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**Lifeguards walk off beaches**

**Officials bungle contract as danger season begins**

INSIDE TODAY

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■ **'DO NOT PAY CORRUPT COPS, IT ONLY ENCOURAGES THEM'**

# Fight for your right to work

■ **Go toe-to-toe with police in court, says employment chief**

By **Saran Mitrarat**

ALL foreigners who believe that they have been wrongfully arrested for breaching the conditions of their work permit must fight for their rights, said the chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO).

"If the police insist on arresting you, let them do it. If they threaten to detain you, let them. You have the right to deny the charge in court. If you have done nothing wrong, you have nothing to fear," PPEO chief Yaowapa Pibulpol told the Gazette this week.

"Do not pay any money 'under the table' if officers ask for it. This only encourages corruption."

Ms Yaowapa was adamant that only genuine cases of foreigners working illegally would be upheld by the court.

"If you are not breaching the conditions of your work permit, Employment Office personnel will present themselves in court to explain to police..."



Continued on Page 4

PPEO officer Orakarn Tongkaew points to the description in the work permit. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

**Burmese man arrested for French killing**

A FRENCH tourist who was bludgeoned to death in his sleep was killed out of anger, said one suspect.

The tourist had allegedly insulted a Myanmar national, who later attacked him with a piece of wood while carrying out a robbery in a Rawai resort.

Full story Pages 2

**New mayor to take reins of party town**

FORMER MP and Phuket Democrat Chalermluck Keksab has ousted former Patong Mayor Pian Keesin in a hotly contested race for the island's party town.

Preliminary vote tallies left Mr Pian, who had been convicted of vote fraud in the previous election and awarded a yellow card, with 3,330 votes and Ms Chalermluck with 4,390.

Full story Page 7

**Teens debunk cop brutality allegations**

TWO of three suspects allegedly assaulted by police during a rape investigation have publicly declared that the incident never occurred.

Nonetheless, four officers were transferred after public protests left thousands stranded in traffic.

Full story Page 8

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## This Week



### Property

Vista Del Mar provides breathtaking views of Nai Thon. **Page 13**



### Business

Hong Kong couples wooed to say their vows in Phuket. **Page 17**



### Community

Phuket FC train with underprivileged kids at new ground. **Page 36**



### Travel

Get away from the madding crowds in peaceful Trang. **Page 40**



### Food

Learn how to mix the ultimate drink with an expert. **Page 43**



### Sport

Surfers came from far and wide for Khao Lak's surf comp. **Page 47**

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# Killing of Frenchman motivated by revenge

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE Frenchman who police believed was killed during a bungled robbery on April 18 was instead murdered out of revenge, Myanmar national Shwe Oo, a suspect in the killing, confessed to police after his arrest last weekend.

The 24-year-old blamed his accomplice, Myanmar national Maung Myo, also 24, for killing Fabrice Boigeol, 37, who was found in a pool of blood partially under a mattress in a room at the Moragot Resort, located off Saiyuan Road in Rawai.

"Maung Myo asked me to go with him that day. We started stealing things from room number three, then we went to room number five. The door was not locked," Mr Shwe said.

Mr Maung had been insulted by the Frenchman in an encounter before April 18 and was still enraged, Mr Shwe explained.

"It made him so angry he wanted to kill the Frenchman. He hit him at the base of the ear with a piece of wood while he was sleeping.

"I tried to tell him to just hit him, but don't kill him, but he hit him two more times after the Frenchman fell from the bed to the floor."



Shwe Oo told police his friend Maung Myo was furious with Mr Boigeol.

After ransacking the room, Mr Maung gave Mr Shwe a camera and the pair fled the resort, Mr Shwe said.

"After I heard that the Frenchman had died, I hid at my friend's house in a rubber plantation," Mr Shwe said.

After days of scouring the area for clues, police arrested Mr Shwe at a rubber plantation near a worker's camp in Wichit on Saturday, National Police Office

adviser Ratchata Yensuang told a press conference on April 27.

Officers found Mr Shwe in possession of items stolen from Mr Boigeol, as well as other goods, including a camera, a mobile phone and money stolen from another room at the resort, Gen Ratchata added.

Mr Shwe was charged with theft and murder.

Police are now searching for Mr Maung.

## Road rage Russian punches out Australian

### Police make positive ID, arrest after car caught on local CCTV

A RUSSIAN expat has been charged with attacking an Australian tourist who was walking down the street with his family in Karon last week.

Police were called to the scene by customers at the Spice House Restaurant at about 9:30pm, said Maj Theeradach Jiruksa of the Karon Police.

The Russian, Evgenii Baturin, 27, had already fled the scene in his car when the police arrived.

Witnesses told officers that Australian Mark Fuller, 44, had been walking with his family when

Mr Baturin sped past, driving very close to them as they walked.

When Mr Fuller shouted out at the car, Mr Baturin stopped, got out of the car and attacked Mr Fuller, knocking out two of his teeth.

Police identified Mr Baturin after checking CCTV footage at the restaurant, said Maj Theeradach.

"Officers spotted him walking in front of the Kata Beach Hotel on Thursday night [April 24] and arrested him," he added.

Mr Baturin confessed to the attack and was charged with assault. - Kritsada Mueanhawong



VICTIMS: Mr Fuller (2nd left) and his family describe the attack to police.

## Fire safety precautions spark blaze



The ferry ablaze off Ao Por last week. Photo: Phuket Marine Police

A PUMP meant to reduce the risk of fire by sucking up old oil short-circuited and burst into flames on a ferry in Ao Por last week.

All three men working on the ferry when the flames broke out jumped overboard and were rescued by a nearby boat.

"The ferry was old and the men were cutting up its steel to sell as scrap," said Lt Col Chatchai Sakdee of the Phuket Marine Police.

Ayana Pathan, a manager of Andaman Service Co Ltd, the company that owns the boat, told police that the fire started in the pump.

Though the fire, which started in the bottom of the boat, produced a lot of smoke, only a small area suffered damage, Col Chatchai said.

"Ms Ayana confirmed that no damages would be claimed," he added. - Woranut Pechdee

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# Lifeguards leave posts

## No one watching over beaches as dangerous season rolls in

By Saran Mitrarat

LIFEGUARDS abandoned the island's tourist beaches on Monday after the Phuket Provincial Administration Office (PPAO) failed to break the deadlock surrounding a 22-million-baht lifeguard contract that expired on April 27.

"Since the contract has ended, it is no longer our responsibility to patrol the beaches. All 108 lifeguards have quit their jobs," Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan told the *Gazette* on Monday.

"I have no idea what will happen if someone gets into trouble while lifeguards are not there to help."

Nararit Touyon from the PPAO Tourism Department said that he was unaware of any backup plan to ensure the safety of swimmers as the sea surrounding Phuket becomes more dangerous with the onset of the southwest monsoon season.

"We must find lifeguards to look after the beaches as soon as possible. We know how important it is to maintain safety for swimmers," Mr Nararit said.

The PPAO will hold an auction for the contract, said Mr Nararit.

Though the wheels are in motion to invite interested parties to bid for the contract, an auction date has yet to be set.

"This is the third time we have opened bidding for the budget. The first time, no companies came

'I have no idea what will happen if someone gets into trouble while lifeguards are not there to help'

— Prathaiyut Chuayuan,  
Phuket Lifeguard Club President

forward. The second time, the Phuket Lifeguard Company applied. However, the renewal has fallen through," said Mr Nararit.

"If we cannot come to an agreement with the Phuket Lifeguard Club, and if no other company comes forward to bid on the contract, it is up to PPAO Vice President Soratham Jinda to determine the next step."

The *Gazette* was unable to

reach Mr Soratham for comment.

The Phuket Lifeguard Club returned all lifesaving equipment, including emergency oxygen tanks, binoculars, rescue boards and floats to the PPAO after their final shifts last Sunday, Mr Prathaiyut confirmed.

Despite a 10-per-cent increase from the budget previously offered and agreed on – a budget which had stayed frozen at 20mn baht for the past three years – Mr Prathaiyut held firm to his desire to increase salaries for his staff without cutting the number of guards that patrol the island's beaches.



Phuket lifeguards worked their last shifts on Sunday before the debated contract expired. Photo: Gazette file



An officer looks on at the blockade signs. Photo: Chris Husted

## Locals protest, perilous curve gets makeover

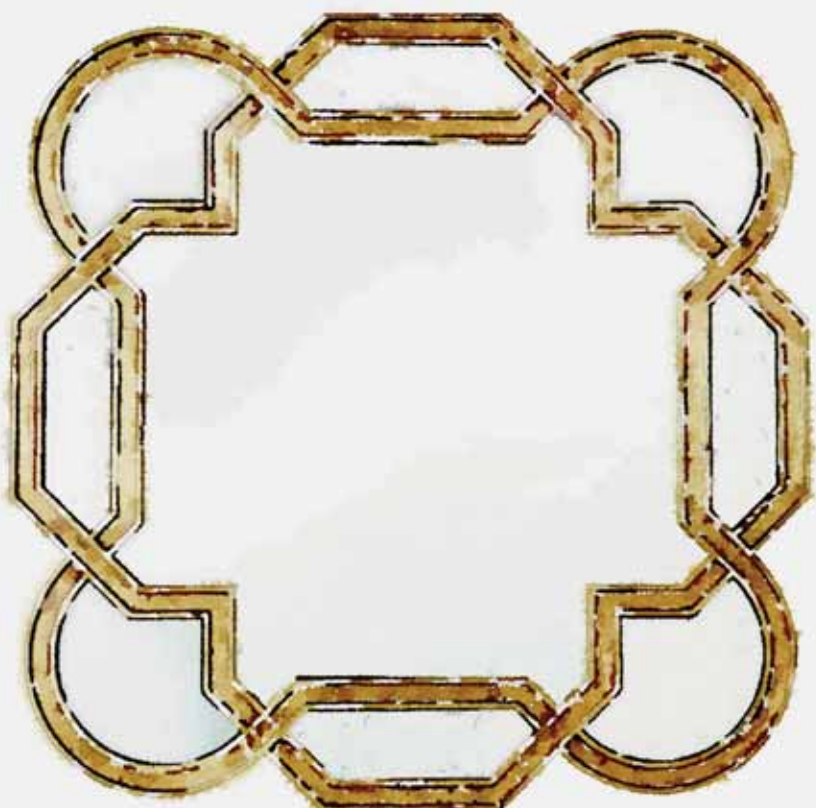
SHORT-TERM safety measures are now being implemented to slow down motorists approaching the dangerous "100 bodies curve" and should be completed within a week, confirmed officials.

The construction follows a blockade of Chao Fa West Road between Wang Talang Jewelry and Rolly Tasker Sails that was staged last Sunday by villagers, angry about the conditions of the road and the government's inaction to fix it. The blockade disbanded only after Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut promised quick solutions to improve safety.

"We are now adding several speed bumps to the road to slow down motorists. Then, we will place plastic poles to divide the lanes along the entire curve. Four flashing lights and permanent signs urging motorists to slow down when approaching the turn will also be installed," Wichit Police Deputy Superintendent Ampol Chunthakul told the *Gazette*.

"The Phuket Provincial Administration Organization has agreed to give us 3 million baht to build a concrete barrier along the curve. We will begin construction on the barrier after we receive the budget, which should be in about six months," said Col Ampol.

— Chutharat Plerin



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# Employment office backs legitimate foreign workers

From page 1

...[and the court] any 'misunderstandings' the officers may have had," she said.

"Let the judge determine whether or not you are guilty. Many foreigners have successfully defended such charges from the police in the past."

Ms Yaowapa confirmed that penalties for people breaching the conditions of their work permit do not include deportation.

"The only people who should worry about being deported over working illegally are those caught working without any kind of work permit. Doing so breaks immigration law, and immigration officers have the right to deport those individuals," she said.

"Breaching work permit conditions incurs only fines. However, if you continue working after your work permit has expired – that's a jailable offence."

Even then, any penalty can only be handed down by a judge, Ms Yaowapa added (see panel on page 5).



Permit to work. Photo: Gazette file

Deputy Secretary-General of the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC) Prayong Preeyachitt voiced his full support for Ms Yaowapa.

He even advised wrongly arrested foreigners to take counter-action.

"If police bring you in for questioning, detain you, then send your case to court – and the court finds you not guilty, you have the right to file a complaint against those officers," he said.

Foreigners acquitted by the court could file a complaint at the

police station where the officer works, with the officer's commanding officer, with the PACC; or at the Damrongtham center (ombudsman's office) at Provincial Hall.

Prapan Kanprasang, chief of the Damrongtham Center, assured that his office was willing to investigate police harassment claims.

"Police have the right to question anyone about suspicious behavior, but they should not repeatedly bring in the same people for questioning about the same matter."

If the same officers are bringing in the same person for the same charge, then it is time to fight back, said the recently reinstated Chalong Police Superintendent Sirisak Wasasiri.

"These kinds of officers should be prosecuted. It will deter others from doing the same," Col Sirisak said.

"The worse thing to do is give them money. Doing so only encourages them, and they will be back for more."

# Working

**POOR definitions in work permits have left loopholes that allow criminal foreigners to skirt the law and corrupt officials to take advantage of law-abiding foreigners.**

**To this, Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO) chief Yaowapa Pibulpol is waging a war to bring common sense to the enforcement of employment regulations.**

**The Phuket Gazette's Saran Mittrarat reports.**

THE events of March 10, during which Chalong Police rounded up 20 dive instructors and allegedly threatened them with legal action if they did not pay cash fines, has shone a spotlight on what Governor Maitri Inthasut calls "holes" through which corruption can occur – ambiguous job descriptions in work permits.

Noting that the holes could be filled only with crystal clear job definitions, Governor Maitri set up a task force that is spearheaded by Yaowapa Pibulpol, chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO).

"The best we can do at this stage is visit the dive shops one by one to verify the workers are legal and to advise foreign dive staff what they can or cannot do to stay within the remit of their work permit," Ms Yaowapa said.

The critical factor for foreign workers to stay legal is to not perform duties beyond the scope of the job description entered in the work permit.

"We see this as the most important aspect as we cannot include all the actual duties a foreign staffer may perform in the work permit itself," Ms Yaowapa explained.

"That's why we have to visit

the dive shops to explain clearly what can and cannot be done under the definition in the work permit."

Ms Yaowapa highlighted the example of how job descriptions in work permits did not differentiate between the work done by a dive master and a dive instructor.

"The job description, written in Thai, is the same for both: 'a person who oversees and advises customers on diving techniques and the use of diving equipment to international standards'."

"Please note that the definition does not include suggesting, offering or

advising on any kinds of tour packages, which would be the work of a tour guide or a shop attendant.

"It also does not use the word 'teach', which would mean the foreigner would need to be registered as a teacher and recognized by the Ministry of Education."

That said, Ms Yaowapa admitted that in reality the very function of a dive master and instructor was to "educate", as she explained that her goal was to bring common sense to the enforcement of employment law.



**'If you are caught doing work that is plainly beyond the permit, there is nothing we can do to protect you'**

**– Yaowapa Pibulpol, Chief of the Phuket Provincial Employment Office**

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# between the Thai lines

"We understand this is what they really do, but they cannot perform duties beyond that. If they need to teach a class at a building, then the address of the dive school should be marked in the work permit.

"But if they need to take students to practice or be tested in a swimming pool or in the sea, they are allowed to do that – and of course travel in between."

The catch was when foreigners "helped" by performing other duties, such as carrying equipment or luggage for tourists.

"If they are genuinely helping, that is fine, but it cannot be a regular part of their duties, part of them doing their job, as that is a vocation reserved for Thais under the Alien Occupation Law," Ms Yaowapa explained.

"Officers appraise such incidents case by case, and there have been many cases where we have found foreigners exploiting this as a loophole in order to not hire more people, namely Thais."

Among the 39 jobs specifically reserved for Thais under the Alien Occupation Law, introduced while the Vietnam War was still raging in 1973, are the following:

- Driving motor vehicles or non-motorized carriers, except for piloting international aircraft;
- Shop attendant;
- Supervising, auditing or giving services in accounting, except occasional international auditing;
- Brokerage or agency work, except in international business;
- Clerical or secretarial work;
- Hawking goods;
- Working as a tour guide or tour-organizing agent.

However, Ms Yaowapa acknowledged that the above list was "onerous".



PPEO officer Orakarn Tongkaew explains at a dive shop what dive masters and instructors can and cannot do.

"Of course it doesn't apply in all cases," she said, adding that her office recently received a query from an expat in Karon asking if he could paint the balcony ceiling at his own condo.

"If you own the condo, you may do the painting yourself," she said.

"Any foreigner who would like information on whether they are permitted to do an activity or not is welcome to contact us at the PPEO. We are ready to give advice and answer questions."

The PPEO will not issue any special "documents of permission" affirming foreigners may perform specific activities.

"If one of our officers tells you that you are allowed to do an activity, and the police later stop you and question your right to do it,

then bring it to our attention," she said (see page 1).

## LIMITED ENGLISH

In response to calls to have job descriptions written in the work permit in English, Ms Yaowapa explained that doing so was a complex task fraught with its own perils.

"Work permits issued for companies operating under the Board of Investment (BoI) often have job positions in English and Thai, but even for these work permits the job description is still in Thai.

"Having job descriptions in English is too complicated to carry out effectively. The translation has to be accurate and has to be approved by the Department of Employment legal division."

Other problems were the possible difference in meanings between the Thai and English descriptions.

"And not all foreigners read English," Ms Yaowapa said.

## BOUNDARIES

Although the PPEO is willing to extend the definition of the workplace in the work permit to include all places necessary for the foreigner to perform his or her job, Ms Yaowapa said her office could not issue work permits that were valid in other provinces.

"To work in another province, foreigners must have a work permit issued by the Employment Office in that province," she said.

"A person can have more than one place of work in a permit, and

## Work Permit Penalties

1. A work permit holder shall carry the permit with himself/herself, or keep it at the place of work while working, ready at all times, for presenting to the competent official or the registrar. Any permit holder who violates or fails to comply with the foregoing **shall be liable to a fine of not exceeding 10,000 baht.**

2. A work permit holder shall engage and perform works only in the particular type of work or job description, and with an employer in certain locality or place of work under stipulated conditions as permitted. Any permit holder who violates or fails to comply with the foregoing **shall be liable to a fine of not exceeding 20,000 baht.**

3. Prior to the expiration of the permit, the permit holder shall submit an application for the permit renewal to the registrar. Any work permit holder who violates or fails to comply with the foregoing and still continue engaging in the work performance as specified in the permit without permission **shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not exceeding five years or to a fine from 2,000 baht to 100,000 baht, or to both.**

4. In case where it appears that a permit holder violates or fails to comply with the conditions stated in the granted permission, the registrar **shall have the power to revoke the work permit.**

the company the foreigner works for must have an office in the province where it conducts business.

While embracing a "sensible" approach to allowing foreigners to work in Phuket, Ms Yaowapa warned foreigners from flouting the law.

"I suggest adhering to the job description in the work permit. If you are caught doing work that is plainly beyond the permit, there is nothing we can do to protect you."

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# Tourists flee Bang Tao wastewater

## Local official warns those with open wounds not to swim in the sea

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

ALARMED officials are concerned how the weather has turned the flow of black wastewater from a canal at Bang Tao toward a beach area where tourists swim.

"All the tourists are afraid to swim here. They are going to Layan Beach instead," said local resident Jumnong Korkaew.

When Governor Maitri Inthasut inspected the site on April 12, the wind pushed the dirty water away from the tourists' swimming zone, he explained.

"The dirty water didn't affect tourists because it flowed toward the area where longtail boats are anchored," said Mr Jumnong.

"But now the wind has changed, and the black water heads directly into the area where tourists swim."

The dirty water has drastically affected local people's incomes, Mr Jumnong said.

"Right now very few tourists come here as the water is worse than ever. The smell and the color



The black water on April 12 headed west, out to sea. Photo: Saran Mitratat

are terrible; the stench sometimes stings my eyes and nose," he added.

"It's because hotels still release wastewater directly into the canal."

Ma-ann Samran, president of

the Cherng Talay Tambon Administration Organization (OrBorTor), warned tourists who have open wounds to avoid going into the water.

"All people, including residents,



Two weeks later it flowed north, to beaches. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

tourists and fisherman, please do not go into the sea if you have any cuts on your body," he said.

People who do come into contact with the dirty water should wash the affected areas with clean

water as soon as possible, he added.

"Our officers are working on the wastewater problem. We will make it better as soon as we can," Mr Ma-ann said.

## Dog rape not rape



The charge was inflicting harm on an animal. Photo: Scott Beckner

### QUEER news

POLICE in Nakhon Ratchasima, the gateway province to Isarn known as "Korat", are investigating a report about a known sex addict who allegedly raped his neighbor's dog, named Dodo.

The incident was brought to light when Attapon Srisopha, the 36-year-old village headman in Tambon Nong Ya Khao, escorted Anuwat Saithong and his three-year-old female Golden Retriever to Sikhio Police Station to file a complaint on March 15.

The nature of the complaint: that a "Mr Cherd", 50, had raped the dog.

"My daughter always took Dodo for walks through our neighborhood," Mr Anuwat said.

"Mr Cherd, a neighbor of mine who is well known in the area as a sex addict, called my daughter to come into his house. She refused and ran home."

But Dodo did not follow the girl. "Mr Cherd took Dodo into his house, and we heard howls that made me think he was beating or trying to kill her," Mr Anuwat said.

"I called the headman to help me save my dog. Then the worst thing happened: right in front of me, I saw Mr Cherd having sex with Dodo."

Interrupted, Mr Cherd suddenly pulled up his trousers and ran off. "Doctors confirmed that the fluid we found on Dodo's body was sperm," Mr Anuwat said.

Mr Cherd was called in for questioning and denied the complaint, said Maj Thanadol Sriwanchai of the Sikhio Police.

"The case is now under investigation and we are waiting to question the dog owner further."

If Mr Cherd is tried and convicted of having sex with the dog, the maximum sentence is a 1,000-baht fine, up to one year in prison, or both.

"Thailand has no laws specifically prohibiting such acts," explained Maj Thanadol.

"The most we can charge him with is inflicting harm on an animal." – *Sanook/Daily News*

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# Pian out as Chalermluck wins Patong Mayor poll

By Saran Mitrarat

UNOFFICIAL results rolled in last Saturday evening, revealing that Phuket Democrat Chalermluck Kebsab of the *Patong Fa Mai* (New Sky Patong) Party had won the race for the coveted position of mayor in Phuket's premier party town of Patong.

Ms Chalermluck received a total of 4,390 votes, defeating former Patong Mayor Pian Keesin of the *Rak Patong* (Love Patong) Party, who garnered 3,330 votes.

The only other candidate in the mayoral race, Kittisan Kuru of the *Patong Gao Na* (Patong Progress) Party, scored a total of 580 votes.

Patong has 12,651 registered voters, 8,679 (68.60 per cent) of which showed up to cast their votes last Saturday.

The ballots not tallied into the mayoral count were either marked as a "No Vote" (188 ballots) or were discarded as spoiled ballots (191).

Ms Chalermluck drew the "lucky number 1" slot on the ballot when she registered for a spot in the mayoral race on March 20.

Some of the issues she vowed to address as leader of the city



Ms Chalermluck, an elected Phuket MP in 2001, ousted former mayor Pian Keesin. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

were: use of public land, environmental protection, floods and traffic problems, including road accidents.

"It now depends on the people of Patong to move the town toward a better future. I cannot do

it alone, I need a hand from the people," she said.

Ms Chalermluck, a Phuket native, is a veteran of island politics, and was voted to serve as a Phuket MP in 2001.

Mr Pian, the long-standing

former Patong Mayor, was ousted from his post in September. He was found guilty of vote fraud early in March this year. Despite being found guilty, the court issued him a "yellow card", allowing him to run for re-election.

## Bins to keep dangerous waste safe



Vice Governor Sommai

MUNICIPALITIES throughout Phuket will launch a project to ensure the separation of hazardous materials from public trash on June 5 in a united effort to prevent dangerous materials from contaminating the island's beaches, canals and the ocean.

Public bins for three kinds of trash – general waste, infectious waste and hazardous waste – will be posted at locations throughout Phuket, said Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa.

"Each kind of garbage will be collected on a different day by a different-colored truck," Vice Governor Sommai explained.

The move follows complaints from a tourist who reported seeing another tourist drop used batteries into the sea.

– Saran Mitrarat



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# Chinese tourists, skipper injured in speedboat collision

FOUR Chinese tourists and one Thai national were injured on Monday after two speedboats collided at the docks on Koh Khai Nok, off the east coast of Phuket.

"The *Nontasak* was heading toward the pier at about 3pm and crashed into the *Star Andaman*, which was carrying 32 Chinese tourists, as it was reversing from the pier," explained Lt Col Chatchai Sakdee of the Phuket Marine Police.

The *Nontasak*, driven by Thaweesak Hantalay, 20, was transporting 18 tourists from Phi Phi Island to Koh Khai Nok.

"Five people on board the *Nontasak*, including the driver and four Chinese tourists, were injured in the accident and taken to Mission Hospital Phuket," Col Chatchai told the *Gazette*.

"Mr Theewasak injured his back, and the four tourists, Du Yong, 31; Xing Cheng, 26; Wang Chenxi, 20; and Zhang Yongyan, 23, were treated for minor cuts and bruises."

The five were discharged shortly after receiving treatment for their wounds.

Mr Thaweesak was charged with reckless driving causing a boat accident.

The boating incident on Monday followed a speedboat crash near Ao Nang, Krabi, in February. That accident left six people injured, two of whom were hospitalized.

Police have yet to charge the operators of either boat for that collision.

"We are waiting to question the key witnesses: the two hospitalized passengers from the boat. They were transferred to Bangkok Hospital Phuket to receive treatment," Capt Sophon Kongthong of the Krabi City Police said on Tuesday.

— Chutharat Plerin



Xing Cheng, 26, was on board the *Nontasak* at the time of the collision. Photo: Marine Police

# Teens deny police brutality claims

## Accused officers apologize for misconduct that may have never happened

By Saran Mitrarat

TWO of the three teenagers allegedly struck by police officers investigating the rape of a pregnant woman in Phuket on April 20 (see facing page) have publicly declared that the officers never struck them.

"Police did not hit or threaten any of us," one of the teenagers told the press. "They just asked us if there was anything we would like to confess."

Allegations that four police officers struck the teenagers while searching for the rapists sparked a blockade of Thepkasattri Road on April 23. The blockade created Phuket's worst traffic jam on record.

As part of the negotiations to end the blockade, the four officers — Lt Akarapol Siwilai, Sub Lt Manus Faipetch, Sgt Maj Sansak Choti and Sgt Yongyuth Ritplud — were immediately removed from active duty at Tah Chat Chai Police Station and ordered to report to the Phuket Provincial Police Station in Phuket Town.

Two of the teenagers were present in front of the press at a meeting at Provincial Hall last Saturday. The third was represented by his parents, though no reason was given for the boy's inability to attend the conference.

The four officers were present as well, and Lt Akarapol offered an apology for the misconduct that apparently never happened.

"Everything we did was in accordance with the law. It might



The officers were accused of striking suspects in their search for the rapists of a 25-year-old pregnant woman.

seem rough, but it is how police work," he said, speaking on behalf of his fellow officers.

"Please accept our apology for anything we did that made you feel uncomfortable."

Lt Akarapol said that the three teenagers were in no way suspected of being associated with the twin brothers who have since confessed to the rape.

"I would also like to affirm that we did not assault, handcuff or bring those three teenagers to the

police station. We saw them at the gas station and just talked with them," he said.

One of the teenagers said that a photo of a gun saved in his mobile phone prompted officers to search one of their homes.

"After seeing the photo of the gun, they asked to search my house, but they didn't find anything and they let us go," he said.

No reason was provided as to why the teenager had a photo of a gun saved in his phone, who

owned the gun or where the gun was being kept.

Governor Maitri Inthasut offered advice of forgiveness.

"We must understand each other. Police have to do their best when investigating a case, but they have to be 'softer' when questioning people," he said.

"And people have to understand how police work, because questioning suspects has led police to arresting suspects in many cases.

"Everyone makes mistakes, but the most important thing is forgiveness."

Wiroj Manakit, chief (Kamnan) of Tambon Mai Khao, accused "third parties" of inflaming emotions among protesters on April 23.

"Our main purpose for the protest was to see justice for the woman," he said. "But third parties, people who had been previously arrested by these officers, mixed in with the crowd and called for the four police officers to be removed."

Mr Wiroj personally attested to working with the officers.

"I have close relations with these four officers, as we have worked together on arresting drug suspects," he said.

"I understand the reasons for the behavior of all parties involved in this, but I am not sure that most people will come to the same understanding as mine."

Tah Chat Chai Superintendent Somchai Sanprasert requested that the officers be reinstated at the Tah Chat Chai Police Station.

"These four guys did great work which led to the arrest of the rape suspects within 30 hours of the incident," Col Somchai said.

However, Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee denied the request.

"We must honor our promise to the protesters," he said. "We have to find replacements for them as soon as possible. Otherwise, I believe there will be a marked increase in crime in the Tah Chat Chai area," he said.

## Disaster specialists unite, prepare for worst

DOCTORS and disaster medicine specialists from nine Asean countries were in Phuket last week to attend a workshop aimed at sharing knowledge and upgrading disaster response systems.

Participants at the "Asean Disaster Medicine Workshop", held from April 23 to 25, described emergency response systems and international cooperation mechanisms in their countries.

They also took part in a simulation at Suan Luang (Rama IX, also known as King's Park), which in-



Dr Anuchar Sethasathein, secretary-general of NIEM.

cluded an emergency vehicle rally with a prize awarded to the team able to assist victims the fastest.

The event was organized by the National Institute for Emergency Medicine (NIEM) of Thailand and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The workshop aimed to increase awareness of the importance of disaster preparedness and promote partnership of disaster relief officials in different Asean countries, said Dr Anuchar Sethasathein, secretary-general of NIEM.

— Saran Mitrarat



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# 'She had to beg for her life'

## Mother tells of pregnant 25-year-old daughter's rape ordeal in Mai Khao

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE mother of the pregnant woman raped by twin teenage brothers in Phuket on April 20 has told the *Gazette* how the men ignored her daughter's pleas for mercy.

"She begged them not to do it, but they didn't listen," the mother said. "They didn't only rape and rob her. They choked her very hard as if they wanted to kill her."

"They only stopped because passing motorists scared them off," she added.

The victim – a 25-year-old mother already looking after two children and five months pregnant with her third child – was attacked and raped while riding a motor-bike along a dark road between Wat Mai Khao and Thepkasattri Road at about 10:30pm.

The two 17-year-old brothers have confessed to the attack.

"It feels like someone has stuck a knife through my heart. How could they do that to her? Anyone can see that she is pregnant," said the victim's mother, wiping tears from her face.

"I don't know what to say, those two men broke my heart."

Staff at Vachira Phuket Hospital confirm that the victim was



Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Peerayut Karajedee questions the suspects.

discharged on April 24.

"Her brother picked her up and told us that he would be looking after her until she felt safe enough to live by herself," a staffer at the One-Stop Crisis Center\* said.

"The physical health of the woman and the baby are fine. The expectant mother's broken leg is recovering well and her mental health is stable.

"She was able to converse with

us. She managed a smile and even a laugh. However, we have made appointments for her to come to the center for further checkups. She must come back for these checkups to make sure she will be able to live a normal life."

The woman's mother, however, doubts her daughter will fully recover.

"She will suffer for the rest of her life. I do not know if she is

strong enough to live a normal life," she said.

"She separated from her husband before she knew she was pregnant with their third child. We have heard nothing from him since he left.

"She looks after the children by herself. He has never given any support."

Tah Chat Chai Police Superintendent Somchai Sanprasert told

the *Gazette* that his investigators are waiting for test results to confirm whether or not the two rapists have tested positive for drugs.

"We tested the two suspects for drug use. However, we have yet to receive the urine test results," he said.

Lt Col Somchai declined to confirm or refute the mother's claim that the two men attempted to strangle her daughter.

The victim's mother called on police to arrange for the men to apologize for the attack in person.

"I hope police will bring the suspects to apologize to my daughter and the family," she said.

"I urge everyone who has children to look after them well, to teach them decency. Do not let them go out and do such things."

The horrific rape spurred outrage among local villagers, who staged an eight-hour blockade of Phuket's critical Thepkasattri Road on April 23 (see facing page).

\* The One-Stop Crisis Center (OSCC) at Vachira Phuket Hospital provides physical and mental treatment; legal assistance; and recovery and rehabilitation services to women and children who are victims of any form of violence.

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Public Health permanent secretary Narong Sahametapat. Photo: The Nation

## Fifty killed by H1N1

FIFTY people have been killed by seasonal influenza, which has hit more than 30,000 people this year, prompting the Public Health Ministry to be on alert.

Public Health permanent secretary Narong Sahametapat said that he had instructed all public and private hospitals to watch for possible cases of infection with the H1N1 virus, reported *The Nation*.

Doctors were asked to administer Oseltamivir to patients immediately if their condition does not improve in two days.

Mr Narong said that of 30,024 seasonal influenza cases reported this year, most of the illness was caused by the H1N1 virus.

Compared with the same period last year, the number of influenza cases has jumped by 36 per cent, he said, adding that no one was killed by influenza last year.

Mr Narong said that most Thais did not have a strong immunity against the H1N1 virus so it was expected that many people would be hit by it.

He said the ministry had formed a panel of experts to monitor the situation to provide advice to doctors nationwide.

Mr Narong added that the ministry would soon provide vaccinations against H1N1 to the most at-risk groups. — *The Nation*

# More troops called in as Bangkok crisis heats up

By Amy Sawitta Lefevre

THE government is to ask the army to deploy more troops in Bangkok as fears mount that the country's lengthy political crisis could move into a more violent phase.

Surapong Tovichakchaikul, a deputy prime minister, voiced concern on Friday about the potential for clashes between pro- and anti-government groups if Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra is ousted in May as a result of legal cases brought against her.

Ms Yingluck has been charged with abuse of power for her transfer of National Security Council chief Thawil Pliensri in 2011, which opponents say was done for personal and party political reasons. If found guilty, she may have to step down.

"There are important legal cases coming up next month and the red shirts will rally," said Mr Surapong, who heads the Centre for the Administration of Peace and Order that coordinates the state's handling of the protests.

The red shirts are supporters of the Shinawatras and Ms Yingluck's government and they have vowed to resist any bid to force Ms Yingluck from office, by either the anti-government protesters or the courts.

"We are worried there will be violence and clashes between the protesters and the red shirts, which is why we must increase the presence of troops to protect security," Mr Surapong said.

A February 2 election that Ms Yingluck looked set to win was



The government seeks more boots on the ground to ensure safety in Bangkok. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE nation

disrupted by the protesters.

As a result, a court nullified the election in March and the Election Commission has yet to set a date for an election.

Ms Yingluck's brother, ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra, or his loyalists have won every election since 2001. Mr Thaksin lives abroad to avoid a jail term for graft he says

was politically motivated is widely seen as the guiding hand behind his sister's government.

Weeks of political upheaval have hit tourism and business confidence and left Thailand without a properly functioning government.

Opposition leader and former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva also warned of an escalation in violence next month and offered to help kick-start dialogue between the different parties and groups involved in the protest.

"I think there are many people who want to see common ground emerging. My intention this week is to say that: isn't it time we all

accept the reality that neither side can get its way, and even if it did, it couldn't bring long-lasting stability," he said in an interview.

Mr Abhisit met Armed Forces Supreme CC Gen Thanasak Patimaprakorn on Monday to ask for two weeks to try to resolve the crisis peacefully.

"He (Thanasak) supports what I want, which is to bring all sides together to find a way out for the country," Mr Abhisit told reporters after the two-hour meeting. "The commander underscored that political problems must be solved through political means."

— *Reuters*

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# Trade talks hit bloc

Malaysia cites 'sensitivities' as Obama struggles to push TPP pact

## AROUND THE region

By Stuart Grudgings  
and Mark Felsenthal

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Najib Razak said last Sunday that he and US President Barack Obama had agreed to upgrade bilateral relations but suggested that his country remains far from ready to sign a US-led trade pact due to domestic "sensitivities".

Mr Obama's visit to Malaysia follows his swing through Japan, where he failed to clinch a trade deal key to the US "rebalancing" back to Asia. Such a deal would have injected momentum into the delayed 12-nation Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade pact.

PM Najib's ambition to bring Malaysia into Mr Obama's flag-



Barack Obama is the first US president to visit Malaysia since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1966. Photo: Reuters

ship trade plan has been undercut by the resurgent influence of traditionalists within his own ruling party following a weak election showing last year.

Early this month, a Malaysian cabinet minister was reported as saying the country was a long way

from being able to sign a TPP deal and that the priority should be on economic integration within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) bloc.

Mr Najib said Malaysia was committed to free trade, and denied that Washington was "bullying" the

Southeast Asian nation into joining the controversial pact.

"We are working around the sensitivities and challenges which I alluded to in my discussions with President Obama," Mr Najib told a joint news conference in Putrajaya.

— Reuters

## In brief...

Search firm claims MH370 wreckage in Bay of Bengal

EXPLORATION company Geo-Resonance on Monday claimed it had found the wreckage of the crashed Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, six weeks after it left Kuala Lumpur International Airport for Beijing on March 8.

The possible wreckage was found in the Bay of Bengal, 5,000km away from the current search location in the southern Indian Ocean off Perth.

Search techniques used more than 20 technologies to analyze the data, including a nuclear reactor.

— The Star

Vietnam sentences American to death

DINH Jason, an American man of Vietnamese origin born in 1973, was this week sentenced to death for attempting to smuggle more than 1kg of heroin from Vietnam to Australia. He was detained before boarding a flight at Ho Chi Minh City on June 12, 2013, with the drugs hidden in his underwear.

— Vietnam News

## Rohingya health crisis as NGOs forced out

AS THREE-MONTH-OLD Asoma Khatu approached her final, labored breaths, her neighbor Elia, a 50-year-old former farmer, dug through the strongbox holding some of the last medicines in this camp for Myanmar's displaced Rohingya.

First, some paracetamol for the severely malnourished girl's fever and a wet towel for her forehead. Then some rehydration salts for her diarrhoea. There was nothing else left.

The death of Asoma in a dusty, stifling hot camp a two-hour boat ride from Sittwe, capital of Rakhine State in west Myanmar, is part of a growing health crisis for stateless Muslim Rohingya that has been exacerbated by restrictions on international aid.

"I think my child would have made it if someone was here to help," Asoma's mother, Gorima, told Reuters, as she cradled the girl's shrouded, almost weightless body in her arms.

In February, Myanmar's government expelled the main aid group providing health to more than half a million Rohingya in Rakhine State — Medecins Sans Frontieres-Holland (MSF-H) — after the group said it had treated people believed to have been victims of violence in southern Maungdaw township, near the Bangladesh border, in January.

The United Nations says at least 40 Rohingya were killed there by Buddhist Rakhine villagers. The government denies any killings occurred.



A Rohingya girl at a makeshift clinic in Sittwe. Photo: Reuters

Attacks on March 26 and 27 on NGO and UN offices by a Rakhine mob angered by rumors a foreign staffer for another group, Malteser International, had desecrated a Buddhist flag, led to the withdrawal of aid groups providing healthcare and other essential help to another 140,000 Rohingya living in camps after being displaced by violence since 2012.

The government had pledged to allow most NGOs to return to full operation after the end of Buddhist New Year celebrations this month.

But so far only food distribution by the World Food Program has returned to normal, and Rakhine community leaders in the state government's Emergency Coordination Center have imposed conditions on others wanting to go back.

NGOs will only be allowed to operate if they show "complete transparency" in disclosing their travel plans and projects and are not seen to favor Rohingya, said Than Tun, a Rakhine elder who is part of the centre. Neither MSF-H nor Malteser are being allowed back in, he said.

— Reuters



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## In brief...

### Saudi Arabia sees 73 per cent boost in MERS cases

SAUDI Arabia confirmed last weekend 26 more cases of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), which has killed nearly a third of those infected.

Saudi Arabia has identified 339 confirmed cases of MERS since it was discovered there two years ago, 102 of which have been fatal. The 143 cases announced since the start of April represent a 73 percent jump in total infections.

### China tightens grip on online freedom

THERE can be no internet freedom without order, China's top Communist Party newspaper said on Monday after several United States television shows were pulled from Chinese video sites.

The removal of the shows coincides with a crackdown on online freedoms that has intensified since President Xi Jinping came to power last year, reports Reuters.

### Italian navy rescue 1,800 from sea

ITALIAN navy and coastguard vessels have rescued about 1,800 more people from boats in rough seas off Sicily, authorities said last Friday.

More than 20,000 migrants have arrived by sea in Italy through North Africa and the Middle East so far this year, a movement which has intensified since the "Arab Spring" upheavals of 2011 and the civil war in Syria.

### African platinum strike end in sight

THE end to South Africa's big platinum strike is drawing near after the producers said they would take their latest wage offer directly to employees after talks to end the 13-week strike collapsed on April 24.

Despite the unprecedented scale of the stoppage, which has hit 40 per cent of global platinum production, the spot price is little changed since the miners downed tools on January 23.

## Court seeks death for 682 Brotherhood members, leader

AN EGYPTIAN court has recommended the death sentence for the leader of the Muslim Brotherhood and 682 supporters, and handed down a final capital punishment ruling for 37 others, judicial sources said on Monday.

Seeking the death penalty for Mohamed Badie, the Brotherhood's general guide, is certain to raise tension in Egypt, which has been gripped by turmoil since the army removed the Brotherhood from power last year.

He is charged with crimes including inciting violence that followed the army overthrow of Islamist president Mohamed Mursi last July. The session could mark the first major

verdict against any Brotherhood leader

The 37 death sentences were part of a final judgment on 529 Muslim Brotherhood supporters who were sentenced to death last month. The remaining defendants were sentenced to life in jail.

Death sentence recommendations in the case involving Mr Badie will be passed on to Egypt's Mufti, the highest religious authority. His opinion is not legally binding and can be ignored by the court.

The authorities have branded the Brotherhood a terrorist group, an allegation it denies. — Reuters



The court recommends the death penalty for 682 Brotherhood supporters. Photo: Reuters

# South Korean PM resigns over bad government call

By Narae Kim

SOUTH Korean Prime Minister Chung Hong-won announced his resignation on April 27 over the government response to the ferry disaster, in which it was first announced that everyone had been rescued.

The Gyeonggi Provincial Office of Education sent text messages to parents that "All Danwon High School students are rescued" in the hours after the disaster, media reported.

The Sewol ferry sank on a routine trip south from the port of Incheon to the traditional holiday island of Jeju on April 16.

More than 300 people, most of them students and teachers on a field trip from the Danwon High School on the outskirts of Seoul, have died or are missing and presumed dead.

The children on board the Sewol were told to stay put in their cabins, where they waited for further orders. The confirmed death toll as of April 27 was 187.

South Korea, Asia's fourth-largest economy and one of its leading manufacturing and export powerhouses, has developed into one of the world's most technically advanced countries, but faces criticism that regulatory controls have not kept pace.

As part of the investigation, prosecutors raided two shipping safety watchdogs and a coastguard



Prime Minister Chung Hong-won resigned from his post on Sunday, April 27. Photo: Reuters

## AROUND THE world

office. They have also raided two vessel service centers, which act as maritime traffic control.

Mr Chung's resignation was approved by President Park Geun-hye, although her spokesman said later that Mr Chung would remain

in post until the rescue operation was completed.

"Keeping my post is too great a burden on the administration," a sombre Mr Chung said in a brief announcement.

"On behalf of the government, I apologize for many problems from the prevention of the accident to the early handling of the disaster.

"There are too many irregularities and malpractices in parts of society that have been with us too long and I hope those are corrected

so that accidents like this will not happen again."

Mr Chung was booed and someone threw a water bottle at him when he visited grieving parents the day after the disaster. President Park was also booed by some relatives when she visited a gym where families of the missing were staying.

Tempers have frayed over the slow pace of the recovery and frequent changes in information provided by the government.

— Reuters

## West targets Putin's inner circle with more sanctions

THE United States imposed new sanctions on allies of Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday, prompting Moscow to denounce "Cold War" tactics amid more violence in eastern Ukraine.

The move to ban visas and freeze assets of the likes of Mr Putin's friend Igor Sechin, head of oil giant Rosneft ROSN.MM, also drew fire from President Barack Obama's domestic critics, who called it a "slap on the wrist."

European Union states also

added 15 more Russians and Ukrainians to their blacklists.

"The goal is not to go after Mr Putin personally," Mr Obama said. "The goal is to change his calculus with respect to how the current actions that he's engaging in Ukraine could have an adverse impact on the Russian economy over the long haul."

Western countries say sanctions are already having an effect on Russia by scaring investors into pulling out capital. — Reuters

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## PROPERTY Gazette

VISTA del Mar villas are nestled on the hill overlooking pristine Nai Thon Beach surrounded by charming hills covered by virgin jungles, part of which form Sirinath National Park.

The project's 22 ocean view villas come in five core designs ranging from 300 to 650 square meters. Built over two levels, from 30 to 70 meters above sea level, each villa will be surrounded with tropical gardens.

Currently under construction, the main entrance, site office and two show villas have already been completed, and six more villas are under way. The developers say they expect all villas to be sold by mid-2015, with eight already purchased.

To complement the development, the Vista del Mar Beach Club is already built and in use, and is open all year round. The club's facilities include a bar/restaurant, sun loungers and umbrellas, use of towels and massage services. The club has been designed "bamboo-style" to be environmentally friendly and the Beach Club restaurant serves a range of local seafood dishes. Owners will also have full access to the 5-star infrastructure of the recently opened Pullman Phuket Arcadia Resort.

Vista del Mar Phuket is also located just a 15 to 20 minute drive from some of the island's major attractions including: Laguna Phuket, golf courses, and major dining and shopping areas. Phuket International Airport is also just under 15 minutes drive via a scenic hillside road, as will be the Airport Marina – the first ever on the west coast of Phuket – which recently had its construction budget approved.

The refined design of the villas will feature an array of amenities including; alluring Feng Shui entrance with waterfalls; private infinity edge swimming pool with extended terrace, outdoor shower and BBQ; open-space, fully equipped high-end kitchen; walk-in wardrobes and extensive top notch bathrooms; zoned air conditioning and built-in furniture; separate guest's living/bar area and home theater; satellite TV and broadband internet; covered parking or garage for two cars; and all villas are delivered on a turn-key basis.

There will also be a full range of on-site services available to owners and guests, along with estate and rental management. These include; on-site reception/office and 24/7 security; concierge services including airport transfer and taxi services, tours and restaurant bookings, maid services, babysitting, in-villa massage and spa services; delivery of

food and drinks from Vista del Mar Beach Club; a children's playground; and guest parking.

The stylish contemporary design of Vista del Mar was inspired by great American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. Villas are completely open in front and sheltered by the hill behind them. The exterior decoration blends with the natural rocks on the beach and the multi-tone ceramic roof and orange interior accents add vibrancy and life.

The development will also feature environmentally conscious design features throughout, including: an open layout to encourage breezes and reduce the need for air conditioning; a roof design that enables easy installation of solar panels; pebble stones on the roof for heat reduction and rain water drainage; and extensive use of local, natural and recycled materials.

Each villa will also be easily accessible by wheel chair. This novel design requirement has been incorporated by providing direct access from the garage to all living areas, master suite and swimming pool on the main upper floor.

Self-contained guest suites will offer optional access from outside, along with large private terraces surrounded by the lush tropical greenery as well as ensuite bathrooms and kitchenettes. Guests can be part of the family or have their own private space and not disturb owners at all.


Vista del Mar provides something rare in Phuket – an exclusive location of both a sea view, easy access to the beach and high build quality – for a very competitive price (from as low as 1,600 euros (71,000 baht) per square meter). The developers say they expect property values will increase significantly in this growing upscale location, with a benchmark price of three to five million euros for multimillion-dollar developments next to Vista del Mar. The unique location and quality of services would also provide a sound rental income for owners who opt to rent their villas out while unoccupied.

The development team brings to this project more than 25 years of overall experience in real estate investment and development in North America, Europe and South-east Asia including other residential and commercial projects here in Thailand. Vista del Mar's general contractor, Design & Build Phuket, has been active in Phuket construction for over 20 years and offers over 50 years of combined experience in international project management. They are supported by their own in-house teams of certified architects, engineers and carefully selected sub-traders and have delivered other highly successful projects in Phuket.

For more information and images visit the Vista del Mar website at: [vistadelmarphuket.com](http://vistadelmarphuket.com)




Each of Vista del Mar's 22 ocean view villas has a commanding view over pristine Nai Thon Beach. They are available for as low as 1600 euros (71,000 baht) per square meter. Photo: Supplied



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## BKK's green virtues



Photo: Khaosaming

Suvarnabhumi opens museum highlighting the airport's features.

SUVARNABHUMI'S Airport has now been operational for nearly eight years and, despite the political complexity involved in its development and construction, the airport remains one of the few mega-projects driving Thailand's economic growth.

On the occasion of His Majesty the King's 84<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations in 2011, the Airport Authority of Thailand, Suvarnabhumi's operator, decided to establish the Suvarnabhumi Airport Museum.

The building and interior-design schemes for the museum were completed in 2008, and construction took place from 2010 to 2012.

The museum complex consists of a central space that houses an exhibition on the airport's history. This main bay is surrounded by smaller satellite structures that accommodate airline offices, while a bridge connects the museum complex to the main terminal.

Sustainability was highlighted in the design brief for the museum. Design decisions were pursued in consideration of heat and noise reduction, daylighting, and reduction of UV and infrared exposure.

The building was designed to reduce energy consumption, CO2 emissions and other damaging outputs. The main airport terminal consumes energy at a rate of as much as 3 million baht per day; in contrast, the design of the museum focuses on conservation and excellent provision of thermal, lighting, acoustic and visual performance.

The building consumes less energy, since the exterior wall has a thermal resistance, or R-value, which enhances interior cooling. The building's cooling load averages 100 square metres per ton of air-conditioning, compared to the main terminal's load of 8-12sqm per ton.

The HVAC system is unique. Fresh air passes into the building from the ceiling level and cycles back outside via rises in the floor. The rise is a lightweight system constructed from metal decks and non-flammable EPS (expanded polystyrene) foam as thermal insulation.

Overall, the museum is an active case study in sustainable design, which may provide cues in the renovation of the main airport terminal.

— *The Nation*

# Green, green grass of home



Whoever thought going green was simple has no idea how fraught with disaster daily life could be. Photo: epSos

## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

I RECENTLY found myself standing on a Singapore street, one hand grasping onto an empty Starbucks cup and the other waving to the heavens like a stark raving maniac. The source of my confusion was a selection of four separately colored trash containers with small-stenciled images on each.

Unfortunately, none matched my poorly departed caffeine buddy. So, here I found myself, a grown man, who was on the edge of a breakdown over the peril-ridden task of choosing a recycling option. Whoever thought going green was simple has no idea how fraught with disaster daily life could be.

In the end I just wandered around the city the rest of the day, cup in hand. Thankfully, before turning in for bed, my hotel room had only one non-descript gray trash bin. And so, there lay the cup, crying out in anguish as I brushed my teeth. It was not unlike being buried in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. An eternity of anonymity for my caffeine conveying friend.

The attempt to go green is not unlike a young Mike Tyson, edgy, unpredictable, sweaty, and above all, hard to understand. I mean, I do the right thing in a crowded McDonald's and bus my own used double cheeseburger and French fry containers. Sure, I've even been known to take a victory lap after consuming the trans fat fest, gloating in my own perceived goodness and manners. This, of course, has more to do

with being an adult than any real sense of sustainability. Doing the minimum obviously won't do.

There are moments when I care about global warming, just last week I measured the distance from my house to Layan Beach on Google Earth (Reminder note to self – 2.8 kilometers), and wondered when the surf will be able to be heard from the veranda. In fact, today an advertisement in a property magazine touting cheap land in the foothills of Bratislava caught my attention. Still, reality bit back a while later as my mind turned to the reality that if there

And so, there lay the cup, crying out in anguish as I brushed my teeth. It was not unlike being buried in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. An eternity of anonymity for my caffeine conveying friend

really is global warming, that the danger of melting snow in the mountains could be even worse than a disappearing tide. Floods, avalanches, or really deep mud are not tempting alternatives.

Before readers go off on a tangent, I really do think there is global warming. Well, at least I think I do. My biggest problem with the whole concept was the Al Gore movie on the subject. Big Al, that politically fickle turncoat, would never be forgiven for his marriage to Tipper Gore who was a key instigator of the mother's against rock music organization Parents Music Resource Center in the 80s. I have a long memory Al,

and there is no forgiveness in my heart for your wife Tipper.

Sorry to digress. The haunting images of that lone cup in the bin are still flashing in my head. So back to green, and here is another issue I have with the movement. It's the actual color. As most know, I am a black man – meaning black t-shirt, flip-flops and even tonal changes to gray in shorts or pants are a defined preference. I don't own any green clothes, and have never driven a green car, nor owned a green suitcase.

Granted, I love Christmas, but its got the cozy threesome appeal of red and white thrown in, hence my hesitancy on becoming more environmentally friendly has been curtailed by color prejudice. Can't they get a cooler color for the movement?

Perhaps the biggest dichotomy of life in Asia in the real estate and hospitality sectors is, in broad terms, that sustainability has been relegated to the cheap seats out back. Go to a hotel conference, and if you really want to be alone – go to the green session. Sad, but true. While the world seems to get it – well, except for Vladimir Putin and the entire population of mainland China – sorry readers, South East Asia is in blackout mode. Ignorance is bliss apparently.

Yes, the ocean is rising, the trees are falling and the lakes are being bulldozed in. This is no laughing matter. I have children and care about what our generation is leaving behind, but my only real request is, please greensters, make it easier to get green. If fact, if you can change colors, consider it? And Al, sorry there is no room on my bus for you.



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# Freehold versus leasehold

By Aliwassa Pathnadabutr

FROM my experience in selling Bangkok condominiums, 70% of buyers will turn down a leasehold condominium without even looking into the details of the property. Most of them hold the belief that a leasehold condominium is a depreciating asset and, therefore, they would rather buy a perpetual freehold title.

By definition, a condominium is, "a strata title property within a juristic development where the owner has a perpetual freehold title and the common property is managed through a juristic management committee and subject to the Condominium Act".

Based on this definition, there should be no leasehold condominiums, but the term was commonly used in the market as referring to a long-term lease apartment with the rent being paid up front.

In Thailand, the maximum leasehold period that can be registered is only 30 years. Even if the developer or landlord wishes to grant a series of extensions up to 90 or 120 years, no leasehold term can go beyond the 30-year cap. The only option is to renew the lease by following the legal process of registration for the renewals, which can only be done at the end of each 30-year period.

Despite the term limit, there are various reasons for leasehold condominiums continuing to be developed. Firstly, because the land-title deeds belong to an institution such as the Crown Property Bureau, a foundation or the government, whose land will not be available for freehold title.

Second, individual landowners do not want to sell the land freehold titles, as they want to maintain ownership for the next generation – so they prefer to sell just the leasehold right for 30 years.

Third, in a market where the majority of buyers are foreigners, most developers

tend to choose leasehold ownership, which enables them to sell unlimited space to foreign buyers, while freehold ownership is only allowed for up to 49% of the overall property.

Lastly, in resort development, which aims at hotel-managed units with guaranteed returns, developers commonly sell the units on leasehold titles rather than freehold as the hotel needs total management control of the property to ensure proper maintenance and services.

CBRE Thailand has experience in selling both freehold and leasehold condominiums. I have found that leasehold condominiums have some advantages over freehold ones. It is fair to say that a freehold condominium of equal quality and equally good management is a better investment than a leasehold property.

However, the fact remains that most developers or landlords who own the property intend to keep their asset for the long term. They have a superior attitude as to building quality and maintenance standards.

In addition, leasehold property is not subject to the Condominium Act. Therefore, management decision-making can be done by the landlords themselves, who either manage the property on their own or appoint and enter into a long-term contract with a top-quality manager or hotel operator.

The drawback of a freehold condominium is management through a juristic body, which relies on a concept of majority votes and democracy. This is ideal in principle, but in practice it can create disputes over services and budgets which demonstrate lack of strong and clear leadership, consistency and efficiency in management decisions.

Moreover, a juristic body where the juristic committee changes annually cannot effectively enter into long-term



The majority of condominium buyers prefer freehold properties. Photo: Gazette File

service contracts.

With more and more problems of property management in freehold condominiums being experienced by buyers, I have noticed that more people – especially end-user buyers – are starting to consider buying a leasehold condominium located in a prime location.

Buyers could then be assured over property management either by using a branded hotel chain or being managed by the landlords themselves, who can ensure continuity in the operation and project and who can plan for long-term maintenance, renovation and management of the property.

This is one of the advantages of leasehold. I still believe, however, that even with this advantage, the majority of buyers still prefer freehold.

Leasehold property using the strength of management will be effective in prime locations where freehold land is rarely available. In Bangkok today, we see luxury leasehold properties with strong sales performance in both occupational and investment demand on Rajdamri Road, including The Residences at The St Regis Bangkok and Magnolias Ratchadamri Boulevard.

This does not mean that every freehold condominium is an inferior product to every leasehold property, but it does highlight the need for freehold-condominium owners to learn and develop good property-management standards.

– *The Nation*

Aliwassa Pathnadabutr is managing director of CBRE Thailand.

## Staying out of the heat

THERE is a smart way to reduce in-home temperatures with innovations that can be easily and efficiently applied to various types of residential property, from detached housing and townhouses to commercial row housing.

Each type of house faces a different challenge from heat and requires a fine-tuned application of these systems to comfort the home and its occupants, Tra Chang knowledge-development specialist Thammatorn Kraikokit said recently.

Tra Chang is a brand of raw construction materials that is produced by SCG Group.

Mr Thammatorn shared home-improvement tips to defy the summer, using cooling systems that enable flexible application across various types of housing.

A detached house is normally a person's dream home, but it comes with so many design possibilities that it blinds many people from heat issues – because a stand-alone house can easily take in heat from all directions.

To solve the problem, homeowners should seek ways to prevent and draw out heat that

would otherwise penetrate through the roof and walls, and also reduce heat that enfolds the house.

Light colors are, for example, recommended for the roofing tiles because they absorb less heat than dark ones.

To reflect heat away, Ultra-Cool heat-reflective insulation should be installed under the roof, and to prevent heat in the loft from entering the interior, lay Stay Cool heat-barrier insulation atop the ceiling of the upper floor, said Thammatorn.

A house-cooling effect can be enhanced with good ventilation in the loft by using ventilated ceiling board at the eaves. As for the walls, use the Cool Wall system at the sides that directly face the sun.

By covering the exterior concrete floor with Cool Plus paving blocks, excessive heat from all-day exposure to the sun can be reduced. Having some shading trees around the house similarly helps cool down exterior space, he explained.

Meanwhile, heat in townhouses is commonly addressed with the use of awnings, which is helpful to some degree. Since townhouses in the same block share the

same roof, reducing heat that enters through the roof involves – in addition to blanketing Stay Cool insulation atop the ceiling – partitioning the loft of the house from that of next-door neighbors' by using insulation board.

For end townhouses, Smart Wood lattice panel helps shade and cool down the exterior wall that is exposed to direct sunlight. This also doubles as a blind for a greater feeling of privacy, he said.

A problem shared in commercial row houses is excessive heat of spaces directly under the rooftop, because heat greatly accumulates in the concrete base of the rooftop from all-day exposure to the sun.

With these simple home-improvement steps, summer heat in any house can be reduced, be it a detached house, townhouse or commercial row house – old and new alike.

Not only will your home sweet home become more comfortable to live in, your electricity bills can also be cut, giving you long-term savings from your smart investment, said Thammatorn.

– *The Nation*

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# How to invest in Myanmar

By David Mayes

AS IT is just a short trip from Phuket, I find myself spending more and more time in Myanmar, and I am also becoming more and more convinced of the very promising future of the country. You may have read my previous article in the *Gazette* on the country, and I am far more convinced now than I was then.

A question I am frequently asked while speaking with many of my fellow Phuket expats after I have gone on my rant about how exciting the current environment there is becoming is "How can I take part?" Unfortunately, this is a difficult question to answer, and things are changing so fast that by the time this goes to print the answer may have changed.

I was shocked to recently find out the country doesn't even have intellectual property laws in effect yet. The laws have been legislated now and should come into place shortly, but the country is currently in a race to catch up with the interest it is receiving now that it has decided to open back up to the world.

Another snag is that, currently, importing and exporting is a practice that is reserved for only 100% locally owned companies. Joint

ventures cannot even do this. Thus, any company that does not set up and manufacture locally has to place a certain amount of trust in a local importer or exporter. These restrictions get in the way of the most obvious business opportunities most people will initially think of, such as finding a local manufacturer and exporting to countries that previously had been off limits due to embargoes. It is tough to know if these restrictions will be lifted. I think they may eventually, but my guess is the fear of changing too fast and the problems that could come along with it will cause them to stay in place for quite some time.

There are several routes to opening up a Burmese company, and one difference from Thailand is that a company can be 100% foreign owned. If it is a subsidiary of a foreign company and no revenue generating activities are performed in the country, then a representative office can be opened with a minimum investment level of \$50,000 USD. This is a similar level to the two million baht of registered capital required to open a Thai limited company.

There are two main categories for a Burmese private limited company which can be used to open a



Could there be light at the end of the tunnel for foreign investors after Myanmar's long dark night? Photo: William

company by foreigners, those under the Myanmar Companies Act (CA) and those under the Myanmar Foreign Investment Law (MFIL). The main difference is that MFIL companies can receive tax incentives, but they are required to have a much larger capital base (\$500,000 for manufacturing and \$300,000 for service companies). The set-up is slightly more complex as well. A CA company can perform the same activities, and the capital requirements of \$150,000 for a manufacturing company and \$50,000 for a service company make this route much more accessible for your average entrepreneur.

The stock exchange is in the process of getting set up, so as of now investing in direct equities is not an option. However, it should be coming soon and this will most likely provide a lower cost and passive avenue for investing in the country. At the moment, the only active and direct approach of opening some kind of company makes investing in the country cost prohibitive with small amounts of capital. Of course, the rewards are usually less with passive investing than with active, and it will have to be seen if the opening levels of Myanmar listed companies start off trading at valuation levels that even

make sense for investing. Given the optimism at the moment there, the stock market could launch right of the gates at bubble levels. Only time will tell, but I believe very strongly that we are seeing a once in a lifetime opportunity in Myanmar.

*David Mayes MBA lives in Phuket and provides wealth management services to expatriates around the globe, focusing on UK pension transfers. Faramond UK is regulated by the FCA and provides advice on taxation and pensions. He can be reached at david.m@faramond.com or 085-335 8573.*

## Thai investors need to shed old perceptions of Myanmar

MYANMAR is a land of opportunity, but Thai investors who go there in search of a piece of the action should change their perceptions of the country, Pisanu Suvanajata, Thai ambassador to Myanmar, has suggested.

He considers perception to be a key barrier to investing in Myanmar, and points out that Thai investors still misunderstand the country, holding on to old memories of drug trafficking, ethnic disputes and extreme poverty. In fact, this land of 53.3 million people has rapidly changed both its economic and political landscapes via a series of reform initiatives, he said, adding that such progress was sending out a good signal for those considering doing business in Myanmar.

Economically, he said its gross domestic product was projected to grow in a stable manner over the long term, with growth this year estimated at 9.1 per cent. As to

per capita income, Pisanu cited the Asian Development Bank's projection of it rising from an annual US\$850 (27,430 baht) currently to \$2,000 to \$3,000 by 2030.

Interestingly, he said, Myanmar's economy had continued to grow even during the period of sanctions. It only turned to negative growth during the country's national political crisis. Its rising prosperity can be seen from the traffic congestion on its city streets, and also from the ongoing inflow of foreign investment. Further evidence is that the number of local people travelling abroad is on the rise, the diplomat said.

Moreover, in regard to tourists visiting the country, the number was 200,000 just three years ago, but this rose to 1.6 million last year – with a further increase to 1.8 million expected this year.

Tourism certainly offers a big business opportunity. Beyond the large cities of

Yangon and Mandalay, Myeik – an unspoiled city located on the coast of an island in the Andaman Sea – is also attractive for investment.

Pisanu spoke to a delegation of 125 Thais in Yangon recently, the majority of them members of the Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA). They were keen to explore business opportunities from Mandalay and Naypyidaw to Yangon.

Sisdivachr Cheewarattanaporn, ATTA's president, said the four-day trip formed part of a learning process for its members about neighboring markets in preparation for the implementation of the Asean Economic Community next year – creating connectivity between them.

The tourism sector in Myanmar presents a big business opportunity for Thai investors, especially in the areas of hotel construction and tour services, he said, adding that tour-service businesses would

be considered as the forefront of the sector's investment in the country as they took less time to set up.

Maung Maung Swe, vice president of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and president of SM Tours & Transport, welcomed the move from Thai tourism operators and said tourism in Myanmar had a long way to go.

The industry requires foreign investment in opening four and five-star hotels to serve the rising number of foreign tourists, he said.

He added that there were now 1,000 hotels across Myanmar, offering 28,000 rooms in total. The former capital Yangon, also the country's largest city, has 9,000 rooms, some 4,000 of which are in four and five-star hotels.

New hotel investment is welcomed and foreign investors are allowed to hold a 100% stake in four and five-star properties, he said.

– *The Nation*



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## Amari appoints new F&B manager

SWISS national Luz Ermatinger was recently appointed to the position of food and beverages manager at Amari Phuket. Mr Ermatinger graduated from the Swiss Hospitality Management School Lucerne (SHL) with a Professional Bachelor ODEC in Hospitality and Tourism and went on to become a Graduate Hotelier at the Restaurateur Advanced Hospitality College.

"There [at SHL], the bachelor degree is a professional bachelor course and requires a minimum of 5400 working hours, in addition to your studies – which definitely



Luz Ermatinger. Photo: Supplied

helped me in my career," he said.

Having worked in the hospitality industry from age 17, Mr Ermatinger has a wealth of expe-

rience in all aspects of the business. His previous roles include assistant restaurant manager at the five-star Ristorante Orsini at Savoy Baur en Ville and at Amari Palm Reef Samui as a food and beverage management trainee.

Mr Ermatinger said he is looking forward to the challenges of his new role and is glad to have the opportunity to pursue his hospitality career with Amari.

"The biggest attraction for me is [building] my career with Amari and ONYX Hospitality Group," he said.

– *Phuket Gazette*



# HK couples wooed to wed in Phuket

By Saran Mitrarat

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Hong Kong office will launch a pilot campaign to lure couples in Hong Kong to legally marry in Phuket.

The pilot project alone is expected to generate 124 million baht for the Phuket economy.

To introduce the concept, TAT Hong Kong office director Titiporn Manenate brought a delegation of leading wedding planners from Hong Kong to meet Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa at the Phuket Provincial Hall yesterday afternoon.

Joining the delegation in support was Khanthong Nuanual, the Thai Consul General in Hong Kong.

"About 65,000 marriages are registered each year in Hong Kong," said Ms Titiporn.

"About 20,000 of those

couples each year would prefer to travel abroad for their wedding. This is what we see as our full potential market in Hong Kong for this campaign."

The pilot project aims to bring just 100 couples to Phuket by offering special wedding packages valued at HK\$300,000 (about 1.2mn baht) up to HK\$400,000 (1.68mn baht).

"This would generate a combined average of about 124mn baht in the pilot project this year alone," Ms Titiporn said.

"This estimate does not include their friends paying for hotel packages and other spending for the trip."

While in Phuket, the delegation of wedding planners will learn about the formal process of registering a marriage in Thailand.

"Couples will be legally married in Thailand, and the travel companies can have the legal Thai



The delegation of wedding planners from Hong Kong pose for a photo after meeting with the Vice Governor.

marriage certificate validated by officials in Hong Kong as part of the service," Thai consul Kanthong explained.

"That way the couples will be legally married in the eyes of the

law when the couples return home."

Vice Governor Sommai warmed to the idea.

"Phuket is ready for such a campaign, we have the right

hotels with the facilities to serve large or small wedding parties, and the island has the right combination of tourist attractions to make the honeymoon one to remember," she said.

## Southern Thai beaches remain popular with tourists

THAILAND'S Southern beach resort regions remain some of the most popular holiday destinations for international tourists, with hotels in the area reporting occupancy rates of up to 78% during the first quarter of this year.

According to figures from the Tourism Authority of Thailand's (TAT) eight domestic offices and two coordination centers in Southern Thailand – Krabi, Phang Nga, Chumphon and Surat Thani have been attracting a consistently high number of tourists throughout the January to March period.

In Krabi and Phang Nga, hotels reported occupancy rates hovering at 75% and 78%, respectively – levels that match last year's numbers. These healthy occupancy rates can be attributed to the enduring popularity of islands in Krabi such as Ao Maya, Ko Hong and Hat Railay, which are thronged with local and international tourists especially during the long public holidays.

Mr Thawatchai Arunyk, TAT Governor said, "The figures speak for themselves that Thailand remains a popular and welcoming tourist destination. Our Southern provinces, in particular Phuket, Krabi and Samui, have seen an increasing number of domestic and international direct flights, meaning that foreign visitors and locals alike can cut down the travelling time, needed to travel via Bangkok, to Southern resorts and enjoy our pristine beaches and islands for weekends as well as for longer stays."

Phang Nga, just one hour's drive from Phuket, recorded an average length of stay of 5.81 days. About 90% of visitors to Phang Nga are from overseas, with tourists from Germany topping the rank in terms of arrivals, followed by visitors from Scandinavia and other European countries.

Phang Nga can boast the highest numbers of tourist arrivals, as well as visitors to its many attrac-

tions. Ao Phang Nga recorded approximately 5,000 visitors per day; Ko Khai saw some 3,000 visitors per day; and Ko Ta Chai attracting some 400 daily visitors. The Similan and Surin Islands each received 200-300 visitors arriving every day. On the mainland, the recently opened Dairy Hut Farm on Phang Nga-Tubpud Road has been a great success and is particularly popular with family holiday-makers and teenagers.

In Krabi, which has its own airport but can also be reached via Phuket (about 176 km or two hours by car), it is the community-based tourism activities; such as, those found at Ban Ko Klang, Khlong Prasong and Ko Poo and Ko Jum that are popular. Inland, tourism activities such as cycling trips amid the limestone peaks and rubber plantations are popular. Tourists also get the chance to see palm plantations and take boat trips to learn about the community's ecology and mangrove forests.

Chumphon, another Southern Thai province on the coast of the Gulf of Thailand remains popular, being the port that serves the famous Koh Tao and Koh Nang Yuan islands. The region has recently maintained its normal occupancy rate of around 55%. In Chumphon province itself, popular destinations include Hat Sairee, Hat Tung Wua Laen and the Shrine of Krom Luang Chomphon, which are favorite destinations for local travellers.

Nearby Surat Thani is also attracting an increasing number of meetings, incentives, conferences and events (MICE) travellers and stop-over tourists looking to continue their journey to other destinations, including the famous Koh Samui, Koh Phangan or Koh Tao. Surat Thani's Ratchaprapa Dam and water reservoir, farm stays and important religious sites still attract local and international tourists. Occupancy rate for hotels in this area are an impressive 95%. – TAT



Hotel occupancy rates in Phang Nga are hovering at 78%, no doubt due to the huge attraction of beaches like this one (Pakarang Beach) in Khao Lak. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

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# Policing a Protestocracy

FEW stories in recent memory better reflect the collective failure of local police to maintain law and order than the recent blockade of Thepkasattri Road by residents of Thalang (see page 8).

The closure paralyzed traffic in the north of the island for more than eight hours, inconveniencing untold thousands of visitors – many of whom will never choose to include Phuket as part of their future travel plans.

The crime which precipitated this sad chain of events was indeed heinous: the attack by two teenagers of a young woman, whom they robbed and raped at roadside, over her cries for mercy because she was pregnant (see page 9).

The very nature of the crime no doubt struck a chord with local residents, who are no strangers to blockading the island's central artery when they feel that justice has been denied, or injustice applied, to members of their tight-knit community.

Repeated blockages of a section of Thepkasattri Road following accidents at the dangerous curve near the off-ramp to Kor En Village over the years attest to this fact. In this case, their actions were clearly inappropriate and misdirected.

Allegations of police brutality against three local youths who police questioned during their investigation were subsequently shown to be false, showing just how quickly clear communication – and then law and order – can break down in this era of “protestocracy”.

It also shows just how impotent police are in such circumstances. Indeed, it is official action – or lack thereof – that remains the most common cause of public protest in Phuket, even despite all the political turmoil of the times.

The horrific crimes against the pregnant mother of two can't be compared to the inconvenience experienced by the thousands stuck in traffic due to the roadblock. Nonetheless, those thousands represent the cash flow necessary for Phuket's tourism industry, which in no small way supports the country as a whole.

And this roadblock is not an isolated incident – just last Sunday, residents blockaded Chao Fa West Road to urge officials to fix a dangerous curve in the area (see page 3). Tuk-tuk blockades are well known to islanders; the most recent, in Patong on March 3, claimed police persecution and lasted five and a half hours. Just a month before that, the Patong beach road was blocked by a group complaining about police extortion.

For the sake of the island's future, Phuket Provincial Police need to establish a special emergency response team to better deal with such road blockages which, due to past inaction, seem to be increasing in frequency.



## Development plan needed urgently

Re: Gazette online, Bangtao fouls, B320 mm project halts, April 19-25.

At Nai Yang Beach on April 25, the ocean was like a smelly, open sewer. Would you believe that this beach is part of a National Park?

There was no crystal clear water here, but cloudy, murky black water, forming an elongated zone some 10 meters from the water line. Nevertheless there were people bathing in the sea, adults and small children; not a wise thing to do. But can you blame them? No, tourists come here for the sea, attracted by the beautiful pictures of white sandy beaches that they see.

The island is now starting to pay the price for the explosive growth of tourism resulting from greed for money over the last few years. And next year, with the increased capacity of the airport, things are expected to worsen.

Shame on Phuket, shame on Thailand! It is time that the local authorities get their act together to expedite the handling of the increasing amounts of waste water. Phuket urgently needs a development plan before it is too late.

Richard Jagerman  
Kamala

### Illness from seawater

Re: Gazette online, Can't wash your hands with dirty water, April 27

The major concern is that heaven forbid someone – a tourist – contracts a fatal infection from the sea. The foreign media would do massive damage to tourism for all of Phuket.

Peter  
Gazette forum

### Foul water holds lifeguard solution

Re: Gazette online, Phuket faces no lifeguards on beaches as contract debacle ebbs on, April 27

One solution might be to terminate the positions on beaches

## Letters to the Editor

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

where the black seawater has driven away the tourists, using the salaries saved to increase the pay of the remaining lifeguards.

Michael Maurice Arvin  
Gazette forum

### Patong steps forward

Re: Gazette online, Pian ousted as Chalermkluck voted Patong Mayor, April 26

Getting rid of Pian is a step forward for Patong. However, time will tell whether the new mayor will be better or not. I will wait and see. After all, there's a lot to do.

Ga  
Gazette forum

### Post-election cleanup

Re: Gazette online, Pian ousted as Chalermkluck voted Patong Mayor, April 26

Now take down all the voting signs that make the place look so cheap. They should not be allowed along the beach side of the road.

Steve George  
Gazette forum

### Prejudice based on memory failure

Re: Gazette online, Road-raged Russian attacks Australian tourist, knocking his teeth out, April 26

Such a bunch of short memories. There have been plenty of bad Aussie stories in Phuket over the last few years. I have only ever spoken to three Russians in Phuket, and all three were pleasant people. If I was going to ban anybody, it would be the Aussies. And the Brits. And the Yanks. And

the Germans. And the French. And the Indians. And the South Africans. And the Norwegians. And the Swedes. And so forth.

HKT Comedy Club  
Gazette forum

### Chalong overspent

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's one-stop yacht center trial period hits first software snag, April 24

1.5m euros and it's still crap. Such a simple program would do the trick. I wonder where all the money went.

Luke Hancock  
Facebook

### Canines for cash

Re: Gazette online, Anything to declare? Airport officials asked to target bags of undisclosed cash, April 23

I have yet to see a customs dog in the arrival hall at Phuket International Airport. They can be trained to not only sniff out would-be drug mules, but also those carrying cash.

Perhaps Immigration should consider this option as a trained nose would complement machines in deterring those thinking of bringing in undeclared capital.

Reader  
Gazette forum

### Threat to the poor in trash separation plan

Re: Gazette online, Phuket to launch trash separation project for World Environment Day, April 25

General trash, infectious waste and hazardous materials, such as used batteries.

Less affluent people will be drawn to these bins, picking through the trash for recyclable materials. What a stupid idea to dispose of medical waste in this manner.

Luke  
Gazette forum

## Phuket Gazette

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# Kids to save Karon

## FIRST PERSON

KARON is facing critical environmental and social problems: drugs, robberies, traffic, wastewater and garbage management.

The main reason we have these problems is because officials have been focusing more on objects than on people. For almost ten years, Karon has been one of Phuket's most important tourist destinations, and officials have prioritized the development of tourism here, supporting all kinds of facilities for visitors.

What has slipped through the cracks is support for the education of local school children.

That support is especially important because the children we are teaching at Wat Suwan-keereekate School are not rich; rich kids are sent to well-known schools in Phuket Town.

At those schools, well-off parents make sure that their children get a quality education by contributing financial support themselves. They set up Parent's Clubs, sponsor all kinds of activities and solicit funds from alumni.

Parents at our school are not in a position to do these things.

The government supports us, of course. Like every other school in the country, we receive 1,900 baht per child, per year. However, this amount alone is not enough for any school in Phuket, because the cost of living in the province is so high. It's especially low for tourist towns like Kata-Karon, where prices are even higher.

As educators, our most important job is to prepare children to live their lives well and to teach them how to support themselves.

Because they are growing up in a tourist town in a tourist province, it's very likely they will look for jobs in tourism. To be com-



**Yuphayao Alshammery, 50,** has been Director of Suwan-keereekate School in Karon since May 2013. She has an MA in Education Management from Maha Sarakham University and is now pursuing a PhD. Before coming to Phuket, she was director of two rural Northeast schools for more than 15 years.

Here, she talks about how supporting education can help solve Karon's social and environmental problems.

petitive, they must have foreign-language skills.

But we can't afford to hire foreign-language teachers. We need English, Russian and Chinese teachers, but we simply don't have the budget.

Knowing a foreign language is not a luxury for our kids, it's a necessity, but we can't do it without more financial support.

Our other goals are to teach our students to have self-control, to understand the effect of their actions, and to be able to adapt to change.

We've been able to set up some projects on our limited budget to teach these things: a garbage bank and a vegetable garden. The idea with both of these is to teach the children how to make a living and also how to protect the environment.

For the garbage bank, students are assigned to bring in garbage from home or that they find on the way to school. We separate it together, then sell

what we can, and give the children the proceeds. This teaches the kids that garbage is valuable, that they can separate it by themselves, and that collecting it cleans up our environment.

As for the vegetables, every spare bit of land at the school is a vegetable plot. The crops we grow we serve in the school canteen for lunch. Any excess, we accompany the children to sell at a nearby market. Doing this is fun, and it teaches the students that empty land can be utilized to make money.

We also use the garden plot to

teach environmentally healthy practices – we use dishwater to water the plants. The children learn to value water and not release dirty water into local canals.

Children are like pieces of white paper. If we put emphasis on supporting their education, and teach them well, they will grow up to be people who contribute to making Karon a better place. We must not waste this precious opportunity.



Children show produce they grew and will sell. Photo: Saran Mitratat



Some loud sounds offer more than they take away. Photo: Rodrigo Soldon

## When noise is good

### Island View

By Leslie Porterfield

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

I STOPPED at my local 7-Eleven on the way home from work the other night, tired out from a day of peering at my computer screen and mildly irritated for the umpteenth time at the inconvenience of having to buy something – drinking water – that I get out of the tap where I come from.

As I entered the store I heard, over the welcoming greetings of the staff, loud voices – loud Chinese voices.

One of the things that impressed me right away in Thailand is that speaking in a well-modulated way, at a low volume, is a desirable goal. Not that there aren't screechy-voiced or boisterous Thais, it's just much more likely that a Thai friend will ask me to lower my voice in public than the other way around.

I've met some people who have mastered modulation to such a degree their voices seem like black holes, sucking sound in rather than emitting it. Not to mention the volume of cell-phone conversations in public, carried on at decibels worthy of top-secret stealth activities.

But that night in the 7-Eleven, the Chinese permeated the entire sound space as they called to each other from different spots in the

store. For a brief second I probably frowned, so accustomed am I to a murmuring quietness.

Then I noticed they were repeating their words, and my attention was drawn to the sounds: "Sher, sher, sher," they cried out. And then, "aar, aar, aar," just like the bark of a seal. It was adorable, and I smiled.

They were smiling too, and converging on the refrigerated drinks, three or four men and a woman, and as one of them opened a fridge door, he said something, and the others laughed merrily. Their good mood flowed through me.

And then it struck me: they are on vacation. Maybe they come from a place that is cold, industrial or urban, and they are on our lovely, warm little island, away from their everyday cares, and just being here makes them cheerful.

Their happiness blew away my post-work funk. Some noise is good, I realized, and felt thankful.

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

### Fine for not updating a work permit

The company which supplied my work permit recently moved office and I forgot to inform the immigration office. It's all sorted out now, but can I ask what the standard fine would be?

*Expat worker  
Cherng Talay*

### Yaowapa Pibulpol, Phuket Employment Office Chief, replies:

It is illegal to work at an address that doesn't match the one listed in your work permit.

If your work place moves to a new location, we must be immediately notified of the updated address so we can amend your work permit to show the change.

The fine for not having the information changed is up to 20,000 baht for the employee and up to 100,000 baht for the business owner.

## Worried that Patong Hill Road will slide again

The landslide repairs on Patong Hill seem to fail very often, and that makes me feel nervous about crossing the hill this rainy season.

What process was used in the latest repairs, and how long is it expected to last?

*Jittery  
Rawai*

### Samak Luedwonghad, Phuket Highways Office Director, replies:

We have faith in our landslide prevention techniques and I am confident that the land on Patong Hill will not slide this rainy season. Last year, we installed soil nails which will last for three to four years. Once this time is up, we will make any necessary repairs again.

The process involves drilling

holes into the slope, then inserting steel bars into the holes, grouting them, and covering the face with concrete.

Construction on Patong Hill is one of the main causes of landslides. When the rain comes, the soil can become loose and flow down the hill. Trees on the hill slow the downward flow of water, but the trees are being cleared out by these construction projects, which is something we cannot prevent.

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)



Landslides on Patong Hill are not unusual. Photo: Gazette file



## YOUR Phuket

### The Charm Residence exclusive party

The Charm Residence hosted an exclusive launch party last Saturday at Central Festival Phuket to thank their customers.



Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada; Thai superstar Sririta Jensen; President of The Charm Residence Prasert Lewichan; and Managing Director of The Charm Residence Sothorn Dansirikul.



Thai superstar Sririta Jensen.

## Fully Booked! Mobile Learning Center

Laguna Phuket launched its latest CSR community project, the "Fully Booked" Mobile Learning Center, which will assist local children to develop reading skills.



Managing Director of Laguna Phuket Ravi Chandran speaks at the project's launch.



Kuan Chiet, SAVP Group Assistant Manager, Development and Special Projects for Laguna Resort & Hotels; David Seet, SAVP Resort Operations for Laguna Resorts & Hotels; and Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa



Photo: Phuketindex



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PROPERTY of the week



## KHAO YAI PROPERTY

See page 23

EDUCATION of the week



Oak Meadow International School

See page 29

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week



See page 25

BOAT & MARINE of the week

LEE MARINE  
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See page 31

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



## Household Items

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

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



**SWEDISH STAFF WANTED**

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

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED**

Thai national only. Admin support to management at Phuket Fit resort. Secretarial and administrative tasks. Please contact: liam@phuketfit.com

**PROPERTY MARKETING MANAGER**

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now recruiting a Marketing Manager (foreign national) to oversee our marketing venues and operations. You will be coordinating the marketing staff in terms of schedules, motivation and making sure the production is at its peak. You need to have major experience in Marketing and know your way around Phuket. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Please send your CV with recent picture to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

**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: jtissi@aquamaster.net

**PHP PROGRAMMER**

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

**YACHT STEWARDESS**

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

**TEACHERS WANTED**

Chalermprakiat School is looking for native English speakers. A bachelor's degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Send your CV to swpk\_mlp@yahoo.com, please contact Clark

**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

**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@avcphuket.com

**EARN 30,000-120,000 BAH/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

**KARON CLIFF**

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

**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

**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

**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@thaibasil.phuket.com

**RESORT STAFF WANTED**

Urgently: night reception, house-keeping, restaurant and kitchen staff. Tel: 076-613903, 089-723 1128 (Thai), 085-227 8864. Email: yussies@gmail.com

**THAI RECEPTIONIST NEEDED**

Small Tree House Resort in Khao Sok (Surat Thani) is looking for 2 receptionists (Thai only) with proper English skills. Salary from 10,000 to 15,000 baht depending on experience, accommodation, 3 meals a day and social security or free of charge provided by the resort. Tel: 081-273 8324 (Thai). Please send an email to kaosok.hotels@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.kaosok-hotels.com

**SALES MANAGER**

For designer ladies fashion boutique in Surin. Good salary plus commissions, must speak English. Tel: 085-153 1403.

**AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE**

We are currently seeking trusted, fluent in English, professional candidates for the position of advertising sales representative in Phuket. Level/salary range: up to 40,000 baht (first-full year earnings potentials). The position is open for Thai and foreigners (work permit required). Kindly send your resume by email. Email: info@phuketitaly.com

**SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP DOGS!**

Soi Dog Foundation seeks a Social Media Officer to lead our Facebook page and create and publish content. Excellent creative writing, strong video and photo skills, and empathy for animals required. Tel: 087-263 0827, 081-788 4222 (English & Thai). Email: gregg@soi dog.org Learn more at www.SoiDog.org

**3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT**

Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai national only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuket fit.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: jmiles@iinet.net.au

**Absolute.**  
WORLD

**Mandarin Speaking Staff Wanted**

The Absolute World Group are currently recruiting Chinese speaking staff to add to our successful marketing teams. The position is in the promotions department working outside of the office and dealing exclusively with Chinese clients on holiday in Phuket. Applicants should have a bubbly personality and the desire to earn very good money.

Please contact [promotions@absolutemail.net](mailto:promotions@absolutemail.net)  
[hr@clubabsolute.com](mailto:hr@clubabsolute.com), Tel: 076-346256.

**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)

**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.

**EUROPEAN CHEFS**

We are hiring Sous Chef and Executive Chef. We want both full-time. Good salary and work permit for the right candidate. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: hr bangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

**BUILDING MANAGER @BANGTAO**

Bachelor's degree, excellent in both written and spoken English, strong analytical and problem-solving skills. Tel: 076-238299. Email: Thomrath. Anantaworapoth@ap.jll.com

**ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER**

Looking: TO min 2 yrs exp. Com+spiff+ monthly bonus. WP+SS. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Contact: hr@davidvacationclub.com

**Employment Wanted****OFFICE ASSISTANT**

Multiple positions are now open, also for licensed tour guides, tour operations staff. Must be Thai and have good English or Chinese communication skills. Send CV via email or fax. Fax: 076-383320. Email: info@very-thai.com Website: [www.very-thai.com/jobs](http://www.very-thai.com/jobs)

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

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

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

**PATONG**

- NEW Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoev Seafood)
- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)

Tel: 076-341644  
Tel: 076-344521-2  
Tel: 076-290468

**PHUKET CITY**

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

Tel: 076-232398  
Tel: 076-258369  
Tel: 076-255425

**CHERNG TALAY**

- ▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)

Tel: 076-325586

**RAWAI**

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)

Tel: 076-388144

**KARON**

- ▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)

Tel: 076-396911

**Live in Patong?**

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Andy's Real Estate Agency (AREA)



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Andy: (076-341644)**

**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!**



# 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

### 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

### 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](mailto:info@phuket-condos-homes.com) or call 076-341045, 081-459 0152.

### RECEPTIONIST

Small hotel in Patong needs reliable female Thai with good English skills. Tel: 081-892 1621.

### 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](mailto:scott.d@th.issworld.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)

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

### MARKETING FOR PROPERTY

We are now looking for marketing executives to join our successful real estate company. Thai nationals only. We are looking for staff at Jungceylon, Homepro Chalong and Kamala Beach. Good spoken English is a must. High salaries and commissions will be given. Send CV to [info@phuket-condos-homes.com](mailto:info@phuket-condos-homes.com) or call 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). [www.phuketcondos-homes.com](http://www.phuketcondos-homes.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)

### SALES MANAGER

For designer ladies fashion boutique in Surin. Good salary plus commissions, must speak English. Tel: 085-153 1403.

### FARANG HANDYMAN / THAI MAID

Live-in farang handyman (with all tools) and maid (Thai), available for hotel or luxury villa. Can attend interview immediately. Contact Lee. Tel: 081-787 9767.

### GM TOP ECO-RESORT KHAO SOK

Manager must speak good Thai, be strong in web marketing, knowledge of local nature, and people skills to deal with Thai staff, resort guests, local community. Farang with Thai partner welcome. Work permit, housing and meals provided. Compensation: 1.2 to 3 million baht/year depending on experience. Email: [dicksandl@gmail.com](mailto:dicksandl@gmail.com)

### MARKETING EXECUTIVE WANTED

Urgent! Real estate marketing @ HomePro Chalong and Patong. Must speak English and be positive and flexible. Average income: 25-50,000 baht per month. Email: [kannikar\\_8@hotmail.com](mailto:kannikar_8@hotmail.com) [www.thaiglobalconsulting.com](http://www.thaiglobalconsulting.com)

### 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](mailto:sherin.peace@gmail.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

### 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](mailto:hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com)

### RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED

Thai national: raw food chef, good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto: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@paresaresorts.com](mailto:scot@paresaresorts.com)

### LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

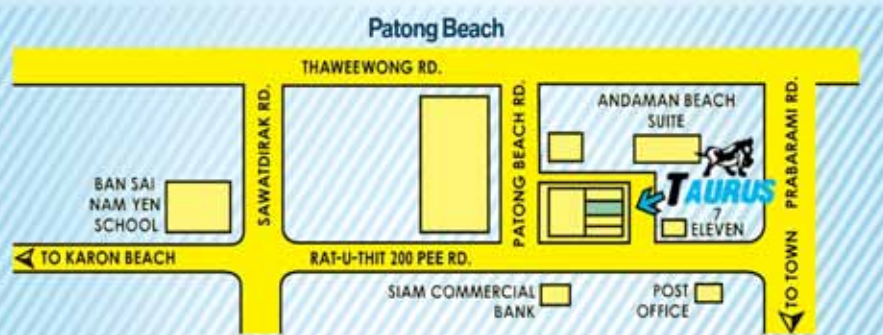
Aged 25 years or older, permanent resident of Phuket, Russian speaking with excellent knowledge of English and preferably Thai. Official papers (no benefits, work permit), salary starts from 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-870 2796. Please send CV to [opaopa543@mail.ru](mailto:opaopa543@mail.ru)

### THAI FEMALE BUSINESS PARTNER

Needed for proven farang entrepreneur, full training in massage therapy, any age, all offers considered. Tel: 094-652 2029.

## 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)



Bar &  
Restaurant  
EquipmentGUESTHOUSE  
CLOSING

Many items for sale. Call or send email to receive a list, photos and prices. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.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

## Business Opportunities

PROPERTY  
MARKETING  
MANAGER

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now recruiting a Marketing Manager (foreign national) to oversee our marketing venues and operations. You will be coordinating the marketing staff in terms of schedules, motivation and making sure the production is at its peak. You need to have major experience in marketing and know your way around Phuket. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Please send your CV with recent picture to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

GUESTHOUSE  
FOR SALE / RENT

Rawai. Too much to list. For more information, please call 081-808 1804. Email: ttpitstop@hotmail.com

RESTAURANT  
FOR SALE

Restaurant in Chalong, fully equipped, big terrace, 3 floors, 3 bedrooms, 2 showers. Rent: 20,000 baht per month. 2.5 years contract, no key money, opposite Arrow Media. For sale: 800,000 baht negotiable. Tel: 084-061 1521 (English). Email: olive911@outlook.fr

NEW GUESTHOUSE  
PATONG BEACH

Orange House. Total 15 rooms, 5 years on contract. Rent: 90,000 baht per month. Sale: 1.8 million baht. Tel: 082-810 9670.

## LOOKING FOR DEALER

We are looking for dealer of Belassi jetskis. If you are interested, contact Nok. Tel: 081-969 9938 (Thai), 081-931 1028 (English). Email: today61@gmail.com

RESTAURANT /  
BAR NANAI

At Patong's busiest crossing. All brand-new with big potential. Price includes rent for 1 year. Price: 1.2 million baht. Tel: 082-272 0609 (English & Thai). Email: tobbemelinder@gmail.com

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. 10 million baht. Garden/koi ponds/waterfall. Tel: 087-266 7514 (English). Email: rucker4012@gmail.com

INVESTMENT  
PROPERTIES  
FOR SALE

35 million baht. 2 managed buildings in Samut Prakan, comprised of 91 self-contained units, generate a net income p.a. of 1.5 million baht. Under 10-minute walk from construction of new BTS. Tel: 086-088 0755.

4-STOREY APARTMENT  
FOR SALE

Comes with 16 rooms and full renter. Near Robinson Department Store. Sale by owner. Tel: 087-270 9093 (English & Thai). Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

UNIQUE STRETCH  
LIMO BUSINESS

Only stretch limousine in Thailand. Turnkey business with website and many customers. Just start and make money! 2.8 million baht. Tel: 089-932 5175 (English & Thai). Email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

PATONG  
MESSAGE SHOP NANAI

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

## 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

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.

INCREDIBLE  
PROJECT  
INVESTMENT

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

KARON  
GUESTHOUSE

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

GUESTHOUSE  
FOR SALE / RENT

Rawai. Too much to list. Please call 081-808 1804. Email: ttpitstop@hotmail.com

LIMITED PARTNERSHIP  
FOR SALE

Limited partnership for sale, 6 years in business, entitled to work permit. Price: 3,000 baht plus the fee for changing directors and company location. For more information, please call 087-388 1488 (English). Email: dbruehwi@bluewin.ch

## 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



**DINO  
DAYCARE CENTER**

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

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

**CALL NOW:**  
081-868 7676 (English).  
080-525 3135 (Thai)

**SEO-SOCIAL MEDIA  
INTERNET**

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

**VISA SERVICES**

UAE and Singapore for 3 days. For more information, please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru

**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. 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

**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

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.

Office  
Equipment**OFFICE DESK 3PCS  
LEATHER**

Dark-wood color with chairs. Desk: 80x38cm with return 54cm and draws. 15,000 baht. Tel: 090-071 7163.

Personal  
Services**INDIVIDUAL  
COUNSELING**

US licensed counselor. Children-Adults-Families. Phuket mental health counseling. For more information, please call 086-271 8153 (English). Email: parwgk@aol.com

## 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)

## Personals

**GUESTHOUSE  
CLOSING**

Many items for sale. Call or send email to receive a list, photos and prices. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

**BACKGAMMON**

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



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- 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)







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**HOBIE CAT 17**

Catamaran for sale: Hobie 17 with wings, road trailer, beach trailer. Tel: 086-773 4538 (English). Email: skgf@skgf.asia

**50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER**

1989 Bertram 50S convertible. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 087-834 5293. Email: sfiori@hotmail.com

**FIBERGLAS ONE ENGINE BOAT**

Speedboat for sale. Made in 2012, engine 115hp overhauled in 2013, excellent condition. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 087-897 0076 (English). Email: kp@ppc.cz

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**BAYLINER 190**

115hp Mercury 4-stroke. 15hp auxiliary 4-stroke, new 300W stereo, GPS, trailer, Thai registered, 2009, price: 590,000 baht. Tel: 084-584 6795 (English). Email: han spaessler@me.com

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Fantastic little Hobie Catamaran. Great for kids and adults wanting a fun dinghy boat responsive in light wind. Length 12'. Sail area: 86sqf/8sqm. Email: jezntat@gmail.com or call our Thai mobile: 086-685 9359, or to Singapore: +65-977 38457.

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Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-626 4969 (English). Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wanadoo.fr

**13-METER CRUISER**

Wooden hull cruiser registered for 17 people. Cost 1.6 million baht, but will sell for 700,000 baht. Just refurbished. Tel: 082-414 6931 (English). Email: phil@krabikonnnect.com please see our website at [www.krabikonnnect.com/](http://www.krabikonnnect.com/) #boat-for-sale/c10mg

**RIB WILLIAMS 325 TURBOJET**

Williams 325 turbojet for sale. 2010, excellent condition. 40 knots in 4 seconds! Sunbrella covers. Price for new unit: 991,620 baht. Price now: 550,000 baht! Tel: 093-631 0874 (English), 084-744 4304 (Thai). Email: 345589@inbox.ru

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

Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).

Normal spelling: lower case.

Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).

Letters left out: underlined.

**Across:** 8. FAIRING: *ifa*-ring 9. SOOTHED: *idapallet* 13. EVICT: *vice*-T 14. FUTON: *funto* 15. PIKEMAN: fish-being 16. EXAEQUO: ending in the same state 17. AISLE: A1-S-le 18. AROMA: *roam*-a 20. DIRGE: *ridge* 22. REGALE: *lager*-E 23. AMPHOE: *pahome* 25. BARBELL: *barb*-el-L 27. SPARELY: *players* 30. TRIBAL: *tri*-B-al 31. PRISON: *pornis* 32. TROOP: T-poor(rev) 35. AOYON: a-O-*yon* 36. ORDER: sequence 37. TRAPEZE: *partzee* 39. CHARTER: *teach*(R)(R) 41. CABER: C-bear 42. SATES: *seats* 43. CHARACTER: make-up 44. OFFERED: *forfeed*

**Down:** 1. MARINA: *mar*-in-a 2. CRITIQUE: Cr.-1-*quiet* 3. ONEFOOTRULE: one-*truefool* 4. EARNESTLY: *sente*arly 5. SLIPPER: *slip*-per 6. JACKHAMMER: Jack-beat 7. SEEM: *see*-M 10. DEPEND: *dep*.-end 11. STRANGE: *grants*E 12. UNMADE: *amnude* 19. OTHELLO: *helltoo* 21. READILY: Re.-*daily* 24. SPENDTHRIFT: waste-economy 26. BRAINSTORM: *smartrobin* 28. PREDICTED: P-*credited* 29. ASCRIBE: a-writer of old 30. TRANCE: *cant*er 32. TRANSFER: *rentsfar* 33. PLEASE: *appeals*-E 34. CORRECT: put right 38. ENTREE: the privilege of getting in 40. ASHY: *ashysteria*

# Looking for a boat?

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



## Aircraft For Sale

## Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



**Built: 1976**

Registration: HS-AWS  
(in Thailand for the last 6 years)  
Previous Registrations:  
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N479GE – USA  
I-ECCE – Italy  
G-BVNL – UK



Lycoming IO-540-T4B5D (1,300 hours, 700 hours to TBO). Prop: B3D32C419/82NHA-5. Overhauled Feb 2011 (7 years to TBO). C of A Due 11th November 2011. New 5-year Permit. 100 hour check completed 19 Feb 2011.

### Specs:

Horsepower: 260	Gross Weight: 3140 lbs
Top Speed: 166 kts	Empty Weight: 2094 lbs
Cruise Speed: 157 kts	Fuel Capacity: 68.00 gal Usable
Stall Speed (dirty): 55 kts	Range: 700 nm
Rate Of Climb: 1088 fpm	Fuel Av Gas 100LL
Ceiling: 17,400 ft	1 crew plus 3 passengers

Radio and Navigation Configuration: Fully IFR equipped. 2 Garmin GNS430 VHF/COMM/NAV/GPS/TERRAIN. Garmin GI-106A VOR/LOC/GS/GPS CDI. King KN64 DME. Garmin GTX 320/327 Transponder with Mode C via Ameri-King AK350-30 Height Encoder. Garmin GMA 340 Audio Panel. Bendix King KR-87 ADF. Sandel SN 3308 EHSI. Century IIB Autopilot Dual Axis and S-Tec Altitude Hold. WX-500 Stormscope.

**Price:** 3.75 million baht. Located at Thai Flying Club, Bang Phra.

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email [tony\\_scragg@hotmail.com](mailto:tony_scragg@hotmail.com)

## HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

If you have an aircraft for sale or an interest in aviation and wish to learn how to fly or buy an aircraft or arrange a private flight, etc. Website: [www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter](http://www.aeropromgr.com/newsletter)

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## 1999 ROBIN 2160i

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

## TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
- Registration: U-B08
- Year of Manufacture: 2002
- Equipment: Full standard equipment
- Engine: Rotax 912-80HP

350hrs. Tel: 081-840 8418.

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## QSI Kid Expo



The QSI teaching staff were the driving force behind the creation of Kid Expo and said they plan on hosting it again in 2015.

QSI International School held its inaugural Kid Expo last Sunday, April 27. More than 37 island-wide businesses had stalls at the expo offering activities from wakeboarding lessons to Muay Thai and much more. Organizers thanked everybody involved for making it such a successful event and promised it would be back again next year.



Charlyze and Alyssa Meijer enjoy activities at Oasis Ed's booth, run by Kerrily Jennings.

## Anzac Day: Lady Pie remembers



Tanylle Nguyen and Susan Usher commemorate Anzac Day.

## Phuket Pride with plenty of love



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# World Press Freedom Day

TODAY, May 3, 2014, marks the UNESCO World Press Freedom Day. The day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993 and marks the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek, a statement of free press principles put together by African newspaper journalists in 1991.

World Press Freedom Day celebrates the basic principles of press freedom, takes stock of press freedom around the world, promotes media independence and pays tribute to journalists who have lost their lives on the job.

According to the World Press Freedom Index 2014, compiled by non-government organization Reporters Without Borders, Thailand has moved up five places, from 135th to 130th, in the list ranking countries on their level of press freedom.

According to a statement on the Reporters Without Borders website, this year, "Finland tops the index for the fourth year running, closely followed by the Netherlands and Norway, like last year. At the other end of the index, the last three

positions are again held by Turkmenistan, North Korea and Eritrea, three countries where freedom of information is non-existent. Despite occasional turbulence in the past year, these countries continue to be news and information black holes and living hells for the journalists who inhabit them."

The report was also critical of Thailand's 11 se-majest law, stating that the law was an effective weapon for intimidating or silencing those who are disrespectful to the Thai Royal Family. It noted that the suspended jail sentence imposed on Chiranuch "Jiew" Premchaiporn, the editor of the online newspaper *Prachatai*, for "comments critical of the monarchy" and the 11-year-jail sentence given to Somyot Prueksakasemsuk, editor of the *Voice of Thaksin* bimonthly, were noteworthy examples. The report stated that the, "sentences had a deterrent effect on the entire Thai media."

— *Phuket Gazette*

To find out where your home country stands in the rankings visit: [rsf.org](http://rsf.org)



## Press Freedom Index 2014 at a glance

Top Three	Bottom Three	Most Up	Most Down
1. Finland	178. Turkmenistan	95. Ecuador +24	109. Central African Rep. -44
2. Netherlands	179. North Korea	87. Panama +24	125. Guatemala -30
3. Norway	180. Eritrea	85. Albania +17	122. Mali -23

## H&M fashions arrive at Central Festival

DOZENS of shoppers are expected to line up at Central Festival Phuket early Saturday morning to be among the first to get their hands on the latest threads from global fashion house H&M as it launches its first store in southern Thailand on two floors of the shopping mall.

H&M is giving away more than 80,000 baht worth of vouchers to the first shoppers in line when the store opens its doors at 10:30am on Saturday.

The store has promised to give a 3,000 baht voucher to the very first person in line. The second and third in line will receive 2,000-baht and 1,000-baht vouchers. The next 150 people in line will each get H&M vouchers worth 500 baht.

Doors at one of Central Festival's ground-floor entrances will be opened ahead of normal opening hours to allow shoppers to queue in front of the H&M store in time for the official opening.

— *Phuket Gazette*



**Now on Truevisions HD 79, SD 107**

## Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

**BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD**

Phuket Today takes the Pearl of the Andaman to an international audience. PGTV's one-hour show features the personalities, lifestyle, sports and leisure activities that make Phuket famous.

**Produced by PGTV, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community in Thailand.**

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**Phuket Cable**  
Coverage: All of Phuket  
Channel: 1  
Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm  
Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm

**Rawai Cable**  
Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon  
Channel: 1  
Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm

**KDTV**  
Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay  
Channel: 10  
Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm

**NATIONAL COVERAGE**

**MCOT World**

Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm
Wednesday:	6pm
Thursday:	1pm & 8pm
Friday:	9am
Saturday:	1pm
Sunday:	6am

Truevisions HD Channel: 79  
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PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37  
GMMZ Channel: 103

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Plus 4,600 hotel rooms around the island and all international hospitals.

**NOW AVAILABLE ON KHAO LAK CABLE Channel 50**  
And local cable networks across Thailand





# IELTS in Phuket

## May 17, 10am-6pm

Photo: Pablo

### WHAT'S ON in Phuket

#### May 5. Coronation Day

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

#### May 15, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club May Lunch

The May lunch will be at DeDos restaurant in Tinlay Place, Cherng Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. Contact Maggy at info@piwc-phuket.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107), are proud long term sponsors of The Phuket International Women's Club.

#### 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 avssouth@gmail.com or go to theavss.net

#### May 23, 6-11:30pm. Beatles Tribute Night at Two Chefs.

We serve a large buffet with smoked salmon, pulled pork burgers, roast beef, stuffed pork tenderloin, Yorkshire puddings, grilled rib-eye steaks with bearnaise sauce, pork crackling, lamb stew, bloody mary mussels, strawberry tarts, chocolate cup cakes, apple crumble pie and much more. All this plus the show and a welcome drink for only 795 baht for adults, 395 baht for kids.

The famous Two Chefs house band will be doing a full 20-song set with the most famous Beatles classics. We start serving the buffet at 6pm, then at 9pm the Two Chefs Beatles Tribute show will begin. Make your reservations now!

Email: karon@twochefs.com, visit the website at: twochefs.com, or call 076-286479.

#### 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).

#### May 31, 7-9pm. Bollywood Party Nite at XANA Beach Club.

Indian DJ, Indian dancers and an Indian feast. Watch, learn and groove with them the Indian way! This Bollywood themed night of music and dance will feature Bollywood hits, hip hop, funk, house and soul music. It's a Bollywood affair, so dress as you like and breathe in the colorful spirit of India.

Call 091-326 0276 for more information and ticket bookings or email indiafilmworks@gmail.com. This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*.

#### June 7, 9am-midday. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

A family musical held at Phuket town's Simon Star Theater. A wonderful experience for children, parents and grandparents! A great visual treat with dances, music and pictures to be taken with your favorite character.

Call 091-326 0276 for more information and ticket bookings or email indiafilmworks@gmail.com. This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*.

#### 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.

#### July 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 monks, informally observed as the start of the rainy season, when the southwesterly monsoon is in full force.

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

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

#### October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemo-

rates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

#### November 4, 9am-4pm. PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup

Once again the PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". Location: Underwoods Art Factory. For more information contact Carole Dux on 066-763 1671, emailinfo@piwc-phuket.com or visit piwc-phuket.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107), are proud to sponsor this annual charity event.

#### 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 in the Kingdom.

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

Registration is on the evening of November 19 from 6pm onwards, at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chaleng. The weigh 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 *Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107). For more information send an email to uweschittek@yahoo.com

#### December 5. His Majesty the King's Birthday

HM The King's Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

#### December 10. Constitution Day

This is a public holiday.

#### December 5. Christmas Day

This is not a public holiday in Thailand.

#### Dec 31. New Years Eve (Day)

This is a public holiday in Thailand.





# Feel-good football

By Jeremie Schatz

ON April 24, 40 students from the Good Shepherd Learning Center had the opportunity to visit Phuket FC's recently completed Republic Phuket football training complex.

The event was a cooperative effort between Phuket FC fan club the Mushy Peas, and the Grumpy Old Man's Society (GOMS) in conjunction with the Good Shepherd Learning Center and Phuket FC.

The 40 students from the Phuket Town based school, which has about 150 kids enrolled, are primarily the children of laborers from Myanmar who have come to work in Thailand.

The children were led by four members of the Phuket FC team for a stretching and warm-up session, football handling drills and friendly team competitions. The kids were clearly ecstatic to be out on a field trip and were quick to engage with the Phuket FC players.

The Phuket FC players, including Myanmar national Pyne

Soe, participated as part of their community outreach obligations, and the 27-year-old defender was able to talk and joke with the group in their native tongue, serving as a positive role model for the underprivileged kids.

GOMS member Simon O'Herlihy attended the event at Republic Phuket to lend a hand. He explained that although GOMS has served as a resource of information to share among members since its inception in 2009, the group's primary goal is to raise money for various charities. Meetings are held twice a month and they donate 200 of the 250 baht dues to local charities.

"For a lot of people, like myself, who are retired here, it really gives you some motivation to get involved," said O'Herlihy. "I think it is rather sad to see so many capable expat guys who could be giving a bit back."

GOMS has helped organize several fund-raising events which have benefited various schools and orphanages, but O'Herlihy explained, "We have probably worked with this school more than



The group of students from the Good Shepherd Learning Center pose for a photo with GOMS member Simon O'Herlihy (top right) and Phuket FC team members. Photos: Jeremie Schatz



Phuket FC's Pyne Soe demonstrates a stretching routine.



Pyne Soe (left) and Suttipong Yaifai teach students warm-up exercises.

any other. When I first went to visit the school, it was about two years ago. They had a school at Rassada port that was just breeze block, chicken wire for windows and a corrugated tin roof."

Since then, many organizations and individuals pitched in to raise enough funds to build a new facility for the children. In December, 2013, the Good Shepherd Learning Center was opened and provides a modern and safe facility for the students.

Good Shepherd teacher and volunteer Carol Goodison served as one of the chaperones for the kids on the field trip. Visiting from Ireland, Goodison is in Phuket for a six-month community service project until June.

The Rawai based Phuket FC fan club, the Mushy Peas, also helped to coordinate the event and donated funds which went to purchase new shoes for the children. Excited, smiling kids gathered around Mushy Peas member Ri-

chard Dill as he passed out shoes to the kids. Amidst a frenzy of flying boxes and shoe laces, every available adult helped the kids get into their shoes so they could run onto the field to try them out.

"This is such a win-win situation for everybody, but mostly for the kids. It's such a great thing to get them out of the school," said O'Herlihy. "When you see the look on their faces and you see how they are enjoying themselves... it's fantastic."

## Laguna launches mobile education

LAGUNA Phuket's most recent corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, the "Fully Booked!" Mobile Learning Center, was officially launched at a VIP event last week.

The custom made vehicle functions both as a library and a classroom, and is equipped with books and variety of learning materials not readily available in schools and rural communities.

Starting this June, "Fully Booked!" will travel to target schools, setting up a "pop-up" classroom on the grounds to provide schoolchildren with access to materials that are crucial for learning, but are very expensive and unaffordable to many rural schools and families. It is hoped that this will reduce the literacy gap between urban and rural schools.

The center will help inspire younger schoolchildren to develop interest with books and help improve their literacy through assisted reading. As part of the long-term plan, the center will also work with rural parents to teach them how to read "to" and "with" their children to encourage the learning process.

During the first semester of 2014, the center will service 580 students in three pilot schools in Phuket including Baan Don Child Center (50 students, pre-school level), Wat Thep Kasattri School (450 students, K1-K3 and G1-G6), and Baan Cherng Talay

School (80 students, G5-G6), visiting these schools a total of three full days per week for the entire semester. Each week, students will be encouraged to borrow at least one book to take home for leisure reading.

A qualified librarian cum teacher will be employed to manage the center and ensure the program runs efficiently and learning progresses are in line with the national curriculum and will keep the program relevant, fresh and engaging, covering topics such as the environment and English language skills.

The project is one of many initiatives set up by Laguna Phuket to support its wider strategic goal on social and educational development, which aims to build capacities of local communities through socially benefiting projects, adequate educational support, and access to quality educational services.

"Today, I have the pleasure of introducing all of you to our brand new CSR initiative that has been two years in the making," said Mr. Ravi Chandran, managing director of Laguna Phuket in his speech at the project's launch last week.

"We believe that quality education helps build quality people. So for two years, our team has been committed to developing an initiative together with local schools to bring quality books, learning materials, and



Managing director of Laguna Phuket, Ravi Chandran, poses with a group of students and the recently unveiled mobile learning center. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

learning opportunities to students to help encourage them to read more."

Since the project initiation two years ago, more than 2.2 million baht was raised for the center through the generous support of Laguna Phuket triathletes, marathoners, associates, and community members. A matching fund of 2.2 million baht was created by Banyan Tree Global Foundation to purchase and outfit the mobile vehicle, along with an additional 500,000 baht for purchase of books and learning materials.

The funding is enough to operate the

center for five academic years, starting from June 2014. Laguna Phuket will continue to fund raise for the center to keep providing the service to underprivileged schools even after this initial period.

The center's operation launch will take place in June this year. Guests staying at any Laguna Phuket hotels will be invited to visit the mobile learning center at schools and join the teachers through interactive involvement by reading and playing interactive learning games with the children.

- Phuket Gazette



# The art of the steal

By Kate Bartlett

CAMBODIA, which was heavily looted of many of its cultural riches during the Khmer Rouge years and the turbulent civil war that followed, is making concerted efforts to get its priceless antiquities back. The poor Southeast Asian nation has confronted the arts trade and is having more than a little success.

After going into a prolonged legal battle with the influential auction house Sotheby's, a 10<sup>th</sup> century Khmer statue which is valued at about US\$3 million (96 million baht) and was to be auctioned in the United States is instead due to be returned to Cambodia some time in the next few months.

Anne Lemaistre, who heads Cambodia's Unesco office, which helped Cambodia with the Sotheby's case, says she's happy to see Cambodia win out.

"I hope it will have a major impact within the region, and also worldwide," says Lemaistre with an eye to ongoing pilfering in war-torn nations such as Afghanistan and Syria.

Cambodia, with the help of the US government, filed suit against Sotheby's claiming the auction house had agreed to sell a warrior statue known as the Duryodhana while knowing it had been looted from its pedestal during the 1970s. The pedestal is still there at the remote Koh Ker temple complex.

In December, with legal wrangling continuing, Sotheby's agreed to send the statue back to Cambodia.

Asked if Cambodia's suit against

Sotheby's could mean the government, now emboldened, will pursue the return of further artifacts, Lemaistre said this has already been the case with the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

"It had already had a domino effect, as the Metropolitan gave back on a voluntary basis two major sculptures... belonging to the same looted temple in Koh Ker, Prasat Chen, from which the Sotheby's sculpture comes," she said.

The Met returned the twin, sandstone, 10<sup>th</sup> century Cambodian statues known as The Kneeling Attendants, or Pandavas, in June last year after conceding that they had, as Cambodia alleged, been looted.

"In total, nine sculptures were looted in this temple. Most of them are identified, some of them belong to Western museums that could decide to follow the Metropolitan's exemplary gesture and give them back.

"Private owners could do the same also. We will welcome them with honors and a red carpet to thank them," Lemaistre adds.

The Cambodian government is now seeking the return of a Khmer statue similar to the Duryodhana from the Norton Simon Museum in California.

"We are still in negotiations," confirms Hab Touch, director general for tangible heritage at the Cambodian Ministry of Culture, declining to comment further on that case.

Of the Sotheby's piece and the two statues already returned by the Met, Touch says preparations were under way to display them in Phnom Penh.

"We are still working on the transportation [of the Duryodhana] and of course this will be displayed at the National Museum," he says.

"The Met statues are now at the National Museum in the workshop," to be cleaned and re-secured to their pedestals, but will soon be ready for display, he adds.

Cambodia is not the only country in the region that has sought the return of stolen antiquities, though it seems to be the one pushing hardest, and it has been having the most luck so far.

The Indonesian government has tried for years to have the country's artifacts returned from foreign countries, especially the Netherlands, with little success.

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said last year that many Indonesian artifacts are in the hands of foreign collectors and diplomatic efforts are needed to bring them back.

The Philippines has for years been trying to get back three 19<sup>th</sup>-century church bells that were taken as war booty by US occupation troops in 1901 from the town of Balangiga in Eastern Samar province.

In Nepal, efforts are under way to ensure two 12<sup>th</sup> century Hindu statues are returned by France's Guimet Museum after they were discovered to have been stolen, though the efforts to repatriate them originated in Paris and not in Kathmandu.

Last year China saw two Qing dynasty animal heads returned by a French billionaire collector. They had allegedly been looted by Brit-



Cambodia recently won a court case in the US against auction house Sotheby's and will regain possession of an ancient statue. Photo: Anandajoti

ish and French troops when the Old Summer Palace in Beijing was burned down during the Second Opium War in 1860.

They were from a set of 12 Chinese zodiac animals cast in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Many Chinese people have supported campaigns over the past decade to return all 12 of the heads to China, protesting whenever the heads were included in international auctions.

And in Thailand in 1988, the government managed to persuade the Art Institute of Chicago to return the Narai lintel, stolen from the Khao Phnom Rung ancient temple in north-east Buri Ram, after the issue developed ramifications for Thai-US relations.

While some art experts have questioned the wisdom of returning statues from world-renowned museums in the West to developing countries which might not have the facilities to look after such antiquities, Lemaistre has no concerns on that front.

"It is true that when a country is in a political turmoil and/or conflicts or faces major natural disasters, some pieces are better protected in safer places," she said.

"But this is not the case any more in Cambodia: the National Museum in Phnom Penh offers all security and conservation guarantees and the pieces will be well conserved, following international standards."

— The Nation



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# Knowing your plants



The flame vine takes its name from its clusters of bright orange flowers. Photo: Extranet



Gomphrena globosa has globe shaped purple flowers. Photo: Forest & Kim Starr

THAT we live in a world dominated by electronic gadgetry is self-evident. But it seems that despite the dominance of the virtual image, there is still a place for the written word and especially for the purveyor of daily or weekly news – the newspaper. Consider this cautionary tale:

“I was visiting my daughter and asked, ‘Can I borrow a newspaper?’ ‘Dad’, she replied, ‘This is the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We don’t waste money on newspapers. Use my Ipad’. You know something? That fly never knew what hit him....”

I deviate .... But it worth noting that the *Phuket Gazette* has just celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> birthday and is going as strong as ever, even with the presence of a relatively new kid on the block. And while it’s true that pictures speak louder than words – especially in a column

about *visually* appealing plants – words are still needed to explain *how* to cultivate them or what their unseen features are. You can’t smell a photograph of a gorgeous *gardenia*. If you don’t know a *gardenia* from a *gomphrena*, the fact that it is fragrant has to be told in words.

In truth, many books on tropical plants offer little in the way of cultural advice. For example, *Plant Materials in Thailand* by U Veesommai includes pictures of 1,320 plants, the most complete catalog of plants in the kingdom, and an indispensable reference book for the likes of me. But there is little advice about the needs of individual plants, apart from a few cursory notes listing categories, for instance: “plants for suburban street, for parking areas, or, for waterfalls.” Even *The Field*



**Gardening**  
By Patrick Campbell

*Guide to Tropical Plants of Asia* by Engel and Phummai, a constant companion on trips to nurseries because of its small size, excellent photographs and Thai botanical names, has only cursory hints on cultivation. Two books that do much better in explaining how to grow plants are not specifically about tropical conditions, though *The Complete Encyclopedia of Trees and Shrubs* covers most of the bases. Another weighty tome intended for North American readers, *Western Garden*, has the most complete cultural notes of all.

Both these books, incidentally, use the valuable system whereby plants are given a hardiness zone number. Most tropical plants, for instance, have a zone number of 11. Thus trees and shrubs that can survive the cold of zone 4 (frosts down to minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit) are unlikely to succeed in the heat of zones 10 or 11. It takes an exceptionally toler-

ant shrub such as the tulip tree (*liriodendron tulipifera*) to boast a wide-ranging growth zone of 4-10. Of course other factors such as humidity and rainfall patterns are also important when you decide which plants to acquire.

Talking of buying, Phuket is well stocked with garden centers. Both Chao Fa East Road and Chao Fa West Road have a number, colorfully adorning the roadside. Their small plants tend to come in soft plastic bags, the more mature specimens in six, eight or ten-inch pots. While some are home-grown – produced from seed, offshoots or cuttings – the bulk of the plants are brought to the island from areas where land is cheaper. That indeed is one of the drawbacks here, since many of the old established nurseries have lost their land to the demands of landowners anxious to capitalize on the building boom. I can think of four that have disappeared in the last year to be replaced by apartment blocks, or in the case

of one on Chao Fa West, by a Tesco Lotus supermarket.

One of the beautiful things about the older nurseries was that they offered more in the way of mature shrubs and unusual plants. I am currently searching

for a couple of climbers: a passion flower (*passiflora*) and a flame vine (*pyrostegia*), but the prevailing fashion is for easy, colorful and quick-growing plants. While most local nurserymen and women are reasonably knowledgeable about their

charges, do remember to take a color photograph along as well as providing the Thai name. That will help things enormously. Impressed, they may even drop the price.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email me at: [drpaccampbell@gmail.com](mailto:drpaccampbell@gmail.com). Further information about this gardening series and Patrick’s other work can be accessed at: [patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com](http://patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com)



Gardenia angusta has a calming fragrance. Photo: Meneerke Bloem

## Tip of the week

### Plants for places

YOU can often get valuable clues about suitable plants for particular environments by observing plantings in public spaces – parks, road sides, central reservations and so on. Low maintenance favorites include *ixoras*, dwarf *allamandas*, *durantas*, and small trees, for example; *thevetias* or *cassias*.

There are, however, some examples best not followed. After the tsunami, the sea wall at Nai Harn beach was reduced to rubble. The new structure had a concrete walkway with spaces for plants. A good

idea except that the rectangular cavities were planted with golden cane palms. Most died. A few stragglers remain, but they are in poor shape, unable to cope with the salt-laden winds.

The beach itself has rows of sea almonds and screw pines (*pandanus*), thriving in the inhospitable conditions. Further back are rows of stately *casuarinas*. Any of these would have been a better choice. In fact, one or two sea almond saplings – probably self-sown – have recently taken up residence.



The screw pine can handle salty coastal winds. Photo: B Navez



The hardy tulip tree can grow in a wide range of climates. Photo: Bruce Marlin



# Complete waste of time

## Books

By James Eckardt

AROUND the same time as Bossa Nova reached the big US market in the early 1960s, Brazil's Jorge Amado scored a huge popular hit with his novel Gabriela, Clove and Cinnamon, which takes place during the 1920s cacao boom in the northeastern state of Bahia. When I lived in Brazil, I read this again in Portuguese, along with the rest of Amado's novels and all of those of his great southern contemporaries from Rio Grande do Sul, Erico Verissimo.

But that was 40 years ago and Amado and Verissimo are long dead. So I picked up a new Brazilian novel, Alberto Mussa's *The Mystery of Rio* (Europa Editions, New York, 2013, 210pp). The author is 42 and the recipient of a prestigious literary award, the Machado de Assis Prize.

What a mistake. This turned out to be 210 pages of wasted time. The novel starts out well enough, "It is not the geography, it is not the architecture, it is not the heroes, or battles, much less so the chronicles of customs, or the fantasies conjured up by poets. No, what defines a city is the history of its crimes."

This is a murder mystery, set in Rio de Janeiro in 1913, and it hooks you from the beginning. The Secretary of the Presidency of the Republic is strangled to death while bound, blindfolded and gagged by a prostitute named Fortunata Conceicao in the House of Swaps, a combination medical

clinic, brothel and wife-swapping orgy scene. Fortunata disappears completely.

"The theory that the death had been an accident, the result of excessive zeal in the simulation of torture to which the secretary liked to submit himself, was somewhat weakened because the assassin had employed great strength – indeed, unusual strength for a woman," the narrator observes.

Assigned to the murder case is Rio's top forensic expert Sebastiao Baeta. What is unique about this case is the use of witchcraft, brought over from Africa by the spirit possession cults of Macumba and Candomble. Baeta discovers that Fortunata has a brother named Aniceto Conceicao, a *malandro* and *capoeira* – layabout and martial arts expert – who is also a customer at the House of Swaps and indeed a star at the occasional orgies. Baeta discovers that Aneceto has taken his missing sister's jewelry to pay for the occult services of the 100-year-old hermit Rufino, a former runaway slave and notorious sorcerer.

The author now veers off into many of his formal asides to the reader, "Since this book's thesis – this history of a city is the history of its crimes – cannot be proven merely by presenting one case study, I have decided to mix into the larger narrative certain reports of crimes that, in a sense, foreshadow it. They are what I would call 'predicate crimes'."

Thus the novel is padded with



The novel is padded with many occult crimes in Rio throughout the centuries. Photo: Mark Goble



It's a crime story so fingerprints matter... Maybe even too much. Photo: D. Sharon Pruitt

many occult crimes in Rio throughout the centuries. One is that in 1911, a thug named Dito slit the throat of his girlfriend Maria do Pote at a samba dance and later at a cult drum circle is possessed by her spirit, "the *malandro*, the crook, this evil and murderous thug, suddenly danced into the center of the circle, hands on his twisting hips – dancing in the exotic, seduc-

tive, and unmistakable style of the late Maria do Pote. They even say his laughter had the exact timbre as the girl's."

These stories are entertaining at times but besides the point. What's the solution to the 1913 murder mystery of the title? It turns out to be preposterous. Fortunata and Aniceto are one and the same. Baeta discovers that "the siblings were the first known case of individuals who

have the exact same fingerprints."

The sorcerer Rubino has buried Aniceto as a man, dug him up as the woman Fortunata before the murder and buried him again afterward to return as a man, irresistible now to a legion of women. I know I'm not supposed to reveal the ending, but I don't want you to waste your time, as I did, on this cruel disappointment of a novel.



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The beautiful flower of Jacaranda mimosifolia tree is the symbol of equally beautiful province of Trang. Photo: Bouba

# Take a ticket to Trang



TRANG, the seaside province in southern Thailand, boasts hidden charms and is the perfect destination for anyone who likes to feel they are off the beaten track and getting away from mainstream tourists.

The province stretches out into the blue of the Andaman Sea in an archipelago of 46 islands. There are limestone caves and peak to explore, vibrant local cultures and traditions, as well as gorgeous beaches and other natural wonders.

Tourists who make it to Trang tend to stick to the province's islands, which have much to recommend them. The most popular are Koh Muk, known for its spectacular Emerald Cave; Koh Kradan, regarded as the most beautiful island in Trang and for being the venue for the famous annual underwater wedding ceremony; and Koh Chuek, which boasts an underwater paradise of shallow and deep water corals. All of these lovely isles are within the boundaries of Had Chao Mai Marine National Park.

When you go island hopping, keep an eye out for the playful dugongs (sea cows), often said to be the basis for legends of mermaids, but uglier mermaids you'll never see.

Tours of Trang's islands can be booked from local tour operators and generally cost around 700-800 baht per person. There are some good travel agents near the train station and near Pakbeng pier who specialize in day trips. If you want to get there under your own steam, then the main islands are

easily reached by getting local ferries and boats, most of which leave from the Pakmeng pier.

It takes about an hour to reach the Morakot Emerald cave on Koh Muk, and there's often a little crowd there fighting the current to get inside and see the wonders of the cave. It is worth waiting your turn, for this is one of the most mysterious chambers in the world. After swimming into what seems to be a deep and menacing cave, you are suddenly in a natural room into which the sun streams – albeit a room containing a warm emerald sea and soft sands in which you can relax and play.

After seeing the islands, head to dry land and discover Trang town itself. This centuries-old seaport has a multicultural blend of Thai, Malay and Hokkien Chinese residents. The colorful mix of people and traditions means that there's a great deal to see around the town.

The Phraya Rasadanupradit Mahisorn Phakdi Museum in Kantang district offers a fascinating glimpse through the mists of time to tell the story of the province's history. Chinese by origin, Phraya Rasadanupradit was, and still is, highly respected by local Trang people and regarded as a great man who brought wealth and prosperity to Trang thanks to his astute organization of transportation, agriculture, education and local administration.

Phraya Rasadanupradit was the first person in Thailand to plant commercial rubber trees, which of course, can now be found all over southern Thailand – indeed the kingdom is one of the leading international exporters of this natural product.

Wat Phu Khao Thong, around 20 kilometers from the city is another place worth seeing. The tranquil monastery sits in lovely



Sunset on Koh Kradan, considered Trang's most awe-inspiring island. Photo: Mark Fischer

surroundings and there is a stunning limestone cave within the compound. It houses the unique Manorah – Reclining Buddha image of Srivijaya which is said to be around 800-1,000 years old.

The most distinctive feature of the Buddha image is its decorated headdress called a Thoret. This holy and royal ornament is associated with the dance of Manorah – which originates in Southern Thailand and tells the legend of Nora, one of the kinnerees, mythical half-bird half woman creatures from the Himmaphan forest.

Being the only Buddha image with such adornment, the Manorah Reclining Buddha was last year listed as one of the seven

Amazing Ancient Wonders of Thailand by the Tourism Authority of Thailand. For it is not only a beautiful piece of Buddhist art, but also unlike any other statue in the kingdom.

Legend has it that the famous reclining Buddha image was here long before the temple was officially established as a Buddhist monastery. These days, there are only two monks residing here but there are classes for Buddhists to come and meditate and study. During the Songkran festival, the temple stages a very special performance of the Manorah dance, as a way of paying homage to the reclining Buddha.

If you are interested in the

golden age of travel, you should stop by Trang's famous Kantang train station which offers a nostalgic peep back to the days when getting around The Kingdom was distinctly more romantic than the tedium and transit lounges we endure today.

To meet the locals, head for their favorite dining spots and coffee shops or make friends in the little local markets. Pong Ocha Restaurant is best known for its *dim sum*, roasted pork – the famous dishes of Trang – and other local cuisine.

These are just a few of the wonders of Trang, but you'll see a great deal more by plunging in and exploring for yourself. – TAT





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### What's happening in the aging face?

The visible signs of facial aging include not only surface irregularities, such as dyspigmentation, numerous fine lines, but also coarser textural changes, such as sagging, drooping and wrinkling of the skin. Most people concern only how to rejuvenate skin. However, six layers of the face: other skin layer or epidermis, inner skin layer or dermis, fat, SMAS, muscles and bone have been totally affected. As a result, the keys to approach and reverse facial aging must be universally addressed layer by layer and choose the right targeted devices and procedural dermatology to correct the defect layers.

**Outer skin layer or epidermis**

Epidermis is the most outer part of the skin composing cell layers that are responsible for skin texture, moisture and skin color. Thinning of the skin, dyspigmentation such as sun spots, age spots and melasma, skin dullness as well as roughness are the aesthetic complaints from epidermal aging.

**Our modalities –** CO2laser, MedliteC6 laser, IPL, soft peeling, deep facial cleansing, whitening treatment, mesotherapy

**Inner skin layer or dermis**

Dermis lies between the epidermis and subcutaneous with collagen, elastin, nerves, vessels and glands. It plays an important role for skin thickness and cosmetic appearance of the skin. As a result of collagen and elastin reduction, sagging jawline, larger pore, increasing fine lines, static lines, deep folds and more prominent acne scars occur. Various measures such as dermal filler, laser, and other light sources

**Our options–** ST reframe, e-Matrix, Ulthera, Thermage, Med lite C6 laser, botox, dermal filler, IPL, thread lifting. e-Matrix is the latest resurfacing device producing unique pyramidal column of fractional

Medlite C6 laser is the US FDA graded laser targeting melanin pigment chromophore for spot removal, improving skin tone, and brightening skin color. Patients will not have any downtime after Medlite laser treatment. Intense pulse light or IPL is a non-laser light source employing multiple wavelengths for different purposes. Facial rejuvenation, vascular rosacea and red spot including acne are the common indications can be treated with IPL.

**RF energy** Smoothen skin, soften lines, pore reduction, acne scar removal, skin tightening, d collagen production, improving discoloration are all the benefits of the treatment.

**Fat** Fat is the layer below dermis. The aging face generally shows fat reduction. Losing volume of fat pockets resulting eye hollow deep nasolabial folds, and loss of jaw line including neck definition is also the consequent of fat atrophy. Autologous fat augmentation and filler injection are methods to replace the volume loss. However, submental fat pocket enlarged creating double chin is the reverse scenario which needs the different approach.

**Our recommendation–** filler injection for fat loss/fat dissolve for fat excess, bio-cone lifting

**SMAS (superficial musculoaponeurotic system)**

Superficial musculoaponeurotic system or SMAS is a particular layer consisting of collagen and elastic fiber meshwork above the muscles. From the morphology of cadavers, not every muscle has this layer. However, when we are ages, this unique layer is composed of variable decreasing in strength and elasticity causing drooping skin and eyes. Therefore, SMAS layer plays a major role for surgeons to manipulate during surgical face and neck lifting. Nowadays non-surgical devices try to target SMAS in order to recover skin aging more effectively rather than focusing on treating and rejuvenating skin alone.

**Our recommendation–** Ulthera (focused /Ulthera and e-Matrix

Non-invasive focused ultrasound (ulthera) is currently the only device that US FDA approved for facial lifting. Combining ulthera with subablative skin resurfacing (e-Matrix) can produce significant collagen synthesis and can delay the use of more invasive surgical techniques which may associate with longer downtime, side effects and complications.

**Muscle** Dynamic wrinkles or wrinkles in motion such as smile lines, frown lines, bunny lines, and forehead line are the consequence of facial aging related to the muscles. Prominent masseter muscle from both aging and inherited structure can create the square face appearance.

**Our recommendation–** botox injection

**ADVERTISMENT**

This document is provided by Dr. Panadda Aswanetmanee, skin and laser surgery specialist at Laser Premium Clinic (only for our staffs.)

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# Caring for the tummy

By Dr Patcharin Amornvipas

ALTHOUGH diseases of the digestive system are not lethal, they can cause considerable distress to both the sufferer, and his or her parents. The cause is basically down to behavior. Children love putting things in their mouths, a habit that makes them prone to gastric infections.

A gastrointestinal virus leads to queasiness, upset stomach, low-grade fever, dehydration, vomiting and lack of energy. Six-month old babies tend to be particularly exposed to this virus because they regularly put their hands or contaminated toys into their mouths. Another environment where the virus is highly contagious and circulates effectively is in schools, where saliva-soaked hands touch surfaces and toys. Although a gastrointestinal virus is highly contagious, it is not dangerous and can be prevented through good hygiene habits, such as the frequent washing of hands.

Certain cases present with more severe symptoms. If a child is vomiting two to three times per day, they run the risk of dehydration, so a visit to the doctor is recommended.

Much of the food that we do not prepare ourselves tends to be presented in such a way as to be attractive to children. Whether on special occasions or on a week-

end, children want to try new food and drink. The very hot and humid climate in a country like Thailand naturally makes people sweaty and thirsty, but parents should not just allow their children to consume whatever they wish. Bad consumption habits can harm their children's digestive systems.

Diarrhea, which can be viral or bacterial in nature, is caused by a pathogen in unclean food or drink that allows germs to penetrate into the stomach and the large intestine. Symptoms include three episodes of watery stool per day or a mucous bloody stool.

Children infected with virus-induced diarrhea experience a low-grade fever and watery stools, although with minimal loss of energy. While it is not necessary to see a doctor in such cases, it is important to keep the ill child well hydrated. Prepare a glass of oral rehydration solution to be hand-fed to the child every three to four hours. Parents are advised to avoid feeding the child from a bottle or through a tube, as the intestine does not absorb fluids well in this way.

The symptoms of rotavirus-induced diarrhea can be identified as eight to ten episodes of watery stool, which leave the child dehydrated and weak. A visit to the doctor is recommended and the child may need to be admit-

ted into hospital.

Bacterial diarrhoea from dysentery and salmonella infection are very dangerous. Noticeable symptoms include high-grade fever, mucous bloody stool and cramping abdominal pain. Children with bacterial diarrhea need antibiotics and should visit a doctor immediately.

Physicians treat digestive tract infections with symptomatic treatments, but prevention is far more important. School children have a high propensity to experience digestive tract infection, as they spend a great deal of time engaged in communal activities and sharing objects. Each child should have his or her own water bottle and teachers should encourage children to wash their hands and shared objects frequently. These simple steps cultivate good hygiene habits in children and keep them safe from many avoidable diseases.

Finally, some advice for children and parents planning outdoor activities that involve food. Food stand operators tend to decorate their products to attract buyers, so it's vital to consider the benefits and safety of the food. Both kids and adults should consume all five food groups – carbohydrate, protein, fat, vitamin, mineral – in every meal and if there's a shortfall, they should make it up in the next meal. Always be careful to select food with natu-



Dirty hands put your child at risk of gastric infections. Photo: fajridet

ral coloring, dine in restaurants free of flies, and avoid food created obviously to attract attention, such as giant meat balls and red velvet crushed ice. These items may contain harmful substances to which some children may be allergic. Parents should instead prepare simple food, such as fried egg sandwiches for a day out.

It also helps to keep children's

finger nails clipped and have them wash their hands before meals. To help rehydrate your children when necessary, always keep some oral rehydration solution at hand.

Dr Patcharin Amornvipas is a paediatric gastroenterologist and hepatologist. For more information, call the clinic at 023-789 110 or visit [Facebook.com/samitivej](https://www.facebook.com/samitivej).

# The first sign of pregnancy

Dr Makawan Tananunkul

ONE of the first signs of pregnancy, morning sickness or nausea gravidarum, is a condition experienced by more than 50 per cent of women.

While the nausea and vomiting are usually experienced in the morning, they will continue well into the day and while uncomfortable, morning sickness is also natural and is due to the increase in the Beta-hCG hormone during the first three months of pregnancy. This hormone is indicative of the strength of the fetus: the higher the level of hormone, the stronger the fetus. Women who are carrying twins also have more of the hormone because they have a larger placenta.

Experts are at odds as to whether nausea gravidarum should be considered as an ailment and most doctors are reluctant to prescribe any drugs to control it unless it becomes severe.

However, mild morning sickness can benefit from a change in dietary habits. You should replace the norm of three main meals a day with five of six smaller meals. It is also recommended that you don't let your stomach become empty or become too hungry.



Pregnant? You better stock up on ginger, it works well for morning sickness. Photo: heymrleej

It is also wise to avoid anything that can cause you to vomit, including overly pungent and fatty foods.

You should start to feel better after three months as the Beta-hCG hormones decrease again and the morning sickness subsides. If the conditions persists or becomes

worse, a doctor should be consulted and Dramamine or Vitamin B6 will be prescribed.

Ginger is very effective for easing queasiness and research has demonstrated that ginger ale can relieve morning sickness. In more severe cases where you lose your appetite, cannot even drink water

and become exhausted, it is recommended that you stay in hospital so that you can be fed saline solution intravenously. In most cases, you will feel better in one or two days.

There are certain types of abnormal pregnancies, such as molar pregnancy. In this case, the pla-

centa produces unusually high amounts of hCG hormones, which causes expectant mothers to have more severe nausea and vomiting.

If an expectant mother is still experiencing queasiness and vomiting in the eighth month of pregnancy, it is possible that there is a malfunction of the alimentary system, such as irritable bowel syndrome, gastroesophageal reflux, food poisoning, a failure of the circulatory system of the body or low blood pressure. These symptoms are a result of the uterus overlaying the great vein of the pelvis, leading to a poor flow of blood to the heart and the brain.

To reduce the risk of this happening or to alleviate the symptoms if they are already present, it is recommended that you take plenty of rest, drink a lot of water, and avoid standing or sitting for too long in order to prevent the uterus from overlaying the great vein for any extended period. If there is still no sign of recovery after following these steps, visit your doctor.

Dr Makawantanankul is an obstetrician-gynaecologist specializing in high-risk pregnancies at Samitivej Srinakarin Hospital, Bangkok. Call 023-789 129 or 023-789 000.



# Demand better

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

TWO critical issues plague the Phuket drinking scene: terrible drinks, and terrible service. The number of watered-down something-or-other and cokes served on this island that take 20 minutes to get, and are delivered with anything but a smile, is abysmal.

"Just because you're on a beach in Phuket doesn't mean you should be satisfied with a [expletive] drink," says Richard "Liquid Playground" Gillam, as he lounges at Xana Beach Club after another day of training the club's staff.

After 15 years in the game playing a range of roles, from bartender and gastronomic molecular mixologist to avant garde cocktail glassware designer and bar designer, Richard isn't your average consumer.

But after managing The Kenilworth Cocktail Lounge, one of the top cocktail bars in the world, this man has an idea of what we want – more so, perhaps, want we need.

"How many drinks have you sent back, compared to food?" he asks. "If you think about the prices... A burger can be 500 baht, but go [somewhere] and get a [expletive] rum and coke, and they try to charge you 350-400. I'm going to have 10 of these and one burger. I'll happily send [the burger] back, but I'll drink 10 crap drinks and not say a thing," Richard points out.

"People need to stop being so easily pleased with drinks. Send it back, and have them make it again."

Easy for Richard to say. Most of us schmucks simply don't know we can get better.

"I don't say drink more. I never say drink more. I say drink better," Richard explains.

"If you go out and can afford to have 10 drinks, most people will have 10 drinks – spend it all. Why not spend the same amount on seven drinks and have a more expensive spirit? Just try it.

Now, Richard isn't insinuating that everyone needs to be shelling out 600 baht per drink – which, when made by him, are gastronomic masterpieces. Imagine

spherified (liquid shaped into spheres which resemble caviar) booze in a tantalizing glass, with

the aroma of rosemary wafting up in waves of cold, freeze-dried ice steam – he can make that happen.

"I'd rather teach this [basic ratios for creating an endless number of drinks], and how to shake, how to strain and why ice matters.

The bottom line, however, isn't the drink (that's Richard talking), it's the service.

A week spent in the Phuket bar scene, from go-gos in Patong to the exclusive beach clubs in the north, might leave few questions in a visitor's mind about the concept of "service" – not that there aren't exceptions.

The moments when a waitress seems to be on the verge of tossing a drink in a customer's face are a welcome change to an inattentive bar staffer who avoids eye contact for 30 minutes before meandering over to see if a customer actually



Keep calm, send the drink back and demand better – even better ice is a must. Photo: Liquid Playground

happened by the pub for a drink.

"Waitresses, bar-backs, bartenders, bar managers – they all have the same job. Their job is to assure that when someone leaves the bar, they leave happier than when they came in. Full stop. That's all."

It's true. Many seasonal tourists end up at the same bars every

year, because those bars offer more than just drinks (get your mind out of the gutter).

"And there is no excuse. You do that, and it's golden. All this stuff [mixology] is not important compared to that, so hopefully we're going to see a change soon."

Though perhaps a bit optimis-

tic about swift changes throughout Phuket, Richard provides an example for those in the service industry, and there is little doubt that if bars and clubs make an effort to embody his ideals and take drink-making and customer service to the next level, they will reap the rewards.

## Get creative with how you stay cool

TOO often, ice is overlooked when it comes to cocktail concoctions, but good ice can make all the difference in the world when mixing so-called "on the rocks" beverages. Ice can even add another creative element to the art of drink-making, and take your masterpiece to the next level.

Ice isn't just about keeping drinks cool, it's about adding the correct water content to each drink. Water is the key ingredient to life, and surprisingly, cocktails.

Ice comes in four basic types: cubed, cracked, shaved and blocked. And each ice persuasion should be filtered – why spend money on top-shelf booze if you are going to throw whatever comes out of the kitchen sink into it as a mixer?

The secret is that they all have different sur-

face areas and melting rates... let's get specific.

It is well known that shaving single ice balls to be dropped into a tumbler with three fingers of something amber, smokey, peaty and delicious is an outstanding commitment to a drink – and an unnecessary one.

Save time, and save money, by refusing to buy expensive spherical ice molds. Do what Richard does, and buy some balloons. Fill them water, tie them off and toss them into the freezer. Once you're ready to take it to the next level, berries, mint and even gold flakes can be added into the balloon and frozen – taking your cocktails to a new height.

Chilled bubbly wine served in a bucket of ice? Pure class. That same bottle being held by a pair of ice-sculpted hands? Welcome to the gilded age.



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# Phuket Gazette

Volume 1 Issue 1

May 4, 1994

10 Baht

## Pilot Issue hits the Street

### MAIDEN FLIGHT WREAKS HAVOC!

PHUKET, THAILAND — Residents of this once tranquil seaside community were thrown into turmoil this morning when they awoke to find that an English-language newspaper had been unleashed upon them.

Several hundred copies of the **Phuket Gazette**, an audacious and most unwelcome new tabloid, were immediately seized and burned by the Environmental Protection Department. Thousands more, however, remained in circulation late this afternoon.

In Cheong Thalay Village (pop: 319), a woman known only as Mrs Shampoo, owner of a small but highly fashionable hair salon, shrieked that she had lived in Phuket all her life but that now she had no choice but to evacuate her family to a neighbouring province. "I find this **Gazette** outrageous," she wailed. "It has only *local* news! I want to know

what's going on in Udon Thani... and Sarawak... and New Jersey. Page 9 of this thing contains a commentary on fashions in Soi Bangla. You think I care about that?"

Residents of suburban Ao Chalong, a posh enclave of distinguished expatriates and other outcasts from normal society, were gripped in fear that a second issue of the **Gazette** might infiltrate their community shortly. "We do not *want* a newspaper that we can read, or in which we might express our views," said tuk-tuk driver Sir Winston Titherington-Smythe. "Nor do any of us wish to sell our old shirts in that dreadful **Island Trader** classified section on page 11. We can find other ways to pay our debts," he scoffed.

Klaus Wiener, a tourist from Frankfurt, was incensed. "I

voke up dis morning and I found dis ting— dis **Gazette** ting— in my hotel, yah? It says all what's going on here. I don't wish to be informed, specially when I'm in a foreign country. Dis **Gazette** says dere's many tings to do and shtuff to buy cheap here, yah? My wife, she read all dis chunk and shpoil my holiday. I go home now. I chuss peck my bags and go home," he fumed.

Speaking at a hastily convened, late afternoon press conference in the Alice Bar on Bangla Road, Arthur Mumbler, Vice President - Corporate Communications of The **Phuket Gazette** Co Ltd, acknowledged that the first issue of the **Gazette** had brought calamity to this island. He then went on to convey his company's assurances that there would be a **second** issue very soon.

— A Staff Reporter

### INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MOVES TO NEW BUILDING

The **Phuket International School** has just moved to its new purpose-designed building. This new school, costing over 4 million Baht, is conveniently situated on the bypass road close to the Thai Naan restaurant at the junction with the main road to Patong.

Headmistress Agnes Hebler said that with the sixteen classrooms, they would now be able to develop a much fuller curriculum. Classes could now be held in a much better environment.

She said that the school has grown from a few pioneering pupils to its present level of over seventy in just three years. With this sort of growth and with children ranging in age from three to fifteen, it was essential to increase the classrooms available. The costs were met by a special levy from parents and some donations.



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## SEA GYPSIES ARRESTED

In the latest incident in an ongoing conflict over control of resources in the waters around Phuket, six boat-loads of fishermen from the Sea Gypsy community at Rawai Beach were arrested for fishing in restricted areas and using a type of net which has been banned by the Fisheries Department.

In the first incident on March 4, four boats were confiscated off Kata Beach and more

than twenty men arrested. On March 23, two more boats were impounded off Mai Ton Island and 19 men arrested. Though the laws have been in effect for about one year, these are the first arrests.

The problems stem from a ban on the "Oan Lom" or weighted fishing net, which was banned by the Fisheries Department one year ago. The authorities claim this net damages coral reefs. The Sea Gypsies maintain that they have used this type of net, at these same sites, for gen-

erations with no ill effects to the reefs. They claim that they are being forced out of their ancestral fishing grounds by tourism-related business interests.

The new restrictions cover most of the western coast of Phuket and most of the area around Mai Ton Island and Racha Island, traditionally the richest fishing grounds in the area.

If forced to operate with only drop lines and fish traps, a local fisherman may make about 50 baht per day in the dry sea-

son, and much less in the rainy season. This is far below a living wage on Phuket, but without basic education and language skills, the Sea Gypsies find it almost impossible to gain employment in any other industry.

In a recent meeting between the Sea Gypsy community and a senior representative of the Fisheries Department, the Department expressed sympathy with the plight of the Sea Gypsies, but reiterated its commitment to preservation of the environment.



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**May 4, 2014**

Dear Reader:

Since our first issue, 20 years ago today, the Phuket Gazette has been delivering stories that have disgusted you completely.

And some that have made you happy, angry, sad or just plain bored.

We know. You click more than 100,000 times every day on someone below:



But now, as we enter our third decade in Phuket, we'd like to ask you not simply for your reactions to individual stories, but also for your wishes with regard to editorial content overall. Could you please spend a few minutes and click on your preferences at

**[PhuketGazette.Net/Survey/2014](http://PhuketGazette.Net/Survey/2014)**

It's anonymous and two participants will win a flight over Phuket aboard **News Dog**. Three will get free tickets to any of the six upcoming Gazette Headline Events, and five will win a polo shirt.



We're happy and grateful that you've made us Phuket's leading newspaper – not only for size and quality of readership, but also in terms of distribution, **R-E-A-C-H**, page count and value for advertisers!

Best regards,

*John F. Magee*  
**John Magee**  
Publisher



**Phuket Gazette**

Almost **DOUBLE** the **readership** of our competitors online. Ask Alexa!



## Your weekly pith:

"To the man who only has a hammer, everything he encounters begins to look like a nail."  
— Abraham Maslow

"What the world needs is more geniuses with humility, there are so few of us left."  
— Oscar Levant

## Medium

6	1						2	5
9		8					3	4
	2		8		1		7	
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		9	4		2	5		
	9		3		6		4	
3		1				6		9
7	6						8	3

**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

## Hard

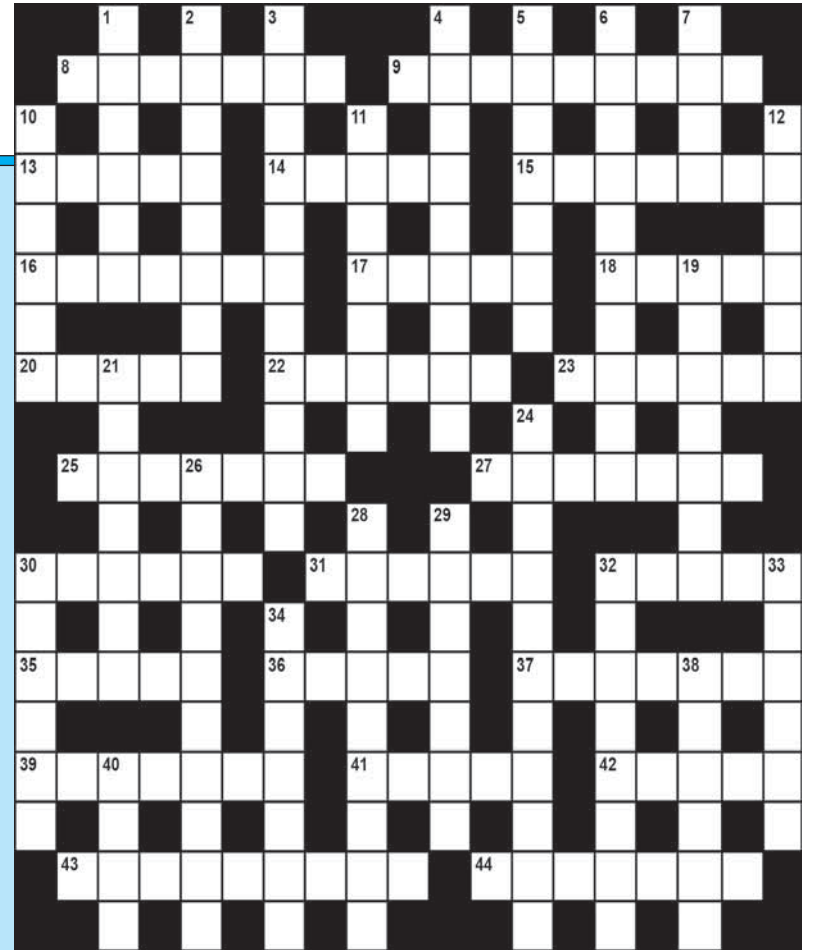
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COFFEE  
break

## Cryptic Crossword

## Across

8. If a deformed ring is something to reduce drag (7)  
9. Soothed, I'd a pallet laid out (9)  
13. Throw out vice on time (5)  
14. Fun to make a thin mattress (5)  
15. Fish being for an old soldier (7)  
16. Latin ending in the same state! (2,5)  
17. First class, son, the French passage (5)  
18. Roam around with a bouquet (5)  
20. Lament ridge destroyed (5)  
22. Entertain lavishly with lager out East (6)  
23. Pa home, could be in a district in Thailand (6)  
25. Cutting remark the Spanish left on gym equipment (7)  
27. Players moved in a barely sufficient manner (7)  
30. Born in trial, a member of a South Asian ethnic group (6)  
31. Porn is distributed in lock-up (6)  
32. Time poor return for company (5)  
35. Bay in Phuket is a circle over there (5)  
36. Sequence of command (5)  
37. Circus act part zee shaped (7)  
39. Maybe teach about restricted right constitution (7)  
41. Tossed heavy pole, caught bear out! (5)  
42. Thoroughly fills seats in error (5)  
43. Make up role (9)  
44. Put forward for feed perhaps (7)



## Down

1. Ruin in a pleasure boat harbor (6)  
2. Credit one quiet, possibly censorious, notice (8)  
3. Single true fool destroyed twelve inch measure (11)  
4. Sent early perhaps, seriously (9)  
5. Fall for each comfortable shoe (7)  
6. Diminutive John beat a pneumatic drill (10)  
7. Appear to discern a thousand (4)  
10. Hang on, shortly depart, finish (6)  
11. Odd grants out East (7)  
12. Am nude, possibly annulled (6)  
19. Hell, too, upset the Moor of

## Venice (7)

21. Unhesitatingly, concerning daily arrangement (7)  
24. Extravagant to waste economy (11)  
26. Smart Robin disturbed in mental upset (10)  
28. Past credited wrongly in forecast (9)  
29. Attribute to a writer of old (7)  
30. Canter about in a stupor (6)  
32. Hand over rents - far out! (7)  
33. Appeals echo delight (6)  
34. Put right, right? (7)  
38. The privilege of getting in the main course (6)  
40. Pale as hysteria starts (4)

## TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



This is an auspicious time for Taureans to gather useful knowledge, with the stars suggesting that the second half of May will be a lucky time to take action. In the meantime, preparation will put you in a position to succeed. Those celebrating a birthday during the coming week are forecast to set their sights higher in the year ahead. Romance with a water sign is affected by disagreements over possible home improvements.

## GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



The stars recommend that Geminis make more effort to forget work for a while this weekend and focus on personal relationships. There are signs that an earth sign romantic partner has been feeling ignored and friends would like to see more of you on the social scene. It would be prudent to set some money aside as unexpected costs could set you back during the second half of the month.

## CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Mixed signals can cause Cancerians to mistrust someone's motives. If this relates to a fire sign in your world of work, the stars suggest getting another opinion. Committing

to an agreement you are not entirely confident about is forecast to result in financial loss. Where friendships are concerned, another water sign's advice regarding your love life can be influenced by jealousy. Those who are single are drawn to an air sign this weekend.

## LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



A work related situation that Leos have struggled with should be resolved by the middle of May. The stars indicate that although the result might not be entirely to your satisfaction, putting this in the past will come as a relief. Where your personal life is concerned, sharing sensitive information with someone you recently met is not sensible. Money matters can be tricky; check bills thoroughly as mistakes are highlighted.

## VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Your mood picks up as May gets underway. The social scene is forecast to become more congenial as new people are introduced. In the realm of romance, there are signs that Virgoans will be attracted to a water sign they meet for the first time this weekend. Work goes well, particularly for those who dare to be different. Innovative ideas should be well received this month by people with influence.

YOUR  
horoscope  
By Isla Star

## LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Personal relationships fall under the astral spotlight this week. The stars suggest that a fire sign friend's insecurities can start to affect certain Librans. It would be wise to take some distance from this person until their life has calmed down. In the realm of romance, an earth sign's odd behavior may be masking a problem they are reluctant to share. Sunday is the best day for an honest conversation.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



Saying the first thing that springs to mind can land Scorpions in hot water this week. Where business is concerned, the stars recommend being more cautious than usual until the middle of May. An earth sign in particular may not be as trustworthy as you believe. In the realm of romance, a relationship with an air sign reaches a point where you want more commitment. Lucky days for finances are Monday and Tuesday.

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



There is much to be discovered for those born under the sign of Sagittarius during the first half of May. The astral atmosphere encourages you to take a leap of faith where new work possibilities are concerned, with focus on a career change coming out of the blue. A romantic relationship with an air sign that was going through a turbulent period should calm down when irritations are brought out into the open this weekend.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Capricorns are advised to be less concerned about what other people think and say this week. This is particularly relevant in your world of work as there are hints that someone's bad mood can cause them to give unnecessary negative feedback. The cosmic climate supports your efforts to strike a better balance between work and play. An introduction to an air sign this weekend can lead to a lasting friendship.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



Your spirit is refreshed by events during the first week of May. An overdue response from another air sign in the world of work means that Aquarians get the green light to

proceed with a new project. This challenge is exactly what you need to build more confidence for future endeavors. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, a unique approach should be enough to impress an earth sign this weekend.

## PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Disillusionment is forecast to affect those born under the sign of Pisces. This may be the result of disturbing information you receive about a friend you thought you knew well. The stars advise that time out from this relationship will help you to develop new perspective. Money matters are auspicious towards the middle of the month; it would be sensible to delay making expensive purchases until then. Love is lucky on Saturday.

## ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Tactful discussion will get those born under the sign of Aries further than pushing too hard for answers this week. Where bureaucracy is concerned, Tuesday is the most auspicious day to take care of necessary business. In the personal zone, an air sign who has been avoiding you needs to be approached with caution. Regarding romance with another fire sign, you should not take too much for granted.



# Surf's up in Khao Lak



A contestant in the men's longboard division stretches to get his toes on the nose for style points during the Khao Lak Surf Competition. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

By Jeremie Schatz

AFTER crossing the Sarasin bridge, the sense of immediacy, impatience and the hustle and bustle of Phuket fades quickly. The pace of life slows to what is expected of a tropical island.

Dozens of people experienced this feeling as they made their way to Khao Lak for the first annual Khao Lak Surf Competition last weekend. They drove to Khao Lak and passed Nang Thong, Bang Niang, Khuk Khak, and all the way to Pakarang, where they crept along looking for the small dusty sign marking Memories Bar and the surf competition.

After turning left to head due west, they passed some elephants and abandoned rubber plantations on the long and winding dusty road that leads to Pakarang beach. Looking south from the end of the jarring road one sees an idyllic scene of long flat beaches reaching down into clear blue waters, all of which were almost completely devoid of people. However, looking north you see where all of the people are. Surfers congregated between buoys marking the competition zone and Memories Bar and Pakarang Surf Shop were overflowing with water-lovers sprawled about under the protection of any scrap of shade they could find.

Surf boards were everywhere – laying in the sand, standing in racks and hanging all over Memories Bar, making it clear what kind of beach bar you were at. Reggae music set the vibe and contestants gathered around the results board to see if they made it through their last heat to proceed to the next round.

Organized by the owner of Memories Bar and Pakarang Surf Shop, Montree “Ching” Natakutung, along with help from his long-time friend and local surfer Matt Blauer, the first surf competition to grace the shores of Khao Lak exceeded their expectations with over 100

entries in six divisions.

Although the contest enjoyed sponsorship from many, including Ellecil Custom Surfboards, Saltwater Dreaming, Andaman Sea and Surf, the Kata Krew Firewire, NSP and more, it takes more than sponsorship to have a successful surf comp.

“The thing that you need is the goodwill of people to come up and be a part of it. We went to Phuket and tried to get people excited and it worked,” says Matt of their efforts to spread the word.

As the surf season in Phuket approaches at a seemingly lethargic speed, surfers from Nai Harn to Nai Yang jumped at the chance to head north, where bigger swells were hoped to be found. Sadly, Saturday's waves were an uninspiring one to two-foot and choppy, leaving surfers struggling to squeeze in any miniscule maneuver before the wave closed-out.

Saturday saw round one heats in men's longboard, open shortboard and women's division.

The following morning had stoke meters reading high when hungry eyes fell upon glassy two to three foot waves breaking fairly clean at Pakarang. Many families were in attendance, as well as local kids taking part in the contest, or just hanging out enjoying the friendly scene.

Heats and quarter-finals were held all day, with longboarders squeezing out the longest rides, rushing to the nose to try and get five toes over before the break cut the ride short. Shortboarders were trying to generate enough speed to pull off a maneuver before the section closed-out with reasonable success, this can be attributed to the fact that they normally have to surf with small and sloppy conditions.

Dubwise Phuket was representing with DJ Unity Seleka, who was serving up free-flow reggae and dub for spectators and beach goers, and as a soundtrack for the surfers.

Matt explained that the idea for

a competition stemmed from a way to get locals more excited and involved with surfing.

“For me it's about the kids, for Ching it's about the community – Phuket and the different surfers, everyone coming up and having a good time together. This surf contest is about getting kids stoked because when they see other kids better than them, they want to surf that much more.”

Matt sees surfing as a way to keep local kids involved in positive activities, “Our thing is, give them something clean to do – the surf is here, it's free.”

The contest was a huge success. The sponsors pulled-through providing money and prizes, plenty of surfers made it out and the sea cooperated to an extent.

So what's next? “I think it is inevitable that there will be another contest next year,” exclaims Matt.

“To be honest, we are not looking for bigger sponsors, we are going to keep it kind of home-grown.”

*Final results had not been announced at time of print. For more information, visit [facebook.com/khaolaksurfingcontest](http://facebook.com/khaolaksurfingcontest)*



A couple of young surfers get ready to paddle out for a kid's division heat.



The competition was hosted by Memories Bar and Pakarang Surf Shop.



Surfers line up on the beach in preparation for a men's longboard division heat.



# Village take down Thalang

ON A hot and humid April 27, the Village cricket team upset the Jones Lang Lasalle league's points champions, Thalang, chasing them down with a total of 181-9, scoring 182-5 from 33.2 overs. Thalang, who had only been defeated once this season, suffered their second defeat by the bottom of the table Village team. It was sweet revenge for the Village team, who suffered a humiliating defeat in their previous encounter against Thalang earlier in the season.

After winning the toss, Thalang elected to bat even, despite the pleas from Martin Platts, stand-in Village captain. Thalang started well, but lost the experienced Bill Stahmer (7) who had his leg stump removed by Peter Coceni with the score on 25. Fellow opener Craig Murphy (17) fell in the next over, caught behind off the bowling of Martin Platts with no further runs added to the score. In the 8<sup>th</sup> over, Platts struck again, with Anthony Dupont (0) being caught by Franco Badenhorst, and Thalang were languishing on 27-3.

Heading into the first drinks break, Thalang had 44 runs on the scoreboard without further loss and had star player, Justin Thomatos, who has scored an unprecedented three centuries this season, still at the crease. Not long after the

break, the Village struck again, with Divan Mydeen clean bowling Martin Hill (1). He struck again in his next over, securing the prized scalp of Thomatos (19) who was trapped LBW.

With Thalang 52-5, a captain's knock was required, and Roshan Jayasuriya (92) did just that. He and Garry Lane (24) put together a 95 run partnership before Lane was dismissed with the score on 147-6. Jaysuriya battled on valiantly, but the rest of the team didn't offer much resistance and Thalang were eventually all out for 181. Pick of the bowlers were Mark Whetton (4 for 16) and Martin Platts (2 for 13).

After the lunch break, it was the Villagers turn to bat, looking to not suffer the same fate of being bowled out for just 61 runs last time they met. Thalang were keen to take the field and do just that. However, the Village were focused on keeping the score ticking along with 5 runs an over good enough to get the job done.

Openers Peter Coceni (39) and Simon Pettigrew (30) laid a solid foundation with a 66 run partnership before Coceni was out playing on to his stumps off the bowling of Bill Stahmer. Another left hander, Franco Badenhorst (41) came in to re-



Bottom of the table Village took revenge on Thalang for previous defeat. Photos: Dean Noble

place Coceni, and he with Pettigrew put on another valuable 33 run partnership, taking the score to 99 before Pettigrew was dismissed.

Martin Platts (16) and Badenhorst kept the score board ticking along with another partnership of 42 runs before Badenhorst was caught behind off the bowling of Roshan Jayasuriya with the score on 142-4. Divan

Mydeen (31) then came to the crease with an unusually calm demeanor knowing that the Village needed 36 runs off 36 balls. Despite Platts falling LBW just 12 runs later, Mydeen made short work of the task in hand and reached the winning score for the Village with a boundary with 10 balls in hand. Pick of the bowlers was Bill Stahmer (2 for 24).  
— *Phuket Gazette*



Heading into the first drinks break, Thalang had 44 runs on the scoreboard without further loss.



Despite efforts Thalang suffered this season's second defeat.

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### YAMAHA LEAGUE-1 FIXTURE

**SWAT CAT**  
**NAKHON RATCHASIMA MAZDA FC**

**PHUKET FC**

**MAY 04**

**Nakhon Ratchasima Stadium**

**6.30 pm**

\*dates subject to change

#### YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Angthong FC	9	20
2	Nakhon Rachasima	9	19
3	Phuket FC	9	17
4	Bangkok FC	9	17
5	Royal Navy	9	16
6	TTM Customs	9	15
7	Ayutthaya FC	9	14
8	Phitsanulok FC	9	14
9	Saraburi FC	9	13
10	Chiangmai FC	9	12
11	Pattaya Utd	9	12
12	BBCU	9	11
13	Trat FC	9	10
14	NakhonPathom	9	9
15	Krabi FC	9	8
16	Roi Et Utd	9	7
17	Khon Kaen FC	9	5
18	Sri Racha FC	9	1

\*Last Update: 28/04/2014



# Thai pairs out in semis



Yoo Yeon-seong of the South Korean pair. Photo: Pierre-Yves Beaudouin

THAILAND'S campaign in the Asian Badminton Championships was over when their men's doubles and mixed doubles pairs lost in the semi-finals in Gimcheon, South Korea, on Saturday, April 26.

Third-seeded Manepong Jongjit and Nipitphon Puangpech squandered several chances to wrap up the second game and went down to Shin Baek-choel and Yoo Yeon-seong of South Korea 21-17 22-20 in the men's doubles.

The Thais were having a game point at 20-19 but failed to summon their A game at the crucial point and lost the match. It was the third appearance in a semi-final this season for the pair, who also failed to beyond the last-four stage in Germany and India.

Earlier second seed Sudket Prapakamol and Saralee Thongthongkam were upset by South Korean fourth seed Shin Baek-choel and Jan Ye-na 21-11 21-12.

— *The Nation*



## Macau on top in Hua Hin

THE MACAU Team recently defeated Hong Kong 7-3 to win the charity beach polo competition at the Asian Beach Polo Championship InterContinental-B.Grimm, the continent's only beach polo tournament.

The tournament was organised for the fifth consecutive year by B.Grimm Group in cooperation with InterContinental Hua Hin Resort and held on the resort's beach front.

The team was congratulated by Suwat Liptapanlop, advisory chairman of the Asian Beach Polo organising committee, and Harald Link, president of Thailand Equestrian Federation and chairman of B.Grimm Group. Proceeds will go to "Kamlangjai Project" or Inspire by Princess PA, initiated by HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha.

— *The Nation*



The tournament in Hua Hin hit its five years mark. Photos: Chad Weisser

## Tennis = balance

WE HAVE to balance how much we train and how much we rest our body, we have to have a balance of offense and defense, and we have to balance risk versus reward on each shot. The most important balance however is balancing your body while playing.

Keeping our body-balanced means keeping our weight distributed evenly overtop of our feet. Generally, if your feet are about as wide apart as your shoulders, and your knees slightly bent you will have a certain amount of balance.

When moving to the ball you want make every step more efficient, so instead of taking big steps which are hard to adjust from, little steps are better for getting you there and keeping you stable.

When actually hitting the ball what matters is that you are stable and secure. This will allow you to be strong through the

hitting zone and maintain a long contact area. This long contact heightens your control of the ball.

Balance is especially critical for serves. When you serve there is NO reason you should not be balanced – you have the ball in your hands. This is the only time in tennis you are completely in charge of the tennis ball. Make sure you take this time before your serve to feel stable and comfortable. In our PBI Training we learn to ask students to imagine they are going to stand in their pre-serving stance for ten minutes, if you can do this then you are in a relaxed state.

Focus on balance and make tennis simple. Happy Hitting.

*Tennis tip by Thanyapura's Tennis Head Coach, Roger Cochrane, who can be contacted at: [tennis@thanyapura.com](mailto:tennis@thanyapura.com)*

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## International Sport

## Klitschko keeps WBO crown

By Karolos Grohmann

World heavyweight champion Vladimir Klitschko easily retained his WBO crown when he knocked out Alex Leapai of Australia in the fifth round on Saturday in an overwhelmingly one-sided bout.

The 38-year-old Klitschko, who holds the WBA, IBF, WBO and IBO crowns, has now been unbeaten for 10 years with his most recent defeat back in April 2004 against Lamon Brewster.

Klitschko, with his brother Vitaly – the former WBC champion and a politician in his home country – in his corner, knocked down his opponent after a few seconds in the first round, a big left-right combination sending the 34-year-old Leapai sprawling.

The Ukrainian, whose record now stands at 62 wins with 52 knock outs and three defeats, then pumelled the hapless Australian in round five, knocking him down once again before a clean knock out with less than a minute left in the round.

“Alex Leapai, I know it was not easy for you, but you were up against the best fighter in the world

and it was hard,” Klitschko said in a ringside interview.

“Despite my 38 years I felt superb. I was in top form tonight in the ring.”

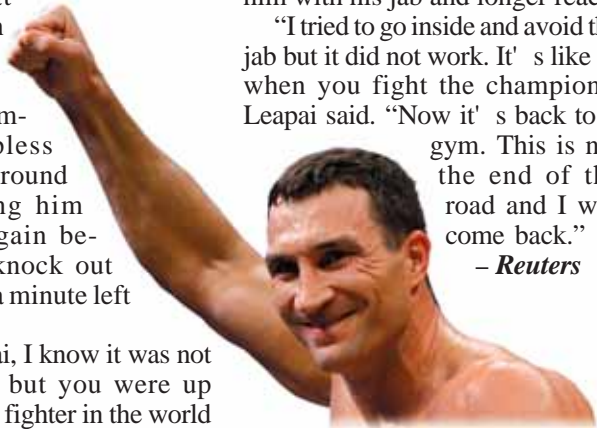
Klitschko also had a special mention for his home nation, saying his preparation for the fight was not easy due to the political crisis back home with neighboring Russia.

“I trained long and hard but it was not easy. My mind was back in Ukraine and what is happening there. Politicians must find a compromise and it should not come to a war. Ukraine will not be split up and (must) remain united.”

Leapai, who got a shot at the world title after his stunning win over Russian Denis Boytsov in November last year, never got much chance to fight, with the 15-centimeter taller Klitschko tormenting him with his jab and longer reach.

“I tried to go inside and avoid the jab but it did not work. It’s like that when you fight the champion,” Leapai said. “Now it’s back to the gym. This is not the end of the road and I will come back.”

– Reuters



World heavyweight boxing champion Vladimir Klitschko of Ukraine lands a punch to defeat Australian challenger Alex Leapai during their WBO heavyweight title fight in Oberhausen April 26, 2014. Photos: Kai Pfaffenbach/REUTERS

## Aussie olympian caught with drugs

by Ian Ransom

AUSTRALIAN former Olympic swimmer Geoff Huegill has been charged with drug possession by police in Sydney after being arrested at a horse racing meeting at the weekend.

Huegill, who won a medley relay silver and a 100 meters butterfly bronze for Australia at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, was charged with his wife on Saturday and will appear at a Sydney court next month.

“Police were patrolling Randwick racecourse as part of their general duties when they were directed to a suite in the grandstand by security personnel,” a police spokeswoman said.

“Police spoke to a 35-year-old man and his 30-year-old wife, who were alleged to be in possession of a small quantity of white powder, believed to be cocaine.”

Huegill posted links on his Twitter account on Saturday to pictures of himself and his wife beaming in a room at the race meeting while drinking champagne.

“Enjoying the day with @mshuegill in the Mo t suites at Randwick today,” a caption read.

Huegill’s lawyer Paul Hunt confirmed the couple were issued with a court notice.

“As the matter is not yet resolved, my clients do not intend to make any further comment at this point in time,” he said in a statement.

A former 50m butterfly world record holder, Huegill retired from the pool after the 2004 Athens Olympics and battled depression, weight and alcohol problems before making a highly publicized comeback in 2008.

He won golds at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and took a world championship bronze in Shanghai the following year before quitting the pool again after failing to qualify for the 2012 London Games.

Huegill’s drugs charge follows problems with fellow former Australian swimmers in Ian Thorpe and Grant Hackett in recent months.

Five-time Olympic champion Thorpe was checked into a health clinic in February to treat depression after he was found disoriented and behaving oddly near a parked car in a Sydney suburb.

Triple Olympic champion Hackett flew to the United States later the same month to seek treatment for an addiction to a sleeping medication after he was photographed shirtless in the lobby of a Melbourne casino.

– Reuters



Huegill retired from the pool after the 2004 Athens Olympics and battled depression, weight and alcohol problems. Last weekend he was charged with cocaine possession. Photo: Romanov2



## International Sport

# Ferdinand takes responsibility

By Ian Ransom

Rio Ferdinand hopes to remain at Manchester United to help resurrect the fallen Premier League giants after an “embarrassing” season under David Moyes.

With his contract set to expire in June, the 35-year-old former England captain had appeared set to finish his 12-year career at the club after being used sparingly under recently sacked Scotsman Moyes.

“I’m going to continue playing,” Ferdinand told British media. “Whether it’s here, I don’t know, but I hope so.”

“I am sure that whoever is here, whoever is managing, the aim of this club is to win trophies and championships and we have done that for 25 years. Long may that continue.”

After winning last year’s league title in Alex Ferguson’s final year as coach, United plumbed new depths under former Everton manager Moyes, and will miss out on the next Champions League tournament, a once unthinkable prospect.

Interim coach Ryan Giggs took the reins with a 4-0 win over Norwich City on Saturday, their biggest home league victory of the season. The win kept them seventh on the table, six points behind

Tottenham Hotspur.

Ferdinand was unable to explain the team’s immediate improvement without Moyes in charge.

“The person who has the correct answer to that would be a genius,” he said. “If we knew why, then I’m sure the change of manager wouldn’t have happened. I’ve not looked at the league table for ages.”

“We were saying it before the game. It’s because you don’t want to. It’s embarrassing. You don’t want to look at the league table and see where we are, but that’s down to us as players.”

“We take responsibility for that as much as anyone else. We are where we are and we have to take some responsibility for that.”

“We are not shirkers and we are not people who don’t take responsibility. I don’t think you get to where we have got to in our careers without taking responsibility and this is no different.”

Giggs has been backed to continue as United’s full-time boss by Ferguson, but Dutch media have linked Louis van Gaal with the role once he finishes his World Cup commitments with Netherlands’ national team in Brazil.

– Reuters



Rio Ferdinand is focused on the future...and on the ball, leaving the past where it belongs – in the past. Photo: Paolo Camera



Photo: Gonzalo Fuentes/REUTERS

## Scolari wary of protests

By Andrew Downie

PEOPLE protesting against the World Cup or in favor of more social spending could harm the country’s chances of winning the tournament, Brazil manager Luiz Felipe Scolari said on Sunday.

Hundreds of thousands of Brazilians took to the streets during last year’s Confederations Cup to protest World Cup spending and a lack of infrastructure investment.

Smaller scale protests are still occurring in the country, which will host the June 12-July 13 tournament for the first time since 1950.

Scolari said he was not against demonstrations, but the World Cup was not the best time for his players to be confronted with any outside issues.

“I think protests can happen,” Scolari said in an interview on Fantastico, a popular television

show. “If they are normal, without smashing things up, then that is democracy.”

“But I don’t know if it’s the right time.”

“They are Brazil players and they have one mission. They can think, they can express themselves, they can say ‘I want a better Brazil, too’, but I don’t want it to be something that causes problems in our environment.”

When asked if protests could affect the players, Scolari replied: “It could, big time.”

There is concern that protestors will try to disrupt some of the 64 World Cup matches after they marched towards the stadia used in last year’s Confederations Cup.

They were often held back by riot police using dogs, percussion grenades and tear gas and police have undergone further training to make sure there is no repeat.

– Reuters

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