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Orphans' heroes push past Istanbul

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INSIDE TODAY

May 31 - June 6, 2014 PhuketGazette.Net In partnership with **The Nation**

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■ 'CURFEW DAMAGE ALREADY DONE TO PATONG NIGHTLIFE'

To the coup and beyond

■ International media scramble to appraise impact of army coup

By **Chutharat Plerin**

WITH the eyes of the world on Phuket, as the heart of the nation's tourism sector, international media outlets have scrambled to understand just how the coup and ensuing curfew have affected – and will continue to affect – the island and nation.

On the ground, *Phuket Gazette* reporters speak with tourists, business operators and those with the inside scoop on the damage that has already been done, as well as the potential to get back on track for the long-term prosperity that was on the island's horizon.

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Already hard hit, industry leaders are waiting for Phuket's nightlife to pick up. Photo: Gazette file

Chief primed to battle land encroachment

THE new Sirinath National Park chief, Kitiphath Taraphiban, said he would stamp out corrupt officers who are "allowing the bad guys to win".

Mr Kitiphath took the helm of the park from his predecessor, who was no longer able to fight the level of corruption and pressure for the valuable land.

Full story Page 2

Skimmers up game with new ATM device

ALL ATM users were warned of face covers fitted to the card-insert slots of the cash machine after a "new" kind surfaced in Patong Tuesday night.

Police were tipped-off by a local resident who thought the card insert slot looked "odd".

Full story Page 3

Dive industry work area not overly limited

ONE of the many issues clarified to dive instructors during a seminar organized by the Phuket Provincial Employment Office was that their work permits remain valid outside of the province if clearly stated so in the official paperwork.

Full story Page 4

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This Week



Property
Massa Luna melds modern style with natural surroundings. **Page 13**



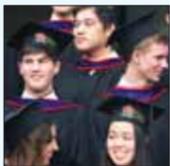
Business
Business leaders says outlook positive despite coup. **Page 33**



History
Massive canon survives the ages with a story to tell. **Page 36**



Travel
World Environment Day activities planned for Phuket. **Page 40**



Education
BISP graduates look to their futures with optimism. **Page 43**



Sport
Emotions rocketed sky high as goats raced in Cherng Talay. **Page 46**

Saturday



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New park chief vows to end land encroachment

By Saran Mitrat

THE new chief of Phuket's Sirinath National Park has vowed to pick up where recently transferred Cheewapap Cheewatham left off and to push forward with investigations into land encroachment claims.

Chief Kitiphath Taraphiban arrived on the island last Friday and reported to Governor Maitri Inthusut for duty on Tuesday.

"I met with Governor Maitri to ask if there were any specific issues the Phuket government wanted me to tackle," Chief Kitiphath told the *Gazette* after his meeting on Tuesday.

"Of course, returning all encroached land back to Sirinath National Park and to the public is of utmost importance.

"The park is the property of the Kingdom, and we must preserve it for public use."

Chief Kitiphath said that he had spent the past three days reviewing reports that Chief Cheewapap left behind for him.

"Land encroachment is a serious problem for the park. I will start investigating it as soon as possible," he said.

Chief Kitiphath praised the current park officers for their hard work, but also pointed out areas



Park Chief Kitiphath Taraphiban promises to preserve national park land.

of weakness that he wanted to improve on.

"We have some strong officers here who work hard and truly want to return park land to the public. On the other hand, we have officers that do not support our investigations and do not enforce the law, which allows the bad guys to win," explained Chief Kitiphath.

"Our honest officers will focus on getting park land back, and we will stamp out any corruption within our ranks as we move for-

ward as a team."

In his final words as Sirinath park chief, Chief Cheewapap called upon his successor to be honest and brave.

Chief Kitiphath promised to answer that call.

"Please trust in me. I will work carefully and fight against all illegal activities. I am not a Phuket native, but I will help Phuket people by preserving the park so that future generations can enjoy it," he said.

Foul weather foils search for body off Phuket coast

STORMY conditions last week hampered search efforts to locate a body spotted near Koh Kai Nai, an island off the coast of Phuket.

"We received a call from a villager on Koh Kai Nai at about 12:30pm saying that he had seen a body floating in the sea between Koh Yao Yai and Koh Kai Nai," Panya Chaichana of the Phuket Marine Police told the *Gazette* on May 22.

"We sent Marine Police and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers to search, but the strong waves and stormy conditions made it difficult. They could not find anything."

The team was able to resume the search the next day, said Col Panya.

"However, they were unable to find the body," he said.

"We are waiting for another sighting to be reported before we set out again."

Regarding reports of a body being spotted off Phi Phi Island, Lt Col Chaityasit Kancharoen of the Krabi Marine Police said that he had received no such report.

"We will look into it, but at this stage we have not received any reports of a person missing at sea in our area," Col Chaityasit said.

— Woranut Pechdee

Freak Facebook failure not initiated by Army

A WORLDWIDE Facebook crash on Wednesday caused a flurry of tweets in Phuket and Thailand over concern that the popular social media site had been blocked by the junta.

Downrightnow.com reported "likely service disruption" across the globe at about 4pm, but not isolated incidents in Thailand, as many were worried about.

Commanding General of the 41st Military Circle Peerapol Wiriyakul told the *Gazette* just after the crash happened that he had not yet been briefed about the issue with Facebook.

"Earlier this afternoon, we experienced a load-balancing issue that prevented some people from accessing Facebook for a brief period of time," Facebook said in a statement to the Huffington Post.

"We resolved the issue quickly, and we are now back to 100 per cent. We're sorry for any inconvenience we may have caused."

Media freedom has taken the front stage after the coup, leading four groups of media professionals – the Thai Journalists Association (TJA), National Press Council of Thailand, Thai Broadcast Journalists Association, and News Broadcasting Council of Thailand – to organize a meeting at the TJA headquarters Tuesday morning.



The quick Facebook glitch was worldwide. Photo: Spencer E Holtaway

The group discussed how the media would perform its duties in the current situation, TJA president Pradit Ruangdit said.

During the discussion, the editors agreed on a three-point conclusion, saying that though their freedom was limited to an extent, they did not feel the National Council for Peace and Order's (NCPO) orders were too much of an obstacle.

However, they said the junta should hold a formal press conference every day and allow reporters to freely ask questions. They all agreed that if the public is able to get accurate information, with no questions left unanswered, then the country has a better chance of returning to normalcy. — *Phuket Gazette*

French expat arrested over ATM fraud



Mr Naci. Photo: Patong Police

ACTING on a tip from a bank, police on May 24 arrested an expat Frenchman with counterfeit ATM cards and a stash of marijuana.

Jawad Naci, 32, was caught after Phuket Police were informed that a counterfeit electronic card had been used at an ATM in Srisoonthorn, in central Phuket.

Police obtained CCTV images from the ATM and got Mr Naci's name from Immigration, said Police Region 8 Commander Panya Mamen.

Police found and arrested Mr Naci in a Patong parking lot.

"We took him back to his house, where we found 71 counterfeit electronic cards and 106.08 grams of marijuana," said Gen Panya. "He confessed to everything."

Mr Naci was charged with possession of a Category 5 drug and ATM fraud.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Gun-toting Aussie tourist nabbed with illegal drugs

By Chutharat Plerin

PATONG Police arrested an Australian tourist on Tuesday after finding him in possession of 530mg of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine), a gun, and ammunition.

Police were able to track down Mark Robert Coutelas, 53, at Green Mango Apartment complex off Nanai Road after receiving a tip-off.

"We went to the complex and found Mr Coutelas at his rental room at about 2pm," said Lt Col Suttichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

"We searched his room and found 530mg of *ya ice* in a small plastic bag along with drug paraphernalia. We also found an illegal 9mm handgun, bullets and a BB gun."

Mr Coutelas was charged with illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition, as well as possession of a Category 1 Drug, said Col Suttichai.

"A woman showed up after the



Mark Robert Coutelas was caught with *ya ice*, a 9mm handgun and ammunition. Photos: Patong Police/Facebook



raid and told police that she and Mr Coutelas were dating," added Col Suttichai. "But we did not press charges against her, as she

was not present when officers searched the apartment."

"We are questioning both Mr Coutelas and his female compan-

ion about the gun and possible drug networks."

Officers declined to name Mr Coutelas' female companion.



CCTV captured the woman at a hotel. Photo: Patong Police

Patong Police issue naughty maid warning

PATONG Police are calling for any information that might lead to the arrest of a woman who applies for work as a maid, then literally cleans the place out, absconding with valuables.

"Today we received another complaint, this time from Karlsson's Hotel," Lt Col Suttichai Thianpho of the Patong Police told the *Gazette* on May 23.

Management at the hotel provided CCTV footage of the woman leaving the hotel after allegedly stealing cash and a mobile from a guest's room.

"Each time, the suspect applies for a job as a maid. She says she doesn't mind how much the pay is, she just needs to start work as soon as possible," explained Col Suttichai.

"But she never presents her ID card, she says that she will bring it later.

"Then as soon as she has a chance to work, she grabs whatever she can and leaves."

Col Suttichai described the woman as heavysset with dark skin, and about 155cm tall. She speaks in Southern Thai dialect.

Anyone with information that may lead to the woman's arrest is urged to call Patong Police Station at 076-342720.

- Chutharat Plerin

ATM users beware: new skimming device discovered

POLICE are warning all ATM users to beware fake covers fitted to the card-insert slots of ATM machines after finding a new form of card skimmer installed at a cash dispenser in Patong on Tuesday evening.

The new device was attached to a Siam Commercial Bank ATM in front of a 7-Eleven convenience store at Malin Plaza, on Prachanukrh Road, at the south end of Patong.

"We received a report from a local resident who said the card-insert slot looked odd," Lt Col Suttichai Thianpho of Patong Police told the *Gazette*.

Officers inspected the machine at about 6:30pm and found that a cover had been fit-

ted over the card slot. Attached to the fake cover was an electronic chip.

"It was obviously a skimming device that copies the electronic information from every card that is inserted in the machine," Col Suttichai said.

"We haven't seen anything like this before. The bank staff that officers spoke to also confirmed this was a new device.

"We have notified all police stations in Phuket, as we don't know how many of these devices have been installed, or where.

"Please be cautious and check the ATM before using it. To be safe, please use one inside a bank."

- Chutharat Plerin



The new device copies information from cards inserted into the machine. Photo: Patong Police




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Mr Numporn (2nd left) protested at the hospital after the deaths.

100K given for deaths of loved ones

AUTOPSY results are not yet in, but the man who lost his wife and son to complications of childbirth has received 100,000 baht in compensation from Vachira Phuket Hospital.

"We hope that this money will help to cover the funeral costs," said Jessada Chungpaibulpatana, hospital director.

Although grieving father and husband Numporn Intawong expressed gratitude for the money, he vowed to continue fighting for justice for his lost loved ones.

"I still want to pursue a case against the doctor who performed the delivery," he said.

- *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

Divers plumb legal depths

By Saran Mitratat

LOCAL dive instructors do not need to obtain work permits for every neighboring province they visit with students, dive professionals learned on May 22 at a day-long seminar organized by the Phuket Provincial Employment Office (PPEO).

The purpose of the seminar was to clarify work permits and related legalities of working in Thailand, specifically for professionals in the dive industry.

The seminar was organized in response to widespread complaints from foreign dive instructors that they had been extorted by police for violating job descriptions stated in their work permits.

More than 100 members of the Phuket dive industry, both Thai and foreign, attended the seminar and submitted written questions to the speakers. The most popular question concerned geographical limits of the work permit.

"If my company has a program to take students diving in Phuket, Phang Nga, Krabi, Surat Thani and Ranong, are instructors allowed to accompany them?" was one such



The full-day seminar, offered free of charge by the PPEO, aimed to clarify labor laws for dive instructors.

question.

"You have to work at the location indicated in the work permit," responded Somchai Morakotsriwan, an officer from the Legal Division of the Department of Employment Bureau.

"In this case, I advise dive companies to add this information to the employee's job description as part

of the work permit application."

Those divers who already have work permits that do not specify this information can get their permits amended, Mr Somchai noted.

Explaining why job descriptions are written only in Thai, Mr Somchai said, "We don't have enough officers who can communicate well in English. There are

only about 10 in the employment office who speak English well."

A final question asked whether divers needed to have their work permits on their person at all times, even in the water.

That is not necessary, Mr Somchai said, but they should be nearby. "Don't leave them at home," he said.

Illegal shutterbugs caught snapping

TWO wedding photographers were caught working without work permits last week after police were tipped off by a pair of Thai wedding photographers.

Chinese photographers Bolin Zhu and Jing Wang, both 27, were taking pre-wedding photographs of a couple on Soi Romanee in Phuket Town when police arrived at the scene.

"We asked them to show us their work permits, but they were unable to produce them, so we took both men to the Phuket Immigration Office for questioning," said Phuket Immigration Inspector Tianchai Chompoo.

Mr Bolin and Mr Jing told police that they charged 1,500 baht per couple to shoot photo-

graphs in scenic Phuket locations, Maj Tianchai said.

Both men confessed to working without a work permit and were taken to Phuket City Police Station.

They each face a fine of up to 100,000 baht, up to five years in jail or both. They may also be deported within 30 days, Maj Tianchai said.

In February, two Chinese wedding photographers, a Chinese makeup artist and the owner of a Phuket photography studio that specialized in Chinese wedding photographs were arrested for working without work permits while shooting pre-wedding photos in Old Town Phuket.

- *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



The two Chinese photographers were caught on Soi Romanee in Phuket Town after being turned in by a pair of Thai wedding photographers.

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Translators enlisted for tourists

Bangkok-based translators to help in police stations nationwide

By Saran Mitrat

POLICE stations throughout Phuket will have video conference capabilities installed so that tourists can communicate with translators in Bangkok at any time, one of the country's top-ranking officers announced on May 23.

The initiative is to prevent misunderstandings between tourists

filing complaints and police, said Assistant National Police Chief ML Pansak Kasemsant, speaking at Phuket Provincial Police Station.

The team of translators will be conversant in many languages, including English, Chinese, Russian, Burmese, Lao and Malay, Lt Gen ML Pansak said.

"We will have at least six qualified translators per language on standby at the Tourist Police

Division headquarters in Bangkok to help police communicate with tourists easily," he told the meeting of top-flight officers from Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi.

"The number of translators will depend on the number of incoming tourists." Gen ML Pansak explained that his office had received requests from police in 30 provinces to have translators available.

The move will also help facilitate the introduction of the AEC [Asean Economic Community] in 2015, he added.

Misunderstandings between foreigners and police had caused problems in the past, he noted.

"In one case, there was a translation mistake, and the victim complained to the international media about Thailand. We do not want that situation to happen again," he said.

'Translators will be conversant in many languages, including English, Chinese, Russian, Burmese, Lao and Malay'

- ML Pansak Kasemsant, Assistant National Police Chief



Lt Gen ML Pansak is aiming to prevent further misunderstandings between tourists and police officers.

"Some stations already have foreign volunteers assisting them, but we want to do our utmost to make sure that we do not have any more misunderstandings."

Gen ML Pansak played down

the impact of the coup and the curfew on daily life.

"Do not worry about the coup if you have not done anything wrong, but make sure you comply with the announcements," he said.

"The Royal Thai Police are giving their full support to the army. However, our orders right now are to continue with our duties as usual and to maintain the safety of the people as our top priority."

Tunnel eyed for traffic troubles



Mayor Chaianan (left) and EXAT Deputy Governor Lertsak listen to ideas.

OFFICIALS in charge of the Patong tunnel project are reviewing strategies they can use to avoid creating bottleneck traffic jams at the Thung Thong Intersection in Kathu.

The tunnel project, budgeted to cost 9.57 billion baht – 6.80bn for materials, 2.56bn for land expropriation and 200mn baht for salaries – aims to provide a safe alternative to the notoriously dangerous road currently used to get into Patong.

Present at a meeting at Kathu Municipality on May 20 to review the problem was Lertsak Chingharanon, Deputy Governor for Technical Affairs at the Expressway Authority of Thailand (EXAT), the state enterprise tasked with completing the feasibility study for the tunnel.

"The intersection is the focal point of much of the traffic in the area. The tunnel could create bad traffic jams at that junction," Mr Lertsak noted.

He explained that, so far, EXAT

officials had come up with three strategies to cope with traffic at the junction: 1) Do nothing; 2) build a flyover across the intersection; and 3) expand traffic lanes at the junction.

"We will raise these options with other senior provincial officials and the relevant government officers on the island to see what positive ideas they may have," Mr Lertsak said.

"Hopefully, together, we can come up with a solution."

Mr Lertsak noted that reviewing potential problems before the project begins is critical to its success.

"Our feasibility study must be comprehensive to make sure we are aware of any problems the tunnel might create after it has been completed," he said.

Kathu Mayor Chaianan Sutthikul agreed.

"It is always much better to prevent a problem than to let it happen and try to fix it later," he said.

- Woranut Pechdee

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On the beach

Jeanette Piccioni, 48,

from Great Britain
One week holiday in Phuket with family

The coup has not affected us. We came to Phuket for the beach and to relax. So it does not affect us in any way. We love Phuket and we come to Phuket every year. It is not a problem.



Guliana Zgoradnyaya, 23,

from Russia
One week holiday in Phuket with friends

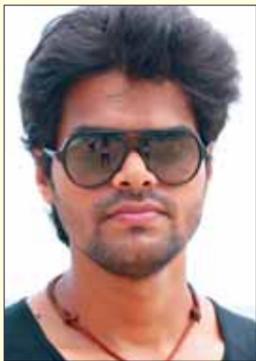
The coup or martial law doesn't scare me. My holiday is going well. I have no fear in Phuket... The curfew doesn't affect me. Everything is okay.



Anureg, 26,

from India
Travelling with a friend, spending four days in Phuket

The coup isn't scary. I haven't seen any military here. But I would like to see the curfew ended so we can enjoy the nightlife. I would like to see it over before we leave.



Carter Zhu, 29,

from China
Seven days in Phuket with his wife

Everything seems normal. We haven't seen any soldiers on the street. The curfew doesn't affect us because we go back to the hotel early.



Kevin Heeno, 38,

from Denmark
Two weeks in Phuket with family

This island is different from Bangkok. We haven't seen anything here, and we are happy to come here... The curfew hasn't affected us too much. The party at night is short, but that's okay.



A midnight

By Chutharat Plerin

PATONG business operators this week welcomed the relaxation of the curfew, which they say had crippled trade in Phuket's busiest tourism town, costing nightlife operators 10 million baht a night.

The initial curfew, introduced on May 22, banned all un-sanctioned travel on the streets between 10pm and 5am.

It was not until Tuesday this week that the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), the national administration set up by coup leader Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, saw fit to revise the hours.

The new curfew, which came into effect on Wednesday, shortened the ban on being outdoors to four hours, from midnight to 4am.

"It is such a welcome relief that the curfew has been revised. The 10pm curfew was too early," Weerawit Kurasombat, president of the Patong Entertainment Business Association, told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

"The midnight curfew is much better. At least tourists can go out and have fun."

The first few days under the original curfew drew a frightening picture for the immediate future for Patong. Shops, restaurants, bars and clubs shuttered early and the streets quickly emptied.

Patong rendered bereft of its renowned nightlife literally overnight led Mr Weerawit to warn of the town's ruin if the curfew continued.

"We were affected big time last night," he said last Friday. "If this curfew continues, it will be even worse than the tsunami. At least tourists could understand the tsunami was a natural disaster."

"The financial losses are seri-

Patong facing ruin if the curfew continues, says nightlife boss

ous, but they are nothing compared to the loss of image. Tourists will stop coming if they believe they can't have a good time here, and it will take a very long time to regain their confidence."

Mr Weerawit on Wednesday explained that it was still too early to estimate the losses inflicted by the curfew.

"We cannot say at this stage exactly how much we lost, but I would estimate near 10 million baht a night," he said.

BOMBARDED BY LOBBYING

Initial pleas for the NCPO to lift the curfew in tourist areas, especially in Patong, seemed to fall on deaf ears.



'All we need to do to regain tourists' confidence is to tell them exactly what is happening in Thailand'

— Piyaman Tejapaibul,
President,
Tourism Council of Thailand

Piyaman Tejapaibul to petition the ruling junta last Sunday.

Ms Piyaman asked for Gen Prayuth to consider lifting the curfew in key tourism areas, specifically Phuket, Koh Samui, Krabi and Pattaya.

"The NCPO accepted my proposal for consideration. However,

I was informed that the army must be sure about any changes they make before taking any action."

Gen Prayuth, after receiving royal endorsement to lead the NCPO on Monday, vowed to ease the "drastic measures" when the situation improved, but said the curfew was still needed.

Finally, the NCPO announced the revised curfew after Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Governor Thawatchai Aranyik asked for a repeal of the curfew in tourist attractions that operate at night.

The TAT remained confident that reducing the curfew would not impair the nation's security.

HARD HIT

Ms Piyaman said it was too early to calculate coup-related cancellations, but said that it was clearly affecting tourists' confidence.

However, TCT Vice President Pornthip Hirunkate pointed out that more than 50 nations had issued travel warnings urging their citizens to avoid non-essential travel to Thailand.

"Among these, Hong Kong raised the warning to the top level," Ms Pornthip told *The Nation*. "Furthermore, tourists from long-haul markets, including the US and Canada, as well as the UK and other European countries, have postponed their trips."

Many business and leisure tourists reportedly also cancelled trips to Thailand last week.

Ms Piyaman pointed out that the past six months of protests in the capital had stunted tourism growth for the year.

"The number of tourist arrivals during the first quarter this year dropped by 5.85% compared with last year, and the second quarter [which ends June 30] is already

Coup crackdown on media

COMMERCIAL radio stations throughout Phuket fell silent last Sunday after receiving requests from the army to comply with an order issued by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

The ban on broadcasting included local satellite television networks.

The only Phuket station still broadcasting after Sunday was BlueWave 90.5FM.

"The station is part of the Public Relations Department, and they didn't really tell me anything," station manager Oscar Chitamitro told the *Gazette*.

Although all local radio stations and cable television networks were ordered offline immediately after the coup on May 22, many throughout the country were allowed to resume broadcasting soon after, as

the army became more clear which broadcasters were deemed to be disseminating "anti-coup propaganda".

However, the decision to reinstate the nationwide crackdown was announced last Sunday.

Army deputy spokesman Lt Col Winthai Suwaree announced that the army was targeting a total of 14 "community radio stations" and local television networks.

The NCPO was working out solutions for allowing the 14 banned broadcasters to resume their regular programs, he said.

The NCPO was willing to talk to the 14 stations if they had solutions to ensure that broadcasts would not cause turmoil in the country, Col Winthai added.

— *Phuket Gazette*

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We've got class: Students return as schools open



Patong's renowned Bangla Road stands empty after the 10pm curfew was invoked last week. Photo: Patong Police

8.75% behind last year," she noted.

Considering the damage already done to the number of tourist arrivals, Ms Piyaman said the TCT supported the intervention by the military.

"We believe that it was better that the military step in than to let the protests go on forever. They had already gone on for far too long," she said.

That said, on Tuesday, Permanent Secretary for Sports and Tourism Suwat Sidthilaw confirmed that the arrival of foreign tourists had dropped by 20% following the imposition of martial law on May 20.

THAI RESILIENCE

The TCT believes that the tourism sector could record growth this year if a new government is installed quickly and confidence in Thailand as a safe destination returns.

According to Ms Pornthip, tourism has suffered since the last coup in 2006 while other political issues, including the airport shutdown and street protests, have also had an impact, as did the severe floods in 2011. Despite that, the number of arrivals had continued to grow.

In 2006, Thailand received 13.8

million tourists. By 2013, the number of visitors had risen to 26.7 million, including an increase of 19.6% in the number of arrivals in that year alone.

"In Bangkok, the streets appear slightly quieter than usual and the general mood of the city seems calm," Ms Pornthip said.

"But everyone in the country, especially in the tourism sector, hopes military rule is lifted soon and democracy restored."

To counter the fall in the tourism arrivals, Ms Piyaman called on all media agencies to promote Thailand – by telling the truth.

"All we need to do to regain tourists' confidence is to tell them exactly what is happening in Thailand and where tourists can travel safely," she explained.

"Let them know that nearly everyone is going about their lives normally. This is especially true in Phuket, where you can see that – except the curfew – there has been no impact."

DAY BY DAY

In response to the curfew, which may be lifted at any time by the NCPO, resourceful nightclub operators in Patong are opening their doors earlier in the hopes of luring patrons while the sun still

"While there are no customers in discotheques at 4pm, this is our only option if we want to salvage business," he admitted.

Bar and nightclub owners aren't the only operators to suffer, Mr Weerawit added.

"Other businesses such as restaurants and shopping malls are suffering too. The industries are all connected. What I can tell you is that many operators have lost a lot because of the curfew," he said.

Night-venue operators understand the law and are complying with it, Mr Weerawit said, but they remain hopeful that tourist destinations such as Phuket will soon be exempted from curfews.

"I understand that we have to follow the NCPO's orders, that we have to 'walk in the same direction' as the coup leaders, but if things don't go back to normal, tourists might go to other countries that have beaches and nightlife.

"The sooner we get back to normal, the better."

STUDENTS in Phuket and nationwide went back to school on Monday, despite rumors online stating that schools would remain closed.

"I can confirm that all schools, both public and private, are open as usual today," Chalam Attatham, director of the Phuket Primary Educational Service Area Office, said on Monday.

"False information was spread throughout social networks claiming that schools were closed indefinitely, but the schools were closed only from May 23-25."

Mr Chalam urged everyone to refer only to credible sources for notices about school closings.

"Whoever is spreading rumors on social media sites, please stop, and everyone looking for information about closings should refer to the NCPO only," he said.

– Woranut Pechdee



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killed the radio star



The ban was instated on all community radio stations. Photo: Schnäggl



Blurry video surfaced on YouTube showing men illegally fishing in Suan Luang Park. Image: Drummer.kong

Officials ask for help in stopping illegal fishing

PHUKET City officials are calling on the public to notify officers immediately of any illegal fishing carried out at Suan Luang Park (also called Chalermprakiat Ror IX Park or King's Park) in Phuket Town.

The call for public assistance follows a video posted on Facebook showing several people illegally fishing at one of the park's ponds.

"Anyone who sees people fishing at the park should report it to officials as soon as possible," said Tawatchai Tongmung, Chief Administrative Officer at Phuket City Municipality.

"No one is allowed to fish at Suan Luang."

Mr Tawatchai pointed out that the culprits caught on video were too quick for officers to notice during their routine patrols.

"They took only five minutes to lure the fish, cast their net and run away," he told the *Gazette*.

"We have officers patrolling the park, but it is a huge area with many ponds. We don't have enough officers to stand guard over all the ponds at all times."

The penalty for fishing in the park is a fine of up to 1,000 baht, Mr Tawatchai said.

"But there will be additional charges if anyone caught resists arrest," he warned.

"We need your help," Mr Tawatchai said. "If you see anyone fishing at the park, tell one of our officers as soon as possible. They are easy to recognize; they wear brown uniforms."

— *Saran Mitratat*

Captain breathes easy after Marine Police rescue

PHUKET Marine Police responded to a distress call from a Taiwanese tuna-fishing boat early Tuesday morning.

The *Dong Cheng 988* contacted Marine Police for assistance after Captain Shang-Chih Hsu, 61, suffered a severe asthma attack.

The boat was about 37 nautical miles southwest of Phuket.

"Mr Shang-Chih had his inhaler,

but it wasn't working," Lt Col Panya Chaichana of the Marine Police told the *Gazette*.

Police and a medical team departed Rassada Pier for the boat.

Mr Shang-Chih was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where he is now receiving medical treatment, Col Panya said.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



A medical team was rushed to the boat. Photo: Phuket Marine Police

Coastal erosion takes big bite out of Andaman coast

By Woranut Pechdee

OFFICIALS on May 24 expressed deep concern about the rate of coastal erosion, especially at Bang Tao Beach and coastal areas inside Sirinath National Park.

Coastal erosion has ravaged areas in all six provinces along the Andaman Coast, said Somsri Arvakait, Director of Policy and Management for Coastal Areas at the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR).

"In addition, areas in nine provinces in the upper reaches of the Gulf of Thailand have suffered extensive coastal erosion, as well as eight provinces in lower areas of the gulf," Ms Somsri said.

Tanet Munnoy, chief of the DMCR Region 5 office, reported that sections of Bang Tao Beach and coastal areas inside Sirinath National Park were the worst hit on Phuket.

"Coastal erosion has been a problem for years. We have been studying it, but we simply are not sure how best to counter it," Mr Tanet said.

The battle against coastal erosion has plagued seafront communities and resort owners in the region for years.

In March, Krabi villagers built bamboo barriers 500 meters long in front of a fishing village to protect against it.

Last year, waves two meters high caused damage along 13 kilometers of beachfront at Bang



A large section of the boardwalk in Rawai was lost in 2011 to coast erosion. Photo: Atchaa Khamlo

Niang Beach in Phang Nga, forcing at least one hotel owner to set up sandbags to protect against the sea, and prompting the local mayor to call the Phang Nga Governor for help from the

In 2012, constant pounding by waves battered a seawall to pieces at Surin Beach.

In 2011, local businessmen and restaurateurs at Rawai Beach raced to repair a seawall after a

large section of sidewalk plunged into the sea.

Mr Tanet told the *Gazette* that the DMRC was to meet again soon to discuss possible strategies to defend against erosion.

Hundreds of coup supporters gather, give roses to officers in Phuket



Flowers and letters of thanks were handed over to military officers on Tuesday.

MORE than 500 locals gathered at Sanam Chai Park on Tuesday to offer roses and letters of thanks to army officers for their hard work.

The grateful group of local farmers, students, Reserve Officer Training Corps Students and Civil Defence Volunteers intercepted the officers as they were on their way to meet with Governor Maitri Inthusut at Phuket Provincial Hall.

"We would like to thank you for your work, and tell you that we support you," said a Phuket farmers' representative.

"No words can explain how happy we are that we will be getting our [rice-pledge] money after waiting for so long."

Commanding General of the 41st Military Circle Peerapol Wiriyaikul, accepted the flowers and letters.

Maj Gen Peerapol acknowledged that the coup had inconvenienced people.

"We are now taking steps toward resolving the issues, so that life can go back to normal as soon as possible," he said.

"As Phuket is a holiday destination, the safety of tourists is a top priority. The army has been assigned to the island to maintain safety here, and although there is a curfew, tourists should still be able to carry on with their activities until 10pm."

The curfew has since been relaxed to midnight.

Gen Peerapol said that army officers assigned to Phuket will be stationed at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint.

"Officers will not be allowed to carry weapons into any public places," Gen Peerapol affirmed. — *Saran Mitratat*

Cyclists pedal toward Phuket

Men raising money for Phuket orphanage reach Turkey after 3,600km

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THE four intrepid men biking their way from Sweden to Phuket to raise funds for the Barnhem Muang Mai orphanage in Phuket found themselves in a small Turkish village called Kandira on May 25.

With about 3,600 kilometers under their belts, and thousands more to tackle before crossing Sarasin Bridge, morale is still high for Calle Wollgard,

Fredrik Jessen, Tomi Blumen and Christofer Johansson.

"We still like each other, and I can't see that will change for the next couple of weeks at least!" Mr Wollgard told the *Gazette*.

Prior to Kandira, the team had spent more than a week resting in Istanbul, Turkey. However, time came when the team was ready to get back in the saddle, still aiming to arrive in Phuket in time to enjoy Christmas with the orphans. Mr Blumen was reported to

have been suffering stomach issues during their rest, but pushed out when it was time to move out – keeping up as they covered about 110km their first day back on the road.

Another concern is Mr Johansson's bike. Though its wheels are still spinning, it's in "far from perfect shape", explained Mr Wollgard.

"The temperature is getting higher and higher. That, coupled with a lot of hills in Northern Turkey, is our biggest challenge right now," Mr Wollgard confided.

The team is shooting to beat the heat as they travel through picturesque Northern Turkey by getting early starts to allow them to seek shade in the middle of the day.

"There is not much we can do about the hills, except conquer them," Mr Wollgard said.

The next big challenge will be staying safe in the traffic through-

'The temperature is getting higher and higher. That, coupled with a lot of hills in Northern Turkey, is our biggest challenge right now'

– Calle Wollgard



The fundraising cyclists made some new friends when they stopped in Novi Sad, Serbia. Photo: Supplied

out Tehran, Iran.

"That's going to be crazy," Mr Wollgard said.

Those wishing to donate can send Mr Wollgard their name and how much they want to donate for each Swedish mile (10km) cov-

ered. Proceeds will go to Barnhem Muang Mai, which was founded in the wake of the 2004 Tsunami by a Thai-Swedish couple.

Though Barnhem means "home for children" in Swedish, it is a home to many in need, often ac-

cepting single mothers with children and grandmothers with grandchildren who are unable to provide for themselves.

Email Mr Wollgard and his team at callewollgard@gmail.com.

Phuket to serve as one of five hosts in upcoming Andaman carnival series

THE first in a five-part series of carnivals to be held in Andaman provinces will take place in Ranong on June 8.

Ranong, perhaps best known among expats as a visa-run destination, has plenty of things for tourists to enjoy, said Ranong Vice Governor Supawat Sakda, who announced the carnival with Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa on May 23.

"We are famous for our hot springs and mineral water, and have a lot of interesting

culture," Vice Governor Supawat said.

Called "Scent of Andaman", the Ranong event has an 8-million-baht budget and is expected to draw more than 10,000 visitors.

"We think the average visitor will spend about 1,500 baht per day," V/Gov Supawat said. "But it doesn't matter whether we meet our target number of visitors or make a profit, the main point is to familiarize people with what we have to offer."

Following the initial event in Ranong,

carnivals will be held in Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga and Trang, said V/Gov Sommai.

"Five provinces have agreed to support each other with respect to tourism. Krabi will promote historic artifacts, Phang Nga will focus on sea gypsies, Trang on local traditions and nature, and Phuket on our Sino-Portuguese heritage," V/Gov Sommai said.

The dates of the other provinces' carnivals have yet to be set.

– Saran Mitrarat



Vice Governors Sommai and Supawat.

Snake slithers onto electrical supply line, causes blackout in Phuket Town apartments

ELECTRICAL engineers called to a neighborhood on the north side of Phuket Town late in the night on May 25 found that a small tree snake had caused a blackout at several houses and an apartment block.

"We were called to Pimprapai Place apartments on Rassada Anuson Road [in Baan Kuku, Rassada] at about 10pm," said Pichai Rattanamunee, an electrical engineer with the Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PPEA).

"While inspecting the cables, we realized that a green snake about one meter long had caused a short circuit by slithering onto the main supply line to the apartment block."

Mr Pichai estimated that more than 1,000 volts had coursed through the snake's body.

"That's more than enough to



Engineers found the snake on the supply line. Photo: Saksit Chasurin

kill a snake. It did not survive," he said.

Power was restored after about an hour, Mr Pichai added.

He urged residents affected by unscheduled power outages to call the PPEA 24-hour hotline at 1129, or the local PPEA contact numbers 076-210427-8 and 076-210379

– Saran Mitrarat

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The Year 12 students will be collecting the above items and will distribute them up at the school in June as part of the Group 4/CAS service trip to Yaowawit School. Our students will host Art and English activities, design and build the container conversion for use in the production of organic products which helps raise funds, as well as help out in the organic farm and herbal learning centers. The school was set up as an educational and skill training facility for the community's children after the Tsunami affected the area in 2004. Yaowawit School currently provides assistance to up to 120 children in need of their services.

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Caches of war weapons have been seized in raids. Photo: The Nation

Pre-coup raids turn up illegal war weapons

AHEAD of the coup, a military-police team launched at least five raids and seized caches of war weapons under martial law, as ordered by Army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha.

The first raid in Lop Buri on May 20 landed nine homemade bombs, a stick of TNT, an AK-47 assault rifle, an anti-personnel Claymore mine, 11 sets of detonators and large amounts of ammunition, reported *The Nation*.

Chaowat Thongphuek, a 54-year-old former paramilitary ranger, reportedly confessed to having acquired the weapons and having been hired to make bombs to be used for violence in the capital.

Later that day in Samut Sakhon, Jathana Warakornsakulkij was arrested for possessing a large cache of weapons.

Ms Janthana admitted to owning the items: five assault rifles, an M79 grenade launcher, a large amount of ammunition, three hand grenades, explosives contained in 120 bottles, eight homemade bombs, a handgun and a bullet-proof vest, as well as nails and wires meant as shrapnel for the bombs. However, she later said that the weapons were for self-defence.

She denied that two membership cards for the pro-government United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship found in her room were hers.

A third raid was at a home in Soi Rachadaphisek 32 in Bangkok and turned up 140 rounds for an M16 assault rifle and two dummy hand grenades.

On May 22, the results of more raids were released to the media.

Deputy Army spokesman Lt Col Winthai Suwaree issued details about one raid in Bangkok that turned up an AK-47 assault rifle and a loaded magazine, and another in Pathum Thani in which a bullet-proof vest and an Army helmet were seized.

Media urge junta to grant freedoms of press, expression

EDITORS of several publications and media outlets called on the junta on Tuesday to allow freedom of press and freedom of expression, reported *The Nation*.

Four groups of media professionals – the Thai Journalists Association (TJA), National Press Council of Thailand, Thai Broadcast Journalists Association and News Broadcasting Council of Thailand – organized a meeting at the TJA headquarters Tuesday morning.

The group discussed how the media would perform its duties in the current situation, TJA president Pradit Ruangdit said.

Editors present agreed that although some

freedoms were limited, they did not feel the National Council for Peace and Order's (NCPO) rules presented a huge obstacle.

However, they said the junta should hold a formal press conference every day and allow reporters to freely ask questions. They argued that if the public was able to get accurate information, the country would have a better chance of returning to normalcy.

Army secretary Maj Gen Polphat Wannaphak warned two reporters that afternoon against trying to corner Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, the NCPO chief, with pointed questions at press conferences.



Soldiers occupy Bangkok's National Broadcasting Services of Thailand TV station. Photo: Reuters

Media controls are to be strictly observed to prevent the use of the press to instigate riots, protests or insult the monarchy, Lt Gen Theerachai Nakwanich said on Tuesday.

Army to set up reconciliation centers throughout Thailand

IN AN attempt to patch up the rifts in society, coup leader Maj Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha on Tuesday ordered the four Army areas to set up reconciliation centers throughout the country.

The centers would be forums for people to exchange views and receive information on the junta. This would help avoid misunderstandings and false information spreading among the people that was stirring up conflict, said Lt Col Winthai Suwaree, a spokesman for the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

Participation in the center's activities would be voluntary, but groups of people might need someone to lead the political dialogue, Col Winthai said.

Gen Prayuth staged a coup last week after negotiations among warring factions failed to produce any agreement to defuse the political crisis, reported *The Nation*.

Ousted education minister Chaturon Chaisang was seized by soldiers on Tuesday in front of a crowd of foreign journalists after giving a snap press conference at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand (FCCT).

Mr Chaturon, who did not report to the NCPO when summoned last Thursday, came out of hiding to appear before the international community at 2pm, reading a statement saying he was innocent of all charges.

Thailand needs to return to democracy as soon as possible and all sides must avoid violence and suppression of viewpoints, he said. He also called for the Army to release all detainees. Col Winthai said that Mr Chaturon was taken away as he had failed to comply



Maj Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha ordered reconciliation centers be set up to serve as public forums. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE nation

with the NCPO summons.

"Holding a press conference for the foreign media is deemed improper and against NCPO policy," Mr Winthai said.

The junta has invited hundreds of people for questioning, but some have still failed to appear, including Petchawat Wattanapongsirikul, chairman of the Rak

Chiang Mai 51 Group.

In Lamphun, troops and police stormed a longan orchard in response to tips that claimed red-shirt guards had been undergoing weapons training there. Surprised by the raid, five people tried to run away. Two were caught. Searches of the area uncovered several guns and signs for the red-shirt United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship.

In Udon Thani, members of the anti-coup Udon Peace group reported to the province's internal security operations center. They were warned not to rally and allowed to leave.

In Tak, the mansion of an adopted son of former interior minister Charupong Ruangsuan was searched. Mr Charupong has defied his summons.

In Trat, police continued hunting for Narong Krachangklang, who was accused of fatally shooting a ranger on duty during a search at Mr Narong's house on Monday. Police rejected rumors that Mr Narong, who was not home at the time, had already been gunned down.

The NCPO has appointed six advisers on five issues, with former defence minister general Prawit Wongsuwan leading the team.

Soldiers told to negotiate, exercise restraint

THE military has threatened to take tough action against anybody caught carrying weapons, reported *The Nation*, in a move to stop disaffected factions from staging attacks and instigating riots.

Police will be the main force in controlling protests. They have been instructed to be initially lenient before opting for stricter measures, such as negotiating before arresting protester leaders, said Lt Gen Theerachai Nakwanich, serving as a commander of the peacekeeping force.

The police have also been instructed to avoid the use of force in order to prevent deaths and injuries.

Lt Gen Theerachai said soldiers stationed at various spots would not reject food and supplies given to them by civilians even though they might be handed dangerous items under the guise of donations.

He also warned that action would be taken against those who intend to harm soldiers, though the troops have been strictly banned from using weapons except for in self-defence.

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California killer hails Penang days

AROUND THE region

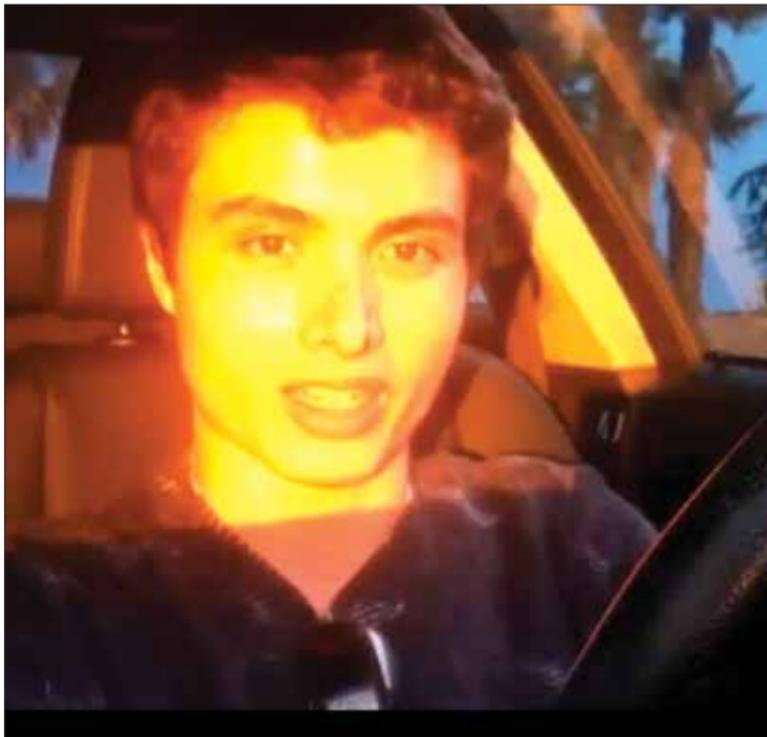
By Rahmah Ghazali

THE 22-year-old man who went on a rampage in California last Friday, stabbing three people to death before opening fire on passers-by and killing three more before turning the gun on himself, was born to a Malaysian mother.

Elliot Rodger, son to Peter Rodger, the Hollywood assistant director for *The Hunger Games*, wrote in a 140-page document just days before his rampage about his trip to Penang with his mother Ong Li Chin Rodger.

"Sometime after my third birthday, we all went on a vacation to Malaysia, my mother's home country. I have only flashes of memory of that vacation. I enjoyed it very much. We visited a few of my mother's relatives," he wrote in the document, which he sent to several people, including his parents and therapist, shortly before his killing spree.

On his 13th birthday, Elliot said his mother took him and his younger sister Georgia to Malay-



Elliot Rodger killed six people in a rampage last Friday. Photo: Facebook

sia again. In Penang, they met up with several relatives, including his maternal grandmother Ah Mah.

"We met up with Ah Mah, my mother's sister Min and her husband Jack and cousin Emma. They were also visiting Malaysia from England.

"During the trip, we toured the island of Penang, visited George Town, went to a fun water park

and had very delicious meals at many exotic restaurants," he said.

Elliot said the vacation was so nice that he did not miss his life in the United States, where the family had moved to from Britain.

Media accounts revealed a young man who lived a comfortable life but was troubled by loneliness and rejection by women.

He was also known to have

Asperger syndrome, which affects the ability to communicate and engage in social interactions.

In the document titled "My Twisted World - The Story of Elliot Rodger", the London-born youngster spoke about his childhood and his family.

According to the dossier, which was circulated on the internet, his mother had gone to England to work as a nurse on several film sets.

"She became friends with important individuals in the film industry including George Lucas and Steven Spielberg. She even dated George Lucas for a short time," he wrote.

His mother was 30 when she gave birth to him, he said.

Shortly after his seventh birthday, Elliot said his mother and his father were divorced.

"I was absolutely shocked, outraged, and above all, overwhelmed. This was a huge, life-changing event."

Apparently, his mother had told him just a few months earlier that there would be no divorce.

Towards the end of his manuscript, murder was on his mind.

Women, he said, must be punished for rejecting a gentleman like him.

Chillingly, he spoke about a day of retribution. - *The Star*

In brief...

Cambodia premier spurns Thaksin's government in exile

PRIME Minister Hun Sen announced on Tuesday that Thaksin

Shinawatra and his sister, former Thai premier Yingluck, will not be allowed to form a government in exile in Cambodia.

PM Hun Sen said that despite good relations between himself and Mr Thaksin, Cambodian law did not allow him to set up a government in the country.

The Cambodian premier also advised Thaksin's lawyer, Robert Amsterdam, not to suggest forming a government in Cambodia as such an idea may cause more risk for the Shinawatra siblings.

- *The Cambodia Herald*

Napoles implicates 120 lawmakers in pork barrel scam

JANET Lim-Napoles on Monday named 20 senators and 100 congressmen allegedly involved in the misuse of funds from the Priority Development Assistance Fund, also known as the "pork-barrel scam".

In her 32-page affidavit submitted to the Senate blue ribbon committee, Ms Lim-Napoles denied she was the mastermind of the P10-billion (7.45bn baht) scam and declared she learned the ropes from Budget Secretary Florencio Abad.

"This has long been practice," she said.

- *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

Religion minister resigns over graft

INDONESIAN Religious Affairs Minister Suryadharma Ali resigned on Monday after being accused of misusing funds that were supposed to help Muslims perform the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca.

An anti-corruption agency last week named Suryadharma a suspect after it detected suspicious transactions of about US\$20 million in a special Hajj fund.

Millions of people have paid into the fund and must wait years as the annual quota of pilgrims is strictly controlled. - *Jakarta Post*

China, Vietnam spat blooms as boat rammed, sunk

VIETNAM and China traded accusations on Tuesday over the sinking of a Vietnamese fishing boat near where China has placed a US\$1-billion oil rig in the disputed South China Sea, as tensions fester between the two countries over the giant drilling platform.

Hanoi said some 40 Chinese fishing boats had surrounded the Vietnamese craft before one of them rammed it and it sank. Vietnamese fishing boats operating nearby rescued the 10 fishermen



Vietnam officers inspect ram damage to their boat. Photo: VNS

on board, the government and the coastguard said.

China's official Xinhua news agency, citing a government source, said the vessel capsized

after "harassing and colliding with" a Chinese fishing boat.

Scores of Vietnamese and Chinese ships, including coastguard vessels, have continued to square off around the rig despite a series of collisions earlier this month after the platform was towed to the site.

Each side has blamed the other over those incidents. Until Monday, no ship had sunk.

The incident took place about 17 nautical miles from the rig, which is drilling between the

Paracel islands occupied by China and the Vietnamese coast. China calls them the Xisha islands.

Vietnam has said the *Haiyang Shiyou 981* rig is in its 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone and on its continental shelf. China says it is operating within its waters.

The rig, owned by state-run China National Offshore Oil Company Group, is 240km off Vietnam's coast and 330km from the southern coast of China's Hainan Island. - *Reuters*

Myanmar adults living on US\$10 a day

ABOUT 95 PER CENT of adults in Myanmar live on less than US\$10 a day, according to a recent report by the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

The UNCDF report was based on the agency's Making Access Possible survey, which was compiled on a sample of 5,100 people from throughout the country, including interviews conducted last year.

"Financial services are at a very low level in Myanmar and this is impacting the country's ability to harness the capital available for national development," said Henri Dommel, director of the Inclusive Finance division at the UNCDF.

"Significant effort is required to move the country towards more formal financial services."

The survey noted that 10 per cent of the country's adults preferred to save money in gold or cash.

Due to the cash-based culture, the cost of starting a business in Myanmar is high, the report said.

Myanmar's current monetary services do not match the country's needs, added the report.

Also impeding the country's development was that many banking firms posed obstacles to obtaining loans and burdensome rules and regulations all encouraged informal money-lending, said the report.

- *Eleven Media Group*

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In brief...

Aussie lawmaker sneaks fake bomb into parliament

AN AUSTRALIAN lawmaker smuggled a replica explosive device into parliament on Monday to highlight security shortfalls created by budget cuts, in perhaps the oddest protest yet against the conservative government's controversial cost-cutting measures.

Senator Bill Heffernan said that new cost-saving security protocols being trialled had allowed him to smuggle the device into the building in a plastic bag.

Pistorius ordered to one month of psychiatric testing

SOUTH African Olympic and Paralympic track star Oscar Pistorius was ordered on Tuesday to undergo a month of psychiatric tests to find out whether he was criminally responsible when he shot dead his girlfriend on Valentine's Day last year.

Nuclear activity in North Korea alerts South Korea, China

SOUTH Korea and China agreed on Monday that nuclear activity by North Korea has posed a serious threat to peace and stability in the region and Pyongyang must not conduct nuclear tests, Seoul said after a diplomatic meeting.

Analysts have suggested the North may be close to miniaturizing a nuclear warhead, alarming regional powers that have for two decades tried to rein in Pyongyang's atomic program.

Mining minister to mediate in ongoing platinum strike

SOUTH African mining minister Ngoako Ramatlhodi has pledged to mediate in a crippling platinum strike now in its fifth month.

Mr Ramatlhodi, who was sworn in on Monday evening, also said that mining companies had not done enough "to address the well-being of workers", particularly with regard to the squalid living conditions at many mines.

China launches full-scale crackdown on terrorism

By Michael Martina

CHINA has launched a one-year crackdown to hunt down and punish terrorists in Xinjiang, state media said on May 23, a day after the deadliest attack in years in the far western region with a large Muslim Uighur minority.

Five suicide bombers carried out an attack on the morning of May 22 which killed 31 people at a market, according to state media.

"The campaign will make full use of political and legal forces, army and armed police in Xinjiang," the official Xinhua news agency said of the crackdown, citing local authorities.

The aim, Xinhua said, was to "focus on terrorists and religious extremist groups, gun and explosive manufacturing dens and terrorist training camps."

"Terrorists and extremists will be hunted down and punished. The government will prevent terrorism and extremism from spreading to other regions."

Authorities reported that in May, more than 200 suspects in 23 "terror and religious extremist" groups had already been apprehended.

The drive, approved by the central government and a national-level group leading anti-terrorism activity, would last until June 2015 with Xinjiang as the "major battleground".

Last week's bombing was the



Paramilitary policemen stand on a truck during an anti-terrorism oath-taking rally in Urumqi. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE world

second suicide attack in the capital in just over three weeks. A bomb and knife attack at an Urumqi train station in April killed a bystander and wounded 79.

The government had already

launched a campaign to strike against terrorism in Xinjiang, blaming Islamists and separatists for the worsening violence. At least 180 people have been killed in attacks across China over the past year.

The attackers ploughed two vehicles into a market in Urumqi and hurled explosives. Many of the 94 wounded were elderly shoppers, according to witnesses.

"Five suspects who participated in the violent terrorist attack blew themselves up," the *Global Times*,

a tabloid run by the *People's Daily*, the official newspaper of the Communist Party, reported on May 23. The newspaper said authorities "are investigating whether there were other accomplices".

No group has claimed responsibility for the latest attack.

China has been grappling with a rise in suicide attacks, reported Reuters. A car burst into flames at the edge of Beijing's Tiananmen Square last October, killing five people.

- Reuters

Ukraine orders air strikes on rebel-held airport

UKRAINE launched air strikes and a paratrooper assault against pro-Russian rebels who seized an airport on Monday, as its newly elected leader rejected any talks with "terrorists" and said a robust military campaign in the east should be able to put down a separatist revolt in "a matter of hours".

As the *Gazette* went to print on Wednesday, more than fifty people had been killed as a result of the fighting.

Ukrainians rallied overwhelmingly in the May 25 election behind Petro Poroshenko, a political veteran and billionaire owner of chocolate factories, hoping the burly 48-year-old can rescue the nation from the brink of bankruptcy, civil war and dismemberment by its former Soviet masters in the Kremlin.

Monday's rapid military response to sepa-

ratists who seized the airport in Donetsk was a defiant answer to Moscow, which said it was ready for dialogue with Mr Poroshenko but demanded he first scale back the armed forces' campaign in the east.

Gunfire and explosions could be heard as a warplane flew over the airport, hours after truckloads of armed rebel fighters arrived and seized a terminal.

The airport serves a city of 1 million people that the rebels have proclaimed capital of an independent "people's republic", and where they succeeded in blocking all voting in the May 25 election.

Their attempt to seize the airport may have been intended to prevent Mr Poroshenko from travelling there: he had said his first stop would be to visit the restive east.

- Reuters



A Ukrainian helicopter fires its cannons against rebels at the main terminal building of the Donetsk airport. Photo: Reuters

Nigerian military has located kidnapped girls, will not risk rescue

NIGERIA'S military knows where the more than 200 girls abducted by Boko Haram are but has ruled out using force to rescue them, the state news agency quoted Chief of Defence Staff Air Marshal Alex Badeh as saying on Monday.

Seven weeks since Boko Haram militants abducted more than 200 girls taking exams at secondary school in the remote north-eastern village of Chibok, little is known of their whereabouts or what the military is doing to gain their freedom.

"The good news for the parents of the girls is that we know where they are, but

we cannot tell you," Mr Badeh was quoted by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) as saying.

"But where they are held, can we go there with force? We can't kill our girls in the name of trying to get them back."

Most officials think any raid to rescue them would be fraught with danger and



Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan. Photo: Reuters

probably not worth the risk that the girls would be killed by their captors - an Islamist group that has shown a high degree of ruthlessness in killing civilians.

Since the girls were captured, according to a Reuters count, at least 470 civilians have died violent deaths in various locations at the hands of Boko Haram, which says it

is fighting to establish an Islamic state in religiously mixed Nigeria.

President Goodluck Jonathan has branded them an "al Qaeda of West Africa".

Britain's BBC reported on Monday that a deal was close to being agreed to rescue the girls in exchange for Boko Haram prisoners - a demand the group had made public - but that it was called off at the last minute.

Nigeria accepted help from the United States, Britain, France and China last week and US troops have started arriving in neighboring Chad to organize a mission to try to free the girls.

- Reuters

Nai Yang's newest neighbor



The low-rise condominiums are to feature a modern and tropical style. Photos: Supplied



The units will come fully furnished with appliances, LED television and air conditioning.

CHON BURI based property developers Porch Land Group have announced May 31 as the official launch date of their initial Phuket project Massa Luna Condominium. In celebration of the launch, they have organized the "Majestic Pearl Party" promised to feature a meet-and-greet with popular Channel 3 personality Bomb Tanin, beautiful models and an overview and tour of the first completed unit as well as special promotions on offer.

With a portfolio of projects totaling more than 900 million baht, the Porch Land Group embarks on their latest venture with a premier development fronting Nai Yang beach. The low-rise concept five-storey condos are located amongst natural surroundings with the tree-lined sea in front and nestled within verdant green mountains

promising a serene and peaceful atmosphere.

Massa Luna's architecture will be in a modern and tropical style that brings out the unique beauty of Nai Yang beach, while the interiors will blend with the exterior and using a luxurious natural heritage concept with each unit having reflections of both the sun and moon.

The seaside location sprawls on more than three rai of land in Thalang district and neighboring Sirinart National Park. It will feature two five-storey buildings consisting of 184 units in two unit types with prices start-



Massa Luna's architecture will be in a modern and tropical style that brings out the unique beauty of Nai Yang beach

ing from 3.4 million baht. Single bedroom units will be 40 square meters while two bedroom units will range from 66 to 83.5sqm.

With construction slated for completion in the third quarter of 2016, all units will be ready to occupy coming fully furnished including appliances, LED television and air conditioning.

Massa Luna's facilities will include large gardens, a saltwater swimming pool with chlorinator system, WiFi, CCTV, and 24-hour security. A range of five-star services including spas and restaurants

will be accessible only a short walk away.

Phuket has one of Asia's most popular holiday home markets and is one of the world's most popular tourist destinations, with steady annual growth. Porch Land Group has expanded its presence in Thailand with this high-end condominium within the minimally developed northern beaches well-known for nature, peace and privacy. It is also a popular resort destination for both Thai and foreign tourists being the home to several famous five-star hotels and only three kilometers away from Phuket International Airport.

- *Phuket Gazette*

For more information, visit their website at: massalunacondo.com, porchland.com, [facebook/massalunaphuket](https://www.facebook.com/massalunaphuket), call 096-139 0005 ext. 7 or email: massalunaphuket@gmail.com

Developers see Q1 inventory bump

TWENTY listed residential property firms have reported a combined inventory worth 339.84 billion baht as of March 31, comprising projects under development, undeveloped land and ready-for-sale projects.

The stock is worth 9.29 per cent more than their inventory at the end of last year, and would take more than three years to sell out if no new projects were to be launched during the period.

Meanwhile, residential demand in the first quarter fell by 40 per cent.

According to their first-quarter financial results, most listed developers saw their inventory rise compared with the December 31 level.

The average rise in value of more than 9 per cent covers new residential projects that have been launched, land bought for residential development in the future, and existing projects for sale.

Pruksa Real Estate and Sansiri posted the joint-highest inventory value at 51.88 billion baht as of March 31, up 6.57 per cent and 13.72 per cent respectively from the end of last year.

They were followed by Land &



Houses, whose inventory of 42.02 billion baht was up by 9.17 per cent, and AP (Thailand) with 32.17 billion baht, 4.51 per cent higher.

Pruksa Real Estate president and CEO Thongma Vjithphonpun said the rise in the company's inventory was due to its expanded investment, after it had bought land for developing 50 new projects set for launch this year, while ready-for-sale stock was worth less than 1 billion baht.

"All of our inventory is in the construction phase, either for infrastructure or the development of residential projects for sale," he said.

"This ties in with the company's total backlog worth 38.02 billion baht as of March 31, while presales came in at 10.3 billion

baht in the first four months of the year," he added.

Quality Houses president and CEO Rutt Phaniijphand said the company's higher inventory matched its 9 billion baht backlog of homes undergoing construction and set to be delivered to customers this year and next.

"Our inventory has risen in line with demand growth," he said.

Lalin Property CEO Chaiyan Chakaraku said the company's inventory as of end-March had increased only 2.4 per cent from the end-December level.

This is because the developer delayed the launch of new residential projects from the first to the second quarters of this year. It plans to launch between six and eight projects worth 4 billion baht combined over the course of the year.

Lalin Property transferred homes to customers in line with its business plan during the first quarter, generating revenue of 655.6 million baht in the process - up 5 per cent from the same period last year, he said.

- *The Nation*

LaGuna

PROPERTY RESALE

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<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>1 Allamanda 1 Bedroom Suite THB 5.5 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 bed 1 bath Condominium • Lagoon view • Leasehold • Fully furnished </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>3 Laguna Townhome I THB 20 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 beds 3 baths • Fully furnished • Private pool • Golf course and Lagoon view </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px;"> <p>5 Banyan Tree Residences THB 37.5 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-bedroom Pool Villa • Fully furnished • Sanctuary Club membership • Attractive rental return </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>2 Angsana Island Villa THB 185 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 beds 2 baths • Garden & Lagoon view • Freehold • Fully furnished </div> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>4 Laguna Homes Residence I THB 28 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 beds 3 baths Residences • Golf course view • Freehold • Fully furnished </div>
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That 2006 feeling again

Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

ONE of my many guilty pleasures is the movie *Top Gun*. Just a whisper of the names Viper, Iceman or Goose brings back the memory and has me feeling like it's 1986 all over again. It's hard not to turn all Righteous Brothers with a shout-out on "You've Lost That Lovin' Feeling".

As I write today, the day after the coup, I have been getting all nostalgic thinking what the big event in 2006 brought to real estate and tourism in Phuket. While it was only eight years ago, it seems more like 18 or 800.

One thing I oddly remember is the World Cup final between Italy and France. The former, of course, won in a penalty shoot-out and French midfielder Zinedine Zidane was sent off in disgrace after head-butting an opposing player. Little did we know at the time that Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was headed for the sidelines in the fall of that year. On September 19th, while he was visiting New York, a coup was staged and Thaksin joined Zidane on the bench.

There was a lot of optimism in 2006, with only an inkling of what lay ahead with Subprime, Ireland, Greece, Madoff and Lehman's. Here in Phuket, the property market was hitting its peak, and there was an entirely new face for property buyers. No

longer was it simple end-users, but the investors had crashed the party and were snapping up anything that moved. Yes, it was a giant party back in 2006, one that we may not be seeing again for a very long time.

Today as I sit in my office, with the grim prospect of no television tonight, I have to ponder if we are indeed back in a cycle or treading into the brave unknown world of further confusion. Politics in 2006 did not bring down Thailand's prop-

erty market, nor did it dissuade tourists in the long-term to visit the Kingdom.

Over the past decade and a half the game changers, as it were, with the exception of the Asian tsunami, were external events. Going from 9-11, SARS, to the global financial debacle, Thailand somehow has managed to stay on the sunny side of the street. Certainly over the past six

months, one has to wonder how long this can last, or what damage has been done.

Looking back at the property peak and the swift trip downhill, one of the most prolific killers of demand was the demise of the pound sterling. This cut deep with an abrupt change in exchange rates and once that came uncorked, Ireland came unglued and we all know what happened later. For Phuket, UK property buyers and investors – be they expats from Hong Kong, Singapore or the US – were critical to the sector's rise.

Today as I sit in my office, with the grim prospect of no television tonight, I have to ponder if we are indeed back in a cycle or treading into the brave unknown world of further confusion



'Top Gun' revitalizes memories of the past like the nostalgia induced by the latest coup. Photo: LCDR David Baranak

In the succeeding years, as Europe and the US imploded, Phuket came alive with domestic buyers, who became the flavor of the day. These days, with a virtual glut of inland shoebox condos, the ominous secondary market which crushed the foreign sector a few years before could stifle the industry once again.

Broad brush strokes and generalizations are not the best of

ideas when painting a precise portrait instead of a massive landscape. So where we sit today, gearing up for yet another World Cup, we start to wonder is this déjà vu, or just something bad we had for lunch. All things will pass, as did 2006 and as will 2014.

A week ago, my travels had me in Niseko, where seasonality and high development costs hamper property yields. But as one person said to me, people still

buy property here because they can. It's not about the returns, or the fine print, but the lifestyle and the dream. This still holds true today, as Phuket remains an object of desire for so many the world around, despite the good and the downright bad that often plagues life in paradise.

Bill Barnett is the Managing Director of C9Hotelworks and can be contacted through: c9hotelworks.com



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CBRE wins best real estate agency in Thailand award

THE Thai branch of CBRE, an American commercial real estate company, was the recipient of 11 national awards at the prestigious Asia Pacific Property Awards 2014 recently held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

At the award ceremony, CBRE was named as the Best Real Estate Agency in Thailand for the fifth consecutive year, Best Property Consultancy Website in Thailand (cbre.co.th) for the fourth consecutive year, Best Property Consultancy in Thailand for the second time and Best Property Consultancy also for the second year running.

CBRE New Zealand, which was named Best Property Consultancy in Asia-Pacific, will now compete against other regional winners from Europe, UK, Africa and the Americas to determine the world's best



Graphic: Wikirishiaacharya

property consultancy.

The global winner will be revealed at an award ceremony in Dubai at the end of this year. CBRE Thailand has previously won the global awards for Best International Property Consultancy Marketing in December 2013 for Park Ventures in Bangkok and earlier for Best International Commercial Real Estate Agency Website.

CBRE regional offices won Best Property Consultancy at the national

level in Australia, South Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and New Zealand, and Highly Commended awards for China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Philippines and Singapore.

"Winning the Best Real Estate Agency, Best Property Consultancy Website and Best Property Consultancy in Thailand is a testament to our continuous success and our dedicated Thai team, and it is very gratifying to receive international recognition of our expertise and experience," said David Simister, CBRE Thailand's chairman.

The Asia Pacific Property Awards are part of the well-established International Property Awards. Judging is carried out through a meticulous process involving a panel of more than 70 experts covering every aspect of the property industry. *– Phuket Gazette*



Lai Thai's retirement leases give the flexibility to stay several months a year in a 4-star hotel-style environment and rent it out when they are away to cover the cost of the lease.

By Mark Knowles

DEVELOPERS in Thailand are increasingly eyeing the lucrative expat retirement-living market, which is set to be a rapid-growth area as members of the aging population in Western countries seek out a tropical retirement lifestyle. The *Gazette* recently spoke with the Managing Director of Krabi Consultants Co Ltd Robert C Reynolds about new flexible leasing structures for units in the company's Lai Thai Luxury Condominiums, which seek to capture this growing market segment.

"I have been studying the market for retirees, or senior citizens for some time. Since there is such a broad definition of this market in terms of age – over 50, over 60 etc – we call it the 'silver market'," said Mr Reynolds.

"The demographics of the aging populations are compelling and quite well-known. With the lengthening of life expectancy, lower birth rates in recent years and the aging of the post World War Two baby boomers, the percentage of the population over the age of 60 is growing dramatically in many countries.

"Japan is the well-known example with nearly 50 per cent of its population over the age of 50, and 33 per cent over the age of 60. The Scandinavian countries are not far behind, with Sweden's over 60 group comprising 25 per cent of the population, in Denmark

it is 23 per cent. This 'graying' of the population is creating additional costs to society, but also creating new opportunities."

Mr Reynolds pointed to Thailand's ongoing popularity as a tourism destination for the "silver market", particularly those from Scandinavian countries, due to factors such as climate, lower living cost, friendly Thai hospitality and high-quality and low-cost healthcare.

"There is an opportunity to offer services to these groups in terms of second homes or retirement homes. While a growing percentage of retirees will permanently emigrate, many still like to have the flexibility to go to their home countries during the warm weather periods and return to Thailand during the cold season," he said.

Mr Reynolds said that a key factor in deciding to develop a property aimed directly at the retirement market was the many inquiries from retirees he received when his company was redeveloping the Lai Thai Resort, which opened in 1996.

"When we were redeveloping the Lai Thai Resort into the Lai Thai Luxury Condominiums we had several requests from retirees who did not want to pay the full price for a unit – but wanted to stay at least six months a year in a safe, convenient location that offers all the services of a 4-star hotel."

But until recently, noted Mr Reynolds, the major stumbling block in attracting the "silver market" was the lack of an international hospital in the Krabi area. That all changed when in February, the Krabi Nakharin International Hospital opened in Krabi, offering a high-quality of health care that had previously been lacking in the region.

"So now we have decided to offer retirement leases of five, 10, or 15 years at our Lai Thai Luxury Condominium development to those over the age of 50. With a

special marketing plan we developed with Krabi Nakharin Hospital, all those who take a condominium through the retirement lease program will also be entitled to a free health check-up and enrollment in the Silver VIP health plan at the hospital," said Mr Reynolds

Those who take part in the retirement lease program also receive additional benefits, such as having all condominium fees and taxes paid by Lai Thai. In addition, retirement lessees will have the option to rent out their condominium units through the hotel

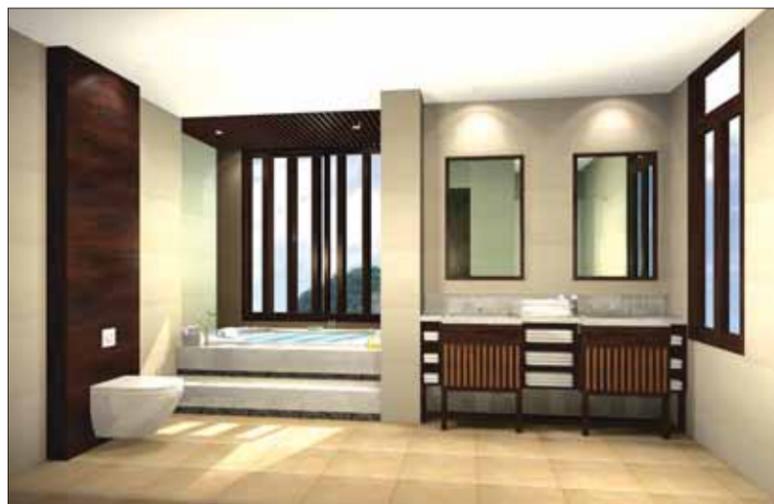
when it is vacant. With just a 30 per cent occupancy rate, the return is enough to pay for the cost of the lease for an entire year.

"So these retirement leases offer an affordable way to live in 4-star luxury, with all the benefits of 24-hour security, living walking distance to the beach and all the restaurants and shops, and flexibility to rent out your condo to provide income."

For more information: lraithai-resort.com or email info@lraithai-resort.com



Under the retirement lease program all condominium fees and taxes are paid by Lai Thai.



An affordable way to live in 4-star luxury. Photos: Supplied

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Make tourism a priority

AS THIS edition goes to press, the nationwide curfew imposed by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has already done considerable harm to Thailand's all-important tourism sector.

Indeed, no province stands to suffer more than Phuket if international confidence in Thailand as a safe tourism destination deteriorates any further. Hence, the *Gazette* fully supports calls by tourism industry leaders [pages 6-7] for flexibility on curfews and other restrictions in important tourist destinations such as Phuket, where the likelihood of violent protests appears to be very limited.

While the NCPO is reportedly already drafting a roadmap to bolster an economy stilted by years of political instability, here in Phuket we can only hope that the coup leaders place tourism as one of their top priorities. This will of course go hand-in-hand with restoring the country to some form of a functional democracy.

Though a coup may appear a setback, especially to those unfamiliar with modern Thai history, past events have shown that positive strides can be made under well-intentioned appointed governments such as the one headed by Anand Punyarachun in the 1990s.

The current coup leaders have already taken one popular step in terms of agricultural policy by authorizing payouts to rice farmers contracted under the controversial rice pledging scheme.

That said, the coup leaders should remember the lessons of Black May in 1992. There could be no better warning about the dangers of trying to parlay a "successful coup" into real administrative, political power. If it did not work then, it certainly will not work now in this new era of unprecedented political divisiveness powered, in large part, by social media. This is one information component previous coup leaders could never have imagined having to deal with. The NCPO is aware of its power, but has a long way to go in mastering its use.

It is sad and somewhat embarrassing that Thailand's tortuous journey to democracy seems to be written on an Etch A Sketch, with opposing forces each controlling one of the two knobs until the entire screen is filled, a complete mess has been created, and the only solution is a shake-up that just brings us back to where we started.

Nevertheless, given the importance of the local tourism industry, lack of danger in Phuket and power of social media, we should all get out the message that Phuket is still a safe destination. The potential for violence and danger remains, but for the most part it exists mainly, like just about everything else in this highly centralized nation, in Bangkok.



Just revenge from mother nature

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket battered by coastal erosion, May 25*

I don't think there is anything in the world more fitting than the businesses of Surin Beach being damaged by nature.

The business owners there have plotted and deceived for the privilege to "own" the sand, and this low season should be prepared to suffer the consequences.

We all know what is needed – and that is a return to the natural buffer zone that nature provides in the form of a beach. Stop building on it!

Chob
Gazette forum

PPAO should rethink lifeguard statistics

Re: *Gazette online, Lifeguards back on Phuket beaches, ask PPAO to plan ahead, May 27*

According to Kata-Karon lifeguard chief Uten Singsom, "When we stopped work, one man died". Something Mr Singsom forgot to mention is that under the previous contract, when they were fully staffed, about 10 people died.

Now THAT is something that needs to be considered by the PPAO when cutting staff.

Frenchman
Gazette forum

Take dangerous hills in rain at your peril

Re: *Gazette online, Tourist killed in motorbike accident on Big Buddha Hill, May 21*

This is exactly where I had a motorbike accident in 2009. I was wearing a helmet and my speed was less than 20mph at the time as I had just started the descent. I skidded in torrential rain and went over the edge. I sustained injuries, but I was extremely lucky.

A tragic outcome in this case.

Richard Austin
Facebook

Letters to the Editor

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

Kudos for kamnan

Re: *Gazette online, Kamnan Winai fighting for a clean Karon, May 25*

Keep up the good work, Winai, and may you always be protected while doing the thing you love.

Ling
Gazette forum

Hip hip hurray for electric company

Re: *Gazette online, Snake causes blackout near Phuket Town, May 26*

I live in Kuku and experienced the snake-caused blackout the other night. I was totally impressed with how fast the electric company responded to our call. They arrived in about five minutes. Yes, we were without power for an hour, but they really got on the job fast. Thanks guys!

Sis
Rassada

Officers? Where?

Re: *Gazette online, Video Report: Phuket officials angered by illegal fishing at King's Park, May 26*

I visit this park regularly to exercise and have never seen a park officer patrolling. I run a varied route for up to 2 hours.

The only time I see officers is on my way into and out of the park. They are usually sitting in groups close to the entrance. What is the fine for bringing your dog into the park? This is another rule that the officers seem to be unaware of, or unwilling to enforce!

Another Steve
Gazette forum

Better if we all knew

Re: *Gazette online, Life savers: Media connects victim's family with Aussie heroes, May 27*

Everyone should know how to perform CPR. A lot of Aussies do, thankfully. Well done!

Brian Willy Williams
Facebook

Hotel insecurities

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Police seek naughty Patong maid, May 23*

That's scary. Now, you have to treat your hotel room like a hostel room and use locks on suitcases.

Bobby Garcia
Facebook

Don't blame hospital

Re: *Gazette online, Hospital presents B100k compensation for childbirth deaths, May 23*

I noticed a lot of online comments blaming the hospital for not giving Mr Numporn more in compensation for the lives of his wife and son. But... is that the right way to think?

The investigation is ongoing; the hospital hasn't been found at fault yet. In my country, such a donation would never happen since it would be seen as an admission of guilt.

I prefer this approach, it seems more compassionate.

Rachel
Wichit

Good road news

It looks like a new road divider is going in on Chao Fa East in Chalong – and are those street lights also being put in?

It makes me happy to see any and every action taken to improve road safety in Phuket.

Michelle
Rawai

Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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Publisher: The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

Volume 21 Issue 22

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Turning others' bad reputation to profit

FIRST PERSON

THE bad reputation of taxi drivers in Phuket actually helped my taxi business become successful.

It all started for me about three years ago. I had been working as a driver for a tour company but decided to go out on my own because I wanted to get more experience and manage everything by myself.

I didn't use the internet very much at that time, but then I had a customer named Ian Bishop, a teacher from Australia, who taught me a lot about it. He liked my service, and when he went home, he posted a good review of me on TripAdvisor.

In the first year after that, I didn't see an increase in customers, but then more people posted comments about me, and in the second year my customers went up by about 70 per cent. Now I'm booked solid through to next year. I get about 10 emails a day asking for bookings. I work alone, and I'm so busy I have to turn away customers.

Maybe the main reason I get bookings is because people have heard bad things about taxi drivers in Phuket. They're scared and looking for someone they can trust who will give them good service and not cheat them.



Manop Pukpaya, 46, has been working as a Phuket taxi driver since 1997. He has a certificate in sales marketing from Dusit Commercial College Bangkok and for the past three years has run his own taxi service.

Here, he talks about how the bad reputation of taxi drivers in Phuket and a good online

review helped him expand his business, and discusses the attributes of a good taxi driver.

The customers I get from online research the island before they come. They tend to be knowledgeable about Phuket and want to learn more when they're here. They are usually calm and patient, and I like working with them.

When I hear stories about bad taxi drivers – the ones who break the rules, cheat their customers or sexually harass them – I feel so sad, because it gives us all a bad image. These guys need to be really strongly punished.

All of us who deal with tourists hold Phuket's reputation in our hands, especially if we're the ones the tourist meets first – the crew on their airplane, immigration officials, taxi drivers. We help them form their first impression of Thailand. We all need to try to give

them a good feeling when they arrive, so they'll be impressed with Thailand.

It's not hard to be a good taxi driver. You just need to take care of your customers well. You need to have a service mind, be responsible, honest, trustworthy, friendly and helpful.

Some taxi drivers who take customers on day trips take them to shops. I know they do it because they get a commission from the shop, and I think this behavior is selfish. What kind of experience is that for the visitors? They probably spent a long time planning their trip, and are really looking forward to a fun holiday. They're not going to be impressed if we take them to a shop. Phuket has so many great places to visit – beaches, attractions, lovely nature – these are the things that tourists are going to enjoy.

I love my job. It gives me so much, and allows me to help my family. I'm really grateful to Mr Bishop for praising me online and helping me establish a good reputation.

...the main reason I get bookings is because people have heard bad things about taxi drivers in Phuket. They're scared and looking for someone they can trust.



If I wanted to boogie down, I'd go to a nightclub. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

Beach club blues

Island View

By Sarah Connor

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

I'VE heard it many times from long term Phuket expats – over the years the island has changed for the worse. But it doesn't take decades to notice the decline. For me it took just one year.

Take what used to be my favorite Phuket beach – Layan. A half moon of sand on the border of a national park, edged by pine trees providing protection from the scorching sun, with just a couple of local coffee and ice cream vendors, stunning sunsets and silence broken only by the crashing sound of waves, cicadas and laughter of children. Then the construction work began.

It took a good couple of months of drilling, digging, jackhammering and bulldozing to erect the beach club, an ugly block of concrete on the very edge of the beach and the National Park. I watched it grow in terror during my weekend visits to Layan, not realizing that the noise generated by the building crew was just the beginning.

Last weekend I was back after a long break and noticed that something was different...and wrong. The drills and hammers were gone, the sounds of nature that used to be Layan's only soundtrack were still there but in the background I could hear a deep bass line capable of making my internal organs shiver. At 5pm on Sunday, Layan wasn't a beach

anymore, it was a discotheque.

Trying to escape the noise, I moved further north, away from my favorite shady spot in the pine tree forest. To no avail; even a few hundred meters away, the noise of the club could still be heard, the bass still reverberating in my gut.

And not that it's the club's fault, but the beach around me was filthy. Empty bottles, Styrofoam containers, plastic bags...the moment I saw my one-and-a-half year old daughter taking these for toys, I had enough. I got up and went back home, feeling I won't return to Layan for a long time.

Are there any quiet, family-friendly beaches left in Phuket? If there are, don't mention it – some greedy investor might overhear you and come up with an idea of building yet another beach club where overdressed people sip overpriced drinks separated from what used to be "the pearl of the Andaman sea" by a wall of bass lines and dance beats. While they are having all the fun in the world they should know that their mojitos and margaritas come at a price much higher than the one on the drink menu.

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

Not all work permits equal in the AEC

I am not a Singaporean citizen, but I have a work permit to work in Singapore. When the Asean Economic Community (AEC) comes into effect in 2015, will I be able to use that work permit to work in Thailand? Or do I have to be a Singapore citizen?

Just wondering Singapore

Yaowapa Pibulpol, Chief of Phuket Provincial Employment Office, replies:

Right now, a person who has a work permit in a particular country can only work in that country. They can't transfer the permit to another country.

The Ministry of Labor has not yet issued full details explaining how work permits will work once the AEC begins.

Somchai Morakotsriwan, officer in the Legal Division of the Department of Employment, replies:

One purpose of the AEC is to make it more convenient for citizens of member countries to work in other member countries, and for employees to hire them.

However, when the AEC begins, the Alien Working Act BE 2551 will still be in effect, which means that every non-Thai will need a Thai work permit in order to work in Thailand.

Send us your queries and we'll ask the right people to respond to them.
Submit your issue at
www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Moo not moot at Immigration

This morning I went to the Immigration Office to get a proof of residence certificate and an officer turned me away, saying the address in my rental contract wasn't complete because it didn't include my moo. I have gotten residence certificates before and the officers never asked me to supply my moo.

In any case, I knew my moo and told him, but the officer insisted I had to change my rental contract and formally correct the address. My real estate agent is shocked, he has never experienced this either.

Is this a new rule, old rule or just a strange officer?

Befuddled Saphan Hin

Lt Col Napat Nusen, Phuket Immigration Officer, replies:

It is not a new rule that the address has to be filled in completely. I am not sure why you weren't required to fill in the moo before. Our rules state that the address must be 100 per cent complete.

Anyone coming for a proof of residence document should make sure that the address they submit is exactly the same as the address on the house registration document known as *tabian baan*. This is the official, complete legal address.

By law, anyone who rents property to a foreigner or even has a foreigner living in

their property rent-free must report to us. Once we receive the report, we'll have the information in our database, and when the foreigner comes to request an address certificate, we can easily confirm the information and print the proof of residence certificate.



The official address is the one on your tabian baan; don't forget the moo. Photo: Gazette file

YOUR Phuket

New Honda Jazz unveiled

Anuphas Vividhkam Co Ltd, the exclusive dealer for Honda in Phuket and Phang Nga, recently unveiled the latest Honda Jazz at their showroom in Phuket Town. Lucky customers got a chance to test drive the all new hatchback, which boasts more space than a sedan.



Natchaya Suebsak, PR and marketing manager for Anuphas Vividhkam Co Ltd, welcomed guests.



Montavee Hongsyok, assistant managing director of development at Anuphas Group.



A lucky customer (right) received a gift from Anuphas group.

Thanyapura welcomes Thai Airways



Thanyapura recently welcomed Thai Airways International representatives for a site inspection. From left: Debbie Dionysius, director of marketing for Thanyapura; Teerapol Chotichanapibal, executive vice president at the commercial department of Thai Airways International Plc; Chris McCormack, executive chairman; and ML Kalyakorn Kasemsri, managing director of World Travel Joy.

Beatles Tribute Night at Two Chefs

Two Chefs Kata recently hosted a Beatles Tribute Night where guests enjoyed some of the Fab Four's hits as performed by the Two Chefs House Band. As if the music wasn't enough, they also dined on a buffet feast featuring smoked salmon, pulled pork burgers, roast beef, stuffed port tenderloin, yorkshire pudding, grilled rib eye steaks and much more.



Billy Agren and Krister Westberg enjoying some Beatles hits on the night.



A Two Chefs House Band member gets into the swinging sixties vibe.



Raveewit Paladsri (center), sales manager for catering and events by Two Chefs, and team.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

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

May 31 - June 6, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week



Baan Yamu Residences

See page 21

JOB of the week

CLBS | Chiang Mai Lanna Business Services Ltd.

See page 25

EDUCATION of the week



Oak Meadow International School

See page 27

BOAT of the week

LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

SINCE 1997



REDUCED

See page 29

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

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

Properties For Sale

LUXURY APARTMENT KATA BEACH SPECIAL SALE!

1 bedroom, 60sqm, includes furniture, in the center of Kata, sea level, close to shops, in a charming property with pool, sauna, parking etc. Market price (4.1 million baht). Now 2.6 million baht. Please call 081-788 8280 or email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

2-STOREY RESIDENCE

Well situated 2-floor townhouse with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large lounge, kitchen and carport on 104sqm land. Well maintained and ready for immediate occupancy in a safe residential estate. Priced to sell at 2.95 million baht. Tel: 081-970 3526 (English), 081-676 2629 (English & Thai). Email: petersoffshore@hotmail.com

LAND PLOTS 3.1 MILLION BAHT



2 plots, each 1,100sqm in a development with underground electricity and security for sale. Conveniently located, only 10 mins from airport, PIA International School, Nai Yang Beach, Ao Po Marina and shopping center. Ready to build, 3.1 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777.

KARON SEAVIEW LAND

300m to beach, yellow zone, for 7-storey condo, 25 million baht. Tel: 081-415 4555 (English). Email: mail1950@free.net.de

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

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

LAND FOR SALE LOCH PALM

6+ rai overlooking Loch Palm golf course with stunning mountain views for sale. For more information, please call 089-839 8255. Email: info@lantaestate.net

ONE SALE - 3 LUXURY APTS. KATA BEACH

1) 2 really big bedrooms, big kitchen and living room, 135sqm.
2) 1 bedroom, 60 sqm.
3) 1 bedroom, 58sqm.
Total of 253sqm in the center of Kata, sea level, close to shops, in a charming property with pool, sauna, parking etc. Total market price (18.4 million baht). Now 13.4 million baht. Please call 081-788 8280 or email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

3-BED DUPLEX HOUSE 2.39MB

Great value, 3-bed duplex house near Laguna. Open plan kitchen, living and dining room. Tel: 087-193 7825 (English & Thai). Email: jasmeeek666@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO

Attractively furnished, fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom23781@msn.com

LAND FOR SALE



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

TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN FOR SALE / RENT



In Supalai City Hill estate. Very quiet, safe, convenient. 3 years old, 2 storeys, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, decorated, shady garden, well-maintained by original owner. For sale: 2.8 million baht ono. Please call 089-874 00 61. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

3-BEDROOM FAMILY HOUSE

In mature development with large swimming pool. Secure location in quiet Soi, with CCTV & electric gate. Large patios on ground & first floor, large tile-covered areas outside, shade awning. All services, full Chanote title. Tel: 081-956 0226 (English). Email: cantaneze@hotmail.com

PANORAMIC SEA VIEW HIGH END

Brand-new, luxurious, high-end private pool villa with spectacular views. Prices start from 19 million baht. Over 500sqm internal living space. Only two left. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

500,000 BAHT KAMALA LEASEHOLD

Hotel room, 30sqm, complex has 2 pools and jacuzzi. Tel: 084-716 0502.

AO PO SEAVIEW LAND

1.5 rai. Constructed access road. Chanote. 300m from Grand Marina. 10 million baht. Please call 082-277 5971.

OCEANFRONT LAND 175+ RAI

Large 175+ rai plot of land with 1,351 meters of direct ocean frontage along the Andaman Sea. Private white sand beach of 170 meters, full majestic views across Phang Nga Bay. Suitable for exclusive residential project; marina with residence and/or office; resort and residence. 8 million baht per rai. Tel: 076-620124, 082-273 7880 (English). Email: Jay@realphuket.net

OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Eighth (top) floor, ocean view, 30sqm, fully furnished, 5-minute walk to beach, 2-minute drive to airport. Cash sale at 2.79 million baht. Please call 090-160 0603. Email: No1phuket@gmail.com

GRAND BOAT PLAZA



Single house, 3 bedrooms, 51sq wah, for sale in Samkong. Near BIS and Central Festival. Price: 5 million baht. Tel: 086-908 2819.

ZCAPE 1-BEDROOM CONDO LAGUNA

Brand-new, semi-furnished, two 1-bedroom condos (27.7 sqm & 29.41sqm), adjacent units on 6th floor in Zcape development, ready now. Near Laguna, Boat Avenue and beaches. Thai or foreign ownership ok. Both priced at under 2 million baht. For more information, please call 085-235 1532 (English & Thai). Email: thanasak.nk@gmail.com

UNDER MARKET PRICE

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, Land & Houses Park, Chalung. For photo please email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE



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

RAWAI 4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

715sqm house and 1 bungalow. 4 bedrooms, 330sqm, fully furnished, 12m salt water pool. 12.9 million baht. Tel: 080-885 0442 (English), 080-912 8853 (Thai). Email: gerard.saintaubin@gmail.com

LUXURY VILLA

Just 3 minutes from BIS, 900sqm land, 350sqm building, 3 bedrooms + maid room, 4 bathrooms, studio, 14x4m swimming pool, fish ponds. 15 million baht. Contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.

LAND NEXT TO LOCH PALM

Land on main road next to Loch Palm golf course. Ready to build, Chanote, perfect for commercial or residential development. Tel: 081-956 3166. Email: voute.a@gmail.com

LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

Location: Phanom District, Surat Thani, near Khao Sok National Park.
- Land: 120 rai + rubber plantation, 8 years old. 6 million baht.



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

LAND IN SOI SALIGA RAWAI

850sqm land for sale in this popular upmarket Soi. Close to international primary school. Full Chanote and house registration, electricity and water supply. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-833 7836. Email: silomdon@gmail.com

MAI KHAO LAND FOR SALE

7 rai, 17 million baht. For more information, please call 081-892 7082.

Baan Yamu Residences

Condominium available for sale

PHUKET'S EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL HIDEAWAY

- Award-winning design
- Luxurious lifestyle facilities
- Secure residential and investment opportunity

Please contact: 091-034 9909 or 089-729 8126
E-mail: info@baanyamu.com
Tel: 076-310507

PRIVATE POOL VILLA BANG TAO

Private 1-bedroom pool villa for sale in top condition with a large roof top sala. Only 800m to the Beach. Price: 9.5 million baht. Please call 081-606 5604 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuketserenityvillas.com, www.phuketserenityvillas.com/salede tails.php?nom=RB001

POOL VILLA NAI HARN 6.4 MB

Amazing value for money! 2-bedroom pool villa with garden in secured estate, Nai Harn. 6.4 million baht. Must see. No agents. Tel: 093-579 8503 (English).

SEAVIEW CONDO RAWAI



6.5 million baht, freehold, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 090-408 3800. Email: adrian_troy@yahoo.com

UK HOUSE PROPERTY SWAP

Permanent exchange offered of very spacious extended detached 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, garage, 3 reception rooms, etc. mortgage free, situated in UK, to swap for suitable property in good secure location in Phuket. Will also consider apartments. Please call 080-046 2845. Email: Lynne.Morze langan@yahoo.co.uk

LUXURY POOL VILLA



Within unique development. 8.7 million baht. For more information, please call 081-077 17 65. Email: phuketformations@gmail.com

Properties For Rent

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT



Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons. Tel: 087-266 71 91.

HOUSE & POOL 14,000 BAHT / MONTH

Furnished, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, swimming pool. Long term only. For more information, please call 089-475 1200. Email: info@wel come-inn.com, <http://wel comeinn-phuket.com>

URGENT: KARON HOUSE RENTAL



3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Yearly rate: 25,000 baht per month. Please call 081-878 2199, 081-396 0880. Email: sumonmarn@phuketreallife.com

BIG LUXURY 5-BEDROOM HOUSE

Rawai, seaview, located in front of Rawai Beach. Rent: 120,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-620 8420.

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDOS

2 bedrooms, also 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge. The Point near Central Festival, many facilities. Tel: 081-892 0038.

BEACH HOUSES CHALONG

Fully furnished, 3-bedroom houses, from 12,000 baht per month, pool, cable TV, WiFi. Tel: 089-470 6104. www.houserentalsphuket.com

FOR RENT RAWAI/NAI HARN



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

1-BEDROOM CONDOMINIUM



Fully furnished, close to Rawai Beach. Yearly rate: 29,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-979 0090. Email: reallife property@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT NEAR BIS

Architect-designed house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big land and garden. Furnished, aircon, kitchen. Long term at 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-803 1560 (English & Thai). Email: noipatnoi@gmail.com

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment, studio. 1/2 bedroom(s), 1/2 bathroom(s), rooftop, pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

NAI HARN HOUSE 2KM BEACH

2-bedroom house for rent with aircon. Quiet Soi, walk to the beach. American owned. For more information, please call +1 048 0286 3866 (English), +1 062 3217 8117 (English & Thai). Email: kkareth@gmail.com

WALK TO KATA BEACH

Custom 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom house, just 500m to the beach, furnished. 25,000 baht per month; 20,000 baht for long term. Tel: 081-472 1010 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

KATA HILL SINGLE HOUSE

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 3BB, cable TV. For rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

7,000 BAHT PER MONTH

1-bedroom house, furnished, WiFi + cable TV, quiet area. For more information, please call 081-892 4311, <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

PATONG TOWER BEAUTIFUL CONDO



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

PATONG NICE APARTMENT

Mid-Patong, very nice large furnished 1 bedroom, kitchen, light and airy apartment. Tel: 086-276 7608.

RAWAI 1 BEDROOM

Luxury designed condo, close to shops and sea. 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-620 8420.

1-BED BUNGALOW

Quiet location, Rawai, aircon, WiFi, kitchen, fully furnished. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: brico thailand@hotmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

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



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 FI at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). Pls contact 086-4769612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH CONDO

One bedroom, great views, 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-057 7714.

B.L. APARTMENT

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

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

LUXURY APARTMENT @ PATONG

Fully furnished, daily and monthly. For more information, please call 081-892 5983 (English & Thai), 081-894 4730 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com, www.nanaivilla.com

NEW CONDO FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent at Kathu, fully furnished, swimming pool, fitness, quiet and secure. For more information, please call 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com Web: www.phuket-condo.net

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

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



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

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

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

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

THAI STAFFS WANTED

To work in a hotel: 1) Front Reception, full time. 2) Cook, part time only. 3) Groundkeeper, daily cleaning of pool, garden and walkways. Tel: 076-345251, 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

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

SALES MANAGER

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Well established property agency is looking for an Office Assistant. Very good computer knowledge and Microsoft Office is a must. Very good knowledge of English in writing and speaking is essential! Basic accounting knowledge and good communication skills are required. Must be able to work independently and start work almost immediately. Thai national only. Please reply with CV and recent photo. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.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, info@theviewphuket.com

FEMALE STAFF FOR TAO MASSAGE

Tao massage therapy center, previous experience in massage preferred or training for happy caring people. Tel: 094-6522029. Contact Dave. Email: kay.dave47@gmail.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

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@inet.net.au

EARN 30,000-120,000 BAHT/MONTH

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

RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED

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

IT PROFESSIONAL WANTED

Must be familiar with N / W, Windows, Mac OS, Google Glass, Oculus Rift VR, and passionate about new inventions. Tel: 083-779 1139. Email: dylanishappy@gmail.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

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

RUSSIAN SALES REP. WANTED

Russian lady sales needed for real estate. Highest commission in Phuket. Located on Patong Beach, Phuket. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bay shoreprojects.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@ancasnet.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

HANDYMEN

Needed for house and boat work. Location is Boat Lagoon, Phuket. Please contact me with a brief description of your skills and your phone number. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

NEED A MAID

Family is looking for maid in Bang Tao. Salary: 20,000 baht. Tel: 089-729 9009.

FINANCE MANAGER

ISS Facility Services require a qualified accountant to manage finances of four Southern Thai branches. Preferred applicants are Thai, have a minimum of 3 years experience in accounting / financial reporting, and have a very good understanding of Excel and accounting software principles. Occasional domestic travel will be required for training and auditing. Tel: 081-958 6879. Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

GUEST SERVICES

At Escape Hunt Phuket, Kathu, 5 days per week. Tel: 082-789 9620. Apply and inquire to phuket@escapehunt.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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITORS

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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

PHP PROGRAMMER

Seeking a PHP programmer with experience in Code Igniter for a long-term project. Tel: 094-316 6005 (English & Thai). Email: john@jpdigitalech.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 are free of charge provided by the resort. Tel: 081-273 8324 (Thai). Please send an email to khao.sok.hotels@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.khao.sok-hotels.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:**CHALONG**

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

PATONG

- NEW Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoey Seafood) Tel: 076-341644
- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

- ▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-388144

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:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

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

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

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.

PROPERTY SALES MANAGER

We are now looking for an experienced Sales Manager to operate our office in our condominium development. You will handle all agencies on the island and make sure our project reaches its goals and targets in selling our available units. Multilingual is a plus and experience in the Phuket property market is a must. Terms and conditions will be negotiated. Please contact us via info@phuket-condos-homes.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai office assistant with English and computer skills, based in Rawai. Must be organised and have good communication skills. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to dew@siamrealestate.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

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

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

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

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

BANDS NEEDED

Slippery Club needs bands that can play danceable songs. Details negotiable. Tel: 089-873 1867 (English & Thai). Email: minami007.jn@gmail.com

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

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!

Business Opportunities

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

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

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

BAR & RESTAURANT

Bar, commercial kitchen and restaurant. 2 storeys, 3 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 decks, includes furniture. In good location. For sale: 580,000 baht. Rent only 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-348 51 37 (Thai), 081-086 3812 (English). Email: matthew.wilson@xtra.co.nz

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.

PROPERTY SALES MANAGER

We are now looking for an experienced Sales Manager to operate our office in our condominium development. You will handle all agencies on the island and make sure our project reaches its goals and targets in selling our available units. Multilingual is a plus and experience in the Phuket property market is a must. Terms and conditions will be negotiated. Please contact us via info@phuket-condos-homes.com

SUPER LOW COST FRANCHISE

Best business for your Thai partner. Rapidly expanding franchise operating in 40 countries. Proven system. Fast return. Email: david.m@faramond.com

10MB MORTGAGE WANTED

Will pay 6% interest annually, interest only quarterly in advance, 50% of property value. Email: gordon_asia@hotmail.com

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE / RENT

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

5 LUXURY APTS. PATONG



Twice the size, yet half the price. 100sqm each plus terrace. Fully furnished, pool, great location. Would consider villa swap to Nai Harn area. 11.9 million baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.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.

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

BAR & RESTAURANT BANG TAO BEACH

At Bang Tao Beach. Please call 076-621539 or email bp_oc@ymail.com For tender requirement, please see our website at www.barrestaurant.simplesite.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: wojidkowbengt@hotmail.com

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

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

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE / RENT

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

PATONG MASSAGE 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. 19 million baht. Tel: 082-048 2568 (English).

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

Land and building business for sale. 4 storeys with 6-room guesthouse + restaurant with a large steady clients. Patong, just 60m from the Beach. 16 million baht. For more information, please contact Alex. Tel: 089-651 3250.

BAR FOR SALE PATONG

US\$50,000. Rent: US\$4,000/month negotiable, 4 floors, 360sqm, include furnished apartment. For more information, please call 087-881 7600.

NEW BOUTIQUE HOTEL PATONG

Modern boutique hotel, 16 rooms in middle of Patong. Pool, fitness restaurant, chanote. 35 million baht. For more information, please contact by email: patongboutiquehotelsale@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): **140 baht/line**

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

Options	Price	Tick here:
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 Diao@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

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

Business Products & Services



Accepting children 3 months old - 5 years old. 7am-7pm.

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

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

DINODAYCARECENTER

40FT SEA CONTAINER
For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com

MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE
Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Open daily 9am-10pm. Tel: 092-464 84 71.

VISA SERVICES
UAE and Singapore for 3 days. Please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru

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.

Club Memberships Available

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP
For sale: 500,000 baht. Tel: 098-039 9127 (English). Email: normanlynch@mac.com

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP
Blue Canyon family golf membership for sale. Price: 850,000 baht, including all transfer cost. Contact Leonor. Tel: 084-837 7249 (English). Email: gietzelt@gmail.com

Lost & Found

STOLEN HUBLOT WATCH REWARD
During a house burglary in the Surin Beach area around April 22, a Hublot bracelet watch in pink gold was stolen. Reward of 100,000 baht will be paid to anyone who can advise on the watch's return. Tel: 083-280 9100 (English), 087-290 1019 (Thai). Email: johanhultner@hotmail.com

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

LEGAL SERVICES
Contract drafting, counseling, civil & criminal action, court interpreter. For more information, please call 089-873 6533. Fax: 076-273399. Email: info@suwatchana-law-office.com

Personal Services Wanted

NANNY WANTED



I am looking for a full time Thai nanny for Angela - 3 years old. Must love kids. Flexibility important as it can be 15 hours one week and 40 hours another week. Full monthly salary, regardless of the hours spent. Must have a driver's license and speak English. Angela is in school from 8am-3pm. Working hours: after 3pm on week days and weekend work can appear. Please respond by email: torben@buskjensen.dk

Education



Oak Meadow International School
From 1 - 16 Years Old
Providing quality, affordable primary education
076 521 550
www.oakmeadowphuket.com

CALVERT EDUCATION

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

JOIN RAWAI BACKGAMMON CLUB
For free. Tel: 081-370 9661.

BACKGAMMON
Players wanted. Tel: 081-577 8443. Email: phuketconnection@yahoo.com



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

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

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

Catch the show at these times

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

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

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

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

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

More Info? Please call 076-273555. Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net or Diao@phuketgazette.net
On line: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

Saloon Cars

HONDA CITY

Top of the range, leather seats. 1st registered: November 2009. Only 69,000 km. 390,000 baht. Excellent condition. Tel: 076-275057, 086-889 0314. Email: kevin_hellon@hotmail.com

PEUGEOT 205

Wonderful car, 1994, fine engine, no accidents, aircon, electrical windows, 5-door, 99,000 baht. Tel: 089-741 8531 (English).

NISSAN TEANA FOR SALE



1.35 million baht, finance available, 11 months old, 2.5L, full options. Please call 087-893 8747.

PROTON NEO AUTO



1.6L, 2-door, sport black, gray leather, new 17-inch alloy, 67,000km. 1 lady owner, drives well, Price: 285,000 baht. For more information, please call 093-683 3805.

2007 TOYOTA YARIS "E"

53,000km, automatic, dual airbags, ABS, second foreign owner. Fully serviced with first-class insurance until December 2014. No accidents record. 390,000 baht. Available end of June or negotiable. Tel: 080-886 32 66 (English). Email: 8verse@gmail.com

MITUBISHI PAJERO SPORT 2010

GT 3.2 diesel, 4WD, 70,000 km, 750,000 baht. Tel: 084-841 3511 (English). Email: marcsmorin@me.com

CAMRY 2.0G

82,000km. Black. New paint. First-class insurance. 675,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 4480.

METALLIC SILVER TOYOTA FORTUNER



For sale: 750,000 baht, 3.0L diesel, 102,500km, 2007, excellent condition, no accidents. Tel: 093-580 6778.

Pick-ups

ISUZU D-MAX PRESTIGE Z



Year 2012, 60,000km. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 088-753 7491 (English). Email: rus.zapestate@mail.ru

ISUZU D-MAX SUPER TITANIUM



2011. Full options, 4-door, very good condition, 3L, iTec VGS turbo, hydraulic truck bed cover, 22-inch rims / tyres, front and rear cameras, GPS, SAT navigator. Asking price: 700,000 baht. Tel: 090-972 2015.

2011 TOYOTA CHAMP



37,000km. Toyota Hilux Vigo Champ, 2.5L diesel, manual trans, space cab, CD/DVD/USB players. For sale: 410,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 081-827 5574.

Others

NEW EXCAVATOR



Kubota UIS-3, runs only 48hr with standard 40cm bucket and rubber belt. Extras: 20cm bucket and steel belt. Tel: 089-588 4550.

Motorbikes

HONDA FORZA



As new, 11,000km. For sale: 125,000 baht. Personal use, never rented. Please call 084-054 81 22.

2009 KAWASAKI KSR

Modified engine, suspension, and exhaust. Good condition. Fast, reliable bike. 42,000 baht ono. For more information, please call 086-280 4848 (English & Thai). Email: webreply2013@gmail.com

HONDA ST 1300 CC PERFECT

The ultimate sport tourer, fast and luxurious, as new, great price. Tel: 086-950 7788 (English). Email: simon@kingsimon.com Web: http://tinyurl.com/HONDA-ST-1300-FOR-SALE

Rentals

CAR RENTAL ALL MODELS

AUT or MT, first-class insurance, delivery service. Tel: 087-281 1211. Email: ronny2507@hotmail.com

15 MOTORBIKES FROM 11,000 BAHT

3-7 years old. Prices from 11,000 to 15,000 baht. Serviced and with Green books. Near Phuket Fantasea. Tel: 088-885 0525. Email: pierre@husiphuket.se

CARS FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent with first-class insurance. Delivery service. Please call 086-690 0626 or send email to bcarrent@hotmail.com

A1 CAR RENT



Accommodation service included, fully insured. Tel: 089-831 4703. Email: a1carrent@gmail.com

MOTORBIKES FOR RENT

Click 125i: 3,500 baht per month, CBR 250R: 8,500 baht per month, PCX: 5,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 15 58. Email: keng.na.ra.nong@hotmail.com

LUXURY CAR

PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet

Year 2000 with hardtop, metallic silver, AAS serviced, 36,000km, very nice.
Price: 4.59 million baht.

Contact Khun Lerd
Tel: 087-263 6706
(Proton Showroom)

Wheels & Motors

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Live in Karon?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Euro style tailors

Karon Beach

Phuket Orchid Resort & Spa

Luangphochuain Rd

Euro Style Tailors

Phuket Island View

Patok East Rd

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!

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

LEE MARINE

International Marine Brokerage

SINCE 1997

Please visit our website for more used power & sail listings:
www.leemarine.com

Feature Boat

<p>▶ AIDhaen 360SF \$78,000 USD</p> <p>REDUCED AND MUST SELL</p> 	<p>▶ Riviera Offshore Express \$499,000 AUD</p> <p>PRICE REDUCTION</p> 
<p>▶ Sunseeker Manhattan 63 880,000 GBP</p> 	<p>▶ Sealine T51 \$250,000 USD</p> 
<p>▶ Riviera 37 \$225,000 AUD</p> <p>REDUCED</p> 	<p>▶ Island Packet 40 120,000 Euro</p> 
<p>▶ Jeanneau 45 SO Performance \$230,000 USD</p> 	<p>▶ Northwind 60 249,000 Euro</p> <p>PRICE REDUCTION</p> 
<p>▶ Fusion 40 340,000 Euro</p> 	

Martin Holmes Mobile: 081 891 7057 Email: martin@leemarine.com
 Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com
 Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com
 Mark Heath Mobile: 081 787 9408 Email: mark@leemarine.com

leemarine.com

DIVING - SNORKELLING BOAT
Fully operational 45-person scuba diving boat. Just finished a 400,000 baht full boat refit. Twin engines. Reduced price 2,900,000 baht ono. Tel: 076-293052, 090-030 8965 (English), 086-942 6883 (Thai). Fax: 076-293033. Email: charlesbird@me.com

50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER
1989 Bertram 505 convertible. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 087-834 5293. Email: sfiori@hotmail.com

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

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: hanspaessler@me.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

SELLING YOUR BOAT?
Just around the corner, now is the right time to get her listed, Boatshed phuket. com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for quality boats. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

FAST FOLDING TRIMARAN
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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. PASSAGE: pass-age 9. CONDITION: condition 13. PILAU: pupilauthentic 14. RABID: *bardi* 15. CRINKLE: C-rink-le 16. NOTHING: *nothing* 17. SAINT: *isnta* 18. TRUST: t-rust 20. DYING: *dignity* 22. TRADER: *retard* 23. REEFER: re-E-fer 25. SECTION: *citesno* 27. RASSADA: R-ass-Ada 30. TRIALS: T-rials 31. STALER: S-*later* 32. RIDER: *iderr* 35. RENTS: *stern* 36. TONIC: to-N.I.-C 37. ANTENNA: ant-Anne(rev) 39. SENTOFF: S-*often*-F 41. FLAME: *female* 42. REVEL: reveal 43. STAINLESS: *listensas* 44. CADENCE: C-*dance*-E **Down:** 1. BALLOT: ball-to[rev] 2. ASSURING: *ass-uring* 3. AGGREGATION: *againreggot* 4. CONSIDER: *corndies* 5. EDUCATE: *cuedate* 6. STRICTNESS: stern-head 7. LOOK: look 10. OPENED: Op.-en-Ed. 11. ABYSMAL: *saylamb* 12. LETTER: letter 19. UNFADED: *fun*-A.D.-Ed. 21. IBERIAN: *ibearin* 24. CARRIAGEWAY: *icarryawage* 26. TELESCOPIC: *select*-Op.-I.-C 28. STANDFAST: stan-*fad*-s-T 29. GLACIAL: *agallic* 30. THRUST: th-R-us-T 32. RETURNED: R-*tender*(U) 33. REALLY: (L)*relay* 34. STIFFLY: S-*fifty*(L) 38. NOVICE: no-vice 40. NOTE: not-E

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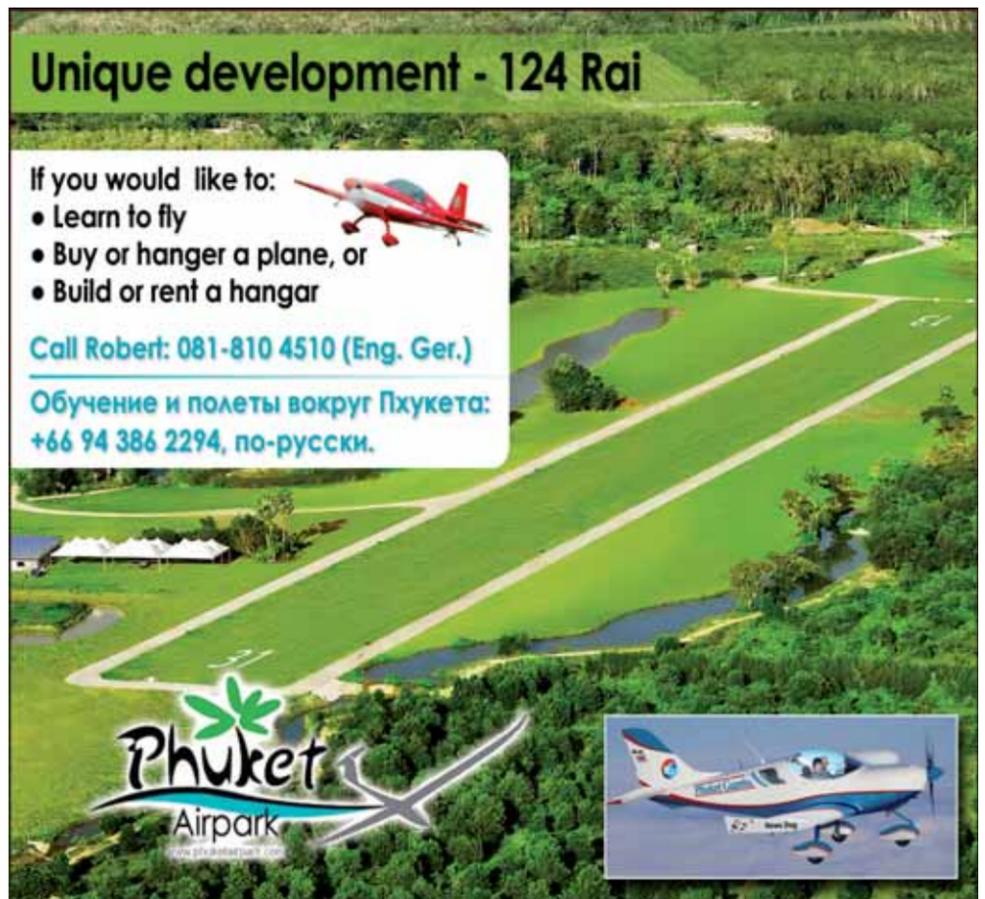
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Rawai-Nai Harn Football Championships

The first ever Rawai-Nai Harn Football Championships were held on May 16 at Chaofa Republic Stadium between U Sunsuri Phuket, represented by Richard Mehr, and Serenity Resort & Residences Phuket, represented by Urs Aebi. The final score was 7-4, with U Sunsuri Phuket taking home the trophy.



Urs Aebi (left) and Richard Mehr and both played to win for their respective teams.



Some glamorous cheerleaders encouraged the players on the field with spirited chants.

Latin Night at Friendship Beach

A groovin' Latin Night at was held at Friendship Beach on May 22, and was hosted by Friendship Beach Resort and Atmanjai Wellness Spa.



Pathum Krapheenk and Oraphin Phrasri hit the dancefloor.

Mario Angelai also got into the Latin vibe.



PGTV's Kristi Matzenburger (third from right) was on hand to film all the action on the dancefloor.

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The need for expert advice



Finance

By Don Freeman

I RECENTLY wrote about the importance of women expats having a sound understanding of their financial status, and putting in place the correct procedures to protect themselves financially, should they divorce or outlive their husband. This article continues that theme and looks at what type of expert advice expat women should seek to ensure their financial security while living abroad.

Even if you believe your current financial situation is easy for you and/or your spouse to manage on your own, and you as a couple are used to handling all financial matters by yourselves, becoming an expat will immediately complicate your financial situation and overall life considerably. Moreover, both husband and wife could easily be overwhelmed with all of the other details that come with relocating abroad such as: finding a place to live, enrolling any children into school, making new friends and learning to live in a new culture.

At the very least, you should either consult with on a regular basis, or be ready to consult with the following experts:

• **Tax Accountant** – Unless you are both retired and plan to keep most of your financial assets in your home country, you will need to find a tax accountant who understands expat tax issues – especially if you are American and have worldwide tax and financial reporting obligations about overseas financial assets. A tax accountant who understands expat tax issues will cost more than a typical tax accountant, but he or she can end up saving them significant amounts of money by ensuring you are in full compliance with all applicable tax laws and asset reporting rules.

• **Attorney** – While sites like legalzoom.com and various legal software programs are very useful for helping you come up with some basic estate planning docu-

ments like wills and power of attorneys, it's always a good idea to have an attorney look over such documents. It's also advisable to have an attorney in the country where you will be residing (and ideally one who is familiar with the expat's home country's laws) to also take a look at all of your estate planning documents to make sure they are not in conflict with that country's laws.

• **Insurance Expert** – Insurance is all about protection from risk and unforeseen accidents, but many expats fail to have the right amount, or the right kind, of insurance. Specific types of insurance needed to be carried by expat couples would include: expat health insurance that covers medical evacuation to their home country; life insurance on anyone whose income they are dependent on, as expats are usually ineligible for unemployment compensation from their home countries; disability insurance, as most Western countries do not allow expats to collect or even file for disability compensation while living abroad; long-term care insurance if you are near retirement; and some sort of umbrella liability insurance to cover homes, cars and any other property in the event of an accident, disaster or theft. With all of that in mind, an insurance expert should take a look at current coverages and see where there might be gaps or the need to purchase additional coverage.

• **Financial Adviser** – Having expert investing and financial planning advice will be critical for a comfortable retirement, with the best financial advisers being those who work under the fiduciary standard rather than the suitability standard. Under the fiduciary standard, financial advisers are required to put their own interests below those of any clients and are required to provide infor-

You would only need to consult with an attorney and an insurance expert once every few years. However, it's a good idea to consult with a tax accountant near the end of every financial year.



Expats women, should seek expert advice to help manage their finances effectively. Photo: 2bgr8

mation that is as accurate or complete as possible while avoiding conflicts of interest.

This means no commissions paid by investment firms for selling or pushing their financial products. Instead, such financial advisers earn income by charging a small annual fee that is the percentage of the amount of assets under management – meaning there is an incentive to grow your investment account while avoiding both risky investments and excessive trading that generate commissions.

Finally, expats should be sure to find a financial adviser who is licensed by proper regulatory authorities, both locally and abroad such as the US Securities and Exchange Commission, as the world of financial advice for expats is often like the Wild West filled with scams and dubious investment products or salesmen masquerading as experts.

How often should expats con-

sult with all of these experts? Generally speaking, and unless your lives or financial situation are overly complicated (such as owning a business in a foreign country), and barring any major changes in your lives, you would only need to consult with an attorney and an insurance expert once every few years. However, it's a good idea to consult with a tax accountant near the end of every financial year, and, of course, before you must file a tax return or fulfill any asset reporting requirements (such as an American maintaining large overseas financial accounts).

However, and at the very least, you should schedule a meeting with your financial adviser at least twice a year – towards the end of the year around the time they consult with your tax accountant, and near the middle of the year to review your financial plan, goals and investment performance – or more if their financial situation is overly complicated or if the markets are particularly volatile.

Given how often expats will need to meet with their financial

adviser, it's important that husband and wife select one who they BOTH feel comfortable working with together, or alone, and can build a good rapport and long-term working relationship. Wives statistically tend to outlive their husbands and it will be important to have some continuity when it comes to financial advisory should they outlive their husband. And while they might be comfortable working with a financial adviser who is in the same age bracket they are in, this may not make much sense if they are near retirement or already retired because inevitably their financial adviser will also be thinking about retiring.

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

Economy adversely affected by military coup, but hope remains

FOLLOWING the Royal Thai Army's announcement of a coup on May 22, the benchmark of the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) Index, closed up 0.2% to 1,405.21. This was in contrast to its fall of 1.2% when martial-law was first declared.

According to the exchange data, since the May 20th declaration of martial law, overseas investors had pulled US\$408 million out of Thai stocks, sending the SET Index

benchmark down 0.7% this month.

The country's gross domestic product (GDP) had already contracted 0.6% in the first quarter compared to the same period last year and the bank further lowered its 2014 growth forecast to 1.3% from 2.2%, amid the political protests and violence that has resulted in more than two dozen deaths.

Another development that is threatening the country's economic growth is the weakening of

Thailand's \$35 billion tourist industry, which contributes 9% to the country's GDP, as many countries in the world have issued warnings for their citizens to exercise a high degree of caution when entering the kingdom.

However, after the prolonged political unrest that has continually deteriorated, many sides hope that this coup will be the silver lining for Thailand's resolution of disputes. – NNT



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Outlook positive

Business leaders are confident in economy regardless of coup

By Chutharat Plerin/The Nation

BUSINESS and economic leaders have expressed confidence in the economy despite the uncertainty surrounding the direction the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) will take in the coming weeks and months.

The heads of several leading property development companies, including Italian-Thai Development Plc, Sansiri Plc and Land and House Plc, all of which have large projects underway or slated for Phuket, were ordered to report to the NCPO on May 25.

Since then, two of the companies have released statements that none of their projects have been affected by the coup and will continue as scheduled.

"Sansiri Plc will continue normal business without any effect on operations. Chief Executive Officer Apichart Chutrakul and Chief Operating Officer Wanchak Buranasiri, along with other high-level executives of the company will perform their duties as usual," said the statement released by Sansiri.

Anant Asavabhokhin, chairman of the executive board and chairman of the board of directors at Land and Houses Public Co Ltd was also called to report to the council.

Land and House General Manager Ruksaspong Khumkhanjum, subsequently told the *Gazette* on Tuesday that the company's projects would not be affected.

"Mr Anant was called by the NCPO. For what reason, I have no idea. However, our projects are ongoing as is. All the investments are on the way, including current projects and others," he confirmed to the *Gazette*.

The third developer to be called was Premchai Kamasutra, president of Italian-Thai Development Plc, the contractor for the Thainan underpasses currently being built on the bypass road. However, no Ital-Thai statement was available as this story went to print.

Property agencies unfazed

Leading property agencies Jones Lang LaSalle and Frank Knight have also expressed confidence that the property market would not suffer in the wake of the coup, saying that the industry had weathered similar events in the past with little or no negative effects.

"Our discussions with clients and business partners, including property developers, investors and corporate occupiers, showed that the coup came as no surprise,"



Photo: The Nation

Other signs of economic confidence... include the rapid payback of rice farmers involved in the troubled rice-pledging project. Payments have already started to flow, enabling farmers to pay back debts and put money towards next year's crops

Jones Lang LaSalle Managing Director Suphin Mechuchep told *The Nation* on Tuesday.

"Similarly, since the political tension escalated late last year, we have seen developers, owners, investors and occupiers becoming more cautious, with some of them adopting a wait-and-see approach. There remains no clear evidence of the coup changing the situation at this stage," Mr Suphin said.

Frank Khan, executive director and head of residential for Frank Knight's Thai unit, said that the political crisis in Thailand is currently not a big deal for the property business, and that things were difficult in the first four or five months of the year and the real-estate market was soft, but the situation is gradually improving.

"To look on the bright side, the political unrest has been beneficial



Soldiers try to control a crowd protesting against military rule in central Bangkok on May 23. Photo: Damir Sagolj/Reuters

in that the condominium market has cooled down, reducing the likelihood of an oversupply," he added.

Economic road map

Meanwhile, seven key private-sector organizations are drawing up an economic road map comprising short and long-term reform plans to be presented to the NCPO in a bid to help restore economic confidence in the Kingdom, reported *The Nation*.

The groups are the Thai Chamber of Commerce/Board of Trade, Tourism Council of Thailand, Thai Bankers' Association, Federation of Thai Industries (FTI), Federation of Thai Capital Market Organizations, Stock Exchange of Thailand and Thai Listed Companies Association.

"The most important thing right now is to find ways to bring back confidence in consumption, investment and tourism. Each organization has also been tasked with coming up with a plan to enhance the country's competitiveness for the next 15-20 years," said Isara Vongkusolkit, chairman of the Board of Trade.

Supant Mongkolsuthree, chairman of the FTI, said there were seven frameworks within the road map. They include plans to increase the country's competitiveness, enhance public and private investment, promote education and innovation, lessen social and economic inequality, fix corruption, reform regulations and create a new economic structure.

Banks praise rice payments

Other signs of economic confidence increasing after the NCPO's breaking of the political deadlock include the rapid payback of rice

farmers involved in the troubled rice-pledging project. Payments have already started to flow, enabling farmers to pay back debts and put money towards next year's crops.

Commercial banks have expressed strong interest in bidding for a multi-billion-baht bridging loan under the rice-pledging project, as they believe the payment of long-overdue money to farmers marks the first step in fueling the sluggish economy.

Their interest comes after the Finance Ministry invited 32 state and private banks to bid for the first phase of a three-year program of bridging loans, totaling 50 billion baht, to the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC), so that rice farmers can be paid.

The first 30-billion-baht tender will take place on June 6, while a second is scheduled for June 13.

Vasin Vanichvoranun, executive vice president of Kasikornbank, told *The Nation* on Tuesday that assuming legal issues surrounding such lending were fully clarified, the bank should have no problems about participating in the bidding.

"Rice payment [to farmers] is

a good way to fuel the economy. However, we also have to pursue other projects, including infrastructure projects, which have not been announced yet," he added.

Other leading banks have expressed optimism that since the political impasse is over, investment funding for public infrastructure will begin to flow, boosting the economy.

Chansak Fuangfu, director and senior executive vice president of Bangkok Bank, said they were awaiting signals from the NCPO on such public infrastructure funding.

"What the bank has to monitor is additional public investment projects, which will fuel the economy significantly. We are awaiting the upcoming economic road map from the National Council for Peace and Order," he said.

Arthid Nanthawithaya, senior executive vice president of Siam Commercial Bank, said a positive sign for the economy – and for boosting private-sector confidence – is the fact that the NCPO has announced it will give importance to public investment, and especially to major infrastructure projects.

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More than visa runs

THE first in a five-part series of carnivals to be held in Andaman provinces will take place in Ranong on June 8.

Ranong, perhaps best known among expats as a visa-run destination, has plenty of things for tourists to enjoy, said Ranong Vice Governor Supawat Sakda, who announced the carnival with Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa on Friday.

"We are famous for our hot springs and mineral water, and have a lot of interesting culture," Vice Governor Supawat said.

Called "Scent of Andaman", the Ranong event has an 8-million-baht budget and is expected to draw more than 10,000 visitors.

"We think the average visitor will spend

about 1,500 baht per day," V/Gov Supawat said. "But it doesn't matter whether we meet our target number of visitors or make a profit, the main point is to familiarize people with what we have to offer."

Following the initial event in Ranong, carnivals will be held in Phuket, Krabi, Phang Nga and Trang, said Vice Governor Sommai.

"Five provinces have agreed to support each other with respect to tourism. Krabi will promote historic artifacts, Phang Nga will focus on sea gypsies, Trang on local traditions and nature, and Phuket on our Sino-Portuguese heritage," Vice Governor Sommai said.

The dates of the other carnivals have yet to be set.
 - Saran Mitrarat



Five Andaman provinces are collaborating on the carnival series. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

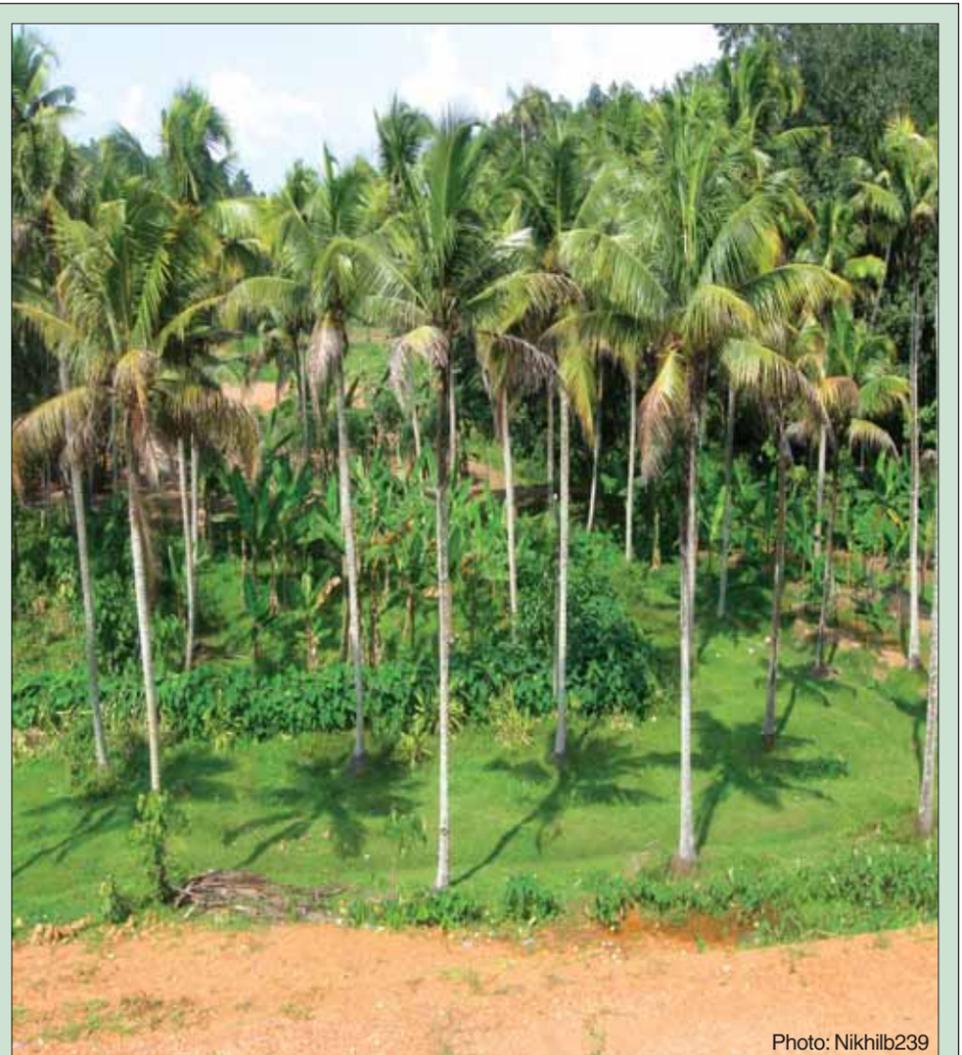


Photo: Nikhilb239

Leave a tree behind

THANKS to Angsana's "Stay for Good-Greening Communities Together" initiative, tourists can leave Phuket in better shape than before their visit.

As part of the "Stay for Good" program, Angsana Laguna Phuket will commit to plant two trees per room night to support and highlight environmental conservation and habitat protection.

The program will be launched on World Environment Day, June 5, to raise awareness for guests and associates to take positive action to protect nature.

"We are committed to creating sustain-

able developments and making green initiatives a priority. The 'Stay for Good - Greening Communities Together' event highlights the long-standing commitment to contributing positively to the communities where we operate," said Albert Ocasio, General Manager, Angsana Laguna Phuket.

"The trees will not only help green our communities, but will also help raise the awareness of the importance of trees for every guest and employee who takes part in the event."

- Phuket Gazette

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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June 6, 7-11:30pm. Two Chefs Karon Filipino Fiesta

In celebration of Philippines Independence Day, Two Chefs presents Filipino Fiesta, a large buffet with Pinoy classics like: Kini Law, Bulalo Lechon Style, Pork Belly, Sinigang, Inasal, Sisig, Garlic Rice, Mango Float and much more. All this at only 395 baht, with kids under 12 years at just 295 baht. A la Carte menu also available as usual. Happy hours all night! San Mig pale pilsen and light red house wine, buy 2 and get 1 free Sangria. Unlimited refills. Ice Tea unlimited refills at 99 baht. There will be live music with the talented Filipino house band from 8pm till late. For more informa-

tion call 076 286479 or email karon@twochefs.com.

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 20th 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 15, 12-3pm. Sunday Brunch @ Two Chefs Kamala

Every Sunday, you're invited for a Sunday Brunch at our Two Chefs Kamala branch. A large buffet with international favorites, fresh salads, American comfort food, Mexican classics, breads and desserts from Two Chefs bakery and much more. Happy hours in the bar: San Miguel beer "buy 2, get 1 free", Sangria at 95 baht per glass. There will be live easy lis-

tening music during the brunch, with members from the Two Chefs house band. Price: 495 baht; kids at 295 baht (under 3 years free). Free usage of the Peach Blossom spa pool in connection with Two Chefs.

June 20, 6-11:30pm. Midsummer Celebration @ Two Chefs Kata

Celebrate Midsummer's Eve at Two Chefs in Kata Center with a large buffet with lots of Scandinavian specialties such as our own smoked salmon, pickled herrings, liver pate, pastries from the Two Chefs bakery, and much more at only 795 baht per person. Of course our famous house band will be there to entertain you until the late hours. For more information call 076 330065 or email katacenter@twochefs.com

June 21-23, Baba Wedding Festival in Phuket Town.

The Thai Peranakan Association with the support of the City of Phuket, the Tourism Authority of Thailand - Phuket Chapter, the Phuket Tourism Association, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, the Old Phuket Foundation and Phuket's Culture Preservation Network present the 2014 Phuket Baba Wedding, a chance for couple to tie the knot in an extravagant, memorable way, celebrating the traditions of Phuket Baba community.

The wedding package costs 39,900 baht per couple and includes the wedding ceremony, one night at the Sukko Spa & Resort and two

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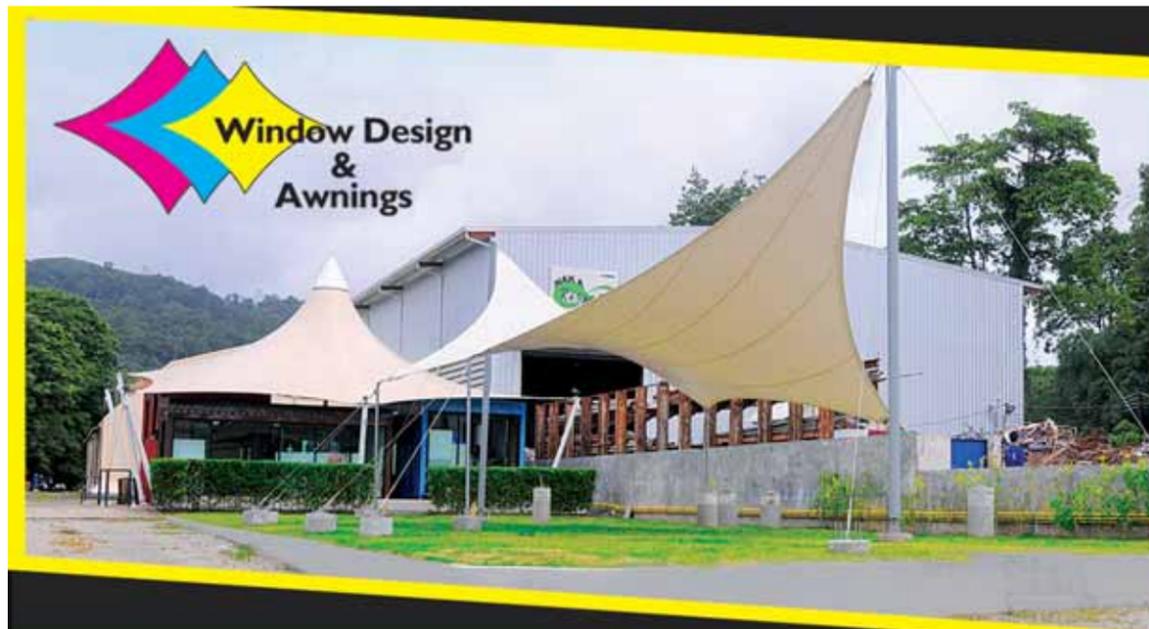
nights at a nearby beach hotel, transportation during the wedding ceremony, traditional wedding attire and suit with accessories, souvenirs, photos of the couple and their family and special activities arranged by the associations. Applications for the package have to be submitted before May 31 at the Thai Peranakan Association office. For more information call tel 081-691 1955.

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

July 16-20, 10am-11:30pm, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek

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



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In 2004, General Chettha Thanajaro, then – Defence Minister of Thailand, gave an order to readjust the Phaya Tani cannon to its old position – facing the Grand Palace. Photo: Sippakorn Yamkasikorn

One gun to rule them all

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

THE Thailand Ministry of Defence building is located opposite the Grand Palace in the old part of Bangkok. What is interesting about this government building is its large collection of old cannons, which are exhibited within the yard parallel to the main road. The cannons date back to various periods in Thai history and range from small guns to intimidatingly large bombards. Each cannon has its own story. Many of them were present in various wars that shaped the history of Thailand.

Of the 42 cannons parked outside the ministry building, a large bombard called the “Phaya Tani” probably has the most interesting story. Dating back more than four hundred years, the Phaya Tani is the largest cannon in the collection. The sheer size of the magnificent weapon seems to dwarf the cannons that surround it.

It is said that the Phaya Tani was cast in the old kingdom of Pattani Darussalam. Although today Pattani is a province in the south of Thailand, during the 17th century, it was an autonomous Muslim sultanate. In the beginning of the 17th century, a succession crisis in the Pattani royal family paved the way for the first queen, Raja Hijau to ascend the throne of Pattani. After Raja Hijau, three more queens ruled Pattani successively, ushering in a period of peace and prosperity that lasted for 67 years.

Pattani, being a small state, had always struggled to preserve its independence. To its north was Siam, a regional power with Ayutthaya as its capital city. Ayutthaya laid claim over a vast area of land that stretched from Chiang Mai in the north to Cambodia and Laos in the east. Its hegemony also stretched far south into the predominantly Muslim Malay Peninsula. However, because the Malay states were so

far away from Ayutthaya, the capital often found it hard to assert its claims over these semi-autonomous sultanates.

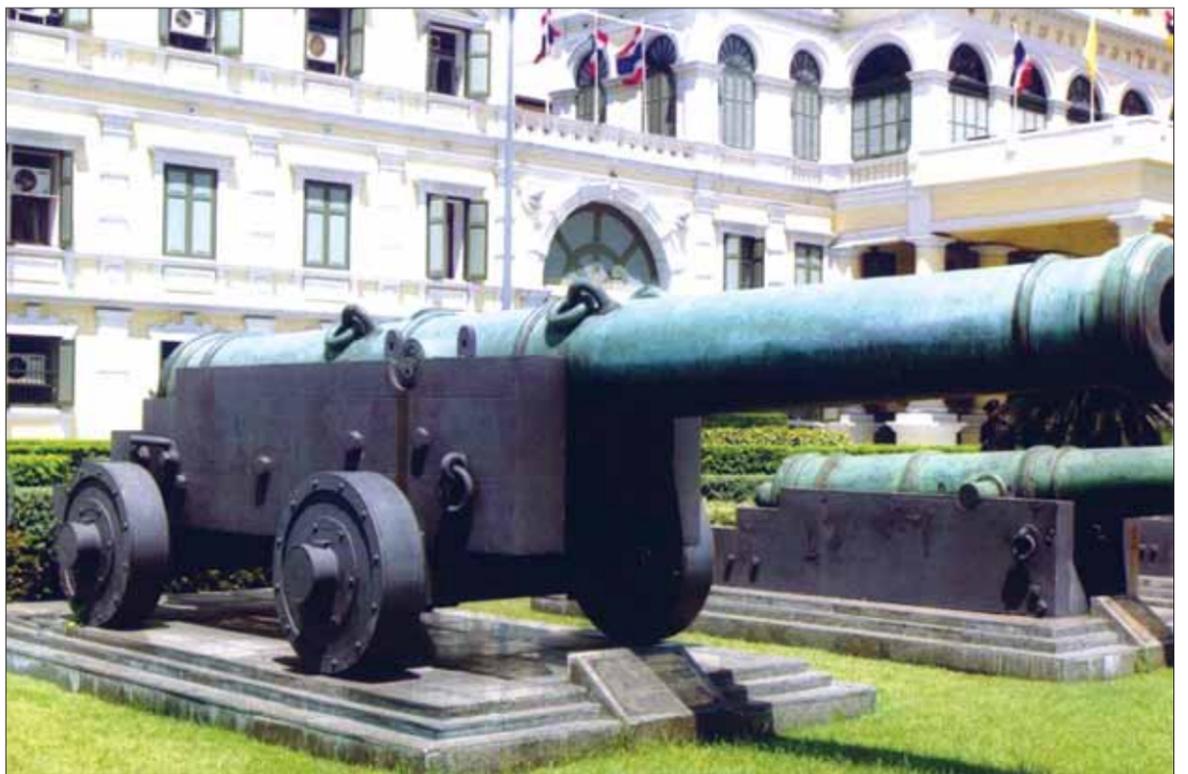
The four queens foresaw the need for strong defences in order to maintain Pattani’s independence. Due to the constant threat of attack from Siam and its allies, the rulers built impressive forts and defences around their city-state. They also invested in large cannons that could effectively repel enemy attack when fired from the city’s walls. The Phaya Tani was one such weapon, and perhaps the only one that survives to this day.

No one knows exactly when the Phaya Tani was cast or its exact history. Apart from the cannon itself, few historical records still survive from that period. It is possible that the cannon may have been made during the reign of Sultan Ismail Shah in the early 15th century. However, it could also have been cast during the reign of the four queens during the 17th century.

The casting techniques evident in the cannon hints that it was produced locally and not imported from somewhere else. Made out of bronze, the Phaya Tani cannon is exceptionally large. The barrel is 6.82 meters long, with a caliber of 24 centimeters. On the barrel is an engraving of a lion, an inscription that says “Phaya Tani” and instructions on how much gunpowder needs to be loaded from the mouth of the cannon.

In 1785, the Burmese attacked Siam once again, this time with nine armies that spearheaded into different regions of Siam. Rama I King Phra Buddha Yod Fa Chulalok Maharaj ordered his younger brother, Prince Maha Sura Singhanat to lead Siam’s defenses in the west and south.

The prince was an experienced general and although the Siamese forces were inferior to the enemy, they managed to inflict heavy casualties on the Burmese. By 1786, the Burmese were forced to retreat from Siam.



Measuring 6.82 meters, with a caliber of 24 centimeters, Phaya Tani is Thailand’s biggest cannon. Photo: Ahoerstermeier

After his victory against the Burmese in the Nine Armies War, Prince Sura Singhanat marched his armies further south of Siam to the gates of Pattani. His aim was to subjugate the kingdom and bring it back under Siam’s hegemony. Pattani’s defenses were no match for Prince Sura Singhanat’s soldiers and the city fell to the Siamese attackers.

Historical records reveal that during this conflict, the Siamese captured two massive cannons. In order to weaken Pattani and discourage them from rebellion, Prince Sura Singhanat ordered the cannons to be taken back to Bangkok. Of the two cannons captured, only one – Phaya Tani – reached Bangkok safely. The second cannon, named “Sri Negara” according to the chronicles of Pattani, was lost when the ship carrying it sank in the ocean. Other sources say it came loose when being loaded onto the ship and fell into the sea.

According to this chronicle, there was also a third large cannon named “Maha Lela”. This cannon was never captured and

no other historical evidence confirms its existence. Some historical documents suggest that it may have exploded during a battle against the Siamese under Prince Sura Singhanat’s command.

The Phaya Tani arrived in the capital in 1786. Prince Sura Singhanat presented the weapon to his brother King Rama I.

King Rama I was especially impressed by the sheer size and firepower of the Phaya Tani. He ordered the refurbishment of the cannon. King Rama I also commissioned the casting of a second cannon of similar size that could be stationed with the Phaya Tani. This second cannon was named the “N a r a i Sangharn”.

Both cannons were stationed within the Grand Palace for many years before being moved to their present location in the courtyard of the Ministry of Defense.

Nowadays, the Phaya Tani is highly revered by the Thai armed forces. Each year military commanders, led by the defence

minister, gather in a solemn ceremony to pay respects to the cannons, especially the Phaya Tani. Some believe the cannon still has mystical powers that continue to affect the country’s fortunes. For many years the cannons had been facing the Royal Palace, but General Aud Bueangbon, then permanent secretary for defence, moved all 42 cannons so that they faced Wang Saran Rom Park and the City Pillar Shrine instead.

In January 2004, an armed robbery was carried out on a military camp in Pattani. After that, a wave of unprecedented violence swept the far southern region of Thailand. In March 2004, General Chettha Thanajaro, then Defence Minister gave an order to re-adjust the Phaya Tani cannon once again in a belief that the superstitious tactic would ward off evil and curtail violence in the three southern provinces that made up the former Pattani kingdom.

In June 2013, the government installed a replica of the Phaya Tani cannon in front of the historical Krue-Se Mosque in Pattani province. A few days later, the replica cannon was bombed and damaged by insurgents.

‘Some believe the cannon has mystical powers that continue to affect the country’s fortunes today’

‘In order to weaken Pattani and discourage them from rebellion, Prince Sura Singhanat ordered the cannons to be taken back to Bangkok’

The thrill of The Grill

PHUKET'S very own The Grill at Regent Phuket Cape Panwa has been named one of the nation's best restaurants by the Thailand *Tatler* magazine, and will be featured in the prestigious Thailand *Tatler* Best Restaurant Guide 2014.

"It was a great honor to find out that we had been selected for the prize after only being open for a little more than a year," said Brice Borin, General Manager of Regent Phuket Cape Panwa.

"We hope that this increases business to our restaurant and confirms our position as one of the best fine-dining establishments in Phuket."

The guide will feature reviews of 150 fine-dining establishments in Bangkok as well as eateries in some of the major resorts in Phuket, Samui, Pattaya, Hua Hin and Chiang Mai. This annual publication is known as one of the

most influential and reliable sources of information for foodies living in Thailand.

The Grill at Regent Phuket Cape Panwa has been recognized by the *Tatler* for delivering high-quality cuisine and top-notch dining experiences to its guests.

The restaurant is located high on a cliff in Cape Panwa, on the southeastern coast of Phuket, and offers grill-goers an elegant view of the Andaman Sea.

The menu offers a luxurious spread of fresh, locally-caught seafood and organic produce. A high-quality selection of ingredients, including grass-fed beef and free-range chicken, make for a memorable culinary adventure.

The driving force behind the menu at The Grill is Executive Chef Justin Baziuk, who is renowned for his passion in all aspects of cooking. Mr Baziuk's

enthusiasm for "real" food makes for an authentic taste and menu selection. These top quality ingredients coupled with a flair in preparation presentation lends to a unique dining experience.

Guests can choose their favorite cuts of prime meats for the chefs to prepare as they like, whether it be on a Western grill, in a Tandoori oven or an Asian wok. The Grill's team of chefs prepare almost everything from their own kitchen to ensure the food is fresh and natural; from fresh chutney to sinfully delicious desserts.

Guests can take their time at The Grill, trying a selection of the choice menu items while taking in views of the bay. This experience has attracted strong praise on hotel review websites, with guests describing their visits as being "world class" and



Chef Baziuk is the driving force behind The Grill's success. Photos: Supplied

"heavenly".

Regent Phuket Cape Panwa also offers a variety of different settings in which grill-goers can enjoy their meals and company. Whether it is a private dining affair inside, where guests can take advantage

of an irresistible wine cellar with selections from around the world, or a more informal gathering at the alfresco-style rooftop lounge, guests of The Grill are sure to have a sophisticated night.

- *Phuket Gazette*



High-quality cuisine and the diversity of the menu at the Grill impressed the editors of the *Tatler*.



Words such as 'world class' and 'heavenly' have been used to describe dining at The Grill.





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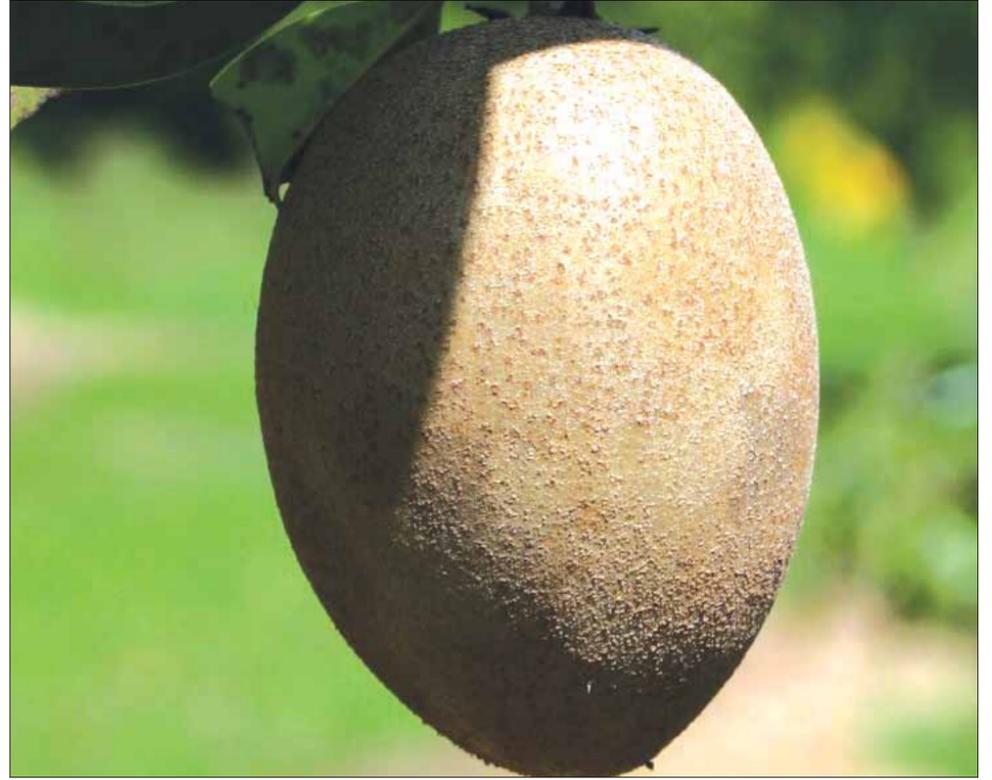


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An odd couple of fruits



The skin of snakefruit is scaly, but the flesh inside is creamy. Photo: Takeaway



The shape of a sapodilla, or lamut, resembles an elongated egg. Photo: Malcom Manners

THE recent passing of one of cinema's most well known comedic actors, Bill Hoskins, reminded me of a scene in a "posh" London hotel.

An obsequious waiter asks if he wants a drink, "A Bloody Mary is it, sir?" He replies, "No, a pot of tea, please."

"Ah, lapsang suchong or Earl Grey?" says the waiter. "No," replies Hoskins tersely, "Tea."

Apart from being an example of British working-class humor that echoes a social divide, this shows how a pedantic attitude toward names can obfuscate rather than clarify.

This is a constant dilemma for the horticulturalist who wants to be precise about botanical labels, but who knows that they are often difficult to get one's tongue

around – let alone remember.

Take the *manikara zapota*. Despite its pretentious name, it is a fruiting tree that deserves more than a passing mention. If next to no one knows this title, many of you out there will recognize it as sapodilla. Talk to your Thai partner about the *lamut*, and she will nod in instant acknowledgment.

One of the most exotic-tasting native fruits of Mexico and Central America, the sapodilla resembles a soft, tan-colored and somewhat elongated egg, about seven to 10 centimeters long. But inside the skin, which is best peeled away with a knife, are segments of yellow or brown flesh, each with a shiny black seed. Worth a try? Well, a French botanist declared that it smelt of "honey, jasmine and lily

Take the *manikara zapota*. Despite its pretentious name, it is a fruiting tree that deserves more than a passing mention. If next to no one knows this title, many of you out there will recognize it as the sapodilla



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

of the valley."

For me, it is very intriguing, with a slightly gritty texture like that of a pear and a flavor sometimes described as malty. If you come across a pile at your local fresh market, check to ensure that the fruit is not too soft; on the other hand, if the fruits are hard and greenish, leave them for a day or two to ripen.

Introduced to Southeast Asia primarily as a cash crop, the sapodilla is unfortunately too large for the average garden, being a slow-growing species that may reach 40 to 50 feet. A pity because it bears fruit fairly quickly, and from germination takes only six years to crop. Moreover, it yields fruit twice a year. In addition, the tree has a pleasant rounded shape with glossy green leaves.

Besides those sweet, fragrant fruits, its boughs exude a latex-like substance called chicle,

formerly used in chewing gum. While that may not persuade you to acquire a tree, its other virtues might – if you have the time and space to cultivate it.

Another strange fruit that periodically appears in Phuket's

wayside markets is the *salak*, referred to in these parts as the *sala* or *rakum*, or to botanists as the *salacca*. To westerners, it is known as the snake fruit on account of its scaly, reddish-brown skin. Shaped like a small, plump pear, the fruit's rind is thin and brittle so it can be readily removed

to reveal three or four segments of creamy flesh and one or more stones. The *salacca* has a high tannin content, and when eaten unripe can be unpleasantly astringent. In this state it is, like so many local

fruits such as mangoes, papayas and camias, popular in sour salads. When ripe, it has an exotic flavor that is hard to put into words, somewhat nutty with a hint of acidic sweetness.

Perhaps surprisingly, the

salacca's golf-ball sized fruits grow in clusters at the base of a palm tree. Native to tropical Asia, it will make an interesting addition to your garden. This particular palm has a short stem and large pinnate (feathery) leaves which tend to grow more upward than outward. *Salacca*

magnifica, the doyen of the species, has huge, undivided leaves up to six meters long, and offers a splendid ornamental presence. Were I planning a new garden, I would surely include one.



Some describe sapodilla as tasting malty. Photo: Thaumaturgist

Tip of the week

Potted plants

A RECENT visit to a garden consisting almost entirely of potted plants has prompted another stab at the topic. What the visit made clear was that many shrubs can be grown in containers, not just the usual culprits. While front yards and patios in Phuket tend to be inhabited



Try potting graphtophyllums. Photo: Scott Zona

by euphorbias, adeniums, bougainvilleas, palms and wrightias, this garden had gardenias, dracaenas, gingers and lots more. Try foliage plants such as crotons, graphtophyllums and acalyphas.

Container plants can be deployed to create an

interesting focal point: to define an area; or to decorate difficult patches, such as a dry or an excessively wet corner. Pots are an effective means of controlling a plant's environment, as the amount of moisture required can be monitored and specific nutrient or pH requirements catered for. Additionally they can, if necessary, be brought indoors. Short spells in the house are recommended, since few plants can adapt permanently to the relative lack of sunshine and humidity.



Chicle, once used for gum, seeps out of a sapodilla. Photo: Dick Culbert

Latest Chabon: A chore

Books

By James Eckardt

MICHAEL Chabon's third novel, *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize. This exuberant romp about two young Jewish cartoonists during the golden age of American comic books in the 1930s and 1940s is one of the most enjoyable novels I've ever read.

Now we have Chabon's *Telegraph Avenue* (HarperCollins, New York, 2012, 468pp), and I'm sorry to say that this big novel is a disappointment. Not because the characters are not sympathetic or the plot not intricate and tight, but because the style is wordy, over-the-top, self-indulgent and the dazzling, but ultimate, turgid display of a literary showoff. Sentences are serpentine and run on for thick paragraphs and even pages. Section III is a single sentence that rambles for 12 pages and is told largely from the point of view of a parrot. The jokey, narrative tone, ripe with

hip nods to movies, TV shows and pop songs, is reminiscent of Thomas Pynchon, but if Pynchon is the High Renaissance Michelangelo, Chabon is over-ripe Rococo.

The time is late August 2004 and the place is the borderline between Berkeley and Oakland, the birthplace of white radicals and Black Panthers, where a used vinyl record store called Brokeland Records is the hangout for a multiracial group of musicians and neighborhood characters. The store is owned by two bandmates: Nat Jaffe, third-generation

er Jewish socialist who grew up in Richmond, Virginia, with a black step-mother, black friends and black enemies; and Archy Stallings, African American Iraq war vet and son of Oakland native Luther Stallings, washed up kung fu star of Blaxploitation movies. Their wives, Aviva and Gwen, are partners too in a thriving midwife service, Berkeley Birth Partners.

The plot kicks off as the little record store is threatened by a prospective mall, complete with a giant record department, to be opened by developer Gibson Goode (G. Bad), ex-NFL quarterback and the fifth richest black man in America, who does business aboard a black dirigible named Minnie Riperton.

The midwife practice is also threatened by a lawsuit and a hospital review board hearing following a sudden medical emergency during a home birth. Gwen Stallings, nine-months pregnant and upset by Archy's infidelity, didn't help things along at the hospital with her hot temper. Into the mix comes 14-

year-old Titus Joyner, Archy's long-lost illegitimate son, who has turned up from Oklahoma, and Jules (Julie), son of Nat Jaffe, who has fallen in love with him.

The plot grabs you, as do the characters with their snappy dialogue, but the reader has to wade through chunks of overwrought description that slow the narrative pace to a crawl. Thus:

"Daylight was taking its sweet time fading into dusk, and the street at supertime seemed to be holding its breath, torn into patches of deep shadow and

sunshine, motionless but for the little white moths stitching their loopy crewelwork in the honeysuckle. In the sandpit of the tiny playground, dozens of toy vehicles and appliances lay bleached and upended, primary-colored plastic ruins as of some toddler cataclysm."

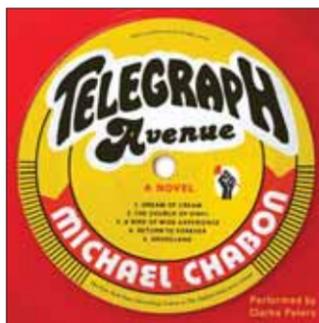


Michael Chabon's latest novel sees some readers reluctant to sign up for the long read. Photo: Charlie Reiman

There are honest bravura passages, though, like this passage describing how organ player Cochise Jones, a record store regular, approaches the

song "I Don't Know How to Love Him": "Cochise began his vandalism in earnest, snapping off bright bunches of the melody and scattering it in handfuls, packing it with extra notes in giddy runs. He was ruining the song, rifling it, mocking it with an antic edge of joy. You might have thought, some critics felt, that the meaning or spirit of the original song meant no more to Cochise Jones than a poem means to a shark that is eating

the poet." The novel reaches a climax with a ten-page description of Gwen's labor pains. I can't recall anything so intense about the birth process in all of literature. The novel should have ended there instead of a tacked on scene two months later which ties up all the plotlines into nice happy bows – like chick lit. But my primary reaction was one of relief. Having trudged to the last page, I could read something else now.





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Islands steal spotlight for Environment Day

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET will celebrate World Environment Day (WED) with a three-day event from June 5-7 to encourage residents to take action against pollution and promote the preservation of the island for generations to come.

The event will support the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) campaign called "Raise your voice, not the sea level".

"The aims of the UNEP campaign are to promote the importance of protecting Small Island Developing States (SIDS), raise awareness of the environmental problems we face as a world community and to take action against activities that escalate climate change," said Pornsri Suthanaruk, director of the Regional Environmental Office 15.

"It is a challenge to maintain our

planet for future generations. However, we must all work together to decrease our impact on the environment and prevent global warming, which can cause sea levels to rise and have many detrimental effects on our environment."

Phuket's WED event will be held at the Queen Sirikit Park off of Thalang-Dibuk Road in Phuket Town starting at 9am on June 5. No plastics or foam products will be allowed at the event.

"Activities at the event will include trash cleanups, art exhibitions, tree plantings, concerts, campaigns to encourage bicycle use and many fun contests," Dr Pornsri said.

Municipalities across Phuket will also be launching 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 will be posted at locales across Phuket, said Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa.

The bins will be marked: 1) general trash; 2) infectious waste, such as medical waste from small clinics and veterinary surgeries; and 3) hazardous materials, such as used batteries and fluorescent light bulbs.

Mr Nutthakrit pointed out that a lot of hazardous materials, such as used batteries and fluorescent light bulbs, get mixed up in public bins with everyday garbage.

"If we allow it to sit in the landfill, it could contaminate the soil and create a serious health concern and even pose a safety risk. If such materials contaminate a canal, it could poison the water supply," he said.

The call to action by government and health officials follows a recent complaint from a European tourist who claimed Chinese tourists were dropping used batteries into the sea.

"The tourist said he asked the Thai guide to tell them to stop, but the guide replied that people did it all the time," said Mr Nutthakrit.

"If everyone dropped whatever they want into the ocean, how much dangerous trash would be floating around? We don't want to wait until it is too late to fix the problem. Preventing the problem is better than having to fix it."



'The aims of the UNEP campaign are to promote the importance of protecting Small Island Developing States and to raise awareness of the environmental problems we face as a world community'

– Pornsri Suthanaruk,
director of the Regional
Environmental Office 15

Event Schedule

June 5

8am: Registration

9am: Opening ceremony chaired by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut

10am - 3:30pm:

- Environmental photography exhibition
- Demonstrations of how to produce biodiesel from used vegetable oil and how to produce biogas
- Second-hand item exchange
- Free physical check-ups by PPAO
- Painting contest

3:30: Painting contest winner announced

6pm: "Why do we have Environment Day in Phuket" talks by Prince of Songkla University representatives

7pm: Concert and stage performances

June 6

10am - 3:30pm:

- Environmental photography exhibition and contest
- Free physical check-ups by PPAO

June 7

9am: Gathering at Phuket Vocational College and planting of 500 bougainvillea, the provincial flower of Phuket, along the Bang Yai canal



'Raise your voice, not the sea level' is this year's theme for World Environment Day on June 5. Photo: ASCOM Prefeitura de Votuporanga

Lion Air roars in the South



By Somchai Huasaikul

REGIONAL low-cost carrier Lion Air has launched services to several new destinations in Thailand, with its Thai subsidiary Thai Lion Air aiming to establish Hat Yai Airport (HDY) as a second hub in Thailand.

Executive Managing Director of Thai Lion Air, Andi Burhan, said that the carrier's decision to use a 72-seat ATR 72-600 prop plane, the first ATR to join Thai Lion Air's fleet, would allow it to develop routes between niche markets and develop a more comprehensive domestic network. Unfortunately, none of the announced new routes involve Phuket (HKT) and it is still impossible to get a chartered flight between the two largest airports in the south of Thailand: HKT and HDY.

The new domestic routes are a five-times weekly service to Hua Hin and a three-times weekly service to Surat Thani, both of which began on March 21. The flights are the first scheduled non-stop service from Haad Yai to both cities.

Regionally, Thai Lion Air also launched twice-weekly service from Hat Yai to Medan, Indonesia and Subang Kuala, Lampur over the past two months.

"We chose Hat Yai to be our second hub because it is a gateway into southern Thailand and we know that many people want to travel to southern Thailand for

business and leisure. There are a lot of popular holiday destinations in southern Thailand," said Mr Burhan.

"We will also be encouraging Thais to explore neighboring countries, namely Indonesia and Malaysia," he adds.

AutoGyro update

Flight training on the island's one and only "gyrocopter" is going off without a hitch at Phuket AirPark in Pa Khlok. Phuket AirPark Flight Operations manager Pat James is among four trainees being instructed to operate the AutoGyro Cavalon by a factory-trained instructor from Sweden who is staying at Phuket AirPark for one month.

"It's looking really good. Everything is working out the way it was supposed to. It's turned out to be a better bird than most of us expected - much better," said Mr James.

The other trainees are Phuket Airpark owner Robert Suchard Raksangob, as well as two of the Cavalon's co-owners: Torben Jensen from Denmark and building contractor Best Wanamakok.

Pat and Robert are being trained as instructors so that they can teach others to fly the AutoGyro, while Torben and Best are using the training as part of their efforts to become registered ultralight pilots.

As of May 23, the foursome combined had put in over 80 hours of training in the bright yellow two-seater, which has had many island residents staring aloft and pointing as if Superman had been spotted.

"We've done about 82 hours of training so far over the last two weeks, and we still have a week and a half to go to finish the training."

Pat, a combat helicopter pilot



Lion Air has announced new domestic routes in Southern Thailand with Hua Hin as its hub. Photo: Sabung.hamster

during the Vietnam War, described the aircraft's unique abilities when it comes to take off and landing.

"It takes off a bit like an airplane; it needs about 100 to 200 meters of runway to get up in the air, but the landing is very much like that of a helicopter. You autogyrate down and it's very gentle. You only need about 25 or 50 meters for a nice smooth landing," he said.

Asked about flight range and fuel requirements, he said, "It has the Rotax engine, like most ultralight aircraft. This particular one is turbocharged, developing 115 horsepower. We use standard motor vehicle gas, 95 octane, and we burn about 18 liters an hour. This gives us about three and a half hours of flight duration. We usually cruise at a speed of anywhere from 60 to 70 knots."

"We've been flying it around Phuket and have taken it out to Phi Phi Island and up to James Bond island in Phang Nga Bay, but most of our flight training activity

has been around the airfield itself here in Pa Khlok and down on the southern end of the island."

"We are having so much fun with it. I feel like a kid at Christmas time. This is one very exciting little bird to play with. A lot of the flight characteristics bring me back to my helicopter days. It is so agile - easy and forgiving. The visibility is beautiful and it's aesthetically gorgeous. We call it our 'little yellow bumble bee'. It's ideally suited to the islands here. We fly low over the islands and beaches and places like that."

Asked just how low the Cavalon could safely go, he said, "Just as low as any ultralight fixed wing aircraft. Out over the water, we can take it right next to the surface, but normally we fly at about 500 feet over water. Over residential or built-up areas, we must of course maintain safe elevations," he said.

People familiar with both prop planes and helicopters know that both can generate a lot of noise. Asked if the Cavalon was the

worst of both worlds, Pat said, "Probably less than a helicopter, but more than a normal small fixed wing aircraft. I would say it fits in nicely in between the two, both in terms of noise levels and flight characteristics," he said.

In addition to using the aircraft to entertain friends and clients, the owners will also use it as a training aircraft for island residents who wish to learn how to fly.

"Several people have already expressed interest. Some are already pilots, but they would also like to know AutoGyro flying skills. Others are just brand new and they want to start out flying on the AutoGyro," he said.

As the AirPark is home to the only AutoGyro dealership in the country, the owners hope to eventually see some trainees acquire their own aircraft. One advantage of the AutoGyro is its versatility. It needs very limited space to operate and even less for storage because it has no wings sticking out.



LITTLE BUMBLEBEE: The AutoGyro Cavalon cruises among the cliffs of Phang Nga Bay. Photo by John H, By the Air

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Ready to change the world

By Maciek Klimowicz

HOPE and nostalgia, vivid memories and plans for a bright future, words of inspiration and inside jokes, shining smiles and rivers of tears – all these were present in abundance during the British International School Phuket (BISP) Graduation Ceremony for the class of 2014 on Tuesday, May 27.

Honored by the Governor of Phuket, Maitri Inthusut, British Honorary Consul in Phuket Martin Carpenter, representatives of the Ministry of Education, and a number of local VIPs – the ceremony saw 29 BISP students celebrate this important milestone in their young lives.

The inspirational keynote speech was delivered by BISP alumnae, Assistant Managing Director at Manmeebooks, Kim Chongsatitwatana. Her speech provided plenty of motivation not only for the graduates, but for all the guests, parents and teachers who filled the school's vast auditorium. Asking the students to keep their hearts open and warning them against arrogance, she used quotations from the likes of Cicero to convince the graduates to "make a difference" and work for social change.

But perhaps it was the speeches by the students themselves, namely the Head Boy and Girl students, Luke Phillips and Bao Han Tran Le, that won the audience's warmest reception. Sharing common memories of campus life with their schoolmates, Luke and Bao touched the hearts of their friends



BISP graduates are ready and eager to move on to the next step in their education. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

while reminding them "not to lose themselves" as the move forward.

And forward they will go. This year's graduates will continue their education in universities all around the globe – UK, Sweden, Singapore, Korea, Australia, USA and more – in fields ranging from Fashion Design and Hospitality Management to Psychology and Biomedicine.

Did their experiences at the school prepare them for grown-up life? For Luke Phillips the

answer is affirmative. "The broad syllabus helps a lot. You take math, you take a foreign language, you take English and humanities and it really helps you become a well-rounded individual," he said.

His friend Bao Han Tran Le concurred, adding that being the Head Student was of great benefit too. "We had to be good role models for the younger kids, which taught us how to conduct ourselves, how

to speak in public and more."

The confidence with which she delivered her graduation speech proved she's right, but is it enough to improve the world we live in? Cautious optimism is what describes Bao's reply best.

"Changing the world is such a grandiose idea, I believe we should start by improving ourselves, and then our communities, which is at this time Phuket, and then Thailand

and only then the world. But maybe 10 years down the line, you'll see me changing the world," she said, smiling.

However it wasn't the distant future that occupied the young minds the most that day, but rather the past memories of their school years.

"I've been here for 13 years, all of my schooling life," said Luke. "This school is the only place I really know. So I'm excited to visit new places and explore new opportunities, but I'll miss this familiarity," he explained.

Both Luke and Bao didn't stint on kind words when talking about their BISP experience.

"From outside it looks like a really big school but once you're in, you understand that the small student to teacher ratio really helps you become an individual. You're not just one of many in the class," said Luke, while Bao added that the endless opportunities for personal development that the school provides is what makes it special.

On stage, prizes were awarded to the most hardworking of the IB students, including the Theory of Knowledge award for Liam Kealy, Extended Essay award for Nathanon Khanijow and Valedictorian award for Piers Grassman, among others. After the ceremony, food was served in the school hall and mortarboards flying high into the air soon followed. The BISP Graduation Ceremony had ended, but for the graduates, the future had begun.



Mortarboards flew as high as hopes for a bright future after the graduation ceremony.



Flowers to celebrate and photos to commemorate the milestone event.

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Words from the wise:

“The two most powerful warriors are patience and time.”
– Leo Tolstoy

“For me life is continuously being hungry. The meaning of life is not simply to exist, to survive, but to move ahead, to go up, to achieve, to conquer.” – Arnold Schwarzenegger

Medium

	4	5				9	6	
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		6	7	5	3	8		
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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. ©Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

Hard

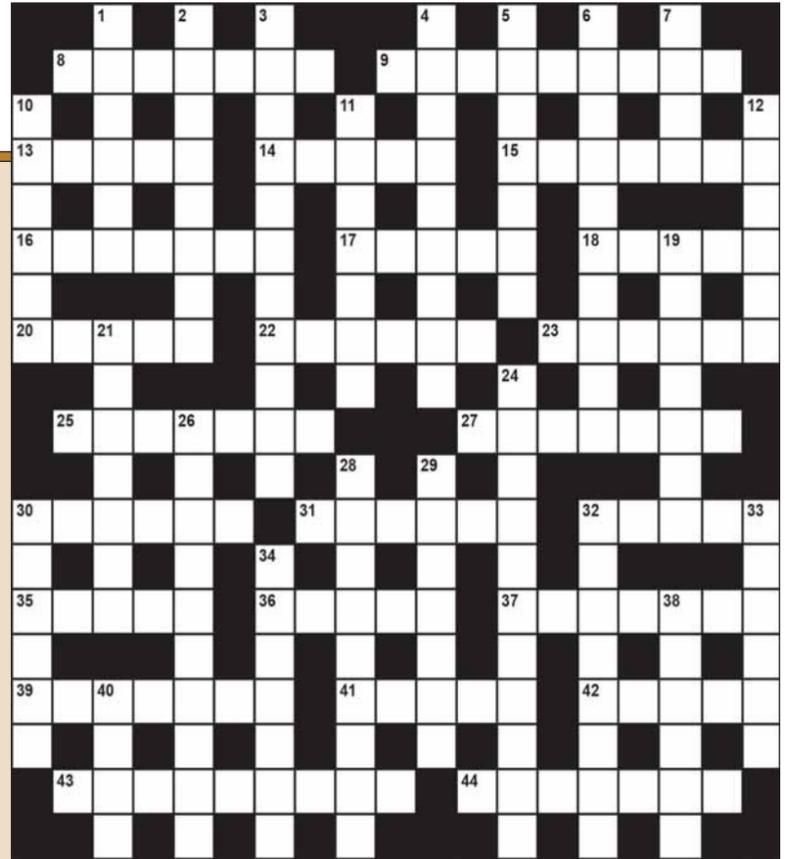
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COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 8. Permit a long time for voyage (7)
- 9. State the stipulation (9)
- 13. Rice dish from pupil authentic (5)
- 14. Furious bard I upset (5)
- 15. Almost artificial ice surface the French twist (7)
- 16. On night moved naught (7)
- 17. Maybe isn't a good man (5)
- 18. T-tarnish belief! (5)
- 20. Upsetting! Dignity, it is gone when not long for this world (5)
- 22. Possibly retard merchant (6)
- 23. Refer out East to a seaman's jacket (6)
- 25. Cites no new division (7)
- 27. Right fool girl from a Phuket Mueang district (7)
- 30. Tests Iranian currency after time (6)
- 31. Not so fresh, son, later bad (6)
- 32. I'd err badly in an additional clause (5)
- 35. Stern, causes tears (5)
- 36. To Northern Ireland, almost a pick-me-up! (5)
- 37. A feeler, worker backs Anne (7)
- 39. Son possibly often fine, but dismissed from the game (4,3)
- 41. Female moving out East could be an old one of these! (5)
- 42. Reveal without a celebration (5)
- 43. Listens as becomes resistant to tarnishing! (9)
- 44. Caught dance movement, echo the rhythm (7)



Down

- 1. Ball to return for vote (6)
- 2. Idiot, I rung out, making certain (8)
- 3. Coming together again, Reg got confused (11)
- 4. Disturbed corn dies, think about it (9)
- 5. Cue date arranged to instruct (7)
- 6. Severity from stern Head (10)
- 7. Thai child in English, observe (4)
- 10. Started work, end out East (6)
- 11. Say lamb cooked is frightful (7)
- 12. Correspondence from the landlord? (6)
- 19. Maybe fun nowadays, Editor, has not lost color (7)
- 21. I bear in, moving a person from S.W. Europe (7)
- 24. I carry a wage about by the vehicle road (11)
- 26. Possibly select work I caught able to be easily lengthened or shortened (10)
- 28. Do not be moved by strange fad in Stan's time (5,4)
- 29. A Gallic disposition is very cold (7)
- 30. Thus about right time to push hard (6)
- 32. Came back, right? Possibly tender about uniform (8)
- 33. Learner in relay upset, is that so? (6)
- 34. Not moving easily, second fifty maybe about a Pound (7)
- 38. No wickedness for the beginner (6)
- 40. Musical tone, not echo (4)

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 More focus on living in the moment allows Geminis to have clearer perspectives on what is good and positive in their lives. The month of June promises to be a rewarding time, with emphasis on regaining money that you believed to be lost. Those celebrating a birthday in the week ahead will enjoy more stability in their personal relationships during the coming year. The number six can lead to good luck this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Cancerians could be tempted to get involved in something that doesn't directly concern them. The stars suggest that remaining on neutral ground is your best option, even if someone tries to make you feel like you have to give support. Finances are auspicious at the start of June; astral backing can help you reclaim money that has been owed for too long. Your lucky number this week is four.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

 More has been going on behind the scenes than you were aware of. Leos are likely to learn something new about someone they thought they knew well. June will be a month of revelations and the stars suggest

that you can use new information to improve relationships, both at work and on a personal level. Being honest about your fears is welcomed by a water sign partner. The number one appears important this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

 Significant progress at work is forecast for those born under the sign of Virgo during June. However, there are hints that this will involve expecting others to put in more effort. A water sign's habit of leaving everything until the last minute will need to be addressed; Tuesday is the most auspicious day to have sensitive conversations. Financial gain is highlighted this weekend. Number three should be fortunate this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 Work and business are predicted to be calmer this week. The spotlight shines on your private life, with a possible emotional rollercoaster ride at the start of June. Those who have recently started a romantic relationship with another air sign will experience the most upheaval. If you have any doubts about this person's sincerity, it would be best to voice them soon. The number four can open a lucky door.

YOUR horoscope
By Isla Star

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

 The stars indicate a slow start to June as your energy is compromised. Scorpios are advised to consider making changes to certain lifestyle habits that they know are less than healthy. In the world of work, a subtle approach will achieve most, and giving people you want to impress food for thought is recommended. In the realm of romance, take care to mean what you say this weekend. Number five attracts good fortune.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 Envy can color the week green for some of those born under the sign of Sagittarius. The stars suggest that someone who you believe has everything is not as well off as it seems. Negative emotions regarding romance should give way to more hope during the first week of June, particularly where a relationship with another fire sign is concerned. Sagittarians should see number eight attracting luck this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

 Decision making can be rushed at the start of June and the stars indicate that you may forget to take others into consideration before counting on their agreement. There are signs that another earth sign could put the brakes on if you try to push too hard. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, going out of your way to please a water sign partner is worthwhile. Capricorns' lucky number this week is two.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 Putting a problem into someone else's hands can have surprising results. The stars indicate that responses to a call for assistance will be more positive than anticipated. Technology is forecast to be troublesome as June commences; this is not an auspicious time to purchase expensive equipment. Your love life reaches new heights, with commitment to an earth sign becoming a strong possibility. The number five comes alive for Aquarians this week.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

 Pisceans should guard against being persuaded into doing something that they know deep down is not a good move. There are signs that someone with the gift of smooth talk

could catch you at a weak moment on Monday or Tuesday. The social scene is not what you need this weekend – relaxing and recharging batteries is recommended before the busy month of June starts. Your special number this week is nine.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

 Dancing to someone else's tune can cramp your style at the start of June. If this relates to a superior at work, Tuesday and Wednesday are the most auspicious days for bringing problems out into the open. Family-related issues might also need to be faced; relatives who have a habit of dropping in unexpectedly may have to be told this is not welcome. The number seven is important for Arians this week.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

 Rewards of all kinds are forecast to flow your way as the month of June begins. Taureans who have been feeling a financial pinch should benefit from an astral atmosphere that encourages more generosity and honesty from others. Romance for those who are single is well favored; the stars show that your charm can cast a spell over another earth sign this weekend. Your lucky number this week is seven.

Toes to the nose



The Pearl of the Andaman Longboard Classic surf competition held on Kalim Beach was fortunate to coincide with an unexpected, yet welcome, swell. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

By Jeremie Schatz

THE monsoon arrived just in time for the first Pearl of the Andaman Longboard Classic hosted on the rocky coast of Kalim last Saturday.

A bit of afternoon rain and a military coup couldn't keep 30 contestants and more than 40 spectators from turning out, as a few days of consistent ground swell marched its way through the Andaman to meet the grateful surfers. Required to use boards nine feet or longer, surfers were able to line up far out and catch the peeling three to five-foot waves early for long nose-rides.

Judges were vigilantly watching the contestants during the 15-minute, heats on the lookout for those who chose the best – not necessarily the biggest – waves, and performed the most difficult and stylish maneuvers while maintaining the highest level of control.



The top four placed surfers won a unique trophy.

The most graceful bottom turns, powerful cutbacks, radical maneuvers and longest nose-rides earned the surfers top scores.

International Surfing Association (ISA) certified judge Erwin Van Putten said that they originally expected more than 40 entries, but the degrading political situation



Surfers pose for a photo before their next heat.

deterred people from Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia from making the journey.

Somsak (Malek) Kreechai made the most of the great conditions and high-scored his way through six heats as well as the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals to take home the first place trophy and

prize – a Firewire Timbertek Sub Moon 9.5. Second place went to Neung, third place to Decha Sithidej and fourth to Lee Patong, all of whom took home striking oyster shell trophies and goodies donated by the sponsors.

Although this contest was the first with the “Pearl of the

Andaman” label, the organizers: President of Surfing Thailand Chanin (Joob) Aiyarak; Vice President of Surfing Thailand and owner of Baan Andaman Sea Surf Decha Sithidej; and ISA judge Erwin Van Putten have been putting together surfing competitions all over Phuket for more than 10 years.

“It started out a little bit in Kata and around that area. Then we had a surf series that was in Kata, Kalim and Kamala. A year later we had it in Patong and in Kalim – so it just hops around a little bit,” said Erwin.

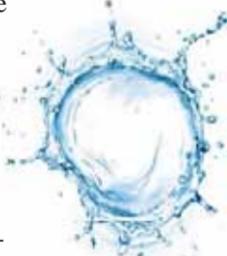
“Surfing Thailand is the main force behind it with some local sponsors like Baan Andaman Sea Surf and Phuket Surf.”

For the next surfing competition, the Phuket surf-scene advocates have their sights set on a multi-day event with a women's, grommets, shortboard, longboard and master's divisions hosted in Patong in September. Stay tuned.

Train smart in the rain

THERE is something in the air. Humidity has been up and more rain clouds are coming in. It's just a matter of time til the first heavy rainfall here in Phuket. Training for Triathlon in the rainy season can be very pleasant. The water temperature in the pools usually drops and swimming has finally a “cooling effect” again. The air gets cleaner and the temperatures feel quite nice during or right after a rain shower. Especially for running, this is the perfect time to pick up the mileage and enjoy some fresh air.

Nevertheless, you need to be extra cautious during your training sessions. During lightning, stay out of the water and away from any dangerous areas. On the bike, be extra careful. During group sessions keep a bit more distance between riders to be safe.



Choose the right equipment such as aluminum instead of carbon rims. These wheels still provide good braking qualities in the rain. Wider tires with some profile ride better on wet roads than slicks.

Being on a mountain bike is the best choice. Avoid busy roads and slow down before turns on slippery surfaces.

Maintenance of your bike is crucial as well. Lubricate your chain and cables more often or take your bicycle into a local bike shop regularly.

On the run, I recommend staying more on roads or running tracks. Trails might be slippery.

Be safe, train smart!

Tip by Thanyapura's Triathlon Senior Head Coach, Jurgen Zack. Contact Jurgen at triathlon@thanyapura.com

Malaysian breath-hold record set at WeFreedive Suunto Series in Phuket

CONTESTANTS and spectators held their breath for some time during the WeFreedive Suunto Series static apnea event when a new Malaysian record was set on April 25.

“This month's static freediving competition had the feel of a young green season: small and relaxed,” explained Association Internationale pour le Développement de l'Apnée (AIDA) judge Richard Wonka.

Despite the small turnout at Phuket Country Home, spectators were delighted to see Azam Hamid, who works as a pilot for Malaysia Airlines, set a new Malaysian national record. Mr Hamid overtook his previous record by two seconds with an impressive 4:43 breath hold.

Local freediver Jonathan Macey joined open training the day before and ended up competing in his first ever AIDA International ranked competition.

“He had an impressive 2:35 static dive. Kudos for a clean dive with only an hour of training for the event,” Mr Wonka said.

First time contestants often



Melanie Long monitors time during the static apnea event. Photo: WeFreedive

run into issues with surface protocol, ending up with a red card, instead of the white card secured by Mr Macey.

Phuket We Free Dive Suunto Series runs on a unique competition format, which ranks the control, safety and beauty of the dive above time and distance,

though points scored for time and distance are added to divers AIDA ranking.

The next event will be the dynamic without fins discipline on June 29. Registration closes on June 28.

“All are welcome to join,” Mr Wonka said. – *Phuket Gazette*

MMA enters Phuket

By Maciek Klimowicz

MORE than 500 people are expected to show up at Phuket's first MMA gala, and they are in for a treat.

"Thai culture understands combat sports and the Kingdom is on the cusp of accepting MMA with open arms. We're just trying to give a little push," explains Ree Webster, the event's co-organizer, when asked about motivations behind his efforts.

The gala event will feature seven fights and 14 fighters, all in one of Patong's biggest nightclubs - Seduction Beach Club and Disco. Most of the fighters will be up-and-comers, who have been training in the region.

"It is no secret to combat sports fans that Muay Thai is a primary part of MMA. With so many fighters flocking to Thailand to train in one of its hundreds, or possibly thousands, of world-class Muay Thai gyms, to learn Muay Thai in order to incorporate it into their MMA arsenal, the Kingdom needs more MMA events," explains Webster.

Among the fighters in the ring on the night will be Mangthus "The Beast" Rewtawee, who's training with Thai One FC fighter Shannon Wiratchai in Bangkok, and Rachanon "The Mad Child" Ngaongam, out of Boxing King and Emac - both also in Bangkok. In another match-up, a debut fight for both fighters, Dylan Fussell from Team Quest Chiang Mai will face Tiger Muay Thai's Yusuf Karakaya. This event will also see the likes of EMAC Gym owner Niti Techottiasnee and Shannon Wiratchai, One FC fighter and Martial Warrior Star, providing the commentary.

One of the tasks the organizers set for themselves is to promote MMA in Thailand - a country with rich martial arts traditions that it holds dear, but is slowly shifting to accept contemporary fight sports such as MMA.

"I feel like Asia still thinks of fighting in the cage as taboo. Many still prefer a boxing ring. Many Thais still have the "old school" way of thinking and we're just trying to break through doors,"



The gala event at Seduction Beach Club and Disco will feature seven fights and 14 fighters. Photo: Fightlaunch

explains Ree Webster. It starts with the events name. "There is no Thai word like 'Octagon' which the UFC uses to describe their cage. So we're helping out. Dojo is a place where martial arts are done. And what surrounds our awesome dojo? Full metal, that's what.

Enter the Full Metal Dojo." The organizers are also hoping to get the Tourism Authority of Thailand involved in the promotion of future events, at the time this issue of the Gazette went to print, the negotiations were ongoing. The event will take place on

June 7 at the nightclub in Patong. Tickets are available at the nightclub, the Fight Lab shops and the Tiger Muay Thai gym or reserved via Facebook.

For more information about the event visit Facebook.com/fullmetaldjo.

Goats go for the gold

CROWDS of fairgoers hastily gathered last Saturday around the racing lanes at the National Goat Fair in Cherng Talay as anxious farmers corralled their hairy contestants toward the starting line.

The ominous, stubborn rain clouds had parted just in time for the long-awaited goat races to begin. Even the sweltering heat could not stifle the excitement among children and adults alike as the first racing goats stood at the ready, bleating in anticipation.

Governor Maitri Inthusut kick-started the first round with a swift wave of a checkered racing flag and off they - actually, just one - went! The race got off to a rocky start, as only one of the goats seemed to know what was at stake. The others did not appear to have their heads in the game, and by the time they realized what to do, the little brown goat

in lane one had already won. The goat's jubilant young owner ran to meet him at the finish line and proudly stood by as spectators snapped pictures of the triumphant winner.

Round two began soon after; the goats got bigger and the racing got faster. As soon as the flag waved, the goats barreled forward. Contestants in lanes two and three went head to head as the crowds clapped and cheered, and the two stayed neck and neck until the last second of the race. The slight, but quick, goat in lane two pulled out a win, beating his fellow competitors.

Competition in the third round was even fiercer, and the contestants shot off as soon as they were signaled by race marshal Governor Maitri. In fact, the race was so close between goats in the first three lanes, with only a brief lead by lane three, that it was



Governor Maitri waves the checkered flag.



The National Goat Fair's goat race saw a veritable pantheon of worthy competitors vying for the coveted title of fastest goat.

unclear who won. Race referees decided to hold a third-round rematch in the hopes that a clear winner would emerge.

The tension before the ultimate, re-matched race was palpable, and the contestants dug their hooves into the dirt with a final wave of the flag. Goats in lanes two and three took an initial lead, but lane three fell back in the final

stretch, allowing lane two to take the gold.

The National Goat Fair's highly-anticipated goat race saw a veritable pantheon of worthy competitors. Although only three left the fair enjoying their 15 minutes of fame, all of the other racers fought valiantly for the coveted title of fastest goat, and accepted defeat with their heads held high. - Mauri Grant

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YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Nakhon Rachasima	12	28
2	Angthong FC	12	25
3	Bangkok FC	12	24
4	Saraburi FC	12	20
5	Royal Navy	12	20
6	TTM Customs	12	19
7	Phuket FC	12	18
8	BBCU	12	18
9	Phitsanulok FC	12	18
10	Chiangmai FC	12	16
11	Trat FC	12	14
12	Ayutthaya FC	12	14
13	Krabi FC	12	14
14	Pattaya Utd	12	13
15	Roi Et Utd	12	12
16	NakhonPathom	12	12
17	Khon Kaen FC	12	6
18	Sri Racha FC	12	2

FIXTURES

PHUKET FC vs ROYAL NAVY
MAY 31 @Saraburi | 6 pm

PHUKET FC vs KHON KAEN
JUN 07 @Surakul | 6.30 pm

PHUKET FC vs ROI ET UTD
JUN 07 @Surakul | 6.30 pm

*dates subject to change

*Last Update: 28/05/2014

World Cup not welcomed by all

By Pedro Fonseca

THE bus carrying Brazil's World Cup squad to their first day of training on Monday was kicked and punched by demonstrators angry at what they consider exorbitant spending on football and not enough on social programs.

A small group of striking teachers attacked the bus as it left Rio de Janeiro for the mountain town of Teresopolis, where the squad will be based during the tournament.

The teachers covered the bus with stickers as Barcelona players Neymar and Dani Alves looked on from inside.

When the bus arrived in Teresopolis, 100 kilometers away, another group of about 30 people chanted anti-World Cup slogans.

"This country's priority shouldn't be the World Cup, it should be improving health,

education, housing and public transport," said Rui Costa, a striking teacher who helped organize the protest.

Costa said none of the houses promised to victims of a deadly flood in the area that killed around 1,000 people in 2011 had been delivered.

Protesters allied to a far-left political party held up a banner in English that read, "Billions for the FIFA's World Cup, No housing for the victims of the heavy rains of 2011. Do you think it is fair?"

The demonstrations ended peacefully, but they provided another warning of the potential pitfalls that Brazil faces as it struggles to host football's biggest extravaganza.

Last year during the Confederations Cup, the dress rehearsal for next month's tournament, hundreds of thousands of people took



Demonstrators protest against the 2014 World Cup during the arrival of the Brazilian national soccer team at the Granja Comary training center. Photo: Ricardo Moraes/Reuters

to streets across the country to protest bus fare hikes.

The grievances soon expanded to cover a lack of social spending and excess investment in football stadiums.

None of the matches were affected, but fans fought with riot police outside the

arenas and tear gas was used.

"No one here is rooting against Brazil," said Alex Trintino, the coordinator of a local teachers' union.

"This was a symbolic act against a country that doesn't have money for health and education." - Reuters

New Asian Tour venue under construction

THEY have roamed the fairways, conquered the treacherous greens and marveled at the beauty of various championship golf courses around the region.

Come 2015, a new playground within the central highlands of Dalat, Vietnam will await players from the Asian Tour.

Located at 1200 meters above sea level and aptly named after its elevation, The Dalat at 1200 Country Club and Private Estate holds the distinction of being the first property to be announced as an Asian Tour Destination.

It is a hallmark of prestige and excellence which only a selected few can lay claim to.

While it will be some time before the first Asian Tour event is staged at The Dalat at 1200, the excitement is already heating up.

In a recent visit to, Australia's Scott Barr, a member of the Asian Tour Tournament Players Committee (TPC), described the Asian Tour Destination as a sight to behold.

"The property is very picturesque, it has a stunning entrance and the golf course will be quite spectacular when it is completed. The climate in Dalat is conducive for golf due to the low humidity and high altitude.

"It'll be a great destination for golf in the coming years especially with its fantastic hospitality, lovely bent grass greens, cooler weather and surroundings," said Barr.

With plans for an Asian Tour Golf Academy in the pipelines as well, the Singapore-based Australian is confident the destination, along with the course which is designed by former Asian number one Kyi

Hla Han, will offer a unique experience.

"When the academy takes off, I believe there would be a very high chance you can spot the best players in Asia taking advantage of the facility and if you're lucky enough, you may even get the chance to take them on in a one-on-one game," said Barr.

A former teaching professional, Barr is equally optimistic that the Asian Tour Golf Academy will offer the best training facilities for aspiring professionals as well as Asian Tour players.

"The academy, once completed, will be equal to the best facilities in the world and will feature all the latest training equipment, a two-ended range, pitching, short game and putting facilities," said Barr.

Enjoying varied topography in the Dalat area, The Dalat at 1200 will allow golfers



Scott Barr (left) and Kyi Hla Han monitor construction. Photo: Supplied

to relive the Asian Tour experience where they will walk along the same fairways as their golfing heroes and enjoy the property's world-class amenities.

- Phuket Gazette

AFC continues battle to eradicate match-fixing

THE Asian Football Confederation has asked its member associations to appoint integrity officials to report any issues of match-fixing as they battle to clear up corruption in the sport.



AFC President Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa. Photo: Lenbj

The AFC, which has 46 full members and one associate member in Northern Mariana Islands, has set a deadline of June 30 to make the appointments, with those hired reporting to the organization's integrity officer Hassan Haider Khan.

"Responsibilities of the integrity officer are to establish and maintain integrity initiatives within the MA (member associations), receive information related to match-fixing matters within the MA and conduct inquiries or inves-

tigations as an administrative 'fact finder' in coordination with AFC and relevant national law enforcement agencies," AFC Director of MAs and Development Sanjeevan Balasingam said in a

statement.

AFC members have long battled match-fixing issues, with China, South Korea, Lebanon, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore among countries to have been hit by the problem.

AFC President Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, elected to the position last year, promised to tackle the issue upon taking office but problems have continued.

The AFC said they were committed to clearing up the problems. - Reuters

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