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INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'CUTTING DOWN ON OUR NUMBERS IS THE ONLY SOLUTION'

# On Guard

■ Lifeguard Club prepares to cut staff with danger season lurking on horizon

By Chutharat Plerin

THE Phuket Lifeguard Club (PLC) paying out of pocket to upgrade life-saving equipment will result in about 20 per cent of the island's lifeguards being laid off as Phuket enters its danger season at the beaches.

PLC President Prathaiyut Chuayuan revealed the news this week as his organization considers whether or not to renew its contract with the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO).

"We have yet to decide whether we will agree to the 22-million-baht contract. If we renew it, I will have to cut staff by about 20 per cent," he said.

Last year, 928 people were saved by Phuket lifeguards. However, despite lifeguards' efforts, 23 died, according to PPAO Tourism Department statistics.

"Already, one foreigner and one Thai national have died this year; 41 people have been saved," confirmed tourism officer Nararit Touyon.

The layoffs, costing 20 lifeguards their jobs, would come despite a 10 per cent increase in government funding.

The new contract provides 2mn baht more than last years' 10-month contract, set to expire on...



Continued on Page 9

Phuket lifeguards have rescued 41 people already this year, and rough seas are expected soon.

Russian kidnap

DNA tests to confirm body

POLICE are waiting for DNA test results to confirm the identity of a decomposing body found in Cherng Talay that they suspect is that of missing Russian Alexey Slabinskiy.

However, Phuket's top cop is nearly certain that it is Mr Slabinskiy, as the shorts match those described by his girlfriend who was also abducted, but has since been recovered alive by police.

Full story Page 3

Superintendent removed over graft claims

The Chalong Police Superintendent has been transferred as the Public-sector Anti Corruption Commission begins its investigation into allegations that Chalong Police officers extorted cash from the dive community.

Full story Page 8

Lake filler to halt or face legal action

A DEVELOPER has been ordered to stop filling a primary catchment for rain runoff, as the dust from the earthmoving has become a serious health hazard to Rassada residents.

Full stories Pages 4-5; 36-37

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## This Week



### Property

A life full of leisure at Attitude Club's Saturdays Condo **Page 13**



### Business

Silk Air celebrates 25 years of flying Phuket's skies. **Page 17**



### In Focus

Phuket's air pollution is causing major health problems. **Page 36-37**



### Food

Celebrity chef's Phuket venture brings creativity to the table. **Page 41**



### Health

Tasteless, scentless and highly toxic. The truth about roofies. **Page 44**



### Sport

Swimmers from around the region converge on Thanyapura. **Page 48**

Saturday



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Sunday



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# Kidnappers of 4-year-old intercepted at bus station

By Woranut Pechdee

QUICK action by a Phuket village headman Tuesday night stopped a couple about to board a bus to Bangkok with a 4-year-old boy who had been abducted from his home in Koh Kaew.

Worried parents of the boy, named by police only as "Nong Ice", reported their son missing from their home in Koh Kaew Soi 10 at about 8pm after scouring the neighborhood for him.

"After the parents failed to find him, they went to Phuket's main bus terminal with village headman Sangkom Sinthupradit and local village defence volunteers to see if he was there," explained Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong.

Members of the search party saw the accused – Thanawat Ouanain and Yupin Matratturat from Bangkok – sitting with the boy, waiting to board a bus.

"The village headman moved in and placed the couple under ar-



Nong Ice (left) sits across from the couple who took him. Photo: PR Dept

rest, and with the support of the local villagers, escorted them to Phuket City Police Station," Col Sermphan said.

At the police station, the parents explained that Mr Thanawat and Ms Yupin first came to their home about a week ago.

"The couple were unemployed and asked for food. While at the house, they befriended Nong Ice, saying they did not have children of their own," Col Sermphan said.

Col Sermphan urged all parents to beware of strangers with their children.

## Investigation of workers' deaths begins

WORKPLACE health and safety officials began an investigation this week into the deaths of four sewer maintenance workers who died in a Phuket Town sewer on March 26.

Saijai Luesup, head of the investigation, told the *Gazette* on Wednesday that the Phuket Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Office had asked representatives from the workers' contractor, Eastern Thai Consulting 1992 Co Ltd, to present themselves on April 18 to give an official statement about the incident and to present any relevant documents.

Investigators will then interview the representa-



The victims' families. Photo: Gazette file

tives from the contractor and the municipality to establish precisely what happened, Yudhakarn Ovasith, chief of the Phuket Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Office, told the *Gazette*.

"This is a big case. We will need assistance from the regional office in Surat Thani. They have better qualified experts and the right equipment for carrying out the investigation," he said.

The four who died had been tasked with maintenance of a sewer access point, and they succumbed to unexpected hydrogen sulfide fumes one by one, trying to rescue each other.

– *Irfan Jamdukor*

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## Body of executed man found

FISHERMEN on Tuesday discovered the body of a man who had been executed floating near the main fishing port in Rassada.

"We believe the body is that of a Myanmar national who worked on a fishing boat. He likely got in a fight with other crew members, was killed and then thrown overboard," said Lt Ronnaphum Permpoon of Phuket City Police.

The man, who appeared to be in his 30s, was found floating face down with his hands tied together with a shirt.

"There was a deep cut across his neck that left him almost decapitated. There were also wounds from a sharp object on his chin," Lt Ronnaphum said.

Police questioned residents, but none of them were able to make a positive identification.

"We will keep the case open and attempt to identify the body," Lt Ronnaphum added.

Earlier this year, the body of another violently assaulted man was found floating in the same area.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

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## Aussie 'alcohol holiday' starts with custody on landing

AN AUSTRALIAN tourist who passed out drunk during his flight to Phuket last Friday was carried off the plane still unconscious on arrival and rushed to Thalang Hospital.

The man, named by police as Christopher Lazarus Boubis, 39, later regained consciousness in the emergency ward at the hospital, but immediately went on a rampage through the facility.

"He was shouting and verbally abusing staff, scaring them, before he collapsed again unconscious in an emergency treatment room," one nurse reported.

The nurse said that as Mr Boubis woke, he seemed dazed and confused.

"He even groped one of the female staff," she added.

Officers from the Thalang Police arrived soon after to take Mr Boubis into custody.

"The man's flight landed at about 9pm [on March 28]. We brought him to Thalang Police Station as soon as doctors said it was safe to do so," Lt Chatree Chuwichian explained.

Mr Boubis was later released without facing any charges. — **Thawit Bilabdullar**



A startled nurse discovers Aussie tourist Mr Boubis on the floor at Thalang Hospital.



Thieves in Russia withdrew 400,000 baht from Mr Sun's account.

## Chinese tourist warns of ATM skimmer scam

A CHINESE tourist in Phuket has issued a warning of skimmer gangs after thieves in Russia withdrew 400,000 baht from his account.

"On March 24, my bank called to ask me where I was, because my account showed several withdrawals in Russia between March 22 and 24," said Haohao Sun.

"At the time the 400,000 baht was taken out, I was in Phuket. I don't know how the money could have been withdrawn in Russia."

Mr Sun said that the last time he had withdrawn money was on March 19 from a Siam Commercial Bank ATM at the Premium Outlet Mall on the bypass road.

Mr Sun immediately notified the Phuket City Police after being contacted by his bank. The case is now under investigation.

"I would like my situation to be a lesson for other tourists. I have three Chinese friends vacationing in Phuket who have also been skimmed out of money. Together, we have lost a total of about 1 million baht," Mr Sun said.

"Please be aware of skimmer gangs."

Mr Sun's warning comes one month after police called on tourists and Phuket residents to bring scam artists to justice.

— **Kritsada Mueanhawong**

# DNA tests to confirm body found is Alexey

By Saran Mitrarat

PHUKET's top cop this week said he is 80 per cent sure that a decomposed body found in Cherng Talay last Saturday was that of missing Russian Alexey Slabinskiy.

The skull had been separated from the body and was no longer identifiable, and so police are seeking to identify the remains with DNA tests and through dental records.

"We are waiting for DNA test results from the Forensic Office in Surat Thani to confirm whether or not it is him," Provincial Police Commander Ong-art Phiewruang-nont said on Wednesday.

Maj Gen Ong-art gave two reasons for his confidence the body is that of Mr Slabinskiy.

"First, Mr Slabinskiy's girlfriend, Iana Strizheus, said that the last time she saw Mr Slabinskiy, he was wearing red shorts. The body we found was dressed in red



Rescue workers recovered the body. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

shorts.

"Second, the body hair on the corpse was blond, which is common among Caucasians."

Police had learned that the two

fugitive suspects, Oleksandr Boychuk, 44, and Aleksandr Novichkov, 58, had rented a house in Soi Koktanode in Cherng Talay.

"We dispatched 40 officers and

specially trained sniffer dogs from Nakhon Sri Thammarat to search the area. At 1pm [on Friday] I received a report that the body of a foreign male had been found at a lagoon near the suspects' rented house.

"We believe the body is that of Mr Slabinskiy as the sniffer dogs found the remains while searching the area using the scent from Mr Slabinskiy's belongings," Gen Ong-art said on Saturday.

The grisly discovery follows the sister of the missing man, Tatiana Novoselova, and her husband Sergei Luklanov offering half a million baht for information leading to the arrest of Mr Boychuk and Mr Novichkov.

An additional 100,000 baht was offered to whoever found Mr Slabinskiy.

"We have sent photographs of the suspects to immigration authorities. I believe they are still in Thailand, but it's likely they have left Phuket," Gen Ong-art said.

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# Better training would make safer bus drivers

MORE than half of the respondents to a *Phuket Gazette* poll said that better training for tour bus drivers was the best way to stop the carnage on Patong Hill.

Two people crushed to death by a runaway bus in December sent officials scrambling for ideas on how to prevent more needless deaths on the notorious slope.

In response, the *Gazette* asked readers: "What is the best way to prevent further deadly bus accidents on Patong Hill?"

More than 1,100 people took part in the poll, with 53.3% of all respondents choosing "better training for drivers" as their top choice.

Better driver training was also the top choice among all three demographic categories: Thai nationals (71%), Local foreign residents (51%) and Tourists / Visitors to Phuket (51%).

Second favorite was the option to build the long-awaited Patong Tunnel, garnering 19.7% of the votes cast.



A bus driver sits behind the wheel during a re-enactment for police, after crashing into a house in Patong. Photo: Gazette file

The option to "Change legal standards for bus brakes in Thailand to ensure full redundancy" scored 11.8% of the votes, with enforcing a ban on all large vehicles from using the Patong Hill road close behind with 9.6%.

Allowing buses to use the hill road only to exit Patong scored 4.3%, while enforcing a ban on all buses from other provinces from using the hill, as they are unfamiliar with it, scored just 1.3%.

— *Phuket Gazette*

# A sneak

**A HOUSING developer faces legal action if he continues filling in a lake north of Samkong. Soil-dumping as part of an anti-erosion project may continue as long as health issues are addressed.**

**The *Phuket Gazette's* Irfarn Jamdukor reports.**

RASSADA Municipality is preparing to file a police complaint if the lake filling at the Srisuchart Grandview housing estate, located on the bypass road, extends beyond "containing bankside erosion".

The municipality ordered Srisuchart Grandview Co Ltd to shore up the banks of the lake to prevent erosion, as reported on page one of the December 14 issue of the *Gazette*.

However, the company began adding soil to the banks in an area not indicated by the municipality before being stopped and re-directed to the area of erosion.

At one section of the lake, dump trucks filled in more than 70 meters from where the bank once stood — far beyond the 30m tract approved that allowed the dump trucks delivering the payloads of soil to turn around.

Yet, it was public pressure through protest and a raft of serious health issues that prompted the threat of legal action and a "ban on the entire project" by Rassada Municipality.

"We ordered work to cease on March 6 following a protest by local residents. They called for action to be taken to reduce the noise and dust created by the trucks hauling soil into the area," explained Rassada Mayor Phudit Raksarat.

The dense clouds of dust alone raised serious health concerns, with adult residents seeking hospital treatment and infants developing breathing difficulties (see pages 36-37).

Work on containing the bankside erosion was allowed to resume, but only after the contractor agreed to implement eight countermeasures to reduce the noise and dust created by the incessant parade of dump trucks.

"We have plain clothes officers inspecting the site every day," explained Nipit Jaruenkarn, chief of Rassada Municipality's Engineering Division.

"We are only allowing them to continue the anti-erosion work, of which about 20 per cent remains to be done.

"If the anti-pollution measures are not adhered to, or if they start dumping soil in the lake where it does not counter erosion, we will file a police complaint against the contractor and the landowner."

IT'S ONLY NATURAL

Kasem Sukwaree, chief of the Phuket office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, said that reinforcing the banks to stop erosion was not a problem.

"Exactly how much can be filled in is at the discretion of the



'70 meters is too much.

That's not for erosion control. It means they want to do something on the land — and that is illegal'

— **Kaem Sukwaree, Chief of the Natural Resources and Environment Phuket office**

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# behind the watershed

environmental experts at Rassada Municipality," he said.

"I think 30 meters would be about right, but 70 meters is too much. That's not for erosion control. It means they want to do something on the land – and that is illegal."

Mr Kasem also clarified that a landowner cannot fill in a lake on his own land – even if the landowner has a Chanote title for the property.

“Anyone wanting to carry out any form of construction that will affect a natural water resource must first have the permission of our office, as stipulated by the National Environmental Quality Act [NEQA].”

Section 12 of the act empowers local administrations, such as municipalities, and MNRE offices to preserve any water resource as a utility for people living nearby and to prevent public hazards such as flooding, Mr Kasem explained.

"The penalty for ignoring this order is up to one year in prison or a fine of up to 100,000 baht, or both," he said.

WORTH PROTECTING?

Although Mr Kasem extolled the importance of preserving natural water resources, he admitted that



**Dump trucks at the Srisuchart Grandview lake filled in more than 70 meters from where the bank once stood.**

he was not aware of how important the Srisuchart lake might be.

"We are responsible for overseeing the 'big view' in Phuket," he said. "When it comes to specific information about the importance of lakes in each area,

the local municipality or even local residents would be able to give better information than us.”

To that, local resident Veerayuth Sengsawang, 42, explained to the *Gazette* that the Srisuchart lake was the primary catchment for

rain runoff from the hills that run along the west side of the bypass road.

"We have three lakes in the area. The lake being filled in is the biggest and on higher ground than the others," he said.

“Water flows from this lake to the other two. If this lake is filled in, more water will flow very quickly to the lower lakes and cause flooding.”

# PAPER TIGER

Chief Kasem was also at pains to point out that his office had no authority to initiate any legal action.

"By law, the MNRE has no authority to press charges or file police complaints against people we believe have broken environmental laws," he said.

"We can investigate when called on by local authorities and pass on any complaints we receive to the relevant local administrations, but other than that there is nothing we can do."

Mr Kasem said he had sent two formal notices to Rassada Mayor Phudit over the past year, reminding him of the MNRE's duty to preserve natural resources.

"We sent a notice in July last year and again on February 13, but we have not received any requests to investigate any water resources in Rassada," he said.

"The mayor has yet to file a complaint to the police. Whether that is done depends entirely on the municipality."

[illegible]





Chaiyot Panyawai (left) is Phuket's new senator. Photo: PR Department

## Local lawyer wins election for Phuket's Senator seat

UNOFFICIAL results of last Sunday's senatorial election on the island indicated that local lawyer Chaiyot Panyawai, 47, won the contest to become Phuket's new representative in the Upper House.

Mr Chaiyot, president of the Phuket branch of the Lawyers Council of Thailand, garnered 19,262 votes, confirmed Phuket Election Commission (PEC) Director Kittipong Thiengkunakrit.

Voter turnout was low, with only 79,322 (30.36%) of Phuket's 261,231 eligible voters opting to exercise their suffrage rights, Mr Kittipong said.

"Of these, 12,642 voters [15.94%] ticked 'No Vote' on the ballot. There were also 2,905 [3.66%] spoiled ballots," said Mr Kittipong.

"The results of the poll will be announced officially by the Election Commission [EC] in Bangkok within 30 days, as stipulated by election law."

As the *Gazette* went to press on Wednesday, the PEC had yet to receive any complaints of irregularities at the polls.

According to the Election Act, any person may file a complaint within 180 days of the poll results being announced by the EC in Bangkok.

— *Saran Mitrarat*

## No charges yet for drivers in speedboat collision

POLICE have yet to charge anyone involved in the speedboat crash that occurred off the coast of Krabi in February, as they have not been able to determine fault, confirmed Lt Sophon Kongthong of the Krabi City Police.

Six people were injured, two of whom were hospitalized, after the *Chainartnumchork 8* and the *The Pimmasa 5* collided near the popular tourist destination of Ao Nang.

"We are waiting to question the prime witnesses: the two hospitalized passengers. They were transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket to receive treatment," said Lt Sophon.

The police were not able to question other

witnesses, he said, as they had already left the country.

"We met the injured passengers at Krabi Hospital before they were transferred to Phuket and asked them to present themselves for questioning at the station after they were released," Lt Sophon explained.

The two have yet to appear at the station. "We did question the drivers, and they both claimed to be driving safely and not at high speeds," said Lt Sophon.

"We are working with the Krabi Marine Office to investigate and inspect the boats."

— *Irfarn Jamdukor*



Two passengers were hospitalized after the crash. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Heat between beach chair club, boot campers cooled

By Irfarn Jamdukor

THE Nai Harn Beach Chair Club president took to the sand on Saturday in an attempt to dissolve lingering tension between lounge chair operators and a group of expats in an exercise class.

During the "Clean the Beach Boot Camp" on March 15, the expats had squared off with a few operators who were setting up chairs in the space where they were trying to work out.

"I understand where each party is coming from. I support what the beach clean-up group does — it creates a community and keeps the beach clean," Nai Harn Beach Chair Club President Joung Solos told the *Gazette*.

Mr Joung mentioned that while observing the group's activities on Saturday, he noticed that it had an adverse effect on one chair operator's business.

"The group was exercising very close to the front line of chairs. There was little space between them and the chairs and it became quite noisy during their activities," he explained.

"I could see that it made some tourists in the vicinity uncomfortable. The operator ultimately lost business during the boot camp, as some customers did not want to sit in that area."

Mr Joung noted that this was probably why the operators had asked the group to move away from their chairs on March 15.



Mr Joung suggested ways of easing tension between chair operators and boot campers. Photo: Malte Henning

"It is a public beach, therefore everyone has the right to be there and to use it," he said. "The operators have a right to their space as much as the group does."

One of the lounge chair organizers spoke up about the effects the boot camp has on his business.

"We have no customers because of this group. Tourists complain about the noise and have no space to relax," explained the man, who wished to be known only as Mr Tuey.

"They drop their things next to our chairs and some of them sit down without paying."

As a short-term solution, Mr Joung suggested that "the boot camp could rent a set of chairs while they are exercising. That way, they can have a place for their things and, if needed, a place to rest. This will also help to make the beach chair operators feel more comfortable," he said.

During the meeting, local Phuket businesses, as well as the *Gazette's* Phuket Today show, stepped up to sponsor the boot camp by renting a set of chairs every two weeks when the event is held.

"For the long term, the group

should explain their activities to Rawai Municipality. I believe that officials will support the group's objective because it is a positive activity that benefits the public," Mr Joung said.

Krix Luther, leader of the boot camp, supported the ideas put forth by Mr Joung.

"This is a good, initial solution to the conflict. I agree with his advice," Mr Luther said.

"We will continue to do what we do, as it is good for the environment. And I hope to gain support from Rawai Municipality in the future."

## Brazen thief nabs cop's motorbike

A PHUKET Police officer has become the latest victim of motorbike theft on the island.

Sen Sgt Maj Narong Wilairat reported at 6:30am last Friday that his motorbike had been stolen from in front of his police accommodation just meters from the main building at Chalong Police Station.

"My son used the motorbike — a red Honda Click Phuket license plate 'Khor Kor Sor 81' — every day and parked it in front of our room every evening," he said.

Sgt Narong explained that motorbikes were often stolen from in front of Chalong Police Station.



There is no CCTV in the area. Photo: Gazette file

has left Sgt Narong with no clues to investigate his stolen motorbike.

"I'll have to do the best I can and work with the case investigator," he said.

— *Woranut Pechdee*

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# Call for black water solutions

By Saran Mitrarat

THE Phuket governor was on site today when a fresh flow of black water washed into the sea at Karon Beach.

Governor Maitri Inthusut happened to be on location to lead an investigation into black water and lines of trash that plagued the beach last Friday.

The governor denied that wastewater was the cause of the black water today, but affirmed its presence in the water on March 28.

"Despite its dark color, the water today was not wastewater. However, the contaminated water on March 28 was found to be caused by a broken wastewater pipe," he said.

"Karon Municipality has already fixed the broken pipe."

Governor Maitri claimed that the black water today was due to sediment in the Nong Han Canal being stirred up by recent rain.

"The heavy rain caused the water levels to rise. The sediment mixed with the water and washed into the sea," he explained.

Governor Maitri demonstrated the safety and cleanliness of the water by washing his hands and arms in it, much like he did in February when the same alleged sediment-water combination flowed onto the beach.

"My short-term solution is to dredge the Nong Han Canal, from the water pump station to the beach. This should take about three days to complete.

We will also install a net at the canal's water gate to catch garbage," he said.

"The long-term plan is to dig steps into the land along the canal that will catch sediment and slow it from reaching the water. Additionally, I would like to build an emergency treatment pond."

The emergency pond will serve as a back-up water-treatment plant and will only operate if the main treatment plant is overflowing or

'I will hold a conference with Karon residents and officials to discuss the situation and how everyone can help to fix it...'

— Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut



Governor Maitri Inthusut has suggested solutions to the ongoing black water problem at Karon Beach.

wastewater pipes have broken.

Gov Maitri called on local officials and residents to help in the mission against black water, despite Karon Municipality signing a Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) to temporarily relinquish control of wastewater management in the area to the Wastewater Management Authority of Thailand (WMA).

"We need help from officials and

residents to resolve these issues. Next Tuesday, at 7:30pm, I will hold a conference with Karon residents and officials to discuss the situation and how everyone can help to fix it."

## Mini-crepe vendor and his donor meet



Mr Prayoon and his partner, Dah, meet Ms Gibson and thank her.

IT WAS an emotional meeting last week between the man who lost his only source of livelihood – a sidecar outfitted to make crepes – and the New Zealand woman who gave him the money to buy a new one.

Crepe vendor Prayoon Impuang, whose sidecar was consumed by flames on February 12, drove his new sidecar to the *Gazette* office in Koh Kaew last Thursday and cooked *kanom tokyo* for his donor, Delyse Gibson: savory with sausage and sweet with custard cream.

"My heart is full," Mr Prayoon said through an interpreter, pausing from time to time to maintain his composure. "If I hadn't gotten help from you, I'd have gone to a loan shark for sure. But now my life is back to normal and I can support my family again as before. Thank you so much."

Ms Gibson had originally planned to visit Phuket in April but

changed her plans when she heard Mr Prayoon would be going back to his province for the month.

"I wanted to make a connection with Mr Prayoon, and to meet his family," she said.

"I've had difficult times in my life, but there was always someone who helped me. I felt fortunate to be in a position to give to someone else, and I hope to keep in touch with Mr Prayoon," she said in a voice that quavered from time to time.

Ms Gibson presented Mr Prayoon and his partner, Dah, with souvenirs from New Zealand, including a flag and a baseball cap bearing her country's national emblem, the Silver Fern.

Mr Prayoon mounted the flag on his sidecar and blessed Ms Gibson. "May you have a healthy and long life. If I'm ever in a position to give you something in return, I'll surely do it," he said.

— Saran Mitrarat



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A marcher takes a break to pose.

## PDRC march and motor to show support

THE two factions of the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) anti-government protesters in Phuket united last Saturday to march through Phuket Town and stage a motorcade along Phuket's west coast.

The *Krabort Rak Chart* faction led by former Rassada Mayor Suratin Lian-udom massed in front of the Phuket Revenue Office on Narisorn Road, before joining fellow PDRC supporters led by Amnuay Kumban and Theerawut Sritularak in front of Phuket Provincial Hall at 9am.

United, the protesters numbered about 1,000 people, said Mr Suratin.

"Although we are divided in our opinions of how the protests should continue, we are united in wanting to show the government how many Phuket residents do not want them to be in power anymore," he told the *Gazette*.

At 9am, the protesters marched from Provincial Hall through the heart of Phuket Town – coursing onto Montri Road to the Surin Circle (Clocktower Circle), then onto Rassada Road, Yaowarat Road, Phang Nga Road, left onto Montri Road and back to Provincial Hall.

That afternoon, protesters mounted vehicles to stage a motorcade that paraded through Kathu, Patong, Kalim, Kamala, Cherng Talay and Thalang, then returned southbound along Thepkasattri Road to Provincial Hall in Phuket Town.

The protests in Phuket coincided with mass rallies in Bangkok led by PDRC leader Suthep Thaugsuban, who is calling for national reforms before another election is held.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

# Chalong police chief moved in wake of extortion charges

By Woranut Pechdee

EXTORTION charges against the Chalong Police have led to the transfer of the station's top officer, Superintendent Krittapas Dazintharasorn.

"We transferred him to Thalung Police Station as the Public-sector Anti Corruption Commission [PACC] is investigating the Chalong Police after a report of extortion was filed by members of the dive industry," explained Provincial Police Commander Ong-art Phiewruangnont.

"Col Krittapas was in Chalong a long time and developed close relationships with his men, which made it hard for him to maintain discipline."

The transfer came after Governor Maitri Inthasut announced on Tuesday that groups led by the Phuket Employment Office staff will check the work permits of all 190 working dive instructors at the 114 dive companies on the island. The immigration documents of dive students will also be checked.

Officers will ensure that instructors have their documents in order and will record the names of all foreign employees, Gov Maitri said.

The investigation stems from events that occurred on March 10, when 20 foreign dive instructors were rounded up at Chalong Pier and taken to the Chalong Police



Chalong Police Superintendent was transferred after a petition was given to PACC Secretary Prayong (left).

Station, where they say they were asked for money but not charged with any crime.

About two weeks later, the Association of Thailand for Underwater Sports (ATUS) met with representatives from dive companies in Phuket to strategize a response.

The group later presented the governor with a document signed by 41 dive instructors who said they

had been extorted by police for amounts between 3,000 and 20,000 baht per month.

After receiving the complaint, Gov Maitri ordered Col Krittapas – who has denied any wrongdoing by his officers – to file a written report by March 28 explaining what had happened.

"That report was filed as required, and has been given to Prayong Preeyachitt, Secretary of

the PACC," Gov Maitri said on Tuesday.

Mr Prayong of the PACC has promised a thorough investigation into the March 10 events and legal action against any officer found guilty of wrongdoing.

Officials will also address lack of clarity in work definitions in dive instructors' work permits.

Additional reporting by Saran Mitrat

## Phi Phi death report refuted

THE chief medical inspector investigating the mysterious deaths of Canadian sisters Noemi and Audrey Belanger on Phi Phi Island in 2012 has dismissed recent reports from the Canadian news network CBC suggesting that the sisters died from aluminum phosphide poisoning.

Dr Pasakorn Akarasewi, Director of the Bureau of Epidemiology at the Ministry of Public Health's Department of Disease Control, told the *Gazette* that though death was likely caused by acute intoxication from a pesticide, "We do not know exactly which one."

"DEET was the only chemical we could find in the two sisters' bodies, according to the autopsy report," he said.

"I have no idea how aluminum phosphide [a pesticide used to control bedbugs in some hotels] came up in the CBC report. According

to our report, the women were found dead in their room at the Phi Phi Palms Residence on June 15, 2012, covered in vomit, with similar signs of trauma on their bodies and blue fingernails and toenails."

Initial autopsies conducted in Thailand identified undisclosed amounts of DEET in the women's systems. Those results were refuted by Quebec coroners, who then conducted secondary autopsies.

Col Phrutthipong Nuchanart, Krabi City Police Superintendent, said it was initially be-



Canadian sisters Noemi and Audrey Belanger. Photo: Gazette file

lieved that the women had drunk a DEET-laced cocktail, then it was thought they had been poisoned by a pesticide in their hotel room.

"We do not know what killed the sisters. This has left us with very little to move forward on. We can't stage a special crackdown on chemicals used in Krabi when we do not know which chemical killed the sisters or how they came to ingest it," he said.

Weerapong Dollar, chief of the Disease Control Department at the Krabi Public Health Office, concurred.

"We inspected the scene and the bodies, but found no traces of chemicals at above-normal levels that could have caused death," he said.

"As we do not know what killed the Belanger sisters, all we can do is continue with our regular health campaigns." – *Irfarn Jamdukor*

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## Cop-avoider lands in ditch

A MAN who sped through a police checkpoint early last Saturday morning was seriously injured when he crashed his pickup truck into a roadside ditch while trying to escape Thalung Police officers.

Ekkapot Fungwittaya, 27, charged through the checkpoint in Thalung just after midnight.

Police gave pursuit and after several kilometers, Mr Ekkapot made a sharp left that landed him in a ditch, said Lt Col Prakob Boonkwan

of the Tah Chat Chai Police.

Mr Ekkapot hurt his back in the crash and could not flee the scene.

"Officers searched the car and did not find anything illegal. We believe he might have thrown something out of the truck during the pursuit," Col Prakob said.

Mr Ekkapot was charged only with evading a police checkpoint, as lack of physical evidence precluded pressing other charges.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*



The pickup was pulled from the ditch and the driver sent to hospital.



# Land-grabber lawsuit

## Officials to press charges against 29 after prolonged police delay

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

OFFICIALS from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) announced a plan on March 26 to sue 29 landowners found to be encroaching on Phuket's Sirinath Marine National Park land.

"Right now we plan to sue the landowners for encroachment onto a total of 1,500 rai. I want to get back as much of Sirinath National Park as we can," said MNRE permanent secretary Chote Trachu.

"We have filed several complaints regarding the issue, but the police investigation has taken too long and has shown no clear plan on how they will penalize the offenders."

The MNRE plans to sue for two different offenses, Mr Chote said.

The first offense deals with landowners that claim rights to land that has been illegally expanded (*Sor Kor Buam*). This means that the land title in question maintains the relative dimensions and shape of the original plot boundaries, but was illegally expanded to cover more land than was first registered.



Park Chief Cheewapap displays a map of allegedly stolen land to MNRE permanent secretary Chote Trachu.

"For the illegal appropriation of land, we can order the immediate removal of any offending buildings," Mr Chote said.

The second offense deals with illegally issued land titles by former park chiefs that allow encroach-

ment onto national park land.

"It might take some time to revoke the land titles signed by former park chiefs because the documents appear to be legitimate, when in fact they were not issued legally," Mr Chote said.

"The investigation by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation into park chiefs illegally signing off on land titles is taking too long. We are hiring our own private lawyers to expedite the process."

## Top lifeguard warns of staff cuts, despite bigger budget

From Page 1

...April 27, and is the first raise after a three-year freeze.

Tourism officer Mr Nararit added that the PPAO has set aside an extra 1mn baht to provide life-saving equipment.

"This will pay for radios, emergency oxygen tanks, binoculars, rescue boards, rescue floats and other essential equipment," he said.

However, Mr Prathaiyut said that the PLC would still have to spend 3mn baht on upgrading equipment.

"The money is not enough to pay for upkeep costs and salaries," he said.

Lifeguards make between 15,000 and 18,000 baht a month, he added.

"We have 108 men working as lifeguards along the beaches each day. If we renew the contract and cut some of the staff, there will only be 88 men on duty - covering the same area - to look after people's lives," Mr Prathaiyut said.

"We have been working hard for three years on the same budget. My staff have never gotten a raise. Cutting down on our numbers is the only way I can do that."

Last year, the PPAO increased the number of lifeguard stations from 33 to 38, although the budget was not raised to support the increase.

"We work hard and save people's lives for little pay. Our lifeguards have big hearts and have in the past even volunteered to do their jobs without payment," said Mr Prathaiyut.

"We might have to ask them to do that again."

## After fatal building collapse, officials reassure underpass is safe

PHUKET Highways Office Director Samak Luedwonghad has called for confidence in the construction of the island's first underpass in the wake of a fatal building collapse which killed 10 people in Samut Prakarn last month.

The Phuket underpass, on the bypass road near the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall, is under construction by the same developer involved in the fatal building collapse: Italian-Thai Development Co Ltd (Ital-Thai).

Following an investigation into the collapse of the medical institute building on the outskirts of Bangkok, the Department of Labour Pro-

tection and Welfare (DLPW) is considering filing a complaint against Ital-Thai for failing to submit a construction site safety plan.

"Please be assured that the Phuket underpass is safe," Phuket Highways Department Director Samak Luedwonghad said.

"Before starting construction, Ital-Thai filed a full safety report to the Highways Department and a full worker safety plan to DLPW."

Mr Samak added that Ital-Thai has filed all its required safety reports for the underpass every month since construction began in November 2012.

"They file all of the different types of safety evaluation reports required, including road safety audits and seismic integrity tests," he said.

"These safety reports are not secret; we can show the public anytime they ask to see them."



The project is on schedule. Photo: Woranut Pechdee



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Thai and Australian police nabbed the men after coordinated efforts. Photo: The Nation

## Huge heroin haul hunted down by Aussie cops

A TOTAL of 147 kilograms of grade-A heroin, with a street value of more than 3 billion baht, was discovered hidden in a frozen seafood container heading to Australia from Ranong.

Two men – one Malaysian and the other Thai – were arrested in the drug bust that stemmed from a month-long operation coordinated by Thai and Australian police.

Secretary-General of the Office of the Narcotics Control Board (ONCB) Pongsapat Pongcharoen, told the press that Malaysian national Yi Yong Ho and his Thai accomplice Kritsana Meenant used a marine-life export company's office in Bang Rin to repackage the narcotics to send them along with the seafood products to Australia.

The Australian Federal Police had previously contacted their Thai counterparts to inquire about a large delivery of heroin that would be sent to Australia, so Thai police decided to investigate the case, Gen Pongsapat said.

On March 25, Mr Yi and Mr Kritsana returned to Ranong to take the drugs to the company's office for re-packaging, Gen Pongsapat said.

The Thai police team had been tailing the pair for nearly a month and decided to arrest them at this point, reported *The Nation*.

The seized heroin carried the 'Lion on Globe' logo, which reportedly originated in Myanmar, Gen Pongsapat said.

# Camps prepare for battle after daylight gun attack

ONE protester was killed and four others injured on Tuesday when gunmen fired in broad daylight at their convoy while travelling on an expressway in Nonthaburi province, in a further inflammation of the political conflict.

The group from the Students and People's Network for Thailand's Reform (STR), travelling in a three-vehicle convoy, were returning from a rally led by core protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban at the Chaeng Wattana rally site. The convoy was hit by gunfire as it was passing a tollgate and entering the expressway.

The slain man was travelling in the lead vehicle with STR leaders, while the four injured protesters were in the following two vehicles. At a press briefing, STR adviser Nitithorn Lamlua said the attack showed that police could not be trusted to protect members of his group, adding that the STR would travel with maximum self-defense capability when conducting future activities, and was ready to counter any threat.

The slain man was identified as STR guard Wasan Khamwong, reported *The Nation*. He was pronounced dead at Ramathibodi Hospital, while the four injured people, including two women, were being treated there.

The risk of political violence has heightened with the two rival groups organizing mass gatherings set for April 5. The pro-government red shirts are set to converge in large numbers around Bangkok, while a key anti-government movement is arranging a meeting of provincial reform councils from across the country at Lumpini Park.

Since November 30, there have been 21 deaths and 733 cases of injuries related to non-Deep South political strife. The first outbreak of violence, at Rajamangala Stadium, between red shirts and Ramkhamhaeng University students saw five people killed.

The latest violence before Tuesday's incident near the Ratchaprasong protest site saw



Anti-government protesters take photos of a picture of their slain comrade placed under a stage in the group's encampment near Government House in Bangkok. Photo: Reuters



two children killed in an M79 grenade attack.

United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship (UDD) chairman Jatuporn Promphan said about 500,000 red shirts would converge at Aksa Road, off Phutthamonthon in western Bangkok. UDD chief adviser Thida Thavornseth said Aksa Road was a good, spacious venue and the gathering on Saturday was also regarded as an exercise that

could serve as preparation for an actual battle.

UDD Secretary-General Nuttawut Saikuar said there would be no confrontation between the red shirts and the anti-government protesters, but the red shirts were ready to enter Bangkok if there were a military coup.

The gathering was organized by local and provincial red-shirt leaders with the aim to ready them for further mobilization, possibly moved further inside Bangkok, in case of any sudden development such as a coup, or the appointment of a non-elected prime minister, Mr Nuttawut said.

A meeting of key UDD leaders was planned to be held on Thursday as the *Gazette* went to print.

Mr Nuttawut called on military leaders not to declare martial law aimed at preventing the red shirts from moving into Bangkok.

Surapong Tovichakchaikul, chief advisor at the government's Centre for the Administration of Peace and Order (CAPO), said police were capable of coping with political gatherings of the two camps under the Internal Security Act.

He said CAPO's chief Chalerm Yoobamrung had repeatedly told Mr Nuttawut to ensure that the red shirts remained peaceful during Saturday's rally.

Army commander-in-chief Prayuth Chan-ocha said the military's stance and security measures remained unchanged to cope with the rallies on April 5.

## Saudi Arabia disappointed in dismissal of high-profile case

THE Saudi Arabian embassy and relatives of a Saudi businessman whose mysterious disappearance 24 years ago upset Thai-Saudi relations voiced disappointment over a court ruling on Monday that dismissed a case against five police officers.

The Embassy's Ministry Head Abdulrah Alsheaiby said he would report the ruling to the Saudi government, which will consider the next moves in regard to bilateral relations, reported *The Nation*.

The Criminal Court dismissed charges in the high-profile trial of five Thai police accused of snatching and murdering Mohammad al-Ruwaili, a Saudi businessman with close links to the Saudi palace, in 1990.

The court said the charges were dismissed because the public prosecutors' evidence was weak and failed to convince the court that the officers had been involved in the murder and kidnapping.

Mr Alsheaiby said at a press conference later he was not surprised by the ruling. His side had doubted the fairness of the trial after learning about the abrupt change of the judge shortly before the ruling.

He described Thai-Saudi relations as being "on-and-off" for a long period and noted "there is nothing that could make it worse".

"My side was already worried that the ruling would not be in line with the facts

after learning that there was a change of judge," he said.

"I want to stress that Saudi Arabia is disappointed with the ruling."

Lawyer Anek Kamchoom said he would certainly submit an appeal, as allowed, within 30 days.

The disappearance of the businessman, along with the theft of invaluable jewels by a Thai janitor from a Saudi palace and the killing of three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok between 1989 and 1990, has severely strained Thai-Saudi relations.

The businessman is thought to have been abducted and killed while police were searching for the jewellery.



Saudi Arabian representatives walk away from the court. Photo: The Nation



# NGO exodus amid crisis in Myanmar

## AROUND THE region

By Jared Ferrie

MYANMAR is on the brink of a humanitarian crisis in Rakhine State after aid workers evacuated the area following riots in the state capital, Sittwe.

At least 20,000 people in displacement camps around Sittwe will run out of drinking water within 10 days, while food stocks will run out within two weeks, imperilling thousands more.

Other communities in the state will be affected, because aid agencies used Sittwe as a staging point to bring supplies to 140,000 people in camps and about 40,000 more in isolated villages.

Aid agencies were forced to halt operations on March 26 when about 400 ethnic Rakhine Buddhists destroyed their homes, offices, warehouses and boats used to transport supplies. Police fired warning shots to quell the rioters and rescue aid workers from the mob, and none were injured or killed.

Riots broke out again the next day and an 11-year-old girl was killed by a stray bullet when police fired warning shots while a 39-year-old woman received a minor gunshot wound, the state-



A Rohingya man looks on as police and a volunteer conduct the national census in Sittwe. Photo: Reuters

run newspaper *New Light of Myanmar* reported.

The evacuations came as Myanmar prepared to launch its first census since 1983, which sparked controversy because it included questions on religion and ethnicity. Rakhine is home to a million mostly stateless Rohingya whom the government refers to as Bengali, implying they are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh.

While "Rohingya" is not listed on the census form, people have the option to check "other" and ask enumerators to fill in their ethnicity. Some Rakhine Buddhists threatened to boycott the census

out of concern that it could lead to official recognition of the Rohingya.

As a symbol of their opposition to the census, Rakhine Buddhists in Sittwe hung prayer flags outside their homes. One flag hung outside the offices of the aid group Malteser International was taken down as it violated the organization's rule against displaying religious or political symbols.

After rumors spread through the city that a female international aid worker had desecrated the flag, about 400 rioters massed outside the aid office and began throwing stones before attacking other NGO

and UN premises, according to an internal UN report.

Government spokesman Ye Htut told reporters last Saturday that census workers would not register people identifying themselves as "Rohingya", but only as "Bengali". Census workers in Rakhine told Reuters they were following the directive.

"All of them are saying themselves that they are Rohingya," said schoolteacher and volunteer enumerator Sein Win.

"Then we need to do nothing, since the order from above is that we don't need to write down a race that does not exist." — *Reuters*

## In brief...

### British nuclear sub joins multinational hunt for MH370

THE search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 was boosted on Wednesday by the arrival of British nuclear submarine HMS *Tireless* ahead of a visit to Australia by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

Despite extensive scouring of remote Indian Ocean waters by planes and ships southwest of Perth, where Malaysia believes the plane went down on March 8 with 239 people on board, nothing has been found so far that would indicate a crash site.

"No significant developments to report," the Australian Maritime Safety Authority tweeted after 10 planes returned from flying sorties on Tuesday evening in a now familiar update on drawing a blank.

— *The Star*

### Susilo calls for eye on slush funds as national poll looms

INDONESIAN President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called for greater scrutiny of social aid fund allocation this week ahead of the national legislative election to be held on April 9.

The president's statement came after the Corruption Eradication Commission announced last week that it had found evidence of irregularities in the disbursement of social aid funds, which under this year's budget total 91.8 trillion rupiah (261.4 billion baht).

Finance Minister Chatib Basri said special attention would be given to "ad-hoc funds" that are prone to misuse, such as the emergency funds used by governors during a disaster.

— *Jakarta Post*

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## In brief...

## 370 children found abandoned by paid human traffickers

IN ONE week, 370 immigrant children, most of them from Central America, were found abandoned in Mexico, after traffickers promised to take them to the United States but left them to their own devices after being paid thousands of dollars, authorities said.

Almost half of them, 163 children under the age of 18, were found travelling alone, Mexico's National Migration Institute (INM) said in a statement.

## Chinese army man accused of selling military positions

A DISGRACED senior Chinese army officer is accused of selling hundreds of military positions, raking in millions of dollars, sources with ties to the leadership or military told Reuters, in what is likely China's biggest military scandal in two decades.

Lieutenant General Gu Junshan, 57, has been charged with corruption, taking bribes, misuse of public funds and abuse of power, state news agency Xinhua said.

## Crimea switches to Russian time zone

THE hands of a clock on the main railway station in Simferopol jumped from 10pm to midnight last Saturday as Crimea switched to Moscow time, symbolically finalizing the region's incorporation into Russia.

## Turkey espionage investigation starts

TURKEY has started an espionage investigation after a discussion between top officials on potential military action in Syria was leaked on YouTube, heralding a possible crackdown on its political opponents after elections last Sunday.

The recording of the meeting between Turkey's intelligence chief, foreign minister and deputy head of the military was by far the most serious breach in weeks of highly sensitive leaks.

## Korean militaries take shots

By Jack Kim

North Korea fired more than 500 rounds of artillery in a drill on Monday and about 100 of them landed in the water south of a disputed maritime border off the western coast of the peninsula, South Korea's defence ministry said.

The South returned fire with more than 300 rounds aimed at an area north of the so-called Northern Limit Line, ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok said, calling the North's action "a test of the South's determination to defend the naval border".

The North had flagged its intentions to conduct the firing exercise in response to the United Nations condemnation of the missile launches last week by Pyongyang and against what it says are threatening military drills in the South by United States forces.

North Korea also accused the South of "gangster-like" behavior at the weekend by "abducting" one of its fishing boats and threatened to retaliate. The South said it had sent the boat back after it drifted into its waters.

One North Korean shell landed in South Korean waters, prompting marines from the South to fire back and Seoul scrambled F-15s on its side of the maritime border, according to defence officials.

The Northern Limit Line, a maritime border that wraps itself round a part of the North's coastline, has been the scene of frequent



People gather at a shelter during a drill on Yeonpyeong island, near the border with North Korea. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

clashes throughout the years.

Earlier that year, a South Korean naval vessel was sunk close to the line by what an international commission said was a North Korean torpedo, although the North denies involvement.

The line was drawn up at the

end of the 1950-53 Korean War and North Korea does not recognize it. The two sides are still technically at war as the conflict ended in a mere truce, not a treaty.

It was not clear how many shells were fired on Monday but the residents of Baengnyeong island, the closest land to the firing area, were evacuated to bomb shelters as a precaution, a local government official said.

North Korea has ratcheted up its rhetoric in recent weeks and conducted a series of missile launches, mostly short range, in

response to what it sees as the threat posed by a series of joint US-South Korean military drills that are held annually.

The current drill called Foal Eagle ends on April 18.

"At a time that South Korea and the US are conducting military exercises using sophisticated equipment, the North is unlikely to be reckless enough to do anything that will lead to a sharp worsening of situation," said Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul.

— Reuters

## Earthquake rocks Chile, sparks tsunami

A MAJOR earthquake of magnitude 8.2 struck off the coast of Chile on Tuesday, triggering a tsunami that pounded the country's northern coast with two-meter-tall waves.

As the *Gazette* went to press on Wednesday, five people had been reported dead as a result of the incident. Officials said the dead included people who were crushed by collapsing walls or were killed by heart attacks.

The United States Geological Survey said the quake was 20.1 kilometers below the seabed and struck about 100km northwest of the mining port of Iquique near the Peruvian border.

The port town of Iquique is more than 1,500km north of Chile's capital Santiago, where the quake was not felt.

Mining in the world's number one copper producer did not appear significantly inter-



Residents were evacuated. Photo: Reuters

rupted, but about 300 prisoners took advantage of the emergency and escaped from a female penitentiary in Iquique.

About 26 of the women were soon recap-

tured, authorities said, while security forces fanned out through the area amid reports of power outages and isolated looting.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center said the quake generated a large tsunami with the biggest wave reported at about two meters. The Chilean navy said the first big wave hit the coast within 45 minutes of the quake.

Photos showed Chileans calmly evacuating coastal areas on foot, with policemen helping bundled-up elderly people and some residents loading up vehicles with their belongings.

The government evacuated Chile's northern coast and President Michelle Bachelet declared the area a disaster zone, promising troops and police reinforcements to maintain public order while damage was repaired after landslides blocked roads.

— Reuters

## Shoot-out during attempted Nigerian jailbreak kills 21

DETAINEES suspected of being members of Islamist militant group Boko Haram overpowered their guards at a prison near Nigeria's presidential villa in Abuja, seizing a rifle and triggering a gun battle that killed 21 people, security officials said.

The prisoners struck last Sunday as the guards from Nigeria's State Security Service (SSS) came in to feed them, SSS spokeswoman Marilyn Ogar said.

The military was deployed to

quell the unrest. Ms Ogar did not say how many of the dead were inmates or security personnel.

Jail breaks by Islamists in Nigeria are common. Boko Haram militants, who are fighting to create an Islamic state in Nigeria and are seen as the main threat to Africa's top oil producer, attacked the main military barracks in the northeast, freeing dozens of prisoners on March 14. Most were killed trying to escape, witnesses on the scene said.

— Reuters

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# Saturdays reimagined

## PROPERTY Gazette

LEADING leisure real estate developers The Attitude Club introduced their latest lifestyle innovation in March with the launch of Saturdays – an oasis of villa-style condos nestled among superior shared facilities, including four swimming pools, a fully-equipped fitness club, library, trendy restaurant and a high-end health spa.

Under the concept “A simple change makes all the difference”, Saturdays condos are designed to give owners very unique, practical living spaces with extra indoor and outdoor corners and dens (dream spaces) to accommodate a wide range of interests and activities.

Each of the one and two-bedroom condo designs, in five distinct styles, have tall, three-meter high ceilings and large three-meter wide balconies letting natural light drench every room, making every day feel like Saturday so you can “sleep less” and “dream more”.

Saturdays is located in a gated community in Baan Saiyuan, Nai Harn, in southern Phuket, where the pace of life is definitely more laid-back and the locale is ideal for all kinds of weekend family activities. Nai Harn Beach, Rawai Pier and the tranquil natural

surroundings are popular with health and raw food fanatics, and there are a multitude of healthy homemade dining options in relaxing restaurants.

In keeping with the tranquil surroundings, Saturdays is a low-density complex of just 119 units covering six rai (9,600sqm). The five Saturdays condo styles are:

**Live (57 square meters)** Although this one-bedroom option is Saturday’s smallest condo, it is considerably larger than average condominiums, making it spacious enough to accommodate a variety of week-end activities – an ideal retreat for seamless, leisurely living.

**Learn (84 sqm)** is a two-bedroom, two-bathroom arrangement with large private balconies off each room providing secluded spaces filled with tropical sunlight and naturally ventilated.

**Love (80sqm)** is a distinctly romantic two-bedroom, two-bathroom arrangement designed exclusively for couples. This amorous and very spacious Saturdays style has a master bedroom with an en-suite bathtub for romantic week-end soaks. The vast living area gives you plenty of space to fill, as well as a perfectly proportioned kitchen.

**Let (88sqm)** is an extra large two-bedroom and two-bathroom setup that can effectively be divided into two separate living spaces, each with its own bathroom and separate entranceway into the living space, so all or part of the property can be rented out at the owner’s convenience.



Saturdays Condo project is located at Nai Harn in tranquil, natural surroundings. Photos: Supplied

**Lux (95sqm)** corner units are the largest and most luxurious of the Saturdays styles with an inspiring open-plan living space and two huge bedrooms that open onto a full-length balcony for a highly luxurious Saturdays experience with a new age ambiance.

“Saturday is usually the only day of the week that we have the chance to finally spend some quality time alone or with family and friends, doing those things we enjoy the most. They are days to focus on fulfilling dreams and taking on personal challenges,” said The Attitude Club director, Kanokpan Pranveerapaiboon.

“It is this passion for week-end pursuits that sparked the inspiration to put Saturdays on the map in south Phuket, where all kinds of sports, leisure and creative activities can be enjoyed in a vibrant, easygoing, international community,” said added.

Saturdays residents will enjoy the exclusive communal facilities, including a well-equipped fitness center and indoor/outdoor meeting places with optional leaseback and holiday rental services on site as well.

Construction of the new development is scheduled to take 24 months, and is set to begin this October and be completed by October 2016.

To get into the weekend groove, visit the Saturdays demonstration unit at the Saturdays project in Saiyuan, near Nai Harn Beach, in south Phuket.

The Attitude Club has a solid track record of providing highly valuable real estate brands to serious investors in quality property and for profitable returns. Starting from 3.7 million baht, Saturdays condos are guaranteed to give owners rental yields of six per cent, per year, over a five-year average – under Two Villas Holiday Limited management.

Investors in Saturdays can also enjoy annual allocation of complementary nights in other properties at the lease-back program in The Attitude Club’s unique collection of projects.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about the project call 081 968-3760, email sales1@theattitudeclub.com or visit: theattitudeclub.com



The project will be completed in 2016; a show unit is available for viewing.



The fantastic communal facilities include four swimming pools.

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# Fear of flying and other tales

## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THE thought of dying is not one of the most pleasant ideas that pops into our collective imaginations from time to time. As I write this, it's only one day after the Malaysian PM delivered an ominous announcement on the finality of flight MH370.

Writing this, my keystrokes are punctuated by the roar of jet engines that have hit cruising altitude en route to Danang, Vietnam. What was that immortal line which Dirty Harry said, "Do I feel lucky? Well, do you punk?" In this case, luck means getting back on firm ground, although anyone who has experienced a Vietnamese taxi driver with more horsepower than common sense might book the next flight out.

Over the past 17 days, both the international media and local table talk has been honed in on what is shaping up to be tragic event. With these conversations going "glocal", "viral" and all the rest, it's hard to imagine what we will talk about when it is finally over.

Within my circle of friends and business contacts, the subject line about fear of flying has been a recurring theme as of late. Trading opinions of which airline is the safest (statistically, it's Qantas) or the concept of perhaps taking a staycation versus bundling up the wife and kids into a plane for an overseas Songkran holiday.

It's been said that what doesn't kill us, makes us stronger – but let's leave that for the self-help circuit and greeting cards. The truth remains that danger does lurk in many unexpected places but fixating on the possibility of an untimely demise, and the many possible scenarios of how it could play out, will only drive you around the bend.

We live, as I have said before, in a golden age of travel. Flying around has never been cheaper and easier. It takes less time to fly to a foreign country from Phuket than to drive from the Sarasin Bridge to Cape Promthep during rush hour. This is not meant to stimulate readers to head to the airport, as last year over five million passengers had a similar idea.

Indeed death and taxes are with us always, hovering above us like agents of doom. Those poor souls leading lives of quiet desperation over conspiracy theories have been known to wrap their heads in tin foil to ward off invisible electronic waves.

So what's the point here? Well the concept of fear, be it the fear of flying, trying something new, embarking on a brave new business concept or just talking to a stranger – is one we shouldn't worry about. This is simply because in the end, we will all be dead anyway. But in the interim period – in this glorious up-and-down life we lead – there are better things to think about instead of the last page of an engrossing novel.

Punch the ticket and take the ride, I say. Tears will come soon enough but in the meantime why be possessed by the endless list of what could go wrong.

Now, when I fly, looking out the window to the horizon spotted with clouds and the ant-like movement of cars thousands of feet below, the question inevitably comes to mind, "What if the plane suddenly takes a nosedive?" Yes, you see, despite my public optimism, I am just like all of you, dancing between the tragic and magic moments of a life lived 365 days a year.

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



Stunning view? Sure... as long as the plane doesn't take a nosedive. Photo: Panoramas



You think you're safer on the ground? Try driving in Vietnam, you might change your mind. Photo: Der tomtomtom



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# Have an expat exit strategy



## Finance

By Don Freeman

IT MAY be too soon to think about leaving Thailand if you have only recently arrived, but it's still worth asking: Do you have an expat exit strategy? If you don't, you could find yourself digging a very deep hole into your savings or illiquid investment accounts in a rush to fund one at the very last minute. With that in mind, here are a few tips to keep in mind when planning for a "proper" expat exit strategy:

### You need to tie up extra emergency funds

Ideally, you should keep liquid emergency fund(s) in both Thai baht to deal with the costs of leaving Thailand and in your home currency to reestablish yourself back home.

### Don't assume you will get your rental deposit back

Never assume, even if you are leaving at the end of your property lease, that you will get back your entire deposit, or any deposit at all for that matter. Likewise, any quick look at an expat forum or listserv will reveal how likely you are to get even a fraction of the value for items like cars, home electronics, furniture and other household goods you might intend to sell to raise extra funds. In other words, do not count rental deposits or assets sales as part of

your expat exit strategy.

### You can't take it all with you

Even if you moved to Thailand using a 40-foot shipping container, what you have accumulated while living here is almost guaranteed to not fit inside whatever you came with and it's definitely going to cost you more to ship it home. Moreover, you will need to check with customs, both in Thailand and your home country, (or a professional relocation company) as what you were able to ship in may not be easily shipped out, or vice versa, without a tremendous amount of paperwork or hassle.

### Maintain a financial track record back home

If you still maintain a property and most of your financial accounts back home, it should not be too difficult to re-settle yourself there. However, and if you have been away for a considerable amount of time and have little financial presence in your home country, just re-opening bank accounts, getting a mobile phone account and finding a place to rent can become a bureaucratic nightmare – especially if you are British or European returning home after a long period as an expat. Even for Americans, it might be difficult to find a place to rent if you lack much of a credit history or credit score. That's why it's important to at least maintain some financial accounts (especially checking accounts and credit



You might not want to leave, but if you're forced to, it's good to have an emergency plan. Photo: Nan Palmero

cards) in your home country in the event you need to return there to live.

### Remember entitlements

Generally speaking, most countries pay pensions to their citizens no matter where they are residing. However, other entitlements like disability and unemployment compensation are usually only for on-shore residents. While in the United States, there are 50 states with potentially 50 different sets of regulations. If you have become disabled or unemployed while living as an expat abroad, be aware you may have a tough time or you may not even qualify for entitlements even after you return home.

### Check your health insurance

### and keep medical records

For Americans in particular, who aren't retired, health insurance and health care tends to be much more expensive back home than abroad. Therefore, you should have an expat health insurance plan that works in your home country or is convertible to a local plan in the event you return home. Likewise, don't forget to bring all of your medical records home with you and remember that it could be difficult to reconnect with doctors back home.

### Don't forget taxes

For Americans who never escape from filing income taxes and from the reporting of their worldwide income or assets, returning home might actually be easier than for

other nationalities who once they re-establish residency in their home country, could find themselves owing substantial taxes on any off-shore income, assets or investments. In other words, consult with a tax expert from your country before you return home and reestablish your residency there.

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

## Bitcoin currency sparks BOT warning

THE BANK of Thailand has issued a warning over the digital currency Bitcoin, which cannot be used to repay debts legally in this country despite its popularity worldwide.

The central bank says people should study such virtual units and their volatility risks. They face high fluctuations and have no connection with the real economies. Bitcoin holders risk losing money from rapid drops in value.

Bitcoin was introduced in 2008 by programmers under the name of Satoshi Nakamoto and has since gained traction with merchants around the world. The digital currency has no central issuing

authority, and uses a public ledger to verify transactions. Others similar to Bitcoin are Litecoin, Peercoin and Namecoin.

The digital currencies can be traded for dollars, euros and other currencies on online exchanges, established by individuals or groups with exchange rates set. But since Bitcoin and other crypto-currencies exist as bits of software, they can be stolen if unauthorized access is made to the computers or servers connected to the Internet that store those files.

There also remains a protection risk to users as virtual currencies are not a recognized medium for payment under Thai law. They can

disappear through theft or mismanagement.

"Transfer data is difficult to find as evidence if a user files a lawsuit. It's different from a bank transfer or payment under public-sector supervision with a monitoring system," the central bank said.

"Bitcoin and other electronic data units are not counted as money for legal payment. They do not have their own values. Values move along with demand of groups trading them with fast movement. Their value can be [zero] when no one needs them," the central bank said.

### Speculation

Such electronic data units are held on speculation, given their fast changes in value, traded on exchanges for real money and used for purchase of products and services.

However, last month Mt Gox, once the world's largest Bitcoin exchanges, filed for bankruptcy in Japan. The company believed there was a high possibility that Bitcoins had been stolen. The currency's value dropped sharply.

The turmoil left investors and Bitcoin holders facing catastrophic losses, while central banks in several countries issued warnings to people about the risks of electronic data units.

– *The Nation*

## New F&B EAM starts at Centara Grand Karon

PAUL Orny, a French national and graduate of the prestigious Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne in Switzerland, has been appointed as executive assistant manager for food and beverage at Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket.

Mr Orny brings more than 8 years experience to his new role, having worked at leading hotels such as Centara Grand Beach Resort & Villas, Hua Hin; Aleenta Resort and Spa Phuket, Phang Nga; and Novotel Bangkok on Siam Square.

A resident in Thailand for more than seven years, Mr Orny spoke to the *Gazette* about some of the challenges facing him in his new position.

"One of my main challenges will be to grow our appeal in the local market and keep our offers fresh and appealing. We already have amazing facilities and we are developing a new beach club called the Beachcomber which is directly on the sand of Karon Beach. We are very lucky to have direct access to one of Phuket's best beaches," he said.

"We have also relaunched our Sunday brunch, which is very popular, and it will now take place every Sunday," he added.

After graduating from Ecole Hoteliere de Lausanne with a Bachelor's Degree in Hospitality Management, Mr Orny has worked in various roles in the

hospitality industry in Europe and Asia.

"I've now been working for almost nine years in the hospitality industry, as well as casual roles in Switzerland and management training in Indonesia, Switzerland and Thailand, I have also worked in Bangkok, Phang Nga and Hua Hin, mostly in food and beverage departments."

Mr Orny added that he relished the opportunity to work in Phuket and looked forward to taking advantage of the sporty, beach side lifestyle the island is famous for.

I knew a lot about Phuket prior to my return this year, as I worked on a management training program in 2001 with Baan Rim Pa in Patong.

– *Phuket Gazette*



Paul Orny. Photo: Supplied



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# SilkAir marks 25 years serving Phuket

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

FULL-service regional carrier SilkAir, a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, celebrated its silver anniversary in Phuket on Saturday, as its chief executive highlighted the company's growth goals.

Phuket was one of the five original destinations for the regional airline when it was re-branded from Tradewinds Airline to SilkAir on April 1, 1992. The number of destinations served by the carrier will have increased to 47 in 12 countries this year, after Kalibo in the Philippines is added on May 27 and Mandalay in Myanmar is added on June 10.

"This marks an exciting milestone of one of the most reputable regional airlines in the airline industry," said Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa at the celebratory dinner.

"I would like to thank SilkAir for its commitment to operating in Phuket since 1989. It has definitely contributed to the local economy and has been a great help in establishing Phuket as a world-class tourist destination."

Though SilkAir plans to continue to increase its capacity and number of regional destinations, it will stay committed to the Thai market, explained SilkAir Chief Executive Leslie Thng.

"We remain committed to the

long-term success of this route, increasing Phuket's appeal as a popular tourist destination, and providing even better connectivity for the residents of Phuket," Mr Thng said.

Mr Thng explained the Asia's changing aviation landscape had strengthened SilkAir's branding and position as a full-service regional carrier.

The company's value proposition to customers relies heavily on the SilkAir-Singapore Airlines network, which allows easy onward connections to 98 destinations in 36 countries. The company's latest campaign "A Joy to Fly" emphasizes the full service offerings of SilkAir, noting baggage allowance, inflight meals and KrisFlyer miles. Additionally, the company is looking to introduce wireless inflight entertainment systems later this year.

"As we reflect on our 25 years here in Phuket, I would like to take a moment to place on the record my thanks for all the hard work and commitment of our staff in Phuket. From incidents like the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004, and airport closure by demonstrators in 2008, our staff have always rallied together and risen to the challenge, ensuring smooth handling of our passengers and flights during these trying times," concluded Mr Thng.



Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa and SilkAir Chief Executive Leslie Thng celebrate the company's silver anniversary. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

## The SilkAir network in Asia

**Australia:** Darwin.

**Cambodia:** Phnom Penh, Siem Reap.

**China:** Changsha, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Shenzhen, Wuhan, Xiamen.

**India:** Bangalore, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram, Visakhapatnam.

**Indonesia:** Balikpapan, Bandung, Lombok, Makassar, Manado, Medan, Palembang, Pekanbaru, Semarang, Solo, Surabaya, Yogyakarta.

**Malaysia:** Kota Kinabalu, Kuala Lumpur, Kuching, Langkawi, Penang.

**Myanmar:** Yangon, Mandalay (from May 27, 2014).

**Nepal:** Kathmandu.

**Philippines:** Cebu, Davao, Kalibo (from May 27, 2014).

**Thailand:** Chang Mai, Koh Samui, Phuket.

**Vietnam:** Da Nang, Hanoi.

**Singapore.**



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**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**  
**EXOTIC  
EASTER  
FEAST**  
International BBQ Buffet



**Friday 25<sup>th</sup>**

**FIESTA  
MAXICAN**  
All you can eat





# Backfilling the future

IT IS sad, but not surprising, that it took a recent public intervention to finally stop a well-known local businessman from backfilling an important water storage reservoir on the island (pages 4-5; related health issues pages 36-37).

Given our nation's growing reputation internationally as a hotspot for protests, it is difficult to fathom why so few demonstrations on the island are ever fomented by the most painfully obvious of abuses: those to the environment that sustains us.

As every local resident knows all too well, Phuket has gone through its longest drought in 30 years. It has easily been the most severe drought we have faced since the post-tsunami water shortage in early 2005, when the island was still reeling from the horrible effects of sea-water inundation that swept away everything in its path.

Humankind's relationship with water could not run any deeper. Not only is water the very medium in which our prehistoric ancestors first evolved, it also still comprises most of our body mass. With the exception of air, water is perhaps the single greatest resource we all take for granted: until our supply is disrupted, of course.

The ability to manage and plan water supplies is a key indicator of the success of any society, and our greatest civilizations are all testaments to human ingenuity in water management. However, even in this new millennium, we are confronted with outrageous abuses to this most precious shared resource.

Here in Phuket, we are blessed with more than abundant natural rainfall throughout most of the year, yet our inability to store enough of it for use during the dry season is woefully inadequate, especially in the face of the island's ongoing population growth.

HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej has consistently held water-related issues as his top priorities throughout many decades of enlightened rule.

Rather than apply an island-wide approach, water-supply management needs to be based on HM The King's "monkey cheeks" theory that emphasizes the use of small, community-run supply sources. Nonetheless, the Bangkok-based Provincial Water Authority continues to periodically raise the fallacious idea of pumping water all the way from the Chiao Lan Reservoir in Surat Thani. This is an ill-conceived and highly impractical project, albeit one with mega-potential for corruption.

Lacking any large, natural water bodies, Phuket is nevertheless fortunate to have a landscape covered in tin mining ponds. It is just these water storage areas that must be protected as they may sustain us through dry seasons.



## Don't spend your whole holiday drinking

*Re: Gazette online, Drunk Aussie tourist marks rough landing in Phuket, March 29*

There's more to do in Thailand than drink. Yes, beer is cheap and Bangla Road exciting.

But there are also beaches, people, scooters, jungles, waterfalls and temples. Get out, see them and enjoy yourself

David Thomsen  
Facebook

### ...and sometimes it's not drink that does it

*Re: Gazette online, Drunk Aussie tourist marks rough landing in Phuket, March 29*

Has any body stopped to consider he may have had a sleeping pill like Valium and a few drinks because he was scared of flying? That would explain why he was still asleep and also excuse the flight staff.

Simon Doyle  
Facebook

### To solve problems, sit down and talk

*Re: Gazette online, Phuket lounge chair touts battle boot campers for beach space, March 27*

After 13 years of dealing with situations very similar to this, I can tell you there is only one way this can have a positive outcome for the boot campers. Well, two actually.

Either restrict your activities to times when the tide is low, or swallow your pride, sit down with the beach chair touts for just a few minutes with a case of beer and a smile. Get to know them by name and speak politely.

If you do one of these, you will quickly find your problems disappear. They see this as their "turf" and you are invading it. Right or wrong, this is how things work here.

Nomad Joe  
Gazette forum

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Freedom to chop

*Re: Gazette online, Carving a niche in the black market, March 30*

The "justice" system is backed by a culture that facilitates – if not downright encourages – crime.

With this story (thank you, Gazette and Irfan Jamdukor) we now have proof positive that illegal logging is a great business in Thailand, offering huge opportunities with almost zero downside.

Nandoor  
Gazette forum

### Other places to look for park encroachers

*Re: Gazette online, Officials to sue 29 for Phuket national park encroachment, March 28*

I hope they look into the edifice that has been built as an exclusive beach club on the northern end of Layan Beach. Isn't this part of the national park?

Layan was one of most unspoiled beaches on the island, but is now polluted with head-banging music day and night. How the hell did they get permission for that?

Uncle Roy  
Gazette forum

### Garbage duties rest with chair operators

*Re: Gazette online, Karon black water strikes again, flows across trash-covered beach, March 28*

I think examination of the garbage could give a clue as to its source.

If it is from people sitting on the beach, the beach chair operators

should clean it up, as they are making money on a public beach and occupy most of the space.

This should be an absolute requirement for doing business on a public beach, and it's even in their own interest to do so.

Anon  
Gazette forum

### The power of groups against graft...

*Re: Gazette online, PACC dives in on extortion charges, March 27*

Good luck to you guys. It is about time someone took a stand, and it is much more credible as a group – safer too, hopefully!

I am sure there are a lot of supporters for you all over the Island.

James Bond  
Gazette forum

### ...others would do well to follow suit

*Re: Gazette online, PACC dives in on extortion charges, March 27*

Well done to the dive groups. Now how about all of the bars and entertainment venues who pay the police every month forming an association and putting an end to this corrupt practice?

Bjay  
Gazette forum

### Unfair to put blame on Phuket or Russia

*Re: Gazette online, Russian withdrawal: Chinese tourist scammed out of B400,000, March 31*

I'm sorry that Mr Sun lost money to thieves. However, from the information given, it's not clear that the skimming happened in Phuket.

Skimmers may keep card numbers for long periods of time before using them.

Face the facts  
Chalong

## Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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The views expressed in the Phuket Gazette are those of the writers and contributors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Publisher, the Editor, the shareholders or the directors of The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd.

**Volume 21 Issue 14**

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# Double jeopardy: too much, too fast

## FIRST PERSON

WHEN I was voted into office, some people doubted my ability to perform well as a senator. I am proud to say I worked, at the very least, as well as my male counterparts – with honesty and willingness, focusing on the common good rather than personal gain.

My proudest achievement is the major upgrade to Phuket International Airport. As I was the chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Tourism, I asked committee members to come to Phuket and see for themselves how poorly the airport facilities served the millions of tourists who come to the island each year.

The committee saw firsthand how poor the airport restrooms were, for example. Even the tap water was very dirty and stank. They also heard reports from officers of how tourists sometimes waited three to four hours to clear check-in, immigration and customs, and saw for themselves how the departure lounges were far too small for the number of passengers waiting to board planes.

After that fact-finding visit in 2009, an emergency budget of 30 million baht was provided for immediate, short-term improvements. But soon after, the full plans for the 5.7-billion-baht expansion currently underway were drawn up and presented to the Cabinet, which quickly approved it.

At this stage, I strongly believe that ensuring Phuket's tourism industry remains sustainable is our top priority. Phuket is famous



Former Phuket Senator **Tunyaratt Achariyachai**, 59, represented Phuket in Thailand's Upper House for six years. She graduated with a master's degree in public administration from Manila University in the Philippines.

Here, Ms Tunyaratt identifies her proudest achievements during her term as senator and what she still sees as the critical issues facing Phuket.

worldwide as a tourist destination and the island generates an enormous income from tourism for Thailand.

Yet, as Phuket has become more developed, the very things that attract tourists and form the cornerstone of our tourism industry have been placed in jeopardy.

I would like to see Phuket's natural beauty rejuvenated as the island's key attraction. The top priority here is to stop all encroachment onto national parks, protected forests and beaches.

We also need to control how many operators work on the beach. We cannot have too many, as this will cause too much friction through competition and other problems later on as more and more people try to set up their patch on the sands. For example, we cannot have beaches overrun by beach umbrella operators, otherwise there will be no space for tourists to enjoy the beach.

We also need more community projects bringing together local residents and tourism business operators to maintain the cleanli-

ness of our beaches.

I can remember how beautiful Phuket's beaches were. I would like to restore them to their former glory so everyone can understand how special Phuket really is.

Another critical issue is personal security. Phuket already does not have enough police officers, but the number of tourists coming to the island and the number of people moving here to call Phuket home keeps on rising.

It is very difficult for the current number of police officers to protect all these people, to keep them and their property safe from harm.

Setting up CCTV networks is one way of protecting against many forms of street crime, such as bag snatchings and other forms of robbery, but other types of crime are much harder to guard against. And once criminals realize they can get away with a particular type of crime, they will keep doing it.

I did my best to tackle these issues and I hope the new senator will continue the fight to protect and serve Phuket.



It's possible to enjoy the world without going far away. Photo: Takeaway

## Travel a la carte

### Island View

By Maciek Klimowicz

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

WHEN I first came to Thailand, I came to travel. I went north and south, south and east. Sadly, since I moved here permanently, I find myself lacking the time to explore this country, and if I manage to secure some time off, I travel abroad. Luckily, there is a way to travel even when short on time and without having to venture too far away – through food.

These are everyday journeys, at breakfast, lunch and dinner. Mornings are the time to visit my home country – three years in and I still have trouble digesting the Thai breakfast menu: *jok? Moo ping?* Thank you, but no thank you. I'll stick to my soft-boiled eggs, my fresh bread and my coffee.

It's lunch time when I'm more eager to explore – like during one of my recent lunch breaks at work when, together with other *Gazette* editors and reporters, we headed to a small, local Isaan restaurant.

Without traveling hundreds of miles and spending hours on buses or thousands of baht on plane tickets, we hopped right into the aromatic world of northeastern Thailand. Spicy *laab moo tod*, crunchy *yam pla duk foo*, refreshing *som tam khai khem* and fat-dripping grilled pork and chicken.

Every bite and every sniff of

fresh mint, chili and lime was like a discovery, transporting us from our table to somewhere far, far away. Had we chosen a different eatery, we could have been dining in Chiang Mai via a bowl of steaming hot *khao soi* or in the Deep South by means of a thick *kaeng tai pla*. All this without getting up from our table.

Evenings are often a time for more distant travels. I find myself in need of a visit to Italy, by way of pasta or a slice of pizza. I don't mind a stop in Texas thanks to a slab of BBQ ribs, or a Russian escapade when munching on some dumpling and borscht. A region I visit frequently is northern India and Nepal, with its *dall baht*, ginger pork and *baji* – I'm lucky to have these in their best incarnation: homemade.

After this extravaganza, going back to a bowl of Phuket's *mee hokkien* or the ocean-scented *hamok talay* feels like coming back home. And I feel blessed to be able to call Phuket my home – here, the whole world is on my plate.

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

### Teddy bears are fair game, but not cash

I went to a fair recently and was surprised to see gambling booths.

In one case, a ball fell down a maze of nails on a board and landed in a numbered pocket. Fairgoers put money on the number they thought it would land on, and won money if their number was correct. Another booth had a roulette-style game.

Is it legal to gamble at fairs?

Wary game-watcher,  
Phuket

**Somkiet Namchaa, Senior Sergeant Major of the Phuket City Police, replies:**

Gambling is illegal in Thailand. It is not allowed anywhere, not even at fairs.

People can play games of skill at a fair and win prizes, such as teddy bears. However, it is against

the law to bet money on a game.

We have occasionally closed down booths of this type at local fairs. If you see one, please inform the nearest police station.



If your prize is money, you've gambled. Photo: Gazette file

### Underpass causing jams 10km away?

My commute to work southbound on Thepkasattri Road got about 50 per cent longer in the last few weeks. Traffic is backed up starting at the Heroines' Monument or north of that every day.

Is this connected to the underpass construction at the Tesco Lotus intersection 10km away?

Stuck in traffic  
Koh Kaew

**Rungrit Rattanapagdee, Phuket City Traffic Police Inspector, replies:**

There are several reasons for the tailbacks on Thepkasattri Road, the main one being the construction work at the Samkong intersection that you mentioned.

The normal three lanes north-south at the intersection have been reduced to one, so we've taken steps to try to ease congestion

there. One of these steps is to shorten the green traffic light at the Koh Kaew intersection. This helps reduce bottlenecks at the Samkong intersection, but has contributed to the backup from the Heroines' Monument.

The second factor that slows traffic down on Thepkasattri Road is the u-turns. Cars making u-turns often block the traffic behind them. In the past we have tried closing these turns, but it didn't help. We are considering other methods to solve this problem.

The last factor is the traffic light at the Bang Khu intersection, which is not functioning correctly. The timing is off and sometimes the green light is long, sometimes short. We put in a request to the Highways Department to fix it earlier this month.

We have one more plan to ease

congestion on the Thepkasattri-bypass-Samkong route: We will encourage Patong-bound traffic that is headed south on Thepkasattri Road to avoid the Samkong intersection by travelling to Kathu using Nanachart Road, which passes the British International School.

By easing congestion at the Samkong intersection we should be able to ease congestion on Thepkasattri Road too.

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

Submit your issue at

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



## YOUR Phuket



Number 1 hit soul artist from Canada EKA took the stage in honor of DJ Josh Ezelle at Surin's Diamond Beach Club.

## 'Music is my Life'



DJ Eddy Frampton spins some funky house beats as EKA lays down some vocals.



Two lucky winners won vinyls from DJ Josh Ezelle's collection.



A dancer feels the vibe at 'Music is my life'.

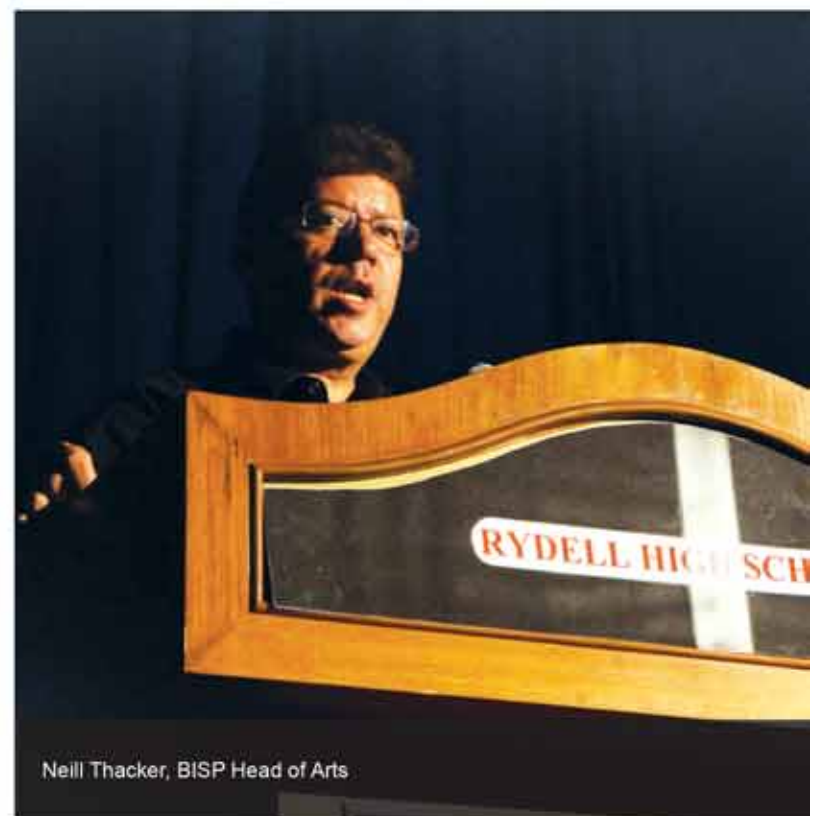


Members of the crowd danced as more than 40k baht was raised to support the education of Josh's son.

## Grease Musical



The Pink Ladies (played by Siska Greene, Maria Sukhareva, Cassandra Sherlock, Madelynn Thacker) and Sandy (Hannah Willoch)



Neill Thacker, BISP Head of Arts



Leading lady of Grease Sandy played by 14 year old BISP student Hannah Willoch



Eugene (Max Cloesen) and Sandy (Hannah Willoch)



The T-Birds (played by Matthew McGoldrick, Finn De Bruin, Jack O'Brian, Archie Plunkett) and leading male BISP student 16 year old Danny (Carl Ydmark)



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

# ISLAND TRADER

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

April 5 - 11, 2014 | [PhuketGazette.Net](http://PhuketGazette.Net)

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

## PROPERTY of the week



### CONDO FOR SALE

See page 23

## JOB of the week



HUGHES  
KRUPICA

See page 27

## PROPERTY SERVICES of the week



See page 25

## BOAT & MARINE of the week

LEE MARINE  
*International Marine Brokerage*  
SINCE 1997



See page 31

All Property, Boat and Business Ads are **PAID!**

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

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







## Properties For Sale

**30 RAI IN TOWN**

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Please call 081-691 25 26

**NEWLY RENOVATED POOL VILLA**

Newly renovated, Balinese style, 3-bed pool villa, set in 700sqm land, walking distance to beach. 10 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245 (English). Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

**HABITIA KOH KAEW FOR SALE**

Modern style, Sino-Portuguese, area: 36.50sq wah with 118sqm living space approximately. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car park. Sale down payment 500,000 baht. Tel: 087-270 90 93.

**THIDA HOUSE 27MB**

Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2-bed room, 2-bathroom, living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. For more information, please call 081-535 75 85, 084-119 4262.

**LAND NEAR KATA CENTER FOR SALE**

Great location, road access, 5 minutes to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm + 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. Re-sale down 150,000 baht. Tel: 089-772 7012. Email: gyb\_giff@yahoo.com

**HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG**

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

**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. 2.2 million baht. Please call 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

**CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE**

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.

**PRICED TO SELL**

Patong. 5 separate luxury apartments in one block, each 100sqm, fully furnished and very large pool. Beautiful location, sea and mountain view. Freehold and Thai company limited. Would consider exchange for villa in Rawai area. Finance available. Massively reduced price 11.9 million baht. Tel: 081-271 7092.

**Baan Yamu Residences**

**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

**POOL VILLA MISSION HEIGHTS**

3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, huge living room, large swimming pool, priced 12 million baht or 15 million baht, depending on your needs. For more information, please call 076-528024, 087-060 8400 (English). Email: picharly@gmail.com

**BEAUTIFUL POOL VILLA**

For sale. Big garden, 15m pool, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office, quality furniture, new condition, security, freehold. Please call 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com, www.villa-sale-phuket.com

**Mark Smith Properties**

**THE EMERALD CENTRAL**  
- STUDIO & 1 BEDROOM 39 SQM  
- CLOSE TO SHOPPING CENTER AREA  
- FULLY FURNISHED  
- FREEHOLD  
**2,350,000 THB**  
DIRECT FROM OWNER

**THE EMERALD TERRACE**  
- APARTMENT- 39 SQM  
- PATONG SEA VIEW  
- FREEHOLD  
**4,950,000 THB**  
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**KATA OCEAN VIEW**  
- APARTMENT- 91 SQM  
- SEA VIEW  
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- THE BEST LOCATION  
**5,600,000 THB**  
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http://marksmithproperties.com

**080-141 6040** More info: <http://marksmithproperties.com>



## Properties For Rent

**FOR RENT  
CHALONG-  
RESIDENCE**

Poolvilla with seaview, terraces, 5 bedrooms with ensuite, on 1 rai of land. A huge 685sqm of living area, big hall, office, maid room, European kitchen, fully furnished. Sala, attractive pool and bar area, alarm system security. Located opposite Wat Chalongs on the way up to the hill. Rent: 140,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-654 4011, 089-404 0737. Email: schulz.th@gmx.de

**LUXURY POOLFRONT  
CONDO**

Beautiful, fully furnished 2-bed/2-bath condo in Cape Panwa. 3 months minimum on rental. 35,000 baht per month. Direct pool access. Tel: +61 045-890 2692 (English), +61 042-499 9379 (English). Email: cindy@cindysgallery.com

**HOUSE  
FOR RENT OR SALE**

Fully furnished house for rent or sale. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Only 16,500 baht per month or 4.2 million baht for sale. Available April 1, 2014. Tel: 081-956 1660, +61 04-303 5856 (English & Thai). Email: sar\_seal@yahoo.com

**KATA SEAVIEW  
APARTMENT**

Fully furnished, quiet, Kata Hill. Tel: 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

**BEST SEAVIEW UNIT**

Large 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Ao Po Marina close by. 40,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-078 9707. Email: kiwigolfpro@outlook.com

**SEAVIEW CONDO  
IN TOWN**

For rent. 1 bed, kitchen, living room, furnished, pool, fitness, guard. 15-16,000 baht monthly. Tel: 081-895 3628.

**PATONG NICE SEAVIEW  
CONDO**

Immaculate 14th floor unit, quality renovation. Please send email for video tour. Tel: 086-757 1362. Email: peteroconnor1980@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT  
CHALONG**

2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons, fully furnished. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-266 7191.

**PATONG TOWER  
BEAUTIFUL CONDO**

Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, town and mountains. Large outdoor patio and wrap-around balcony. Completely renovated, internet and washing machine. Available now. Email: patongtowerrental@yahoo.com For further details, please see our website at www.PatongTowerRental.com

**THAI VILLA AND POOL**

Luxury 2 bedrooms in Nai Harn, long term: 37,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-270 51 26. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

**B.L. APARTMENT**

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

**KARON BEACH CONDO**

Oceanfront, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 167sqm, one minute walk to beach. 14.5 million baht. Lease with option? Rent? Please call 090-008 503, +10-40 6728 1124. Email: rtj1111@yahoo.com

**RAWAI POOL VILLA  
3-BED, 2-BATH**

2-storey house, 140sqm, 3x7m pool, furnished, 6 months: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-226422, 085-478 8010 (English). Email: c9000@gmx.de

**3-BEDROOM HOUSE  
FOR RENT**

Located between Tesco Lotus and Bangkok Phuket Hospital, opposite Club House Pool. Tel: 081-892 4311. For further details, please see our website at http://sites.google.com/site/phuketvillasamkong

**CONDO AT  
ROYAL PLACE**

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

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, small garden, quiet area. Rent: 18,000 baht per month. Please call 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

**PATONG 54SQM  
STUDIO APARTMENT**

Modern unit, large pool, gym, maid, free WiFi, cable, parking. From 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

**PATONG CONDO**

58sqm, 5 minutes walk to the Beach, fully furnished, parking, 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-181 1965.

**TOP DESIGN VILLA**

Direct from owner, 450 sqm, pool, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, private elevator, close to BIS and Royal Phuket Marina. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-060 2060.

**LUXURY POOL  
VILLA**

Near Laguna, live tropical garden, has all. Lease: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-594 4067.

**HOUSE IN LIPON**

1 storey, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 aircons, 1 car park, 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-508 3516.

**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

**KATA BEACH  
APARTMENTS**

1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, aircon, jacuzzi. Tel: 086-595 8512, 081-970 4638. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

**TOWNHOUSE  
PHUKET TOWN**

In Supalai City Hill Estate, very quiet, safe, convenient. 3 years old, 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, decorated, shady garden, well-maintained by original owner. For sale: 2.8 million baht ono. Or long-term rent: 10,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 089-874 0061. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

**RENT APARTMENT  
PATONG**

Condo: pool, security, 46 sqm, fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

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.com

March 3 to 7. Sign up - [photography@panda bed.com](mailto:photography@panda bed.com)  
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Our customers need urgently apartment rentals up to 25,000 baht per month, and house rentals up to 40,000 baht per month. For long and short-term contracts. Only Kata, Karon, Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong. Tel: 082-420 7052. Please call or visit our website at [www.stayonphuket.com](http://www.stayonphuket.com)

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: natawa paeng@gmail.com

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 in side. Email: [osa.com@me.com](mailto:osa.com@me.com) The best choice for living! For further details, please see our website at <http://coolrent.com>

Special rate. Daily, 2 weeks and monthly. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: [nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com](mailto:nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com)

L-desk, wardrobe, couch, TV, motorbike, table & chairs, and much more. 18/22 Bang Bon Rd, Kamala. Tel: 092-323 7078. Email: tucsonhouse forrent@yahoo.com

Floating bean bags for your pool or private chair at the beach. Hot selling! Zee Zee Interior. Tel: 076-620095. Email: [office@zeezeeinterior.com](mailto:office@zeezeeinterior.com) For further details, please see our web site at [www.zeezeeinterior.com](http://www.zeezeeinterior.com)

Or other times on appointment until March 30. At house 23/131 Boat Lagoon. Be quick as most items are almost new and well priced. Big fridge, freezer, carpets, 3 near new beds/mattresses, table and chairs, floorlamps, desk cabinets, TV cabinets, kitchen cabinets, Chinaware and crockery, 2 leather armchairs new, outside table and chairs, dressing table. Please call 093-757 4608.

**GATE 3**

**See more classified ads at [www.phuketgazette.net](http://www.phuketgazette.net)**

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



# Island Job Mart

## PROJECT SECRETARY (THAI) WANTED

At least 3 years experience in the construction industry. Able to speak, write and read English and Thai. Full understanding of Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook and Word). Salary based on experience, excellent benefits. Send your CV to [info@avcpuket.com](mailto:info@avcpuket.com)

## RECEPTIONIST WANTED

For small guesthouse near the beach in Patong. Good salary and benefits. Some spoken and written English and computer skills preferred. Contact John. Tel: 092-069 7408. Email: [jmls@iinet.net.au](mailto:jmls@iinet.net.au)

## EARN 30,000-120,000 BAHT/MONTH

Cruise ship staff needed. Work 3-7 month shift. All expenses paid. Must speak English. Tel: 093-728 1003 (English). Send resume / photo to [jobs@sea-staffing.com](mailto:jobs@sea-staffing.com)

## PR & MARKETING

The View Condominium.  
- Female, 20-35 years.  
- To promote the property with prospective customers at our booth  
- Coordinate with recruiters  
- Collaborate with team  
- Language: English and Russian or English and Chinese. Tel: 086-439 9996, 081-666 6622. Email: [sales@theviewphuket.com](mailto:sales@theviewphuket.com), [info@theviewphuket.com](mailto:info@theviewphuket.com)

## KARON CLIFF

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

## RESORT STAFF WANTED

Urgently: night reception, housekeeping, restaurant and kitchen staff. Tel: 076-613903, 089-723 1128 (Thai), 085-227 8864. Email: [yusies@gmail.com](mailto:yusies@gmail.com)

## MARKETING ASSISTANT

Proficient in Word, Excel, uni graduate preferred. Photo shop online experience valued highly. Tel: 081-205 3932.

## PHP PROGRAMMER

Seeking a PHP programmer with experience in Code Igniter for a long-term project. Tel: 094-316 6005 (English & Thai). Email: [john@jpdigitaltech.com](mailto:john@jpdigitaltech.com)

## ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUIDES

Phi Phi Island. We are looking for 2 English-speaking guides for our overnight boat tour which leaves from Phi Phi Don. The job is to entertain and keep our customers safe. If you look after our customers well, we will look after you. Contact Siripan. Tel: 087-382 9163.

## NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Brainy House is looking for part-time native English teachers. Start as soon as possible. Tel: 076-522822, 080-907 7466 (English & Thai). Email: [keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com](mailto:keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com)

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to [Um@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Um@PhuketGazette.net)

## The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## 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](mailto:Anna@PhuketGazette.Net)

## The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

## VILLA MANAGER (LIVE IN)

Manager of house team, House keeper, Food & Beverage, Repairs. Excellent spoken English, leadership, service-minded skills. Own car. Tel: 087-881 0003. Send CV to [hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com](mailto:hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com)

## COOK / CHEF

Cook wanted in a small Ban Moon noodle bar, to cook basic Thai and European food. Room available as part of wages. Tel: 083-690 7014 (English). Please call or email [micknppr@hotmail.com](mailto:micknppr@hotmail.com)

## YOGA TEACHER WANTED

Qualified yoga instructor to teach at PhuketFit Resort. Please apply with resume and qualifications. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

## 3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT

Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai national only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

## LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

Aged 25 years or older, permanent resident of Phuket, Russian speaking with excellent knowledge of English and preferably Thai. Official papers (no benefits, work permit), salary starts from 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-870 2796. Please send CV to [opaopa543@mail.ru](mailto:opaopa543@mail.ru)

## FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER

New 4-star hotel in Malaysia looking for young and energetic expat to run the food and beverage department. Previous experience in similar position not required but this position requires a strong kitchen background. Email: [Nazri@an-casanet.com](mailto:Nazri@an-casanet.com)

## ASSISTANT MANAGER, KHAO SOK

Our Jungle House is the top resort in Khao Sok, Surat Thani. Qualifications: Thai national only, minimum 2 years experience in resort, must truly love nature, excellent English and computer skills. Tel: 081-417 0546. Email: [ourjunglehouse1985@gmail.com](mailto:ourjunglehouse1985@gmail.com) For further details, please see our website at <http://khaosokaccommodation.com>

## RESTAURANT STAFF

New restaurant "Thai Basil". Bartender: 15,000 baht. Waiters/waitresses: 14,000 baht plus tips. Manager: 25,000 baht. Soi Bangla, 58/7-8, contact between 4pm and 7pm. Email: [office@thai-basil.phuket.com](mailto:office@thai-basil.phuket.com)

## JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

To assist with the accounting tasks, including accounts receivable. Good spoken / written English and pleasant personality are a must. Tel: 076-227281, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-227073. For further information on the job, please see our website at [www.aquamaster.net/job.html](http://www.aquamaster.net/job.html)

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

### CHALONG

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

### PATONG

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

### PHUKET CITY

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

### CHERNG TALAY

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

### RAWAI

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

### KARON

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

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



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Gazette Online Classifieds – 10,000 readers every day!



**HOUSEKEEPER  
NEEDED**

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. Contact us. Tel: 076-281227, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281227. Email: jtisser@aquamaster.net

**WEB DEVELOPER /  
PROGRAMMER**

Bachelor's degree in related field. Knowledge of PHP, Javascript, JQuery, MySQL required. 2 years experience, English speaking. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.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

**REAL ESTATE STAFF  
WANTED**

We are looking for staff to work with us in the progressing and increasing branches at Rawai and Nai Ham. 1. Secretary/Receptionist: Thai female. 2. Sales / Rental Manager: Thai or foreign national, male or female. Both positions require: Good personality and outgoing communication skills, enthusiasm, fluent written and spoken English, good basic computer skills. Good salary and Commission! Tel: 076-388444. Please send resume and recent photo to info@harvest-property.com

**RAW FOOD CHEF  
WANTED**

Thai national: raw food chef, good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

**NANNY**

Must be experienced with child care. Needed after school and weekends for two young boys. Thai only. Tel: 081-978 7756. Email: scot@paresa.resorts.com

**LIVE-IN NANNY**

For 10 years old. Must have English skills and help housework. Work permit possible. Tel: 086-267 0157, 089-079 3328. Email: bannuaton@yahoo.com

**MARKETING  
EXECUTIVE**

We are now looking for marketing executives to join our real estate company. We are looking for staff at Jungceylon, Homepro Chalong and Kamala Beach. Good spoken English is a must. Send CV to info@phuket-con dos-homes.com or call 076-341045, 081-459 0152.

**PERSONAL  
ASSISTANT**

A private family is looking for a personal assistant to be located in Bang Jo, Phuket, full time, start as soon as possible. Must be fluent in Thai & English educated, love animals, be flexible with work hours, be a fast and motive worker. Attractive salary offered, please email CV to sherin.peace@gmail.com



YACHT SOLUTIONS

**Yacht Solutions in Phuket**

Yacht Solutions is Southeast Asia's premier superyacht marine consultancy. Yacht Solutions in Phuket is a superyacht agency specialising in luxury superyacht shore side support, charter and refit. We are looking to expand our expert team in Phuket. Do you want to become part of this exciting industry?

**General Office Assistant****Duties & Responsibilities:**

- General office duties
- Greeting customers, answering the telephone
- Organize the day to day book keeping, following up with suppliers for the correct invoices and tax receipts, petty cash, time sheets and invoicing
- Assist the agency, charter and refit staff in office duties including filing, paperwork, sourcing goods etc

**Requirements:**

- Thai national only
- 20-30 years old
- Bachelor's degree or higher in Accounting or other fields
- Basic understanding of accounting and book keeping
- PC literate in Microsoft office, especially in MS Excel
- Hardworking, meticulous, independent and able to work under pressure
- Good command of English
- Place of work is Phuket

To apply please send full resume with qualifications, working experience and current remuneration, together with a recent photo to: [suwannee@yachtsolutions.com](mailto:suwannee@yachtsolutions.com)

**ADMIN HOTEL WANTED**

Experience needed in Microsoft Excel and Word. Daily record on cash income, stocks, timecards, and booking vouchers. Good comments in English writing and speaking working under GM. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**YACHT  
STEWARDESS**

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

HUGHES  
KRUPICA**Accounting & Administrative Supervisor  
(Thai Citizen)**

- Good at English language skills – written and communication
- Supervise internal and accounting administrative matters of the Company
- Prepare spreadsheets and maintain accurate entries of:
  - (a) Expenses; Petty Cash; Receipts; Generate Invoices/Invoices sent
  - (b) Enquiries on Bills from clients
  - (c) All other internal accounting matters necessary to maintain good internal accounting practices in the Company
  - (d) Report month and year end closing in close coordination with the regional Financial Department
  - (e) Produce monthly report; Participate in budget process
  - (f) Support in cost control
  - (g) Perform account analysis, resolve account discrepancies and irregularities
  - (h) Manage accounts payable & receivable
  - (i) Cash management
- Administrative functions;
  - (a) Maintain updated information on personnel
  - (b) Implement a payroll process
  - (c) Assist with the development and implementation, and subsequent use of the information Technology platform incorporating billing, time recording, client relationship management; data storage and retrieval for the use of all employees of the Company
  - (d) To carry out all other works necessary to assist in the carrying out of duties, and assisting others with the carrying out of theirs

Salary : Depend on Experience

Location: Hughes Krupica Consulting Company Limited (Phuket)

Job Type: 9:00 - 18:00 / Mon.- Fri.  
Full Time, Permanent

Please send your CV in English to  
email: [sukanya@hugheskrupica.com](mailto:sukanya@hugheskrupica.com)  
or tel: 081-370 1905.

**Live in Patong?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**Taurus Travel**



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

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

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

**Live in Karon?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at  
**Euro style tailors**



Simply write out your ad,  
pay and leave it with  
**Khun Anand: 076-396911**  
**081-536 5550**

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

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

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET](http://WWW.PHUKETGAZETTE.NET)!



## Business Opportunities

## HOTEL FOR SALE

27 rooms (bar, restaurant and pool table), 5 minutes walk to beach (good location), well established. 6 years left on current contract. 3.9 million baht (negotiable). Tel: 090-067 3033 (English). Email: lyntoncraig@gmail.com

## RESTAURANT FOR SALE, KAMALA

Restaurant and bar for sale, clean and big place with 140sqm house. Sale: 1.4 million baht. Cheap rent: only 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-537 6125.

## HOTEL SEA VIEW BEACH 1KM

24 rooms and apartment, very good profit, 4 years old, Chanote full property, 1km from the beach. Tel: 080-528 1536. Email: christian10thai lande@gmail.com

## MARKETING EXECUTIVE

We are now looking for marketing executives to join our real estate company. We are looking for staff at Jungceylon, Homepro Chalong and Kamala Beach. Good spoken English is a must. Send CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com or call 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Email: andres@phuket-condos-homes.com

## RESTAURANT FOR RENT PATONG



250sqm, fully equipped and furnished with license, on Sai Nam Yen Road, close to Sai Nam Yen Plaza. Tel: 086-268 3963.

## RESORT FOR SALE



Small high yielding resort for sale in Rawai. Three, 2-year-old 3/4 bedroom pool villas on one rai. Perfect pension plan. Price: 19 million baht. Please call 082-048 2568 (English) or email caperawai@gmail.com

## Bulletins

## Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763  
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

Google AA Phuket

## NEW GUESTHOUSE PATONG BEACH

12 rooms and 3 apartments. Rent: 90,000 baht per month. 2 years on contract, will be extended every 3 years. Sale: 1,900,000 baht. Tel: 082-810 9670. Email: adrenorange house@hotmail.fr

## LEGAL INCOME PRODUCER

Phuket Country Home, large 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom bungalow, bed & breakfast potential. In Chalong. High season: 15,000 baht per day income. No Thai taxes. 10 million baht. Garden/koi ponds/waterfall. Please call 087-266 7514 (English). Email: rucker4012@gmail.com

## HIGHLY RATED PATONG HOTEL

Successful, 2 years old, 17-room guesthouse. 1.5 million baht or best offer. Tel: 080-143 3660 (English). Email: marcusmccown@gmail.com, http://themark4sale.weebly.com/

## KARON GUESTHOUSE



2 minutes walk to beach, located on the tourist road, 5 storeys, 7 furnished bedrooms. Price: 13 million baht. Tel: 081-171 9705.

## PATONG MASSAGE SHOP NANAI

8 beds, 5 chairs, staff accommodation. Wide shop front, rear access. Quick sale needed. 350,000 baht or best offer. Email: roy\_baldman@yahoo.com

## Phuket Gazette

## CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

## OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

Special font / layout	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box	250 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with red headline	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with black background	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box with color background	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	650 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: ..... issue(s)

## ONLINE OPTIONS:

Web link	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

All ads in the newspaper run online automatically and free charge.

## TELEVISION OPTION:

Your ad with photo displayed by PGTV on 3 cable networks, 70 times a week 350 baht ☐

Total cost of your classified ..... baht

Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (headline included). All ads must be paid in advance. The editors reserve the right not to publish any unsuitable material. In the event of non-publication of an advertisement for any reason, the publisher's liability shall be limited to the amount paid for the advertisement.

Please note: We are unable to offer refunds for any unused ads.

For more information, Please call 076-273555.

Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net, or Diaa@phuketgazette.net

PROMOTION PRICE  
Your Ad on PGTV

## SAMPLE ADS

## TOYOTA HILUX HERO

Pick-up. 4-door. 2.4L diesel. Good condition. Stereo. Only 95,000 km. Carefully maintained, service record available. Quick sale at 120,000 baht. Tel Khun Noi on 076 668126/7.

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

Standard + Special font/layout + Box: 1,340 baht (incl VAT) →

## NATIVE TEACHER OF ENGLISH TO YOUNG CHILDREN SEEKS CHALLENGING POSITION IN PHUKET

I will move to Phuket soon. Three yrs teaching in Bangkok

Phone Mr Reece  
(02) 668-1268

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

..... (Headline)	
.....	
.....	
.....	560 Baht
.....	700 Baht
.....	840 Baht
.....	980 Baht
.....	1,120 Baht
.....	1,260 Baht
.....	1,400 Baht

Online: www.phuketgazette.net / tv | www.youtube.com / PGTVPhuket



## Business Products &amp; Services

**AUSTRALIAN  
TAX & ACCOUNTING**

Australian Taxation & accounting services for Australian expatriates in Thailand & abroad. Please contact Anabel. Tel: +61 404 006 236. Email: anabeld1@me.com or anabeldasilva@dasilva-accounting.com For further details, please see our website at [www.dasilva-accounting.com](http://www.dasilva-accounting.com)

**NEW CARDIO TENNIS**

Ditch the gym, grab your racket. Non stop 60-minute fun workout with music. Only 300 baht per person. Lessons hitups also available. For more information, please call 090-706 6674, 090-071 7163. Your court or ours. Please visit our website at [www.tennisjuniorpro.com](http://www.tennisjuniorpro.com)

**WHEATGRASS JUICE**

Lumpoons Coffee House. At Chalong. Please call 081-476 5808.

**FREE ITALIAN  
ESPRESSO MACHINE**

Coffee capsules machine on loan, good organic Italian coffee, fair prices, 6 blends available, direct import into Phuket. Tel: 076-374760, 088-768 1260. Email: fepigada@yahoo.it

**SEO-SOCIAL MEDIA  
INTERNET**

A customized campaign by our SEO specialists will improve your Google ranking and focus your internet marketing efforts. Free quote. Email: [julianburgess@myway.com](mailto:julianburgess@myway.com)

**VISA SERVICES**

UAE and Singapore for 3 days. Tel: 080-697 1860. Email: [sky75@list.ru](mailto:sky75@list.ru)



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

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

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

**MASSAGE THERAPY  
AT YOUR PLACE**

Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Call for reservations. Open daily 9am-10pm. Tel: 092-464 8471.

**WORLDWIDE  
AIR TICKETS**

Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8.30am to 9pm. Delivery service. For more information, please call 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

**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](mailto:vb331@hotmail.com)

**STRESSED OVER  
PARTIES?**

Plan your party for all your supplies at Party Always. We are located at Wana Park Chong Talay. For more information, please call 076-620 166. Email: [karen\\_leongsk@yahoo.com.sg](mailto:karen_leongsk@yahoo.com.sg)

Club  
Memberships  
Available**MEMBERSHIP**

Phuket Country Club. Lifetime family membership. For sale: 600,000 baht includes transfer fee and yearly maintenance 2014 paid. Tel: 087-887 9506.

**GOLF MEMBERSHIP  
FOR SALE**

Phuket Country Club membership for sale at 560,000 baht. Includes transfer fee. Family membership. Contact Mark. Tel: 085-809 8755 (English). Email: [homeinspector@csloxinfo.com](mailto:homeinspector@csloxinfo.com)

**LOCH PALM  
MEMBERSHIP**

Lifetime family membership available. 500,000 baht, including transfer fee. Tel: 081-979 7047 (English & Thai). Email: [petemorrow@hotmail.com](mailto:petemorrow@hotmail.com)

**LAGUNA GOLF CLUB**

350,000 baht + transfer, expires 2024. Tel: 089-868 6842. Email: [nagel.klaus@web.de](mailto:nagel.klaus@web.de)

**LAGUNA GOLF CLUB  
22 YEARS**

Membership with 22 years remaining for sale: 600,000 baht. Tel: 092-261 5113.

## Education



**Oak Meadow International School**  
From 1 - 16 Years Old  
Providing quality, affordable primary education  
**076 521 550**  
[www.oakmeadowphuket.com](http://www.oakmeadowphuket.com)

## Miscellaneous For Sale

**SOLD SECOND HAND**


- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Orange amplifier. Price: 40,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.

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

## Pool Tables

## Personals

**SNOOKER**

Like new, marble top, 1.35 x 2.35m. 25,000 baht (new 66,000 baht). Tel: 080-528 1536. Email: [christian10thailand@gmail.com](mailto:christian10thailand@gmail.com)

**BACKGAMMON**

Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: [phuketconnection@yahoo.com](mailto:phuketconnection@yahoo.com)



**Phuket today**  
Phuket Gazette

**Hot deal!**  
**Classified Ads on TV**

Your Classified Ad will appear on the Phuket Today show, broadcast on 3 cable networks and running 24 hours a day via in-house TV in over 4,000 hotel rooms around the island.

**Cable TV coverage – broadcast 68 times a week throughout Phuket.**

**Catch the show at these times**

**Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week**  
Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm  
Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

**Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1, with 28 shows a week**  
Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

**KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao. Channel 4, with 21 shows a week**  
Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

**Now available in 4,222 premium hotel rooms around the island, all day every day.**

- Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket: 254 rooms
- Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort: 470 rooms
- Kata Beach Resort & Spa: 275 rooms
- Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas: 77 rooms
- Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket: 262 rooms
- Millennium Resort: 418 rooms
- Holiday Inn Resort & Spa: 405 rooms
- Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach: 364 rooms
- Karon Beach Resort & Spa: 80 rooms
- Andara Beach Resort & Spa: 62 rooms
- Amari Coral Beach: 197 rooms
- Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa: 664 rooms
- Destination Patong: 390 rooms
- Serenity Terraces Resort: 68 rooms
- Dewa Naiyang Phuket: 96 rooms
- Regent Phuket Cape Panwa: 210 rooms

**More Info?** Please call 076-273555. Email: [Kookai@phuketgazette.net](mailto:Kookai@phuketgazette.net) or [Diao@phuketgazette.net](mailto:Diao@phuketgazette.net)

On line: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)



## Saloon Cars

**CHEVROLET AVEO  
2008 BASE**

1.4L, fabric interior, good power, serviced at manufacturer, nice condition, insurance till December 2014. Price: 240,000 baht. Tel: 092-079 7875 (English). Email: bytheair@gmail.com

**MAZDA 2 SEDAN  
2011**

25,000km, automatic, ABS, air bags, first-class insurance till October 2014, powerful, economical. 370,000 baht ono. Tel: 095-410 0064 (English). Email: muellerbrinton@gmail.com

**TOYOTA HIACE  
MINIBUS**

Toyota Hiace Minibus 2004 model. Excellent condition. 300,000 baht ono. Tel: 087-263 2031 (English & Thai). Email: info@amazingbike toursthailand.asia

**BMW F10 520D  
2011**

Black with beige interior. 54,000km, 2 years of BMW Thailand warranties left. Price: 2.75 million baht. Tel: 081-892 1097. Email: andreas.caudwell@gmail.com

**MERCEDES SL 1987**

Excellent condition, automatic, aircon, new interior, bodywork, mechanics, 2JZ engine, drives perfectly, new soft top, hard top, Phuket Blue book registered. 1.1 million baht or reasonable offers. Please call 084-630 2416. Email: jonhassall@aol.com

**HONDA CITY TYPE Z  
2001**

85,000km, good condition, automatic, gray color. Tel: 090-163 8673 (English). Email: victes@gmail.com

**PROTON NEO AUTO**

1.6L, 2-door, sport black, gray leather, new 17-inch alloy, 1 lady owner, drives good, 67,000km. Price: 285,000 baht. Tel: 093-683 3805.

**HONDA CIVIC AUTO  
85,000 BAHT**

1995, good car, 178,000km, engine top 1,600cc, all works. Tel: 076-396114, 084-744 2165 (English).

**NISSAN TEANA  
250 XV V6**

Excellent condition! One owner from new. No accident, April 2010, 60,000km, all services done, registered, tax until August 2014. Price new: 1.55 million baht. Now: 870,000 baht (negotiable). Car is in Hua Hin. For more information, please call 032-826152, 081-162 2951 (English).

**UNIQUE LUXURY**

This beautiful Jaguar XJ6 has served as our stylish transport but is now for sale, as we now use a SUV for business. It is fantastic to drive with a powerful, reliable and smooth Toyota 2JZ engine and gearbox with a Garrett GT35 turbo. It has recently been dyno tested delivering 340+ wheel hp which is 400+ bhp. The car is very reasonably priced at 420,000 baht. Contact Todd. Tel: 091-523 6680 (English). Email: steve@footefx.com

**CHOPPER HONDA  
STEED**

400cc for sale, in good condition. Green book. 65,000 baht (one extra bag and a bigger tank made of stainless steel follow). Tel: 085-464 7450 (English). Email: loffe.o@gmail.com

**HONDA PCX 150**

6,400km, like new, black/red, 15 months old. YSS Shocks, adjustable aluminium break levers, first-class Thai Sri insurance. 60,000 baht - Fixed! Tel: 081-691 6147 (English). Email: info@baansuanvilla.de

**MOTORCYCLE /  
KEEWAY**

Only 3 months old. Cost: 70,000 baht, will sell for only 55,000 baht. Great ride. Tel: 081-397 1154 (English). Email: machesta@gate.net

**DUCATI MONSTER  
795 ABS BLACK**

Unique all black edition, very new condition only run for 650km. Includes first-class insurance. Price: 360,000 baht. Tel: 082-007 0700. Email: korphong@hotmail.com

**HONDA CBR 250CC**

Like new, red-silver, late 2010. Cherrng Talay. 65,000 baht. Call 090-071 7163 to view.

**HONDA FORZA 300  
FOR SALE**

150,000 baht or best offer, fantastic machine, 300cc, always serviced. Please call 086-316 9159 (English & Thai). Email: ozmoran@yahoo.com

## Pick-ups

**SILVER PROTON  
SAGA 1.3**

Year 2011, automatic, 1 owner, 15,000km with insurance. 300,000 baht. Tel: 086-476 9612.

**ISUZU CAB 4 3.0 LS**

D-Max 4WD, automatic, 2008. Price: 485,000 baht. Tel: 081-894 6968.

**ISUZU ADVENTURE 3L**

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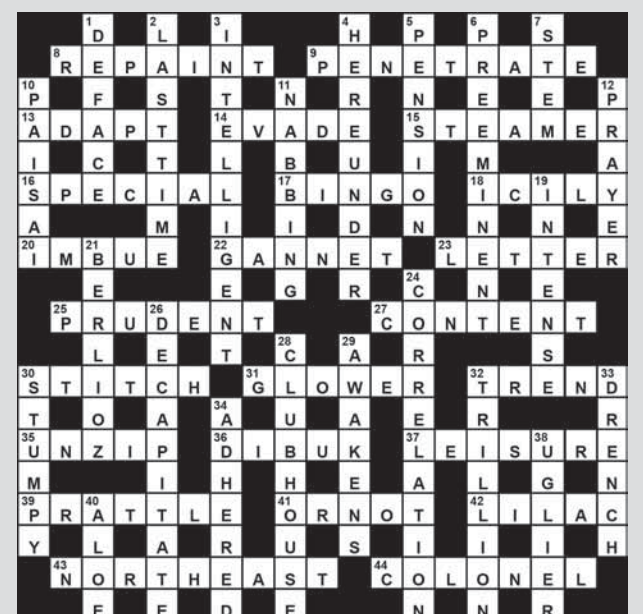
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## Best Alfresco Office Opening Party

The team from Best Alfresco, a marketing-communications company, celebrated the opening of their brand new office in Koh Kaew.



Mr Torsak "Tong" Jaichien  
Chief Executive Officer (CEO)/  
Managing Director

Mr Chaisongkham "Pom" Kuntiyoo  
Executive Vice President/Project Manager

## Tiger Muay Thai and Mixed Martial Arts

Tiger Muay Thai and Mixed Martial Arts, a world famous training camp in Chalong, had a BBQ Beatdown event last Saturday to celebrate their 11th anniversary. Scores of fighters, trainers, friends of the gym and Muay Thai fans turned out for a great afternoon of food, drink, music and fun – including dozens of great raffle prize giveaways and some action-packed amateur fights.



Will Elliott  
General Manager Tiger Muay Thai



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# Jagota sponsors Phuket events



From left: Vikram Singh, of Events International; Phuket Gazette Events Manager Kanjana Sriboonsom; Jagota Key Accounts Manager Marc Malloy; and Sonu Kapoor, of Events International.

## By Mark Knowles

PHUKET'S burgeoning events scene received a boost this week with the announcement that leading food supplier Jagota Brothers has signed an agreement with Events International [EI], organizer and promoter of the *Phuket Gazette's* series of "Headline Events", to sponsor three upcoming musical and theatrical performances on the island.

The agreement will see Jagota as the title sponsor for these colorful performances, each with imported talent, which will include comedy theater, a Bollywood party night, and a *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* musical.

Anand Jagota, CEO of Jagota Thailand, said that the company was proud to be associated with these events, which are designed to increase the amount of imported live music theater available to the island's international community.

"Jagota has had a strong presence in Phuket's hospitality industry for many years now and this agreement underscores our continued commitment to support the

community across a range of entertainment areas," he said.

EI is the company behind the recent ABBA and Beatles tribute band concerts, as well as the popular *Alice in Wonderland* performances in Phuket Town late last year.

EI's Managing Director Vikram Singh and his partner Sonu Kapoor say they are passionate about bringing more world-class entertainment to the island and that the support of Jagota is a key step in the journey.

"Each show we have organized has demonstrated the thirst here in Phuket for quality imported talent, both musical and theatrical, and for both adults and children," said Mr Singh.

"We are thrilled to have Jagota on board as title sponsor for our next three events, and we hope to continue our relationship into the future, as we bring even more fantastic events to the Phuket," added Mrs Kapoor.

And *Phuket Gazette* Events Manager Kanjana "Jane" Sriboonsom notes with pride that the strong partnership between

the *Gazette* and EI has been further strengthened by the support of Jagota.

"As Phuket's leading media company, we can provide the platforms necessary to successfully promote these great international events here, and having Jagota on board in such a major way as title sponsor underlines the fact that the market for high-quality entertainment in Phuket is growing rapidly," she said.

Dates for the next three *Gazette* "Headline Events" have been confirmed as follows:

### May 3: Boeing Boeing – A laugh-out-loud comedy

The outrageous story of a swinging bachelor in a love affair with three stewardesses at the same time. Their flights are expected to land at different times, but as luck would have it, the three muses of his life touch down at the same time! It's hilarious. Don't miss the fun. Cast and crew direct from London.

### May 31: Bollywood Party Night

A popular DJ from India is flying in, along

with some dazzling Bollywood dancers. Watch, learn and groove with them – the Indian way! The night will feature an eclectic mix of Bollywood, hip hop, funk, house, and soul music... and thumping bass and drum beats.

Get ready to move your hips the Bollywood way! To spice it up even further, there will be a delectable blend of Indian grills, curries and assorted breads. It's a Bollywood affair, so dress up accordingly and breathe in the colorful spirit of India.

### June 7-8: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

It's time to wrap up the season with a family musical at Phuket's Simon Star Theater. Children, parents and grandparents can get together for a fun, family time with festivity all around. A great visual treat with dances and music, and the children can even have their picture taken with their favorite character! Get ready for a rendezvous with Snow White, the Prince and the Dwarfs at Central Festival for a sneak preview before the show!

## BISP students showcase their artistic talents

THE British International School Phuket (BISP) Year 13 Visual Arts Exhibition was officially opened last week, and students work will be available for viewing until April 24. The exhibition includes 48 unique individual pieces by three different student artists. In addition, the Year two students will have their elephant prints on display.

The following is a transcript of the opening speech given by Year 13 student, Nathanon Khanijow, one of the three Year 13 IB artists whose work will be showcased this month.

Good afternoon parents, teachers and fellow students,

As you may know, the IB Visual Arts course has undoubtedly been a demanding experience for we three artists – late hours in the studio, sleepless nights and

paint-covered uniforms. However, today, Jooyeon, Inthunon and I are proud to present the results of our hard work and devotion. Undertaking Visual Arts as an IB subject has not only inspired us to think creatively, but also to become thoughtful individuals.

Tackling 21<sup>st</sup>-century controversies through art – by examining topics such as obesity, anorexia, racism and many more, we have opened our perspectives exceptionally. Whether it be fashion, graphics or textiles, we have found ourselves developing a keen passion to continue to undertake arts and design into the future.

These skills learned and shared over the years will certainly assist us in the time to come, where we strive to forge careers in the creative field. Next year, we will hopefully find our-



The three BISP student artists (from left) Jooyeon Shon, Nathanon Khanijow and Inthunon Lueangworaphan.

selves chasing our dreams. With Win and myself in the UK and Joanne in Korea.

In order for all this to become possible and presentable, I would like to give a big thank you

to our respective teachers Mrs Claire Lester and Mrs Kathy Manthei Coulson, who have shown and guided us through the elaborate approaches and interpretations of Visual Arts.

Each piece of art around these corridors has been done with careful thought and consideration and therefore we hope that you enjoy the exhibition. Thank you.

– *Phuket Gazette*



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### April 3-6, 8-6pm. Arnco Phuket Oilfield Classic

The 6<sup>th</sup> annual Arnco Phuket Oilfield Classic will be held from April 3 to 6 and the organizers, Asian Golf Events, are expecting more than 130 oil and gas executives from around the world to gather in Phuket for four days of golf and entertainment. The event is being held at the Novotel Vintage Park in Patong where festivities will begin with a welcome cocktail party before players take to the course for a Texas scramble event at Red Mountain. The following day there is another individual stableford event at Loch Palm, after which there will be a gala dinner.

For more info, contact David Pettigrew on 081-988 0600, email davidjohnpettigrew@gmail.com or visit asiangolfevents.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59), are proud to sponsor this event.

### April 5-12. Phuket ITF Senior Pro Circuit 2014

ITF Senior Pro Tournament in Phuket at Thanyapura. Played on world-class covered plexi-cushion tennis courts. Entry deadline: March 19. Spectators are welcome and entry is free. For more information contact Club Services on 076-336000 ext. 5055, email tslc@thanyapura.com.

**April 6. 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.

### April 7. Substitute Holiday for Chakri Day

A public holiday in Thailand commemorating the Chakri dynasty.

### April 8, 6-9pm. Phuket Book Night at The Speakeasy, Royal Phuket Marina.

NASA rocket scientist, farmer, entrepreneur and popular former Phuket resident Don Battles will launch his new book *Merchant of the Orient* and tell us how he came to write it.

Now living in Chiang Rai in his 30<sup>th</sup> year of Thai residence, Don will also tell us what he thinks a foreigner needs to do – and not do – to succeed in business here. Questions will be invited.

Entry is free of charge, as are snacks. The bar opens at 6pm, with the presentation scheduled to start at 6:30. Autographed copies of the author's book will be available at 700 baht.

All drinks at Happy Hour prices (two for the price of one) until 9pm.

Seating is limited. Those wishing to attend are encouraged to arrive



# Arnco Phuket Oilfield Classic April 3-6

no later than 6:15 to be assured of a seat. For more information contact Kanjana "Jane" Sriboonsom at: kanjana@phuketgazette.net or call 076-273555

This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only national television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 59 and 85).

### April 11, 7-11pm. Indian Curry Buffet

All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold mango and strawberry lassi with our delicious mutton vindaloo, dal makhani, bombay aloo, mutter paneer, butter chicken and mouthwatering chicken tikka, samosas, freshly baked naans and more. Location: Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort. For more info contact Jaspal Singh on 076 286464, send an email to info@navrangmahal.com or go to navrangmahal.com

**April 13-15. 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.

### April 20, 6-12pm. Easter Buffet Dinner at Two Chefs

Large buffet including: Easter bread, pickled herring, smoked salmon, beet salad, liver pâté, Easter ham, Easter eggs, Swedish meatballs, chicken & fish fillet skewers, beef stroganoff, apple pie with homemade vanilla sauce, waffles with raspberry jam, Swedish chocolate balls and much more. All this and much more for only 695 baht, with children at just 350 baht, including a welcome drink. There will be egg

painting for all the kids and live music from the famous Two Chefs house band from 8pm till late. Come for the food and stay for the fun! For more information call 076-330065.

### May 1. Labor Day

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

### May 5. Coronation Day

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

### May 17, 10am-6pm. IELTS in Phuket

An International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test will be held in Phuket and organized by Phuket Australian Visa and Student Services (AVSS). To register for the test contact: 076-210934 or 086-595-5148, email avsssouth@gmail.com or go to theavss.net

### May 24. Visakha Bucha Day

Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6<sup>th</sup> 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).

### June 12 to July 13. FIFA World Cup in Brazil

Football (soccer) fans around the world look forward to the excitement of the 20<sup>th</sup> edition of the World Cup. This year will be played in arguably the top footballing nation on the planet. Here in Phuket, most of the games will be aired live in the morning hours, though many restaurants and bars will certainly screen reruns of all the matches.

**June 28 to July 27. Ramadan**  
Muslims worldwide, or roughly a quarter of the planet's population, observe Ramadan as the 9<sup>th</sup> month of their calendar, a time for fasting during the day hours and feasting at night.

### Jul 11. Asarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the 8<sup>th</sup> lunar month (traditional Thai calendar) 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.

### July 12. Buddhist Lent

This day of a full moon marks the start of the Buddhist Lent, or rains retreat – the three-month annual retreat observed by Theravada practitioners. It is the traditional time for Thai males to ordain as a monk, informally observed as the start of the rainy season, when the Southwesterly Monsoons are in full force.

### August 12. Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday

HM Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara's 82<sup>nd</sup> Birthday. Also celebrated as Mother's Day in Thailand. Her Majesty's birthday is a public holiday.

### November 6. Loy Krathong

One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the 12<sup>th</sup> lunar month, which usually falls in November. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the River Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday.

### November 19-22. Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament

Registration is on the evening of November 19, 2014 from 6pm onwards, at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chalong. The weight station will be at the Tamarind on all three fishing days, November 20-22. The final evening and prize giving party will also be held at the Tamarind. In an effort to showcase individual team skills, the rules of the tournament (PIST) this year have been designed to allow teams to fish the event as they would while fun fishing.

This annual event, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59). For more information send an email to uweschittek@yahoo.com





# Phuket's struggle to

**EACH month thousands of people seek treatment at Phuket hospitals for breathing difficulties, eye and nose problems and even nausea – all brought on by dust and other forms of air pollution.**

**The *Phuket Gazette*'s Irfarn Jamdukor investigates.**

THE Phuket health chief has revealed the disturbing news that in February alone more than 2,500 people in Phuket Town received hospital treatment for ailments brought on by dust and air pollution.

The issue of airborne contaminants – especially dust from construction sites – has become one of the top health concerns in Phuket, Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) chief Kajornsak Kaewjaras told the *Gazette*.

"Dust is a serious health issue affecting people throughout the island. We are very concerned about it," he said.

Residents in and around Phuket Town are suffering more than most, Mr Kajornsak noted.

"Phuket Town has more on-going construction projects than other areas of Phuket, but many people in Kathu and Thalang are also suffering..."

"Last month, we recorded 1,500 patients in Kathu and 1,000 people in Thalang receiving hospital treatment for exposure to air pollution."

Patong is no exception, Mr Kajornsak added.

He pointed out that residents living in more than 100 households have suffered health problems due to the ongoing road construction

in Phuket's leading tourism town.

"They all had red eyes and a heavy cough. Some of them had headaches, skin irritations and even nausea. The worst affliction was dust in the windpipe, which makes it difficult for the patient to breathe," he said.

"We really do not know at which locations around the island that people suffer the most. All we receive in the reports is how many people were treated for a specific set of signs or symptoms related to dust pollution in a certain area."

## WHEN CHILDREN CHOKE

Sick and tired of clouds of dust from dump trucks plaguing their community, residents at the Srisuchart Grandview housing estate on the bypass road recently staged a protest over dust placing their health at risk.

The residents' main objection was an incessant parade of dump trucks hauling soil into the neighborhood for a lake-filling project (see pages 4-5) that left the community shrouded in a constant heavy haze.

Although adults in the neighborhood suffered from dust-induced ailments, their heart-wrenching concern was for their children.

"My son is little more than one



Srisuchart Grandview resident Tawan Tejarungsri feared the worst when his one-month-old baby boy started developing breathing problems from the dust created by dump trucks rolling through the neighborhood.

month old," said Tawan Tejarungsri, 27.

"He became very sick last month, and now I am very worried about how this will affect his health in the long term."

Wichit Tunseng, 42, has three children.

"All of them fell sick. One of them had a heavy cough. The other two had problems breathing and sore eyes," he said.

Even more frightening was when the children fell silent.

"Their eyes turned red when they seemed to be suffering the most. They just spaced-out and didn't talk much," Mr Wichit said.

"I worry deeply about this and how it may cause other diseases to affect them."

PPHO Chief Mr Kajornsak shared Mr Wichit's concern, and highlighted how children living near construction sites were exposed to a plethora of other conditions.

"Children who grow up in polluted areas, including those near construction sites, tend to have health complications throughout their adult lives," he said.

"The dust can lead to other serious diseases and conditions, such as pneumonia, blocked bronchus, pterygia, glaucoma and skin diseases..."

"All of these are long-term

problems that will continue to affect the children for many years."

## DUSTY POCKETS

Not only did the dust pollution at the Srisuchart Grandview housing estate take its toll on the residents' health, it also directly affected the incomes of many local vendors.

Raranon Jhamsai, 35, a staffer at the River Beer Garden restaurant near the lake being filled in, said, "I have fallen sick three times this month. My eyes turned red because of the dust and it was hard to breathe."

6 Parents must keep a close watch on their children's health. If the symptoms do not get better within two days, they should take their children to see a doctor as soon as possible. 9

"I'm not the only one, my colleagues got sick too. They each had to stop working for days while they got better. We didn't even have enough staff to serve customers."

Restaurant owner Weerayuth Sangswang said the dust had caused a drastic fall in the number of patrons at his venue over the past four months.

"Our total income last month was about 10,000 baht. But before they started filling in the lake, it averaged about 25,000 baht per month," he said.

"The income is not enough and we have many mouths to feed in my family."

## FIGHTING BACK

Dust from construction sites and traffic fumes from Phuket's clogged roads are the key causes of air pollution ailments in Phuket, Mr Kajornsak explained.

"And there are many construction projects on the island where the contractor does not care about preventing air pollution," he said.

To combat the rising incidence of health complaints from fouled air, the PPHO stages outreach

visits to communities in risk areas several times a month.

"We raise awareness of air pollution and advise local

residents on how to protect themselves from the air they breathe," Mr Kajornsak said.

"The simplest solution is to wear a mask. It can prevent a person from inhaling both dust and smoke."

However, Srisuchart resident Mr Tawan told the *Gazette* that without masks, all he could do was close every door to his house to prevent dust from coming in.

Yet the best weapon against air pollution lay in the hands of local officials, namely municipal officers, suggested Mr Kajornsak.

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# clear the air

## Eight countermeasures to dust pollution

as resolved at Srisuchart Grandview

- At least one day a week (Monday) without trucks driving through the housing estate
- Trucks barred from working 7:30 to 8:30am each day (so children are not exposed to dust pollution while travelling to school)
- No trucks delivering soil after 9pm
- Roads and dirt areas used by the trucks must be watered every day to reduce the volume of dust churned into the air
- Drivers must not allow soil to spill from their dirt payloads
- The worksite must undergo a comprehensive cleanup after 9pm every Sunday
- Trucks cannot drive in convoy through the estate
- Trucks cannot run continuously throughout the day. Some break is needed (e.g. one hour for lunch) to allow dust to settle

"They have the authority to ensure contractors comply with health regulations," he said.

Local officials must be made aware of the risks and the effects air pollution has on residents in their areas, Mr Kajornsak suggested, and the officers must be taught what laws they have at their disposal to ensure compliance.

"For example, local municipalities can ensure the construction company sprays water along dirt roads used by trucks to stop dust from being churned into the air," he said.

"They can also make sure fences are erected to prevent low-level dust, which contains heavy dust particles, from flowing into residents' houses."

power to effect true change in combating dust pollution, the protest by Srisuchart Grandview residents last month resulted in Rassada Municipality stipulating a list of eight conditions that the contractor was forced to agree to in writing in order for work to continue.

Since then, conditions at Srisuchart have improved greatly.

"They are still working on the project, but only four to five trucks operate at the site from 5pm to 7pm and a fence has been set up around the lake," Mr Tawan said.

"The pollution is much better than it was last month."

### CLEAR VISION

Despite the good news in the battle to clear the air at Srisuchart, Mr Kajornsak urged parents to take a pro-active role in protecting their

children from dust pollution.

"Parents living in risk areas have to take special care of their children's health. The parents must clean their hands every time they prepare meals and all foods in the house should be covered," he said.

"Parents should not let their child walk through the construction site and both the children and the adults must wear masks to cover their mouths when they go outside."

Mr Kajornsak stressed strongly for parents to seek immediate medical attention if they discover their children suffering any ailments resulting from dust pollution.

"Parents must keep a close watch on their children's health. If the symptoms do not get better within two days, they should take their children to see a doctor as soon as possible," he urged.



A tourist prepares to take a photo in Shanghai as pollution shrouds the city skyline in a small-particle haze. Photo: Reuters

## Polluted air linked to 7 million deaths

By Kate Kelland

AIR pollution killed about 7 million people in 2012, making it the world's single biggest environmental health risk, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced last week.

The toll, a doubling of previous estimates, means one in eight of all global deaths in 2012 was linked to polluted air and shows how reducing pollution inside and outside of people's homes could save millions of lives in future, the United Nations health agency said in its report.

Air pollution deaths are most commonly from heart disease, strokes or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Airborne pollution is also linked to deaths from lung cancer and acute respiratory infections.

"The evidence signals the need for concerted action to clean up the air we all breathe," said Maria Neira, head of the WHO's environmental and social public health department.

"The risks from air pollution are now far greater than previously thought or understood, particularly for heart disease and strokes," she said.

Poor and middle-income coun-

tries in Southeast Asia and the Western Pacific region had the largest air pollution-related burden in 2012, with 3.3 million deaths linked to indoor air pollution and 2.6 million deaths to outdoor air pollution.

Indoor pollution is mostly caused by cooking over coal, wood and biomass stoves. The WHO estimates that around 2.9 billion people worldwide live in homes using wood, coal or dung as their primary cooking fuel.

Flavia Bustreo, a WHO family health expert, said women and children – especially those living in poor countries – often bear the brunt of the risks from indoor pollution "since they spend more time at home breathing in smoke and soot from leaky coal and wood cooking stoves."

Outdoors, air is mainly polluted by transport, power generation, industrial and agricultural emissions and residential heating and cooking.

Research suggests outdoor air pollution exposure levels have risen significantly in some parts of the world, particularly in countries with large populations going through rapid industrialization, such as China and India.

– Reuters

### PROGRESS

Reinforcing Mr Kajornsak's belief that local administrations have the

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# A tale of plants and people



## Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

A BEAUTIFUL woman loved growing tomatoes, but they refused to turn red. One day, she noticed her neighbor's garden was full of huge red tomatoes. So she asked the gentleman: "How do you get them to go so red?" Well, he replied, "I stand in front of my row of tomato plants, naked in my raincoat, and then 'flash' them. My tomatoes turn red from blushing so much."

So twice a week the lady "flashed" her crop, hoping for the best.

One day the same gentleman was passing and inquired, "By the way, did your tomatoes turn red?", "No" she replied, "But my cucumbers are enormous."

This is the stuff of male fantasies... But it's odd how so few jokes involve plants, even if they

have, over the centuries, occasionally been given anthropomorphic powers. With animals, of course, there are many examples of creatures with human attributes, ranging from classic children's tales such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Wind in the Willows* and *Winnie-the-Pooh* to more recent examples – *The Lord of the Rings*, the tales of *Doctor Doolittle* and the whole raft of Disney film cartoons.

But plant examples do exist. The mandrake root, for instance, which belongs to the poisonous nightshade genus of *mandragora*, and which contains hallucinogens, has long been associated with witchcraft.

According to legend, the bifurcated root – which can bear a striking resemblance to the human form – screams if uprooted and curses or kills all who hear it. In John Donne's poem *Go and Catch a Falling Star*, the speaker daringly exhorts the reader to "Get



Photo: Dsmdgold

**The human-shaped Mandrake root contains hallucinogens and has long been associated with witchcraft.**



Over the centuries, plants have occasionally been given anthropomorphic powers. Photo: Holgi

with child a mandrake root."

More recent research, some initiated in a 1924 book *The Secret Life of Plants*, espouses the notion that plants do indeed have a kind of consciousness, that they possess auras and are capable of responding to human stimuli such as music. A polygraph scientist called Cleve Backster conducted experiments with a dracaena (a plant many of us have in our gardens) and attached it to lie-detector electrodes.

Not only was there a sudden leap on the galvanometer when he dunked a leaf in hot coffee, but the dracaena reacted in a similar way when he opened a box of matches in its presence. It con-

vinced him that plants can "think" or at least react.

Even if some of these theories are highly contentious, it is clear

**It is clear that plants have 'senses', that they can detect light and dark, have a rudimentary form of 'memory' which allows them to store and retrieve information and, perhaps surprisingly, that the genes which regulate these responses are also part of human DNA.**

that plants have "senses", that they can detect light and dark, have a rudimentary form of "memory" which allows them to store and retrieve information and, perhaps surprisingly, that the genes which regulate these responses are also part of human DNA.

A more traditional view is the idea that certain plants have an affinity with humankind on account of their appearance. In mediaeval times, it was, for instance, believed that walnuts were an important cure for diseases of the brain – a view based

on the fact that a walnut kernel bears an uncanny resemblance to the human organ. Visually erotic stimulants might include carrots, parsnips, asparagus, bananas and yes, of course, cucumbers.

Other connections between plants and people derive from the characteristics of plants rather than mere visual symmetry. For example, the pitcher plant or *nepenthes* (which grows here in marshy areas) is actually carnivorous. Equipped with deep "pitchers" at the end of stout tendrils, the *nepenthes* attracts insects and even frogs to its scented slippery rims, whereupon they fall into the fluid at the bottom. Digestive enzymes in the liquid do the rest.

Some plants such as the Venus fly trap have snap traps – hinged leaves which close on unsuspecting visitors; others such as the sundew, exude a slimy mucilage which acts like fly paper and ensnares small insects. A few bromeliads have the same capacity to ingest insect protein.



If plants can feel pain, then vegetarians are in trouble. Photo: Frank Lindecke

## Tip of the week

### Garden predators

THE usual list of unwanted predators in most gardens focuses on insects – termites, and carpenter bees which attack your woodwork; aphids and caterpillars which play havoc with plant tissue; "mozzies" and ants which like human blood.

In the recent dry spell there have been two new arrivals in my garden. One day recently all the mature guppies and sword-tails vanished without trace from the pond. The culprit? An egret had arrived soon after sunrise

and speared the lot. Then all the fat buds on my *hibiscus mutabilis* (phuttan) which had stubbornly bloomed throughout the three-month-long drought, disappeared. This time the thief was a black tree squirrel, swinging acrobatically from bough to bough. Both creatures were probably running short of their usual sources of food.

I do not intend to lie in wait and shoot them. There are so few birds and mammals in this island anyway. The fish pond can be restocked and the hibiscus pruned back.



Photo: DaPuglet

**During drought some animals are running short of their usual food.**

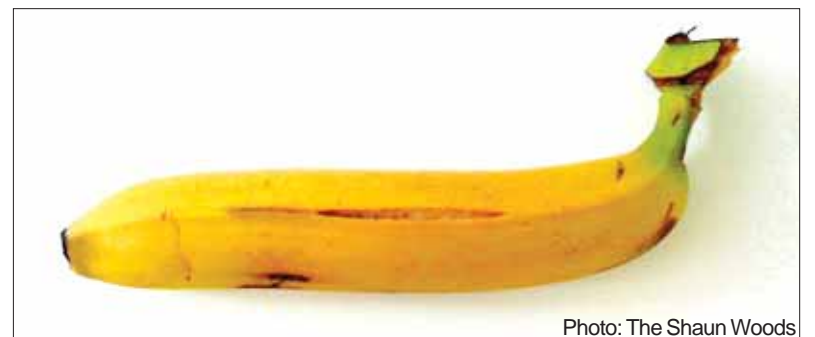


Photo: The Shaun Woods

**Some plants have an affinity with humankind on account of their appearance.**



# Mothering in the digital age

By Kupluthai Pungkanon

WHEN Thai women become mothers, their use of the social networks increases, a new survey finds.

More than 80 per cent of Asian moms have ditched traditional channels like newspapers, television and magazines in favor of the internet, according to a new survey conducted by Southeast Asia's largest online parenting magazine, asianparent.com. Its research looked at 10,000 mothers – 4,586 Thai, 2,465 Indonesian, 2,729 Singaporean and 668 Malaysian – and discovered that all increased their internet usage once they became mothers.

That's good news for marketers trying to sell their products as it seems these mothers are constantly on their smartphones checking email, visiting parenting sites and chatting with others on social media. About 82 per cent spend at least one hour daily on the net while a massive 14 per cent spend more than six hours.

Gone, it seems, are the days when Asian moms in need of expert parenting advice would turn to their own mothers, other family members or friends. Instead, 31 per cent of Thai mothers head straight to a parenting website. Others (22 per cent) use a search engine while 19 per cent prefer Facebook. Parenting websites also topped the poll with Malaysian and Singaporean mothers, with 32 per cent of moms choosing them for support.

Sirina Maneechote, an English news broadcaster with Radio Thailand, says she prefers to search for advice and useful information from the internet as the older generation's suggestions are rarely relevant to today's world.

Uraivan Charoentawornpanit, a teacher, family coach for Care Club and a mother of two, says that while there is a wealth of information in cyberspace, she still prefers to consult other mothers, pointing out that they usually have firsthand knowledge. This is particularly useful in terms of dealing with special children, such as those with autism.

dren, such as those with autism.

"Groups that form on social networks like Facebook and Line allow mothers to share a great deal of interesting information. It's not just about posting cute pictures. I find social media very helpful in that it provides information in real time. I think the social media play a major role in how children are raised these days," she says.

Proof of the Thai love for social media was given when the survey asked mothers what they would do if they had an extra hour a day. While many did respond they'd spent it with their families, 29 per cent indicated they would be online – considerably higher than their Malaysian and Singaporean moms at four and six per cent respectively.

Unsurprisingly, Facebook is the dominant social networking platform in terms of users in Asia with 99 per cent of moms on Facebook, though a striking number of users are now diversifying to such platforms as Google Plus.

"For Thais, Line is also the



Photo: MJ Mostovac

82 per cent of Asian mothers use the internet for at least one hour a day.

dominant player in the online message space with 89 per cent of moms now Line users, followed by WhatsApp with 23 per cent," says Nuttaporn Chanchokpong, chief editor of Ticked Media, the publisher of Asianparent.com.

She also points out that Thai moms prefer to chat with other moms on the internet instead of face-to-face. A quarter of Thai mothers say they log in to Facebook groups and web boards several times daily to chat with other mums, but 48 per cent never meet their network friends in real life.

Nayada Harnrojanakul, who works for the Custom Department's legal office, finds the Line group the most convenient channel for working moms with little time.

"New technology makes it easier for the Asian mom to surf the web on the go, chat with other moms via social media sites, get parenting advice and shop. That means she's active online throughout her waking hours," says Ms Nuttaporn.

Suparat Matsatit agrees. The columnist and a spokesperson for the Single Mom Marketing project, says she doesn't bother with department stores anymore as she can find everything she wants online and at a cheaper price.

"From diapers to bicycles, I find information then shop online. And today I don't even need to do a lot of research to find the best deals. The other mothers on the social networks tell me," she says.

– The Nation

## Experts discuss scientific advancements in AEC economy

THE National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office (STI) last week called on the 10 Asean countries to Phuket to discuss scientific advancement and flow of manpower as the inception of the Asean Economic Community (AEC) looms.

"The objective of this workshop is to provide a forum in which experts can exchange their views and ideas about the advancement of science and technology as the AEC comes to fruition," said Dr Pichet Durongkaveroj, Secretary General of STI.

The two-day Asean Talent Mobility (ATM) workshop was held last Thursday and Friday in Patong, and was attended by experts from Thailand and the other nine Asean countries, as well as advisers from the European Union and South Korea.

"We want to explore potential development of Asean Talent Mobility programs as a platform for the exchange and movement of highly-skilled human resources among Asean countries and other interested parties," said Dr Pichet.

"National and regional mobility policies and strategies need to be aligned in order to foster successful collaboration on Asean ATM programs. This will allow the AEC to be more economically competitive."

After two days of meetings and presentations, Dr Pichet said a lot of useful information was exchanged in the fields of science, technology and innovation focusing on the Asean region.

"We will take what we have learned and apply it to allow for the flow of com-

merce, investment, industry and manpower," he said.

Thailand has more than 50,000 people employed as researchers in various fields of science.

"However, we do not have enough researchers to cover all fields. This is why it will be crucial for us to join together as members of AEC and allow for the movement of manpower between countries. It will provide opportunities for talented workers and researchers to pursue their work in the field they are passionate about," added Dr Pichet.

More meetings will be held in upcoming months to further discuss scientific advancements after the AEC comes together.

– Chutharat Plerin



Dr Pichet hopes to promote the development of Asean Talent Mobility (ATM) programs as the AEC comes to being.





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# Spectacle of senses

By Maciek Klimowicz

LET'S be honest – on the scale of things, Japanese cuisine isn't amongst the most spectacular. Its esthetic appeal, restraint in use of spices and pure flavors are pleasing, but probably won't provide you with the hefty injection of endorphins in the way a spicy Indian curry or our daily bowl of *tom yum goong* does. However, there is a place on our island where Japanese cooking has been transformed into a true spectacle.

The place is Kabuki, and the name says it all – *Kabuki* being the classical Japanese art of dance and drama, full of costumes, music and intricately choreographed dance routines. Kabuki is located on the premises of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, and it is more than a restaurant, in fact,

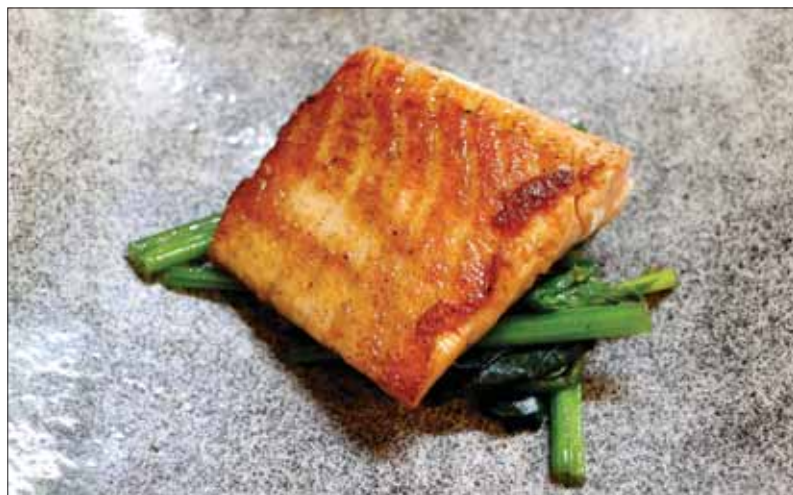
it's not even called a restaurant, but rather a "Japanese Cuisine Theater," and for a good reason. Here, guests flock for more than just the food – eating at Kabuki is a form of entertainment.

The cooking at Kabuki is done right in front your eyes – opt for the full *tepanyaki* experience and you will witness a culinary show, with chefs presenting their skills in live performances full of high-flying blades and bursting flames. Go for a sushi meal and you'll witness fresh ingredients transformed with skill and dexterity into tiny, flavorful pieces of art. It's entertaining, it's revealing and... it makes you hungry. But not to worry – you won't stay empty-bellied for long. The Norwegian salmon, Hokkaido scallops and South African octopus are all there to help. Delivered to your table in all shapes and



Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

Presentation is one of the foundations of Japanese cuisine and the chefs at Kabuki know it well.



The food is true to its Japanese origins.

forms, they are a delight, both to the eye, and to the pallet.

Kabuki seats 72 people, but thanks to a studied design, it grants its guests a warm and welcoming atmosphere. Divided into separate sections with traditional *shoji* screens, the restaurant is a perfect choice for a romantic dinner or a private event for a group of friends. The sushi bar seats 10, and up to 12 people can enjoy the cocktails served at the sake bar at the same time.

If you ask me where I had the best Japanese meal of my life, I'd have to say in a small local sushi joint in Tokyo's Ginza district. But, if I'm to name the best Japanese meal I had outside of Japan, Kabuki tops the list.

*Kabuki is located in JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa, 231 Moo 3 Mai Khao, Talang. For reservations call 076 338000*



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# For the love of flavor

By Maciek Klimowicz

FORGET everything you know, forget those ho-hum comfort foods and prepare for a culinary joy ride. If you're planning a visit to the Gastro Bar, a small but stylish restaurant run by renowned Chef Daniel Isberg, you're in for a surprise.

"My idea was to run a restaurant with an open kitchen, casual atmosphere and casual food based on high quality produce. I wanted to offer a good variety food, from burgers to foie gras," Chef Daniel tells me over one of his signature cocktails.

Indeed, both burgers and foie gras are present on the menu, next to a whole list of dishes from around the globe. Fresh Vietnamese spring rolls, San Francisco-style crab cakes, *escargots a la Bourignonne*, California style Ahi tuna tartar – reading the menu at Gastro Bar feels like reading a travel journal, and in a way, that's exactly what it is.

"I've been travelling a long time and I know many flavors, some-

times I even dream about different flavors and wake up knowing I want to try something in the kitchen," explains Chef Daniel, who was born 43 years ago in Stockholm, Sweden, but has been away from his home country for the last 13 years. He spent most of this time travelling around the globe and cooking for the likes of Cameron Diaz, Britney Spears, Robin Williams, Alicia Keyes or the Swedish royal family – just to name a few. Having lived the exciting but tiring life of a celebrity chef, he decided it was time to settle down, and Phuket seemed like the perfect place.

"I'm here because it was time for me to settle down. I used to travel so much and it's hard to start something permanent when you're on the road all the time. I was turning 40 when I moved here and that's the time when you start to have less energy than when you're 25," he says.

When I ask him what keeps him motivated in his new, quiet life in Cherng Talay he replies, "I love different flavors and I like to stand



Every dish on Gastro Bar's menu is innovative, reflecting the chef's creativity. Photos. Maciek Klimowicz

out from the crowd. I want to make flavors explode in the guests' mouth, I love to hear them say, 'Wow, this is something new!'"

I can't count how many times I said the above sentence while dining at the Gastro Bar. With every dish came a surprise. Raw scallops were served with tangy cucumber sorbet, Wagyu beef carpaccio got an interesting twist thanks to long

time curing in dark rum and talking about a long time – the 10 hour, slow braised, pork belly literally melted in my mouth. All this washed down with a virgin strawberry and passionfruit mojito, served with a scoop of home made sorbet, made for one of the most exiting meals I had in a long time, disturbed only once by the Chef shouting at staff in the kitchen. When I asked later,

what was that all about, he replied, "I'm normally a nice guy, but not in the kitchen. There, I want everything perfect."

I confirm, he is and it was.

Chef Daniel's Gastro Bar is located in 100/19 Bangtao Soi 1, Srisoonthorn Rd, Cherng Talay, Thalang. For reservations call 093 764-6753 or visit [chefdanielisberg.com](http://chefdanielisberg.com)



It's all about passion for flavor, says Chef Daniel.



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# Madman or prophet?

## Books

By James Eckardt

JAMES McBride won the 2013 National Book Award for his third novel *The Good Lord Bird* (Riverhead Books, New York, 2013, 417pp). This is the story of John Brown, the militant abolitionist, from his bloody raids in Kansas Territory in 1856 to his seizure four years later of the federal armory at Harper's Ferry. Launched in the hope of sparking a slave revolt, the raid was ultimately crushed by none other than Robert E Lee and Jeb Stuart – a precursor to the American Civil War. The novel's intriguing conceit is that the narrative is dictated 90 years later by an ex-slave and former member of John Brown's band, Henry Shackleford.

His humorous 19<sup>th</sup> century dic-

tion is reminiscent of *Huckleberry Finn* and *True Grit*. At age 10, Henry is unwillingly rescued by John Brown from a comfortable life of slavery in a Missouri tavern. After "Old Man Brown" gives the tavern owner some lip, Dutch Henry Sherman replies, "Only a white-livered, tit-squeezing Yankee would talk like that." Several men got up and walked out. But the Old Man sat there, calm as an egg. "Sir," he said to Dutch, "that's an insult."

After a gunfight, Henry is plopped on the back of John Brown's horse. Brown initially mistakes Henry for a girl, clad as he is only in a flour sack. Henry's father had attempted to correct him.

"But the Old Man heard Pa say 'Henry ain't a,' and took it to be 'Henrietta,' which is how the Old Man's mind worked. Whatever he believed, he believed. It didn't matter to him whether it was

really true or not. He just changed the truth till it fit him. He was a real white man."

Henry willingly dons a dress and bonnet, to further conceal himself from the white world. Toward the end of the novel, he reflects, "Even though I'd gotten used to living a lie – being a girl – it come to me this way: Being a Negro's a lie, anyway. Nobody sees who you are inside. You just judged on what you are on the outside whatever your color. Mulatto, colored, black, it don't matter. You just a Negro to the world."

His ultimate plan is to revert to a boy and flee to Canada. Yet he regards Old Man Brown with a mixture of admiration for his anti-slavery fervor and fond exasperation at his long and loud public prayers.

"He was a plain terror in the praying department. Just when he seemed to wrap up one thought, another come tumbling up against that one, and after a while they all bumped and crashed and commingled against one another till you didn't know who was who and why he was praying it, for the whole thing come together like the tornadoes that whipped across the plains, gathering up the sagebrush and boll weevils and homesteads and tossing them about like dust."

The first couple of prayer tirades are funny but when they are repeated over and over and over they lose their humor. There is a lot of repetition throughout the book and, in general, scenes go on for too long and cry out for pruning. This is a good novel but could have been better. It does not, alas, rank with *Huckleberry Finn* or even *True Grit*. And the ending



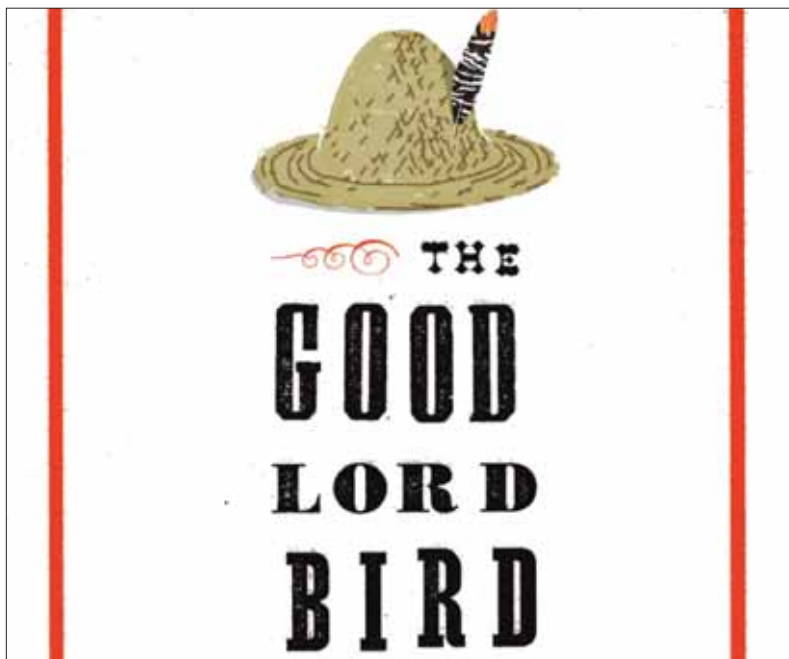
MacBride's 'The Good Lord Bird' won the National Book Award in 2013.

is hopelessly sentimental.

Still, on its own terms as an historical novel, it paints the times well from the battles on the prairies of Kansas to abolitionist meetings with Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass. The great strength of the novel is the indelible portrait of John Brown up until his hanging.

"He had a face change up there on that scaffold before they done

him in, like he seen something nobody else could see. That's an expression that lived on the Old Man's face. The Old Man was a lunatic, but he was a good, kind lunatic... He was a Bible man. A God man. Crazy as a bedbug. Pure to the truth, which will drive any man off his rocker. But at least he knewed he was crazy. At least he knewed who he was. That's more than I could say for myself."



The narrator's diction is reminiscent of 'Huckleberry Finn' and 'True Grit'.



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# Roofies and the real world

Dr Gerard Lalande

MEDICINES are created and used for treating and/or preventing diseases. Some, though fortunately very few, are misused for recreational motives or for actions that go against the will of the targeted victim. This often involves sexual abuse and when it comes to Drug Facilitated Sexual Assault (DFSA), Rohypnol is one of the leading substances.

There is obviously a need to increase awareness among youths and adults who may be exposed to risks of predator rape,

as DFSA is sometimes known. The considerable health consequences, which include loss of life, must also be made known, as prevention is the only effective way to avoid being affected.

Rohypnol, the name by which the generic flunitrazepam is known, is an oral psychotropic medicine approved in many countries, including Thailand and belongs to the same benzodiazepine class as the tranquilizer Valium. It is indicated for pre-surgery anaesthesia due to its sedative and muscle relaxing effects and, because of its strong hypnotic effect, for the short-term treatment of severe insomnia. Highly potent, the medicine can lead to rapid dependence or addiction – in many cases, after just one month of treatment – as well as tolerance, meaning there will be a need to increase the dose to obtain the same effect.

Flunitrazepam specialities (original or copies) are mostly available in small tablet form. They can dissolve easily in any drink and are invisible, without odor and without changing the taste of the beverage. Some preparations might have a dye but dropped in a dark drink in a darkened place, will not be noticeable.

The undesirable side effects of Rohypnol are frequent and vary markedly depending on each individual's sensibility to the molecule. More importantly, the drug effects and side effects are rendered dramatically more potent by the concomitant absorption of alcohol. This is why serious side effects are frequently observed among people who have unintentionally ingested Rohypnol during parties in nightlife establishments or during raves.

The effects of the drug are rapid, kicking in within 15 to 30 minutes and reaching maximal effect within two to three hours. In some cases, they may last 12 and even up to 24 hours.



Photo: Chaos

Rohypnol can dissolve easily in any drink without changing the taste of a beverage.

Undesirable effects include headache, abdominal cramps, vomiting, blurred vision, slurred speech and dizziness and as such mimic the initial signs of alcohol intoxication.

Later on, more severe symptoms may occur with a drop in blood pressure, tremors and possibly aggressive behavior. In some cases, depending on the quantity of drug and alcohol absorbed as well as the person's susceptibility to both compounds, the condition may unpredictably worsen to major respiratory distress, coma and eventually death.

In addition, flunitrazepam leads to anterograde amnesia or blackout, which means that the person is unable to remember what happened after being drugged. Because of these side effects, Rohypnol is known on the street as the mind-eraser, forget-me pill, date-rape drug, trip-and-fall, roofies and rufilin, the latter being used in the much-publicized Hangover movie, which featured a happy ending unlikely to

happen in the real world.

When facing suspected ingestion of a Rohypnol-alcohol mixture, it is wise to immediately bring the person to a hospital emergency room before the drug reaches its peak effects. The drug may be detected in the urine for up to 60 hours.

Prevention lies in broad awareness and common sense behavior such as going to parties with trusted friends and watching out for each other.

As a Rohypnol-added cocktail keeps the same taste, appearance and smell as a normal drink, ready-made beverages from strangers or opened drinks must always be declined. With such precautions, nightlife becomes a pleasure and not a nightmare.

– *The Nation*

Dr Gerard Lalande is managing director of CEO-Health, which provides medical referrals for expatriates and customized executive medical check-ups in Thailand. He can be contacted at [gerard.lalande@ceo-health.com](mailto:gerard.lalande@ceo-health.com)



Photo: Martin Terber

Rohypnol effects are rendered more potent by the concomitant absorption of alcohol.

## Phuket's Songkran donation drive starts April 1

THOSE looking to be "Blood Heroes" will find it hard not to stumble upon a willing needle as the Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC) will offer a plethora of opportunities to donate this month.

"We are calling for donations in anticipation of an increased number of accidents, and thus a higher demand for blood during Songkran," said PRBC Chief Pornthip Rattajak.

In addition to setting up mobile donation clinics throughout the island, the PRBC will host two events at the blood center in April.

"The PRBC, in conjunction with the Phuket Red Cross, invites the public to donate blood from April 2-6 in honor of the 59<sup>th</sup> birthday of HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on April 2. We will hold a special event at the blood center from 8:30am to 4:30pm on April 4. There will be free food and drinks. Additionally, we will give away 100 'squeeze the heart' balls to donors," said Ms Pornthip.

"Another event at the center will be from April 8-16. The first 400 donors will receive a free souvenir t-shirt from the PRBC."

The center currently has 50 units of blood type A, 100 units of type B, 150 units of type O and 30 units of type AB in stock, explained Ms Pornthip.

"We want to have an additional 240 units of blood on hand for the holiday," she said.

"We only have three units of Rhesus-negative blood and are always in need of more."

To help replenish stocks, mobile donation clinics will take place on the following dates:

**April 8:** Bangkok Hospital Phuket (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), 1pm-5pm

**April 10:** Wine Connection (Fisherman's Way, Chalong), 9am-midday

**April 18:** Premium Outlet Mall (bypass road), 11am-3pm

**April 22:** Hilton Arcadia Resort and Spa Phuket (Karon Beach), 1-4pm  
The Front Village Phuket (Karon Beach), 1-4pm

**April 24:** Worldeppium Company (bypass

road), 1-4pm

**April 25:** British International School (Koh Kaew), 1-4pm. Tesco Lotus (Thalang), midday-6pm

**April 27:** SCB, Big C Supercenter (bypass rd.), 2-6pm

**April 28:** Phuket International Airport (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), 10-4pm

**April 29:** JW Marriott Resort and Spa Phuket (Thalang), 1-4pm

**April 30:** Jungceylon (Patong), 10am-3pm

The PRBC accepts donations everyday at their headquarters on Rattanakosin 200 Year Road, next to the Phuket Provincial



Employment Office in Saphan Hin (map here) at the following times: Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:30am to 4:30pm; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:30am to 8pm; and Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays from 9am to 3pm.

– *Phuket Gazette*



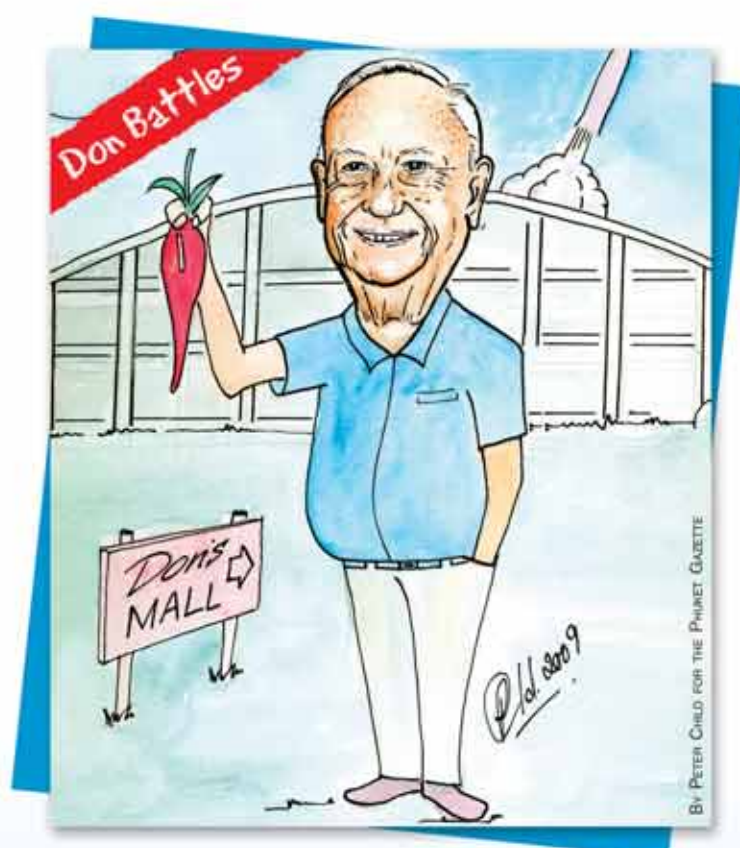
# BOOK NIGHT AT

## THE SPEAKEASY

Royal Phuket Marina

**Renowned NASA Rocket Scientist, Farmer  
and Phuket Restaurateur with 30 years in Thailand**

## DON BATTLES



will launch his new book  
**'Merchant of the Orient'**  
At 6:30pm on Tuesday

# April 8

***Guaranteed to fascinate. Don't miss it!***  
***Free entry. Free snacks. Two-for-price-of-one drinks til 9pm***



**Phuket Gazette**



## Your weekly pith:

"Well, sir, it's this rug I had. It really tied the room together."  
— *The Big Lebowski*

"Say, any of you boys smithies? Or, if not smithies per se, were you otherwise trained in the metallurgic arts before straitened circumstances forced you into a life of aimless wanderin'?"  
— *O Brother Where Art Thou?*

## Medium

	9	8				5	3	
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4		5	8		3	2		9
		1	9		4	6		
		4	3		6	1		
6		9	7		8	4		3
8								1
	1	3				7	2	

**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

## Hard

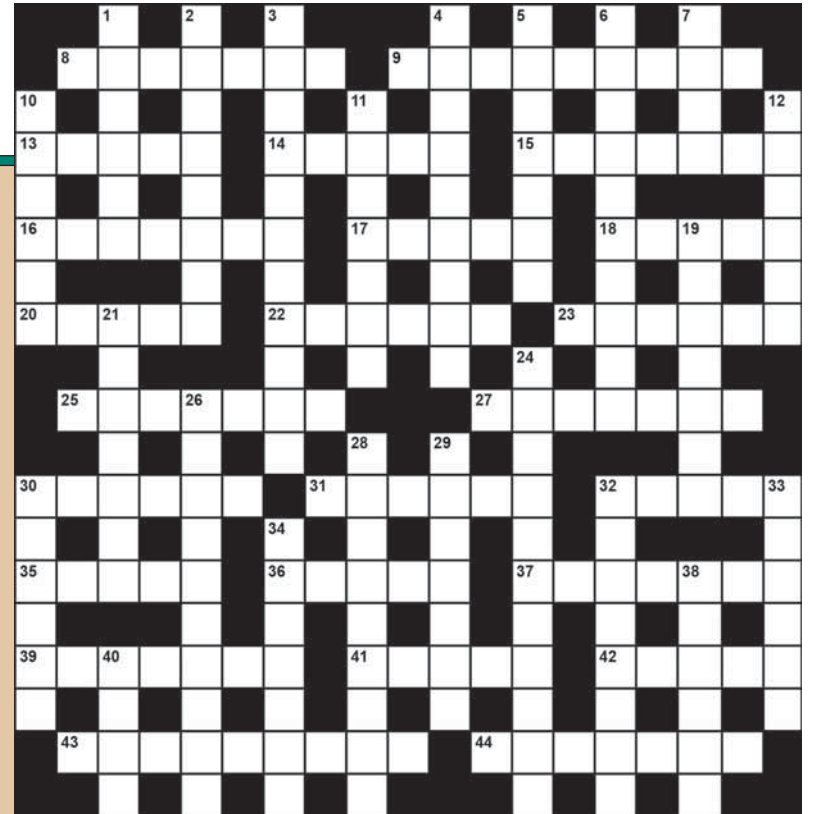
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4								1

COFFEE  
break

## Cryptic Crossword

## Across

8. Shake up inert Pa to distemper again (7)  
9. Enter tape carefully to infiltrate (9)  
13. Nowadays inclined to adjust (5)  
14. Adult daughter Eve is out to give the slip (5)  
15. Master moved out East in an old vessel (7)  
16. Outstanding pleas moved - about one hundred and one! (7)  
17. Bravo! mixes gin round for gambling game (5)  
18. Here in France, left Yankee in a very cold manner (5)  
20. I, Bachelor of Medicine, turn East to inspire (5)  
22. Agent moves round the North for big bird (6)  
23. Let short return reverse correspondence (6)  
25. Page turned carelessly - careful! (7)  
27. Study temporary accommodation, satisfied (7)  
30. Darn! A stab of pain! (6)  
31. Scowl! Grand, look sullen (6)  
32. Tendency to time right conclusion (5)  
35. United Nations move quickly to make computer file normal size (5)  
36. Bid return to United Kingdom from a road in Old Phuket (5)  
37. Free time for the French one? Certainly! (7)  
39. Papa, disconcert with childish chatter (7)  
41. Nor to arrange otherwise (2,3)  
42. Left one Pound on account for flowering shrub (5)  
43. No, the star unfortunately



- bears forty five degrees (9)  
44. Regimental officer maybe once, LOL! (7)

## Down

1. Faced out East to vandalize (6)  
2. Final chance like the one before (4,4)  
3. Clever, letting line move (11)  
4. As shown below in this place, maybe nude, right? (9)  
5. Opens in new periodic payments (7)  
6. Chief met nine per arrangement (10)  
7. Hold back the main shoot (4)  
10. Public Address is first class in Thai. Go left (3,3)  
11. Catching new adult note, black mixed gin (7)  
12. Earnest entreaty for a perry to be put out (6)  
19. Vehement teens in

- disturbance (7)  
21. Be right large, one Australia composer! (7)  
24. Company restricted telling of connection (11)  
26. Behead, pate cited a mess (10)  
28. Cudgel Company to produce a building for social activities (4,5)  
29. Arouses? Aw, sneak out! (7)  
30. Squat spy hides diminutive stomach (6)  
32. Or in till perhaps a large amount (8)  
33. Soak nerd turning up to church (6)  
34. Nowadays in this place daughter stuck (7)  
38. Turn bad girl out. Note, not so pretty! (6)  
40. Succulent beer hides nothing (4)

## ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Taking the lead comes naturally to Arians and this will stand you in good stead until the middle of April. In the world of work, sincerity speaks louder than spinning the truth to suit your purposes. Another fire sign is forecast to be less than impressed at being kept in the dark. Those with a birthday during the coming week will have more positive romantic experience in the year ahead.

## TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



A temporary short fuse means that those born under the sign of Taurus can fly off the handle early next week. The stars recommend putting relaxation at the top of your weekend agenda - a stress relieving massage would be worthwhile. Another earth sign's enjoyment of nature can prompt you to leave the concrete jungle behind this weekend. Love is luckiest mid-week, with a water sign keen to share a romantic encounter.

## GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Delays are forecast to frustrate Geminis and this could particularly affect travel arrangements. It would be sensible to allow more time to get to the places where you really

need to be. Another air sign will not appreciate being let down regarding a business appointment midweek. In the realm of romance, the lack of response from an earth sign does not necessarily mean that they are not keen.

## CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Cancerians could have to weather a small storm in the world of work this week. The unsettled cosmic climate can encourage misunderstandings getting out of proportion, especially when communicating with fire signs. As the middle of the month approaches, a fresh burst of energy allows you to assert more independence - this is forecast to be a positive influence in the realm of romance. Fortunate days for finances are Thursday and Friday.

## LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Your career is in the spotlight until the middle of April. Leos who have been unsure about accepting an unusual offer should receive guidance from a trusted water sign friend. The tide is set to turn for those who are tired of missing out on promotion. An earth sign's inability to meet their responsibilities can pave the way for your chance to show what you are capable of.

YOUR  
horoscope  
By Isla Star

## VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Those born under the sign of Virgo will be happy to go where life takes them this week. An easy-going atmosphere encourages peace of mind and putting problems on the back burner is beneficial. The stars indicate that moving into a different social scene will be beneficial for Virgoans looking for love. Finances are steady until the end of April and it should be easy to put something aside for a rainy day.

## LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Motivation strengthens for Librans as the middle of April approaches. A small success at work helps you to glimpse bigger possibilities. Those who want to climb the career ladder can expect a fire sign to bring a tempting offer to the table. The stars recommend taking care that your personal life does not suffer while all this business activity is going on. An earth sign partner shows that they feel left out this weekend.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Good vibrations are in the astral atmosphere and the stars show that Scorpios will be in a lighter mood until the middle of the month. This will enable you to tackle issues that seemed beyond your control. In the realm of romance, heightened charisma is forecast to attract others towards you. An air sign can be hard to resist - those already spoken for are advised to reveal this status at the earliest opportunity.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



The stars suggest that Sagittarians can feel invisible at the moment. Those who need to be noticed at work will have to stand out from the crowd - this is an auspicious time to fine tune ideas and polish up proposals. The second half of April should provide opportunities to talk with people with influence. Romance picks up pace, with an air sign proving they are keen to commit.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Investing energy in the right direction brings financial rewards later in the year. Capricorns can take advantage of astral backing during the remainder of April to discover how they can enhance existing skills and start to build new ones.

Romance on the rebound with a fire sign is fun, but the stars show that hopes for long term possibilities will be dashed. A loan is forecast to be repaid earlier than you thought.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Personal relationships are highlighted this week and the stars indicate that you will have reason to realize it's not possible to be friends with everyone. Money matters are auspicious - being in the right place at the right time can lead to fruitful work or investment opportunities. Long distance connections are rekindled and this could prompt certain Aquarians to seriously consider visiting someone they haven't seen for some time.

## PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



This is an auspicious week for Pisceans to face up to bad habits and situations that are having a negative impact on their lives. Inner cleansing will leave you free to move forward with what is worthwhile. The stars advise making time for inner reflection this weekend, even if this means canceling social plans. Romance with another water sign flows more freely when your emotions have calmed down.



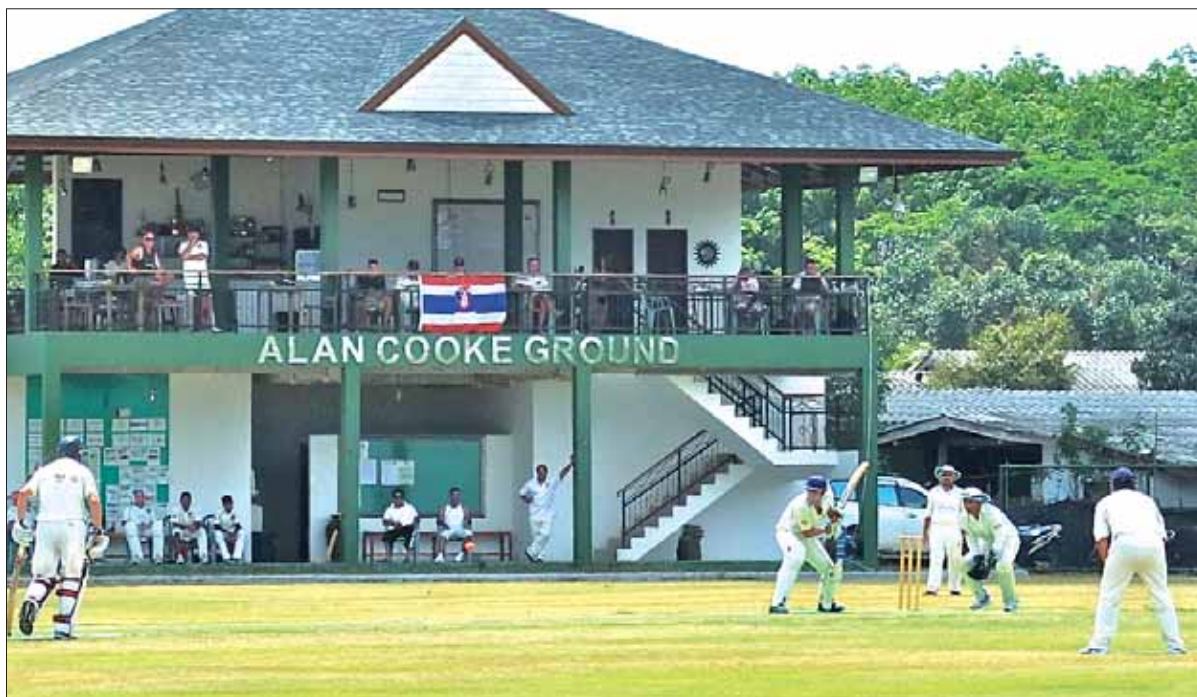
# Thalang too good for Laguna

IN THE much anticipated JLL league match on March 30, the Thalang cricket team defeated Laguna by 90 runs and now have an insurmountable lead in the Jones Lang Lasalle League points championship. Laguna, last year's champions haven't been beaten in a JLL league match in the past 2 seasons but had no answers to Thalang in this match.

Played at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) under a baking sun with little wind, Thalang won the toss and choose to bat first. Justin Thomatos and Andrew McMillan already boasting two hundred run partnerships from their last two innings together went to another level. The left and right handed combination hit the ball to all areas of the ACG and ran Laguna off their feet in a rare Phuket cricket display. A fumbled run-out opportunity was the closest that Laguna came to a wicket as Thalang raced to 93-0 at the first drinks break. After the break Thomatos continued to bat like a cat with nine lives. His luck was again evident when he was caught at long on from the bowling of Sameer Khan only for the umpire to call a no-ball due to Khan dislodging a bail during the delivery. Laguna tried nine different

bowlers prior to the 24 over drinks break but couldn't remove either of the batsmen who by this point were well and truly out on their feet. In the 25<sup>th</sup> over Thomatos brought up his third century of the year and together with McMillan it was the first ever 200 run batting partnership on the Alan Cooke Ground. Just a couple of balls after saluting the crowd and Thomatos was dismissed for 102 runs from 83 balls. Laguna then brought opening bowlers Pir Sami and Shoeib Mustaq back into the attack. Between them they picked up five wickets and the run rate fell to under 7.5 runs an over. Sami got the wicket of McMillan, trapped in front for 99 runs from 87 balls and was clearly the pick of the Laguna bowlers with 4-35. Aidan Keeble 17 from 10 balls, hit a few boundaries at the finish to see Thalang reach 274-6 from their 35 overs.

Requiring almost eight an over to win Laguna made a good fist of it early with Manish Sadarangani hitting some nice boundaries through point and some valuable edges over the slips and the wicket keeper. At drinks the equation for Laguna was one wicket down and still requiring over 200 to win from the last 23



Last year's champions Laguna had no answers to Thalang during last Sunday's match. Photo: Michael Way

overs. Laguna lifted their scoring rate through big hitter Sameer Khan after Sadarangani 43 from 57 balls was dismissed but the introduction of Neill Culpan in the 18<sup>th</sup> over put a stop to the free flow of runs that Khan was scoring. Laguna were not without a chance of an upset on 146-3 heading into the last session with their two most experienced hit-

ters Khan and Stuart Reading out in the middle. One ball later and it was a different story when Thai youngster "Paan" caught Reading on the boundary off the bowling of Bill Stahmer. It wasn't to be for Laguna as Culpan dismissed Khan, two batsmen were run out in an over, and spinner Andrew McMillan grabbed 3-6 to have Laguna all

out for 184 in the 31<sup>st</sup> over. Khan was the top scorer with a well compiled 62 runs from 57 balls meanwhile Culpan was the pick of the Thalang bowlers with 2-22 from his allotted seven overs.

The JLL league points champion and second place has now been decided but who will finish third and earn the right to play finals cricket? – *Phuket Gazette*



## Tip: contact is your top priority

TENNIS is a Contact Sport! Contacting the ball is the one common denominator amongst all tennis shots. Therefore it needs to be the focus of your concentration.

When it comes to the groundstroke, there are three parts of the swing:

- Backswing
- Contact area
- Follow-through

The backswing is for power. A tennis player must use different amounts of backswing depending on the situation.

The follow-through is for injury-prevention. The bigger and faster the swing, the longer the follow-through should be. A slow, short swing needs very little follow-through.

What happens between the backswing and the follow-through is BY FAR the most important part of the swing. Ensure you do not get distracted into worrying about different aspects of your swing, as you simply cannot hit a quality shot without contacting the ball. Contacting the ball at the right time and place, regardless of what type of groundstroke you are hitting, will feel better, sound better and the ball will go where you want it to go. *This* is what it is all about!

It is this feel, sound and result that will motivate you to come back to the tennis court for more.

*Tip by Thanyapura's Tennis Head Coach, Roger Cochrane. To contact the coach send an email to [tennis@thanyapura.com](mailto:tennis@thanyapura.com)*

## ITF seniors tennis in Thanyapura

THANYAPURA Phuket says it is honored to be hosting its very first International Tennis Federation (ITF) seniors event next week, with play taking place from Monday, April 7 to Saturday, April 12.

Careful not to let the word "Seniors" lead you to imagine elderly people with walking canes donning their tennis whites for a friendly rally. The six days of non-stop tennis action on the courts at Thanyapura will be hotly contested and highly competitive.

The ITF Seniors Tennis event is set to bring some of the best adult players in Asia and

beyond to Phuket and is sure to give spectators plenty excitement.

For those officially entered in the event, the sign in time for singles is Sunday, April 6 from 4-6pm and for doubles, Monday, April 7 until 4pm. You must come in person to Thanyapura to be officially signed in for the tournament.

All of the singles action will get underway on Monday, April 7 and doubles play will kick off on Tuesday, April 8.

Category entries are as follows:

Men's Singles and Doubles: 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+, 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+  
Women's Singles and Doubles: 35+, 40+, 45+, 50+

Mixed Doubles: 35+, 45+

The ITF has been kind enough to offer Thanyapura a select number of wild-card entries, so if you're a competitive player and still haven't signed, up please contact Mr Virapol Cholvibul urgently on 081-490-9814.

Attendance to this ITF seniors tennis event is free for the public, so make sure you get to Thanyapura between April 7-12 for the best tennis action on the island. – *Phuket Gazette*

For further information about the event, contact Mr Virapol Cholvibul at: [virapol.c@thanyapura.com](mailto:virapol.c@thanyapura.com)



Photo: Supplied

The ITF Seniors Tennis event is set to bring some of the best adult players in Asia and beyond to Phuket



# Flying Fish storm pool

WITH temperatures soaring close to 40 degrees Celsius, 312 energetic six-to-18-year-old swimmers and their many supporters packed the grandstands at the Thanyapura Invitational Swim Meet presented by Rocket Science Sports, held last weekend on March 29 and 30.

Thanyapura's Olympic standard aquatic center played host to a total of 17 teams, and swimmers from eight countries joined the meet from as far afield as Russia, China (Beijing and Shanghai), Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Malaysia and Thailand (Phuket, Koh Samui, Bangkok).

After two busy days of competitive swimming, Phuket's BIS Flying Fish reaped the home-ground advantage to take the trophy for overall winning team with 2,740 points, while the Bangkok Dolphins scored second place with 2,649 points and Thanyapura's Silverfinz team

placed third overall with 2,519 points.

Overall, the event was a great success, having attracted 12 new teams to participate: Shanghai Community International School (4<sup>th</sup> place overall, largest point score for international team), Valle Verde Aqua Lasers Swim Club (Philippines), Fighting Fish Swim Team (Singapore), Shanghai Ykpao School (China), Phuket Swim Club, Green Archers Swim Club (Philippines), Tube Swimming (Kazakhstan), Extreme Fitness Athletics (Russia), St Clare Montessori School (Philippines), Aqua Panthers (Phuket), The Swim Lab (Singapore) and Concordia Shanghai International (China).

The Shanghai Community International School brought in the most swimmers, amounting to 40 students. A total of 291 swimmers improved their times in a total of 1,313 different events. The event was sponsored by the Sports Authority



312 swimmers took part in the Thanyapura Invitational Swim Meet on March 29 and 30.

Thailand, Rocket Science Sports and Coca-Cola.

– *Phuket Gazette*

For teams and individual swimmers who missed this exciting meet, Thanyapura will soon host another great event – the Superkidz Invitational Swim Meet – over three days during the school term break on April 18-20. Contact [aquatics@thanyapura.com](mailto:aquatics@thanyapura.com) for more information or to register.



BISP took first place with Bangkok and Thanyapura in second and third respectively.

## Trick shot champ coming to Phuket



Golf trick shot champ Geoff Swain will show off his skills at the Phuket Oilfield Classic. Photo: Supplied

THE Phuket Oilfield Classic has kicked off with 130 oil and gas executives descending on the island for three days of golf and entertainment from April 3-6.

The highlight of the weekend will be a golf show by Geoff Swain, the current World Trick Shot Champion who will be demonstrating his own brand of fun, thrills, audience participation, mind blowing trick shots, unbelievable hand eye co-ordination and an amusing line in banter with the audience.

Everyone who has seen him perform, and this includes many seasoned golf professionals, have described his show as the best they have ever seen.

Geoff has been all over the world but this is his inaugural visit to Thailand and he is looking forward to showing off his skills for the first time at the Phuket Oilfield Classic.

David Pettigrew, from Asian Golf Events said, "We are very excited that Geoff is able to be with us in Phuket and we are all looking forward to an fantastic weekend".

Also attending the event for the first time will be a team from Tee Video, the market leaders in golf event coverage, who will be covering the event and showing an edited highlight video capturing some of the more amusing moments on the course. They have covered events all over the world over the last 23 years and have produced over one million DVDs of events in Europe, Africa, America and the Middle East.

– *Phuket Gazette*

## Suunto We Freedive series into next round in Chalong



Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Freedivers competed for distance records at Phuket Country Home in Chalong on March 30.

THE Dynamic Without Fins (DNF) event at the We Freedive Suunto Series saw two red cards as contestants pushed to cover as much horizontal distance as possible in the Association Internationale pour le Developpement de l'Apnee (AIDA) event.

Malaysian champion Azam Hamid, who holds records in several of other freediving disciplines, crossed the marker for the Malaysia National record at 81 meters, but ended up being handed a red card by AIDA judges Sarah Witcher and Richard Wonka for airway obstruction after he surfaced.

"Azam's red card was a good reminder to listen to the body,"

said Mr Wonka. "Azam could have beaten that [81m], but wanted too much at once. Had he come up at 82m, I think he would have been fine."

Phuket dive instructor and mermaid, Melanie Long, made her first showing in a DNF event, and was rewarded with a white card.

"I was feeling good to begin with when I did my practice run, but as soon as I got into the competition lane I could feel my heart beating out my chest. I dunno why, maybe just the pressure of a competition – like doing an exam," Ms Long said.

Ms Long set a new personal record at 43m.

The big swim, however, went

to American Walter Johnson.

"Walter covered 104m, that's world class," Mr Wonka said.

"It felt like a very friendly get-together, with good results that showed that it's clean dives that make a successful competition."

"We've got the first two white cards counting towards the grand prize in December, too, so I'm very happy with how things went."

We Freedive Suunto Series sponsored by, Suunto, Special-Fins and Dive Supply, will continue on April 19.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Those wanting to participate in the event can register at [WeFreedive.org](http://WeFreedive.org)



# Sport

## Drifting is sliding into style

TRUEVISIONS has introduced TrueVisions Drift Team, the first and only drift team in Thailand to promote motor sport, especially drifting, in Thailand to reach international level.

The company also aims to be the hub for motor sport lovers by broadcasting the competitions on TrueVisions, the company announced in a press statement.

The goal of TrueVisions Drift Team, apart from winning the competition, is to mix speed and art harmoniously in Drift Art Clip to showcase Thai motorists' drifting skills, the company said.

TrueVisions Drift Team's competition in every tournament will be broadcast on TrueVisions starting this May on True Sport 3 (TrueVisions 103) and on TrueVisions Anywhere application. The team's updates and clips will also be posted on YouTube, Facebook and Instagram under the name TrueVisions Drift Team.

Ongard Prapakamol, Board of Directors of TrueVisions Group, said TrueVisions want to meet the



The TrueVisions Drift Team.

growing popularity of motor sport in Thailand by introducing drifting, which is fast becoming a well-known motor sport in the US, UK and Japan since 2006.

"In Thailand, the popularity of drifting is rising rapidly because it is challenging and exciting. Today, there are many new drifters in Thailand, and TrueVisions sees the importance of being a part of this growing sport to support the drifting community in Thailand locally and internationally," Ongard said.

"This is also a part of our TrueVisions Cheer Thai campaign. We have set up TrueVisions Drift Team and serve as a medium for our audience to see the excitement on TrueVisions. We would like to invite the audience to watch and support TrueVisions Drift Team and every drift team in Thailand. This is one of the most fast growing sports in Thailand at the moment."

He said TrueVisions also present world-renowned motor sport content such as Go Kart, Jet Ski King's Cup, Moto GP, F1, World Rally Championship, V8 Supercars 2014, Nascar, Superbike World Championship, Motocross World Championship, and TrueVisions Bobby Hunter Super One Race 2014.

Kanagorn Hoontrakool, general



Drifting is a form of racing where the driver intentionally breaks traction in a controlled manner. Photo: Kevin Miller

manager of TrueVisions Drift Team, said, "TrueVisions Drift Team is the first and only drift team in Thailand. We are different from other drift teams because we mix art, speed, entertainment and friendship together."

He said his team has two goals. To compete: In 2014, the team will participate in three tour-

naments which are D1 Grand Prix Thailand, Drift Competition Thailand and Formula Drift. TrueVisions Drift Team is confident that our drifters and our team's strength will result in the victory in every tournament.

To create: The team will present drift art clips to showcase the art of drifting which

require both speed and skills. The audience will be amazed at every second. The team is supported by TrueVisions' production team to make the clips even more perfect and well-known internationally. In addition to that, the team has CSR plans, such as donating used tires for art projects or for public use.

- The Nation

## Bangkok to host olympic committee

BANGKOK will host the General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) in November of this year.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports chaired a meeting of the working group to prepare for the ANOC General Assembly 2014 on Friday. The meeting focuses on details of the event which will take

place in Bangkok during November 5-9.

The organizing working group agreed that the assembly will be held at the Bangkok Convention Centre, Centara Grand at CentralWorld.

The assembly will feature Executive Council elections as well as the first ever ANOC Gala Awards Dinner. The appointment of the Organizing Working Group will be ratified by the Executive Council.

The ANOC General Assembly 2014 is expected to be participated by delegates from 204 countries including Thailand, the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

After Thailand, the ANOC General Assembly in 2015 will be held in Washington DC and in 2016 in Rio de Janeiro.

- NNT



Photo: Atos

## Top of the Gulf Regatta celebrates 10th anniversary

ASIA'S largest multi-class regatta celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, with boats and sailors from around the world descending on Pattaya from May 1 to 5 at Ocean Marina Yacht Club on Jomtien Beach.

The Top of the Gulf Regatta expects a record fleet of more than 250 boats and 600-plus sailors from more than 30 countries, including Olympians and national and regional champions.

The competition will feature some of the region's best racing boats, multihulls, cruisers, and Asia's largest one-design class, the Platu. Added to this will be large dinghy and beach catamaran fleets, the Thailand Optimist National Championships and, for the first time in Thailand, Top of the Gulf will host the RS: One Asian Championship.

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Photo: Jeremie Schatz

250 boats representing 30 countries are expected at this year's regatta.

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## International Sport

# Valdes out of World Cup

By Tim Hanlon

SPAIN goalkeeper Victor Valdes will miss the World Cup after being ruled out of action for seven months following knee surgery.

He had been in good form this season for Barcelona, who are in contention to win three trophies, before suffering a cruciate ligament injury making a routine save in last week's La Liga game against Celta Vigo.

"The player has been operated on by Dr Ulrich Boenisch and Ricard Pruna in Augsburg, Germany," the

club said in a statement.

"The operation was a success and he will now be out for approximately seven months."

Valdes, 32, was set to be named in Vicente del Bosque's Spain squad to go to the World Cup and had a good chance of being the first-choice keeper with Iker Casillas having lost his place in the Real Madrid team to Diego Lopez.

Valdes' contract with Barca runs out in June and he was looking for a move away from the Nou Camp.

— Reuters



Barcelona's goalkeeper Victor Valdes (bottom), surrounded by his teammates, gestures as he lies injured after a freekick during their La Liga soccer match against Celta Vigo at Camp Nou Stadium. Photo: Albert Gea/Reuters

# Referees to focus on player's safety

By Brian Homewood

PROTECTING players from heavy tackles will be the priority for referees at this year's World Cup in Brazil rather than other contentious issues such as diving, handball and the triple punishment.

Football is generally considered to have become much less violent on the pitch in the last few years and the game's governing body FIFA said during a training week for World Cup referees on Thursday that it wanted to keep it that way.

"There are always things we are asked to be vigilant on, pretty much always trying to protect the players, from heavy play, from foul play and violent play and also protecting the image of the game," 2010 World Cup final referee Howard Webb told reporters.

FIFA's head of refereeing Massimo Busacca said referees attending the World Cup, which starts on June 12, would be instructed to nip any signs of rough play in the bud.

"The safety of the players is very important so the referees have to read the situation carefully at the beginning of the game," he said.

"If players start committing this type of (violent) foul, we have to take action to avoid it. We have to say: 'We do not want to see this kind of football in this competition'.

"This is the role of the referee, to try to understand and anticipate. Sometimes, the players forget because of the adrenalin. The role of the referee is to say: 'Do you want to play today or do you want to take a shower?'

"We must try to avoid these situations which can destroy football."

Although diving is considered by many observers to be the scourge of the sport, Englishman Webb said it was a relatively small headache for match officials.

"It's one of the things we are always asked to be vigilant about because when it's not accurately identified it can have quite a damaging effect on the game," he said.

## CLEAR MESSAGE

"The message is being sent, loud and clear, to the competing teams about their responsibilities as well.

"If you look at the number of decisions made around simulation,

they are quite low compared to the vast number of decisions we have to make," he added.

"Although it's a small problem, it has a big impact when it does happen, so of course it becomes quite serious."

Webb said the pace of the modern game made it almost unrecognisable from when he started 20 years ago and said the relationship between match officials and players was good.

"It's almost a different sport form many years ago, so we have to adapt to that and be as quick as the players are in terms of the speed of their thought and speed of their play," he said.

"In most cases, the experience I have with the players is positive, and that includes the famous players and the young players.

"You are certainly aware of the increased scrutiny to when I started 20 years ago.

"The attention on football increases all the time. It's so important to so many people in so many ways and we feel that.

"We are aware of our responsibility and aware that if we do make a mistake, there will be a big reaction.

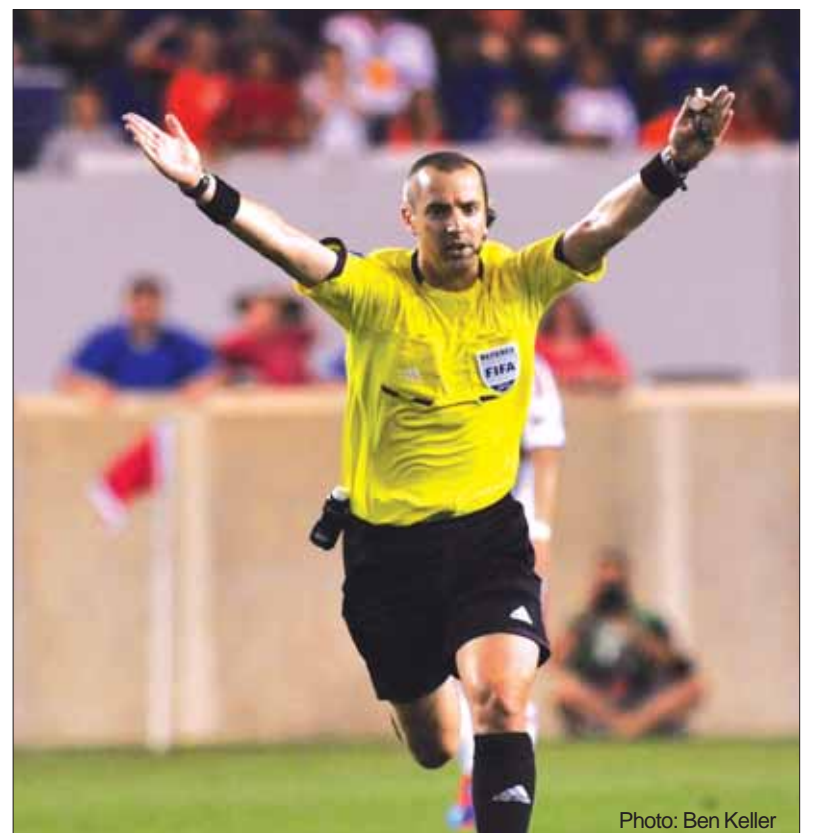


Photo: Ben Keller

World Cup referees have to nip any signs of rough play in the bud.

"We care about what we do for sure, it's not so easy for us either when we make a mistake.

"The flip side is when we do a

good job, and many games do go fantastically well for all of us, then it's a fantastic high and a great thing to be involved in."

— Reuters

# Work at WC stadium halted after worker dies

by Tatiana Ramil

BRAZILIAN authorities halted work at the temporary stands of the stadium that will host the opening match of this year's World Cup following the death of a worker, the company in charge of the construction said on Monday.

The regional labour authority of Sao Paulo demanded that Fast Engenharia stop building to make a technical analysis of the project,

the company said in a statement. Fast Engenharia said that after the analysis it will announce a new time frame for finishing the temporary stands.

Fabio Hamilton da Cruz died on Saturday after falling 25 feet (7.6 meters) while installing floors on the stands, becoming the third construction worker to perish while working on the Arena Corinthians on the outskirts of Sao Paulo. Seven workers have died

building Brazil's World Cup stadiums.

The stadium was supposed to be finished in December but the delivery date was pushed back after two workers were killed in November when a crane toppled over.

Work has been slow since then and there is concern that safety may be taking a back seat to haste as workers rush to finish the stadium in time.

— Reuters



A general view of the Arena Sao Paulo stadium, known as 'Arena Corinthians' and 'Itaquerao', in Sao Paulo. Photo: Nacho Doce/Reuters



# England humiliated by Netherlands in T20

By Sudipto Ganguly

ENGLAND slumped to an embarrassing 45-run defeat by the Netherlands at the World Twenty20 on Monday to end a dismal few months at a new low point.

England, already eliminated from the tournament after defeats by New Zealand and South Africa, were bowled out for 88 chasing a modest 134 for victory in their final Group One super 10 match in Chittagong.

England's 88 was the lowest total ever posted by a full-member test side against an associate nation in the shortest format of the game.

"It sums up our winter really. It was pretty similar to our batting displays when we lost the Ashes in Australia," a dejected En-

gland captain Stuart Broad said at the presentation ceremony.

"Lack of commitment in the shots and a very disorganised chase it was. The bowling and fielding was ok, we just lacked a bit of hunger with the bat by the looks of it."

"No one got going, no one took responsibility and Netherlands took the chance. It was a relatively simple chase but a shocking chase in the end."

Logan van Geek and Mudassar Bukhari took three wickets each for the Dutch, who also defeated England by four wickets in the opening match of the World Twenty20 at Lord's in 2009.

Bukhari (3-12) did the damage with the new ball, taking the openers out while van Geek (3-9) accounted for the lower middle

order as England capitulated to be all out with 14 balls to spare.

"The whole tournament I hadn't taken any wickets and this was the game for me actually," Bukhari said at the presentation ceremony.

"The wicket did help me a bit. "At the halfway stage, I thought it's going to be hard work out there but when we took four wickets in powerplay, we thought we had a good chance there."

Broad, who said he was unsure if he would continue leading the team, took three wickets for 24 runs as the bowlers restricted the Netherlands to 133 for five wickets after opting to field first.

Wesley Barresi top-scored for the Dutch with a 48 and added 50 for the second wicket with opener Stephan Myburgh (39) to lay the foundation for their total. — Reuters



England's Michael Lumb plays a ball against India during their warm-up match of ICC Twenty20 World Cup. Photo: Andrew Biraj/Reuters

# Abu Dhabi's circuit chef defends changes

By Matt Smith

ABU DHABI'S circuit chief has defended Formula One's decision to award double points for the final grand prix of the 2014 season, which the UAE capital will stage in November.

The International Automobile Federation (FIA) made the points change in a bid to keep the championship alive as long as possible after Red Bull won four successive drivers' and constructors' titles and television audiences fell.

But the new rule has drawn an angry response from many fans and world champion Sebastian Vettel branded it absurd.

"The fact it came to us, that's good for Abu Dhabi, it will keep things exciting to the last minute - I feel the mentality of the drivers will change," Al Tareq al-Ameri,

chief of executive of Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina circuit, told a news conference.

"People don't like changes, but for a sport like this, from the history, there are always changes happening with Formula One and that's what keeps it exciting."

Abu Dhabi will stage the last of 19 races this season, with Formula One hoping for more of a fight to the finish than last year, when Germany's Vettel sealed a fourth successive world crown with three rounds to spare.

The UAE capital, which joined the F1 calendar in 2009, appears to have an evens chance of this year's championship going to the wire, with five of the last 10 titles decided on the last day, but Ameri said Abu Dhabi would not lose its lustre however the season develops.

"For the fans that follow the F1 championship it's not about determining who is the champion at what round, they stick with it all the way through," said Ameri as he unveiled plans to increase Yas Marina's capacity to 60,000 from 55,000.

"It's an exciting event for them and I think each round by itself provides a unique proposition," he added.

Mercedes have won the first two races of 2014 - Nico Rosberg in Australia and Lewis Hamilton in Malaysia.

Vettel earned Red Bull's first points of the season with third place in Sepang on Sunday, a step in the right direction for a team that looked in disarray during winter testing after their Renault power unit suffered reliability woes. — Reuters



Sebastian Vettel of Germany waits to leave the pit during the Abu Dhabi F1 Grand Prix at the Yas Marina circuit on Yas Island. Photo: Caren Firouz/Reuters

# Seoul wants North Korea in the Games

By Narae Kim

SOUTH Korean organizers of this year's Asian Games in Incheon have asked the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for help in getting North Korea to take part in the multi-sports event.

The news comes amid heightened tension on the Korean peninsula after the North fired more than 100 artillery rounds into South Korean waters as part of a drill on Monday, prompting the South to fire back.

The North has ratcheted up its rhetoric in recent weeks and conducted a series of missile launches, mostly short-range, in response to what it sees as the threat posed

by a series of joint US-South Korean military drills that are held annually.

Asian Games organizers said in a statement that Kim Young-soo, president of the organizing committee, had made the request to IOC President Thomas Bach at a meeting in Kuwait on Monday.

Bach responded by saying that the IOC would do all it could to help the South Korean organizers. He also said he would attend the September 19 to October 4 Asian Games.

"Every competition shines when all member countries participate in it and the Incheon Asian Games is no exception," said Bach. "The IOC will spare no effort toget



North Korea come to Incheon."

North Korea said in January it would send men's and women's football teams to compete at the Asian Games.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said Pyongyang officials told reporters a month later that the North would compete in all the events at the Asian Games.

North Korea sent a delegation of almost 200 athletes and 100 cheerleaders to the Busan Asian Games in South Korea in 2002. — Reuters

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