE**

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

PDS PHUKET DRAIN SPECIALIST

At Phuket drain specialists, we can guarantee that you will receive a quick and efficient service for everything from blocked drains to drain repairs to pipe replacement. Our team of highly qualified staff have a wealth of experience. in dealing with blocked drains. We operate a 24hr emergency service and ensure a quick response time. when you have a blocked drain, you know who to call. Phuket drain specialists. we guarantee we will beat any quote. Tel: 081-090 9516 (English), 085-224 6685 (Thai). Email: kjoshea @hotmail.co.uk

OFFICE/RETAIL SPACE WANTED

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

Property Services Wanted

ELECTRICIAN

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

Property Wanted

VILLAS, CONDOS AT KATA, KARON

Successful property and rental management company seeks additional villas/condos. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

WANTED VILLA FOR LONG-TERM

Looking for a villa for long-term lease ~ 50,000 per month. Preferences are: Hillside location. Security, Kamala to Bang Tao, Pool, Single story. Tel: 080-319 9255 (English). Email: 425 zeds@gmail.com

APARTMENT/HOUSE NEEDED

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

Accommodation Available

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

1 bedroom, fully furnished, safe, cozy area. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.BaanPhitakTa weep.com

PRIVATE POOL VILLA

3-Bedroom private pool villa located minutes from the famed Laguna area. Available for xmas and new year period. Tel: 084-842 2262 (English & Thai). Email: lita.hine@ hotmail.com

NAI HARN BUNGALOW

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

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment, Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchid kathuheights-phuket.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

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

5 BEDROOMS ON BOAT

5 bedrooms, fully furnished, aircons, private and closest to nature. Email: rachai.mon tree@gmail.com

KARON OCEANFRONT LUXURY APT

Five-star one bedroom apartment with pool in a quiet area. Available 1 Nov-19 Dec 2013. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English). Email: dfeno cchio@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at karonhill.altervista.org

THE NCHANTRA **POOL SUITE**

1-3 bedroom private pool suites for sale and rent. Tel: 076-510011, 081-979 7306 Fax: 076- 614101. Email: info@nchantrapoolsuite.com More information, please see our website at www.nchantra poolsuite.com

KATA NEW SEA VIEW APARTMENT

New 1 and 2-bedroom apartments. Long and short terms. Sea view, huge balcony, TV panels, WiFi, free parking. Sea view, pools, gym, expensive furniture inside. Email: osa.com@ me.com The best choice for living! For further details, please see our website at http://cooolrent.com

SEA VIEW 3-BED VILLA, PATONG

Luxury villa of character w/ Patong sea view. Estate pool, private and secure. 60,000 baht per week; 200,000 per month; 1 million baht per year plus utilities, service extra. Minimum deposit of 20,000 baht. Tel: 086-587 0196 (English & Thai). Email: natawanpaeng @gmail.com

Accommodation Wanted

POOL VILLA WANTED

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

VILLA WITH PRIVATE POOL

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

Holiday **Homes & Villa Rentals**

BEACH CONDO / NEW YEAR FREE

2 bed/bath, 134 sqm. Serenity Resort. Rawai. Free Christmas / New Year. From 5,000 baht. Tel: 081-846 7770 (English). Email: stefan@stefan.asia

SERVICED APARTMENT PATONG

Fully furnished with swimming pool. daily and monthly special rate now. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.

VACATION RENTALS KATA BEACH

Superb 1, 2 & 3 bed apartments, holiday rent at Kata Beach. Email: resortgm@ gmail.com

HOUSES:1 OR 2BEDROOMS

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

Household Help

CAR CLEANER WANTED

Car cleaner wanted to clean the owner's 3 cars and a bike at Surin Beach. Every Mon, Wed and Fri. Pay 6,000 baht a month. Call Khun Maew on 087-891 1385. Email: sonyaklapko@yahoo.

Household **Items**

TEAK OUTDOOR FURNITURE

Solid teak extending garden table and six adjustable armchairs, with parasol. Export quality, bought in Bangkok. 45,000 baht. Tel: 081-373 5913 (English). Email: mike@mike pearson.net

Household **Services**

PHUKET HOME MAINTENANCE

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

Live in Town? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at **iTree Complete Printing Service** Tesco Lotus Phuket Town Adidas Boots GATE 3 GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work Simply write out your ad, because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads pay and leave it with in print every week, all published simultaneously Khun Nan: (076-255425) and FREE - in the Gazette Online! The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertisements

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

_ _ _ _ (heading)
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Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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

Island Job Mart

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

RESTAURANT SURIN

Needs staff, one bar person. one waitress. Must speak English. Tel: 083-033 3562.

HOTEL RECEPTIONIST

Thai for Hotel at Nanai Road. must speak English and use computer, good wages and commissions, paid for holidays. Please call for details. Tel: 088-444 7801.

MARKETING ASSISTANT WANTED

English speaking Marketing Assistant with good computer and internet knowledge wanted. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please send CV to rico@ Princessyachtsthailand.com

RESTAURANT Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai nationals only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.

3 WAITRESSES FOR

NURSES TO FINNS

Every year, many elderly Finnish people are coming to Thailand. Some of them need help with their daily activities. If you are interested to work with them, please send your application and CV in English + photo ASAP to virpi.perala@suomi kotiphuket.fi Spoken English skills are required

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, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-273555 Fax: 076-615240

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Thai, female, 25-40 years old, motivated, English & computer skills. Tel: 088-413 8122 (English). Email: phkrealestate @aol.com

CHEF WANTED

Thai national only: Cook wanted to work in restaurant. Email or call now. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

GERMAN TEACHER URGENTLY

German teacher at The Genius Language School, Patong, Phuket. 089-203 9270 (English & Thai), 089-185 5318 (English & Thai). Email: aood 16@hotmail.com

SENIOR & JUNIOR COOK

To assist Head Cook in maintaining a successful and profitable F&B Department - Degree in F&B Management or related degree, trained in traditional Thai and Western foods. Thai national, fluent in English. Starting salary 14,000 to 17,000 baht per month plus service charge. Tel: 086-604 1333 (English). Position available now. Please send CV to gm@ccshideaway.com

RUSSIAN REAL ESTATE REP

Phuket's Leading Real Estate agency is looking for a new Russian Real estate rep who can handle all our Russian clients who wish to purchase property. You should have good knowledge of Phuket and experience in sales. Driving license and car is always a plus. High earnings and bonuses are expected for the right person. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send CV to info @phuket-condoshomes.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuket-condoshomes.com

PROPERTY STAFF WANTED

We are looking for staff to work with us in the progressing and increasing branches at Rawai. 1.Secretary+Reception: Thai

female.

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

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

Interthai Marketing Co., Ltd.

Barista 1 position

Qualifications:

- Male or Female 25 to 35
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or related field
- Strong background and passion in Coffee business/hotel/ Food and beverage will be an advantage

Required skill:

- Previous barista in coffee shop, hotel, catering and hospitality industry.
- Operate manual and automatic coffee machine.
- Passion for coffee and delivering high end service standards.
- Basic English for barista for contact with the customer having good

Sales Executive 1 Position

Qualifications:

- Male or Female 25 to 35
- Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration or related field
- Strong background and passion in Coffee business/hotel/ Food and beverage for 2 years or more will be an advantage

Required skills:

- Manage marketing plan scope with promotion activities & sale promotion
- Review the sales plan and take order from customer
- Good command in English with computer skills (MS office applications)

Contact Name:

Khun Taratip 082-4882442 E-Mail: adminphuket@fginterthai.com Khun Jariya 089-2035399 E-Mail: jariya@fginterthai.com

FG Interthai Marketing Co., Ltd.

3/7 Moo 8 Plaza Dracaena, Unit C24-C25, Chaofa Rd., T. Chalong, A.Muang, Phuket 83130 THAILAND Tel. +66 7628 0064-5 Fax +66 7638-4323

ASS'T BRANCH MANAGER 18 K

Assistant Branch Manager required. Salary: 18,000 baht + excellent commissions and benefits. Tel: 085-797 0005 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-264461. Email: ying@phuket pooltables.com

WEBMASTER/ **GRAPHIC/IT WORKER**

Knowledge in photo and video and good English skills required. Thai national only. Tel: 086-690 0444. Please contact rico@princessyachts thailand.com

SHOP / DELI **ASSISTANT**

Required for western-style, retail-food store. Excellent English with friendly, customer service approach. Tel: 093-687 4302 (English). To apply, pls send CV: chelsey_ej@hot mail.com or call for more info (office hours only).

TWO CHEFS HIRING

Two Chefs are hiring in Kamala, Kata and & Karon. We are hiring Sous Chefs, line chefs, supervisors, bartenders, service. We want both full time and part time. Good salary. Tel: 089-727 5753. Email: jan@twochefs.com For further details, please see our website at www.twochefs.com

ENGLISH TEACHER URGENTLY NEEDED

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

THAI COOK WANTED

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

THAITEACHER NEEDED

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

CUSTOMER RELATIONS REP

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

YACHT STEWARDESS

Thai national, 2 females, good English, salary+tips. Tel: 087-384 2743. Email: info@yachtcharter-thailand.com

RECEPTIONIST WANTED

Resort looking for receptionist. Smart, good spoken English 15,000 baht per month + commissions on sales. Tel: 076-398422,080-6988335 (English & Thai), 081-797 8650 (English & Thai). Email: info.resort@manoh ra.net

CALL CENTER

Newly established. Call Center (outbound) in Chiang Mai looking for Dutch, French, German speaking agents. WP+visa provided after trial period for relocations.Room provided in first month. Interested applicant, please apply with CV at jobs@cmmd-intl.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)
- KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle) Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe

(Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)

Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

Tel: 076-344521-2 Tel: 076-290468 Tel: 076-342275

Tel: 076-282254

Tel: 076-280400

Tel: 076-282403

PHUKET CITY

Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)

Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)

 iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone Tel: 076-232398 Tel: 076-258369 Tel: 076-255425

CHERNG TALAY

Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

RAWA

The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-613173

KARON

EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

The PARADISE KOH YAO

Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

'Island hideaway near Phuket'

the paradise koh yao, a contemporary 70 room boutique resort is located on koh yao noi island, a 60 minute boat trip from phuket

our eco-chic environment is complemented by our 'conscious living' ethos of barefoot luxury philosophy – NOW complemented by a yoga and wellbeing center

we are looking for superb leaders to join our dynamic team

F&B/RESTAURANT MANAGER (1 position)

in charge of two restaurants / two bars – continuously working on further enhancing the service experience for our guests via team training programs and improved service procedures

- 3 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- fluent in English language
- · leader personality, creative with new product innovations
- Thai national

comprehensive remuneration/incentive package – we are looking for the best team leaders – please send your resume with picture to

gm@theparadisekohyao.com www.theparadisekohyao.com www.facebook.com/Paradise.KohYao.Boutique.Beach.Resort

DETOX STAFF

Thai national: experienced detox consultant, OR we can train you in detox. Must speak and write English.Tel: 085-783 0141.Email: info@phuketfit. com

PROJECT COORDINATOR

Design studio is looking for a creative and focused individual to join our expanding team. Responsible for keywording images, analyzing market trends, planning photography shoots, and assisting in general office administration. Successful candidate will have an excellent command of English. Contact Jaey. Email: photomorphic images@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER

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

CYCLING GUIDE WANTED

Looking for freelance cycling guide. Tel: 084-185 9448 (English). Email: info@andamannature tours.com

GUEST RELATIONS

English, Korean or Russian speaker+service mind. Salary 12,000-20,000. Dormitory ava. Tel: 085-184 9659 (English), 085-184 9682 (English). Email: tiffany.12321 @hotmail.com

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, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-273555 Ext.402 Fax: 076-615240

KARON CLIFF

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

DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT GROUP

Is a Project Management Company with a long and successful history in Phuket. We are expanding our team and looking for candidates with a track record of success. The positions will be located in Phuket and Thai nationals are desired. The positions require good command of spoken and written English.

Contracts Manager: The successful candidate will have a proven track record of successful contracts work in a construction environment. Administrative Assistant: Solid skill with MS Office and previous construction experience is a plus. Tel: 076-617763. Please call or send email to david@dmg-thailand.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

OPERATIONS MANAGER

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

ALMALI RESIDENCE

Needs Supervisor Maid, English speaking required. Good salary. Tel: 091-654 6249. Email: secretary@almaliresi dence.com

DANISH STAFF WANTED

Danish speaking, 20-30 years old, Send your CV and photo to naturejob13@g mail.com

CALL CENTER NEEDS SWISS-GERMAN

We, Intercallservice Company, are seeking a Swiss-German speaking person for our call center in Phuket to support our customers in Switzerland. Good knowledge of French would be an advantage. We offer a 5-day week with Visa and work permit. Tel: 089-873 9123. For further information please contact Mr. Klaus. Email: info@inter callservice.com

RUSSIAN SALES LADY WANTED

Needed for Real Estate. English speaking and writing. Tel: 081-968 5963. Email: c@bay shoreprojects.com

COPYWRITER

Siam Real Estate urgently require an experienced English speaking copywriter to write property listings. Can work from home in own time. Training given. Average listings: 60 per month. Good commissions paid. Tel: 076-288908.Email: richard @siamrealestate.com

MASSAGE THERAPIST ABROAD

Zueri Home massage in Switzerland 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 Tel: 093-620 2260. Please contact George by phone or send email to info@ zueri home massage.ch

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, Thepkrasattri Rd, T. Koh Keaw, A. Muang Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-273555, ext 705 Fax: 076-615240 Email: Big@phuketgazette.net

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at iTree Complete Printing Service Tesco Lotus Phuket Town Adidas Boots Sangho McDonalds GATE 3 GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work because they re PAID! Hundreds of new ads in print every week, all published simultaneous 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!

Bulletins

Business Opportunities

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

ئىرىدىد لاەر ئا UE U CILLO ST LELL **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.

BANGLA ROAD SHOP

Shop house available in Soi Bangla. Good for restaurant / coffee shop / bar. Tel: 076-344922, 081-892 6829 (English & Thai). Email: jctailor@ loxinfo.co.th

MASSAGE BUSINESSES

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

ONLINE BUSINESS FROM NOW

Farang offers partnership! About financial participation we must speak. Email: adventur aintern@hotmail.com

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

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

Bar & Restaurant Equipment



HIGH-QUALITY CAFE EQUIPMENT SALE

Used industry-standard restaurant equipment & furniture. Excellent condition. Only 2 years old. Many more items than listed here. View all in Phuket town. Contact for appointment.

6081-5375970



pui@widediscovery.com

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

	TO: The Phuket Co Ltd, 79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd T. Koh Kaew, A. Muang, Phuket 83000
	YES, I want to receive the PHUKET GAZETTE for a full year - 52 issues! I hereby authorize payment against my Visa \(\sigma\) / Mastercard \(\sigma\)
į	I hereby authorize payment against my Visa \(\Qmathrm{\textsq}\) / Mastercard \(\Qmathrm{\textsq}\)
i	☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)
ļ	☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)
i	☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)
	Surname (as appears on card) Given name(s) (as on card)
į	Card #: Exp. Date: Security Code:
i	Issuing Bank: Country: Last 3 digits on back of card
	Signature: Date:
į	E-mail address:
	Please Deliver To:
ł	Country:

MERMAID BAR GRILL SALE

Established 2 years ago. Priced to sell 850,000 baht, Rawai, Nai Harn. Tel: 085-348 5137 (English & Thai), 082-532 2712 (English). Email: normprice50@hot mail.com Check the website at www.mermaidbargrill.com

KATA SHOP HOUSE **FOR SALE**

3 storeys, 1 bedroom with western kitchen, second bedroom for staff, beautiful decoration for spa on first floor with sauna. Fully furnished. Urgent sale 10 million baht. Negotiable! No agent. Tel: 081-956 1077.

BANG TAO RESTAURANT + BAR FOR SALE

Sold last year for 975,000 but new owner moved back home. Selling now for 600,000 baht. Great time to buy. Please call 081-787 9767. Email: woodlee1976@ hotmail.co.uk

POPULAR RESTAURANT FOR SALE

This outstanding little restaurant is located on the main beach road in Kamala. Fully equipped kitchen, inside aircon dining area, outside dining area, bar, charcoal BBQ station and a woodfired pizza oven. The cozy, elegant design is very inviting for customers. Google for Grill Bill Kamala! Tel: 081-089 0543 (English). Email: iii_sun ny_iii@yahoo.com

SHOP ON PHI PHI FOR SALE

One-unit shop with three floors and roof-top terrace. 8 years remaining on lease. Great location on T junction in the center of town. Please call 081-719 3375 (English) or email for details at phil price@hotmail.co.uk

GUESTHOUSE RESORT

Sale or long-term rent. Also 3-bedroom villa, 2 bathrooms, pool, quiet Soi, 18,000 baht per month. Must be seen too much to list. Tel: 081-808 1804. Email: ttpitstop1@ hotmail.com

MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE

Chalong near Tiger Muay Thai, all fixtures and fittings included. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Quick sale: 200,000 baht. Tel: 084-778 8230. Email: cheetham1980 @hotmail.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE IN CHALONG

Indoor-outdoor equipped. Rent: 5,000 baht per month. Sale: 150.000 baht. Tel: 082-807 9312.

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

RESTAURANT FOR RENT



Fully furnished restaurant for rent. Professionally equipped kitchen. 30-35 seats. Tel: 076-290402, 089-593 0307. Fax: 076-290401. Email: info@siampalmresiden ce.com

PIZZERIA FOR SALE



Well running Italian restaurant and pizzeria with wood fired oven for sale in Khao Lak. 3 million baht, no key money, monthly pay rental, prime location, including all equipment. Tel: 076-484645, 084-058 8804, 084-629 7767 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-410624. Email: stardustbar@hotmail. com

GUESTHOUSE+ RESTAURANT FOR RENT





4 storeys: restaurant on the first floor, 7-room guesthouse on the 2nd to 4th floor. 10 minutes from Patong Beach. Tel: 076-345604, 084-189 3509, 089-971 3301.

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. Tel: 081-895 7727 (English). Email: imlphuket@gmail.com

BAR FOR SALE PATONG

Good location, stock, 2 TVs, 2 fridges, approx 50 seating, great investment, walk in walk out. Relocating. 1.1 million baht. Tel: 080-536 8630.

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. Please call 086-270 8223. 087-887 7857.

RESTAURANT CHERNG TALAY

1 rai, new premises, near by road, opposite Cherng Talay Soi 16, long-term rent. Please call 081-918 1071 (English). Email: boonguea @hotmail.com

UNIQUE OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Unique retail space for rent, at The BOX Park in Cherng Talay. Space of 30sqm with a little balcony. Highly visible for all traffic, aircon, parking, SCB ATM, coffee shop. 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-797 0005 (English & Thai). Email: ying@phuket pooltables.com

BALI MARINE INVESTMENT

Blue Water Express, Bali's premium fast boat ferry operator, is looking for an investor or buyer. Well-run, profitable, ready for expansion. Tel: 092-516 2650 (English). Email: erikvds@yahoo.com For further details about the company, please visit our website at www.bluewaterexpress.com

BAR & GRILL NAI YANG

Bar & Grill, Nai Yang Beach. 160sqm with seating for 40. Only 70m from beach. Everything included. 900,000 baht. Offers considered. Tel: 084-852 4257 (English). Email: bobcoppage@yahoo.

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).

www.princessseaview.com

CHRISTMAS PRESENT

Train model, 1:22.5 scale.

steam locomotive with

sound, 2 passenger cars.

Tel: 091-040 8869.

General Classifieds

Business Products & Services

Miscellaneous For Sale



BUDS INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

Phuket's oldest international child care facility. High-quality, time-proven schedule and curriculum. Now in brandnew purpose-built school. Experienced native English teachers to teach ages 1.5-10. Monday-Friday 8am-5pm. Bus service available from Patong, Karon, Kata, Phuket, Rawai and Chalong. Please call 076-384638, 080-624 7060 (English), 087-278 5511 (Thai), www.budsphu ket.com

TATTOO REMOVAL

We remove your tattoo. Tel: 083-362 4144.

TRANSLATION CENTER **PHUKET**

We translate all documents (Business, Contract, Websites, Menu and etc.) from and into English, Spanish, French, German, Italian, Chinese, Arabic, Russian and Thai. Tel: 076-296029, 089-203 9270 (English & Thai). Email: aood16@hotmail.

SOLD SECOND HA



- Keyboard: Casio. Price: 25,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.
- · Camera: Asabipeniax. Price: 20,000 baht.

Please contact 081-667 1637 (Thai), Khun JP 082-539 6433 (English)

Education

LEARN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Russian, Chinese, English and Thai. Four-week courses of 40 hours cost 10,000 baht per person at The Genius Language School Patong, Phuket. Tel: 076-296029, 089-203 9270. E-mail: aood16@hotmail.com

ENGLISH FOR ASEAN

Professional, qualified tutor available. Business; conversation, college level and children's classes. Contact Hein. Tel: 080-382 2630.

Computers

MAC COMPUTER INSTRUCTION

Need a person who trains and helps me how to use Mac computer. Patong area. Tel: 089-972 3861. Email: patong24@gmail.com

COMPUTER TUTOR

Private home in Kalim, 1.5hr sessions, 1-2 days weekly. For more information, please call 083-250 1966.

Pets

Phuket Memorial Beach Wedding Pre-weddings portraits and built of Events huket Samui Email: nid@phuketmemorial.com | Mobile Phone: +66 (0)8 1691 5617 www.phuketmemorial.com

All New Seabreeze Café Fresh, live action cooking Sumptuous Seafood Buffet: every Tuesday and Saturday @ THB 899++per person Every Monday and Thursday @ THB 699++ per person Our international a la carte menu is available daily 18:30 to 22:30 Kids eat free Under 12 years when dining with an adult Complimentary soft drinks With all buffet dinners Stay Free flow beverage offer Fresh

WHEATGRASS JUICE

Lumpoons Coffee House. At

Chalong. For more informa-

tion, please call 081-476

Club Memberships Available

GOLF MEMBERSHIP LPGC 23YR

Rarely available membership in Laguna Phuket Golf Club valid till Nov 2036. 730,000 baht+ transfer fee. SMS to +85 20 9460 0660, or fax to: +85 20 3015 0806. Email: gperchthold@yahoo.com

BLUE CANYON

Family for 820,000 baht. Includes transfer. Tel: 089-868 6842. Email: nagel.klaus@web.de

BLUE CANYON CORPORATE MEMBER

One third of lifetime corporate membership for sale. 720,000 baht. Tel: 085-782 5197 (English). Email: webb jo10@bigpond.com

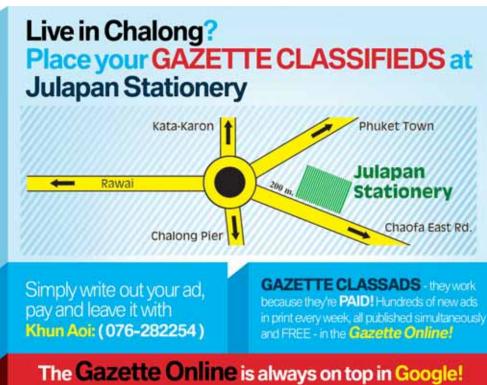
PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Family lifetime membership, transfer fee and this year's subscription. 570,000 baht. Tel: 076-283 288, 081-273 7326.



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65,000 baht. Patong.

Tel: 087-893 1753.

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15,000km, manual, turbo diesel, black, leather interior. Price: 790,000 baht. Tel: 084-625 8225,

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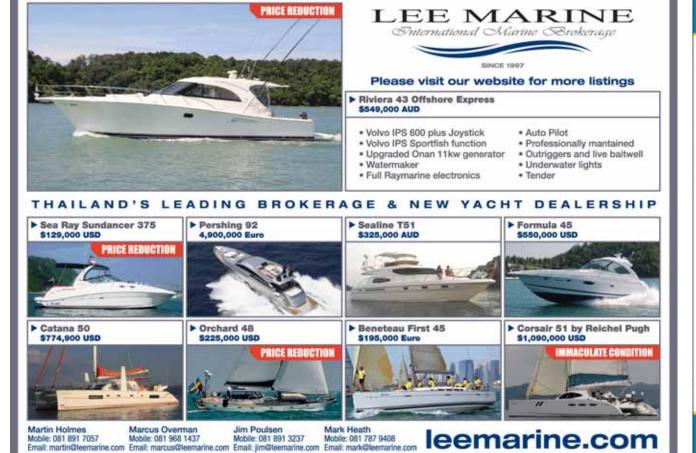
We offer long-term and shortterm car rental. One year rental starts from 12,000 baht monthly. Please ask for offer. Tel: 085-655 2613 (English & Thai), 084-847 4377 (English). Email: info@thai dreams.se

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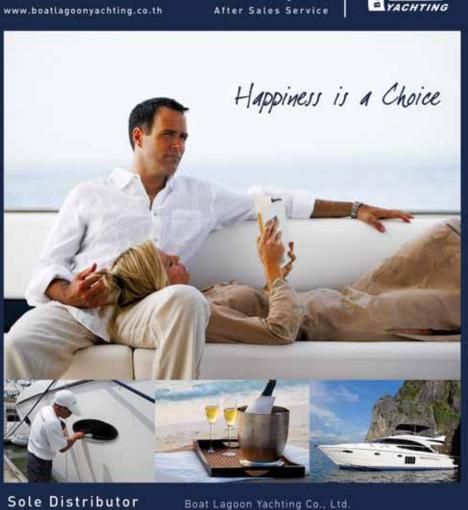
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SR-21. Price: 375,000 baht. We also produce 18-37ft boats. SR Marine, Phuket and Pattaya. Tel: 081-782 0921. Email: samran marine@live.com

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36ft, Isuzu 110hp, radio, Furuno Fish Finder. 300,000 baht. Tel: 083-102 7801.

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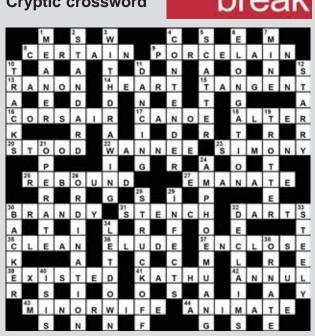
For large motor yacht. Must be experienced and speak English. Also English speaking deckhand required. Tel: 081-787 1752. Please send CV to mjoneilluk@yahoo.co.uk

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SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic crossword





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FIB Polaris 582, Rotax engine High speed, variometer, compass, and engine temp gauge Wooden propeller, 3 blades (not the simple 2 blade) Wing: 19 sq meters, original from Polaris Tachometer, Lynx intercom headsets Hour meter, Exhaust temp gauge Electric starter / propeller gearbox Digital instruments, 2 helmets and trailer included Everything is original (34 hours)









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AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

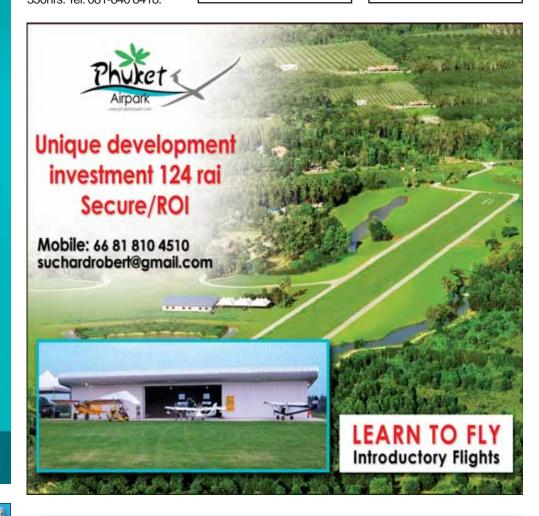
Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

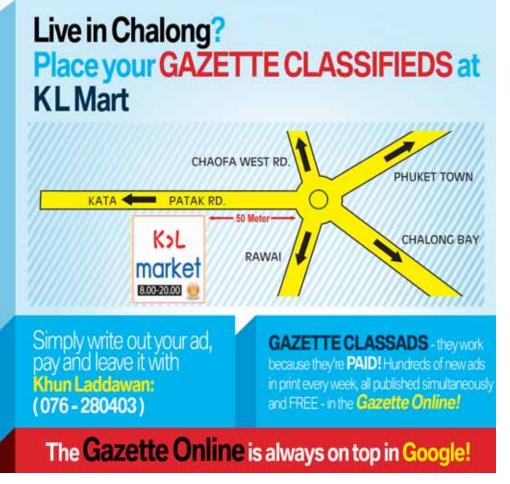
YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@ aeropromgr.com

1999 ROBIN 2160i

I would like to sell my Robin aircraft or trade it for a 4-seat Cessna or Piper (based in Hua Hin). The Robin: TTAF 300hrs. SMOH 60hrs. This is a well-equipped, two-seat aerobatic aircraft. Has the Christen inverted oil system. Excellent inside and outside. King KMA24 audio panel, KX155 nav/com, KI203 vor. KY197A comm, KN64A dme, KR87 adf, KT76A transponder, CSPA400 i-com, FP5 fuel computer. CHT. OAT, Pitot heat. Price: 4 million baht. Please contact Thom. Email: thos_w@ hotmail.com





December 14 - 20, 2013 PHUKET GAZETTE 33



HOT DAYS COOL NIGHTS

O2 Beach Club, Chalong hosted their Season Opening Party with the theme of "Hot Days Cool Nights".



NEW YEARS GIFT

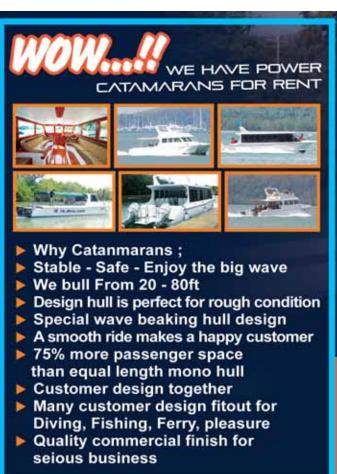


(From left): Phuket Gazette News Editor Leslie Porterfield receives a gift basket from Director of Marketing Communications of Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Nampetch Tipaxsorn, along with Manager of Advertising and TV Promotions at PGTV Krisana Matzenberger.

SLEEP WITH ME HOTEL DESIGN HOTEL AT PATONG

SLEEP WITH ME HOTEL design hotel @ Patong visited Phuket Panyanukul School with more than fifty of its employees. During this special day, the employees hosted a series of fun and educational activities with the children and gave them some gifts.







Life & style King's Cup sponsor spotlight

HIS year's Phuket King's Cup Regatta, the latest and arguably greatest edition yet, saw the largest number of racing yahts competing in its 27-year history - highlighted by the number of new hull classes that were introduced (For results/ coverage, see Sports story on page 48).

Indeed, the popularity and support of this prestigious event - celebrated in the week leading up to His Majesty King Bhumibol's birthday - continues to grow and further cement Phuket's reputation as a world-class sea, boating, beach and gala event destination – all of which would not be possible without the kind support of a handful of organizations. To the right are remarks from key sponsors:



"On behalf of Jaguar Land Rover, we are proud to support the 27th Phuket King's Cup Regatta and to take this opportunity to present our luxury and premium SUVs at this highly prestigious yachting event – also one of the most internationally significant regattas in the world. We presented Land Rover's Range Rover Evoque and Land Rover Discovery models at the event; our sponsorship of the Regatta enables existing and potential customers in Phuket to get up close with our range of new cars, fuelling market interest even further following growing demand for Jaguar Land Rover vehicles in Phuket. We are confident the market in Phuket is strong and growing, with high levels of interest shown in all Land Rover luxury SUV models."

- Danai Chandrangam, General Manager, City Automobiles Co Ltd

"We are very proud to continue our sponsorship of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, the largest sporting event of its kind in Phuket, positioning Phuket as a world-leading sports tourism destination, attracting over 2,000 sailors and friends to Phuket each year. As a co-sponsor, we are extremely delighted to take part in this very special international event in honor of the King of Thailand and undoubtedly, this is also a fantastic opportunity for us to be involved with the local community so long-term relationships can be built upon." - Khun Ob-oom Chutrakul, Social Director of Sansiri.





"The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is a unique and highly attractive sporting occasion, offering excellent brand exposure opportunities to the Singha Corporation. We are proud to once again be a sponsor of this superb race, and we are pleased to be able to support an event to celebrate the 86th birthday of His Majesty the King of Thailand."

Voravud Bhirombhakdi, Event Marketing and Business Partnership Director, Singha Corporation Co Ltd

"We are honored to continue to support the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, one of Asia's most revered and competitive sailing events. The King's Cup is a great opportunity for us to achieve worldwide awareness of the Kata Group brand. Last year, we also received a prestigious trophy from the Personal Representative of His Majesty the King of Thailand in recognition of our long-standing support of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, and we are proud to continue our sponsorship of this magnificent race into 2013 and beyond."



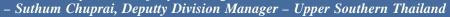




"The Phuket King's Cup Regatta is one of our most significant sponsorship programs of the year as it attracts such wide attention across the region. In addition to being recognised as one of the world's premier sailing cups, the revelry and beachside fun make it a hit with its lively night-time crowds. We are pleased to be able to provide top quality Mont Clair wines for our guests, and we look forward to this year's Regatta being the most successful in the competition's history."

- Daniel Schwalb, Commercial Director of Siam Winery

"As a regionally leading soft drinks distributor and bottler of Coca-Cola products in Southern Thailand, Haadthip PLC has continued its support for the 27th Phuket King's Cup Regatta as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility plan for the southern region of Thailand. Haadthip PLC is committed to support the development of youth sailing in Thailand, and is pleased to sponsor the 27th Phuket King's Cup Regatta to mark the honorary occasion of the birthday of His Majesty the King of Thailand."





The King's Cup trophy. Photo: Jeremie Schatz





"PTT Global Chemical is pleased to support Thai youth sailors and the Phuket Dinghy Series as part of the prestigious Phuket King's Cup Regatta. Sailing is a sport which is exciting, sustainable, environmentally friendly and increasing in popularity in Thailand. As part of our CSR commitment to providing support to trustworthy, social responsible projects, we are delighted to be the main sponsor for the Phuket Dinghy Series.'

- Bowon Vongsinudom, President & CEO of PTT Global Chemical

"We want to thank all of our organizers and sponsors; we are pleased to see them return again this year. Our aim is always to support our sponsors and develop long-term relationships with them; we hope that sponsors will continue to support this great event for many years to come; all of them have been keen to support the development of sports sailing in Thailand, and we are grateful for the efforts they have made in contributing to the success of this year's Phuket King's Cup Regatta.'

Kevin Whitcraft, President of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta Committee



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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Dec 12-18, 10am-9:30pm, The 17th Andaman Motor Show

Do not miss the 17th Andaman Motor Show, which is the best motor fair in Phuket. The event dates are December 12-18, at Central Festival Phuket. There will be a variety of cars, car accessories, and finance options, with special deals on offer for visitors to this show. Not only will you be with a superstar. beautiful cars and pretty girls, but you'll be able to join the Andaman Photo Contest 2013 free of charge, with prizes worth up to 30,000 baht. Presented by Chor Creative Organizers.

Dec 16-18, 6-11:30pm, 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 'Phuket Today' show, broadcast locally on PC, RC and KDTV cable networks, nationally on TrueVision 85 and 59, GMMZ and PSI, and internationally to over 100 countries.

Dec 20, Indian Curry Buffet 7 - 11:00 pm

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 499 baht net per person at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort. 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 bookings, please call 076-286-464, or email: info@navrangmahal.com. For more information go to navrangmahal.com



Dec 24, Traditional Christmas Eve Buffet – Locavore Style, 6 - 9:30pm

Enjoy our Christmas dinner buffet featuring slow-roasted grain fed Australian sirloin, Christmas turkey with gravy and cranberry sauce, roasted leg of lamb, Norwegian salmon, rock lobster and a selection of Christmas desserts. At Locavore Restaurant, Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort. Adults: THB 1,950++ per person. Children: THB 950++ per child aged 4-12. For reservations, please call Food and Beverage at 076-360600, ext 2470, or email: fbs.phuketbeach@outrigger.co.th. Prices are subject to a 10% service charge and 7% government tax.

Dec 24 ,Christmas at Two Chefs 6 - 11:30pm

Large traditional Scandinavian Christmas buffet at Two Chefs Bar & Grill at our Kamala and Kata Beach restaurants, at 6pm and 9pm. We will be serving: Christmas ham, pickled herring, roast beef, smoked salmon, ribs, meatballs, Janssons frestelse, ris ala malta, saffron rolls and much more for only: 1,450 baht. For more info, please visit our website, email or call us. Warm welcome!

Dec 24, Christmas Eve at Centra Ashlee Hotel Patong, 6:30 pm - 10pm

Celebrate Christmas with traditional favorites such as carved turkey, Australian sirloin, classic christmas cookies and delicious fresh seafood, while enjoying free flow house wines, spirits, beers, soft drink and juices. Be entertained by carol singers and live music performances throughout the night. For more info contact Pawita Pratumkaew on +66-76-349800, or email saleschp@chr.co.th.

Dec 31, New Years Eve at Two Chefs, 6-11pm

At all our Two Chefs Bar & Grill branches, we will be serving a four course set menu at only 1,595 baht (as well as our la carte menu). At our Karon restaurant, the Pitch Control band will entertain you with some great tunes until the late hours. For more information, please visit our website or follow us online: facebook.com/twochefsthailand. For reservations, email or give us a call on 076-284155

Dec 31, New Year's Eve buffet @ Xana Beach Club, 7-11pm

This exclusive buffet includes free flow of drinks and a delicious menu including starters: Rock Lobster and Prawn Bisque, a 'Pate & Terrine Station', a 'Fresh Seafood Bar' with oysters, cerviche, sushi and sashimi and carpaccio, as well as a 'Flamb Corner' with foie gras. Mains include lobster, lamb chops, tiger prawns, chorizo, scallops, all followed by twelve sumptuous deserts. The price is 7,000 baht ++ per person, and includes free entry to the NYE party with international DJ Jeremy Healy (normally 1,000 baht). For more information,

contact Annabel on 076-324101 or

email info@xanabeachclub.com

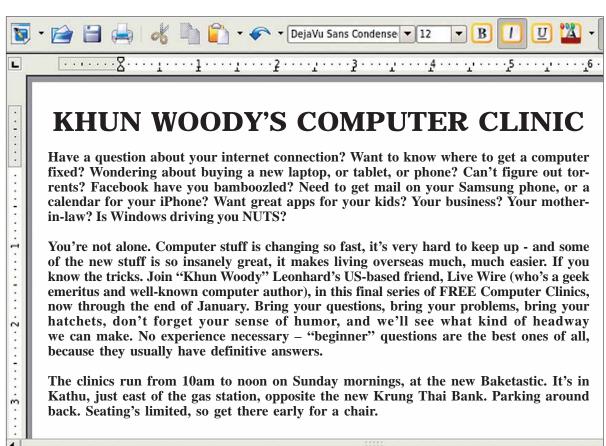
Dec 31, New Year's Eve Gala Dinner, 8pm-12am

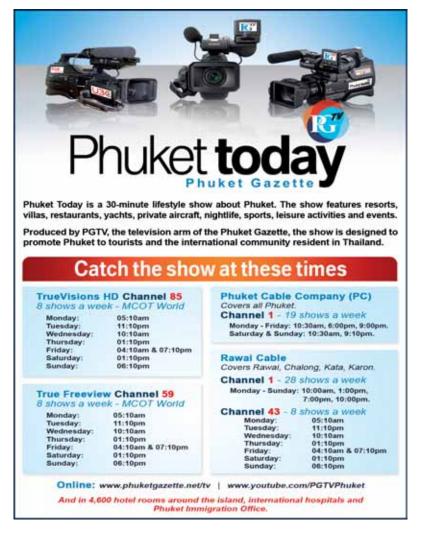
Outrigger Laguna Phuket Beach Resort invite you to experience a very special evening to celebrate the last day of the year with the wonderful sound of our live band and DJ. A gala buffet featuring fresh seafood on ice, live cooking stations and an array of Thai and international favorites will culminate in a spectacular fireworks show as the new year begins. Adults: 7,000++ baht per person; 3,500++ baht per child aged 4-12. Space is limited. For reservations, please call 076-360600, ext 2470. Prices are subject to 10% service charge and 7% government tax.

Dec 31-Jan 1, 9pm-2am New Year's Eve Party @ Xana

NYE will see XANA finish the year in style, with international DJ Jeremy Healy performing a spectacular set from Bangtao Beach. DJ and producer Healy has performed headline DJ sets in almost every country in the world and has been the music event director for fashion brands including Christian Dior and Emilio Pucci. The party starts at 9pm and is 1,000 baht, including two drinks (free for those who book the NYE Dinner Buffet). The event will include a spectacular fireworks display. For more information, contact Annabel on 076-324-101 or email info@xanabeachclub.com







Be forwarned about 4G in Phuket

LEST you think it's 3G d j vu all over again, the current state of 4G in Phuket has a few interesting, new wrinkles. In many ways, the impending 4G roll out – which is already under way, at least in theory – isn't nearly as confusing as the 3G rollout two years ago. Thank heavens!

Let's start with the basics. While "3G" was a marketing term that could mean anything to anybody, that's changed. Almost everywhere in the world now, "4G" has a very specific technical meaning. It uses a technology known as LTE. Depending on how you define "3G" 4G transmissions run ten to fifty times faster than 3G. That's a very significant improvement – so significant that it's entirely possible 4G will one day replace ADSL land lines as the internet delivery mechanism of choice, much as mobile phones replaced land phones a decade or two ago.

There's a second technology waiting in the wings that could



Be wary of conflicting information about the iPad Mini Cellular's ability to run TrueMove's 4G. Photo: Chris Kelly

DANGER UNDERGROUND LIVE WIRE

disrupt everything. Called "4G+" by the marketing folks and "LTE+" by techies, 4G+ doubles or triples the speeds seen in 4G. Most of the developed world is rolling out LTE just as fast as it can. Right now, 4G+ is only available in limited areas. While there's talk of stalling the 4G roll out in Thailand until 4G+ becomes more mainstream, I don't see it happening any time soon: There isn't that much support for 4G+ in devices worldwide, and the technology isn't nearly as robust (that's a euphemism for "old") as 4G. Besides, there're billions and billions of baht waiting for any company that can get 4G out in the mainstream.

Right now, TrueMove offers real 4G service on the 2100 MHz channel. (2100 MHz is also called 2.1 GHz.) The "channel" is much like a television channel: Your phone or tablet or USB dongle has to support 4G/LTE at 2100 MHz, in order to be able to use the TrueMove 4G service. And that's the crux of the problem, which I'll discuss momentarily.

We're going to see two huge limitations with 4G in Thailand, and before you go all-in with 4G, it would behoove you to understand both of the problems.

First, while the LTE communication protocol – the way your phone or tablet talks to the tower - may be very fast indeed, it doesn't mean squat once the signal's at the bottom of the tower. Parts of the US now are seeing massive collision problems with the wireless part

of the 4G equation: Too many people have 4G phones, and they're using them for all sorts of data-intensive stuff, slowing down communication between the tower and the phone. We may eventually see that problem too. But for now, the big problem in Phuket is how fast the internet connection goes from the base of the tower to wherever you're trying to reach. In technical terms, that's called the "backhaul bandwidth" and to date I haven't seen much attention paid to the problem.

The phone companies can use the same equipment on towers for both 3G and 4G, give or take an upgrade or two. But if they have both 3G and 4G signals running through the same backhaul, the big constraint will start at the base of the tower. Phuket's never been known for excellent international data speeds. Adding 4G to the mix without increasing the international bandwidth very considerably, will have 4G customers sucking through the same tiny straw that bedevils 3G customers. As always, I'm skeptical that the phone companies will spend enough to keep those international channels running quickly.

The second big problem we'll see with 4G in Phuket is the data caps. Right now, your "unlimited" 3G data plan isn't unlimited at all. Depending on how much you pay, you can run 2 GB (the size of a high definition movie) to 4 GB (two movies) through your 3G connection every month. After you hit the cap, your service is throttled back to 2G levels roughly 380 Kbps or less – until the next month's billing cycle starts. As long as you're playing a few YouTube videos and downloading email, you won't hit the cap. But if you're streaming movies, the cap's going to get you big time.

Admittedly, Thailand doesn't have Netflix, the movie-ondemand service that's a huge drain on bandwidth, so we aren't going to hit the problem as quickly as the rest of the world. But some day we'll have access to enough streamed video that regular, everyday internet customers in Thailand will bump up against the data cap.

(How bad is Netflix? In the US, last month, the broadband service company Sandvine estimated that more than half of all peak-time download traffic in the US is from YouTube and Netflix. More than half! Netflix and YouTube combined account for 45% of all US internet traffic, both upload and download. Absolutely astounding - and when the technology catches up in Thailand, we'll be seeing numbers like that too.)

So, if you understand the problems – data caps and possibly slow service – and you still want to go with 4G in Phuket, what should you do?

Let me tell you a story. I was



Check with the service provider before buying a '4G' device. Photo: Prolineserver

in Central last week, looking at the new iPad Mini LTE. It's a gorgeous little tablet, with a Retina display – and it isn't that expensive. (Well, yes, it's a little expensive – 17,900 baht for the 16 GB cellular model – but you know what I mean.) Here's the problem.

When I talked with the people at the Apple store, they told me that the new iPad Mini Cellular will work with TrueMove H's 4G system. When I talked to the people right across the aisle, in the TrueMove shop, they told me that TrueMove's 4G doesn't yet work with the iPad.

Confusing? You bet. I went to the Apple web site, and found that the iPad Air model A1475 and the iPad Mini Retina A 1490 can both work with TrueMoveH (LTE at 2,100 MHz). There's a chart at apple.com/ipad/LTE/. But when I went to the Apple ordering site for Thailand, none of the LTE iPad Air or iPad Mini machines are even listed: They're all WiFi or 3G models (confusingly marked "WiFi + Cellular.")

It isn't clear if the iPad Mini Retina LTE is even available in Thailand. If I bought a Mini, would it include LTE support or not? I don't know, and frankly I'm not willing to gamble 17,900 baht to find out.

Same problem with the iPhone 5c and iPhone 5s. Models A1529 and A1530 both work, theoretically, with True Move's 4G. (See apple.com/iphone/LTE) but if you try to order one online from the Apple store, you won't see an option to buy one.

(NOTE: The iPhone 4 and 4S do NOT run 4G, anywhere in the world.)

The smartest thing to do right now? Wait. Both AIS and DTAC are rolling out 4G as fast as they can, starting in Bangkok. They may even have signals in Phuket by the time you read this. But the only way to be sure that you get a phone or tablet that matches the signal is to buy the phone or tablet from the phone company.

Certainly the 4G situation will improve soon. It has to – there's an enormous amount of money to be made. But for now, don't buy a "4G" phone or tablet or dongle thinking that you can just pop a TrueMove 4G SIM card into the beast and have it work at 4G speeds. Check with TrueMove (or AIS or DTAC, sooner or later) before you buy the hardware, and have them guarantee that their 4G network will work on what you buy.

Anything else could turn into a very expensive mistake.

Mr Live Wire's running a handful of free Sunday-morning computer clinics, at a new venue – Baketastic in Kathu. (Location: opposite Krung Thai Bank, about 100 meters east of the gas station - head toward Lotus.) If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, a tablet, phone, TV, or just about anything associated with computers, drop by. No experience necessary. It's always free, as in beer. December 15 and 22, 10:00 to noon. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Add's Baketastic.



Life & style To infinity and beyond

Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

A TINY helmet diver stands at attention on the red rocks of a 5-gallon freshwater aquarium. Having explored the treasure chest blowing bubbles through fake gold coins, as well as the single strand of Brazilian Pennywort – and even poked around the filter, he simply stands there watching sediment build on his feet, the occasional gold fish going belly up and a new one dumped in as a replacement. This diver has confronted the unimaginable – a fully discovered, finite underwater world.

"No aquarium, no tank in a marine land, however spacious it may be, can begin to duplicate the conditions of the sea," the father of

scuba diving, Jacques Cousteau, said, and though he might have been referring to the mental health of dolphins, he was right. For a diver

who counts and logs the minutes that he is underwater, the ocean is infinite infinitely complex, infinitely changing infinitely and spacious. And yet here in Phuket

there is no sense of the infinite. Dive instructors pad across the sands to Kata Beach, and occasionally a couple of lesser -known beach dives, while dive boats plow past countless tiny islands - unexplored microscosms – on their way

to established dive sites.

The essence of diving is exploration, from Cousteau paving new roads into the underwater world for the entirety of mankind, to novice scuba divers catching their first glimpse of a clown fish bobbing in and out of an anemone. It is exploration that makes us giddy.

Weekly, international news of the underwater world reminds us that there is so much left to discover, and daily, happy divers are babbling at bars about having horses and other first-sightings of marine creatures.

Yet the island's diving industry as a whole has stopped exploring (see atrophy).

The magnitude of the reaction to the damage reports to coral at Racha Yai, which ranged from moderate damage to complete devastation, was stunning. David Minnare of Andaman Ocean Safaris pointed out that what happened was part of the life of a reef – and rightly so. Yet as we stand on the brink of high season, the dive industry was shaken by the destruction.

Phuket is surrounded by a sea of islands, but dive boats return day in and day out to those coveted few dive sites that are established - exerting a phenomenal amount of ecological pressure on them.

Finding and establishing new dive sites offers variety repeat customers not interested in booking a 9th dive at Shark Point. More importantly though, it gives chance for corals and the marine environment to relax, as the pressure exerted by divers is diluted. Such exploration initiatives are an expensive

venture for a single dive company to shoulder, and impractical when the returns will be divided among competitors as word of new sites spreads and desperately-needed mooring systems are implemented.

A savior is needed. And no organization is better positioned to shoulder such necessary initiatives than Go Eco Phuket. The marine conservation group, still backed by much of the island's dive community and supported by local government agencies, has the opportunity to direct the momentum gained through cleanups and other media stunts toward long-term sustainable projects.

There is a natural desire to



There are no glass walls preventing us from exploring and establishing new dive sites. Photo: US Navy

eryone that a difference was made.

However, the real differences for Phuket's dive industry won't be made in a day, but when it

sponsors, tell supporters, tell ev- happen, the effects will ripple through the entire tourism economy, as experienced divers and discover scuba divers provide a steady cash flow to local

eateries and hotels as they return year in and year out to discover what new diving we have to offer in our own infinite corner of the sea.





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Photo: Jelene

There are treasure beyond Racha yet discovered. Photo: Chris Short

Life & style House and Garden Embrace the three Gs

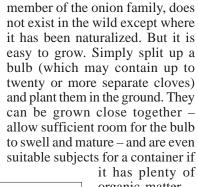


DESCRIBING the delectable smells of old-fashioned geraniums last week made me conscious that it was some time since we looked at edible plants. And "G" is a good letter for the gourmet. Think garlic, ginger and gourds, all staple

flavors of any Asian dinner table. In fact, garlic and ginger are, I would guess two of the halfdozen most important seasonings in Thai cuisine.

Take garlic: Although allium sativum has been in use for maybe

attitudes have only recently undergone a change of heart about the herb. As a schoolboy, for me garlic was something Frenchmen with bad breath exhaled on the Paris Metro: it was definitely not a flavor for a refined English dinner table. But now it is ubiquitous, used everywhere, a world-wide seasoning for all seasons. And it has substantial health benefits, containing natural antibiotics and elements that reduce cholesterol and high blood pressure.



organic matter.

Most of our garlic in Thailand is imported from China; sadly not nearly enough is grown here. Phuket's climate is probably a tad hot and humid, but it is certainly worth a try. After all, it is a plant



The ginger genus is far larger. Around 400 members of the family grow wild in tropical Asia, many of them subsequently introduced to gardens for their spectacular flowers. But the



Garlic is known to contain natural antibiotics and elements that reduce cholesterol. Photo: Donovan Govan

variety that everyone knows and loves is what in the West is called "root ginger". When it arrives in European supermarkets, this mature ginger is tough, fibrous and knobbly, but in Thailand every fresh market sells young ginger bulbs with pale yellow skin attached to pinkish/green stalks. This young ginger is tenderer and juicier than the mature rhizome: consequently it is more popular with Thai chefs who pound and macerate it to release the essential oils. Sometimes served raw in thin strips, ginger is a popular marinade for prawn and fish dishes.

Zingiber officinale, to give the herb its full title, is a perfect plant for the garden on account of its duality of purpose: in addition to the hot, fragrant spice that comes from its fleshy rhizomes, the plant produces tall, elegant, reed-like stems, long oval leaves, and dramatic clusters of cone-shaped white and pink buds which bloom into yellow flowers. Some varieties of zingiber, especially the spiral ginger or costus, which has deep red cones that sit pertly above attractive foliage, are employed as group plantings: they are often seen next to walls where they survive with limited sun. What they

IN TEMPERATE zones, the

leaves on deciduous trees die in

the Autumn and often turn to

ravishing shades of yellow,



Gourds are often grown only for decorative uses. Photo: Peter Woodard

do require, however, is plenty of water and nutrients. For this reason, most gingers are not good subjects for containers.

After the fire and fury of garlic and ginger, the gourd is a comparatively innocuous vegetable, a climbing vine that is related to pumpkins, melons and cucumbers. Originally grown to create watertight vessels or musical instruments (the rind become very hard when dehydrated), gourds or calabashes are now mostly cultivated for

Snippet of the week

Leaves: no seasons to shed in the tropics

their attractive shells. But there is a variety in Asia which is prized for its edible but extremely tart fruit – hence the name bitter gourd. As a tendrilous vine, it will grow happily on your trellis, its yellow flowers succeeded by dark green, warty, cucumber-like fruits. Again, great as an ingredient in soups and stews.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, email the author at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

Dog of the week On the lookout for puppy parents

Zingiber officianle Photo: floeschie

SADLY, these little puppies were just a few days old when we found them. As awful as it sounds, some nasty person killed their mother and the litter of four was left with no one to take care of them and give them the food they need to survive.

Since then, a couple of wonderful volunteers from Doggie Heaven rescue center have been feeding them every few hours from a very small baby's bottle and having to sacrifice a finger for a teat. It has been a very difficult time for these little pups as there's nothing that can fill the void of their missing mother.

The pups, one male and three females, are doing well now and



Four newborn puppies are available for adoption. Photo: just learning to eat solid food

this week and drink less milk.

More than anything, they really hope to find a loving new home and someone to give them lots of cuddles and love while they carry on growing.

For more information, please visit: www.doggieheaven.net or email sherin.peace@gmail.com

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orange and red before they drop. New England maples are particularly beautiful in the American "fall". Here things are different because most trees are evergreen, so they lose their foliage gradually and all year-round. Walking 17/4 Jaofa Road. M.5, T.Chalong, A.Muang, Phuket 83130 through carpets of dead leaves is



No falling without fall. Photo: JMGarg

not an experience one associates with Thailand. Moreover, tropical leaves are often much tougher and more leathery in order to cope with

hotter conditions; they rarely change color significantly before they fall. The sea almond is one notable exception: dry-season deciduous, its large leaves turn deep pink or reddish orange due to the presence of pigments such as lutein and violaxanthin.

Most leaves in the tropics tend to stay on the surface longer both because they are tougher and because key detritivores such as earthworms are in shorter supply.

Life & style Arts From farm to freedom

Books

By James Eckardt

JOHN Lewis, US civil rights icon of the 1960s, has been in the news lately, first for lambasting the Supreme Court decision to water-down the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 and secondly for giving a speech on the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, the only surviving member of the original lineup of nine speakers.

His autobiography is Walking with the Wind (Harcourt Brace & Company, New York, 1998, 526pp). This overly thick tome is by turns turgid and riveting. Lewis was Zelig of the 1960s, present at the creation of the early lunch counter sit-in protests, the Freedom Rides, the founding of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the March on Washington, Bloody Sunday in Selma and Robert Kennedy's presidential campaign.

His is a uniquely American story: a rise from almost medieval poverty in Alabama, one of a sharecropper's ten children, a God-addled farm boy who used to preach to his chickens. The first in his family to go to college, he arrived at a small Baptist preachers' college in Nashville in 1957. Six years later, as a civil rights leader, he was meeting President John Kennedy in the White House and addressing a quarter million protesters before the Lincoln Memorial. He was all of 23.

This bit of self-analysis explains his rise: "Once I made a decision, it was just about impossible to turn me away from it. That's something that would remain with me my entire life, that I take great deal of care in weighing an important choice. But once I made a decision, I stay the course. . . When I care about something, when I commit to it, I am prepared to take the long, hard road, knowing that it may not happen today or tomorrow, but ultimately, eventually, it will happen. That's what faith is all about."

In Nashville, Lewis was one of the first disciples of Professor Jim Lawson, who had lived in India and combined the tenets of Jesus Christ and Mohandas Gandhi. This faith united an extraordinary group of students - James Bevel, Diane Nash, Bernard Lafayette - into leading



John Lewis makes a speech to mark the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Photo: Djembayz

the non-violent protests that ended segre- and the civil rights movement. gation in Nashville's lunch counters and movie theaters. They then spread

out throughout the South to promote the voter registration campaigns that would eventually sweep away white domination of political power.

Lewis was jailed forty times. He was beaten up as a Freedom Rider; he was beaten up in Selma leading the March on Montgomery. A year later, he was ousted as Chairman of SNCC by a rabble-rouser named Stokley Carmichael, leader of a clique of Northern intellectuals

who believed in neither Jesus nor Gandhi. This shift toward violent black nationalism led quickly to the demise of both SNCC

Along the way, Lewis treats his readers with any number of you-are-there

vignettes: his first meeting with Martin Luther King, the whirlwind events of the March on Washington, running to a changed Malcolm X in Nairobi, Robert Kennedy announcing King's death in heartfelt speech to an election crowd and later sobbing face-down on a hotel bed.

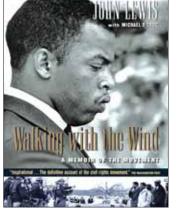
But there are huge amounts of deadly dull passages when Lewis indulges in long passages of boilerplate rhetoric.

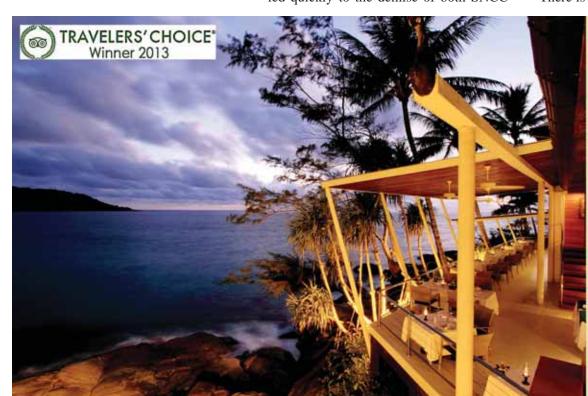
The last hundred pages are unbearably dull as he describes his post civil rights career. There is one brief flash of interest as he

describes his 1986 run for Congress in Atlanta against his former best friend and SNCC colleague Julian Bond. He cloaks his rivalry with more leaden rhetoric about democracy but his envy for the articulate, tall, handsome, charismatic Bond must have played some role in the demolishment of his opponent in a TV debate.

But, above all, this is an immensely sad book. A short brilliant era of burning idealism ends in crushing disillusionment. "First Dr King, then Bobby Kennedy, both shot dead within weeks of each other. It hurt so incredibly much when they were taken away. It was like trusting yourself to fall in love when you've given your heart and had it broken. Here it had happened twice."

Meanwhile SNCC and the Movement itself lapsed into violent, pointless, selfindulgent irrelevance. And Richard Nixon became President.





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YOU know it's going to be a good day's cycling when you see more water buffalo than you do hurtling pick-up trucks, and when the smiling locals stop what they are doing and rush out to greet you with a hearty "Hello Farang!" Such pleasures are rarely found in Phuket these days, but just 80 kilometers north of the Sarasin Bridge, we discovered a rather decrepit ferry which acted as a magic gateway to a laid-back world that reassured us that the "Land of Smiles" is not dead.

Just eight kilometers south of Takkua Pa on highway 402 heading north to Ranong, you'll come to the village of Baan Muang. Here you'll spy a large "Highway Police" building on your left and it's here that you should turn to catch the ferry across the one kilometer stretch of silty brine to the confusingly named island of Koh Kho Khao.

My fellow Lycra Lout Steve Lawrence and I managed to get lost even on the short stretch of road

The Koh Kho Khao ferry runs on its own schedule.

from Highway 402 to the ancient creaking ferry, but a helpful granny in a sam-lor sprang to oxur rescue and led us to Nam Khem ferry pier. She didn't look too prosperous and while I didn't want to patronize her, I thought a few baht might prove helpful. But she was having none of such nonsense and waved my foolish baht away with a hearty gap-toothed smile and a "welcome to Thailand". Well, that was a little different from most days in Phuket!

Koh Kho Khao is about 18 kilometers long and six wide and doesn't look too different from the mainland, yet psychologically it's a world apart. Its main attractions are long deserted beaches, ideal for great swimming and sunset walks; quiet traffic-free roads perfect for cycling and a sleepy laid-back ambience with locals who are genuinely happy you took the trouble to visit them.

The first clue that you are about to enter a different, slower world is the decrepit car ferry itself. Apparently, said ferry answers to no specific timetable and tends to make the twenty minute crossing to the island whenever it feels like it, or perhaps when there

> are enough customers to merit the ferry-boys leaving their beers and card games and springing into action. The ferry set us back the princely sum of 150 baht to transport Steve's pick-up with our mud-spattered mountain bikes roped to the back, plus the two of us Lycra Louts over to the magic island.

Upon arrival at Baan Pak Koh at about 5pm, the island presented itself as a friendly place with a couple of taxis, restaurants, shops and a sleepy tour company with an ancient couple sitting outside eating som tam. They made a call and booked us into the excellent Hapla Beach Cottages half way up the island's west coast and right on the beach. We then unloaded the bikes from the pick-up and set off for a sunset ride.

The island felt like a secret place - markedly sleepy and friendly, yet slightly haunted, possibly because it was seriously inundated during the

2004 tsunami. It is characterized by grassy sand flats towards its center and a sprawling area of mangroves and canals to the east. To the northwest there's an overgrown air strip that was used by the Japanese during World War II. Other sights and activities include the small but pretty Toan Thong Waterfall in the northeast, a bird watching tower in the north and a kayaking operation that runs excursions into the northern and eastern canals.

The flat paved two-lane road ran straight from Baan Pak Koh all the way to the island's northern coast and everything on the island seemed to be located down a series of side sois off this road. At low tide it's possible to walk along the beaches for several kilometers shaded by the abundant Casuarina trees, but at high tide parts of the southern beaches become impassable.

We cycled until about 7pm and



The good old Land of Smiles is just 80 kilometers north of Phuket. Photos: supplied

enjoyed returning to our pick-up, without bike lights, but perfectly safe with little traffic about and with a crescent moon and diamond-like Venus rising in the west to light our way home.

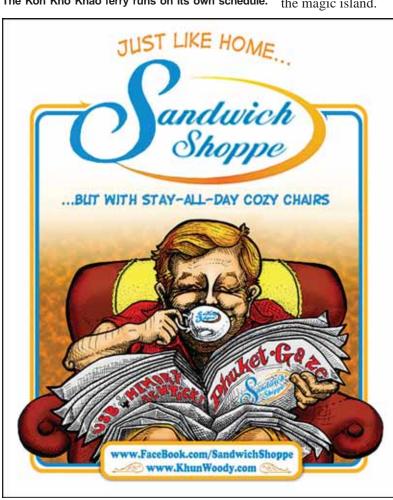
When we arrived at Hapla (literally "look for fish") Beach Cottages the kitchen had already closed, but the couple who own the resort happily opened up and cooked us a wonderful supper of local crabs, prawns and fish. We'd brought a couple of bottles of wine with us, for which they charged us no corkage and then they left us to our own devices when they went to bed at 10pm, leaving the bar fridge open so we could help ourselves. We sat out in the beachside restaurant until 1am, watching huge Hermit Crabs weaving their trails across the sands and basking in the quietude.

Next morning after breakfast, we cycled to the far north of the island to Nok Nan Beach, a remote stretch of sand bereft of humanity

but home to a boisterous herd of buffalo in their muddy plunge pools. In the north it's also possible to cycle the dirt paths that wind deep into the mangrove areas to the east.

Historically, Koh Kho Khao was one of the first landing spots for the Diaspora of ancient settlers who spread across Southern Thailand and Malaysia, and before that was a popular topping-off point among Chinese and other traders during the Takua Pa area's heyday as a tin mining center around the 15th century. The island was also a trans-shipment point on the Maritime Silk Route that started 2,000 years ago linking ancient Greek and Roman traders to Xian in China.

We returned to Phuket after only one night away and two delightful bike rides, but it felt as though we had reconnected with the real Thailand and the real joy of cycling in tranquility as it was meant to be.





The island feels like a secret place - markedly sleepy and friendly, yet slightly haunted.

The Rendezvous returns

FINAL preparations are underway for the 13th Asia Superyacht Rendezvous. With nine confirmed superyachts, a stunning venue, and captains, owners and crew flying in from all over the world to attend, this looks to be the best Rendezvous to date.

With such a mix of captains and crew, from all corners of the globe, and guests varying in ages, there will be something to keep everyone entertained. From cocktail parties, pirate-themed treasure hunts and gala dinners, this three-day event really does have everything covered. This year organizers are hosting a crew party at REKATA Beach Club on Kata Beach. Sponsored by Sevenstar Yacht Transport, the event offers the perfect opportunity for the crews to mingle and let their hair down.

The entertainment is an integral part of the overall event with sailing events during the day and parties in the evening. With nine confirmed entries and more sure to join, the waters around Kata Rocks look to be swarming with a whole host of exquisite superyachts.

Argo will be returning this year. At 34 meters, this beautifully crafted vessel will be a marvel to observe, gliding through the waters. Also participating again at this year's event is the 33-meter *Maid Marian*, a truly exceptional motor yacht, that was built in 1931, and wonderfully preserved throughout the years she is a true masterpiece. Moving on to the luxury sailing yacht; Sunshine is a 38-meter work of art whose fine craftsmanship is mirrored on both the interior and exterior of this stunning superyacht. Capricorn will also be joining; a 30meter example of timeless styling, some incredible expertise went into creating this wonderful vessel. The event is also very lucky to have on board the wonderful motor yacht, Moonsand. This 41-meter luxury yacht was made by Sovereign Yachts in 2003. She was chosen to be the flagship of the Royal New Zealand Squadron during the last Americas Cup. Participants are looking forward to seeing her and all the other Superyachts at the event this year. Moonsand is for sale, so anyone looking to invest in a beautiful motor yacht should look no further.

- Phuket Gazette

For more information, please contact pr-comm@asia-superyachtrendezvous.com. Full details of the event can be found on the official event website; www.asia-superyachtrendezvous.com.



An extravagant array of motor and sailing yachts on display during last year's Phuket Superyacht Rendezvous.

Go fly a kite

KITEBOARD Tour Asia (KTA) will be kicking off their 2013 tour with the Christmas Race Special in the waters off Phuket from December 17-20.

Organized by KTA and the Kiteboarding Class Association, the events will be based out of Kite Zone Phuket near Friendship beach with races being held in Chalong Bay. This will mark the first year that Thailand is the initial stop on the tour's circuit around Asia.

Racers can register in course racing for men/women and twintip racing for men/women with kiters competing for a prize purse worth US\$10,000. Registration is US\$50 with no qualification necessary. Racers must register online as well as appearing in person on registration day. Following the first round of racing in Phuket, KTA will continue on to hold races in Indonesia, the Philippines, Vietnam and China.

- Phuket Gazette

For more information or to register, visit: kiteboardtour.asia or contact Davo from Kitezone: dave@kitesurfthailand.com

Race Schedule

Dec 17 – Registration (11am-4pm), warm-up, opening party

Dec 18 - Competition, free night

Dec 19 – Competition, mid-week party

Dec 20 – Finals and prize giving, awards ceremony and closing party

Step it up



DJ Unity Selekta at Vinyl Cafe.

DUBWISE Phuket is a new event going on every second Saturday of the month at Vinyl Cafe (23/14 Chao Fa East Road, Phuket) from 10pm-2am. December 14 will see Vinyl Cafe host the second event.

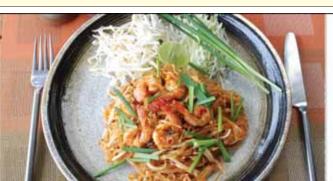
Resident DJ for the night will be Unity Selekta, executive producer for King Dubbist Records (kingdubbist.com) as well as special guest, DJ K-han (Moken Movement).

They will mostly play the latest dub-dubstep from all around the world, keeping the positive and spiritual message of reggae-roots music.

- Phuket Gazette









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Taste of East and West in the North

WEARE prisoners of convenience. the everyday Thai food to a musical ensemble. The weather Why explore distant locations if our island offers all we need and just around the corner? In Phuket you're never too far from amazing beaches, stunning sunsets and delicious food.

Sometimes though, it's worth making a little effort, finding an excuse to explore a bit, get off the beaten track and try something new. Recently such an excuse was provided in the form of the North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival. The combined efforts of four top resorts located next to Phuket's longest beach, Mai Khao - Sala, Renaissance, Anantara and JW Marriott – resulted in three nights of culinary delight and a chance to explore the lesser known. but no less amazing, parts of our beautiful island.

Night one – The Longest Table It's not only what you eat - it's where you eat. And the setting for the "Phuket's longest table" event was simply stunning. The 300 meter long table, stretching between Renaissance and Sala resorts, amidst the flickering light of bonfires, a fully operational bar masterfully carved out of ice and the sound of waves gently caressing the nine kilometer long beach, presented a view to remember. But once the table filled with food, that was where our focus went. Many of the dishe's names sounded quite familiar and are available on street corners of Phuket Town or Bangkok. But it took just a bite to realize that the chefs took completely new level.

"This is street food but with a twist. We have really highly educated executive chefs, who have played with local food and made their individual adjustments. That's how they're upgrading local food to gourmet food," said Goetz Bauer, General Manager of Renaissance Resort and Spa.

"If you look at the product quality, that's where you will really find, in the detail, the difference. Where is the meat really coming from? How is it presented? What kind of oils do they use and what salt are they adding on?" added Jon Ashenden, the regional general manager for SALA resorts Phuket and Samui.

So you might say it's just another beach – but it's not, it's nine kilometers of unspoiled beauty. You might say it's just Thai food – but it's not, it's Thai cuisine at it's best. And you might say it's just Phuket... well, it is, and this is what makes it special.

The culinary tour de force continued on Saturday night at Anantara Resort and Spa, with a bewildering array of local seafood on offer to guests – all bursting with the spicy, fresh flavors characteristic of Thai cuisine. The abundant Thai-style

seafood dishes were comple-

mented with colorful perfor-

mances by Thai dancers accom-

panied by a traditional *phipat*

Night two - Thai Seafood Feast.



The combined forces of four North Phuket resorts once again resulted in a truly spectacular culinary event.

was kind and the hundred or more guests seated at the tables on the expansive beachfront lawn at Anantara were free to peruse the dozen or so salas to sample some of the delicious dishes on offer. The queue for the freshly shucked oysters was quick to fill up, with the chefs racing to serve the delectable shellfish to diners. Crabs were also a popular selection, for my money the soft shell tempura crab salad with watermelon and watercress was a must have, but the crab curry was equally tasty and popular. Whole beds of fresh black and green mussels served with fragrant spices quickly filled plates and stomachs, along with the always popular pad thai goong which fairly teemed with juicy prawns - in a delightful stroke of presentation, the latter was served in cute paper takeaway boxes. There were too many fabulous dishes to mention here – stuffed squid, fish curry, salads and many more - all wonderfully displaying the rich heritage and complex flavors of Thai cuisine. To top it all off were khanom - traditional deserts made from flavored coconut and rice - and crispy crepes served piping hot, with your choice of fillings. Every dish of the night was a testament to the skill and talent of Anantara's hard-working chefs and kitchen staff and demonstrated their depth of knowledge of Thailand's culinary



The setting was as impressive as the food. Photos. Maciek Klimowicz

Night three – The Best of the West and the Feast of the East The momentum for fine dining and culinary excitement peaked on night three when the JW Marriott Resort and Spa showcased their fine cuisine from all six of their restaurants.

Food and Beverage Director Joerg Delin, himself a five star chef, explained.

"For the past three years, we presented a Sunday brunch during the festival but this year we decided to deliver a top dining experience with food stations set around our lotus pond."

On display were succulent meats normally found at the upscale Andaman Grill and handmade pastas from the recently renovated Cucina fine Italian restaurant. Ginger restaurant provided many selections of traditional Phuket cuisine and Indian chicken and fish kabobs enhanced with South Asian spices were on offer.

Executive Chef Dietmas Spitzer presented a table of exotic seafood that had all 380 diners lined up for hard to find, bright red Boston lobsters.

"For this special festival, we imported 240 kilos of Boston lobsters, which costs 1000 Baht per kilo, in addition to a small mountain of fresh oysters, crab and smoked salmon."

There was almost too much

fine cuisine on offer, leaving many guests spoilt by choice.

A special attraction was the resort's Kabuki Japanese restaurant, where guests could find Chef Suwat Impradab's array of incredibly fresh sushi and sashimi. He was trained in Japan and also directed the cuisine produced at the teppanyaki tables, which for this festival also offered tastes from Mongolia. Of particular delight at Kabuki was a fresh, enormous yellow fin tuna that was expertly sliced in pieces for the waiting

Cocktails and wines and bubbly delights were freely poured. Guests were also delighted by the Marriott's signature Water and Fire show with dancers moving through the resort's lotus pond set to rhythmic drumming

Extravagant is the best word to describe the evening produced by the JW Marriott for the North Phuket Culinary Arts Festival.

With the success of this year's Culinary Arts Festival, North Phuket's top resorts have once again proved they are a force to be reckoned with on the island's competitive dining scene. So if you want to sample some of Phuket's best food, prepared by ultra-talented international chefs - North is the direction to go! You'll be glad you did.

- Phuket Gazette

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Phuket Honors HM The King



Long live the King! Phuket
GovernorMaitri Inthusut and
Phuket Red Cross President
Pawinee Inthusut organised a
gala evening at Rajabhaj University Hall to celebrate His Majesty
the King's 86th Birthday.







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JUK'S SPOT THE DIFFERENCE: Find the 10 differences between these pictures.



Artist and brand consultant Miguel Kirjon lives in Phuket with his partner Lin Prachakrich and publishes a series of children's books "Juk's Adventures" in 9 languages. See juksadventures.com for more information.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

Life for those born under the sign of Sagittarius is predicted to cool down during the second half of this month. The stars indicate that work responsibilities will be less demanding and you will be able to catch up on socializing. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming days are forecast to enjoy more freedom of choice in the year ahead. The number eight appears lucky this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Where work and business are concerned, sitting on the sidelines is recommended for Capricorns this week, even if it is a challenge to resist pressure. Action taken now can be a step in the wrong direction – the stars suggest that you will receive guidance to make the right decisions in January. Those who are single learn that a water sign has romance on their mind. Number five can be fortunate this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

There is focus on personal relationships this week. An earth sign is forecast to offer an olive branch around the middle of the month and you are advised to accept this with good grace. Your romantic outlook can be clouded by interference from others during the second half of December. Getting involved with a fire sign is particularly highlighted to involve complications. Number two stands out for Aquarians.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Tension in the world of work may be due to crossed wires. The stars suggest that someone in authority has not properly understood your point of view; Tuesday is the most auspicious day for clear communication and it would be wise to lay this matter to rest before the start of the holiday season. Romance with another water sign should be more relaxed this weekend. Pisceans' lucky number this week is four.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

The astral atmosphere is forecast to bring an unsettling few days for those born under the sign of Aries. An agreement you thought you could count on at work may be changed at the last minute, but the stars hint that this should lead to a better result. Your enthusiasm for the upcoming holiday season can be dampened by a water sign partner. Number three can be important for Arians this week.

Across:

8. I recant to make sure (7) 9. In place, or moved to

13. Continued, talked too

14. Moved her at the center (5)

circle (7)

16. Car is, or could be, a privateer (7)

17. Stormy ocean for a small boat (5)

18. Unusual tale, right to revise (5) 20. Upright good man, Officer of the Day (5)

22. A new movement around the Northeast today in

23. O, my sin arranging to buy a

25. Bend our arrangement to bounce back (7)

issue (7)

drink (6) 31. Gun at church causes a

stink (6) 32. In short, back traditional

Southern game (5) 35. Clan out East not

corrupt (5) 36. Avoid duel about note (5)

37. Shut in Eastern Nationalist near by (7)

41. One thousand a hut, possibly, in a Phuket district! (5)

turn left (5) 43. Slight spouse for mistress

44. I meant a disruption to liven

China (9)

much (3,2)

15. Beat chap in line to touch

Thailand (3,3)

place in church (6)

27. Mean, upset, consumed by

30. Maybe ban dry alcoholic

39. Exits badly, editor lived (7)

42. Revoke a new Nationalist

in Thailand (5,4)

things up (7)

Down: 1. Rename anew the more lowly (6)

2. Usual to be in force on a road (8)

3. Taking away accompanying picture (11)

4. Against offer to competitor (9)

5. About time, traces new broadcast (7)

6. Wild notion gale is lengthening (10)

7. Explosive device belonging to me (4)

10. Follows the railway (6)

11. Capering about, daughter, can gin be the cause? (7)

12. Aimlessly stray round the river. Scintillating! (6)

19. Time cad produced a harness racer (7)

21. Musical drama. Tenor, note work (7)

24. Um, a home pang about a

district of Phuket, or elsewhere in Thailand (11)

26. Do ration in new inauguration to the church (10)

28. Took industrial action, rotton, not allowed to work as a doctor (6,3)

29. Contaminates, could be sent C.I.F. (7)

30. Break about one hundred in for sponsor (6)

32. Makes a speech of French assertions of ownership (8)

33. Very hard to find a fish in a pigpen (6)

34. Being disappointed, lowered (3,4)

38. Elaborately adorned, or restyled neat (6)

40. Egyptian god is one, son (4)

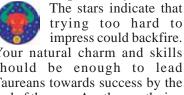
Cryptic crossword compiled by Patong Bill. Solution on page 31.

YOUR

horoscope

By Isla Star

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



impress could backfire. Your natural charm and skills should be enough to lead Taureans towards success by the end of the year. Another earth sign is highlighted to make an attractive employment offer during the second half of December. In the realm of romance, an air sign is poised to show their interest this weekend. Number six can attract good luck.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Getting back to nature is highlighted to help those born under the sign of Gemini this week. A spur of the moment trip can be just what you need to recharge batteries before the holiday period. Where finances are concerned, this is an auspicious time to plan a better budget for the New Year. Dazzling days for romance are Sunday and Monday. Your lucky number this week is seven.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Your willpower becomes stronger during the second half of December

and this should encourage Cancerians to make positive changes. An earth sign partner is ready to join you in a quest to get more exercise, but those involved with an air sign may not get much support. Finances are fortunate, with focus on unexpected gain before the end of the year. The number eight is forecast to be lucky this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Leos who were worried about taking on more responsibility at work

should be able to reach a compromise. The stars suggest that a more important position can provide you with the right amount of challenges – Tuesday is the most auspicious day for negotiating and signing contracts. Flirtation with another fire sign is fun this weekend. Number one stands out for those born under the sign of Leo this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

The cosmic climate can have a negative effect on communication around the middle of the month, especially in the world of work. A fire sign's

outburst in the heat of the moment

is best forgotten; the stars suggest that reacting to this person will cause more trouble than it's worth. In the realm of romance, you should wait a while before confessing your feelings to a water sign. Number nine can be lucky this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Rewarding news is forecast to encourage an optimistic mood. The stars

indicate that your financial outlook should benefit from someone's generosity during the second half of December. This can enable Librans to plan a trip in the New Year that you thought might not be possible. Reunion with an estranged romantic partner is highlighted to give you hope for rekindling a relationship. Number one can attract good fortune this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Scorpios who believed their recent hard work had gone unnoticed should be

cheered during the coming days. An earth sign is predicted to show their appreciation, possibly with a tempting employment offer. Those hoping to make a romantic impression on another water sign are advised to rein in their enthusiasm until they know more about this person. Money matters are auspicious midweek. Your lucky number is two.

International Sport

Socceroos fearless, other Asian squads confident

By Amlan Chakraborty

CLUBBED in a veritable group of death for next year's FIFA World Cup, Australia believe they can spring a surprise while fellow Asian qualifiers Japan, South Korea and Iran were more cautious with their optimism despite being dealt kinder draws.

Grouped with both finalists from the last World Cup along with Chile, the Socceroos, thrashed 6-0 by both Brazil and France in recent months, will probably need a miracle to progress from the group stage but midfielder Tommy Oar felt his side could excel without the shackles of high expectations.

"In our group we're probably least likely in terms of favorites to go through," Oar told Fox Sports News last Saturday.

"But I think that's perfect because when we go into games we have nothing to lose and we have nothing to fear," said the 21year-old Utrecht player.

The Socceroos, playing in their fourth World Cup and only pro-

gressing from the group stage once in 2006, open their Group B campaign against Chile on June 13 before taking on the Dutch on June 18 and holders Spain five days later.

"We can just try and go for it and the pressure will be on the other teams," said Oar.

"It will be a great experience and I definitely think we can turn a few heads."

Drawn with Ivory Coast. Colombia and Greece in Group C, Japan have a much more favorable passage ahead and coach Alberto Zaccheroni was optimistic, if they can get off to a fast start.

"If we can play to the best of our ability then we can be a threat. I am confident," the Italian was quoted as saying by Kyodo news agency.

"Obviously getting off to a good start is important.'

Asian champions Japan, who have twice made it to the last 16 in four World Cup appearances, meet Ivory Coast on June 14 before facing Greece (June 19) and Colombia (June 24) in conditions they expect would be similar to what they experienced in Brazil during the Confederations Cup in June.

"It will be hot and humid at the stadium and that is something that the African players are used to. We really need to be fully prepared," the Italian added.

A benign draw has also boosted South Korea's chance of progressing from Group H which contains Belgium, Russia and Algeria. Head coach Hong Myong-bo insisted, though, it was far from a cakewalk.

"People may think that it's an easy group, but that's not true." Hong was quoted as saying by the Asian Football Confederation.

"We shouldn't underestimate any of our opponents because they're all strong teams that are capable of going through," said the former member of the Korean team that reached the last four of the 2002 World Cup on home soil.

South Korea begin their eighth consecutive World Cup finals campaign against Russia, who they lost 2-1 to last month, on June 17, before clashing with Algeria (June



Spain's coach Vicente del Bosque at the draw for the WC2014. The reining champions are in Group B with the Netherlands, Chile and Australia.

22) and Belgium (June 26).

"We played a friendly against Russia in November but we will have to study them again, as things have changed," said Hong.

"Only good sides make it to the World Cup so we'll not only have to keep an eye on Russia, but on Belgium and Algeria too," he added.

Iran coach Carlos Oueiroz did not place any burden of expectation on the shoulders of his players, asking them instead to enjoy the experience of playing in a group which twice champions Argentina are expected to win.

Queiroz's side, who have

never been beyond the group stage in three previous World Cups, will also face African powerhouse Nigeria and newcomers Bosnia.

"For my players, it should be an honor to play against these rivals and it is important they go out and enjoy every minute of every match, eager to make it to the second round," said the former Portugal, South Africa and UAE manager.

"The key will be in our preparation. If we work hard, we will have a good opportunity. If not, we won't be in a position to take - Reuters our chance."

Peterson, Gronkowski: NFL 'casualties of war'

NASTY winter weather was a key factor in many Week 14 games in the National Football League (NFL) games, which significantly clarified the playoff picture. Highly-rated teams like the Broncos and Seahawks clinched playoff berths though outright wins, while the struggling Indianapolis Colts backed into post-season play despite another disappointing loss, this time a 42-28 pounding at the hands of the Cincinnati Bengals.

Still firmly in the playoff hunt are defending Super Bowl champs, the Baltimore Ravens, who in blizzard conditions somehow man-

aged to score 22 points in the fourth quarter for a spectacular come-from-behind win at home over the Minnesota Vikings. To give an indication of just how dramatic the game was, it was the first game in NFL history with five go-ahead touchdowns in the last two-minute-and -five-seconds of play. The win raises the Ravens stock significantly in the AFC playoff picture, if they can do what it takes to secure a spot.

Losing was not the only casualty for the Vikes, whose superstar running back Adrian Peterson, in this writer's opinion the greatest

back in NFL history, went town with what appears to be a serious injury, which has been described as a "mid-foot sprain".

Peterson, a total freak of nature and the 2012 NFL MVP, says he wants to play next week. That mindset is part of his success, but with the Vikings (3-9-1) out of the playoff hunt, the powers that be in Minnesota would be crazy not to give him the final three weeks off. Peterson, from the hamlet of Palestine in Texas, is their single greatest investment. He has three years left on his guaranteed US\$96 million contract, or

3,099,849,600 baht at the current exchange rate – enough to buy a lot of lady drinks on Soi Bangla.

But he's worth it. This is a guy with lightning speed who hurdles over huge defensive linemen like something out of a CGI movie. He hardly ever fumbles; he crushes and smashes everyone in his way, never runs out of bounds unless required to stop the clock.

In my dreams, he would be playing for the New England Patriots (disclosure implied). Running back is a position that seems to have lost some of its former status in recent years thanks to officiating and rule changes that have combined to create more of a passing league.

Despite this, Peterson remains a true superstar in every sense of the word. Even those among us who do not appreciate the NFL should check out one of his highlight films on YouTube.

At just 28 Peterson has a good record of recovering from injury. Last year he surprised the entire league by coming back once from a torn ACL injury the year before, then wreaking havoc on defenses across the league and even getting the Vikes into the playoffs. All we can do is hope his foot heals just as completely so we can see him at his best again in the future.

Speaking of the aforementioned New England Patriots, their chances for another Super Bowl run were severely diminished with a season ending injury to superstar tight end Rob Gronkowski.

After recovering an onside kick with less than a minute remaining, Brady & Co pulled off yet another incredible come-from-behind win, this time at home over the Cleveland Browns. It has already been confirmed that Gronkowski, who went down in the second half on a fair, but wicked open field hit to the knees, has not only a torn ACL, but also an injured MCL.

Injury-prone Gronkowski missed much of the early season recovering from injuries to his back and forearm, and his return sparked the New England offense and had the perennial AFC East champs poised for another deep playoff run. With the win, the Pats still look like a good bet to get a bye in the first round of the playoffs, but whether they can go deeper than that without their 6' 6", 120kg monster tight-end remains to be seen.

The hit Gronk took, while fair, has already sparked a great deal of discussion about recent officiating changes that increasingly penalize backs for "unsportsmanlike conduct" hen they hit defenseless receivers in the head area. The well-intended change, meant to lower the incidence of concussions, leaves backs with no other option than to tackle low, thus putting their knees in danger. In Gronk's case he got the worst of both worlds: what could likely be a career-ending knee injury as well as a head concussion.

- Somchai Huasaikul



High ranked Broncos and Seahawks clinched playoff berths though outright wins. Photo: deege@fermentarium.com



AUSTRALIAN entries dominated the races, winning 14 scheduled classes, followed by Japan who won three classes, in the Phuket King's Cup Regatta, off Kata Beach all last week.

As expected in the Phuket Dinghy Series, raced as an integral part of the Regatta proper, Thai sailors – boys and girls – reigned supreme in the Optimists, the International Dinghy Class and the Windsurfing.

Aussie Ray Roberts racked up his fifth win in the fiercely-contested IRC Zero Class; Alan Carwadine won the Multihull Racing; Chris Mitchell won the Cruising and David Boekemann did likewise in the Bareboat Charters.

"It's been really exciting for me and the team, we sailed really well, very consistently and without a doubt it's great to win, but I just love to come sailing here," said a beaming Ray Roberts, surrounded by smiling crew members at the awards ceremony on Friday, December 6 at Kata Beach Resort.

"We haven't sailed for over a year and a half... we've come back with a vengeance and we're very happy to be winners."

Roberts went on to speak about the challenging wind conditions during the week-long competition.

"It's been a whole week of very, very difficult wind conditions, and it typically is quite a tricky place to sail.

"So it's very challenging, but that also adds to the excitement – if you get it right you come out on top, if you don't get it right you lose – so it's consistency over the week and I think from day one to day

five it was just as hard."

He also made clear his intentions to return next year to battle for a possible sixth King's Cup victory.

"We'll always be back... so barring some unusual event, [we] love coming here, love racing here and we'll be back."

Norikazu Arai led the Multihull Cruisers, and fellow-countrymen, Makiko Matsuichi (Sports Boats), and Yasuo Nanamori (IRC Two) filled out the Japanese entries.

Singaporean Bill Bremner won the IRC One, Hong Kong's Anthony Root, triumphed in the IRC Three, Thai Ithinai Yindsiri won the Premier Class, Briton John Newnham was first in the Firefly 850 Sports, and one of the huge Russian contingent (22 entries) Eugeny Nikiforov, led the Open Charters.

Canada and the the UK came out as winners of the Modern Classic (Jim Ellis) and the Classic Classes (Peter Wood), respectively.

At the splendid Awards and Closing Ceremony of the just-finished 26th edition of the Phuket King's Cup Regatta 2013, His Majesty's Personal Representative ML Admiral Usni Pramoj, presented awards to the winners of the 14 senior classes, the Phuket Dinghy Series and the Wind-surfing Classes.

A feature of the final party, held at the Regatta's "home" for the past few years, was the appearance of the award-winning Scottish singer/song-writer Paul Ewing and his band. Paul is also the Artist Ambassador to World Vision, UK, the world's largest charity dedicated to the advancement of children. – *Phuket Gazette*



OneSails Racing crew skippered by Ray Roberts, who this year claimed his fifth King's Cup.



The OneSails crew in action during the second day of the King's Cup. Photo: Jeremie Schatz



IRC zero racers line up to cross the starting line during day two's racing. Photo: Jeremie Schatz



The Sansiri team came in third place in the modern classic division. Photo: Jeremie Schatz



Dinghi class racers. Photo: Santi Kanchanabandhu



International Dinghy Series winners Praewa Kangkla (left) and Supparak Naimraska.



The Royal Thai Navy. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

International Sport Young picking up the pace

PHUKET based Australian racing driver Dylan Young, recorded a best placed finish of 9th position out of an increased grid of 20 cars during races 3-5 of the 2013 MRF Challenge Formula 2000 Championship held at the Bahrain Formula 1 Circuit from November 28 to 30.

Improving on his 10^{th} place finish back in races 1 and 2 of the championship, Young recorded a best place finish of 9th position while also grabbing 10th and 11th place finishes during races 3-5 of the 2013 Championship. The event was run alongside the FIA World Endurance Championship round at Bahrain, the same championship that holds the famous Le Mans 24-hour event, bringing an attendant level of international media attention.

Young was quick to thank his sponsors in Phuket who are continuing to support his 2013 campaign and journey towards Formula 1. "I would once again like to thank Wahoo Phuket, Kata Rocks and Indigo Pearl for backing me. These partners of mine have been simply fantastic to come together as a group and share my long standing ambition to showcase and represent Phuket on the international sporting stage."

After a difficult qualifying session with the tyres, where Young received a batch that was performing strangely with constant understeer, he made his mark in the opening race of the weekend by gaining four places to jump inside the top 10 of 20 cars to ultimately finish in 10th place.

With the grid for the second race of the

weekend being determined by the previous race's finishing position, Young lined up in 10th place in what was about to be his strongest performance of the weekend where he would come home in 9th place. After a strong start, Young managed to deliver excellent race pace and in doing so even managed to pass and finish ahead of the holder of pole position.

"Race two really stood out for me as a performance that showed we are making some really big gains with every race. The car felt great and to pass the guy in the race that started in pole and be ahead of some big name drivers competing in GP3 in Europe was a massive confidence boost. I think going forward, this shows with every bit of seat time I get it will put me in good shape to be competitive in Europe which is what is needed to break into Formula 1."

The second fastest lap of qualifying determined the starting grid for the final race of the weekend and because of Young's tyre issues in qualifying he lined up in 12th position. Young was engaged in a race-long fight with a number of drivers for 8th position. An entertaining battle ensued as Young traded places with GP3 drivers and with a bunch of drivers racing so heavily, Young's tyres begun to fade and he reached the chequered flag only two metres behind 10th place for an 11th place finish, again improving on his starting position.

Young emphasized that with his ability to continually gain places in the races, he must now focus on ensuring he qualifies



Dylan Young's ninth place best finish at the Formula 1 circuit track in Bahrain. Photo: Supplied

strongly at the upcoming round in order to attack at the front.

"The tyre issues we had in qualifying with so much understeer really hampered our races as it meant I had to claw back these positions during the races and we obviously had the speed to be much further up the grid," he said.

"If we can ensure that the car is in great shape with strong balance for qualifying at

the next races then I'm sure I'll be able to gain places in the race yet again and fight right near the front. I can't wait to get back in the car and make continued progress to close the year out in style!" - Phuket Gazette

You can follow Dylan at facebook.com/ dylanyoungracing or twitter.com/_dylanyoung_ or personally play a part in supporting his career at gofundme.com/dylanyoungracing

Laguna leads



THE new season of the Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels (JLL) Cricket League got underway at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Sunday, December 8, with defending champions Laguna taking on last season's finalists Patong.

The playing conditions were perfect, with a nice breeze aiding player's comfort, while the ACG basked in sunshine. With both sides evenly matched, there were varied opinions as to who would take victory but all expected a very close contest, as is always the case when these teams meet.

After winning the toss, Patong decided to bat, looking to set a solid total. Patong, with a dearth of batting talent, were pitted against Laguna's strong bowling line-up. Opening bowler, Sohail Rehman (3-24), struck early, clean bowling both of Patong opener's, Mike Khan (1) and Seemant Raju (6). He followed this up shortly thereafter, taking the key wicket of Imtiyaz Mushtaq (5). Paddy Morton (28) and Dave Watson (17) then steadied the innings with a valuable 45 run partnership, until Watson fell to a sharp catch by Mudisir Rehmen at mid-wicket. Morton then fell in the next over, being caught and bowled by Sameer Khan (2-17). Pao Suttiprapha (16) and Richard

Desmond (19) provided some further resistance. However, this wasn't enough, as Laguna bowled out Patong for 125 in 29 overs. Shoeib Mushtaq took the bowling honors picking up 5-17.

With 126 runs required for victory, Laguna got off to a cautious start looking to gradually accumulate runs without the loss of any early wickets. Opener's Darren Shaw (35) and Manish Sadarangani (62) did just that returning to the clubhouse with 46 runs on the scoreboard at the 12 over drinks break without loss. Shaw eventually fell in the 20th over with the score on 85 after being stumped off the leg-spin bowling of Paddy Morton. Shoeib Mushtaq (18 not out) then joined Sadarangani at the crease for a 38 run partnership, before Sadarangani was bowled with the score on 123. However, Mushtaq completed the Laguna victory in emphatic style hitting a six to reach 129-2 in the 28th over. Next Sunday on December 15, the Village take on ICC. Play starts at 10am. - Phuket Gazette

Anyone interested in playing or joining as a member should contact chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com or visit phuketcricketgroup.com for more information.

Strengthen your golf swing

WHEN you think of golf you don't often associate strength training with it. Ever since Tiger Woods broke onto the PGA tour, more and more golfers are now starting to incorporate strength training as part of their overall training programs. While many people associate strength training with increased distance off the tee, strength training is primarily used for injury prevention and improved efficiency of one's golf swing. An efficient golf swing, or any athletic movement for that matter,

requires some degree of stability, power, balance, and coordination, all of which strength training will provide a foundation for.

So what type of exercises should you do to help improve your golf swing? Most people would agree that the core is the most important area to focus on when it comes to training for golf but strength in your legs, hips, back, shoulders, and arms, which make up the links that connect your kinetic chain, provides a stable base of support for each succeeding link to work off. This

allows the forces you generate throughout the golf swing to be transferred through each link to the club head and golf ball in a more efficient and coordinated manner. The more efficient your golf swing becomes, the more power you are able to generate with less effort required, which is something all of us strive to achieve.

Golf tips by Thanyapura's Operation Manager, Brian Finniss who can be reached at: tslc@thanyapura.com - Phuket Gazette



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Sport



The competitors of the first ever "Queens of the Beach" event came from QSI International School, Headstart International School and SOS Children's Village. Photos: Supplied

Dueens of the beach compete

WITH the success of the PTT School Tournament, held in conjunction with the recent 2013 FIVB Beach Volleyball Phuket Open, organizer Bob Selznick wanted to give students another chance to develop their skills on the sand by hosting a new tournament.

"I promised the girls that I would teach them, and hold a two-person per side beach volleyball tournament for them soon after [the PTT School Tournament]. They had only played six on six, now they love to play two on two like the pros," said Selznick.

So it was, that the first round of the "Queens of the Beach" volleyball tournament kicked off last Saturday, December 7 on O2 Beach Club's dedicated sand court in Chalong. Competition at the tournament was fierce, festuring lots of hard-fought, close games, with play running from 1pm until after dark under the lights. O2 Beach Club also provided a DJ for the event to spin some heart pumping music, complemented by a play-by-play commentary from CJ Prieur of Seara Sports.

The tournament started off in a round robin format, with each team playing a match against each other. After this round was finished, the top third and fourth team played for the third place trophy. This turned out to be the match of the day, with Suzy Lee and Nandita Sethi of Headstart International



The winning team Kaya Freeman from PIA and Eli Kostikova from Headstart International.

School playing Violett Parkina and Laurelyne Leger of QSI International School. The Match went three close sets, with the last set going back and forth, with Violett and Laurelyne pulling ahead to win 15-13.

The Championship Match was between Kaya Freeman of PIA and Eli Kostikove of Headstart against Didi Lemke and Jariya Prieur of Headstart. It was a two set match, and despite Didi and Jariya battling hard to the end, they couldn't find an answer for Kaya and Eli's ball control and power.

All in, there were eight teams (16 girls) taking part in the event, with players from QSI International School, Headstart International School and SOS Children's Village.

At the end of the day's play, the top three teams were: Third place – Laurelyne Leger and Violett Parkina from QSI; Second place - Jariya Prieur and Didi Lemke from Headstart International; and First place and the first "Queens of the Beach" Kaya Freeman from PIA and Eli Kostikova from Headstart.

Prizes for the top three teams included; trophies, dinners at Wine Connection, rides from Kata Surf House, beach wear and more.

According to organizer Bob Selznick, future tournaments will be held every four to six weeks, during the series, with the next tournament set to be held in early February due to popular demand.

Selznick comes from an illustrious sporting background in Volleyball, with his father Gene being the number one player in the world, Indoor and Beach, for almost 20 years. His older brother Dane is also a number one in the world on the Beach and has coached in three Olympic Games as well as coaching the number one women's beach volleyball team in the world – Misty May and Kerri Walsh – for six years. Phuket Gazette

This event, which aims to foster local sporting talent, was made possible with the support of several generous sponsors including: O2 Beach Club, Wine Connection, Seara Sports, RPM Health Club, Rumblefish Adventure, Win Jeang Swimwear Kata Beach, Surf house Kata Beach.

ess strokes equal more energy

IN MY last column we were talking about triathletes and their approach to the swim portion of a race. I mentioned how being stronger didn't necessarily equate to better performance and how improvements in stroke technique would tend to have a longer lasting effect.

This week, I'd like to go a little further and talk about stroke rate and stroke count – two great things that go great together! Definitions: Stroke count is the number of strokes taken in a set distance. Usually done in a pool setting as its easy to track, and counted as each time a hand enters the water in Freestyle. Stroke rate is the time it takes to complete one stroke cycle (one right arm, and one left).

How does it help? Using the two together is a good way of determining how efficient your swimming is. Simply put, if you are in a 50m pool and it takes you 50 strokes to do 1 length



By Randy Simon

then you're going 1 meter for each arm pull. Do the same 50m length, in 25 strokes and you've doubled your distance traveled with each arm pull - going further with less strokes. Even a small decrease in number of strokes has a big impact in triathlon swimming. In our example, say we go from 50 to

46 strokes per length (50m pool). That equates to 152 less strokes in a 1.9 km swim. Essentially 150m "less" swimming.

But wait, it gets better! If we have an average stroke rate of 1.2 seconds per stroke, saving 152 strokes in the above example also means we save 182.4 seconds of time. That's a drop in time of just over 3 minutes! Is this starting to look pretty good? Well consider this: as I said last time, "the good news is that any small gain made in this area will lead to bigger gains in energy conservation." You've covered the same distance faster and you've done considerably fewer strokes, meaning you will have saved a lot of energy that you can now use on your cycle and run. Work smarter, not harder!

Contact Thanyapura's Aquatics Head Coach, Randy Simon at: aquatics @thanyapura.com



Superkidz in Bangkok

Players from Thanyapura's Superkidz tennis program recently had the chance to travel to Bangkok to train under the watchful eye of Thai National Coach Vitaya Samrej. They also took part in a tournament to test their newly honed skills. Thanyapura's Director of Sport Events Virapol Cholvibul praised

their efforts and said he hoped the program could continue to enable students to learn from skilled coaches such as Mr Vitaya.

"The trip went well because we had the full support of LTAT [Lawn Tennis Association of Thailand] who arranged many top national young players to join with our kids as well," he said.

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