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# uket azette

Island mourns tragic death of beloved radio personality

January 18 - 24, 2014

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# Havoc on Patong Hill forces officials to push forward with stopgap safety plan

# By Chutharat Plerin

OFFICIALS will go ahead with a trial one-month ban on buses and trucks travelling over the hills from Thung Thong into Patong starting next month, despite consensus among all major stakeholders that the ban is likely to result in more major accidents on the west-coast roads.

"Stopping buses and trucks from using the hill road to enter Patong is not enough, when we know the true problem is the state of the Patong Hill road and the large volume of vehicles using it," Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada said.

"The 'one-way ban' on Patong hill is not a permanent solution. We will try it for a month, then see if we can come up with better ways to prevent road accidents."

Tired of runaway tour buses wreaking havoc and carnage in their neighborhood, residents living at the bottom of the hill near the Suwankiriwong temple (Wat Patong) have threatened to protest if action is not taken, V/Gov Chamroen explained.

"And if those villagers blocked the road, I cannot imagine how bad the situation would be," he said.

The residents live at the main crash site for runaway tour buses whose brakes have overheated while traversing the steep grades over the hills into Patong.

Most recently, on December 29, a runaway bus loaded with Thai and Russian tourists slammed into five vehicles after its brakes failed. Two people died and 26 were injured in the crash.

# **TUNNEL VISION**

It is the residents living in the same village who have fought the hardest against the proposed tunnel through the hills to Patong, V/Gov Chamroen pointed out.

"The Patong tunnel project is one of the best solutions we have, but it has yet to pass public hearings. Some villagers will not let us move ahead with the tunnel because they will lose their land," he said.

"We cannot please everyone, but we...

Continued on Page 8

# SPECIAL REPORT

# **Island land** to kill for

A MAN was gunned down in broad daylight as an argument concerning land rights erupted in the Pracha Samakkee Community.

The piece of land is one of many plots now worth millions of baht per rai that was grabbed and fenced off by settlers after it was declared public in 2003.

Full story Pages 4-5

# Child rape cases grind forward

ONE of the four men charged with child-rape on the island in the past 16 months is still on the run, while the other three have yet to be handed verdicts for the heinous crime.

Full story Page 8

# Changes in boat stay law docked

PHUKET Customs Chief Nanthita Sririkub sought input from local marine stakeholders on Wednesday in order to send recommendations to Bangkok about the recent changes to boat stay law.

Full Story Page 3







# This Week



# **Property**

Reality not reflected in central index for building materials. Page 13



# Business

Marketeer eyes Phuket for launch of semisubmarine. Page 17



# People

An interview with Jamaican expat model Tracy Dawkins. Page 39



# Food

Raw, vegan food can be savored beyond detox. Page 41



# **Explore**

Baz heads back to the real Thailand north of the bridge. Page 42



# Sport

Where you can go to drive your bike like a maniac. Page 50



# Wednesday



Thursday



# Security guard found dead in rental room

A PHUKET department store security guard was found dead in his rental room off Suthat Road on Tuesday morning.

Police called to the scene found Sathid Tipratkaew, 53, lying on his bed.

"He appeared to have been dead for more than two hours," said Capt Udom Petcharat of the Phuket City Police.

'There was no trace of a struggle and the room was undisturbed."

Mr Sathid's boss discovered his body when he stopped by to

give him a ride to work.

"I came to pick him up for work as usual, but when I arrived, he was already dead," said the boss, who did not wish to be named.

"He had hypertension. I imagine that's the cause of death. Last Sunday he fainted at work. I told him to go home and rest. On Monday he took sick leave, and on Tuesday I found him dead."

Mr Sathid's body was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital to determine the cause of death.

Saran Mitrarat

# Too fast to be furious: cameras can't keep up

By Saran Mitrarat

DRIVERS on Phuket moving at the reckless speed of over 200kmh are outpacing the ability of the island's new speed cameras to capture images of them.

"In Thalang, the cameras are set to photograph cars traveling in excess of 120kmh. However, the images of the licenses plates on cars going extraordinarily fast are too blurry to read," Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Sarayuth Meeboon told the Gazette on Tuesday.

"The company that installed the cameras is already taking steps to fix the problem."

Daily, 15 to 20 tickets are issued to speeders on the straightaway in front of the Muang Thalang school.

Phuket's speed cameras, in four areas on the island, are not all triggered by the same speed. The camera on the bypass road is set to capture cars travelling faster than 90kmh, said Lt Col Rungrit Rattanapagdee of the Phuket City Traffic Police.

Tickets are mailed to the car owner's address and expected to arrive in four to five days, leaving about ten days for the recipient to pay the fine before the license plate



Drivers have 15 days to pay their 500-baht ticket. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

for the vehicle is suspended.

"If drivers don't pay the fine and continue to drive the car with a suspended plate, they are subject to additional charges and fines," said Maj Sarayuth.

"If they manage to avoid being

caught and later try to renew their plates at the Land Transportation Office, they will not be able to do

The money from the 500-baht fines is sent to the Royal Thai Police headquarters in Bangkok.

# 27-year-old dies while jet-skiing

POLICE have yet to establish what caused a young Iraqi tourist to die after he fell from his jet-ski at Naka Island on Monday afternoon.

Mariwan Qader Salim, 27, was pronounced dead by doctors at Thalang Hospital at 5pm, Thalang Police Deputy Superintendent Kitthiphum Thinthalang said.

"He was staying at a resort in Patong and went to Koh Naka on a day-trip," Lt Col Kitthiphum explained.

"Jet-ski staff said they saw him fall off the jet-ski less than 500 meters from the

beach at about 3:15pm, but they said he fell without hitting anything.'

On seeing that Mr Salim was not attempting to



Mr Salim was pronounced dead on arrival at the hospital at about 5pm. Photo: Gazette File

get back on the jet-ski, the staff rushed out to assist

"They took him by boat to Ao Por Pier, where the Pa Khlok Administration Organization rescue team sped him to the hospital. However, by then it was too late," Col Kitthiphum explained.

"I haven't received the report from the hospital as to cause of death. At this stage, all we know is that it seems he passed out before falling off the jet-ski.'

'He was young and looked strong. However, he may have had an underlying

medical condition," he added. - Thawit Bilabdullar



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# New boat rules on hold

# Customs chief seeks feedback, may rescind shorter stay order

By Saran Mitrarat

PHUKET Customs will take into account opinions from Phuket's marine industry before deciding whether or not to enforce new regulations that would reduce boat stays in Thailand to two months.

The new rules were announced by Phuket Customs Chief Nanthita Sririkub on January 9.

"According to new regulations handed down from Bangkok on December 26, all foreign-flagged boats entering Thailand are allowed to stay in the country for a maximum of two months at a time," Ms Nanthita said.

"However, we have set a meeting for January 15, where yacht brokers, agents and marina representatives will be able to give their feedback on the new rules."

"If there is too much resistance, they may be rescinded and the old rules reinstated."

Ms Nanthita explained that previously all foreign boats entering Thailand were permitted to stay six months.

"Under the new rules, the boat can stay only as long as the permit-to-stay issued to the yacht's captain remains valid.

"This may be 15 days, 30 days or up to two months, depending on whether or not the visa was issued by a Royal Thai Consulate or Embassy. Permits-to-stay issued to captains with tourist visas may be extended at Phuket Immigration only once for a period of 30 days," she said.

"If a captain leaves Thailand and obtains a new tourist visa from an embassy, when the captain re-enters Thailand the boat can stay for another two months, as the captain will have a new permit-to-stay."

Captains should take care to allow no gaps between the end of one permit-to-stay and the beginning of another, Ms Nanthita said.

"If the captain leaves his boat here while he goes on a visa run



The rule reduces boat stays from six months to two. Photo: Gazette file

and fails to return before the expiration of his old permit-to-stay, he will be fined 1,000 baht a day for each day the boat is here after his permit expires," she said.

"Under the new rules, the daily fine doubles from 500 baht a day to 1,000 baht a day, and the maximum fine also doubles, from 5,000 baht to 10,000 baht."

# 20 HB7

The motorcycle was dragged several meters. Photo: Karon Police

# Fatal crash raises fears of bus ban

A BUS accident that killed a motorcyclist on the Kata Hill road on Monday morning raises concerns about increased bus traffic on that route after the controversial Patong Hill bus ban takes effect.

Worrapong Chaichomphu, 25, was travelling downhill toward Chalong when a bus travelling uphill crossed the center line and struck him.

"He was thrown from his motorbike and struck an oncoming motorcyclist. The bus dragged his motorcycle for several meters before it stopped," said Lt Chamaiporn Supakom of the Karon Police.

Mr Worrapong died en route to the hospital.

The bus driver, Banjerd Chuangsri, was charged with reckless driving causing death and destruction of property.

Once the trial ban on buses and trucks travelling west over Patong Hill begins (see page 1), Patak Road over Kata Hill is likely to see an increase in bus traffic.

"I do not think this is a good idea. Accidents will be more likely on Kata Hill if more buses have to use it," Lt Chamaiporn said.

"I hope the officials find a better way to keep people safe on the roads." – *Chutharat Plerin* 

# Tiger Disco trial to begin next month

THE long-awaited manslaughter trial over the deaths of four people in Patong's Tiger Disco inferno in August 2012 will begin next month.

Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai and Sara Entertainment Co Ltd each face a charge of causing death through negligence under Section 291 of the Thai Criminal Code, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail.

"They also face charges of causing physical and mental injury, and trading after hours," Phuket Provincial Chief Public Prosecutor Chiengsean Panhya said.



Tiger Group CEO Piya Isaramalai

"By the end of the month, both parties will be in court to explain what evidence they have to support their plea," said Mr Chiengsean.

"Then the judge will set a date

for the first witness testimony."

Both parties were formally charged on July 10 last year, after a lengthy investigation and an appeal by Tiger Group legal counsel Thamrongsak Boonrak for a "fair investigation".

Tiger Group CEO Piya posted bail the same day on surety of an undisclosed amount paid in cash.

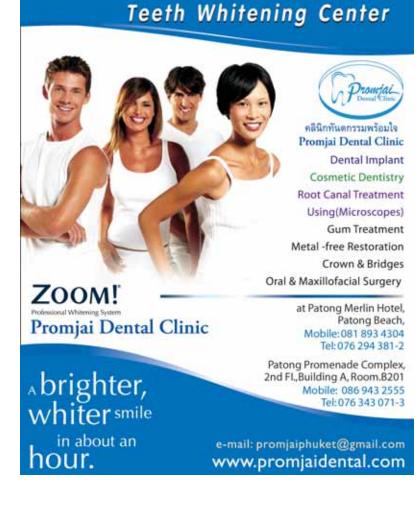
The popular night venue erupted into flames at about 4am on August 17, 2012, while hundreds of patrons were still inside.

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

The trial comes after a series of delays in securing evidence, despite Thailand's leading forensic police being dispatched from Bangkok to investigate the fire.

It also comes after a damning report by the Building Society Inspectors and Officers Association and the Association of Siamese Architects, which cited failure by nightclub management to adhere to multiple fire-safety regulations.

- Chutharat Plerin





# Chinese arrival numbers plunge before Year of the Horse festival

CHINESE arrivals have dropped by 60 per cent despite the upcoming Chinese New Year, said a tour company owner catering to the Chinese market.

Kritchakorn Roongmongkolnam, owner of Tranlee Travel Co Ltd and a member of the Phuket Tourist Association Executive Committee is fearful that the ongoing political situation in Bangkok will make for a tough 2014, despite the positive outlook from Acting Director of the Tourism Authority of Thailand Phuket (TAT) Anupharp Thirarath.

"From October to December 2013, Chinese tourist arrivals dropped 60 per cent. I think this trend will continue through the Chinese New Year," said Mr Kritchakorn.

"I monitor the Chinese tourism market and I believe the news of the turmoil in Bangkok appears worse than it is to people abroad, and it is scaring Chinese tourists away from Phuket."

"Tourists do not view Phuket as an island more than 1,000 kilometers from Bangkok, they see Phuket as a part of Thailand."



Chinese tour companies worry over arrival numbers. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

However, government officials suggest current hotel occupancy and record tourist arrivals last year point to a rosy future for Phuket despite the protests in Bangkok.

"I don't think we have to worry about Phuket tourism this year,' said Mr Anupharp.

"We are monitoring the situation in Bangkok. As soon as the time is right, we will launch several campaigns to promote tourism in the 14 southern provinces."

Director of the Phuket Office of Tourism and Sports, Santi Pawai, supports Mr Anupharp's view.

"Phuket is doing well. We have checked hotels throughout the island and hotel occupancy is at 95 per cent. I believe the numbers will continue to increase as we approach the Chinese New Year this month," said Mr Santi.

"Last year the hotels were fully booked during the holiday. This year will be the same."

- Chutharat Plerin

# Land grab:

SUPONGDETH Vetchatam, 53, walked into the Phuket City Police Station at about 7:30pm on January 9 armed with only his lawyer and a Smith & Wesson .357 revolver. He was surrendering himself for the murder of Echa Yala, the 49-year-old Koh Kaew resident he had gunned down about 24 hours earlier.

The Gazette's Irfarn Jamdukor reports.

Mr Supongdeth claimed he shot Mr Echa in self-defense. Police have yet to conclude their investigation, but little will change the fact that Mr Echa was shot three times, twice in the head.

The dispute was over land, said Mr Supongdeth. Land in the Pracha Samakkee Community in Koh Kaew that he claimed he owned. However, he failed to provide any documents to support his assertion.

"I have owned the land for nine years. I grow coconut trees on it," Mr Supongdeth told police. "I even fenced it off so people would know that it's private property."

After inspecting the land days earlier, he found parts of the fence had been removed.

"I heard Mr Echa was the one who removed the fence, so I filed a complaint with police that same day," Mr Supongdeth explained.

The fatal confrontation oc-

curred after Mr Supongdeth brought workers to the disputed land to rebuild fence.

"I caught Mr Echa clearing the land. We started arguing, and he threatened me with his scythe," he said.

"He started coming toward me, so I went back to my car and got my gun. I fired two warning shots

into the air, but he kept coming officers saw a public irrigation toward me, so I shot him and ran away."

Lt Col Anek Mongkol of the Phuket City Police confirmed that police had found a hand scythe at the scene in addition to a gun hol-

Mr Supongdeth was charged with murder and released on bail for an undisclosed amount.

# **SETTLERS**

There may be good reason for Mr Supongdeth's inability to prove the ownership he proclaims: the entire Pracha Samakkee community was built on the remains of a deserted tin mine, for which a swathe of mangroves had been cleared.

Claims to ownership of land in the area came under scrutiny two years ago when disputes broke out over who owned which plots, particularly one plot claimed by Methinee Janpong, 34.

"Ms Methinee presented a Chanote title deed for 85 wah [340sqm] issued in the name of her father, Tanit Janpong," explained Tachin Yeanmak, chief of the Land Measurement Division at the Phuket Land Office.

However, the investigation has stalled as Mr Tanit has not presented himself to the Land Office to valid the request to measure the

"We issued formal requests for him to present himself on July 27, 2012; on March 28, 2013; and most recently on December 24, 2013," Mr Tachin explained.

"If he doesn't present himself within 30 days of our most recent request, we will have to ignore his request to validate the measurements marked out on the Chanote.

> This might jeopardize claim."

The Land Office ignoring Mr Tanit's request might be the least of his worries. During the investigation, officers discovered that the Chanote presented by Ms Methinee does not match the original kept in the Phuket Land Office archives.

"While inspecting the plot in 2011.

- Mr Supongdeth ditch nearby that was not marked on the Chanote issued to Mr Tanit. We have yet to establish why," Mr Tachin said.

'I went back to my car and

got my gun. I fired two

warning shots into the air,

but he kept coming

toward me, so I shot him '

The land grab at Pracha Samakkee, now marked as a legitimate community complete with an entrance gate, has lead to the village growing from 40 households eight years ago to more than

"There is no more room," one villager, who asked not to be named or photographed, told the

"Phuket officials declared the deserted tin mine public land in 2003. At that time, many people came and marked off areas as their land," the 38-year-old said.

In addition to "free settlers" making the area their new home, the owner of the tin mine also pre-



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# Bring your lawyers and guns

sented a document to newcomers that he said proved that he continued to have rights to the land despite the fact that the concession to mine tin from the land had expired.

**BOOM TIME** 

The boom in new residents saw land prices skyrocket.

"Eight years ago, I bought a plot that was 450 square meters for 60,000 baht. Today, that land is worth about 200,000 baht," said the villager.

However, according to the register of land values maintained by the Land Office, the man could easily be selling himself short.

"The cheapest recorded value for land in the Pracha Samakkee area is 1,550 baht per wah [4sqm], but the highest is 25,000 baht per wah," said Land officer Mr Tachin.

That means the choice plots in the freely settled area can fetch up to 10 million baht per rai.

A 60-year-old who has lived at Pracha Samakkee for more than 10 years said conflict over land is a relatively new phenomenon for the community.

"We used to live together as a community. We were like family. When there was trouble over land, we could negotiate and find a solution together because we all knew who lived on which plots," he said.



Pracha Samakkee community was built on the remains of a deserted tin mine. Some plots which were claimed as free land by settlers as early as 2003 are now valued at about 10 million baht per rai.

"Now, we have to keep an eye out for people trying to steal land, and make sure residents in our community are safe."

The elderly villager, who also asked not to be named or photographed, maintained that Pracha Samakkee is a safe community, despite the recent killing in broad daylight and repeated attempts by outsiders to claim land.

"It is still not dangerous to live here. People should build fences to mark off their properties and talk with neighbors to let them know which areas they claim as theirs," he said. "That way people can keep an eye out for people trying to steal land."

NINE-TENTHS

The younger villager agreed, affirming an age-old maxim: "Pos-

session is nine-tenths of the law."

"The murder last week was the first in this area. I believe the main problem was that Mr Echa arrived and claimed land that seemed to be free of any owner," he said.

"It seemed free because Mr Supongdeth does not reside on the land."

Regardless, the villager maintained his faith in the law as the best way of protecting land rights.

"Without any land documents, no one can prove ownership. That leaves people to come up with their own solutions in resolving disputes over exactly who owns which plots of land," he said.

## NO INTEREST

Officers investigating Mr Echa's murder told the *Gazette* plainly that they had no interest in uncovering any false claims to land at Pracha Samakkee.

"That is an issue for the relevant land officials to investigate. We will take action only if a government agency formally requests that police investigate the land claims," Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Parinya Tanthasuwan told the *Gazette*.

"In this case, we're just going to investigate the murder."

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong





Mr Hayes faces trial. Photo: Facebook

# Embezzlement, fraud trial date set for Aussie

RELL Vivien Hayes, the Australian founder of the Stoney Monday Oasis Hotel, has denied criminal charges of embezzlement and six counts of fraud involving more than 80 million baht.

His trial begins on June 10.

Mr Hayes, 51, was arrested in November after two separate warrants were issued for his arrest: one in 2009 and the other in 2011.

He appeared in court on December 19 to hear the charges and to learn his trial date, said Weerasak Promthong, a lawyer representing six plaintiffs in the case against Mr Hayes.

"It would have been to his benefit to confess his crimes in court, but he denied all the charges," Mr Weerasak told the *Gazette*.

Following Mr Hayes' denial, the judge set the trial in motion.

"On June 10, the court will hear testimony from the prosecutor," explained Mr Weerasak.

"On June 11, Mr Hayes will appear in court to hear more testimony from the prosecutor, and on June 12, he will hear testimony in his defense."

Meanwhile, Mr Hayes remains incarcerated at Phuket Provincial Prison.

"Bail was set at more than 26 million baht," Mr Weerasak said. "He was unable to post it."

– Irfarn Jamdukor

# Lucky draw winners land free plane ride above Phuket

THIS year's edition of the annual Phuket boat show (PIMEX) offered solid testimony to the improving global economy and the renewed vibrance of the marine leisure industry in Asia, particularly at its hub in Phuket.

Among the many highlights of the show were the lucky draws for free scenic flights over Phuket, sponsored by the *Gazette* and Phuket Airpark.

The winners, each of whom will fly aboard *News Dog*, the *Gazette's* new single-engine aircraft, are as follows:

- Sergey Nesterenko, developer of Vista del Mar, Phuket
- Simon Lints, Director, International

Wealth Management, Credit Suisse, Singapore

- Suna Thawarosakul, Phuket
- Irina Kiseleva, Manager, Five Star Sea Cruises, Phuket

The 45-minute flights will take off from Phuket Airpark and the winners will decide where to go from there.

Anyone who did not win the lucky draw but wishes to experience a private flight over Phuket, is welcome to contact the owner of Phuket Airpark, Robert Suchard Raksangob (081-8104 510) or, for Russian language, Andreas Salov (094-3862 294).

- Phuket Gazette



British Honorary Consul Martin Carpenter picked the winner of the third lucky draw. Photo: Kanjana Sriboonsom

# 'Bagman' case bumped

# Businesses unwilling to aid in Patong corruption investigation

By Saran Mitrarat

THE Phuket bagman investigation into corrupt government officials who collect bribes from Patong business owners has been cancelled, businessman and adviser to the Thailand Trade Organization Chart Chindapol told the *Gazette*.

Mr Chart alleged in August of last year that officials from at least 17 offices were extracting bribes that totalled almost 50 million baht a month from Patong business owners to overlook closing times for night-entertainment venues, selling of pirated goods, use of illegal workers and to "protect" their businesses.

"I personally received many complaints from Patong businessmen about local government officers demanding extortion money," said Mr Chart.

Despite the many complaints, Mr Chart has since failed to convince these business owners to provide enough information to continue pushing for the investi-



Chart Chindapol at a press conference in August. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

gation

"Business owners want to make as much money as possible, especially during high season. They may be willing to pay bribes now in order to compete with other businesses," Mr Chart said. Mr Chart gave the press a breakdown of monthly "standard fees" collected: 3,000 to 5,000 baht from small businesses; 10,000 baht from medium-sized enterprises; and 100,000 baht from big businesses.

"The majority of business owners have declined to offer any information or confirm any accusations regarding officials who collect money from them."

"I can't pursue the case until I get the information I need. I hope that one day I will be able to continue the investigation."

Meanwhile, Phuket's top cop insisted that there is no police bagman in Patong.

"It's just a rumor. Police run investigations based on evidence. As of right now, we have no evidence of any bagman in Patong," Phuket Provincial Police Commander Ong-art Phiwruangnont told the *Gazette*.

"I want to meet Mr Chart and talk with him. I would like to get the information regarding this bagman directly from him."



# Bomb fears undone by ladies underwear

A LOTTERY ticket seller raised the alarm of a potential backpack bomb outside of a Phuket bank on January 10. However, a police investigation revealed only various female garments, including underwear.

"The ticket vendor saw a teenager put several things in the bag and then drop it near the stairs of the Kasikorn Bank branch on Chana-Charoen Road. She got scared, and asked a friend to call the police," said Maj Ratthakhet of the Phuket City Police.

The police received the call at 1:20pm and rushed to the scene.

At the bank branch, police found the backpack on the ground about 10 meters away from the stairs to the entrance. They set a perimeter and directed customers to exit through a back door.

"We used a steel bar to carefully open the bag," said Maj



Police poke the 'underwear bomb'.

Ratthakhet. "When we opened it, we found female clothing and underwear."

The "underwear bomb" is the second reported bomb scare since a car bomb with possible ties to the Deep South was found parked in the Phuket City Police parking lot in December. The first suspicious bag turned out to contain nothing but shrimp paste.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

# Protests silence Provincial Hall

By Saran Mitrarat

PHUKET protesters, led by former Rassada Mayor Suratin Lianudom, compelled officials to close Provincial Hall on January 13 as they staged a rally in support of the "Bangkok Shutdown".

As the *Gazette* went to print on Wednesday, Provincial Hall remained closed.

"The protest in front of Phuket Provincial Hall will continue until the big protest in Bangkok succeeds," Mr Suratin said.

In Bangkok, People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) leader Suthep Thaugsuban has repeatedly vowed that the protests will continue until caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has resigned from office.

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut has declined to comment on how long Provincial Hall will be closed.

The Phuket Passport Office closed on Monday and remains closed, despite assurances from protesters that they would allow the Ministry of Foreign Affairs section at Provincial Hall to continue operations.



Phuket Provincial Hall has been closed since January 13 as a result of the on going political protests.

"The Passport Division in Bangkok has terminated its server connection with provincial passport offices while the Bangkok office is closed," the Phuket Passport Office said. "We

will make an announcement when we resume normal services."

Meanwhile, Phuket Immigration and the Phuket Land Office remain open, staff told the *Gazette*.

Phuket City Police Superinten-

dent Sermphan Sirikong confirmed that at least 40 officers are on duty to provide security.

"The most important thing is to make sure that no third party starts any trouble," Col Sermphan said.

# **Employment** office empty

THE Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO), the island's sole agency for issuing and renewing work permits for foreigners, closed its doors on January 14.

"We are responding to the request from protesters on January 13 asking for all government offices to close," said PPEO Chief Yaowapa Pibulpol.

"We will re-open if the situation changes; that decision will be made on a day-by-day basis."

Ms Yaowapa asked any foreigners in urgent need of contacting her office to call 076-219 660.

"I have assigned at least one officer to stand by to answer the phones, just in case there is a problem we have to fix immediately," she explained.

- Saran Mitrarat

# Democratic duty of accessorizing



Kanokphan Saeauy, 22, sells political accessories in support of the protests.

THE number of vendors selling political paraphernalia at the Phuket Provincial Hall protests has significantly increased since the protest on December 9, despite the number of protesters decreasing, vendors explained to the *Gazette* on January 13.

"I sold whistles at the last big protest. Since then, the number of vendors has increased by about 20 per cent," said 50-year-old Monthathip Jormtai.

"There are about 600 protesters that have been here all day, but there are more vendors this afternoon because they believe that more protesters will come tonight," said Sawat Engsuwan, a vendor sitting near the main protest stage.

Kanokphan Saeauy, a 22-yearold student selling political accessories, mentioned that she made less money today than she did at the last protest because of the increased competition.

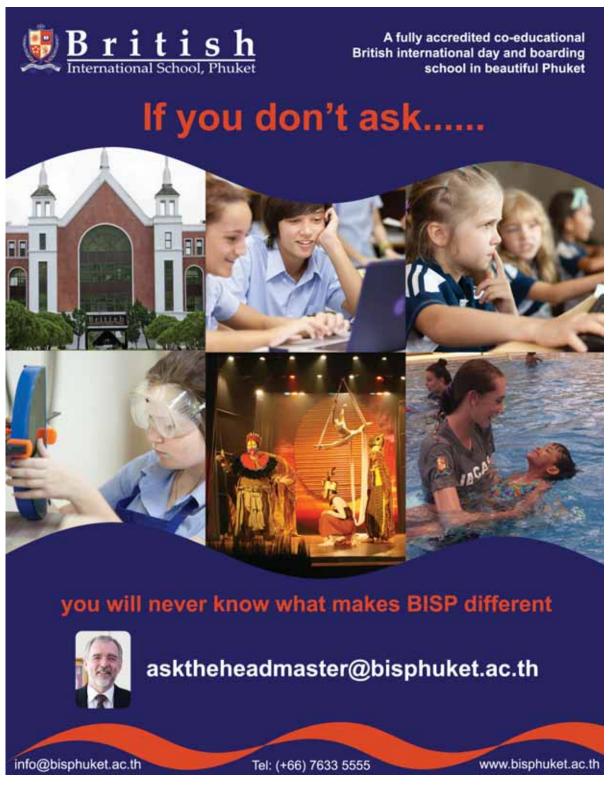
"Last time, I made about 10,000 baht, but today I have only made 6,000 baht," she said. "I am here for two reasons: the first is my duty to protect my country, and the second is to help my family sell these accessories."

Ms Monthathip voiced the same sense of duty as Ms Kanokphan.

"I only made 4,000 baht today, which is about half of what I made in a day during the last protest. I believe it is because protesters are making their own accessories at home.

"However, the income is not my main reason for attending the protests. I am here because this is the right thing to do for Thailand," Ms Monthathip said.

ald. – Irfarn Jamdukor





Vice Governor Chamroen admitted that the bus ban was not ideal.

# Bus ban on Patong Hill moves ahead

From page 1

...would like residents to think about the public benefit the tunnel would bring."

Once the east-west ban is enforced, all vehicles larger than the stipulated limit will be stopped at the Thung Thong police checkpoint and drivers will be warned not to attempt to use the Patong Hill road, Phuket Land Transportation Office (PLTO) Chief Terayout Prasertphol explained

"We will give them the option of turning around, but anyone who ignores the warning will be fined 2,000 baht each time they are caught," he warned.

Mr Terayout also voiced concern over the bus ban.

However, he pointed out that the gradients of the alternative routes were not as steep as those in the Patong hills, and so drivers were expected to use their brakes less frequently, meaning their brakes were less likely to fail.

Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham was not overly worried about heavier bus and truck traffic passing through his ambit, as long as drivers were cautious.

But Kitikraisri Keawwan, the Chief Administrative Officer at Kamala Tambon Administration Organization (*OrBorTor*), was clearly opposed to the move.

"Buses and trucks need a lot more space than cars, and the hill road through Kamala is narrow with a cliff on one side. I do not think this is a good idea," he said.

# Justice moves slowly in child rape cases

By Irfarn Jamdukor

NONE of the four men charged with child rape in Phuket over the past 16 months has been acquitted or found guilty of the heinous crime.

One suspect, a Laotian accused of repeatedly raping his handicapped stepdaughter, fled the country and has not been captured.

Of the three men arrested, two are still waiting for their trials to begin. The third, a Mai Khao shop-keeper accused of raping a child in October 2012, is free on bail as he awaits the conclusion of his trial in April.

The *Gazette* has declined to provide names in the interest of protecting the victims, who were between the ages of 5 and 15 when the alleged rapes occurred.

In the case of the Mai Khao shopkeeper, the court has heard testimony from the girl, her mother and case investigators, and will hear from her father on April 3, said Phuket Public Prosecutor Atikun Puangprom.

"The following day the judge will hear defense testimony, and then he will hand down the verdict."

The alleged rape took place when the girl's mother, who owned a small shop, sent her daughter to a store nearby.

A neighbor reported seeing the shopkeeper emerge from a back room zipping up his trousers, followed by the 9-year-old girl, who was pulling up her shorts.

When questioned by her mother, the girl said she had been raped and was taken to Tah Chat Chai Police Station and then to Thalang Hospital for an examination.

"The result of the medical examination was that she had been



The 9-year-old girl from Mai Khao waited while her mother filed a complaint for police inaction in October last year. Photo: Gazette file

raped," the mother said.

The shopkeeper denied the charges, but according to the mother offered her money "not to make a big deal of it".

Eight days later the mother filed a complaint of inaction against the police.

The two subsequent cases reported by the *Gazette* involved stepfathers charged with repeatedly raping their stepdaughters.

The first came to light in June last year, when a Thai woman married to a Lao national told Patong Police that her husband had confessed to repeatedly raping her

15-year-old daughter who was handicapped by polio.

The girl was found to be five months' pregnant, and doctors advised that in the interests of her health, the pregnancy be terminated. The stepfather, meanwhile, fled the country.

"We sent the arrest warrant to international police via immigration officials months ago, but the suspect has not been found," said Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan.

"We will monitor progress with the investigation team and keep following this case." The following month, a woman in Thalang returned home from work to see her daughter running out of her stepfather's bedroom. When confronted by her mother, the 13-year-old girl said her stepfather had been raping her for years.

The man admitted to police that he had been raping the girl since she was five years old.

He is now in Phuket Provincial Prison. No trial date has been set, a prison official told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

The most recent case, involving a 10-year-old girl in Phuket Town, took place in November.

A 24-year-old man took a neighbor's child to buy snacks in nearby Rassada. When the pair returned home, the girl told her parents she had been raped, and doctors who examined her confirmed clear signs of rape on her body.

Police found and arrested the man later that month at a deserted Karon resort owned by his uncle.

He denied the charges and is being detained at Phuket Prison, Phuket City Police Deputy Superintendent Sien Kaewthong told the *Gazette*.

"The case is still under investigation," Col Sien said.

"The suspect continues to deny the charge, so we have to question more eyewitness in order to get information that will make him confess. We will hand over the case to the prosecutor as fast as possible, but we can't say when that will be.

"We are also waiting for the rape test results from Vachira Phuket Hospital."

The punishment for sex with a minor under 15 years of age is four to 20 years in prison, a fine of 8,000 to 40,000 baht, or both.



# Phuket Town python takes a break

A PYTHON found taking a nap in a Phuket Town kitchen was escorted to more natural surroundings by rescue workers early on January 9.

When Anchalee Boonjit returned home from work at about 1am that day, she realized that all was not right.

"I heard a sound in my kitchen," she said. "When I went into the room, I saw a snake on my storage shelf, lying on top of some pillows."

Kusoldharm rescue workers quickly went to her apartment, across from The Book on Phuket

They entered the abode to find a three-meter-long python stretched out on traditional Thai pillows.



The python was found relaxing on some cushions in the kitchen.

Rescue worker Phoonsab Saeueng suspects that the snake came from the Bang Yai Canal, which runs behind Ms Anchalee's "We bagged the python and released it into the wild, where it shouldn't bother any more people," he said.

Kritsada Mueanhawong

# In the midst of life

# Death of renowned DJ Doris echoes around the world

FRIENDS, fans and family will honor Paul Norris, the renowned 'DJ Doris' from Phuket Island Radio 91.5FM, with a Celebration

Paul died in a motorcycle accident early last Sunday morning, a tragedy which prompted an outpouring of grief from around the world.

"I think people completely underestimated how well-known and much loved he was," said radio station colleague and good friend Byron Jones, founder of 91.5FM.

"We have been receiving a staggering number of calls, SMS texts and emails from around the world, including the BBC, Scotland TV and from people everywhere that Paul made lifelong friends.

"These are people who have taken the time to choose their words to express their condolences. It's been overwhelming."

Wreaths have been laid outside the radio station in Kathu.

"We don't even know who they're from. There's even a Thai garland there to remember him," Byron added.

The son of a butcher from Stirling, Scotland, Paul made his way to Phuket some 17 years ago, after forging a career as an event DJ in the UK, followed by years show and there at our first of playing to

nightclub crowds China, Spain, Greece, Hong Kong and Thai-

He returned to the UK, but soon came back to his beloved isle to work at 91.5FM.

"Paul was here on our very first day. He flew out to join us in February 2008, when we started. We



Paul Norris, better known as DJ Doris, was famous for his Scottish sarcasm and his gentle spirit. Photo: Supplied

had never met, but he wanted to come out and get things going," said Byron.

"He was there for our first

'I consider myself a very

lucky individual as I

am living the dream

fundraiser, the 'Abbatastic' at Les Anges at Royal Phuket Marina."

To Byron, each and every day.' Paul was always - Paul Norris there.

"He was always full of energy and enthusiasm – and he was there in tough times years ago when I wanted to throw the towel in... and he talked me out of it," Byron

Paul's unique presence on the airwaves made him an iconic figure in Phuket radio. Within minutes of the news of his fatal accident breaking across the internet, scores of fans throughout Phuket began posting comments of shock and grief.

Of the hundreds of condolences posted on Facebook, Karl Webster wrote, "As I write this I have tears in my eyes for your and our loss... What a cruel world we live in... so sorry to hear this terrible news."

Karen Harris posted, "Shocked and saddened. Thoughts and prayers to family, friends and Tracey [Paul's partner]. Paul will be greatly missed."

Paul's remains have been repatriated to his home in Scotland.

"As soon as we know the funeral arrangements, we will inform you," Byron said.

"Following Paul's funeral, we plan to hold a 'Celebration of Paul's Life' on a day and at a Phuket venue to be confirmed

"We thank you all from Paul's family and from ourselves for your kind messages and respect."

To record a message for the Celebration of Paul's Life, email support@phuketfmradio.com to arrange a recording time.

# IN MEMORY OF PAUL NORRIS

'It was like waking up from one's worse nightmare to have found out about this tragedy. Love you so much Paul.'

- Michael Spigarolo

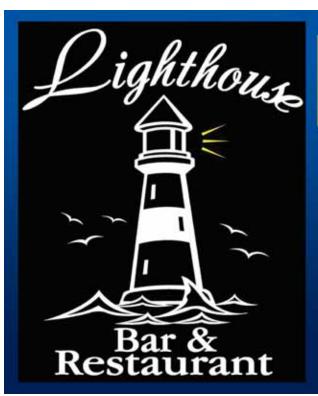
'An absolute tragedy. He was funny and sarcastic! My heart goes out to his mum, dad, sister Gillian, his brother-in-law Andy and two nephews. And of course to everyone else who had the pleasure of knowing him. RIP Paul.' - Jacqui Marshall

'RIP Paul. Your boundless enthusiasm inspired many.'

- Alastair Carthew

'Paul, you were an inspiration to me and of course many people. You're a legend taken too soon from life. Thanks for being you. Heaven will be a brighter place and Phuket a little darker. RIP mate.'

- Garry Holden











Dickie's Light House restaurant and bar, formerly known as Jimmy's Lighthouse, opened December 7 following an extensive refurbishment.

Featuring a new kitchen, great new deck and dining area and bar overlooking beautiful Chalong Bay, the decor is simple and complete with heavy teak tables and highly polished wooden floors.

Dickie's Light House hosts an extensive range of both Thai and Western foods and all-day breakfasts – all at prices that will astound you; the average meal is around 250 baht with all Thai dishes at or under 150 baht; steaks 350-400 baht – all very generous portions. Sunday roasts as well.

Dickie's Lighthouse also offers five accommodations, all with air-conditioning and queen-sized beds. All rooms have large windows overlooking the yachts, long-tail and motor boats moored in beautiful Chalong Bay. The sunrises are spectacular from all five rooms, which are newly furnished and very tastefully decorated.

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# Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra considers resigning

PRIME Minister Yingluck Shinawatra has considered resigning in the face of pressure from the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC), it emerged last week.

According to a report in *The Nation*, Ms Yingluck told Army Commander General Prayuth Chan-ocha she was tired of the political tension and asked him what to do, *The Nation* reported.

Gen Prayuth refused to offer any suggestions and said it was her decision.

However, he said that if anything "untoward" happened, it would be her responsibility, a source told the paper.

Ms Yingluck is understood to have then spoken to her brother Thaksin, who lives in self-exile in Dubai.

Mr Thaksin reportedly told his sister to hang on in the prime minister's position. He said that the Constitution did not allow her to resign, adding that she could even be prosecuted for doing so.

Ms Yingluck could be charged for violating Article 157 of the Penal Code, which punishes officials who abandon their duties, and could face jail time.

Meanwhile, Army chief Gen Prayuth has told his subordinates to prevent violence during the anti-government protest.

To protect themselves from being attacked, soldiers were told to dress in plainclothes while guarding government agencies and their command posts.



PM Yingluck Shinawatra. Photo: The Nation

# Deadlock grips Bangkok, but life grinds forward despite protesters

# nation

THE People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) tried to bring Bangkok to a standstill last week in a bid to force out the government of Yingluck Shinawatra.

While the so-called "Bangkok Shutdown" wasn't quite as comprehensive as many feared, with the vast majority of the city remaining accessible, political deadlock was palpable.

So far protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban is refusing all requests to talk with the government, *The Nation* reported.

The most recent bid to get the PDRC to the table came last Wednesday, when the government tried to host talks over the possibility of delaying the scheduled election on February 2.

Mr Suthep refused to participate. He insisted his group would not engage in any such talks with the government until the protesters had "won the fight". He repeatedly said earlier that his group wanted nothing less than the mass resignation of the caretaker Cabinet, including Ms Yingluck.

Protest leader Suriyasai Katasila said in a Twitter message that the PDRC was still firm in its demand that Ms Yingluck step down to pave the way for national reform. "Election postponement is not our main goal," he tweeted.

The PDRC insists that elec-



People's Democratic Reform Committee leader Suthep Thaugsuban is refusing all requests to talk with the government. Photo: The Nation

tions are corrupt and that only a special People's Committee composed of non-politicians can reform them, but the group has so far failed to spell out what kind of reforms it believes Thailand needs. The movement's detractors claim it wants to rig elections to prevent the electorally successful Pheu Thai Party from

winning future polls.

Monday's protests were well attended, with seven stages erected at important intersections throughout the city aimed at paralyzing traffic.

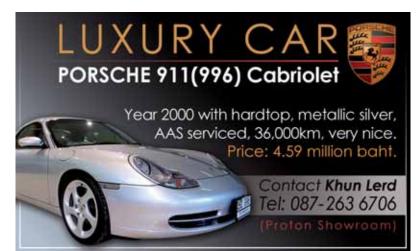
Most of the rallies had attendance in the tens of thousands, with a jubilant atmosphere buoyed by musical perfor-

mances and fiery speeches.

The protesters stuck to their promise to allow the BTS and MRT systems to continue functioning, though they failed to leave single lanes open for buses and ambulances, as they had vowed to do.

The Center for the Administration of Peace and Order expected the protest to last four or five days, though it failed to justify the

Most analysts expect the protest to cause violence. There have been almost nightly attacks on PDRC guards by shadowy figures. People whose livelihoods have been affected can also be expected to vent their frustrations on the protesters going forward.



# Red shirts trade in for white shirts to protest

THE Red Shirts are increasingly donning white in protests backing elections on February 2 which they see as the best way out of Thailand's current political impasse.

The United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship (UDD), as the Red Shirts are formally known, have also been trying to ensure their presence is not forgotten as the PDRC protests take the limelight.

On January 12, the day before the PDRC's shutdown, the UDD held rallies in the provinces of Nonthaburi, Pathum Thani and Samut Prakan, encircling Bangkok with displays of strength.

The day of the shutdown itself, the UDD held

rallies across its stronghold provinces in the North and Northeast.

The UDD and the government, with which it is closely allied, are attempting to keep their distance from the PDRC in order to avoid provoking chaos.

The UDD has been urging its supporters to wear white in its latest protests, which have been joined by citizens who are not Red Shirts but support elections.

Pro-election protesters have also been releasing white balloons and lighting candles in support of elections.

The UDD has vowed to fight any attempt by the Army to stage a coup, though the Army leadership denies it has plans to do so.

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# Smuggler's paradise In brief... Myanmar MP files

# Philippines loses US\$29bn through illegal imports

By Jerry E. Esplanada

THE Philippines government lost more than 1.33 trillion pesos (US\$29.7 billion) in revenue from 2002 to 2011 due to mass stock smuggled through the country's ports, the Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) has reported.

In a 20-page study revealed this week, the FPI claimed that lost revenues from 2002 to 2008 reached up to P889.5bn, with further losses of P119.65bn in 2009 and P326.76bn in 2010 and 2011.

The FPI, which represents about 800 companies, arrived at those figures by comparing "disparities in import data" from the Philippines Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF reported more than US\$284bn in total exports to the Philippines from 2002 to 2008, while the BOC reported only \$195.01bn, a disparity of \$88.9bn.

"The huge discrepancy is most likely due to smuggling," the FPI

In 2010 and 2011, "data from foreign exporters said goods shipped to the Philippines amounted to more than \$70.5bn and \$78.4bn, respectively," the group said. But government statistics showed imports of only \$51.07bn in 2010 and \$54.3bn in 2011, or disparities of \$19.43bn and \$24.1bn, respectively.

According to the FPI, smugglers employed the "same old tricks" - undervaluation, misdeclaration, misclassification and diversion of shipments.

FPI chair Jesus Arranza branded intentional misreporting as "tech-



Dockside workers unload container cargo at the Batangas Port in the Philippines. Photo: Philippine Port Authority

# AROUND THE

nical" smuggling. Lost revenue due to "outright smuggling," or operations that take place in isolated parts of the country and do not involve import documents, was not covered by the FPI study.

Mr Arranza pointed out that both forms of smuggling "have robbed the government of muchneeded revenues."

The smugglers also "created unfair competition to local manufacturers, resulting in decreased capacity utilization, as well as the downsizing, if not closure, of many firms leading to unemployment and dislocation of laborers."

Smuggling also "discourages foreign investors" from setting up operations in the Philippines "once they realize their products are already sold freely in the domestic market," Mr Arranza noted.

In its report, the FPI made several recommendations to the BOC to help stop smuggling.

The group recommended, among other remedies, classifying smuggling as an act of plunder with penalties based on the cumulative evaded duties and taxes; disallowing free ports and economic zones as ports of entry for imports; destruction of smuggled goods, except some items that can be donated to government agencies (such as the Department of Social Welfare and Development) and charity organizations; and the designation of special courts to handle smuggling cases.

The FPI had recommended the same measures to previous administrations. But "not a single recommendation has been adopted by the Bureau of Customs," Mr Arranza pointed out.

In defence of his agency, new Customs Commissioner John Phillip Sevilla called his bureau's anti-smuggling drive one of the agency's "three principal mandates" - along with revenue collection and trade facilitation.

"These three are equally important. We want to move forward on all these three," Mr Sevilla said. - Philippine Daily Inquirer

# for general amnesty

MYANMAR MP Thein Nyunt has proposed a bill that seeks military approval of a general amnesty for political prisoners. The bill, submitted on January 13, seeks approval of the National Defence and Security Council, as required by the current constitution.

President Thein Sein granted amnesty to 13,274 prisoners since he coming to power in 2011, winning wide international approval.

- Eleven Media

# Indonesian party chief bagged for US\$205mn graft

INDONESIA'S anti-graft agency arrested Anas Urbaningrum, former chairman of President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono's Democratic Party, last Friday in a long-running case that has damaged the ruling party's popularity ahead of elections.

Mr Urbaningrum faces bribery charges in a US\$205 million graft scandal surrounding the construction of a sports stadium in Hambalang in West Java province. - Jakarta Post

# Singapore tycoon gets his mum back

TWO men have been charged with kidnapping in Singapore after they abducted and held for ransom the mother of supermarket tycoon Lim Hock Chee.

Mr Lim's mother, 79, was lured into a car by a man who said he had seen her son injured in a bad fall. After almost 12 hours of negotiations, Lim left S\$2 million in a bag under a tree in a park. His mother was released in the early hours the next day.

# 'Sultan of Malacca' arrested for sedition

POLICE on Tuesday arrested an individual who claimed to be the sultan of Malacca.

State deputy CPO Datuk Shah Gzali Khan Shahadat said the man was being investigated under the Sedition Act.

The man was picked up at 0:50am while travelling to Pulau Besar to attend what was believed to be a thanksgiving function relating to a reported revival of the Malacca sultanate.

"The arrest was made based on at least 10 reports made by several organizations which expressed apprehension after a so-called investiture and invitations to attend the event," he told reporters.

Shah Gzali Khan said an investigation revealed that about 50 followers of the man were headed for Pulau Besar on Tuesday, apparently to attend the thanksgiving



The man was arrested in relation to an event allegedly held to mark the revival of the Malacca sultanate.

"None of the followers were arrested. However, that all depends on their actions... Anyone obstructing the police and civil servants in the discharge of their duties will be arrested," he said.

On January 8, Malacca Chief Minister Datuk Seri Idris Haron said the state government had dismissed a claim by one Raja Noor Jan Shah to be recognized as the sultan of Malacca.

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# In brief...

# Suntory purchases Beam to be No.3

SUNTORY Holdings Ltd on Monday said it would buy US spirits company Beam Inc for US\$13.6 billion cash in a deal that would make the Japanese company the world's third-largest spirits maker.

The deal brings together Beam's Jim Beam and Maker's Mark bourbons, Courvoisier cognac and Sauza tequila with Suntory's Yamazaki, Hakushu, Hibiki and Kakubin Japanese whiskies, Bowmore Scotch whisky and Midori liqueur.

# Nigerian anti-gay law draws US ire

NIGERIAN President Goodluck Jonathan signed a bill on Monday that criminalizes same-sex relationships, provoking criticism from the United States.

The bill contains penalties of up to 14 years in prison and bans gay marriage, same-sex "amorous relationships" and membership in gay rights groups.

# Migrants rescued by Italian navy

THE Italian navy rescued more than 400 migrants from two boats south of Sicily last weekend as the immigration crisis that killed hundreds in shipwrecks last year

One boat contained 236 men, women and children, mostly from Africa; the other carried 200.

# Syria conflict creates boom in amphetamines business

By Stephen Kalin

SYRIA has become a major amphetamines exporter and consumer as the trauma of the country's brutal civil war fuels demand and the breakdown in order creates opportunity for producers.

Drugs experts, traders and local activists say Syrian production of the most popular of the stimulants, known by its former brand name Captagon, accelerated in 2013, outpacing production in other countries in the region such as Lebanon.

Reports of seizures and interviews with people connected to the trade suggest it generates hundreds of millions of dollars in annual revenues in Syria, potentially providing funding for weapons, while the drug itself helps combatants dig in for long, gruelling battles.

Most other economic activity in Syria has ground to a halt in the past two years due to the violence, shortages and international sanctions.

Consumption of Captagon outside the Middle East is negligible, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), but it is a significant drug in the Arab Gulf, and nascent markets were detected in North Africa last year.

Sitting at a crossroads in the Middle East, Syria has long been



While most businesses, such as butcheries, are struggling due to supplies, the amphetamine business has taken off. Photo: Reuters

a transit point for drugs coming from Europe, Turkey and Lebanon and destined for Jordan, Iraq and the Gulf.

The breakdown of state infrastructure, weakening of borders and proliferation of armed groups during the nearly three-year battle for control of Syria has transformed the country from a stopover into a major production site.

Even before the conflict, Saudi Arabia received about seven tonnes of Captagon in 2010, a third of world supply, according to UNODC figures.

A member of a prominent drug trading family in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where much of that country's drug production and smuggling takes place, told Reuters that demand from the Gulf kingdom had increased since then, and Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates were also big consumers.

The trader said production in Lebanon fell 90 per cent in 2013 from two years earlier, and wholly attributed the drop to a shift in production to Syria. He said some production might also have moved to Syria from Turkey during the past year.

Khabib Ammar, a Damascusbased media activist, said Syrian fighters involved with the drugs trade were buying weapons with the money they made, though Reuters could not independently verify claims that Captagon profits were being used to fund either side of the conflict.

Syrian government forces and rebel groups each say the other uses Captagon to endure protracted engagements without sleep, while clinicians say ordinary Syrians are increasingly experimenting with the pills, which sell for between US\$5 and US\$20.

The drug was first produced in the West in the 1960s to treat hyperactivity, narcolepsy and depression, but by the 1980s was banned in most countries because of its addictive properties and no longer has a legitimate medical use. Its active ingredient, fenethylline, is metabolized by the body into the stimulants amphetamine and theophylline.

# Second death from H7N9 bird flu hits Hong Kong

AROUND THE

A 65-YEAR-OLD man infected from the virus was last month. with the H7N9 bird flu virus died

said on Monday, the second such death in the city.

The man, the third person in Hong Kong to be diagnosed with the strain,

came from the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen and had eaten poultry there, local media said.

The H7N9 strain was first reported in humans in February in mainland China. It has infected at least 150 people in China, Taiwan Kong victim have tested negative and Hong Kong and killed more than for the strain, authorities said. 46. Hong Kong's previous death

Researchers in the United States in Hong Kong, the government said last month that while it is not

> impossible that the H7N9 virus could become easily transmissible between people, would need to undergo multiple mutations

to do so. Scientists around the world are on alert for any sign the virus might develop that potential and start to spread rapidly.

So far everyone who has been in contact with the latest Hong

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# Sharon legacy debated

ISRAEL buried former prime minister Ariel Sharon at his family farm on Monday, celebrating the military achievements of a man regarded as a war hero at home but as a war criminal by many in the Arab world.

Eulogized first in a ceremony in Jerusalem, and later in the green fields of his estate, speakers hailed a life entwined with that of Israel since its 1948 creation, gently alluding as well to the controversies that also defined his career.

US Vice President Joe Biden and former British prime minister Tony Blair laid wreaths at his grave, 10 km from the border of the Gaza Strip, with the army on high alert in case rockets were fired out of the Palestinian territory.

Two missiles were launched into southern Israel soon after the funeral ended, the army said. It responded with air strikes on two militant camps in Gaza, Palestinian officials said. No injuries were reported in any of the attacks.

"We are accompanying to his final resting place today a soldier, an exceptional soldier, a commander who knew how to win," Israeli President Shimon Peres said in Jerusalem, Mr Sharon's hefty coffin draped in Israel's blue and white flag.



Members of the Knesset guard carry the flag-draped coffin of former Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon. Photo: Reuters

Mr Sharon, 85, died last Saturday after spending the last eight years of his life in a coma resulting from a stroke.

The death of the former general re-opened debate into his legacy. Opponents denounced his ruthless conduct in military operations while friends praised him as a strategic genius who as prime minister stunned the world in 2005 by pulling Israeli troops and settlers out of Gaza.

"The security of his people was always Arik's unwavering mission - a non-breakable commitment to the future of Jews, whether 30 years or 300 years from now," Mr Biden said, using Mr Sharon's nickname.

There was no direct mention of events that made Mr Sharon a hated figure in the Arab world, such as the 1982 invasion of Lebanon that he masterminded as defence minister. However, in his eulogy, Mr Blair said the man known at home as "the bulldozer" had left "considerable debris in his wake". - Reuters

# By Steven Layne

PHUKET provincial authorities are seeking a revision to the central price index for construction materials, pointing to outdated and inaccurate value estimations for building supplies imported to the island.

Meanwhile, the Revenue Department reported collecting 9.6 billion baht in tax revenue in Phuket in 2013, exceeding their target by 5%.

The economic issues headlined the agenda at the latest Phuket meeting of the National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB), presided over by Governor Maitri Inthusut at Phuket Provincial Hall on December 24.

Also in attendance were Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) President Paiboon Upatising, President of the Phuket Chamber of Commerce Kriengsak Suksomboon, Director of Phuket Office of Commercial Affairs Prakong Rukwong, Phuket Treasurer Ms Thida Boonrat and President of the Federation of Thai Industry Phuket, Mr Jongrak Narukatpichai, and other government officials and representatives from the private and public sectors.

Mr Prakong told the meeting

# Building materials Gazette index 'unrealistic'



A billboard at the Bang Khu intersection reads: 'Self management: a choice for Phuket'. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

that central government estimates prices that already include VAT for construction materials don't reflect reality in Phuket.

He said that the values are outdated and too low since they don't take into account various factors such as VAT, transport outlets at retail prices, he said. and shipping expenses.

and transport, while the central government estimates values at bulk or production rates, even though Phuket operators source the materials from general

Meanwhile, a representative In reality, operators purchase from the Revenue Department materials using credit, and at reported that tax collection in

Phuket in 2013 had exceeded the previous year's figure (about 8.5bn baht) by more than 1.1bn baht.

The meeting was told that of 2013's tax revenue, 3.8bn baht had derived from Value Added Tax (VAT); 48% of which was collected from restaurant and hotel businesses, 20% from wholesalers and 12% from real



Phuket operators mostly source materials at retail prices.

estate companies.

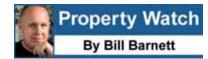
In accordance with the governing mandate, the Revenue Department will return approximately 10% of the collected revenue to Phuket locales and another 5% to the PPAO. In 2013, it reportedly had already paid back 472 million baht to Phuket, not including certain business tax returns, mostly for real estate companies, which are projected to total about 109 million baht, the meeting was told. The NESDB falls under the authority of the Prime Minister's office.

In related news, a joint publicprivate meeting about Phuket's ongoing push to become a Special Administration Zone (SAZ) took place on January 17 at the Prince of Songkhla University Phuket Campus. Check phuketgazette.net for updates from the meeting.

Thailand has two SAZs -Bangkok and Pattaya - with the city of Mae Sot in the North and Koh Samui also under consideration, in addition to Phuket.



# Sitting on the outside looking in



EXCLUSIVE or inclusive? For the hospitality industry, the burning question about all-inclusive resorts is becoming a hot global topic once again. You need to go back no further than the dawn of the global financial crisis and the surge in the consumer class to test the theory of value added sales propositions.

If you wind back the clock to the 1950s, the birth of the all-inone vacation can be traced back to the founding of Club Med where a single tariff paid for the bed, food and beverage and all the activities a traveller could want. No more digging into the wallet each and every time you wanted to move from your mat on the

beach. More importantly, the concept of knowing in advance exactly what the vacation was going to cost caught on quickly.

It's interesting to view the entire one-

size-fits-all packaging which caught on in the hotel and restaurant business in terms of buffets which operated on a similar concept of single pricing. Back in the 1960s in the US, the food service business took such offerings to heart and the institutionalized

concept took off.

But the hotel business, which is where we started Club Med, had over time evolved from what had been a simple deal driven product, and moved sideways in the 1970s to attract a young, single market. The properties which probably became the launching pad for what we see at today's party palace beach clubs took the entertainment theory far and wide. Slide up to the bar, and use beads (no money needed at the club) and hook up with like minded individuals.

All inclusive hospitality grew across the world – Southern Europe and the Mediterranean, the Caribbean and South Pacific. Further niches developed into venues for romantic couples and in time, the entire concept took to the deep blue sea and pushed its way into the modern cruise industry where breakfast, lunch

and dinner is only an entre to endless offerings 24 hours a day.

Eventually Club Med did not keep up with the times, where a greater emphasis was placed on

product versus experience. Yet here in Asia over the years, the concept has pushed its way into a deeper regional market and in fact has prospered when compared to other areas of the world. These days, Club Med has Chinese coownership and has undergone a



All-in-one vacations start with a single tariff that includes bed, food, beverage and activities. Photo: Dorina Andress

new strategy as the East becomes the new West.

What many hoteliers don't understand is that the Club Med model at the best of times is very strong fundamentally. While

packages are priced per person, in fact average rates in many cases exceed that of other hotels given the multitude of couples

or families. Distribution for sales is largely done in house with guest traffic in many resorts hitting 60 to 70 per cent of customers booking through the internal network. In the day and age when OTAs (online travel agencies) are commanding premium commissions, the ability of Club Med to rely on internally-generated business is a significant cost savings.

Over the past year, we have seen Club Med push into new projects like ski resorts in China and other active locations. At the same time, other resort areas are seeing an emergence of the all-inclusive concept. On a recent trip to the Maldives, I spoke to a number of hoteliers who were introducing operational programs

which had been receiving strong

bookings including those offering

premium drink packaging. What is

the key selling proposition remains

intact and there are guests who still

like to lock in the cost but are

happy to pay for better products.

Hotels last year announced

new ventures in Mexico and

Jamaica, branded as Hyatt Ziva

and Hyatt Zilara and aimed at

different segments. The group is

working hard to reinvent the

Within the travel sector, Hyatt

of European-based chains who are offering somewhat cookie-cutter experiences. While interest is growing, the jury remains out if allinclusive will again capture a broader customer base in the age

> of TripAdvisor and the growing number of travellers who want to experience unique getaways.

In Phuket, there is little doubt that Club Med remains one of the most successful hotels on the island. You have to remember that in the 1990s the Laguna Beach Club (now an Outrigger) was operated under a similar concept by Pacific Islands Club. Also Twinnelms, approximented with the

(now an Outrigger) was operated under a similar concept by Pacific Islands Club. Also Twinpalms experimented with the theme at Baan Yamu a few years ago. Still, in the age of same sameness, there is a lot to be said about knowing the cost of your holiday before you even start



The first all-inclusive resort, Club Med.





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structure projects

there, resulting in a

or New York, these cit-

ies have four seasons

and there is an extreme

difference between the

heat of summer and the

cold of winter, which

means that non-en-

demic plant varieties

present problems of vi-

tality, so the option is

to only use native

plants or remove them

[the non-endemic

plants] at the start of

Before I came to Thailand, I also

visited China. I have several pro-

posals pending there... one with a

university in Beijing, to build a

great green wall with endemic

plants... it will include an extrac-

tion system from behind the wall

to accelerate the capturing of dust

and pollution, so as to generate

purified air. The Chinese capital is

one of the world's most polluted

cities, which unfortunately at this

winter, which is not ideal.

In the case of Tokyo

great success...



### By Steven Layne

LAST November, an energetic Chilean man came into the *Phuket Gazette* offices to pitch his vision and innovation – a simple yet potentially revolutionary solution for Phuket's increasingly congested, polluted and unappealing urban spaces.

Ignacio Espoz Babul, director of Santiagobased LatinGreen – a patent holder, innovator and installer of "Green"

walls, roofs and buildings – passionately talked of his travels around the world to promote making the world a better place – one wall at a time – and of course, to generate a little business, besides.

In the January 4-11 issue, the *Gazette* Property section featured the first part of the interview, in which Babul elaborated on his vision; green infrastructure's functionality and viability for investment. And now the conclusion.

# This 'Green Revolution' of yours – how did it all begin? Where has it taken you?

The story begins in the 1980s, when in my home country, Chile – houses, gardens and city squares began to disappear and be replaced by large buildings; we had no place to play football, so we started playing on rooftops. From there, all the smog could be seen in the city; then came the idea to create real parks with vegetation that besides providing a new space, would represent a 'green lung'.

Years later, self-sustainable green projects in different climes and latitudes in the city, countryside, desert, on the coast or at high altitudes – are a reality. Today, you can see projects across South America, North America, Europe and Asia, supplementing green infrastructure in buildings, hotels,



'The green coast of mythical easter island' project.

malls, houses, roads and urban spaces. Green roofs and walls, sculptures, vegetable patches and advertising billboards, are part of these systems.

One highlight project I was involved in was 'The Green Coast of Mythical Easter Island' in June of 2012. With the help of the Chilean Navy, we moved thousands of plants and trees on an old eighteenth-century, distinguished ship named Esmeralda, more than

'...then came the idea to create real parks with vegetation that besides providing a new space, would represent a 'green lung'.

- Ignacio Espoz Babul

5,000 kilometers from the mainland to one of the most isolated and mysterious islands in the world: Easter Island, with its hundreds of mysterious giant human stone figures. I recommend you go there at least once in your lifetime – it's amazing. The work was done with the help of the Navy, community and local companies over about a month long period; we undertook several green infra-

time, and all winter, the lack of wind and rain make it unlivable. Thailand, with its tropical cli-

Thailand, with its tropical climate and especially Phuket, has the best conditions for green infrastructure, and it has a wide variety of plants... My desire to integrate green infrastructure has been further inflamed here in Phuket, where I had a very comfortable stay as a tourist, and thus understand its idiosyncrasies.



# Potential benefits of 'green' walls and roofs

# **Aesthetic improvements**

•Green walls can reclaim disregarded space by providing aesthetic stimulation where it would not otherwise be found. They can also serve to create privacy and a sense of enclosure while limiting the negative psychological effects associated with property demarcation.

### Improved energy efficiency

•Green walls can reduce the temperature fluctuations at a wall's surface from a range of 10-60 C to one of 5-30 degrees C, in turn limiting the movement of heat between building walls. They create this reduction by trapping a layer of air within the plant mass, reducing ambient temperature via evapotranspiration and shading and creating a buffer against wind during winter months.

## **Building structure protection**

- •Temperature fluctuations over a building's lifetime can be damaging to organic construction materials in building facades. Green walls provide an additional layer of exterior insulation and thereby limit thermal fluctuations.
- •Green walls can protect exterior finishes and masonry from UV radiation and rain.



# Improved indoor air quality

- •Air that has been circulated throughout a building with a strategically placed green wall will be cleaner than that on an uncovered building.
- •These processes remove airborne pollutants such as toluene,

ethyl benzene, xylene, and other volatile organic compounds. •People in the world spend 80-90% of their time indoors. It has been estimated that problems associated with poor indoor air quality negatively affect workplace production by \$60 billion per year in the United States.

# Improved exterior air quality

- •Green walls mitigate air pollution levels by lowering extreme summer temperatures through photosynthesis, trapping particulate matter and capturing gasses.
- •The ability of green walls to provide thermal insulation for buildings means less demand on power, and as a result, fewer polluting by-products are released into the air.

# **Noise reduction**

•The vegetated surface provided by strategic urban greenery such as green walls and roofs will block high frequency sounds, and can also block low-frequency noises.

# Urban agriculture

•Green walls offer the opportunity for urban agriculture, such as vertical gardens of small fruits, vegetables and herbs.



# On site wastewater treatment

- •Several water-recycling systems can be applied to which pump grey water through a green wall, which then passes through filters, gravel, and marine plants.
- •Treated water is then sent to a holding tank for household or irrigation use or released into the public water treatment system.

# **Reduction of Urban Heat Island effect**

- •The reintroduction of vegetation into urban environments promotes the occurrence of natural cooling processes, such as photosynthesis and evapotranspiration.
- •With strategic placement of green walls, plants can create enough turbulence to break vertical airflow, which slows and cools down the air.

For more information about green walls, roofs and infrastructure, see: latingreen.com and worldgreenroof.org

# Penguin warms for tropics

LOOKING to build on its recent successful launch in Malaysia, one Korean marketeer is now eying the Phuket and Phang Nga marine leisure markets for its simple yet innovative semi-submarine vessel.

"The Penguin" was one of several interesting marine products that stood out at this year's Phuket International Boat Show (see page 44 for more details about the event); To learn more about the product and its marketing prospects, the Gazette spoke to Kyoonsung Cho, managing director of Trust Link Trade, the official marketing partner of Raonhaje (the Penguin's Korean manufacturer) in the Southeast Asia region.

# Tell us about the Penguin – what are its key selling points?

There have been many other sub-marine concept products which can take more than 20 people at once. These are designed to go deep down into the sea. There are concerns that they may cause some damage to the marine ecosystems including coral and other sea creatures. Therefore, these types of vessels are strictly prohibited by Thai marine regulations.

However, the "Penguin" is a semi-submarine which only requires two meters depth of sea for operation and has a depth-alarming sounder to prevent any damage from collision to the rocks and coral under the sea. The vessel is purposely designed for slow speeds as to conserve nature and to ensure safety at the same time.

Another key selling point of the "Penguin" is that it is electric powered, and thus is a very eco-friendly product that does not cause pollution [from petrol emissions], either in the seawater or in the air.



Kyoonsung Cho of Trust Link Trade (left) was at the recent Phuket International Marine Expo looking to partner with local tourism businesses to launch electric-powered semi-submarines (background). Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

### manufacturer.

The manufacturer's name Raonhaje means "joyful tomorrow" in Korean and has been developing life boats for a few decades; its mother company HLB Inc supplies the life boats to a number of world famous ship building companies, such as Hyundai Heavy Industries Co Ltd as well as Samsung Heavy Industries Co Ltd.

Therefore, the technology applied to the "Penguin" has been proven already in terms of safety and watertight [features] - its iron frame structure inside the boat and its buoyancy in the water.

# Who is your primary target here in Phuket and neighboring prov-

The Penguin is ideal for boat operators in Thailand whom have Please tell us more about the some concerns about how to differentiate themselves from other competitors by providing a better service option for their tourists or customers. The retail price of this boat is set at US\$100,000 (about 3.3 million baht) but the price is negotiable for operators who consider ordering more than five vessels. My company TLT has a plan for a pilot candidate client to have a chance to test-operate the Penguin without any other additional expenses except for the inland delivery costs.

# What is your impression so far about the marine industry in Phuket and the region?

I personally have been to the Similan Islands for tourism twice and have talked with many other tourists. They said that the nature was fantastic and had been much more beautiful before being damaged by the 2004 tsunami. However, from another point of view, the tour programs for tourists are pretty monotonous in terms of the variety of choices, which can make tourists feel bored of the same programs and no competition among boat operators, which can affect better quality tourism demand. If there is any active tourism business which is willing to introduce the Penguin, we believe it can contribute more variety to tourism programs

# What ultimately led to the decision to launch in Southeast Asia?

Above all, here is the biggest market for this kind of product especially in Thailand. One figure from the Ministry of Tourism [and Sports] declared that approximately 24 million tourists came to visit Thailand in 2013. This makes it the 4th biggest tourist market in the world. This is the main reason I did not hesitate to make the decision [to do business here].

# Can you tell us a little bit about your operations thus far in Malaysia?

We recently launched the Penguin in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, with a local tourism company there. In the beginning, four Penguins were launched, strictly for business, in which mainly Chinese tourists are the targets. The operation is expected to make about \$1,000 additional income per boat

# Are there any other factors potential operators and investors should consider?

The biggest concern on the boat operator's side is maintenance – in case of an emergency, malfunction and fixing the defect without wasting time.

Therefore, we would like to try a joint venture for which TLT Inc and Raonhaje enters into a joint investment with a Thai partner or investor. Then, we will establish our base for maintenance and the assembly line of other boats in the future. We can also provide mechanics and a maintenance training program either in Thailand or in Korea.

# What about the ROI?

The ROI itself varies depending upon the scale of investment and operation type. In the case that the operation has five boats, each running for \$100 per one hour use, for six hours a day. The daily income will be \$600 per boat. The rest of the calculation depends on fixed and variable costs of the boat operator, but generally speaking, we project that that the ROI can be made in one year. - Phuket Gazette

For more information or inquiries, call Kyoosung Cho on 82-10-4374-3254 or email kschou67@gmail.com

# Yetagun maintenance complete, natural gas delivery resumed

THE annual maintenance in the Yetagun gas field in Myanmar was completed on Monday (January 13), one day ahead of schedule, with nation-wide gas delivery resuming shortly thereafter.

According to Dr Pailin Chuchottaworn, President of PTT, the nation's energy sector was able to generate enough electricity during the temporary pipeline shutdown on December 31 last year.

The energy conglomerate's head said that all consumers, including the power, industrial and transportation sectors were not affected, and went on to thank all sides for joining the energy conservation campaign, which significantly reduced energy consumption during the gas field maintenance shutdown.

The company had earlier urged various factories, government offices and other energy hungry and energy related organizations to cut



down their unnecessary powerdemanding activities in order to prevent power shortages during

the Yetagun shutdown.

of Thailand.

Most natural gas sources in Thailand have been in service for quite a long time and it is necessary that they be maintained on schedule, the president said, reaffirming that PTT would do its best to ensure an uninterrupted flow of gas supply to all corners



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# Success of ban in enforcement

THE Phuket Land Transport Office's trial ban on bus and truck traffic to Patong via the infamous Phra Barami Road over Patong Hill is a good idea. (see page 1)

However, lack of proper enforcement by responsible officials, especially Traffic Police units, has the potential to jeopardize success during the trial period – and in the long term, if the measure is adopted on a more permanent basis.

The idea to ban trucks and buses heading westward over "Mt Mayhem" will certainly be costly and perceived as a major injustice and inconvenience by responsible business operators with proven safety records; such measures seldom sit well with victims who are forced to endure sanctions imposed on them due to the negligence, recklessness or sheer stupidity of others.

However, something must be done to stem the loss of life, injuries and property damage that occur annually on the road, one of the most accident-prone sections of tarmac anywhere in the southern region.

The ban, set to go into effect after a few weeks of public awareness campaigning, would likely improve not only safety, but also traffic flow over the hill. For every serious accident that has taken place there over the years, there have probably been at least 10 other incidents of breakdowns or stall-outs by underpowered or overladen trucks. Such instances increase the dangers on the already notoriously hazardous stretch and rapidly result in traffic tailbacks that sometimes take hours to resolve.

That said, none of the suggested "alternative" routes into Patong, especially the hilly coastal roads through Kamala and Karon, are particularly safe either. Authorities should carefully compare the number of bus and truck accidents that take place along those roads before and after the trial ban goes into effect, in order to statistically determine whether the change is truly justified – or is just making one area safer at the expense of others.

If the trial ban is successfully implemented and adequately enforced, and these are indeed big "ifs", those who will suffer most will undoubtedly be business supply trucks based over the hill in Muang District, home to many of the major warehouses on the island. Most will be desperate to avoid the time and expense of travelling half way around the island to deliver goods to Patong, and this will likely introduce a fertile new avenue for official corruption. The last thing we need is to create an underground "corruption toll road" until such time as authorities actually build a tunnel under the hill.

All considered, however, we cautiously support the trial ban, especially if it can be thoroughly and justly enforced.

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# Kamala Hill route not any better

Re: Gazette online, Phuket greenlights trial ban on buses over deadly Patong hill, January 10

"Bus drivers should use the Kamala Hill road instead; it's much easier to navigate than the Patong Hill road," said Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada.

Obviously he isn't aware of the almost daily accidents on *that* hill.

The road through Cherng Talay and Surin to Kamala is far too narrow in places and this will cause massive traffic jams, but at least the buses won't be able to drive too fast.

Mister Ree Gazette forum

# ...plan would spoil a lovely coastal road...

Re: Gazette online, Phuket greenlights trial ban on buses over deadly Patong hill, January 10

Oh, I think it would be a terrible shame to see huge diesel coaches spewing black smoke and fumes along the beautiful, winding Kamala coastal road.

Nosey Gazette forum

# ...and it doesn't solve the uphill problem

Re: Gazette online, Phuket greenlights trial ban on buses over deadly Patong hill, January 10

I still sense danger in this idea because some drivers have lost control of the vehicles going up the hill.

They don't downshift into a lower gear in time for the engine to catch up and then they roll backwards, and that's very dangerous for whoever is behind them

Can a sign be put up before the hill to warn drivers to downshift?

Ben Gazette forum

# Letters to the Editor

# Crimes of the rich

Re: Gazette online, Murder fugitive in Phuket land dispute surrenders to police, January 10

"He started coming toward me, so I went back to my car and got my gun," said Supongdeth Vetchatam.

That statement makes self defence a bit of a stretch, legally, in most jurisdictions. But coming from a well-connected landowner in Phuket it might still sound plausible.

What really gets me is that in Thailand well-heeled murder suspects get bail on the spot, while poor people rot in jail for months for picking mushrooms in the wrong place.

Top Cat Gazette forum

# Would like some help shedding pounds

Re: Gazette online, Colorectal Disease Institute opens at Bangkok Hospital Phuket, January 9

Bangkok Hospital should also open a weight loss center. Many people are waiting for this.

Concern Gazette forum

# DSI too slow to act

Re: Gazette online, Investigation against Phuket violent taxi station postponed, January 10

First question: why weren't the taxi drivers arrested or fined immediately as this did not happen for the first time?

Second question: why does it take at least three months more before anything will start to happen?

Only possible answer to both: money makes the world go around.

Ricardo Gazette forum

# Protesters message is loud and clear

Re: Gazette online, Phuket faces 40 per cent drop in Chinese tourist arrivals in January, January 9

The tourists don't need any Thai message or help to "understand the true situation" [of the political protests]. They have a very clear understanding of what's going on.

Thailand has to accept the consequences of the current political turmoil while the tourists explore other attractive countries.

Chiara Gazette forum

# Tiger disco victory

Re: Gazette online, Tiger Disco trial over inferno deaths to start next month, January 11

It's kind of a victory that this case is even reaching court – it looked for a while like the owners would wriggle free.

Now, for the victims and their families, may justice be served.

Susan Kathu

# Fix the cameras

Re: Gazette online, Too fast to be furious: Phuket speed cameras can't keep up, January 15

I'm glad to know. This very poor performance on the part of our authorities needs to be exposed. Phuket needs cameras that work. Anything less than that is simply a waste of time and money – and, in this case, of course, lives. Think about it.

Matt Henderson Gazette forum

# Putting the brakes on tourist bike accidents

# FIRST PERSON

IN THE recent Seven Days of Danger road-safety campaign, there were five road deaths in Phuket. Two of the people who died were foreigners riding motorcycles.

Foreigners here are much more likely to have accidents while riding motorbikes than driving cars.

There are several reasons for this, but the one I think is most within our control concerns the rental shops. They often only ask for a passport and don't insist on seeing a valid driver's licence.

Authorities in Phuket should crack down on this practice and make sure that every rental shop require a valid motorcycle driver's licence before renting out a bike.

Neglecting to ask for a licence is the first ingredient in a recipe for disaster. It puts inexperienced people into traffic they probably don't understand. The rules here are bound to be different than the rules in their countries – for instance, at home they may drive on the other side of the road. This can cause confusion while driving, especially when making turns.

We have heavy traffic and a lot of people who drive at high speeds. This raises the risk of accidents for inexperienced drivers who are unfamiliar with our roads. And that's not to mention the many hills and curves which cause accidents even among people who are familiar with them.

Another contributing factor to foreigners' accidents is the high number of rental shops here. There are motorcycle rental shops



Paitoon Sillapavisut, 41, is a Nakorn Sri Thammarat native who graduated from Ramkhamhaeng University in Business Management. He has been the senior manager of the Phuket branch of Road Accident Victim Protection Co Ltd. since 1998.

Here, Mr Paitoon talks about what causes visitors

to have motorcycle accidents on the island and suggests what measures should be taken to prevent them.

along the road at every tourist spot on the island, and at almost every beach.

Then, there is the mindset of tourists – they're here to have a good time. Sometimes that means their common sense goes out the window. They might have an "anything goes" attitude which causes them to lose self-control, and to lose the concern they normally have for their safety and that of others.

They may drink and drive, and they may get in a group and start driving wildly, just for fun.

Even if they avoid hurting anyone during an accident, dealing with insurance issues could ruin their vacations.

Rental shops are required by law to insure each motorbike with insurance called "Road Accident Victim Protection", or RVP. It costs the rental shop 320 baht per bike per year. RVP pays up to five million baht per accident.

One problem we have encountered with foreign claimants is time constraints. For example, they

submit all the necessary documents, but need to fly home the following day. We can't process the claims in one day. We need time to investigate the accident and make sure the motorcycle is covered. This has caused fights between tourists and insurance company staff.

Drivers should keep in mind that if they are at fault, RVP won't cover damages, and they will likely have to pay for repairs out of their own pocket.

Even if they manage to avoid accidents, foreigners without driving credentials may still get in trouble with the law. If a policeman stops them, they could be arrested, which would not be a pleasant addition to their vacation.

I want foreigners who rent bikes without a license to remember that a split second can change their lives forever. What happens in that short moment could cause them to never go home to their loved ones, or prevent someone else from going home to his.



Kid-Friendly: Thalang Road every Sunday evening. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

# Good time walking

I READ the article written by Don Limnun-thaphisit in the December 7 issue of the *Gazette* regarding the Lardyai walking street. However, I did so after stumbling upon the event by chance last weekend.

I expected another of the ubiquitous Thai markets with fried chicken, cheap knock-off goods and blaring dance music. What I discovered was a place with much more character.

A plethora of small food stalls cooked up meat and vegetable skewers, Thai omelets and especially tasty fresh spring rolls. There were some clothes and other goods being hawked but what I noticed was a much different mood altogether from other weekend markets and fairs.

The colored lights illuminating the old architecture set a festive tone, and it had a family-feel, with lots of kids running around having fun, screeching and howling with laughter.

Live musicians and street performers made it feel less like a consumer event, and although there is plenty of shopping, it is a place people are going just to hang out and have a good time.

The crowd was markedly Thai, with a distinct lack of tourist hordes, which was surprising at this time of year. If Mr Limnunthaphisit's statistic that only one per cent of visitors to Phuket make

# **Island View**

By Jeremie Schatz

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

it into Phuket Town is correct, this is a shame.

Although Phuket is somewhat of an anomaly in Thailand with it's large expat population, high prices and slightly diluted culture, in Phuket Town we can still feel the beating heart and the cultural soul of the island. The architecture, people and food speak to a distinct history and exhibit a character that cannot be experienced within the confines of a five-star resort.

Phuket Town and Lardyai walking street are an ideal alternative for vacationing families who want to escape the kid-unfriendliness of Patong's party scene and raucous nightlife and enjoy a hiatus from high decibels and scantily clad *katoys*. It's quick work finding a place to park and there are a variety of chic cafes and small pubs to take a load off, shoot the breeze with some locals and watch the world go by.

I wholeheartedly agree with Mr Limnun-thaphisit that visitors to Phuket are doing themselves a disservice by hiding out under their beach umbrellas and not exploring the charms of Phuket Town.

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

# **Crabbing in Phuket**

Is there anywhere on the island I can take my 3-year-old boy crabbing? I used to do it when I was young and think it would be entertaining for him. We don't necessarily need to catch crabs big enough to eat, just to stick in a bucket and put back.

Spencer Coleman Phuket

# Kaisorn Promsakha, Patong Municipality officer, replies:

People may catch crabs and fish in areas not protected by law.

There are two popular spots for crabbing near Patong: Kalim Beach and Tri Trang Beach.

Kalim Beach has a rocky area of tidal pools where crabs and other shellfish hide. Most people go crabbing between 4pm and 6pm.

Be sure to check on the tides before entering the area.

Another popular spot for crabbing is at Tri Trang Beach, which is between Patong Beach and Paradise Beach.

# A Phuket City Municipality officer replies:

A lot of people enjoy crabbing and fishing at Saphan Hin, the public park in Phuket Town, when the tide is out.

Be sure to check for signs that might prohibit fishing or crabbing in certain spots.

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/ IssuesAnswers

# Cops don't need permission

I heard that police cannot stop people who are breaking the law unless they have an order from their commander.

For example, if they have set up a checkpoint under order from their commander, they can pull people over for not wearing helmets, but if they are just out and about, and see someone without a helmet, they cannot ticket that person. Is that true?

Curious Kathu

# Sarawut Meeboon, Thalang Police Traffic Deputy Inspector, Sarawut Meeboon replies:

Police have the authority to apprehend people breaking the law any time.

Police officers need not wait for an order from a commanding officer before stopping someone. Traffic police have the authority to stop anyone who is riding without a helmet, running a red light and so on, whether the offender is driving through a checkpoint or not.

However, the police have to consider their duty before apprehending suspects. For example, if an officer is on traffic duty and stopping someone would negatively affect the flow of traffic, he can, instead, report the vehicle registration plate number or the description of the driver and vehicle to another patrolling officer.

Sometimes there are too few officers in a police box, making it difficult for them to stop offenders. This is one reason why drivers may notice that police officers do not stop everyone who breaks a traffic law.

As a result, we set up specific checkpoints as ordered by commanding officers so that it is easier to stop and apprehend those drivers breaking the law.



He can't stop scofflaws, he's got a job to do. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

20 PHUKET GAZETTE January 18 - 24, 2014

# YOUR

# Phuket



Nakalina Furniture team (from left to right) Khun Pakin, Khun Tanipol and Khun Wilaiwan, enjoyed the Welcome Cocktail Party.

# PHUKET INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW (PIMEX)



Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut (2nd left) attended the opening ceremony of PIMEX, and was warmly welcomed by Gulu Lalvani (2nd from right), founder of Royal Phuket Marina.

# TICC APERITIVO ITALIANO: GET TOGETHER



The Thai-Italian Chamber of Commerce marked its partnership with Seiwa Marine for PIMEX 2014 by hosting a cocktail party at Diamond Beach Club.

Giovanni Quaratesi (left), Secretary General of TICCC; Glacomo Mauri (right), President of TICC; and his friend Linda Dissart.

# THARN PRINTING VISIT



From left to right: Praveen Kaivikai, Tharn Printing; Jaruwan Phattarajariyakul, Graphic Designer for the Phuket Gazette; Natthira Susangrat, General Manager of the Phuket Gazette; Somchai Srivutichan, CEO of Tharn Printing; Kitti Prueksachatrat, Tharn Printing.

# FACE PAINT FUN AT CENTRAL FESTIVAL

Youngsters visiting Central Festival Phuket on Children's Day, last Saturday, lined up for balloons and face painting as free activities were put on by staff and students from British International School Phuket.



A happy customer from BISP's Central Festival face-painting activity.



A little baby (in a BISP shopping bag) enjoying her balloon art from the BISP Central Festival booth on Children's Day.



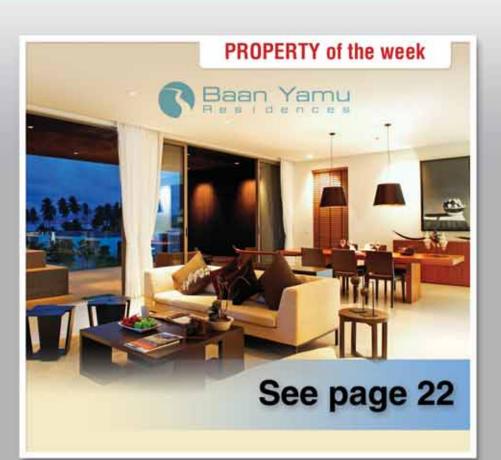
BISP Marketing Manager Kirsten Smallcombe with a recipient of her face-painting handiwork on Children's Day.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS Marketplace - in Print and Online\*

January 18 - 24, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net



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

JARANYA HOTEL
FOR SALE

See page 28





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

### FOR SALE SEA VIEW

1 bedroom apartment at Eden Resort Karon. Only 15 apartments in complex. Fully furnished, gym and 20x5m swimming pool. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj@yahoo.

# KARON BEACH LAND **FOR SALE**

Sea view, 400sqm: 4.5 million baht, 800sqm: 8.8 million baht. Tel: 082-538 5909 (Thai)

# **FISHERMANWAY VILLA FOR SALE**



2-storey pool villa with separate big guest bungalow and carport on 1,293sqm of land. Living space villa = 270sqm, with partial built-in teakwood furniture. Price: 12.5 million baht. Tel: 091-245 7809 (English & Thai). Email: weidner@loxinfo.co.th

# **HOUSE IN THALANG**

New 2-storey house. 1km from the Heroine Monument. 400sqm, 4 bedrooms/rest rooms, big living room, big kitchen, fully furnished. For sale: 6.9 million baht. Rent: 30,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 095-767 6757 (English & Thai). Email: bank4xhd@ gmail.com

# **RAWAI POOL CONDO** PAY IN 12 YEARS

Down 200.000 baht + 16,000 baht per month, furnished, ready to live. Cash sale: 2 million baht, 1 bed, 1 bath, kitchen, 12-car space, 200m to Rawai Beach pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@ yahoo.com

### PRIVATE POOL VILLA FOR SALE IN RAWAI

3-bedroom private pool villa in quiet tropical environment, located few minutes away from Rawai Beachfront. Ensuite bathrooms, private carport, 6x3m swimming pool. Start from 7.9 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: sales @phuketpondockvilla.com Website: www.phuketpon dockvilla.com

# Baan Yamu Condominium available for sale PHUKET'S EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL HIDEAWAY Award-winning design Luxurious lifestyle facilities Secure residential and investment opportunity Please contact: 091-034 9909 or 089-729 8126 E-mail: info@baanyamu.com Tel: 076-310507

# **PATONG**

**STUDIO CONDO** Cozy, fully furnished, 50 sqm, 10th floor, sea view. 3.5 million baht. Tel: 097-183 7552 (English). Email: molly myong@gmail.com

# KARON BEACH HOUSE **FOR SALE**

Or long-term rent, beautiful sea view, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 8.5 million baht. Tel: 082-538 5909

# 2 RAWAI POOL VILLAS **PAY IN 25 YEARS**

Freehold, 1 million baht down +35,000 baht monthly. Cash sale: 7.5 million baht, each villa has 5/6 beds, 5/6 baths, 300m to Rawai Beach pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.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 084-293 7923 (Thai/Eng), 081-854 0061 (Eng). Email: mrgeoffcurry@yahoo.com

# **SEA VIEW, 350SQM** 11.9 MILLION BAHT

4 units only, 80% construction progress done. Tel: 087-465 8883 (English & Thai), 089-724 6026 (English & Thai). Email: info@mindpro perties.net For further details, please see our website at www.mindproperties. net/Sea\_View\_House\_For \_Sale\_at\_Cape\_Panwa\_Phu ket\_PKET002-Property.htm

# CHEAP LAND FOR SALE

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

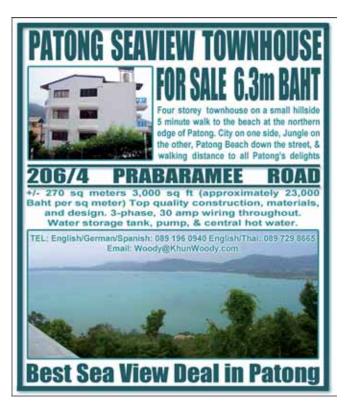
# **PAKLOK**

**6 RAILOVELY LAND** 

Quiet area, nice mountain view. Flat land, easy to build or for investment. 3 minutes to monument. Chanote title. Priced for quick sale at only 3 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-894 5848 (English & Thai). Email: vass\_t99@ya hoo.com

# **POOL VILLA MISSION HEIGHTS**

3 bedrooms, 3 1/2 bathrooms, huge living room, large swimming pool, priced 12 million baht or 15 million baht depending on your needs. Please call 076-528024, 087-060 8400 (English). Email: picharly@ gmail.com



# **HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG**

Phuket Town. 3 beds, 3 baths, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771

# **PRIVATE THAI-BALINESE POOL VILLA** FOR SALE IN RAWAI

3-bedrooms private Thai-Balinese pool villa in quiet tropical environment. Few minutes away from Rawai Beachfront, ensuite bathrooms, private carport (2 cars), large terraces, 8x4m swimming pool, living area: 269sqm, land: 696sqm. Chanote. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: chris tophe.soula@hotmail.fr



A spacious family home in Boat Lagoon, modern contemporary, 4+1 bedrooms, 4 baths, large dining area, fully furnished, 616sqm. For more information, please call 076-238948. Email: sale@ phuketpropertytrip.com

# Private Home For Sale 21 Million Baht



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

# All classifieds in these pages are



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

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

# **SEAVIEW VILLA**

650sqm. 4 bedrooms, pool, near BIS. 38 million baht. Email: jin\_koy@yahoo.com

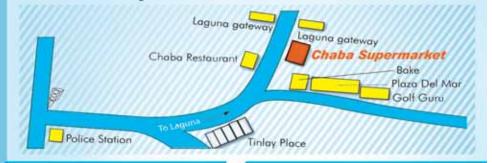
# **LAND FOR SALE**



Khok Kloy. 8.5 rai land, Chanote title. 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 1km from Beach. Road access and power supply. Recently measured by government. Only 850,000 baht per rai. Please contact Paew: 089-972 5378 (English&Thai), Tin: 089-288 4537 (English&Thai)



# Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Chaba Supermarket



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

PROPERTY

INSURANCE

Property Insurance

Professional Indemnity,

Director and Officers

Group Health and Individual

Personal Accident and Travel

Contact: Paew, Piya or Tux Phuket Boat Lagoon

lambertbrothers.co.th

**LAND NEAR** 

**MISSION HILLS** 

Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah,

60m wide. Chanote. Located

on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-

Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from

Heroines' Monument. Price:

7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472

9118. Email: honda.1437@

**CHERNG TALAY** 

**LAND PLOTS** 

3.750 baht per square meter.

Tel: 086-950 2707, +32-49-329

7948 (English & Thai). Email:

datacenter50@gmail.com

Website: www.zoutdesk.nl/

Sea, hill and city views

house, plus three separate apartments for rent. Total 360sqm. 7.65 million baht.

Tel: 081-824 1385 (English).

Email: jbiwo@csloxinfo.

**2 RAI LAND MAI KHAO** 

350m to beach, situated 70m

off Soi Mai Khao 7, flat coco-

nut land, fully developed. 6.25

million baht per rai. Tel: 086-

954 7517 (English). Email:

Condo in Patong

for Sale/Rent

87 sqm. beautiful condo with

2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms, fully furnished complete with

kitchen utensils, microwave, coffee

machine, toaster etc., bed sheets,

towels for 4 people, internet, TV etc. available from Nov 2013;

50K baht for I month, 35K baht/

month for 6 months and 28K

baht/month for I year contract.

CALL: 081-891 5602 or 081-432 6587

wickiphuket@yahoo.com

**PATONG HOUSE** 

hotmail.com

Construction

Public Liability

Motor insurance

**Lambert Brothers** 

Insurance Brokers

### 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

## **HABITOWN KOH KAEW**

For sale. 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@ya hoo.com

# **NAI HARN UNIQUE THAI STYLE**

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms - 1km to Nai Harn Beach. 6.9 million baht. Tel: 081-081 9875 (English & Thai). Email: soundofmusic 999@yahoo.co.uk Forfurther details, please see our drop box at www.dropbox.com/sh/ixn 53lu67undi4e/uEaXCFm I5

# **LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE**

Location: Phanom District, Surat Thani, 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. Please call 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433

# **THIDA HOUSE 27MB**



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

# 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

# **PRIVATE SALE OF HALFARAI**

Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. 4.2 million. Tel: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702

# **LAND CHANOTE**

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

# **NEW CONDO: URGENT**



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. Ťel: 081-797 5138

# **NICE KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE**

Kamala freehold house with land. Only 1.2km to beach. This house has very nice 560sqm land, good for swimming pool or another apartment for rental. 6.9 million baht. Negotiable. Contact Mr. Lewis. Call for viewing now. Tel: 089-497 4445 (English), 089-394 2981 (English & Thai). For further details, please see our website at www.thailandsold.com

# **30 RAI IN TOWN**

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

# **PHUKET**

# SALE/RENT



Special price, modern

# **POOL VILLA**

**BEAUTIFUL** 

Big shady lot near beach. 15m pool, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office, furnished quality, freehold, secure. Tel: 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmo campbell@yahoo.com www. villa-sale-phuket.com

# **HOUSE FOR SALE AT NAI YANG**

House with swimming pool for sale at Nai Yang Beach, near Phuket Airport, 3 bedrooms, 3 toilets. 3.95 million baht. Tel: 089-215 2177 (English & Thai). Email: tippa wan.d@hotmail.com

# LAND FOR SALE

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

# **BURASIRI HOUSE**

Selling down payment, 2 floors, 3 bedrooms. 300,000 baht only. Contact Wah. Tel: 086-267 5262

# **CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE**

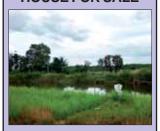


In Kathu for sale or rent. Near Phuket Country Club Golf Course. 36sqm furnished, aircon. 1 bedroom. Sale: 1.75 million baht. Rent: 13,000 baht per month with 1-year contract. Common area included. Tel: 089-472 9118

# 2BR, 7TH FLOOR, LAKE VIEW CONDO 2-bedroom corner unit

(59.64sqm). Never occupied, furnished, sunny, new condo, built by one of Thailand's most established quality developers. Top construction and after-sale service and management. Convenient to shopping, services, and main travel routes for the professional and leisurely lifestyle. Be at ease in your uniquely located and elevated view, modern and convenient lifestyle home. This unit is a special corner unit with lake & mountain views, added privacy, modern amenities, pool, fitness, CCTV, gated community and rental management services. Priced to sell at 3.8 million baht. Tel: 087-276 1225 (English), 081-692 7397 (English & Thai). Email: patong15 @gmail.com

# **CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE**



The land of 35 rai and a house with aircon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and kitchen at Tambon Bornok, Prachuap Khiri Khan, 20km from Prachuap Khiri Khan town. The land is 1.3km from Petchkasem Road. Price is only 10 million baht. Nor Sor 3 title deed. Please call 086-615 9719

# **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

# **QUICK SALE!**



Luxury pool villa, Nai Harn, 3/4 bedrooms, island views. 7.8 million baht. No offers. Tel: 089-593 0986

# 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

# **CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK**



For sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.55 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118

# 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.

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

# **RAWAI POOL STUDIO**

1,000 baht per day, 25,000 baht per month. Available for 1,2,3,4,5 bed. Private Studio, each has bedroom, bathroom, aircon, LED TV, desk, fridge, kitchen, pool, parking. 200m to Rawai Beach pier. Tel: 084-242 8914. Email: rawai4@yahoo.

# SEA VIEW CONDO IN PATONG BEACH

1 to 2 bedroom serviced apartments for rent on daily/monthly/yearly basis and sale also. Book now. Please call 081-797 7199, 086-683 07 86. Email: highstylecon dominium@gmail.com

# CONDO AT RATCHAPORN PLACE



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

# NICE HOUSE CHALONG

400sqm, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, 4 aircons, swimming pool, jacuzzi. Rent: 20,000 baht. Sale: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 082-809 2873 (English & Thai)

## LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Please visit our website at http://pukeyomefc2.web. fc2.com/phuketcondorent. htm Email: chrispalmer56@gmail.com

## VILLA WITH POOL FOR RENT OR SALE

260sqm, 4 bedrooms in quiet area. 400sqm yard with 5x8m pool. Fully furnished and equipped. 55,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-921 4260. Email: Odni.gg@gmail.com

# PATONG TOWER GORGEOUS CONDO

Beautiful Patong Tower Beach Condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, mountains and town. Large outdoor patio and wrap-around balcony. Completely renovated, internet and washing machine. Available from 21 March, 2014. Email: PatongTower Rental@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.Patong TowerRental.com

# PRIVATE THAI-BALINESE POOL VILLA FOR RENT IN RAWAI

3-bedrooms private Thai Balinese pool villa in quiet tropical environment. Few minutes away from Rawai Beach front. Fully furnished, ensuite bathrooms, private carport (2 cars), large terraces, 8x4m swimming pool. Long-term rental. Available now. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: christophe.soula@hotmail.fr

# **RAWAI BEACH CONDO**

1 bedroom. Mountain view balcony. 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-057 7714

# FOR RENT RAWAI/NAI HARN



Vassana Residence and Palm Breeze Resort. Low season prices starting at 30,000 baht per month for long-term rent. Sea view rooftop deck and bar over looking the Andaman Sea. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. LCD TV in every room, washing machine in every apartment, swimming pool. 160sqm in size, free WiFi. Tel: 087-882 9604. Email: artlpmj @yahoo.com

## STUNNING KATA BEACH VIEW

Kata Beach villa, furnished, 3 beds, 3 baths. 70,000 baht per month, long term. Tel: 081-003 6902. Email: con tact@purist.biz Please visit our website at www.villaca tasia.com

# COMFORT BUNGALOW HOUSE

75sqm, long-term rental: 10,000 baht per month, 2-room furnished, complete household, big veranda with tropical garden, pool, acquisition, available 10 March 2014. Please call 080-697 4629 (English). Email: h.lief eldt@gmx.de

# 2-BEDROOM BEACH APARTMENTS

3 minutes walk from Nai Harn Beach, spacious, large gardens and shared pool. Email: resortgm@gmail.

# CONVENIENT STUDIO 33SQM

33sqm studio/apartment, furnished, kitchen, 10 minutes to Central. 6,000 baht per month. Email: paulistathai@hotmail.com

# CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot wate washing machine, refrigerator TV microwave, 24 security and interne provided). Pis contact 085-4759812. Email: annano11@hotmail.com

# KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rent. From 19,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330 641. www.oceanic-glo bal.com

# HOUSE AT SAI YUAN



Fully furnished. 60,000 baht per month. 3-month deposit. Tel: 081-6930935. Email: phuketaccount@hotmail.com

# FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

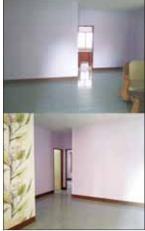
# NEW FURNISHED 3-BED VILLA

Brand-new, fully furnished, modern 3-bed/3.5-bath villa with private garden and swimming pool. (5 minutes to Ao Po Grand Marina and Mission Hills Golf Course). Tel: 081-893 5270, 093-014 5072 (English & Thai), 081-893 5270 (English & Thai). Email: srdupouy@gmail.com For further details, please visit the website: http://phuket renthouse.com/10296/show case

# 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@gmail.com See our website at www.villa cheloni.com

# PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT



Comes with 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, big living area. No furnished, build-in kitchen and car park. Locate behind Kajonkiet School on Chao Fa West Road, just only 5 minutes to Central Festival. Available in January 2014. For short or long term rent. Please call to see and have more information: 087-270 9093

# BEAUTIFUL CONDO FOR RENT

1 bedroom, 65sqm, nicely furnished, balcony with golf course view. Rent: 10,000 baht per month. Sale: 1.9 million baht. Phuket Country Club. For more information, please contact Ole. Tel: 085-795 4741. Email: oleanda man@gmail.com

# PARADISE FOR RENT



2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, pool villa, very quiet, western standard, aircon, WiFi. Tel: 083-395 5330 (English), +41-07-9661 4061. Email: c. spleiss@robert-spleiss. ch Please visit our website at www.naiharn-villa. com

# SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



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

# **WALK TO KATA BEACH**

2 bedrooms/3 bathrooms, furnished, new home. 500m to beach. Available 18 January 2014. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai) or send email to kahunadan@hot mail.com

# SEAVIEW POOL VILLA

4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, stunning ocean-facing property. 15 minutes to BIS/PIA schools. Cape Yamu. Rent: 80,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-279 6283

# COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with ensuite 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

# Oranee Hildebrand 176547 Exp: 27 April 14 176547 Exp:

# Property Classifieds

# Property Services

# HOTEL/CONDO **MANAGEMENT**

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

# **HOME RENOVATION**

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

### **PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

Experienced property managers (hoteliers) are seeking additional properties to manage and/or rent. Own maintenance staff, dedicated marketing manager. 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

# Property Services Wanted

## **HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT**

And rental/marketing management for resorts, condos, villas, estates by experienced hoteliers. Email: resortgm @gmail.com

# Property Wanted

# **WE WANT TO RENT A RESORT**

Phuket, preferably Kata or Patong, but open to all ideas. Experienced hoteliers. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

# IN KATA, KARON, **PATONG**

Experienced hoteliers provide property management (with own maintenance staff) and effective rental services. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

# VILLA/GUESTHOUSE/ **HOTEL WANTED**

For purchase or rent long term: 15-40 rooms, no more than a 30minute drive from Patong. Must be in a quiet location and have a sea view from at least 30% of the rooms. Tel: +41-79-289 1259. Email: hotel.phuket.wanted @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 shortterm contracts. Only Kata, Karon, Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong. Tel: 082-420 7052. Please call or visit our website at www.stayonphuket.com

# Accommodation Available

# **ROOM FOR RENT@SURIN BEACH**

One bedroom, 44sqm, fully furnished, 5 mins to Surin Beach. Tel: 083-060 7475 (English & Thai). Email: porn kawee@gmail.com

# **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

### **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.

# **PRIVATE POOL** VILLA

3-bedroom private pool villa located minutes from the famed Laguna area. Tel: 084-842 2262 (English & Thai). Email: lita.hine@ hotmail.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

### **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

### 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: natawapaeng@ gmail.com

# Accommodation Wanted

# **VILLA WITH PRIVATE POOL**

We are looking for a 2-bedroom villa with private pool fon Phuket Island. Southwest preferred. +41-79-651 3602 (English). Email: orca\_67@hi speed.ch

Holiday

Homes &

# Villa Rentals

### 2- BEDROOM BEACH **APARTMENTS**

3 minutes walk from Nai Harn Beach, spacious, large gardens and shared pool. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

# NAI HARN BEACH 4-**BED CONDOS**

Large renovated condo, can sleep 8 pax. Rooftop terrace, garden front. Beach 3 minutes walk. Email: resortgm@gmail.

# **VACATION RENTALS KATA BEACH**

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

# PRIVATE POOL VILLA FOR RENT IN RAWAI

3-bedrooms private pool villa in quiet tropical environment located few minutes away from Rawai beachfront. Fully furnished, ensuite bathrooms, private carport, 6x3m swimming pool. Weekly, monthly rental. Available from 06/02/2014. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). For further details, please see our website at www.phuketpondockvilla.com

# Household Help

### **ELDERCARE**

Man with poor vision/hearing needs someone to do light housekeeping. Must speak some English. Full or part time. Tel: 080-520 5087 (English), 081-085 0801 (English & Thai). Fax: +1-413-622 2635. Emai: edwardpinion@msn.com

# Household Items

# SHELVES, DESK & KIDS' BED

Selling dark brown shelves from Index, one office desk, a kids' bed and more. Very cheap. Tel: 086-025 0604 (English) . Email: hcumber lege@hotmail.com

# 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

# **MRK KITCHEN** SERVICE

All you need for a professional kitchen: stainless steel work, gas system, air conditioner, security camera, wood-fired pizza oven and used equipment. Tel: 081-416 7475, 084-845 4743 (Thai). Please see our website at www.mrkkit chen.com

# Live in Patong? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at **Taurus Travel** Patong Beach THAWEEWONG RD. ANDAMAN BEACH BAN SAI NAM YEN SCHOOL RAT-U-THIT 200 PEE RD SIAM COMMERCIAL BANK GAZETTE CLASSADS - theywork Simply write out your ad, because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads pay and leave it with in print every week, all published simultaneousl Khun Kai: (076-344321-2) 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

Their hand it to any or 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.

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

### **CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION**

### Qualified candidates will be:

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- Service-minded with an outgoing personality
- Able to work well with large numbers of advertisers, both foreign and Thai

# and should have:

- A Bachelor's Degree from a recognizable university
- A good sense of organization and respect for details
- Knowledge of basic office software, InDesign and PageMaker would be a plus.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to Khun Anna at Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

# The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-273555, ext 102 Fax: 076-615240

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

# REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

# The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew A. Muang, Phuket 83000 Tel: 076-273555 Ext.402 Fax: 076-615240

Residence Phuket is a private residential Condominium development at Kalim Bay and consist of 51 apartments.

As soon possible, we require the following:

## **General Manager**

- At least 5 years experience in managing staff
- Must be able to read, speak and write English and Thai fluently
- Accounting skills
- Technical knowledge is very helpful
- Team player with a service mind
- Maintain good staff relations
- Flexible attitude and representative personality
- Must live in Phuket area

Please send a short letter of application, recent photograph, Curriculum Vitae including email and telephone contacts of references to:

# Contacting the Residence.

Secretary of the Management office. **Telephone:** 66 (076) 344350 | **Mobile:** Ae 084 689 5098 Email: <u>ae@kalimresidence.com</u>
Address: 302 Phrabaramee rd Ban Kalim Patong Beach, Kathu Phuket 83150 Thailand

### **DANISH STAFF WANTED**

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

# **VILLA MANAGER** (LIVE IN)

Manager of house team, House keeper, Food & Bever age, Repairs. Excellent speak English, leadership, service minded skills. Own car. Tel: 087-881 0003. Send CV to hr@ luxuryvillasand homes.com

# **EUROPEAN CHEF HIRE**

Best Western Premier Bangtao Beach Resort & Spa is looking for chef, sous chefs, bartenders, and service staff. We want both full time and part time. Good salary with work permit. Tel: 081-905 8353. Please call or send email to hrbangtao@oceanresort group.net

**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

# **SALES ASSISTANT** (RETAIL)

To assist customers in finding items, provide excellent customer service at all times and build good guest relations. Good spoken English and pleasant personality is a must. Base salary 20,000 baht + commissions. Please send your resume to nina@tiger muaythai.com

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

# **Text & Content Editor**

### Job Description:

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

# Qualifications:

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

### Salary & Welfare:

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

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

VS Asia Co., Ltd. (Human Resource Department) 42 Moo3, Palai2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130

Tel. (00)66-76-380600 Fax. (00)66-76-380605

email: info@vsdma.com

# 3 WAITRESSES FOR **RESTAURANT**

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

# **KARON CLIFF**

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

# **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

# Live in Town?

# Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at iTree Complete Printing Service



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

# GAZETTE CLASSADS - they work

because they're PAID! Hundreds of new ads and FREE - in the Gazette Online!

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

# Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

# **CHALONG**

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

# Tel: 076-282254 Tel: 076-280400 Tel: 076-282403

# PATONG

- Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)
- Deli Supermarket (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd)

# PHUKET CITY

# Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)

- Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)
- iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

# CHERNG TALAY

Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

# RAWAI

The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

# KARON

EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

Tel: 076-325586

Tel: 076-344521-2

Tel: 076-290468

Tel: 076-342275

Tel: 076-232398 Tel: 076-258369

Tel: 076-255425

Tel: 076-396911

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!

# LOOKING FOR MANAGER

Thai national with good English. Salary 15,000 baht. Tel: 089-870 2796.

## **MECHANICS**

Looking for qualified mechanics for project on a yacht. Email: boatcrewwanted@g mail.com

# LAGUNA BAR HIRES (THAI)

Manager, bartender, cashier and sexy ladies, staff must speak English. Tel: 090-652 5610

# GERMAN CC NEEDS STAFF

We are seeking Germanspeaking people to work as a Call Agents, part and full time in our home office. Please contact us for further information. Send mail to: job@ callcenteragent.at

# REAL ESTATE OFFICE STAFF

Siam Real Estate are opening new office in Laguna and require Thai staff with good English, computer and admin skills. Salary + commissions. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at www.siam realestate.com

# **BRANCH MANAGER**

ISS Facility Services require Branch Managers for 2 new locations in Had Yai and Koh Samui. Preferred applicants are English-speaking Thai nationals, degree educated with previous experience in property or hotel management. Excellent salary and benefits on offer. Tel: 076-610315, 081-958 6879. Email: scott.d @th.issworld.com



# **Marketing Staff Wanted**

Staff required to join a marketing team to work at Central Festival. Thai female with good English communication skills.

Please call 089-594 6888. Email: info@arthouse.asia

# **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

# YACHT STEWARDESS

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

# THAI COOK WANTED

Thaifood+European snacks. To work cafe bar Karon Beach, must be able to speak reasonable English. Tel: 081-891 9461.

# THAI EMPLOYEE - OFFICE JOB

Want an interesting job? New internet firm needs an employee, 20-35 years old, very good English and PC. CV in English only. Tel: 076-322663, 090-070 9633 (English & Thai). Email: massi mo.reve@gmail.com

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

# **Genkan Creative**

# **Graphic Designer**

Genkan Creative is seeking to expand its international team. We are looking for a self-motivated, highly creative individual to work with our international team creating world-class web applications.

Candidates are expected to have the following qualifications:

- Thai nationality
- 3 years' experience in Web graphic design
- Knowledge of HTML & CSS
- Knowledge of graphic design tools, e.g Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop
- Knowledge of Wordpress a plus

Expected Salary between 20,000 – 30,000 THB depending on experience. Candidates should send their CV & Portfolio to tpb@genkan.com.au

# Web Developer

Genkan Creative is seeking to expand its international team. We are looking for a self-motivated, highly creative individual to work with our international team creating world class web applications.

Candidates are expected to have the following qualifications:

- Thai nationality
- Minimum 3 years' experience working in Web Development
- Knowledge of HTML, CSS, Javascript, PHP
- Minimum 2 years' experience working with Wordpress
- Knowledge of SEO a plus
- Knowledge of graphic design tools, e.g Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop a plus
- Knowledge of Facebook Apps a plus

Expected Salary between 25,000 – 30,000 THB depending on experience. Candidates should send their CV to tpb@genkan.com.au

# 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. Position available now. Tel: 086-6041 333 (English). Please send CV to gm @ccshideaway.com

# SALES EXEC

ISS Facility Services require sales executives for our Phuket and Had Yai offices. Applicants are English-speaking Thai Nationals who have previous sales experience, their own car and are available to travel to nearby provinces. Retaining salary and generous sales commissions offered. TeL: 076-610315, 081-694 9088 (English & Thai), 081-958 6879 (English). Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

# STAFF FOR RESTAURANT

Chief cook, cook helper, bartender, waitress, good salary, Thai national. Tel: 081-116 1245 (English).

# **COPYWRITER**

Siam Real Estate urgently require an experienced Englishspeaking 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

# **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

# **GUEST RELATIONS**

English, Korean or Russian speaker+service mind. Salary 12,000-20,000. Dormitory avail. Tel: 085-184 9659 (English), 085-184 9682 (English). Email: tiffany.1 2321@hotmail.com

### EUROPEAN KITCHEN CHEF

Experience in European, Mediterranean cuisine. Looking for job here in Phuket. Tel: 097-041 9481. Please call or send email to klaus.jkalisch @yahoo.com

# CAFE & BAR STAFF WANTED

Bartender, waiters and waitresses, receptionist, guest relations, and bar supervisor needed. Thai nationality only. Salary 15,000-30,000 plus good benefits. Tel: 085-184 9682 (English), 085-184 9659 (English). Email: recruit@chamberofsecrets.com For further details, please see our website at http://chamberofsecrets.com

Looking for a job?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at www.PhuketGazette.Net!

# Bulletins

# Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

ئىيىس بىمى ئا بىمى كا ئىدىن خىس كا ئىدىن

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

**Daily Meetings** 

081-895 4763 084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
Google AA Phuket

## LOST / MISSING PERSONS



Looking for Alex Giles & Patcharee Goonteeganock (Cherie). Last known residence was Rawai. Tel: 076-384267, 085-444 7474 (English & Thai)

# Bar & Restaurant Equipment

# SMART RGBW LED LIGHTING

If you are not 100% satisfied with the lights in your bar or restaurant, then upgrade now to the newest and smartest wireless RGBW LED lighting system in just minutes. Then control brightness and colors with a remote or Smart Phone! Tel: 085-292 3170, 089-415 1217. Email: smartalarmco Itd@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.webstore. smartalarm.co.th/RF\_LED\_ Lighting/cat1796909\_217 4535.aspx

# BQ116 ICE CREAM MACHINE

Soft ice cream machine, never used, still packed. BQ116. Production capacity: 10-14kg per hour (14-20 l/h). Cups per hour (60g per cup): 160-230. For sale at 1/3 of its cost. 49,000 baht. Tel: 082-414 0600. Email: bkkjedi@gmail.com

### **COFFEE & GELATO**

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

# Business Opportunities

## INVEST IN SWISS STOCKS

The best Swiss stock fund for small and mid caps. Performance 2012+24%, 2013+30% in Swiss-France. www. swiss activealpha.ch or contact Niklaus Siegrist. Tel: 089-291 5437 (English& German). Email: niklaus.siegrist @invest-partners.ch

# **HOUSE + BUSINESS**



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

# **SPORTS BAR**

Lively and trendy, pool table, 3 flat screen TVs, 2 bedrooms at rear, cheap rent, website. Please call 084-840 0704. Email: nm.window cleaning @hotmail.co.uk

# RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Area 3,800sqm with twin house, good lease, low rent, main Rawai Road. Sale: 1.3 million baht. Please call 089-646 7176

# BOUTIQUE MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE

Patong. Located Nanai Road. 7 beds. Fully stocked. Equipped with high-end furniture. Well presented. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. Reluctant sale: 350,000 baht. Call 087-073 4233 or email: judgedread73@hotmail.com. Pics available.

# HOTEL/GUESTHOUSE/ VILLA WANTED

For purchase or rent long term: 12-40 rooms, no more than a 30-minute drive from Patong. Must be in a quiet location and have a sea view from at least 30% of the rooms. Tel: +41-07-9289 1259. Email: hotel.phuket. wanted@gmail.com

### RESORT FOR LEASE



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

# RESTAURANT IN KAMALA BEACH

Fully equipped kitchen, inside air-con dining area, outside dining area, bar, charcoal BBQ station and a wood-fired pizza oven. The cozy, elegant design is very inviting for customers. Google for Grill Bill Kamala! Tel: 081-089 0543. Email: iii\_sunny\_iii@yahoo.com

# BRING GROUP TO MY SPA!

World-class spa for big group in Boat Lagoon. Big commission. Contact Waree Spa. Tel: 081-569 1661

## NEW DISCOTHEQUE BANGLA PATONG

For rent, 500 seats, complete, ready to open. Please call 081-895 7597. Email: info@phu ket-besthomes.com

# RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Kata Beach, fully equipped indoor/outdoor area, very beautiful, 3 million baht. Email: phuket8757@gmail. com

# **BUSINESS SALE**

Money making company of waterprofing, thermal insulation, construction chemicals, electrical materials and lights etc. For sale. Please call 081-893 5717

# INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

Luxury project for sale. 50% process done. Only 5 million baht. For more information, please call 080-891 1611. Email: aopoproject@gmail.

### JARANYA HOTEL FOR SALE



4-floor, 61 guest rooms, 640sqm, includes fully equipped restaurant, 5 minutes from Patong Beach and Bangla Road. Price: 110 million baht negotiable. Tel: 086-268 3963

# **BAR FOR SALE**

Good opportunity, Patong Beach, seaview, fully equipped, 4 big screen TVs, 30 seats, software cashier, popular location.Tel: 093-698 1921 (English), 087-205 2566 (Thai). Fax: 093-698 1921. Email: jeromearmand 17@gmail.com

# OPEN YOUR OWN PARTY STORE

High profit potential. Completely turnkey. Easy to run. Proven 20-year biz model. Full training provided. Tel: 082-989 8280. Email: Funtas ticmillionaire@gmail.com

# **2 BARS FOR SALE**

Bangla Road, Patong, 3 years lease. 2.5 million baht and 4.7 million baht. For more information, please call 087-184 6739.

# DUMPING

Soil, sand, construction, debris. Please call 081-893 5717

# 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
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 \(\sigma\)
I hereby authorize payment against my Visa 🗖 / Mastercard 🗖
☐ Thai Baht 1,560 for Phuket Special Delivery (Phuket Island only!)
☐ Thai Baht 2,800 for a domestic subscription (outside Phuket)
☐ Thai Baht 9,000 for an overseas subscription (any country outside Thailand)
Surname (as appears on card)  Given name(s) (as on card)
Card #: Exp. Date: Security Code:
Card #: Exp. Date: Security Code: Last 3 digits on back of card
Last 3 digits
Issuing Bank: Country: Last 3 digits on back of card
Issuing Bank: Country: Last 3 digits on back of card  Signature: Date:
Issuing Bank: Country: Last 3 digits on back of card  Signature: Date:  E-mail address:  Please Deliver To:
Issuing Bank: Country: Last 3 digits on back of card  Signature: Date:  E-mail address: Please Deliver To:
Issuing Bank: Country: Last 3 digits on back of card  Signature: Date:  E-mail address:  Please Deliver To:

# Live in Rawai? Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at The Network property office Tesco Krungsri Bank Sol Sal-Yuan Villa Orestaurant Crepes Restaurant Soi Nays Sol Mok-Yang Simply write out your ad, Day and Jeave it with GAZETTE CLASSADS - theywork property of the proper

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

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!

# **General Classifieds**

# **Business Products & Services**

## **COWBOY SHOW**

The art of the western cowboy rope tricks. For more information, please call 084-447 5257 or send email to mikeroper2003@hotmail.com

# **40FT SEA CONTAINER**

For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Please contact Rob for more information. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com

# WHEATGRASS JUICE

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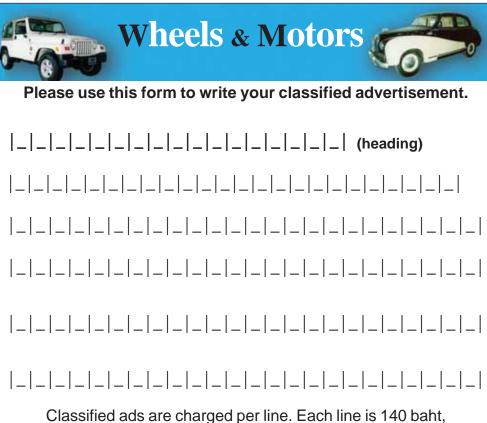
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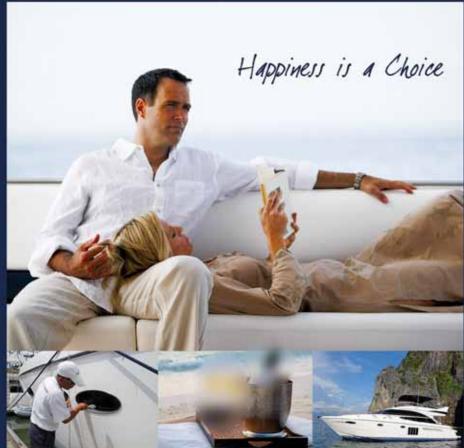
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January 18 - 24, 2014 PHUKET GAZETTE 33



# NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE MOEVENPICK RESORT BANGTAO BEACH PHUKET

Guests enjoyed a glittering, star-studded night at the Moevenpick Resort Bangtao Beach Phuket on New Year's Eve as they ushered in 2014 with a unique "Oscars" themed celebration.



# CIRQUE DU SOLEIL "LA NOUBA"

Regent Cape Panwa Phuket hosted a New Year's Eve Gala Dinner with a thrilling theme inspired by Cirque du Soleil's - "La Nouba". Guests enjoyed dinner and a fabulous live show.



General Manager of Regent Phuket Cape Panwa Brice Borin with his wife and son.



Methee and Wipa Tanmanatragul enjoyed their New Year's Eve together.



GUEST CHEF NIGHT WITH OUR TWO CHEFS Saturday 25 January 2014 start from 19.00

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Life & style

State of the 'Art' surgery is here



Dr Art Hiranyakas demonstrates the finger and hand controls of the da Vinci robotic surgery console. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

# Bangkok Hospital Phuket making strides towards specialized health care

### By Jeremie Schatz

Event Promoter

THE Bangkok Phuket Colorectal Disease Institute officially opened to the public on January 9. Located on the third floor at Phuket's Bangkok Hospital in Samkong, the institute specializes in the diagnoses and advanced treatment of a multitude of colorectal diseases including colon and prostate cancer.

Founded and directed by Dr Art Hiranyakas, the institute offers patients state-of-the-art medical care by an internationally trained specialist and his team of dedicated nurses. Furthermore, many of the diagnostic tools and treatment procedures at Dr Arts' disposal cannot be found anywhere else in southern Thailand.

One such device is the da Vinci surgical system. Operated remotely by a surgeon, the robotic machine is similar to endoscopic or "keyhole" surgery whereby a few small incisions are made, a tiny camera and surgical tools are inserted and the operation is viewed on a monitor. The da Vinci system takes this method a step further by using robotic arms with thin articulating tubes that are manipulated via finger, hand and foot controls. The scene is

Media Partner

viewed in 3D at a console and allows the surgeon greater precision and control while maneuvering into harder to reach areas by less invasive means.

Since the hospital acquired the machine two years ago, Dr Art has completed more than 200 surgeries, mostly to treat prostate cancer patients. "It is very useful for prostate surgery and others in the deep pelvis." He explained that before endoscopic surgical techniques it was often necessary to make incisions big enough to fit both hands and surgical tools. Combined with the difficulty of accessing areas deep within the abdomen, this made for highly invasive procedures.

Dr Arts' sub-specialty is laparoscopic colorectal surgery – endoscopic surgery relating to the abdominal cavity. Completing over 900 surgeries as part of his training, Dr Art has developed a specialty in diagnostic and therapeutic colonoscopy (examination of the large bowel and parts of the small bowel).

He now prefers to use the da Vinci machine whenever possible, "It is easier for the surgeon and the patient will get a better outcome as well." The remotely operated machine was developed with

multiple applications in mind, "This technology is meant to be used for space surgery, you can operate on people [who are] in outer space... or even war surgery," says Dr Art.

Bangkok Hospital has developed a certain type of reputation over the years: "Our hospital has been well-known for dental procedures and cosmetics and they [patients] usually come during the high season. We've experienced that for 18 years. Nowadays, we are trying to be more serious about health care so we are promoting this kind of center... a tertiary care center."

This new shift towards specialized health care is one reason why Dr Art made the move from Bangkok two years ago and founded the institute. Bangkok Hospital will be continuing this trend with the unveiling of a new cancer treatment center opening alongside the Colorectal Disease Institute in the next four to six months.

For more information, visit: phukethospital.com/Health-Centre/ Colorectal-Surgery-Center.php or Bangkok Hospital Phuket 2/1 Hongyok Utis Road, Muang District, Phuket, 83000, Thailand, Tel: +66 (0)





Dr Art Hiranyakas with his dedicated team of nurses.

January 18 - 24, 2014 PHUKET GAZETTE

# WHAT'S ON in Phuket

Jan 18, 2014, 9:00 pm - 2:00 am. Ministry of Sound: The Beach **Party Returns** 

Following the huge success of its party with "Ministry of sound" in December, XANA is excited to announce a second event, by public demand.... the beach party returns will feature Ministry of sound's very own resident from London, DJ Tim Cullen.For more info contact Annabel Fox at 076-324101, email info@xanabeachclub.com

# Jan 25-26, 11am-12pm. Alice in Wonderland

A musical from London. A wonderful way to celebrate Children's day with the family! The performance will be held at the Simon Star Theater in Phuket Town. This is another *Gazette* Headline Event, presented by Events International for Phuket's international community. For more information or bookings contact Sonu Kapoor on 091-326 0279, email indiafilmworks@gmail.com, or visit the website at: eventsinternational.com

# Jan 31, 7-11pm. Indian Curry **Buffet at Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort**

All you can eat, authentic Indian curry buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold mango and strawberry lassi with our delicious mutton vindaloo, dal makhani, bombay aloo, mutter paneer, butter chicken and mouth-watering chicken tikka, samosas, freshly baked naans and more. Contact Jaspal Singh on 076-286464 or visit the website at: navrangmahal.com

# Feb 7-8, 7-11pm. The Fab Beatles A tribute to the Fab Four! Dates: lunar month, commemorates February 7 and 8, air-con tent, Boat Lagoon, from 7pm on-



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wards. Ticket price: 1,100 baht. VIP tickets, with seating 1,500 baht. This is the third in the ongoing series of Gazette Headline Events, presented by Events International and supported by the Boat Lagoon, Laguna Phuket and Central Festival. For more information or bookings contact Sonu Kapoor on 091-326 0279, email indiafilmworks@gmail.com, or visit the website at: events-international.com

Feb 14, 2014. Makha Bucha Day Makha Bucha Day, which falls on the full moon of the third Buddha's ordaining of 1,250 monks who had arrived unannounced from afar only nine months after the Gautama Buddha attained enlightenment.

# Feb 20, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club **February Lunch**

February's lunch will be held at the beautiful regent Cape Panwa Hotel. All are welcome but prior booking is essential. Members: 500 baht; guests: 650 baht. For booking contact info@ phuketiwc.com. The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 89 and 58), are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club. Contact Carole Dux on 076-316711 or visit the website at: phuketiwc.com

# Apr 6, 2014. Chakri Memorial Day

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

# Apr 7, 2014. Substitute Holiday for Chakri Day

A public holiday in Thailand.

## Apr 13 - 15, 2014. Songkran **Festival**

Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival, also known as the Water Festival. Held during the hottest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country, who pour water - traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – on other people to wish them good luck for the new year.

## **May 1, 2014. Labor Day**

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

# May 5, 2014. Conronation Day

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

# May 24, 2014. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. These events are believed to have fallen on the same lunar day and month (but on different years).

# Jul 11, 2014. Arsarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged at all Thai Buddhist temples.

# Aug 12, 2014, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

Her Majesty' the Queen's Birthday Also marked as Mother's Day in Thailand.

# Oct 23, 2014. Chulalongkorn **Memorial Day**

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

# Nov 6, 2014. Loy Krathong **Festival**

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month.

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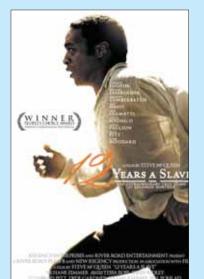
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# Life & style

# @ the cinema



### 12 YEARS SLAVE

Drama Director: Steve McQueen Time: 134 minutes

BASED on a true story of one man's fight for survival and freedom. In the pre-Civil War United States, Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), a free black man from upstate New York, is abducted and sold into slavery and forced to work on a plantation in New Orleans. He struggles not only to stay alive, but to retain his dignity.

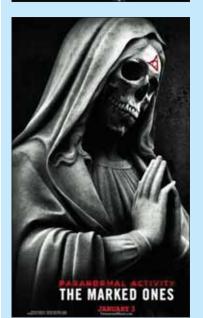
Winner of the Golden Globe in drama cathegory.



## JACK RAYAN – SHADOW RECRUIT

Director: Kenneth Branagh Time: 105 minutes

BASED on a character created by Tom Clancy. Young agent Jack (Chris Pine) uncovers a financial terrorist plot. The story follows him from 9/11, through his tour of duty in Afghanistan into his early days in the CIA. When Ryan believes he's uncovered a Russian plot to collapse the United States' economy, he goes from being an analyst to becoming a spy and must fight to save his own life andthose of countless others.



# **PARANORMAL ACTIVITY:** THE MARKED ONES

Director: Christopher Landon Time: 84 minutes

A YOUNG California Latino named Jessie (Andrew Jacobs) begins experiencing a number of disturbing and unexplainable things after the death of his neighbor. As he investigates, it isn't long before Jessie finds he's been marked for possession by a malevolent demonic entity, and it's only a matter of time before he is completely under its control.

Fifth movie in the Paranormal Activity series.

For current schedule go to sfcinemacity.com

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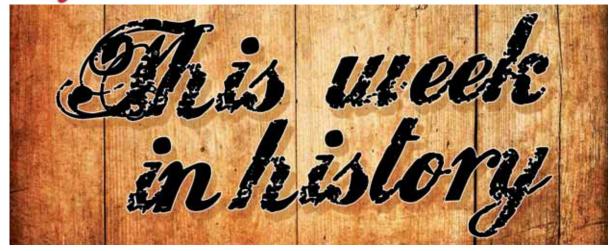
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### **JANUARY 18**

1535 Francisco Pizarro founded Lima, the capital of Peru.

1778 James Cook discovered the Hawaiian Islands and named them the "Sandwich Islands".

1886 Modern hockey was born with the formation of The Hockey Association in England.

1943 The uprising of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto took place.

2005 The Airbus A380, the world's largest commercial jet, was unveiled.



KING 1986 Photo: Dick DeMarsico



RIDE 1885 Photo: Au Kirk

# **JANUARY 19**

1935 Coopers Inc sold the world's first briefs.

1942 Japanese forces invaded Burma.

1977 Snow fell in Miami, Florida.

2006 The New Horizons probe was launched by NASA on the first mission to Pluto.

2012 The Hong Kong-based file-sharing website Megaupload was shut down by the FBI.

# **JANUARY 20**

1841 Hong Kong Island was occupied by the British.

1885 LA Thompson patented the roller coaster.

1934 Fujifilm was founded.

1972 Pakistan launched its nuclear weapons program.

1986 Martin Luther King Jr Day was celebrated as a federal holiday for the first time.



ISLANDS 1778 Photo: Jacques Descloitres

SPEED 1976 Photo: DarkAvira

# **JANUARY 21**

1793 Louis XVI of France was executed by guillotine.

1899 Opel manufactured its first automobile.

1911 The first Monte Carlo Rally took place.

1954 The first nuclear-powered submarine was launched.

1976 Commercial service of Concorde begun.

**JANUARY 23** 

1506 The first contingent of 150 Swiss Guards arrived at the Vatican.

1970 The Boeing 747, the world's first "jumbo jet", entered commercial service.

JANUARY 22

1984 The Apple Macintosh was introduced.



SIZE 2005 Photo: Steve Walsh



1960 The bathyscaphe USS Trieste broke a depth record by descending to 10,911 meters in the Pacific Ocean.

1973 President Richard Nixon announced that a peace accord had been reached in Vietnam.

1997 Madeleine Albright became the first woman to serve as United States Secretary of State.

2002 Reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnapped in Karachi, Pakistan and subsequently murdered.

# **JANUARY 24**

1857 The University of Calcutta was formally founded as the first fully-fledged university in South Asia. 1862 Bucharest was proclaimed capital of Romania.

1908 The first Boy Scout troop was organized in England by Robert Baden-Powell.

2011 At least 35 died and 180 were injured in a bombing at Moscow's Domodedovo airport.

## Life & style Phuket GAZETTE 37 Phuket GAZETTE 37 Phuket GAZETTE 37 Phuket Style Intertainment Phuket GAZETTE 37 Phuket is the bikini island

INTERNATIONAL recording artist, TV host beautiful women or handsome men in tropiand world peace ambassador Charles Dupois arrived Phuket on January 15, along with One World Music Film & TV Managing Executive Producer Kerry Crinis, to scout for various locations and islands that may be suitable for the filming of what they say will be a controversial new reality TV Series: Bikini Island-Reality TV.

If 24-hour parties, the companionship of

cal surroundings are your thing, Bikini Island-Reality TV might the program for you. It is not about falling in love (although this is bound to happen) It's a full-on 28day party, culminating in a seven day elimination process, where 150 contestants will begin to eliminate each other down to the winning couple – who will receive US\$250,000 in cold hard cash.

The concept of the show is very simple; two women to every man. The women will stay in shared accommodation and the men – on their own. This 13-week series will be filmed on a secret tropical island resort in 2014/15. The show will bring together 100 gorgeous handpicked single woman and 50 successful bachelors from across the globe. Many exciting activities will await them, such as the recreation of Thailand's infamous full moon party and the non-stop party atmosphere of Ibiza. There will also be various daily activities of scheduled partying, challenges and high-jinx planned as the background for the courtship of the hapless singles.

But there's more - a number of spies will be placed on the island, unknown to everyone except



Even more beautiful women are coming to Phuket soon. Photos: Mark Sebastian

conflicts and confusion. A spy may be a he or she, or both. Viewers will have to watch out for the betrayals that will occur in the affairs of the heart.

On the 28th day of filming one lucky female and male contestant, who have been voted as achieving the most bonded and compatible relationship, will be announced as winners of the \$250,000 prize-money, as well as receiving an international trip together for seven nights to any destination in the world.

The girls shall be cast from Brazil, Spain,

for the producers. Their task, to create Scandinavia, Italy, UK, Germany, USA, France, Russia, Ukraine, and several other countries. The female contestants shall be between the ages of 18 to 35, must be single, have a great personality and of course look great in a bikini. The male contestants must be attractive, single, between 25 to 45 years of age and have a great personality. Casting will begin early 2014.

The show is being negotiated through an international agent to air in 120 countries on free to air and pay TV. Watch this space.

- Phuket Gazette

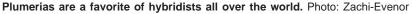


Winners will receive US\$250,000 in cash.



## Life & style A mixed bag for the new year





IN LAST week's column, we were still harping on about the letter "H". But before returning to horticulture and hybrids, try your hand at these questions. The first is about vegetables: As we all know, even in the tropics, vegetables have to be re-planted every year. But there are two which are perennial and can live and produce for more than one season. What are they? Wait for it....Well, the answer is.... asparagus and rhubarb.

You can be forgiven for not knowing,

since, with reservations, neither grows readily here. But I have an Australian friend who is trying rhubarb from seed, and I await the results with interest. As for asparagus, it is cultivated in Phuket [seen sometimes on fresh market stalls] but it is mostly imported – China



Rhubarb. Photo: Rhubarb Farmer

being the biggest supplier. Asparagus needs very fertile soil and is not even averse to saline conditions. Only the young shoots are edible; the plant quickly becomes woody and produces attractive, ferny foliage. But more succulent shoots will develop from the root stock. When I was a boy in south Worcestershire, it was cultivated widely by

market gardeners and was known, rather disdainfully, as "grass". Nowadays, it is considered a luxury, rich in

antioxidants as well as vitamins B and C. Thais usually stir fry it, a good way of retaining its unique flavor.

Okay. How did you do? I only got one

Here's another easier question. What is

the only fruit to carry its seeds on the outside? The answer is of course the strawberry, as I'm sure you rightly divined.

And finally. You can buy pear liqueur (though I have not encountered it in Phuket) with a ripe, perfectly-formed pear inside the bottle. The narrow-necked glass

bottle has not been cut. How did the fruit get there? The answer is that bottles are placed over young pears or buds and left, wired in place, for the whole growing season. When ripe, the pears are snipped off at the stems and alcohol is added. Hey presto!

Questions for the avid horticulturalist. This particular gentleman must also be held



responsible for the world-wide obsession with hybrids – an "H" on which to conclude. I am reminded of this art – and

it is an art – by a recent piece in the *Bangkok* Post by Normita Thongtham. She points out that in the Philippines, 22 hibiscus hybrids have been developed by one university department alone - the Institute of Plant Breeding. Many more hybrids arrive in

Phuket by way of California and Hawaii. Similarly, there are many new hybrid versions of mussaenda, at least twenty developed by the same Philippine university. One, a peachcolored mussaenda (samples of which were planted in Phuket along a stretch of the bypass

Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

road before the underground tunnel was envisaged), is named Queen Sirikit after her Majesty the Queen.

In fact, Thais are enthusiastic hybridists and have been assiduous in developing new varieties of orchids, euphorbias (crown of thorns), aglaonemas, plumerias and adeniums. Perhaps the best place to discover

these new forms is at the annual plant market at Saphan Hin. The range of coloration will enchant you.

Creating hybrids is not an occupation for the faint-hearted. To begin with, you must select parents with outstanding characteristics. The aim is to create varieties with the valued attributes of each. Normally this process is conducted with flowering plants to improve the blooms, but the procedure may target improved disease resistance.

greater size, or in the case of fruit or vegetables, improvements in taste. Put crudely, the process involves the breeder taking pollen from the male part (the stamen) and transferring it to the female receptacle (the pistil). But it does not stop there, since all the stamens have to be removed

from plants so that they do not self-pollinate. Few results will match expectations: it may take years to create a hybrid with the desired traits. As I said, not for the faint-hearted.

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



Asparagus. Photo: Muffet

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## p of the Week

### Gardening tool maintenence

It pays to buy good quality gardening implements. But tools, even expensive ones, deteriorate quickly in this hot, humid climate. Plastic biodegrades and becomes brittle, termites can attack wooden handles, metal rusts.

Clean and dry tools after use, and if possible store in a rainproof place. Rust can be removed with steel wool. A good



tip is to keep a plastic bucket ths filled with coarse builder's sand. Mix in a liter of cheap general purpose oil, and jab your tools in the mixture until the sand has abraded

away the dirt and discoloration and the metal is coated with a film of oil. This oiled sand can be used time and time again.

Cutting tools will need to be periodically sharpened using a carborundum stone or local sharpening services. When blunt, bow saws will need to be fitted with a replacement blade; stiff secateurs will require oiling.

## Life & style



#### By Mark Knowles

HAILING from another tropical paradise on the opposite side of the globe, Jamaican-born Tracy Dawkins is no stranger to island life. She has achieved some notoriety in Phuket as a model, actress and erstwhile PR and marketing executive and now calls the island home. In an exclusive interview, we spoke with Tracy about island life, competing to be Miss Jamaica and the difficulties of doing photo-shoots with tigers, elephants and snakes.

#### So Tracy, how long have you been in Phuket and how did you end up here?

Well, as of the 26th of this month, I will have been in Phuket for three years. I ended up here because of friends who had been

trying to get me over here for years and I was like, 'no way I'm going to Thailand, it's that tsunami place.... I'm afraid! '. So, eventually I ended up booking a ticket to come here for three months and voil ... three years later I'm still here. loving it, and don't have any fear of anything!



#### When did you begin your and Guinness beer. modeling career?

Jamaica and I was actually eliminated because I was too young you had to be seventeen or over, but I thought I could trick them with my height. A few years after that, I did a bikini pageant and came in second in that one and then I did a few more and eventually ended up as a finalist in Miss Jamaica World when I was 17.

#### Did entering Miss Jamaica World help open doors for you to pursue a modeling career?

It did - a lot of people stereotype girls who enter beauty

pageants and they think it's silly, but if you're smart enough you can seize the opportunity and reach a lot of places. I ended up hosting my own radio show, and later my own TV show. After that, I ended up going to a pageant in Saint Martin (a Caribbean island). I didn't win the pageant, but the people I met there really helped me and eventually I ended up representing Jamaica at the Miss Caribbean Queen beauty pageant. Between the radio show, the TV show and modeling, I can't complain, it really opened a lot of doors.

#### So what are some of the modeling jobs you have done here in Phuket and how do you get them?

I'm a freelance model, so I don't

have an agent, but I've been lucky with getting a lot of jobs here. I've done a lot of music videos, fashion shows, especially for the Katalina Collection – a local swimwear designer – and I've been in a few movies as an extra. I've also done a few commercial shoots for international brands like Fuji cameras

Phuket is a smaller market, so I started modeling when I was you are generally best to represent 15, when I entered a pageant in yourself, then you can take whatever jobs you want and you're not tied to an agency. Because of that, vou also have to do a lot of selfpromotion and social media is also very useful. I do a lot of photoshoots and put the pictures up on my Facebook page "Teeze Unstoppable". I've got almost 7,000 likes, so people see my photos and call me for jobs.

#### Do you find being from the Caribbean you are often the odd one out in the local modeling scene?

Yes, but it has its advantages

and disadvantages. In Thailand for example, they often feature the "white skin, blue eyes" look, as that is the popular ideal of beauty here. So if you need a black girl, that's where I fit in! I could probably get more work if I was based in Bangkok, but I'm based here in Phuket because I love it here and also because of my other day job in PR and marketing for a hotel chain.

#### What are some of the most interesting or difficult photoshoots you've done here?

I've done an elephant shoot, a tiger shoot and a snake shoot, so you could really only do that in Thailand! Animals are unpredictable, you can say they're tame, but you never know when they are going to get angry or strike, or look at you and say 'hmm... she looks yummy' but that's the job so somebody has

What's it like behind the scenes when you are doing a show or a photo-shoot, is it anything like we're led to believe from the modeling reality TV shows?

As I said, Phuket is really small, so you end up with the same girls most of the time, so we're like the Phuket model family. We all bond and it's really cool - it's not catty at all, like people think it is, with girls bitching about each other and that sort of thing.



I love to travel as much as I can and learn about other cultures and taste different cuisines. I also do some charity work, I did some work for special needs kids at a school in Phuket Town and also at an old age home there. I'm also a regular blood donor at the Red Cross and I was part of a volunteer program that encouraged foreigners to donate blood, as they are often short of certain blood types more com-

To follow Tracy and see more images, like her Facebook page at: facebook.com/TeezeUnstoppable or on instagram @\_teeze\_



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## Life & style THINK Design: Art you can eat

By Bruce Stanley

WE'VE all heard about those elegant and exclusive, more than five star little boutique resort properties hidden away around Phuket but few of us ever get the chance to visit one.

It was my good fortune to be invited by Publisher Michael Earle to attend the 40<sup>th</sup> THINK

Design art dinner at Iniala Beach House, tucked away on a quiet road near Natai Beach in Phang Nga.

Iniala is the former home of Mark Weingard, an English derivatives trader, who has a great eye for art and design. He's invited some of the rock stars of international interior design to create stylish, verging on the incredible, interiors in the three villas and penthouse that comprise Iniala.

Seemingly no expense has been spared to make this boutique property a hideaway for a select clique of guests who appreciate the latest in design and luxury.

Weingard has recruited Graham Lamb of Glam interior architecture as his design director and Steven Pettifour, who co-curated the Thai pavilion at the 2011 Venice Bienniale, as Iniala's art director.

Weingard also invited three Michelin star chef Eneko Atxa, at 36, the youngest chef to receive such recognition, to open Aziamendi, the resort's restaurant with his Basque inspired cuisine.

Chef Eneko created his own signature restaurant, Azurmendi, near Bilbao, Spain, where he presents a menu using fresh, locallysourced products elevated by his research into how to extract ultimate flavors. His goal is to provoke intense emotions in



Swarovski-encrusted pool table

guests who experience his cuisine.

Aziamendi is a three dimensional art box featuring brass sculptures by Entang Wiharso sourced in Indonesia and a ceiling created by the Spanish design team, A-cero, that is an homage to the Andaman Sea.

When Michael Earle produces an art dinner as part of the mission of his THINK Design THINK Design art dinner was a sold



Chef Atxa preparing his six course menu that celebratres arts.

magazine, he always brings pieces of art to the attention of a noted chef who then creates a dinner inspired by the visual language of the art.

Not so in the case of Chef Eneko who decided instead to create a six course menu dedicated to the celebration of six of the classical arts.

Set to the soothing music of Daniel Figueras who played classical Spanish guitar, the first course was a foie gras construction dedicated to the art of sculpture. His balancing of circular foie gras tastes set on glass was made in honor of Chef Eneko's fondness for the Anish Kapoor's sculpture, Tall Tree and The Eye, at the Guggenheim museum in Bilbao.

The second course, devoted to music, was intriguing, with dry ice creating an atmospheric cloud over tastes of the sea. The third offering was a vivid green, locally sourced, pak mieng with slow cooked egg, an ode to literature.

Each course was thoughtfully paired by a different wine chosen by Head Sommelier Fabien Etienne, who mixed the tastes from Italy, Germany, New Zealand and a Late Harvest Chenin Blanc from Hua Hin Hills here in Thailand.

Chef Eneko's fourth course was a dramatic tribute to the black paintings of Francisco Goya's later life with a black rice and clam paste accented with calligraphic black strokes.

Dance was celebrated in the fifth offering with the falling of chestnut leaves over the frolic of pigeons in flight. It was my first taste of the bird that haunts so many public places and I will look to them with renewed interest in the future.

The final offering was an architectural salute to the Sydney Opera house with elegant white chocolate triangles balanced over a sea of Blue Curacao.

With a 5,500 baht price tag this

out success. All guests were invited on an art tour of the three villas and the one penthouse. There were delightful surprises to be found in each pavilion. At the entrance, Steven Pettifor explained he found a Thai glass artist, Maitree Siriborn, working from a studio in rural Northeast Thailand. Using glass mosaics most often encountered in Buddhist temples, he was commissioned to make installations at the entrance to the resort property.

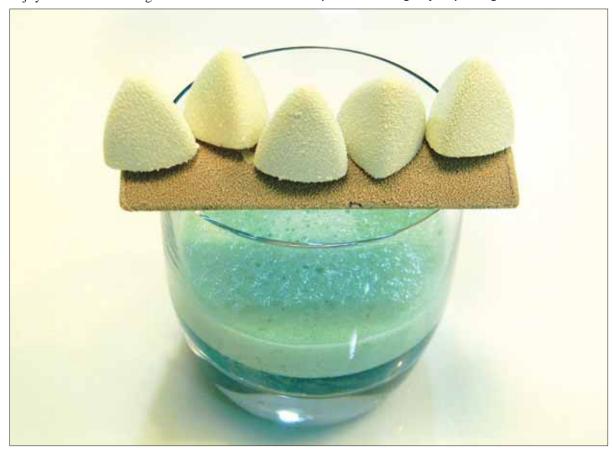
The fitness studio has Andy Warhol original prints of Muhammed Ali staring down from the walls and the pool table is set in tens of thousands Swarovski crystals. There's a metallic wale diving into the rooftop pool of one villa and thousands of celadon ceramics set in the walls of another. Iniala is an exciting visual adventure and Chef Eneko's restaurant, Aziamendi, is where the select guests at Iniala Beach House can enjoy an award winning menu.



Michael Earle welcoming chef Atxa at the Iniala Beach House



Black rice and clam paste celebrating Goya's paintings.



White chocolate triangles balanced over a sea of Blue Curacao, a tribute to Sydney Opera House.

# Life & style Real food, in the raw

By Mark Knowles

IF YOU hear the term "raw food" you might, like I did, take it to mean "food waiting to be cooked". But in Rawai, in the island's south, the owner of Atsumi Raw Food Cafe, Anna Wasin is championing the health benefits and sublime, simple flavors of natural, raw, organic, unprocessed and uncooked ingredients by crafting dozens of tasty and nutritious dishes for her patrons.

The idea for opening a raw food cafe grew from her experience in running the Atsumi Retreat Healing Center, a spiritual and health focused spa retreat, also in Rawai.

"I started Atsumi Retreat Healing Center eight years ago and as part of our detox programs we have raw food programs, which included just basic raw foods, very strictly controlled, quite different from the style of food we do at Raw Cafe," says Anna.

Seeing that many of her customers were looking for ways to continue a healthy lifestyle after completing their detox program, she decided to open Atsumi

Raw Cafe in order to provide healthy and delicious raw food dishes, not only to former detox program participants, but to all those seeking a healthy eating option in Phuket.

"We want tourists and expats alike to come and have a chance to try tasty and healthy food. I would say we have about 70 per cent organic produce and all our menu items are suitable for vegans," she said.

The belief in the health benefits of eating vegan raw food has grown exponentially in popularity over the last few decades and is based on the preposition that cooked food (defined as any food that has been heated to

over 40 degrees Celsius) loses its natural enzymes and much of its nutritional content, making it harder, and less productive, for the body to digest. To be vegan, the food must have no animal products whatsoever, which leads to some interesting "substitution" ingredients such as almond milk and almond butter in place of their dairy based versions.

The restriction of not being able to heat food has led raw food chefs to become highly creative in preparing their dishes – necessity is the mother of invention, after all. So, instead of being littered with fry pans and pots, the kitchen at Raw Food Cafe is rather spartan, stacked with containers of fresh unprocessed ingredients and containing a few simple appliances – a blender, a juicer, a dehydrator, a fridge and freezer. With these simple tools, the team at Atsumi Raw Cafe manages to offer a large menu with some amazingly tasty and unique dishes.

I decided to try the recommended Caesar salad and was very impressed with its raw interpretation – fresh and crunchy romain lettuce served with a creamy horseradish dressing, smokey eggplant, cashew cheese and black olive and sun-dried tomato croutons. Next, it was on to the Thai coconut dumplings, which featured a wonton-like wrapper made from seaweed, filled with fresh julienned vegetables and a cashew and black sesame dipping sauce.



The blueberry cheese cake is frozen instead of baked and is simply delicious.

One of the most popular menu items is the "Raw-Sangna" featuring layers of zucchini with fermented almond cheese, marinara sauce, smokey eggplant bacon and walnut, macadamia and fig pate – I definitely recommend it for those wanting to see just how tasty, interesting and creative raw food can be. To wash it down, there is a range of juices and smoothies, all



Atsumi Raw Food Cafe serves healthy vegan raw food, nothing on the menu ever sees the inside of a frying pan.

of them include superfoods such as cacao, spirulina or chia to give you that extra boost, and if you are on a diet or eating light, they can also be a meal in themselves.

If you want to indulge your sweet tooth, without the guilt, make sure you try one of the fabulous desserts. I chose the raw blueberry cheesecake, which is served frozen – a technique which is employed to keep all the ingredients in place. It's hard to believe how sweet and refreshing this healthy alternative is compared to old-fashioned cheesecake.

The best thing about eating raw food is that there is no feeling lethargic or bloated after you eat - you feel full, your hunger is completely satiated, but you could also get up and run a marathon straight afterwards if you were so inclined.

So if you are looking for a healthy meal, whether you are doing a detox program, on a diet, training hard, or just want to try something completely new, make

Raw food cafe is located on Wiset Road, at the corner of Soi Mangosteen, roughly halfway between Chalong and Rawai piers. For more information and some inspirational raw food recipes, see the website: atsumirawcafe.com

sure you stop past Raw Food Cafe.



Owner Anna Wasin (left), her son Tao and head chef Suree.

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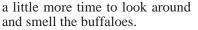


The peaceful premises of the cafe also feature a large rear garden and sala for diners.



GADABOUT pedal-philes living in Phuket are continually in search of more benign, cyclist-friendly venues in which to enjoy their passion. Naturally enough, many such cycling getaways tend to be found across the Sarasin Bridge, which a waggish friend recently described as being "where Thailand really starts". Almost as soon as you do cycle across those 1,500 meters of turquoise water,

you feel as though things are starting to calm down. Traffic isn't quite so maniacal, the locals seem to have a little more time and smiles for you and the air is certainly cleaner. While eternal vigilance are the watchwords of the lycra lout pedaling anywhere in Thailand, once across the bridge there does seem to be

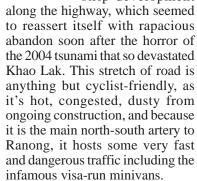


Heading north up the west coast of the Isthmus of Kra on Highway 4 (Phetkasem Road), you'll soon come to the famous tourist area of Khao Lak. The area boasts some lovely, long, scalloped beaches bisected by rocky promontories. Inland, the forest-clad hills rise steeply and as a result a series of waterfalls cascade off these rocky slopes in a tumultu-

ous rush to the sea. As you enter this area from the south, the road becomes a switchback of snaking turns and hills through the Khao Lak-Lam Ru National Park headland. The park entrance is at the highest point on the road overlooking the Andaman Sea and offers some good forest hikes down to the beaches below and around Kao Lak Mountain with its Chinese temple dedicated to

the wizard of the mountain.

Highway 4 then descends into the Khao Lak itself on a recently widened band of black tar macadam so broad you could land a Jumbo jet on it. Your senses are immediately affronted by the jumbled bric-a-brac strip development



The author and friend

at Rainbow Waterfall.



with your bicycle?

Well, thankfully there is another very appealing side to this area as we discovered when we turned west off the main highway a few miles north of the main town and followed the signs to The Sarojin Resort and Spa. Sarojin is a stunning oasis right on the white sands of Bang Sak Beach with the most sumptuous gardens, limpid pools, great dining and luxurious accommodation. In addition, they have pioneered the experiential concept of assigning "imagineers" to help their often young honeymooning guests get the most out of the surrounding environment. The "imagineers" provide all sorts of alluring trips and experiences such as candlelight dinners by mountain waterfalls; snorkeling and offshore dining adventures on the resort's opulent launch the Lady Sarojin; or cycling adventures around the quiet environs of the Sarojin. They give their guests free use of mountain bikes with maps attached to the handlebars for selfguided tours, or an "imagineer" will, if you like, accompany you and show you the rides. We arrived at around 4pm which

was perfect timing to quickly drop

our bags in our suite and then head out with Khun Jack, our helpful guide on a trip to the Nam Tok Sai Rung (literally seven colors, or rainbow waterfall). The ride took us past cool lakes, once the site of tin mining works, now reclaimed for more bucolic pastimes such as kayaking and fishing. Then, after a short ride along busy highway 4, we turned inland along Nam Tok Sai Rung Road through silently

brooding rubber tree groves and, after a short uphill hike, to the primary forest around the falls themselves. These falls are one of seven sets that plummet off the escarpment inland from Khao Lak

and the Sarojin also offers candlelit champagne dinners alongside these tumbling waters to their young, "loved-up" clientele.

The author at the entrance to

Rainbow Waterfall.

We then rode back towards the coast past the entrance to the Sarojin and the Tsunami Monument to catch the sunset at Pakarong, or Coral Cape. This is a lovely west-facing promontory between the broad sweeps of Khuk Khak Beach to the south and Bang Sak Beach to the north upon which the Saroijin sits. We arrived at 6pm as the sky morphed into

pyrotechnic sunset splendor and ordered up cold beers and *som tam* from the little beachside restaurant, then settled down to drink-in both the beer and the relaxation that comes after a good ride.

Another great Khao Sok ride is along Khuk Khak Beach itself at low tide. The sea goes out a long way here leaving an expanse of hard-packed sand ideal for a fat tire mountain bike ride at sunset.

> Of course it's a highly saline environment which can take a toll on your bike, so best take an old one...or borrow a friend's!

You can cycle for miles along the Khao Lak beaches all the

way back from Pakrong headland to the main nightlife area for beers and food and then cycle back by moonlight. We found it impossible to get lost on the return leg... all we had to do was keep the sea on our left and keep pedaling as the moon rose over the ocean!

With a little ingenuity and help from friends like those at the Sarojin, a Khao Lak cycling attack can be most enjoyable... and it's all only a hundred kilometers north of Phuket Town.



A spectacular sunset at Bang Sak Beach near the Saroijin Hotel.



The lush green backdrop of this trail makes for a very relaxing ride.

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# Life & style Bon voyage PIMEX!

#### 2014 fleet sails out of RPM with strong sales and success for exhibitors, new and old alike

IT WAS all smiles last Sunday evening as the 11th Phuket International Boat Show at the Royal Phuket Marina drew to a close. Happy exhibitors cleared their displays before moving on to enjoy a well deserved respite from a busy weekend at the boardwalk restaurants and bars.

By all reports, this year was a fantastic show with many exhibitors saying the event had generated several yacht sales and dozens of high quality leads.

Grant Saunders, managing director of Pinnacle Marine, who now represent Italian Yacht builder Azimut in Thailand, said the show was a great success for his business.

"The show proved to be better than anticipated and I was delighted with both quantity and quality of potential buyers we met," he said.

"We had a fantastic response, both to the yacht, and to our presence at PIMEX, and I would like to extend my sincere thanks to everyone who visited us with words of encouragement and support.

"The yacht that we displayed [an Azimut 82], although not a current model, is a wonderful representation of the brand; the style which is unmistakably Italian, the quality and craftsmanship were all features that attracted much attention and comment. We are extremely fortunate to have been given the opportunity to represent this iconic brand in Thailand."

A first time exhibitor at PIMEX, Australia and New Zealand based Multihull Solutions agree that the show was an excellent way to sound out the Southeast Asian yachting market. Multihull Solutions Marketing Manager Kim McKee said that the show delivered quality, if not quantity, when it came to those who attended, noting the strong Russian presence.

"We are extremely pleased with the quality of visitors at the show. Although the actual number of people seemed low, the quality of those coming through was excellent," she said.

"Many of the visitors were Russian so we employed a Russian interpreter on our stand which greatly assisted us in capturing those who did not speak English."

Being newcomers to the Thai yachting market did not slow Multihull down either, with the team making a sale on the opening day of the show.

"We sold a Summerland 40 LC, a power catamaran built by Fountaine Pajot which was a great result for us - directly from the show. We also have numerous very strong leads to follow up this week so we expect more sales will come to fruition," said Ms McKee.

Aside from yachts, this year's show featured some innovative new marine products bound to penetrate the local market, including a locally-produced Hookah apparatus, and a semi-submarine (see business story on page 17).

The show wasn't all business though and many guests and exhibitors enjoyed a sumptuous poolside cocktail party at the RPM villa hosted by Aziamendi with 3-star Michelin chef Eneko Atxa from the recently opened Iniala Resort in Phang Nga, with entertainment by the lovely EKA and her soulful music.

Another highlight at this year's show was a lucky draw in which four lucky contestants won a flight over Phuket (see story on page 6).

The show's final day on Sunday ended with a fanfare of ship's horns from the assembled fleet. Monday was equally busy



An impressive turnout of super luxury yachts filled the berths of Royal Phuket Marina during the show.

for the captains and crews of the yachts as they waited their turn to move out to their permanent berths in RPM or other marinas. Two Superyachts, 17 yachts over 20m, and the rest of the fleet made an impressive spectacle as they eased their way down the channel to the open sea.

By the end of the show, over 3,800 visitors from 56 different countries had enjoyed the products on display and the social facilities on the boardwalk at RPM. In all, 54 per cent of these visitors were from overseas with the largest group being from Russia. Yachts, property and Harley-Davidsons were sold, strong contacts established by all and the health of the marine industry in Thailand reasserted. Visitors and exhibitors now look forward to the 2015 show, to be held from January 8 to 11 next year at Royal Phuket Marina.

Phuket Gazette



The two Simpson Marine superyachts drew plenty of attention.



The Harley-Davidson exhibit was also popular at PIMEX 2014.



PIMEX Director Andy Dowell (left) Governor Maitree Inthusut and RPM's Gulu Lavani.

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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

4			6		5			1
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#### Your fortnightly pith:

"Generosity is giving more than you can, and pride is taking less than you need."

– Kahlil Gibran

"Rather fail with honor than succeed by fraud" – Sophocles

Taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'QUOTES for PROSPERITY'

## COFFEE

Across

- 9. Firmly persuaded against vice around the North, daughter (9)
- 10. Pub employee to prohibit offer (9)
- 12. Admits has possession (4)
- 13. Lowest levels before a musical note (6)
- 14. Pal's rot maybe entrances (7)
- 15. Revision meant mend anew (9)
- 17. Upset by trite airs, upset! (9)
- 18. Go outside and walk more quickly (4,3)
- 19. Abstract possible prices (6)
- 20. New coin for an idol (4)
- 23. Unbeaten, moving around the left, cannot be defended against (9)
- 25. Against attitude in a lake in western Europe (9)
- 26. Broad. Wife, I'd note (4) 27. So sing about knowledge
- of spiritual mysteries (6)
- 29. Possibly rouses about one, unsmiling (7)
- 32. Soliciting and behaving in a provocative manner (6,3) 34. Wife in frostier surround-
- ings stuffier (9)
  35. Married police moving
- around rant (7)
  36. Very nice, cheap, possibly
- unknown (6)

  37 Son anger can make Thai
- 37. Son, anger can make Thai sit in the middle (4)
- 38. None to con, maybe, not even a single time (2,3,4)
  39. Where a leg could be
- 39. Where a leg could be something which engages with another one (9)

#### Dowr

- 1. Pupils' soprano choral arrangement second (8)
- 2. Indifferent to right, united teens move outside (12)
- 3. Accent I'd got into by chance (8)4. User to increase one chapter
- on time (6)
  5. Grammatical case worked
- out via table (8) 6. In favor of part share (10)
- 7. Rest are grinding with teeth (7) 8. Attire meaning a feeling for
- fashion (5,5) 11. Plan to drive towards the stern (5)
- 16. Doctor admits floods (6)
- 19. Papa, that is a tart (3)
- 21. Secured against tales, I'd do differently (12)

- 22. Jumps up and begins (6)
- 23. Taking the cover off, wrap gun pin awkwardly (10)
- 24. Cent fine be possibly charitable (10)
- 25. Garden herb found right next to Turkey (3)
- 28. Bound to be short of cash (8)
- 29. Say so hot could be divine (8) 30. Contend with street rule
- about horse (8) 31. Breathe new life into a
- North India mate (7)
- 33. Twist, look North to an island off Phuket (5)
- 34. Fine angle turned in the projecting rim (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled by Paton Bill. Solution on page 31.

#### CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

New ways of solving old problems are forecast to spring to mind. Capricorns who have been struggling to put certain situations in the past should be able to do so by the end of the month. In the realm of romance, another earth sign's interest becomes more obvious. Quiet time is advisable this weekend as there are signs that gossip on the social scene could drive you nuts.

#### AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

What goes around is forecast to come around for Aquarians this week. The stars suggest that those who did good deeds recently have something positive to look forward to. If you have been too self-focused of late, support from others can be thin on the ground. Those with a birthday this week will embrace useful life skills in the coming year. Auspicious days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

#### PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

A wild goose chase can be tiring this week. The stars suggest that impatience to achieve more in the world of work can put Pisceans on the wrong path. Another water sign

is ready to help you put this matter in clearer perspective and results can be expected later in the month. In the realm of romance, those who had their feelings hurt by an air sign are advised to forgive and forget.

#### ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Family issues are predicted to take up more of your time than usual this week, with focus on those younger than you. Arians who have given particular people more freedom can receive a wake-up call. Setting firmer guidelines will be of benefit to all concerned. At work, confrontation with another fire sign midweek can clear the air to find better understanding with this person. Sparkling days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

#### **TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):**

Embarking on a voyage of discovery this week is highlighted to help Taureans develop stronger self-confidence. This could involve starting to learn a new skill or seeking spiritual knowledge; either way, the stars suggest that you will soon find responsibilities easier to deal with. On the social scene, a fire sign is keen to turn a platonic relationship with you into romance. Lucky days for money are Monday and Tuesday.

## YOUR

#### horoscope

By Isla Star

#### **GEMINI (May 22-June 21):**

This is not an auspicious week to push your luck. The stars indicate that those born under the sign of Gemini can be tempted to try a little too hard to meet their goals. The astral energy will encourage you to be calmer towards the end of the month and it would be wise to tread water until then. Romance with another air sign is hot on Sunday and Monday.

#### CANCER (June 22-July 23):

The stars suggest that this is a week when some of your fixed opinions can be blown away by the wind. Fresh insights lead to a more open perspective and this will be appreciated by your friends. Finances improve as the end of the month approaches, but caution is recommended meanwhile. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, Cancerians can discover that they are more compatible than they thought with a fire sign.

#### LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Leos who have not been looking forward to taking care of certain tasks are helped by the cosmic climate this week. Bureaucratic matters go most easily on Wednesday and Thursday. On a personal level, it can be hard to relate to certain friends; taking temporary distance from those you are not seeing eye to eye with is recommended. Romance with an earth sign is forecast to become more serious.

#### VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

There are signs that Virgoans could take too much on board during the second half of January. It may be hard to turn down offers of work, but your energy is highlighted to become drained. This weekend, trying to assist a water sign friend is forecast to be a lost cause. Your heart is in the right place, but the stars advise that you can better concentrate on your own needs at the moment.

#### LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Living in the moment is the best way for Librans to leave stress behind this week. There are hints that an earth sign friend has the right approach to a finding more harmony

and can inspire you to do the same. In the realm of romance, a long distance relationship with an air sign needs more effort to keep it alive. Lucky days for money are Wednesday and Thursday.

#### SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

This is an auspicious week for business meetings and signing agreements. Those born under the sign of Scorpio who are sure about their goals should end the month on a successful note. In the realm of romance, a series of events can cause you to reach a decision concerning an unstable relationship with another water sign. Quality time alone this weekend will be more enjoyable than forcing yourself to socialize.

#### SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21): Finances become less

of a cause for concern during the second half of January. This could be the result of an unexpected windfall or a payment being made before you expected it. A relaxed mood means that Sagittarians will enjoy their leisure time more this week. Moving out of your comfort zone can lead to interesting encounters. New romance with an earth sign is highlighted for those who are single.

PHUKET GAZETTE 47

# International Sport Final four showdown

#### By Somchai Huasaikul

AFTER 16 weeks of ups and downs and too many headscratching results and side lines to list here, the 'final four' going into the NFL Conference Championship round has surprisingly produced the two matchups that many prognosticators had predicted all along: The Denver Broncos versus The New England Patriots in the American Football Conference (AFC) championship and the San Francisco 49ers vs Seattle Seahawks for the right to represent the National Football Conference (NFC) in Super Bowl XLVIII (Super Bowl 48 for those of you whose Roman numeracy is rusty).

What a long, strange trip it has been. In the AFC title game, the number one seed Broncos will host the Patriots in a matchup pitting the two guaranteed Hall of Fame quarterbacks, Peyton Manning for the Broncos and Tom Brady for the Patriots.

The Broncos are coming off of an impressive win on the road in San Diego, where they got off to a 17-0 lead after three quarters and then held off a fourth quarter drive by QB Phillip Rivers and the Bolts to win 24-7.

Playing at Foxborough, the Patriots (aka 'The Brady Bunch') continued to display the remarkable diversity that has made them the most successful - and most hated – team in the NFL this millennium. [Disclosure: the author is a Pats fan].

Known for their trademark passing game based on Brady's quickness in the pocket and ability to read defensive schemes on the



The NFL Conference Chamionship round will pit the Denver Broncos against the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks against the San Francisco 49ers. Winners will go head to head in Super Bowl 48.

line of scrimmage, the Patriots under Bill Belichick found success in the same way they have done so many times before: identifying and nullifying the opponents' strengths, while identifying their weaknesses and systematically exploiting them.

In the matchup against young superstar QB Andrew Luck and the Indianapolis Colts, the Patriots managed to contain Luck's mobility to just five yards on the ground and held his top receiver TY Hilton to just four catches, albeit for an average of over 25 yards per catch. On the other side of the ball, they took advantage of a newly found smash-mouth running game to exploit the Colt's weak inside line to produce six running touchdowns - and no passing TDs for Brady. Final score NE 43 - Indy 22.

In a classic AFC Championship game once again pitting Brady vs Manning, Vegas oddsmakers appear to think the Broncos' stout defensive line will put an end to the Pats' surprising success on the ground. They opened the betting by establishing the Broncos as 6point favorites playing at Mile High Stadium. This game will be played at the worst time possible for Phuket fans: 3am Monday morning [Jan 19]. Alcohol or coffee time? Irish coffee seems

to work best for this observer.

Note to online viewers: I spent the first ten minutes pulling my hair out trying to find an online stream that worked for this game, since I am too cheap to pay for the NFL package. The people at usatvnow.com, which purports to show all CBS programming live, had a picture of an empty theater and a sign that read something to the effect of "all seats taken by paying customers" and other links on sites like Vipbox and Rojadirecta failed. I finally managed to find a functioning phantom stream posted on the comment page of the NFL website comment board for the game and would suggest fellow NFL fans do the same when desperate.

The NFC championship match will be no less classic, with the Seahawks hosting the San Francisco 49ers (XLIXers for ancient Romans that the NFL still caters to). Again the timing could not be worse for Phuket fans: 6:30am Monday morning. This reviewer will devote more time to the NFC side in the next column, since the only action over next weekend will be the meaningless "Pro Bowl" to take place in Hawaii on Wednesday morning [Wednesday, January 23, 8am Phuket time, NBC]

Note: Super Bowl 49 is to be played in New Jersey at 6:25am on Monday, February 3, Phuket time. Any local venues that want to organize a Super Bowl party at that ungodly hour can get free publicity for it in this space by sending an email to khabarphuket@gmail.com as soon as possible.

### Tennis champ holding her ground

SERENA Williams, five-time champion played well within herself in stifling conditions on Rod Laver Arena to advance to the third round of the Australian Open with a 6-1 6-2 victory over Serbia's Vesna Dolonc last Wednesday, January 14.

The victory was her  $60^{th}$ in the main draw at the Australian Open, which tied her with Margaret Court for the most wins at the tournament in the Open era.

With temperatures surpassing 40 Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) early on Wednesday, the 32-yearold American appeared content to expend as little energy as possible against the 104thranked Serb and anchored her play around the middle of the baseline and simply blasted Dolonc off court.

Williams won almost 90 per cent of her first serve points and belted Dolonc's serve back



World tennis champion, Serena Williams beats Serbian Vesna Dolonc.

past her seemingly at will to clinch victory in 63 minutes and set up a meeting with either

Karolina Pliskova or Daniela Hantuchova in the third round.

...BUT WITH STAY-ALL-DAY COZY CHAIRS w.FaceBook.com/SandwichShop www.KhunWoody.com – Reuters

## **EPL:Arsenal** gets personal

By Martyn Herman

ARSENAL survived a late scare to regain top spot in the Premier League with a 2-1 victory at Aston Villa on Monday, January 13 with both their goals arriving in the space of a minute in the first half.

England midfielder Jack Wilshere opened the scoring after 34 minutes with an accurate left-foot finish and Villa self-destructed, conceding possession straight from the re-start and allowing Olivier Giroud to double the visitors' lead.

Christian Benteke's stooping header raised hopes of an unlikely comeback and the Belgian striker came close to an equalizer but Arsenal hung on to continue their fine record at Villa where they have not lost since 1998.

Arsenal began the evening in third place after wins for title rivals Chelsea and Manchester City at the weekend but responded in style to move a point clear at the top.

Arsene Wenger's side have 48

47 and Chelsea 46 with fourthplaced Liverpool further back on 42 after also winning on the weekend.

"It's a massive three points – especially because we dropped a bit in the second half. We have done that a few times, letting teams come on to us but we dealt well with it," Wilshere told Sky Sports.

"In the past we used to feel the nerves when we were up against it. But this season we haven't and Per Mertesacker and Laurent Koscielny have been brilliant all season."

Arsenal dominated possession in the first half without really hurting Villa until Nacho Monreal picked out Wilshere who took one touch before sweeping a low shot past Brad Guzan.

Villa, disrupted by a head injury to defender Nathan Baker which required a seven-minute stoppage, then gifted Arsenal possession and Wilshere's ball into the box found Giroud who finished in clinical fashion.

Arsenal appeared to be coasting after the break but Villa points from 21 matches, City have roused themselves and Matthew



Arsenal's Jack Wilshere (center) celebrates after their first goal against Aston Villa. Photo: Darren Staples

Lowton's superb cross from the right was met by a diving Benteke who scored his first goal since September.

Arsenal suddenly looked jittery and with the clock ticking down, another Lowton cross looked perfect for Benteke but

he failed to connect properly with a header from in front of goal.

While Wenger looked displeased with some of his side's play, he was pleased with their resilience as Villa threatened.

"It was vital because the first half was more about playing, and the second half was more about fighting," he said.

"They made it very physical, put the ball up high in the air and we had a very good resilient performance in the second half. Overall we have shown again both sides of the game." - Reuters

## Edfors ready to rule the green once again

SWEDEN'S Johan Edfors believes the signs are encouraging after he won the parthree contest, a light-hearted precursor to the season-ending US\$1 million King's Cup Golf Hua Hin which teeed off at the Black Mountain Golf Club on January 16.

Modeled after a similar tradition at the Masters Tournament, Edfors received a timely confidence boost when he came up tops ahead of his title challenge at the King's Cup, which recently inked a five-year agreement with the Asian Tour.

"It's definitely a great way to start the week having won the par-three contest. I hit some really nice shots out there despite the strong winds. It's a sign of good things to come. I had quite a long break so it's good to have the game back in shape," said Edfors.

"It's always nice to come back to play in Asia. I've a second home here in Black Mountain and I'm actually thinking of playing a lot more in Asia now," added the 38-yearold who owns a villa that overlooks the 11th hole at the Black Mountain Golf Club.

While it was all fun and laughter at the informal social event where contestants played nine holes against the stunning backdrop at Black Mountain Golf Club, the quality of the players on display was enough for the Swede to know his title ambitions will be put to a stern test. The King's Cup will be lit up by more than 30 proven champions from the region's premier Tour and Edfors, a three-time winner in Europe, knows it will not be a walk in the park as he seeks another victory at the Black Mountain Golf Club.

"The standards have gone up dramatically over the last couple of years. There are so many young ones coming up and the old ones never seem to fade away either. The competition is getting tougher as there are so many good players over here now," said Edfors, who lifted his second Asian Tour title after a splendid wire-to-wire triumph at the Black Mountain Masters in 2009.

Meanwhile, after describing his 2013 season as his best year ever, Philippines' Angelo Que is looking to end the season on a flourish at the King's Cup.

"I've no complaints as this is my best season ever. I finished top-five on five occasions and was playing really solid and consistent. Hopefully I can keep this up and have my fourth win on the Asian Tour very soon," said Que.

With his impeccable form last year, Que was the man to look out for atop the leaderboard each week and he hopes it will be no different at the Black Mountain Golf Club as he starts the New Year on a fresh note.

Like Que, Thailand's 18-year-old boy wonder, Jazz Janewattananond has also shown his star credentials.

Jazz, who steals the limelight not only from the exploits on the course but also his loud and attention-grabbing apparel, produced impressive back-to-back top-10s in the Philippines and Indonesia late last year.

Despite playing on his home course this week, Jazz feels there will be no real advantage, as whoever can tame the gusty conditions will stand of good chance of lifting the King's Cup.

"The toughest part of playing at Black Mountain is playing against the strong wind. Everyone has a chance to win here. You don't really have a home advantage



Jazz Janewattananond of Thailand tees off at the Black Mountain Golf Club in Hua Hin.

here because it is so windy," said Jazz, who inked his place in the history books as the youngest to make the cut at the 2010 Asian Tour International in Bangkok.

The Thai struggled with his swing in 2012 but modifications to his game last year has paid off handsomely and he hopes it will extend into the 2014 season, where he has already secured his card. "I had a swing fix in 2012 but that didn't work to my advantage. I changed back to my old swing and that has been the key to a good season for me," said Jazz.

For the first time ever, the King's Cup will be broadcast live, over four rounds on the Asian Tour's global television platform.

- The Nation

Wang Yihan beat the Thai champ.

**BADMINTON** world champion Ratchanok Intanon failed to break the hoodoo and lost once again to China's Wang Yihan in the final of the US\$600,000 Korea Open Superseries in Seoul

## Thai badminton world champion loses to China

Third-seeded Wang performed solidly to stun the second-seeded Thai teenager 21-13 21-19 in 46 minutes to capture the season-opening competition.

The latest victory has taken Wang's winning streak against Ratchanok to an incredible eight matches.

Wang, who crashed out in the second round of the Korea Open last year, had stamped her authority on many major competitions including the Hong Kong Open, Denmark Open, Singapore Open, German Open and Asian Championships.

Meanwhile, top-seeds Boe Mathias and Mogensen Carsten of Denmark shattered China's dreams of making a clean sweep of the titles in this year's Korea Open when they brushed off Fu Haifeng and Hong Wei 21-12 21-17 to take the men's doubles crown.

Earlier, second-seeded Chen Long overpowered Malaysian ace and world No 1 Lee Chong Wei 21-14 21-15 to clinch the men's singles title.

In the mixed-doubles event, top seeds Zhang Nan and Zhao Yunlei outclassed second seeds Xu Chen and Ma Jin 21-18 21-18 in an all-Chinese final.

Bao Yixin and Tang Jinhua

claimed the women's doubles title with an impressive 21-17 21-15 win over their compatriots the Luo sisters, Ying and Yu.

The Thai shuttlers, including Ratchanok, will next take part in the Malaysia Open Superseries Premier in Kuala Lumpur between January 14 and 19, and hope to improve their world rankings in the \$500,000 tour-

-The Nation

# Sport Sport Village



Thalang cricket team set a tight field to confine The Village to just 61 all out in the 23rd over. Photos: Supplied

THE Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) cricket league welcomed in the new year with the Village and Thalang teams both looking to register their first wins of the season at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) on Sunday, January 12, 2014.

In one of the most comprehensive defeats in recent times, Thalang crushed their opponents, scoring a massive 302-4 from their 35 overs with the Village in reply being bowled out for just 61 runs. The match also saw the first century of the season from Thalang opener Justin Thomatos who posted an unbeaten 143 runs.

After winning the toss, Thalang elected to bat and set a large target but perhaps not anticipating beforehand they would amass over 300 runs. Captain and opener, Andrew Macmillan (25) got Thalang off to a flying start until he fell in the 8th over with the score at 47. Village struck back just before the drinks break removing a threatening Simon Wetherell (14). Garry Lane (10) joined Thomatos for a useful 43-run partnership. However, it was the match winning partnership of 176 runs between Paddy Ledeboer (76) and Thomatos which broke the Village back.

During the the lunch break, the Village batsmen must have been hoping for a divine intervention, with a massive 303 runs required

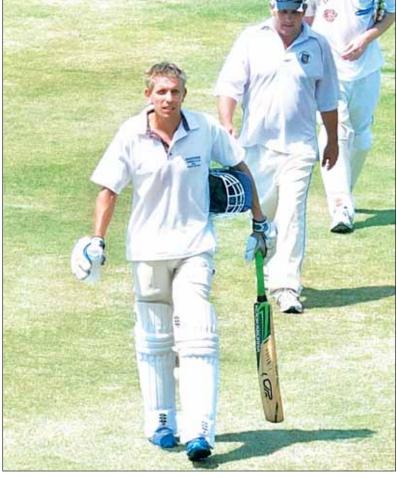
at a run rate of almost 9 per over. However, it was not to be when they got off to a poor start losing both Martin Foster and James Firth for ducks and the scoreboard showing no runs but 2 wickets down. Unfortunately for the Village, it did not really get any better with only one of their batsmen, T Donovan (11), reaching double figures. Extras contributed 21 runs of their innings total of 61.

In the previous week's clash, ICC were winners against Patong after scoring 258-5 with Patong managing 198-9 in reply.

This week on Sunday the 17<sup>th</sup>, Thalang will try for two in a row against a determined Patong who will be looking to register their first win of the season. Play starts at 10am.

With round two matches now completed, the league table sees Laguna, ICC and Thalang in a three - Stuart Reading way tussle.

Anyone interested in playing or joining as a member should contact chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com or visit www.phuketcricketgroup.com for more information.



Justin Thomatos posted an unbeaten 143 runs.

## Southern hospitality

SIXTEEN bowlers representing countries competed in a Ryder Cup style bowls match on January 11 at Kamala Lawn Bowls Club.

The Southern Hemisphere took on the Rest of The World in a series of fours, pairs and singles



Kamala Lawn Bowls Club.

matches. Captains George Sasonow and Rob Knight picked the groupings and order in secret prior to each round.

After the fours, the score was one each with both captains choosing a strong four who were fortunately drawn apart to leave the scores level.

The pairs resulted in some close games but the Southern Hemisphere led 4 to 2 after that round.

This forced the Rest of the World captain to top load his order in the eight singles to avoid an early defeat as 7.5 points would have been enough for the Southern Hemisphere to claim the

That tactic seemed to have paid off as after the first five singles, the Rest of the World led 6 to 5 needing only 1.5 points out of the last 3 singles to win.

However, suspecting that the Rest of the World captain would employ that order, George kept his strong suit to the end and that proved decisive as the Southern Hemisphere won the last singles games to - Phuket Gazette triumph 8 to 6.

Upcoming tournaments at Kamala Lawn Bowls include the Phuket Open Singles Championships on February 22 (all are welcome to enter) and a Champions League pairs tournament in March.

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Sport 50 PHUKET GAZETTE January 18 - 24, 2014

## Pre-season off to a great start

#### Phuket FC down Ratchaburi in their 2014 opener

By Steven Layne

REBRANDED and reborn this year as the the "Ronins", Phuket FC kicked off their 2014 pre-season in respectable form last Sunday, defeating Thai Premier League squad, Ratchaburi Mitrphol FC by a score of 1-0 in an evenly-weighted friendly match at Surakul Stadium.

In two 45-minute halves, under some clouds and periodic light showers, both sides employed a number of promising fronts and as many counter-attacks, but only enjoyed a handful of on-target shots at goal to engage an anxious yet captivated crowd.

Back and forth play was played out to no glorifying avail... that is until the final moments of unofficial regulation.

The match's only goal was scored by seasoned forward Anusak Laosengthai in the final moments of the second half, giving the 1,000 or so paying spectators a little something to feel good about on a waning Sunday night.

The goal was set up by a long

and nicely weighted missile from Adisek Wisetsin in midfield, on a counter attack, to Myanmar tryout Pai So on the left wing, who in a one-two touch, diverted the ball to Adisak, who'd evaded his marker near the left goal-post.

Adisek sent his shot towards the far post, through the legs of the keeper and out of leg's length from a sliding Ratchaburi defender.

While the match didn't yield any other goals, fans finally got to soothe their anticipation and gauge the new-look club's chemistry and showcasing of talent - some old, but mostly new.

Namely, its four Brazilians -Cruzeiro midfielders Cristian Alex and Eber Bessa; forward Ney Fabiano and defender Tales dos Santos – as well as returning Japanese defender Yusuke Sato, Thai striker Eakartit Somjit, defender Sakareya Kolea, midfielders Aleef Poji and Watchara Kriaram and keepers Ninurudin Nideha and Adisak Duangsri.

Also making a good impression in their debut for the club was new

captain Wasan Natasan and swiftly attacking midfielder Rattapon Auttawong. In addition to Myanmar national team player Pai So trying out for a vacant left-back position in the second half, fans in the first half seemed satisfied with the trial performance of experienced Japanese Terukazu Tanaka; though used to playing in midfield, Tanaka showed he can hold his own in the left-back position.

Within the week, the club is expected to make a decision to sign Tanaka and/or Pai So, to serve as a crucial reserve Asian player for defender Sato. The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) regulations allow Thai clubs to field one additional Asian player in addition to three non-Thai players fielded at any given time, bringing the maximum number of non-Thai players fielded to four. Last season, Sato was Phuket FC's only Asian (non-Thai) player and the club was left vulnerable when Sato was out for several matches due to a minor calf-injury.

After the match, Coach Stefano "Teco" Cuagara told the Gazette: "It



SKIN IT: Anusak Laosenthai euphoric after scoring. Photos: Steven Layne

#### Saksee Cup (January 25-27)

- •Jan 25 Brunei DPPM vs Nakhon Sri Heritage\*
- •Jan 26 Phuket vs Brunei DPPM FC
- •Jan 27 Phuket vs Nakhon Sri Heritage

\*This match will be played @ BISP, the others will be played at Surakul

was a good start to the [pre] season. I'm very happy of our training in the last few weeks and we're going to continue to work hard."

Asked about his impressions of Tanaka and Pai So, Coach Teco said: "They're both good players... I know Tanaka very well and he's used to playing in midfield, although our vacancy is for the left-back. Pai So's main position is left-back... although [Pai So] didn't mark well early on, he was able to adjust his game well in the end. We'll have to see a few more practices and I'll talk to the administration before we make our decision."

Phuket FC's next match will be on Saturday, January 18 against Russian club FC Forward Vladivostok. Kickoff will be at 6pm. Admission is 100 baht.



TOWER POWER: Tales dos Santos quadruple-teamed in the area.



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# Sport Sport Gazette 51 Getting down and dirty

By Jeremie Schatz

DRIVING a car or riding a motorcycle around Phuket, one will quickly come to grips with the "rules of the road". It can often make you wonder if you made a wrong turn and ended up on a racetrack. However, if you do indeed feel the need for speed there is a place where you can let loose and driving like a maniac is encouraged. But you are going to have to get dirty.

On Soi Suksan 1, which connects Wiset Road to Patak Road just south of Chalong circle, is what remains of a motocross track. "Loong" Chaiyawat, who has been racing motocross since he was just a kid, recalls that it was once an official track hosting races on a Southern Thailand circuit. With an apparent lack of sponsorship, it went defunct sometime around 2006.

What is certain is that if you happen by this dusty patch of hillside on a Sunday between 5 and 6pm, you see motorcycles flying through the air. Every week a group of motocross enthusiasts fill up their tanks, gear up and rip around the track. There are no time-clocks or checkered flags, just a bunch of guys getting together for some friendly races.

You can see a variety of bikes being used but Mr Chaiyawat says that most people use modified 110cc Honda Waves. At first glance, the machines

appear to be purebred moto-cross bikes sporting high clearance suspension, performance exhaust and aggressive off-road tyres. Upon closer inspection, it's revealed that they truly are the ubiquitous Hondas at heart.

It is obvious that some of the racers have invested time and money in their machines and blood, sweat and maybe a tear or two in learning the sport. Certainly some of the racers are gear-heads who are partial to turning their own wrenches, but if you don't have the knowledge or resources, never fear. Mr Chaiyawat tells of a shop that is popular among off-roaders for modifying bikes called Gang Service and can be found in Karon - on Patak road near the Phad Thai Shop. Look for the green and white "Bike Point" sign.

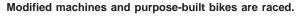
The scene is very open and friendly and anyone is invited to join in or find a seat outside of the dust cloud to watch the action. It is a good opportunity for beginners to practice maneuvering corners and get comfortable on the jumps, since it is usually not too crowded and there are breaks where the track is empty.

For those looking for an adrenaline rush on two wheels, yet don't want to get thrown under a bus, go check out the old motocross track. Maybe you will make some new thrill-seeking friends and you just might get the urge to test your mettle.



Nan Sahapat (left) and M Sampan take to the air during a Sunday afternoon race. Photos: Jeremie Schatz







Sometimes you can have the track all to yourself.

### To carb or not to carb

IF YOU were to take a poll here in Phuket of the types of sports people do for fun or competition, chances are some form of endurance sport would rank number one. Our roads are constantly being utilized by cyclists or runners and our beaches have people going for long runs or swims to stay in shape. No matter what the form of exercise is, it is important to understand how to fuel your muscles properly.

Our muscles work by contracting and in order to do this they need fuel. That fuel comes in the form of adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and when broken down releases energy. Once the ATP has been broken down, it is important for the body to continually produce more in order to prolong our training sessions.

Endurance training is very different than high intensity training and thus requires different fuel sources. The breakdown of carbs and fats is the primary energy source to regenerate your ATP stores. Protein can be used as well but predominantly carbs and fats are used.

Now, if we think about that for a second, we often hear about people who want to lose weight and exercise more but at the same time they have been told by someone or



Carbs and fat are energy sources.

read in a magazine that it is a good idea to stop eating carbs and fats. If they do this, they may not have enough energy available to exercise and thus could lead to other health problems. Bottom line is – it is ok to eat carbs and fats (we may have to modify or adjust a little bit) as we need them as part of our diet. especially for those people who partake in any type of endurance or distance training or competition.

So, the next time someone tells you to cut out carbs and fats be sure to take a good hard look at whether this is actually the right thing for you or not and whether this will help or hinder your health and fitness goals!

Fitness tip by Thanyapura's Operation Manager, Brian Finniss Email: tslc@thanyapura.com



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