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Fight for Kamala

V/Gov packing big guns for war on beach encroachers

By **Saran Mitrarat**

BEACH vendors in Phuket could have their shops torn down and face hefty fines of up to 500,000 baht, several years in jail and payments of 10,000 baht per square meter of land if their buildings are found to be encroaching on the sands.

Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada has set his sights on returning Phuket's beaches to the public. He has formed a team of officers to re-zone the beachfront in order to combat encroachment, starting with Kamala.

"Phuket beaches belong to the public. We want to clear out at least one-third of the beachfront at Kamala..."

Continued on Page 6



Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada is ready for battle.

EXCLUSIVE

Phuket yachting: I thought I saw Flight MH370

A BRITISH sailor who crossed the Indian Ocean en route to Phuket in March has filed a report saying that she may have seen the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.

After months of doubting what she saw, what seemed to be a plane on fire crossing the night sky with trail of smoke behind it, Katherine Tee has spoken out.

Full Story Pages 4-5

Army declares war on island's tuk-tuk mafia

A COMPANY of 100 soldiers from Southern Thailand reinforced more than 1,000 police officers in a west coast blitz this week that netted scores of illegal taxi and tuk-tuk drivers wanted for being violent, abusive, cheating or just outright corrupt.

Full Story Page 3

Developer called out in B600mn landgrab effort

A DEVELOPER has agreed to remove land markers illegally staking out 600 million baht of school land overlooking the hills toward Patong.

The issue was written off as a misunderstanding after land documents were examined.

Full Story Page 8

THE VIEW

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Army storms island in assault on taxi mafia

By Saran Mittrarat

A DEPLOYMENT of 100 soldiers from Southern Thailand on Wednesday provided military support to a huge task force of 1,110 police officers and 40 volunteers who swept along the west coast of Phuket to purge the island of illegal, violent, abusive and cheating taxi, tuk-tuk and minivan drivers.

The soldiers were acting under orders from Maj Gen Peerapol Wiriyakul, Commanding General of the 41st Military Circle, which operates out of the Fourth Army Area Command in Nakhon Sri Thammarat.

Over 70 drivers were taken into custody in a single blitz led by Lt Gen Panya Mamen, Commander of the Royal Thai Police Region 8 division.

"I assigned a squad headed by Maj Gen Paween Pongsirin to start tackling this problem on January 30," Gen Panya told the press.

"His team questioned the staff and owners of 51 businesses, totalling 150 witnesses, which led to 111 arrest warrants issued for 108 people," Gen Panya explained.

In the blitz on Wednesday, 32 warrants were served in Kata-Karon, eight in Thalang, nine in Cherng Talay and 27 in Kamala.

Although no drivers in Patong were arrested on Wednesday, the *Gazette* was informed before going to print that some of the 35 drivers yet to be arrested are based in Phuket's main resort town – and the raids were due to continue on Thursday.



Lt Gen Panya Mamen led the blitz on the tangled web of Phuket's unofficial transport network.

"Some of the suspects worked illegally as taxi or tuk-tuk drivers," Gen Panya said. "Others were legal, but were wanted for specific incidents, such as abusive or violent behavior, or for cheating tourists."

All of the drivers arrested were denied police bail.

"Some of them face up to 10 years in jail," Gen Paween told the *Gazette*.

Not included in the 73 arrests was that of Kata-Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham.

"Mr Tawee surrendered himself

to police today [Wednesday] after an arrest warrant was issued," said Gen Paween.

During a months-long investigation by Gen Paween's team, officers discovered that an illegal taxi booth in Kata-Karon had electricity and running water supplied by Kata-Karon Municipality.

"This is evidence enough that the illegal taxi operators were being supported by Kata-Karon Municipality. An arrest warrant for Mr Tawee was issued on that basis," Gen Paween said.

Mr Tawee had long been at the

head of local politics in Kata-Karon. He was elected Karon Mayor for the third term running in July 2012.

"If any tourists or business operators want to let us know about wayward taxi and tuk-tuk drivers, we will investigate," Gen Paween assured.

Complaints can be filed at either of the two Department of Special Investigation (DSI) Organized Crime Centers in Phuket, said Gen Paween.

"Or they can be filed at your local police station," he added.



The baby suffered mild burn wounds. Photo: Supplied

Newborn baby burned during incinerator fire

A NEWBORN Phuket baby suffered burn wounds after a fire started in its incubator, an accident dubbed "unpreventable" by the hospital director.

The baby was two days old when a short-circuit in the incubator's light bulb set fire to the newborn's swaddling blanket, explained Thana Bookahoot, director of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (OrBorJor) Hospital.

"Nurses immediately saved the baby. However, the baby did suffer a mild burn," explained Dr Thana.

"A nurse's hand was burnt in the accident as well."

Dr Thana told the *Gazette* that such accidents are unpreventable.

"We do regular checks on our incubators, but short-circuit fires like this can happen even in properly working machines," he explained.

Dr Thana declined to comment on how often hospital staff run safety checks on the incubators.

"The baby is safe and has been transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital for recovery. There is a skin specialist there who will take care of the treatment," Dr Thana said.

The hospital declined to name the parents or the gender of the baby. As a result, the *Gazette* was unable to reach the parents for comment.

– Saran Mittrarat



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The riddle of the search

THE Malaysian government and British satellite firm Inmarsat last week released data used to determine the path of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, responding to a clamor from passengers' relatives for greater transparency.

The data from satellite communications with the plane features hourly "handshakes" – or network log-on confirmations – after the aircraft disappeared from civilian radar screens on March 8.

Families of passengers are hoping that opening up the data to analysis by a wider range of experts can help verify the plane's last location, nearly three months after the Boeing 777 with 239 passengers and crew disappeared.

Based on Inmarsat's and other investigators' analysis of the data, the aircraft is believed to have gone down in the Indian Ocean off Western Australia.

Malaysian investigators suspect someone shut off MH370's data links making the plane impossible to track, but investigators have so far turned up



The search area was initially expanded after Malaysian defense forces recorded an unidentified aircraft on their radar. Image: Reuters

nothing suspicious about the crew or passengers.

In the hours after the aircraft disappeared, an Inmarsat satellite picked up a handful of handshake "pings", indicating the plane continued flying for hours after leaving radar and helping narrow the search to an area of the Indian Ocean.

The dense technical data re-

leased last week details satellite communications from before MH370's take-off at 12:41am local time on March 8 to a final, "partial handshake" transmitted by the plane at 8:19am.

The data includes a final transmission from the plane eight seconds later, after which there was no further response.

– Reuters

A glimpse

BRITISH sailor Katherine Tee crossed the Indian Ocean en route to Phuket in early March, during the same week that Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 disappeared from the night sky.

But it wasn't until this past week that Katherine stepped forward to file a report that she may have seen the ill-fated flight passing overhead while she sailed the Andaman Sea.

The Gazette's Chris Husted reports.

KATHERINE Tee, 41, was sailing from Cochin, India to Phuket with her husband Marc Horn, 50, when she saw what looked like a plane on fire crossing the night sky, with a plume of black smoke trailing behind it.

Katherine, from Liverpool, was alone on deck at the time.

"I was on a night watch. My husband was asleep below deck and our one other crew member was asleep on deck," she recalled.

"I saw something that looked like a plane on fire. That's what I thought it was. Then, I thought I must be mad... It caught my attention because I had never seen a plane with orange lights before, so I wondered what they were.

"I could see the outline of the plane, it looked longer than planes usually do. There was

what appeared to be black smoke streaming from behind it."

At least two other aircraft were visible in the night sky.

"There were two other planes passing well above it – moving the other way – at that time. They had normal navigation lights. I remember thinking that if it was a plane on fire that I was seeing, the other

aircraft would report it," Katherine said.

"And then, I wondered again why it had such bright orange lights. They reminded me of sodium lights. I thought it could be some anomaly or just a meteor."

Katherine noted that when she first saw the object, "It was approaching to cross behind our stern from the north. When I checked again later, it had moved across the stern and was moving away to the south."

SILENCE

Katherine kept her experience to herself. She and her husband had been at sea for about 13 months at that time, she explained, and long voyages can take their toll on relationships.

"We hadn't spoken for about a week," Katherine noted.

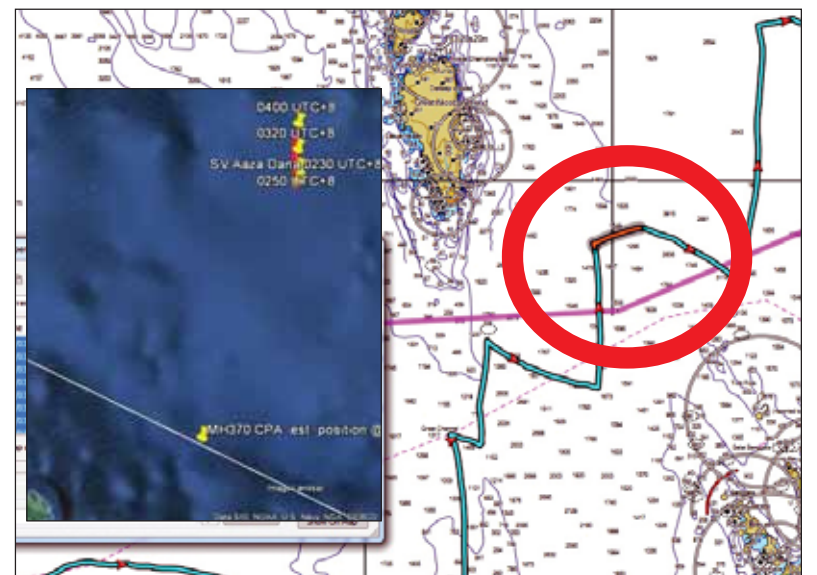
When the trio arrived in Phuket on March 10, however, they heard of the MH370 tragedy. Katherine told local yachties what she thought she saw while en route to Phuket.

"Some suggested I should say something, that [what I saw] might have been it. Most said that the flight was heading toward Viet-



'Most of all, I wasn't sure of what I saw. I couldn't believe it myself, and didn't think anyone would believe me when I was having trouble believing my own eyes.'

– Katherine Tee



It was the correlation of the yacht's position and the projected flightpath of MH370 (inset) that prompted Katherine to file her report. Images: Supplied

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Phuket radios still silent as part of a coup-time order handed down by the NCPO. Photo: Andreanne Germain

Radio stations to stay offline amid concerns over rogue DJs

DESPITE not being under investigation by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), radio stations in Phuket have been ordered to remain off air due to concerns that rogue DJs could cause disharmony, the *Gazette* was told.

"The private radio stations are to remain off air because we don't want to chance someone talking on air about the political situation in a way that could cause turmoil," said Commanding General of the 41st Military Circle Peerapol Wiriyakul.

"None of them are under investigation. However, they are to remain silent until NCPO chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha changes the current policy."

Popular local station Phuket Island Radio 91.5FM fell silent in compliance with the order handed down on May 25.

The only Phuket station still broadcasting is *Gazette* radio partner BlueWave 90.5FM, which is operated under a license granted by the Public Relations Department.

Army deputy spokesman Lt Col Winthai Suwaree on May 25 explained that the army was targeting a total of 14 "community radio stations" and local television networks.

The NCPO is working out solutions for allowing the 14 banned satellite TV stations to resume their broadcasts, he said.

The NCPO would be 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.

— Woranut Pechdee

No power rationing during gasfield shutdown, say officials

THE chief of the Phuket Energy Office and Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut have both confirmed there will be no enforced blackouts or power rationing in Phuket when a major gas field supply line goes offline next week.

Supply of natural gas from field A-18 in the Joint Development Area (JDA) between Thailand and Malaysia in the Gulf of Thailand will be disrupted from June 13 to July 10 for an upgrade.

"We will not cut power supply during the upgrade," Governor Maitri told the *Gazette*.

"However, we are asking everyone to be conservative with their power use. I have ordered government offices to slash their power

consumption by 15 per cent."

Phuket Energy Office Chief Wiroj Damkong concurred, saying his office "could not allow" enforced blackouts in Phuket.

"We will not cut power supply to Phuket as it is a tourist destination. We cannot have enforced blackouts affecting tourism," he said.

"However, I'd urge everyone to save energy, especially during the peak hours." Mr Wiroj told the *Gazette*. "The more power you save, the cheaper your bills will be."

To promote power-saving habits, the Ministry of Energy is launching an online campaign via social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.

— Chutharat Plerin



Energy Office Chief Wiroj Damkong has confirmed that Phuket power will not be cut.

Residents support light-rail, query impact on Old Town

By Saran Mittrarat

THE effects Phuket's long-awaited light-rail system will have on Phuket Old Town was a point of contention during the second public hearing for the project on Tuesday.

Of the 370 Phuket residents in attendance, many voiced their support for the project, while others expressed their concerns on how the tracks, which are planned to dominate some roadways through the heart of Phuket Town, would affect the inner-city community.

"Phuket Old Town must be preserved, and this trolley should not affect people's day-to-day lives," local resident Palat Jantarapopin said.

However, Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana thought the project might help boost her efforts to bring tourists to the cultural center of the province.

"This will be a great way to promote the Old Town as a tourist destination and support small businesses in the area through increased tourist traffic," Ms Somjai said.

Nonetheless, she asked that the light-rail connect Phuket City with many of the island's famous beaches.

"This would allow for easier travel between the beaches and Phuket City," she said.

Other residents asked for the train to connect to more rural des-



Local residents, like Palat Jantarapopin, voiced their concerns over preserving Old Town and its inhabitants' day-to-day lives.

tinations in order to allow locals to use it for commuting to work and for children to travel to school.

The other major effect Old Town residents face stems from the light-rail tracks being built on existing roads in Phuket Town. For other stretches of road, such as Thepkasattri Road, the tracks will run along the median.

"The next public hearing will be held specifically for Phuket Old Town residents, as they will be affected by changes to traffic flow through town," said Chula Sukmanop, director of Thailand's Office of Transport Policy and Planning.

Motorists will have to yield to the train at every intersection. However, at some intersections,

there will be underpasses for motorists to use, Mr Chula explained.

There will be 20 stations between Phuket International Airport and Chalong Circle, Mr Chula said.

"Although the trolley will have the ability to travel at 100kmh, the speed will be reduced to between 20 and 40kmh when it goes through Phuket Town," Mr Chula added.

The first public hearing was held at the Metropole Hotel on December 20 last year.

The date for the final public hearing has yet to be set, though an additional concern asked to be addressed at the next meeting was creating the necessary parking areas at trolley stops.

The proposal heard in the meeting on Tuesday was prepared and presented to Phuket officials on May 28.

The day before, Governor Maitri introduced the six Thai companies hired by the Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning to conduct a feasibility study that will cost 118 million baht.

The resurgence of the plans to build a light-rail in Phuket follows the project grinding to a halt in 2012 when Bureau of Regional Transport and Traffic Promotion pointed out to Phuket officials that by law it could not accept any feasibility studies by private companies that were not specifically commissioned by the government.

V/Gov fights to return beach land to beach-goers

From page 1

...so that it can be used by beach-goers," he told the *Gazette*.

Vice Governor Chamroen called a meeting last week at Phuket Provincial Hall to establish the rezone team and discuss strategies for reorganizing Kamala Beach.

"After we have rezoned the beachfront, areas not reserved for public space can be occupied only by chair operators and vendors who have permission from the local government," he explained.

"Also, only two rows of beach

chairs will be permitted on the beach at all times."

Once the zones have been established, vendors who already have permission from officials will be allowed to move their shops to the designated area, said V/Gov Chamroen, but all others vendors will face charges and have their shops torn down.

The first step will be to call villagers together to explain penalties for land encroachment, the vice governor said.

"Vendors encroaching on beach land face penalties under three

areas of the law. Under criminal law, they can face up to six years in jail; under environmental law, they can face up to five years in jail, a 500,000 baht fine, or both; and under the regulations of the Marine Office, they can face up to 10,000 baht per square meter of land encroached upon," V/Gov Chamroen explained.

"After we get Kamala Beach under control, I will set up teams to patrol beaches throughout Phuket once a month to monitor for encroachment and other illegal activities."

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Two tourists saved in two days

By Phuket Gazette

MISSIONS led by Tourist Police Volunteers on May 30 and 31 ended in the safe return of two lost tourists in two days to their hotels: one who had lost his way in the Thalang jungle and the other who got turned around in the concrete jungle of Patong.

A search on May 30 instigated by expat and long-standing Phuket Tourist Police Volunteer Simon Luttrell led to the recovery of 25-year-old French tourist Erik Pourier, who became lost in the jungle at the Khao Phra Thaew wildlife sanctuary in Thalang.

Mr Pourier, wanting to see the Bang Pae Waterfall, hiked alone for about 40 minutes, until he realized that it was too late in the day to reach the waterfall in daylight. Mr Pourier turned back, but darkness fell and he became disoriented.

Mr Pourier had his mobile phone and was able to call the only number stored on his new Thai SIM card – that of the 24/7 Airport Hotel, where he was staying.

"I actually answered his call as I live at the hotel, which is owned by my Thai family," said Mr



Mr Pourier, flanked by his saviors. Photo: Supplied

Luttrell.

Mr Luttrell rushed to the wildlife reserve and alerted rangers.

"Myself and a local man, Mr Ken, who knows the park very well, scrambled for about 30 minutes up the hill. From time to time, I was able to contact Erik by telephone and reassure him that rescue was on the way," Mr Luttrell told the *Gazette*.



Mr Berglund and Mr Marc. Photo: Region 8 Police Volunteers

The two rescuers were soon within shouting range and shortly afterward Mr Pourier was found safe and well.

Mr Luttrell credited the speed of the rescue to Mr Ken, whose local knowledge of the park was vital in finding Mr Pourier.

The second Phuket happy-ending happened on May 31 when a joint effort by Tourist Police Vol-

unteers and Region 8 Police Volunteers helped a confused Swedish tourist find his guesthouse after two days of being lost in Patong.

Karl "Tommy" Berglund, 67, left his hotel shortly after checking in on May 29 to go for a walk, said Tourist Police Volunteer Di-van Mydeen.

After a while, Mr Berglund lost

his way and could not remember the name of the hotel.

Mr Berglund searched for his guesthouse, with the help of locals, but was not able to find it. The locals chipped in to put Mr Berglund in a different guesthouse for the night.

On May 30, after another full day of searching, Mr Berglund came across police volunteers patrolling Soi Bangla and asked them for help, said Mr Mydeen.

Sen Sgt Maj Wichai Boonruen of the Tourist Police, volunteer Vanlommel Marc and Mr Mydeen drove Mr Berglund in the patrol car to look for the guesthouse.

"We drove around Patong... but after several hours it became late and we had to give up our first attempt to find his hotel. We arranged for him to stay overnight at MVC Hotel Patong near the police station and promised to follow up with him in the morning," said Mr Mydeen.

On May 31, Mr Marc met Mr Berglund at the hotel and the two went out on foot. The duo walked around for an hour and eventually Mr Berglund saw it – the Silver Resortel on Sawatdirak Road.

Japanese WWII torpedo washes up on Krabi sand

THE WWII Japanese torpedo brought to Krabi's shores by fisherman on May 27 was removed by experts and disarmed on a nearby island after three days on the beach.

"Officers from the Thai Navy Ordinance confirmed that the torpedo was from World War II, and that it was capable of destroying everything within a 1 kilometer radius," Koh Sriboya Kamnan Samran Raden told the *Gazette* after the weapon was removed.

"We are so relieved that the torpedo has been taken care of."

Krabi authorities had been scrambling for three days to find qualified experts to disarm the Japanese wartime weapon after they were alerted of its discovery by worried villagers.

"Koh Jum fisherman left on [May 27] to fish near Koh Sriboya. While they were fishing, they spotted a large metal item about four meters long and 50 centimeters wide floating in the water," said Kamnan Samran.

"They believed it was a torpedo, like they had seen in the movies, so they brought it ashore."

Neither the Krabi Provincial Police Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) unit nor the Third Naval Area Command in Phuket – the first two authorities called to the scene – were able to remove the weapon, as they did not have staff trained to safely handle explosives of this nature, confirmed officials.

The 5.4-meter-long torpedo contained 200kg of explosive charge and weighed 889kg at the time of production. It represents



The torpedo was taken to a nearby island and safely disarmed.

a type of torpedo purchased by Thailand in 1937 from the Japanese for 10,000 baht a piece.

Officials are unsure if the torpedo is from a Japanese or Thai warship.


"The Navy took the torpedo shell with them yesterday, but the Koh Sriboya Administration Organization has requested to have it returned so it can be preserved as an artifact," said Kamnan Samran.

One of the concerned locals told the *Gazette* that three villagers were killed by a similar weapon in the past.

"After we heard that authorities had confirmed that the metal object was a torpedo, and that it could still explode, we were terrified to have it near our homes," said Singhanart Jeensrikong, 40.

"I heard that about 40 years ago, fishermen from Baan Koh Jum found a round item about 50 centimeters in diameter floating in the sea near the village. It exploded and killed three people in the process."

– Chutharat Plerin/Kritsada Mueanhawong



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Ms Chalermluck was elected as Patong mayor in April.

Boycott forces Patong mayor to cancel first council meet

A BOYCOTT by members of Pian Keesin's *Rak Patong* Party on May 30 forced Chalermluck Kebsab to abandon her first council meeting as Patong Mayor.

Her supporting councilors failed to form a quorum – the minimum number of councilors needed to legally approve policy.

"There are 18 members on the council," explained Patong Municipality Chief Administrative Officer Poonsak Naksena.

"We need at least nine to form a quorum, but only five turned up."

The meeting was abandoned after Ms Chalermluck waited an hour for opposition councilors.

"It is the councilors' responsibility to show up at the meeting," Ms Chalermluck curtly told the *Gazette*.

"They have to think about whether they are working hard enough for the salary they are paid with the people's taxes."

Ms Chalermluck vowed that Patong Municipality projects will go ahead.

"Though we could not hold the meeting today, we can continue with our work," she said.

Mr Poonsak confirmed that the next meeting of the Patong Council is scheduled for June 9.

"The Election Commission in Bangkok installed Ms Chalermluck as Patong Mayor on May 21," he said. "She has 30 days from that date to announce her mandate to the council."

"If a quorum is not formed at the June 9 meeting, she has the right to request approval from the Phuket governor to send her mandate to the councilors by mail."

– Saran Mittrarat

Phuket school landgrab dubbed as 'misunderstanding' by developer

By Saran Mittrarat

THE Phuket developer who last week staked a claim to a huge tract of land belonging to Kathu Wittaya School admitted on May 29 that he had "made a mistake".

Named publicly only as "Ko Kim", the landowner said he would have the Land Office move the boundary markers for his land – which is next to the school – to their correct positions as soon as possible.

The school land staked out by boundary markers issued by the Phuket Land Office has uninterrupted views of the hills toward Patong and an estimated value of 600 million baht.

The admission to accidentally claiming rights to the school land immediately followed talks among "Mr Kim", Kathu District Chief Sayan Chanachaiwong and School Director Montri Pornphol at the Kathu District Office on May 29.

"The person who claimed to own the land [Mr Kim] had the boundary-marker pins and wooden stakes installed so that surveyors from the Land Office could confirm their position," Mr Sayan told the *Gazette*.

"The officers had yet to survey the property when the students began their protest."

The protest, during which more than 100 students rallied in front



More than 100 students joined in the May 29 protest to protect their school from land encroachment.

of the school on May 29, came one day after the youngsters had posted vinyl banners along the fence erected to mark off the land being claimed.

"After seeing the protest, we called Mr Kim to talk at our office

and to compare land documents," Mr Sayan said.

"Ko Kim agreed that he had misunderstood the documents."

Mr Kim told the *Gazette* that he was a former student at the school.

"I now understand that the land

belongs to the school. I will ensure that all the markers and the fences are moved to their correct locations as soon as I can, hopefully today or tomorrow," he said.

"I am so sorry for my misunderstanding."

Pirate-goods sellers claim 'exploitation' through extortion

A BARRAGE of complaints were voiced by pirate-goods sellers during a protest against allegedly being forced to pay "too much" extortion money to a variety of government officers based in Bangkok.

"They come for money every day, but it's always a different officer," said one of the protesters, who declined to be named.

"They ask for 3,000 baht or more, and if they arrest a vendor, it can cost more than 50,000 baht to have the charge cleared."

The protester claimed that officers told him they sent the money to their bosses in Bangkok.

The group of vendors from about 40 different shops in Patong took to Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road and Thaweewong Road on May 30 carrying signs which read in Thai, "Shop closed to escape exploitation", "Closed because we cannot afford to pay extortion

money" and "Did not sell *ya bah* [methamphetamine], why do they think we commit a crime."

The protesters demanded that relevant officers fix the problem.

"We know the goods are illegal, but tourists like them," the protester said.

Reports have yet to surface regarding any arrests of protesters.

However, in July last year, a Department of Special Investigation (DSI) task force arrested seven people and seized pirated goods with an estimated street value of more than 100 million baht.

Despite regularly destroying hundreds of millions of baht of pirated goods a year, Thailand struggles to shake the image of being a hub for counterfeit goods.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



Pirate-goods sellers took to the streets of Patong on May 30 to protest alleged exploitation through extortion payments. Photo: Supplied

Driving courses to be offered for foreigners

SEVERAL educational institutions on the island will soon offer training courses in English, as well as Russian and Burmese, for foreigners wanting to get a driver's licence.

The Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) on May 30 signed a Memorandum of Understanding with five educational institutions on the island to provide more locations where drivers, Thai and foreign, can take classroom training courses.

"Phuket Rajabhat University will provide training courses in English for foreigners. In the future, we will provide classes in Thai, Burmese and Russian,"



Mr Terayout explains the testing process.

"Licence applicants previously had to get 22 out of 30 questions correct on the written test to pass. Now, the number of questions has been increased to 50, and the test-taker must get 45 of those correct to pass," said Mr Terayout.

– Woranut Pechdee

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Winners of Gazette plane ride and prizes announced

TWO lucky people out of the more than 500 who took part in the *Gazette's* 2014 Reader Survey have won a free ride over the island in the company's new airplane.

Each person who completed the survey was issued a lucky number. The winning numbers, drawn on May 31, are 8584 and 7546.

Maintaining our promise of anonymity in the survey, the winners' names will not be announced unless and until they authorize us to do so. Assuming green lights, we'll reveal the names shortly. Assuming otherwise, you'll never know – unless they start bragging about their prize and telling people how much they enjoyed it.

With Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs in town on June 7-8, the three lucky winners holding numbers 1814, 4570 and 8799 have each landed two free tickets to either that show or their choice of any one of the other upcoming *Gazette* headline events before the end of this year.

Five other lucky winners can claim their stylish *Gazette* polo shirt at the *Gazette* office when they come forward with the following numbers: 3834, 0352, 4328, 2646 and 6978

Prize or no prize, we want to thank all of you, our loyal readers, for taking the time to give us the feedback necessary to continue to adapt our content to meet your needs.

Those with the winning numbers should



Two lucky winners will have a bird's eye view of Phuket and the Andaman. Photo: yeowatzap

contact Isaac@PhuketGazette.net with their confirmation code for their prizes.

– *Phuket Gazette*



New top cop Maj Gen Krajang Suwannarat. Photo: Supplied

Flip-flop of top cops puts new commander in Phuket power

A DEPUTY commander at the Royal Thai Police Region 8 headquarters in Surat Thani arrived in Phuket on Tuesday to be installed as Phuket's new top-ranking police officer.

Maj Gen Krajang Suwannarat was officially promoted to the post of Phuket Provincial Police Commander in an order promulgated on Monday.

According to the official transfer orders, both signed by Police Region 8 Commander Panya Mamen, Gen Krajang was assigned to the post of Phuket Provincial Police Commander while retaining his title as a deputy commander at Police Region 8.

Former chief Maj Gen Ong-art Phiwruangnont received immediate marching orders on Monday to report to the Royal Thai Police Region 8 in Surat Thani.

The news came just hours after Gen Ong-art publicly confirmed that he had not received any transfer orders.

However, Gen Ong-art told the *Gazette* that he received an urgent call on Monday ordering him to report to Surat Thani.

"I do not know how long I will be there," Gen Ong-art told the *Gazette*. "I am now packing my things. I came to Phuket with my driver, and I will be leaving with him to Surat Thani without any farewell party."

– *Chutharat Plerin*

Angry tour guides gather

By Saran Mitrarat

ABOUT 100 angry tour guides protested at Chalong Police Station today after 23 legal members of a local Chinese tour guide association were brought in for questioning on Monday morning.

Three members of the association had been attempting to collect evidence of illegal guides operating in the popular tourist destination when they were taken into police custody.

"We do not have jobs right now, as they have been stolen by illegal guides. So, two other guides and I went to Promthep Cape to gather evidence," said protest leader Jaifu Sae-lee. "We started questioning the guides and taking pictures for evidence so that we could inform the police."

However, police received reports that the men were threatening tourists. Officers arrived at about 11:45am, and brought the men to the police station.

"Instead of targeting the illegal guides, they forced us to come to the station with them," Mr Jaifu said. "Why did the police arrest the legal guides instead of the illegal ones?"

Though only three members of the group were questioning people at Promthep Cape, all 23 members of the association were asked to come to the station, Mr Jaifu explained.



The guides gathered at Chalong Police Station to protest the arrest of legal guides over illegal ones.

"That is why I was angry and called so many tour guides to gather," Mr Jaifu said.

Lt Col Sathit Nooricht of the Chalong Police explained that all the men were asked to come to the station in order to protect the tourists.

"We were also trying to protect ourselves. The station is a safe, neutral place, so we had them follow our patrol cars there," Col Sathit said.

All 23 men were released after

the questioning was complete, said Col Sathit.

"The Chalong Police promised to arrest illegal guides, but we are not sure about other areas in Phuket," Mr Jaifu said.

"We are all Thai nationals that have the proper paperwork and ID cards to prove that we are legal guides. We hope that the police will focus more on illegal guides in order to reserve jobs for those of us who are legitimate."

With the green season in full

swing, competition between guides for business has increased, said Col Sathit.

"We have names of possible illegal guides, but we have to collect evidence before we can make any arrests," explained Col Sathit.

"We promise to help the legal guides. We don't want to run into another situation where it appears that tourists are being threatened."

Mr Jaifu cleared the protesters from Chalong Police Station shortly after 3pm.

Dredging continues despite concerns over damages to canal environment

THE dredging project to improve access to Koh Kaew marinas, which was halted earlier this month due to environmental concerns, has started again.

The decision to continue with the dredging of the Koh Kaew Canal was reached on May 28.

"We should keep moving forward, and study negative effects as we go along," said Koh Kaew subdistrict chief Jedsada Nabnien.

"Since the project has already started, it's difficult to stop it and there may be negative consequences to abandoning it.

"Let them continue the project this time, but all the officers and villagers have to consider this as



Mr Jitti has been protesting the dredging method for 15 years.

a lesson learned," he concluded, to rousing applause.

He was supported by Phuket Marine Chief Phuriphat Teerakulpisut, who vowed to pay for any ill-effects of the dredging out

of his own pocket.

"If it causes any problems, I will stop it and take full responsibility to pay for any losses," Chief Phuriphat said.

"But I will not stop it if the problem hasn't happened yet."

The possible problems of the dredging method used were outlined by Mr Jitti in April.

"I have been fighting against this method for 15 years," he said.

Governor Maitri Inthusut called for relevant officers to study negative effects of dredging in order to prevent them in the future.

"I will follow up on this in two months," Gov Maitri concluded.

– *Saran Mitrarat*

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A soldier stands in front of a screen at Victory Monument. Photo: Reuters

Army coup could help economy says index

AN INDEX of consumer confidence in Thailand jumped in May on hopes a military government that seized power promising to impose order after months of political chaos will drag the economy back from the brink of recession.

The crackdown does appear to have brought some stability for now, after months of paralysis under a caretaker government that lacked the power to make policy or approve new spending.

The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) said on Tuesday that its May consumer confidence index hit its highest level since January, just before protesters disrupted a February 2 election called by Ms Yingluck in a failed bid to end the crisis.

The index rose to 70.7 in May from 67.8 in April, when it had fallen for the 13th month in a row and was at its lowest level in more than 12 years. Polling for the index was carried out last week, after the coup.

"The main factor boosting sentiment was confidence in the future due to political clarity. People were more confident the economy would get better," Thanavath Phonvichai, an economics professor at the university, told a news briefing.

University President Saowanee Thairungroj said an index on the political situation jumped to 59.6 in May from 37.3 in April. "It rose 22 points in a month, compared with just a few point changes previously, and that came in just one week."

Army crackdown on anti-coup protesters

AROUND THE nation

By Paul Mooney and Simon Webb

THE military government sent thousands of troops and police into central Bangkok on Sunday, stifling any mass dissent against the Army's coup announced on May 22 and limiting protesters to small gatherings held mostly around shopping malls.

A force of 5,700 police and soldiers was deployed in central Bangkok on Sunday, and rapid deployment units were on hand to stop protests against the coup that might spring up elsewhere, deputy police chief Somyot Poompanmoung said.

The military has banned political gatherings of five or more people and protests that have taken place in Bangkok have been small and brief.

A group of protesters gathered on Sunday on an elevated walkway leading to the Bangkok Art and Culture Centre. Hundreds of troops with riot gear arrived and suddenly stormed the walkway, sending protesters and onlookers fleeing.

Earlier, a group of about 30 people protested inside Terminal 21 mall in the Asoke area and a group of a similar size gathered at Thammasart University near the Royal Palace, one of the sites most visited by tourists in Bangkok.

Many protesters signalled their opposition to the coup by holding three middle fingers of one hand up in the air, as was done by rebelling citizens in the popular book and movie series *Hunger Games*.

Some said the symbol stood for freedom, equality and brotherhood.

A few displayed signs bearing the words "No Coup". Police detained one of the protesters in Asoke. On Saturday, as on the two previous days, the authorities closed normally busy roads around Victory Monument, which was becoming a focal point for



Anti-coup protesters in Bangkok hold signs and raise three fingers to symbolize their desire to see democracy restored in Thailand after the Army coup in May 22. Photo: Reuters

opposition to the coup. The area was flooded with police and troops but no protesters turned up.

Some top-end malls in the Ratchaprasong area chose to close or have reduced opening hours and the operator of the Skytrain overhead rail network shut several stations in the central area.

The cavernous Central World mall opened four hours later than normal at 2pm. By mid-afternoon there were only a handful of shoppers in the mall, parts of which were burnt to the ground in the mayhem after an army crackdown on protesters in 2010.

"I feel safer now so, no, I didn't change my plans to come," said an expatriate American woman who has lived in Thailand for 30 years. "This country has been in turmoil for three years. It couldn't move forward under the previous government. I hope things can be resolved now."

Thailand's deep political divide pits the conservative elite dominated by the military, old-money families and the bureaucracy against supporters of former telecommunications mogul Thaksin Shinawatra, who is adored by the poor in the north and northeast. Mr Thaksin is the brother of Ms Yingluck and was considered the real power behind her government. He was ousted as prime minister in a previous coup in 2006 and lives in self-imposed exile since fleeing a 2008 conviction for abuse of power. In a televised address late on Friday, army chief and coup leader General Prayuth Chan-ocha said that the military would need time to reconcile Thailand's antagonistic political forces and push through reforms.

He outlined a process beginning with three months of "reconciliation". A temporary constitution would be drawn up

and an interim prime minister and cabinet chosen in a second phase, taking about a year, he said. An election would come at an unspecified time after that.

The United States, European Union countries and others have called for Gen Prayuth to restore democracy quickly, release political detainees and end censorship.

Australia scaled back relations with the Thai military on Saturday and banned coup leaders from travelling there.

Sihasak Phuangketkeow, permanent secretary at Thailand's Foreign Ministry, played down foreign concerns and pleaded for understanding from his country's allies.

"Importantly, we have already started a process of heading back on the democratic track," he said. "As things progress, I do hope that our friends and partners will take these developments into consideration."

— Reuters

Experts struggle to identify burned bodies

DOCTORS are still working to identify the 13 charred bodies — 12 of whom were Vietnamese students — from a crash between a van and truck in Chaiyaphum on Monday.

A forensic physician at Khon Kaen's Srinagarind Hospital said that the bodies were burned beyond recognition, reported *The Nation*.

Dr Wirut Khunkiti said that the team was waiting for forensic evidence such as dental records



The van burst into flames after the head-on collision. Photo: The Nation

and DNA test results, as well as relatives' confirmation to identify the victims. So far, the cause of death had been determined for

eight bodies; six died from crash injuries and two from suffocation and smoke inhalation.

The 12 Vietnamese students — on their way to attend the Nong Bua Lamphu church camp — and van driver Weerachai Phromsakul, 36, died after their chartered vehicle collided head-on with an 18-wheel truck. The van burst into flames after the smash.

As of press time, three students remain seriously injured.

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Myanmar targets interfaith marriage

By Jared Ferrie

MYANMAR began a parliamentary session last week that will see lawmakers debate the first of four proposed laws that aim to protect the country's majority Buddhist identity by regulating religious conversions and interfaith marriages.

The proposals come amidst rising sectarian tension in Myanmar, which has exploded in violent clashes between Buddhists and Muslims, killing at least 237 people and displacing more than 140,000 since June 2012.

The vast majority of victims were Muslims who make up only about five per cent of Myanmar's population of 60 million.

A state-run newspaper on Tuesday published the draft of a law that would require anyone seeking to change their religion to get permission from panels of government officials in each township.

The government said it would accept comments on the draft until June 20. It has yet to publish drafts of the other three bills, dealing with population control measures, a ban on polygamy and curbs on interfaith marriage.

Dhammapiya, a senior monk who helped write the original proposal for the laws, said they were meant to encourage peace between different faiths and to "protect" Buddhist women from being forced to convert to Islam when they married Muslim men.

"Many incidents happen, so this marriage law is to help the women do something," he said in an interview in a monastery in Yangon.



People in Yangon sign a petition calling for greater individual freedoms under a proposed amendment to the 2008 Constitution near the National League for Democracy head office on May 27. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE region

May Sabe Phyu, a women's rights activist, rejected the suggestion that such laws would protect women, saying they would instead benefit from better access to education and employment.

"Religion is an individual decision," she said.

"For what purpose is this con-

version of religion law really needed?"

The laws were actually intended to put pressure on Muslims, May Sabe Phyu said. "It's based on extreme hatred," she added. "It's focused on a particular religion."

Myanmar's quasi-civilian government has adopted sweeping political and economic reforms since taking over from a military junta in March 2011.

But it has struggled to contain religious tension that has grown alongside a movement led by nationalist Buddhist monks and known by the numerals "969",

which have come to symbolize an effort aimed at isolating Muslims.

No women's groups or religious bodies except for Buddhists were consulted in drafting the laws, said May Sabe Phyu.

"The whole process was kept secret," she said, adding that lawmakers should focus instead on laws to prevent domestic violence.

"Whether you marry a Muslim, a Buddhist or a Christian man, many women are forced to suffer violence in their home," she said. "Instead of having these laws, why not have a law to protect women against violence?" — *Reuters*

In brief...

Rebels free Sabah kidnap victims after two months

TWO women, including a Chinese tourist, who were kidnapped on Borneo in early April have been freed with no ransom demanded by the abductors, say reports.

The women, one a Philippine hotel worker, were released from an island in the southern Philippines by the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group last Friday.

"No ransom paid to secure their release. Success due to cooperation of Malaysia and Philippines security forces," Prime Minister Najib Razak posted on Twitter late the same day.

Philippine police sources, however, said a large ransom was paid. It has been rare for Abu Sayyaf to release abductees without a ransom being paid. — *Reuters*

Stolen Cambodian artifacts returned

THREE ancient sandstone statues were airlifted back to Cambodia

from the United States last week after they had been absent from their homeland for more than 40 years, according to a news statement from the Council of Ministers on Monday.



Bhima

The artifacts, carved in the 10th century, are the statue of a Hindu warrior Duryodhana, the sandstone depiction of a mythological figure known as Balarama, and the statue of warrior Bhima, the statement said. — *Cambodia Herald*

Plucky girl, 7, leaps out of hijacked car

SWIFT action by a seven-year-old saved her from being abducted when she jumped out of a moving vehicle during a car theft near Kuala Lumpur on Monday.

The girl only sustained injuries on her back, arms and legs and had bruises on the buttocks.

"It happened very fast," said the girl's uncle, Hafiz. "My brother tried to save his daughter, who was still in the Mitsubishi Triton when a man tried to steal it."

"My brother tried to stop the suspect, but he managed to drive away," Hafiz said, adding that his brother also suffered injuries on his hand and legs. — *The Star*

Malaysia ramps up search for missing Briton

THE search for missing Briton Gareth Huntley, 34, on Malaysia's Tioman Island was narrowed to a three-kilometer radius area north-east of the Lubuk Teja waterfall on Tuesday.

Mr Huntley, a London accountant on sabbatical, arrived at the Juara Turtle project on May 24, where he intended to serve as a volunteer. On May 27, he told his chalet management that he was going for a trek to the waterfall at around noon. The journey was meant to take one hour and 15 minutes.

He failed to return to his chalet by 5pm,

prompting his friends and some villagers to organize a small search for him.

But by Tuesday, a team of 33 commandos, police personnel and rescue officials ramped up the search and were expected to spend the night scouring the jungle.



The search party on Tuesday.

"We have some clues that he might be in this area. So we are only going to focus our search on these areas today," said Rompin OCPD Deputy Supt Johari Yahaya.

The two areas were 10km away from the waterfall and were now the best bet for where conservation volunteer may be, he said.

Conditions of the search area were challenging with dense jungle and many slippery rocks, DSP Johari noted.

"Maybe he has fallen off a steep area and is unable to move," he added. — *The Star*

Indonesian volcano disrupts flights over Bali

FLIGHTS resumed over Bali this week following mass cancellations out of Darwin, Australia, following the eruption of Indonesia's Mount Sangeang Api last Friday.

The eruption sent two plumes of ash over northern Australia on Saturday. More than 30 flights were cancelled and international flights were rerouted.

The plume swept over the west side of the Northern Territory and as far south as the central Australian city of Alice Springs.

Australia's Civil Aviation Safety Authority warned that volcanic ash still present in the air early this week could have affected all aircraft with piston or jet engines at all flight levels. — *Jakarta Post*



The plume rose 12km. Image: TV One

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In brief...

Sudanese woman sentenced to death may be released

A SUDANESE woman sentenced to death for converting to Christianity is expected to be released soon, a government official said on May 31, after Khartoum came under diplomatic pressure to halt her execution.

A Sudanese court this month imposed the death sentence on the pregnant 27-year-old woman, who is married to a Christian American, and ordered her to return to Islam.

Lebanon threatens to repeal refugee status of Syrians

LEBANON has told more than a million Syrian refugees they will lose their refugee status if they cross back into Syria to vote in the national election which started on Tuesday.

The voting turnout at the Beirut embassy and displays of support for President Bashar al-Assad angered Mr Assad's Lebanese opponents, who said any refugees who took part should be sent back.

Spanish monarch to abdicate throne

SPAIN'S King Juan Carlos said on Monday he would abdicate in favor of his son Prince Felipe, aiming to revive the scandal-hit monarchy at a time of economic hardship. The monarch, who helped transition Spain to democracy in the 1970s, has had his public support eroded by a family corruption scandal.

Frenchman nabbed for museum killing

A 29-YEAR-OLD Frenchman believed to have returned recently from fighting with Islamist militants in Syria has been arrested for the killing of three people at Brussels' Jewish Museum last month, prosecutors said on June 1.

Mehdi Nemmouche was detained last Friday after a random check at a bus terminal in Marseille showed he was carrying weapons similar to those used in the shooting, prosecutors said.

Indian murders cast light onto Hindu caste violence

AROUND THE world

By Sruthi Gottipati

WHEN a farm laborer in a village in northern India went to the police last week to report that his daughter and her cousin had gone missing, a constable slapped him in the face and sent him away.

Hours later he found the two girls, hanging by their necks from a mango tree. A post-mortem found they had been raped.

Three men were arrested for the crime in Uttar Pradesh state which underscored the enduring culture of sexual assault in India and the capacity for violence between Hindu castes. Two policemen were held on suspicion of attempting to cover up the killings.

One of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's biggest challenges will be making a break from the ineffectual responses of governments to heinous crimes like this, reported Reuters.

On Monday, workers from Mr Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party accused the Uttar Pradesh state government, headed by a rival party, of negligence over the crimes and of being unfit to govern.

Four of the five suspects ar-



Demonstrators hold placards during a protest against the murder of the teenage girls. Photo: Reuters

rested in last week's case are from the powerful Yadav community, a land-owning Hindu caste that holds political sway in Uttar Pradesh. Police declined to confirm reports that three had confessed.

The victims were, like Mr Modi, from a lowly caste. They were Shakyas, peasant farmers who are often vulnerable to exploitation by the Yadavs.

Caste divisions, baked into society over generations despite efforts to remove them, could be as much a problem for the prime

minister as the tensions between Hindus and minority Muslims that critics fear he could inflame.

Critics fault Mr Modi, a Hindu nationalist, for pursuing a majoritarian agenda: More than two-thirds of his cabinet ministers belong to a powerful Hindu grassroots movement, raising doubts that he can close social rifts and govern in the interests of all Indians.

Inter-caste violence is an age-old symptom of social oppression, but also a sign of social change as marginalized groups seek demo-

cratic rights and a share in India's prosperity, reported Reuters.

Images of the girls – still roped to branches, a crowd gathered below – went around the world, transforming what would have become a forgotten crime into a symbol of sexual and caste oppression in India's most populous state.

Uttar Pradesh state government has since sought to limit the damage by calling for the murders to be investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), India's counterpart to the United States FBI.

– Reuters

Afghan government protests prisoner exchange

AFGHANISTAN'S government protested against a United States deal to free five high-ranking Taliban militants in exchange for a US soldier arguing the transfer of the men from a Guantanamo Bay jail to Qatar violated international law.

The five prisoners were flown to Qatar on June 1 as part of the agreement to release Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl, the only known US prisoner of war in Afghanistan, held captive for five years. Mr Bergdahl was flown out of Afghanistan to a military hospital in Germany on June 1.

"No government can transfer citizens of a country to a third country as prisoners," the Afghan Foreign Affairs Ministry said in a

statement issued late on June 1.

Under the terms of the deal cut by Qatari intermediaries, the five Taliban detainees were released from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they had been held since 2002, and flown to Qatar where they must stay for a year.

Senior officials at the Afghan intelligence agency say they believe the men will return to the battlefield and bolster the insurgency just as most foreign combat troops prepare to exit by the end of this year.

All five prisoners were classed as "high-risk" and "likely to pose a threat" by the Pentagon and held senior positions in the Taliban regime before it was topped by a US-led coalition in 2001.

– Reuters



Army Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl was flown to a hospital in Germany. Photo: Reuters/US Army

Poland welcomes US military presence in Europe amid Ukraine crisis

POLISH President Bronislaw Komorowski on Tuesday welcomed a United States plan to boost its temporary military presence in eastern Europe in response to Russia's intervention in Ukraine.

"The US authorities' decisions to increase the level of presence in NATO's eastern members are incredibly important," Mr Komorowski told a joint news conference with visiting US President Barack Obama.

"We welcome them as an announcement of a real return by NATO to standing very strongly by the basis of the alliance, which is article five, which speaks about the collective defence of the countries' territories,"

Mr Komorowski said.

"For us, it is most important that it is made clear that there are no second-rate NATO members. That there are no countries that are told by some outside countries, particularly Russia, whether US forces can or cannot be stationed there."

Mr Obama said he had come to Poland to



Mr Komorowski and Mr Obama. Photo: Reuters

affirm US commitment to its security and called on the US Congress to support up to US\$1 billion in funding to reassure eastern European allies about Washington's support.

Russian President Vladimir Putin was set to meet German Chancellor Angela Merkel in France on Friday during a visit on the 70th anniversary of the Allied D-Day

landings in World War Two, Mr Putin's foreign policy aide Yuri Ushakov said.

Plans for meetings with French President Francois Hollande and British Prime Minister David Cameron during the visit to France had already been announced, but Ushakov told reporters no meeting with Mr Obama was planned.

Separately, the Kremlin said that in a telephone conversation on Tuesday, Mr Putin and Ms Merkel called for coordinated measures to defuse the crisis in Ukraine and discussed talks between Russia, Ukraine and the European Union on gas supplies.

– Reuters

A walk to the beach

PROPERTY Gazette

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT'S a local favorite and both Phuket residents and tourists call it one of the most pleasant beaches in the island. Visit Nai Harn beach once and you'll soon be back for more... or want to stay for good. Now, thanks to Nai Harn Beach Condominium (NBC), you can.

Located within walking distance from the beach, NBC consists of 50 units in two, seven storey high buildings. Each floor contains no more than four units, accessible by a glass lift with panoramic views of the surrounding green area.

The designers decided to keep the condo green – the pool courtyard is inaccessible by car – to preserve it's tranquil ambience and provide an experience like a 5-star hotel common area.

Facilities include a big pool by Desjoyaux with a dedicated childrens' zone, a club house, cafe, childrens' playground, car parking and laundry, with 24-hour security for the safety of

residents and their guests.

NBC offers three different unit types at different prices, depending on unit size and location within the project. The first floors of both buildings grant direct pool access, floors two to four come with mountain views, while on floors five to seven, most units offer commanding sea views of Nai Harn Beach, or alternatively, Chalong Bay and Rawai Beach. Prices are expected to increase by 20 to 25 per cent by the time the project is completed.

The three types of units available are: type A, a 45 square meter one bedroom unit, with prices starting at 3.55 million baht; type B are 67sqm two-bedroom units, available for 5.3 million baht and more; and Type C is are two-bedroom units with approximately 115 sqm of living space. These exclusive units are located on the seventh floor of the project, and come at a price of 16.3 million baht. The prices exclude furniture, but furniture packages are available for 400,000 baht for the one-bedroom and 500,000 baht for the two-bedroom units.

For business minded owners, a long and short term rental support program will be provided by a management company with an



The secluded courtyard will offer intimacy and facilities worthy of a high-end hotel. Photos: Supplied

office located at the project site to grant both owners and customers easy access.

Nai Harn Beach Condominium is scheduled to be finished and ready to accommodate residents by the end of the year. The official opening of the complex is scheduled to take place between December 30 this year and January 30, 2015. Sales have been open since January this year and more than 20 per of the units already found owners.

For more information go to naiharncondominiumphuket.com or [facebook.com/NBCPhuket](https://www.facebook.com/NBCPhuket).



Construction works should be completed by the end of this year.



Furniture packages are available for customers who want to avoid the trouble of decorating their units.

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Back to the future and beyond



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

I'VE never been one for driving by the rear view mirror, and often my imagination likes to take me on a journey into the future. Living for today, or for the moment, is good for self-help types but never discount the power of wish lists – dreaming big is good.

One of my biggest gripes about Phuket's hotels remains the same-sameness of the current spate of offerings. Once upon a time the island reveled with imagination, taking tourism out of the box and into private pool villas.

So comes the descent from hero-dom to zero-dom. What has come onto the hotel scene lately is certainly a journey back to familiar territory, where we have been many times before. Hotels don't need to be this boring. One upcoming property that has captured my attention is the Keemala in Kamala. Yes that's a lot of K's and E's, but bear with me.

Here, Bangkok-based designer Pisit Aongskultong of the firm Movida is creating something decidedly different, with 38 private pool retreats, designs range from tent houses, clay cottages and dream-weaver spa units. We all know that beachfront real estate in Phuket is on the endangered list, so here is an "off-beach" resort in the forest which is extracting the natural surroundings and incorporating them into its DNA.

Pisit has contributed to other island hotels including the KEE, Vijitt Resort and Impiana Villas. One of the foundations of the Keemala concept celebrates the culture of four fictional ancient Phuket tribes, the *Pa-ta-pea* (Earth), the *Khon-Jorn* (Wanderers), the *We-ha* (Sky) and the *Rung-Nok* (Nest) people. These elements have been integrated into the operating concept and design of the property. For impatient types like myself, the sad news is that the hotel will only be open next year, by August 2015.

Another Thai developer in Krabi, Matthew Na Nagara, is headlining the Port Takola Yacht Marina and Boatyard. Located on a 300 rai site, the development will eventually house 250 pontoon berths, accommodating watercraft ranging from 10 to 35 meters long.

The first phase of the project will open next year in January with 49 berths, dry storage and facilities for yacht owners. In the future, residential units, a hotel offering and retail complex will rise up on the site, creating a unique destination.

Port Takola is looking to capture much of the excess demand of Phuket marinas which are overflowing with customers, similar to how the recently opened Boat Lagoon Krabi has established a niche. While the crowded house of Phuket continues to grow, nearby Krabi with increasing numbers of direct flights, and a new international hospital, is quietly moving its game up a notch or two.

Far too often, the focus here is



Photo: Supplied

Keemala will feature 38 private pool retreats, ranging from tent houses, clay cottages to dream-weaver spa units.

based on the belief that only international brands and designs from abroad count. Over the past few years, Thai designers such as Duangrit Bunnag at The Naka, have brought a fresh look to these shores, Wan Issara's Sri Panwa resort has also drawn in hi-so clients from near and far.

Last, but not least in my flight with Thainess, is the upcoming buzz about another Thai design icon, Lek Bunnag. At the upcoming Biennale di Venezia – the 14th International Architecture Exhibition in Italy, Bunnag will curate the Thai Pavilion from June 7 to late November. Held in Venice Italy, this event is a global bellwether among the design community.

Be it Phuket, Krabi or Venice, Thai ingenuity, ideas and entrepreneurship are growing in a very positive way, which for someone who has lived in the country more than a decade, is a welcome trend to watch.



Photo: Gazette File

Pisit Aongskultong is creating something decidedly different with Keemala.

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



Photo: Supplied

An artist's conception of Port Takola Yacht Marina in Krabi, which aims to capture overflow demand from Phuket.

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Ethical and economical

Royal Phuket City Hotel shows how going green is good for the bottom line

By Jeremie Schatz

FROM the outside, the Royal Phuket City Hotel's unassuming facade attracts no more interest than a run-of-the-mill city center hotel. A 19-storey white tower located at 154 Phang Nga Road in Phuket Town, it's mildly outdated half-hearted art deco design hardly warrants a second glance.

The fact that the hotel boasts the largest bakery on the island which supplies numerous other hotels, resorts and cafes, as well as the most cavernous conference room in Southern Thailand capable of seating 2,000 people, are still unremarkable attributes. What makes the hotel special is what's happening behind the scenes. In 2006, the 251-room Royal Phuket City Hotel appointed Jintana Trakulhoon as general manager and this is when the hotel began to see some interesting changes. Coming to the job with 12 years experience in finance, one of the tasks which Jintana was to undertake was to streamline the expenses of the hotel.

Instead of down-sizing staff she looked to the consumptive systems within the hotel which had high operating costs. Jintana knew that upgrading and modernizing these systems could not only save the hotel money, but would also conserve energy and be more environmentally responsible – a topic which she is passionate about.

To help determine the best approach, Jintana brought in Bangkok-based energy consulting firm Excellent Energy International Co Ltd (EEI). EEI carried out a series of energy audits which identified deficiencies in the operation of various systems in the hotel such as heating water, cooling, cleaning and waste management. With this information Jintana and ESCO were able to look at the alternatives and consider how much the initial investment costs would be as well as the rate of payback.

In January 2006, they tackled their first project at the hotel by replacing the diesel-powered boilers and installing a heat pump system. Heat pumps work by transferring warm or cool air from one place to another instead of creating their own heat. With a 1.8 million baht initial investment, the heat pumps saved 500,000 baht a month, returning the hotel's investment in less than four months.

Two months later they turned their attention to the laundry room where another 1.8mn baht was invested in an ozone generator. Ozone generators infuse wash water with ozone which disinfects and cleans laundry at the molecular level. Commonly used at hospitals, ozone is said to shorten wash and dry cycles therefore saving water and extending the life of linens. This small unit hiding behind their huge industrial washers saves them

30,000 baht per month.

More recently, the hotel upgraded their chiller to the latest technology that increases efficiency drastically, resulting in a 38,000 baht per month savings on the 3.7mn baht investment.

In addition to the mechanical and engineering systems makeover, the hotel has also replaced shower heads and faucets with low-flow, water-conserving models that reduce consumption by up to 60 per cent. Plastic bags have been replaced with recycled paper, refillable soap and shampoo containers are used instead of disposables and waste is sorted to separate recyclables. Electric appliances with the highest efficiency rating have been chosen, standards lightbulbs have been replaced with compact fluorescent units and rain catchment tanks have been installed for washing company vehicles.

The Royal Phuket City Hotel has also embarked on an eco-friendly campaign utilizing effective micro-organisms (EM). Using a mix of kitchen waste, sugar and a cultured mix of EMs, they are able to create natural liquid fertilizers for their landscaping and extensive herb and vegetable garden as well as a variety of natural cleaners and detergents. The EMs are also used in their on-site wastewater treatment facility to expedite the decomposition of solid waste.

Once off of the ground, the EM system is self-sustaining where they can keep propagate another batch of EMs from the previous. A year's supply is kept on hand to ensure they have plenty to keep the system going.

In addition to the kitchen contributions which they grow themselves, they have adopted a policy of sourcing as much of their food as possible locally and in-season.

In order to make all of these changes and have all of the systems run smoothly, Jintana knew she had to find a way to get the staff onboard. Part of the conservation efforts requires the staff to put in a little extra energy, whether it be additional training for the engineers to understand the new machinery, or kitchen staff to separate food waste for the EM process.

"It is very difficult to figure out how to encourage Thai people to think about energy," explained Jintana. "I am concerned myself and I want to think about new projects and encourage people around me."

However, Jintana has developed a way to provide incentives for the 300 employees at the hotel by creating nine clubs for them to take part in. Cycling, golf and Muay Thai are among the clubs that employees can join and when they put in the extra effort towards conserving resources or being more environmentally aware,



GM Jintana Trakulhoon (center) is leading the push to make the hotel more efficient, profitable and green.



Many of the herbs used in the kitchen are grown on site using fertilizer made from the hotel's organic waste.

more money becomes available for the clubs to purchase equipment or use for outings.

It has worked. The clubs have become popular, with many employees taking advantage of the opportunity. Jintana's passion for conservation has become contagious, with workers coming up with and implementing their own ideas of how to make a difference.

The Royal Phuket Hotel has

been recognized as setting a new level of environmental standard in the Phuket hospitality industry. In 2008, they launched the EM Learning Center with the intention of "promoting awareness of environmental protection". The center hosts field trips for local school as well as other hotels and resorts around the island whose management want to see what conservation looks like first-hand.

Jintana is proud of the work that her and the employees of the hotel have achieved. She receives a lot of positive feedback from guests that they are impressed with the hotel's efforts. She has led the Royal Phuket City Hotel down a new road which enables her to market the hotel as an environmentally responsible one meanwhile saving resources and considerable amount of money.

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Crying out for a fair shakedown

FEW *Phuket Gazette* news reports have generated more comment and debate in the social media than our recent article [see News pages] about vendors of pirated goods in Patong banding together to stage a protest against alleged extortion by government officials. Scores of officers from a variety of government agencies, the protesters claimed, had been demanding too much in bribes to allow them to operate their illegal businesses at adequate profit margins. As the saying goes, “everybody has to eat”, and for the protesters this reality trumps the Thai Criminal Code.

The mind boggles at all the issues raised by this fiasco. For most Western observers, the first and most striking aspect is the hypocrisy that people who run clearly illegal businesses have the audacity to cry “foul” and take to the streets when their best interests are jeopardized, even if the threat comes from those who have sworn oaths to uphold the law – not use it as an extortionist’s toolbox.

But, as blatantly hypocritical as this protest may appear to outside observers, it is not without precedent in Phuket.

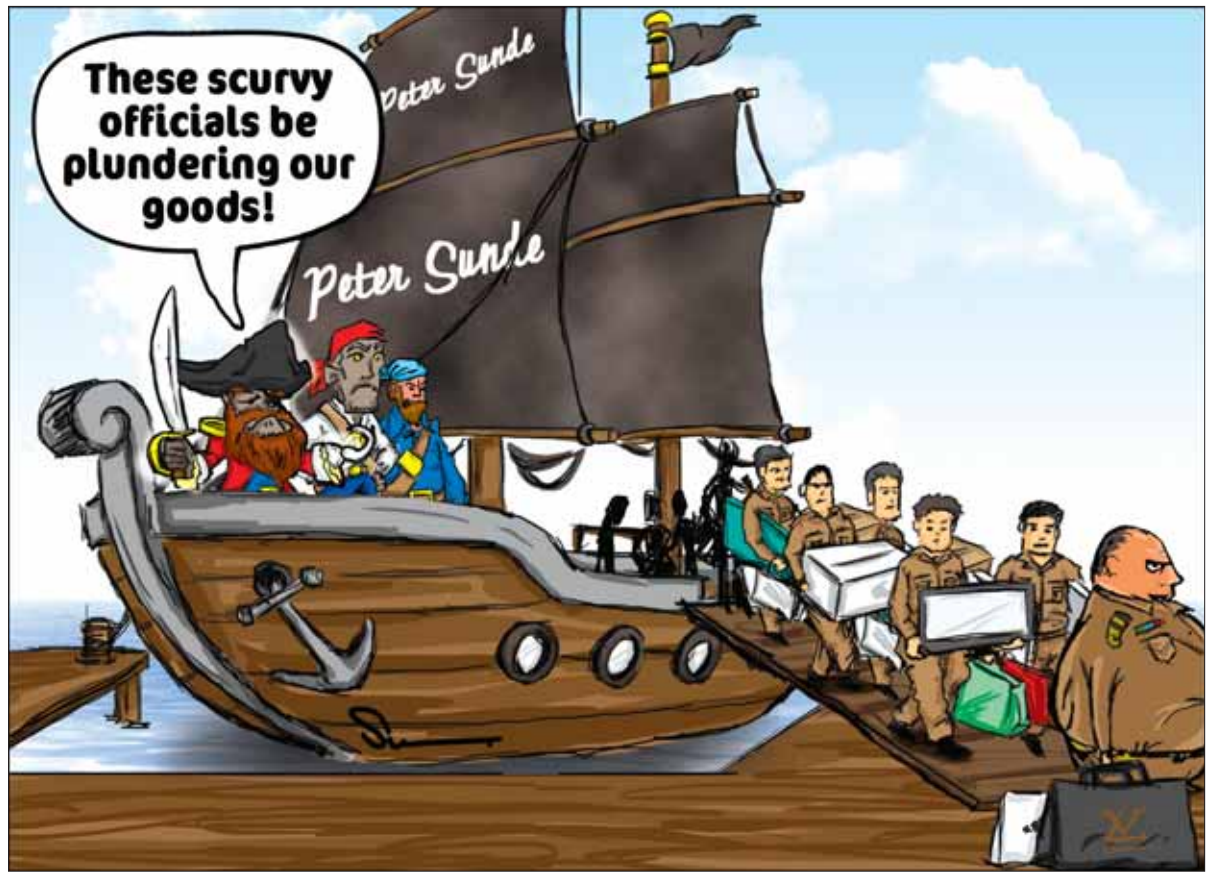
For those who have followed events in recent years, the frequency of protests has increased dramatically – and now just about everyone seems to be getting in on the act. This is hardly a surprising trend when those responsible for maintaining law and order are more often than not the target of the protesters – and almost invariably give in to their demands.

We have seen similar protests staged by a variety of different groups with questionable legal status before. Taxi and tuk-tuk drivers, including those of the ‘black plate’ variety, have staged multiple protests that have harmed tourism in recent years. Many have blockaded resorts that allow legal, law abiding transport services from serving guests at resorts. Others have successfully prevented the new airport bus service from infringing on “their” turf.

In Patong, newly installed Mayor Chalermkluck Kebsub lacks sufficient council support to even gain a sufficient quorum to put her campaign-promised “graft-busting” agenda forward. This, before a city council that largely represents the status quo of a municipality in which the ratio of registered voters is dwarfed by the number of legally registered hotel rooms, as well as by the number of people working in the sex industry.

The copyright pirate protesters must realize that Thailand has enough on its hands. It is a tall order, this business of drafting a constitution, holding elections and restoring democracy – not to mention dealing with one of the deadliest insurgencies on the planet in the Deep South.

The pirate protest may be the most remarkable demonstration yet, as it shows not only how widespread corruption is, but the extent to which our society accepts its existence. After all, the pirates never even called for an absolute end to the practice that allows them to operate, just a fairer shakedown.



Better ways to measure quality of life

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's low season saviors: Russians, Chinese and Middle Easterners, June 1

It is always money that is used as a barometer of the quality of life here.

People that have a deeper understanding of things know that using such a measurement is highly misleading.

Yes, the rainy season is a wonderful period of time in Phuket for long-term expats. For many years, this low season period never needed a savior, and it does not need one now, especially Russian saviors, whose sense of travel is awkward at best.

*Capealava
Phuket Forum*

Too casual about the baby burn at hospital

Re: Gazette online, Short-circuited incubator burns Phuket baby, May 30

Utterly unbelievable, no way should a short circuit in a bulb cause this.

Why was the bulb so close to the baby in the first place to ignite the blanket? Was there no protection from the bulb, which in its own right would get very hot?

Very lax safety standards, which are common in Thailand, unfortunately, but one would hope a hospital would have better standards. The doctor brushes it off far too easily for my liking.

*Alfadiamond
Phuket Forum*

Clean Patong, stop the curfew whining

Re: Gazette online, Patong nightlife operators to risk assembly ban to plea for curfew to be lifted, June 2

If you don't want tourists to be scared of coming to Phuket, then forget about your planned unlawful assembly, and rid Patong of all the scams, criminal activity

Letters to the Editor

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

and corruption!

If you don't do these things, tourists will of course continue to be put off of visiting here.

*Steven P
Phuket Forum*

Battle coup with travel deals

Re: Gazette online, Coup puts dent in Phuket hotel occupancy numbers, May 30

So why don't the hotels drop their fees on the internet?

It seems to me that they would sooner have nothing than reduce their accommodation rates, but a little is better than nothing.

*Morryinphuket
Phuket Forum*

Respect Phuket

Re: Gazette online, Phuket rental operator takes stand against undesirable tourists, June 1

I agree fully with Khun Arnut; there are many disrespectful people on holidays in Phuket.

You would not do this sort of stuff in your own country or with your own property. Grow up and show some respect for a service we all come to rely on. Otherwise, you will push the prices up.

*Gavin Mcdonbald
Phuket Forum*

Tourist perfect match for service quality

Re: Gazette online, Phuket rental operator takes stand against undesirable tourists, June 1

Good quality tourists came, got ripped off, and did not come back anymore.

Currently, the services, atmosphere and environment is in par with the tourists' flow. Hardly a surprise.

*Pekka Oilinki
Facebook*

NCPO needs to give Patong a lesson

Re: Gazette online, Boycott forces Patong mayor to abandon inaugural council meeting, May 30

Too bad, Thailand's government at all levels seems unable to get people to work together to solve problems, even though that is exactly why they hold public office. Maybe the NCPO needs to visit Patong and do a little house cleaning, and get people back to working together to make things better for everyone.

*Just An Observation
Phuket Forum*

Are foreign drivers really the issue?

Re: Gazette online, Driving courses to be offered in English, Russian and Burmese for Phuket foreigners, May 31

Anything at all to help Thailand shake its current standing as the third most dangerous country in the world for driving, has to be a good thing. But why the focus on foreigners?

It would be interesting to know what percent of accidents in Phuket are caused by foreigners. I'm guessing less than half of one percent.

*Art Anderson
Phuket Forum*

Keep up good work

Re: Gazette online, Dazed and confused: Swedish tourist loses hotel, saved by police volunteers, June 2

Well done chaps; it's nice to see good news about Patong.

*Wolf
Phuket Forum*

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Relative psychology: coup, curfew, news

FIRST PERSON

IMAGINE that it is May 21. You are living in Patong and own a small business dependent upon nighttime trade. You leave the country for 10 days, have no access to the news, and return to discover that martial law has been imposed. You have been ordered to close your business between the midnight to 4am trading hours. You are depressed.

You speak to your friend who also has a small business in Phuket and she seems elated.

Although your business situations are identical: both you and your friend can expect to earn less than before the curfew was imposed, your friend is happy because she is now in a better relative position than she was during the first days of the curfew.

Behavioral science provides an explanation as to why you and your friend are reacting differently, and more generally why shopkeepers in Patong didn't seem particularly put out about the curfew, even before it was lifted.

In a laboratory experiment, Nobel-prize winning psychologist Danny Kahneman and his colleagues asked people to immerse one hand in painfully cold water for 60 seconds, and then the other hand in the same painfully cold water for 60 seconds followed by a slightly less cold, less painful 30 seconds more. When asked which trial they would prefer to repeat, most preferred the longer trial, with more net pain – but less pain at the end.

Physicians have used this principle with patients undergoing colon exams—lengthening the discomfort by a minute, but lessening its intensity. Although the extended milder discomfort added to their net pain experience, patients experiencing this taper-down treatment said the



Patrick Mattimore, now retired, was an Adjunct Professor of Legal Reasoning and Case Briefing: Tsinghua/Temple Law School LLM Program in Beijing, teaching psychology to students there. He has also been an online columnist for the China Daily covering a variety of topics from why rumors spread panic to selfies among the tuhao.

Here he takes a look at both the psychology behind relaxing a curfew and how restrictive measures on the media affect people.

exam was less painful than did those whose pain ended abruptly. What that suggests is that the most recent part of an experience influences our overall evaluation and/or memory of the event.

You as a returning shopkeeper have only the present pain of the relatively mild curfew in mind whereas your friend and the other business owners in Patong have a different frame of reference.

Psychologists might also propose why the military should re-think restrictions placed on the media. Social psychologist Robert Cialdini suggests that we value that which is scarce or prohibited, often whether the object of our desire is valuable or not.

The scarcity principle is behind advertisers' campaigns that limit the numbers of available products or the amount of time purchasers have to buy.

Mr Cialdini tells an instructive tale about the Mormon temple in his hometown of Mesa, Ariz. He reported that he was never interested enough to go inside the temple until the day he read a newspaper article that told of a special inner section of Mormon temples to which no one had access but faithful members of the church. However, for a

few days after a temple was built or refurbished, non-Mormon visitors could see the temple area normally banned to them.

Mr Cialdini resolved to take the tour until he called a friend who wondered why he seemed so intent on visiting some place he had never been inclined to see and in which he expected to find nothing more spectacular than what he might see at a number of other churches in the area. Mr Cialdini realized the sole allure of seeing the temple was because that possibility would soon be unavailable.

In a similar vein, my youthful Thai language teacher tells me that she and her friends rarely, if ever, watch or listen to the news. However, since the news blackout, she told me her friends are doing everything they can to get news about Thailand from uncensored sources on the internet.

When I lived in Beijing, I discovered more or less the same thing. When news was blocked in China, as it frequently was (and is), my young friends in China became more curious about what was being blocked; creative about ways to get at the censored material; and skeptical about the government's official version of events.



Sit back and relax, the struggle for democracy doesn't have to ruin Thailand's tourism image or industry. Photo: Shafiu Hussain

Think Maldives

Island View

By Damian Evans

Do you have an opinion to voice?

ASK anyone, and their first impression of the Maldives is the iconic Indian Ocean archipelago with possibly the most beautiful beaches in the world. Everyone has heard of them, and most have wanted to visit them.

What most people do not know about this collection of about 1,192 islands is that it has grown its reputation as one of the best holiday destinations in the world while under decades of rule by an authoritarian government.

Maumoon Abdul Gayoom began his 30-year rule as president in 1978, winning six consecutive elections without opposition. His election was seen as ushering in a period of political stability and economic development. Tourism flourished and increased foreign contact spurred development, said the report.

However, Gayoom's rule was controversial, with some critics saying he was an autocrat who quelled dissent by limiting freedoms and political favoritism.

Sound familiar?

Also, like Thailand, the Maldives – in its attempt to produce a democratic system its people had faith in – suffered a spate of coup attempts in the 1980s.

The November 1988 coup attempt, headed by a local businessman, involved a mercenary force of about 80 members of a militant group who seized the airport and forced Gayoom to flee from house to house. The group was quickly overthrown by Indian Air Force paratroopers who restored government rule.

The brief, bloodless operation, labeled Operation Cactus, also involved the Indian Navy.

The Maldives today has many parties of differing political stances all vying for seats in parliament so they can represent their supporters in the setting of national policy. Yes, they have gained political freedoms through their struggles, but more importantly the tiny nation has produced a democratic system the people believe in.

Think about it, the Maldives gained its reputation as a world-class tourism destination while under a de facto dictatorship, and then continued to grow its allure to travellers while developing as a democracy.

A successful tourism industry and the necessary throes of political upheaval toward a functioning democracy are both simultaneously possible. All that people have to remember is that all the "successful" democracies around the world embrace diversity, not adversity. The polite fight over national agendas and economics continues, but within a system all the people uphold.

It just depends on how much damage the political power mongers – whether they be in the armed forces, the business-class elite or on the streets – want to do to ensure their own success.

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

Getting your driver's licence: Testing, testing... yes, very testing

I just read that retirees who do not have a work permit are back to the status of being issued only one-year renewals of driver's licences.

At the time when we were issued five-year renewals, the change was accompanied by the requirement for a limited test, and before that only a fee had to be paid.

Now that we are back to one-year renewals, do retirees have to pass the driver's licence test each and every year in order to be issued a one-year licence?

Guenther Bellach
Thalang

Konlayut Jattutasri, Licence



There is a long road to take to get on the road legally. Photo: US Navy

Registrar, Phuket Provincial Land Transportation Office (PLTO), replies:

Please be informed that everyone must pass a physical test before they can have their driver's licence renewed.

The physical test comprises simple tests to assess your brake reaction time, general eyesight and to specifically check for color blindness.

If your licence expired less than one year before you apply to re-

new it, you will not have to pass the written exam again.

However, if your licence expired more than one year before you apply to renew it, but less than three years earlier, you must pass the written exam.

Under the new rules (see page 8), you must answer at least 45 of 50 questions correctly.

If your driving licence expired more than three years before you apply to renew it, you must pass both the written test and a practical driving test.

It does not matter how old you are. As long as you can pass the tests described above, you will be able to obtain a driver's licence.

Please note that waiting times to complete the physical test and the written test may result in hours of waiting at the test center, so please come early on the day that you would like to renew your licence.

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

YOUR Phuket



New President of Thanyapura Philipp Graf von Hardenberg was on hand to cheer on the runners.

Thanyapura Neon Night Run

The Neon Night Run last Saturday was a unique, and very colorful running party. There were races for both young and old, plus great music and colorful bright lights. Many families turned out to enjoy a tasty BBQ, stalls, kids entertainment, face painting, and kids were awarded prizes for best neon costumes. Schools also competed to claim the new Thanyapura Cup.



Kids enjoyed donning their neon running gear, along with some accessories.



Neon face paint was also used for creative effect on the night.

Massa Luna Grand Opening

Last Saturday, property developer Porch Land Group hosted an extravagant party to celebrate the opening of its sales gallery for the Massa Luna Condominium project in Mai Khao. The party featured Thai Celebrity Bomb Tanin, a host of sexy models and live music. Attendees got a chance to view the Massa Luna display units and special promotions were available on the launch day.



Chitsanucha Phakdeesaneha, Director of Porch Land Group was thronged by models at the opening party.



Channel 3 celebrity Bomb Tanin was presented with a gift basket by Chitsanucha Phakdeesaneha.

Alliance Francaise kid's theater games

Last Saturday, Alliance Francaise Phuket was showing-off in a cafe-theater ambiance at the U Sunsuri in Nai Harn, with a group of beautiful francophone kids performing with talent and confidence.



Alliance Francaise, through the 'Club des Mousquetaires' organizes Saturday morning drama classes, musical theater, karate, art and craft, and games for kids from three to 12 years old.



Held each week in old Phuket Town the classes are a great chance for kids to practice their French.

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PROPERTY of the week



See page 21

JOB of the week

CLBS | Chiang Mai Lanna Business Services Ltd.

See page 24

EDUCATION of the week



Oak Meadow International School

See page 27

PROPERTY SERVICES of the week

Thailand's Leading Property Site
DDproperty.com



See page 23

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**OCEANFRONT
FOR SALE**

6.5 rai, waterfront. Chanote title. Email: Pktthai1@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.

PALM BREEZE CONDO

Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Urgent sale US\$199,000. No agents! For more information, please call 081-956 1077.

**LARGE SEAVIEW
HOUSE AT LAYAN**

3 rai, Chanote. Price: 54 million baht. Tel: 081-787 4383. Email: ruggdan@gmail.com

MAI KHAO LAND

5.1 rai, very quiet, 1km to sea, for now building or investment, full Chanote. Price: 2.75 million baht per rai. Tel: 083-635 2414 (English), 082-812 3486 (Thai).

**LUXURY
POOL VILLA**

Within unique development - 8,700,000 baht. Please call 081-077 1765. Email: phuketformations@gmail.com

**BUILDING
BANGLA - PATONG**

25 million baht, XL commercial / residential building in Soi Bangla Square, Patong. 4 floors + 6m frontage. Over 360sqm in total. For more information, please call 087-881 7600 (English & Thai). Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

**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.

LAND SALES

1.5 rai land: 30 minutes from Bang Tao Beach, for hotel & condominium. 2 rai land: Soi Pasak 4. 100m from Pasak Road, for housing condominium. Tel: 076-340559, 081-937 8152.

**APARTMENT FOR SALE
IN BOAT LAGOON**

2-bedroom, marina apartment for sale in Boat Lagoon, north of Phuket Town, in a residential maritime township surrounded by commercial plaza and sporting facilities. Fully furnished, private carport, large swimming pool available for residents. Living area: 198sqm. Free hold. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: Chris tophe.soula@hotmail.fr

**ENTERTAINMENT
PALACE**

Magnificent Penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view apartment. Reduced by 10 million baht for quick sale, includes an additional two-bedroom apartment. Now 46 million baht. Freehold. Please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

AO PO SEAVIEW LAND

1.5 rai. Constructed access road. Chanote. 300m from Grand Marina. 10 million baht. For more information, please call 082-277 5971 (English & Thai). Email: ros comclean@yahoo.com.au

CHEAP LAND SALE

Close to Phuket Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuket ann@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 & HOUSES 88
NEW**

Chalong, only pool villa, 75sq wah, 3 bedrooms, exclusive modern interior design, corner house. Urgent sale: 9.75 million baht. Contact Thilo. Tel: 089-874 3376.

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

**URGENT LAND
FOR SALE**

Build your dream home in Boat Lagoon. Hot price: 7 million baht. 161 sq wah. Tel: 076-238948, 081-978 2787, 082-271 3420. Fax: 076-273 466. Email: sale@phuketpropertytrip.com

**3 BEDROOMS
2 BATHROOMS
IN COMPOUND**

Villa in good compound with sport club. Furnished, opposite Laem Hin Seafood & Maeju, near PIADS. For more information, please call 081-719 0014. Email: nacky2u@hotmail.com

**FREEHOLD
POOL VILLA**

From 1.1 million baht. 800m from Nai Harn Beach. For more information, please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

**NEW SEAVIEW
FREEHOLD CONDO**

Brand-new freehold condos from 2.3 million baht, includes furniture, plus seaview condos, 3.5 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.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. Contact Paew: 089-972 5378 (English&Thai), Tin: 089-288 4537 (English&Thai).

UNDER MARKET PRICE

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

**HABITOWN
KOH KAEW FOR SALE**

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

**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/saledetails.php?nom=RB001

**500,000 BAHT
KAMALA LEASEHOLD**

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

Properties For Rent

1-BEDROOM BUNGALOW RAWAI

Fully furnished, WiFi, TV, kitchen, 9,000 baht per month. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Bang Tao area. 1,2 bedrooms, fully furnished, from 20,000 baht. Tel: 093-713 22 78.

3-BEDROOM HOUSE KATHU

Panason Park View. Air con, partly furnished, 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-724 07 06 (English & Thai). Email: alastairpeskett@yahoo.co.uk

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. <http://palaigreen.weebly.com>

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDOS

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

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: reallifeproperty@gmail.com

1, 2, 3 BEDROOM VILLAS WITH POOL

Furnished, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, swimming pool. 1-bedroom house, long term: 14,000 baht per month. Special offer! 2-bedroom house, 2 months for short term only 17,000 baht per month. Please call 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcome-inn.com

RENT OR SALE

Permsap villa. Two floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Close to Heroines' Monument. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.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>

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

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT

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

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.

BIG LUXURY 5-BEDROOM HOUSE

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

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

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

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

**CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE**

Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). Pls contact: 086-4769612. Email: annano1@hotmail.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

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

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

SPACIOUS 2-BED POOL VILLA

Spacious Thai-style pool villa for holidays and vacation rent. This villa is an unbelievably large property for 2 bedrooms, ideal for your family. The villa is located in a nice, quiet neighborhood, but still near to the beaches, shops and restaurants. This villa comes fully equipped with everything you need. Available for the next 6 months. Minimum rental 1 week. For more information, please call 091-523 2776 (English). Email: farang742@gmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

3-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

Located between Tesco Lotus & Bangkok Phuket Hospital, opposite Club House Pool. Please call 081-892 4311, <http://sites.google.com/site/phuketvillasamkong>

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

KATA HILL BUNGALOW

Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, aircon, free WiFi, cable TV. 9,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

NEW COZY POOL VILLA

Bang Tao close to Tesco Lotus and beaches, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's room, private pool, furnished, aircon, parking, small garden, long term: 45,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-737 1687.

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?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

Live in Rawai?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at
The Network property office



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

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

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

Accommodation Available

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals



POST YOUR PROPERTY LISTING FOR FREE.

Thailand's Leading Property Site
 DDproperty.com

Property Wanted

Household Help

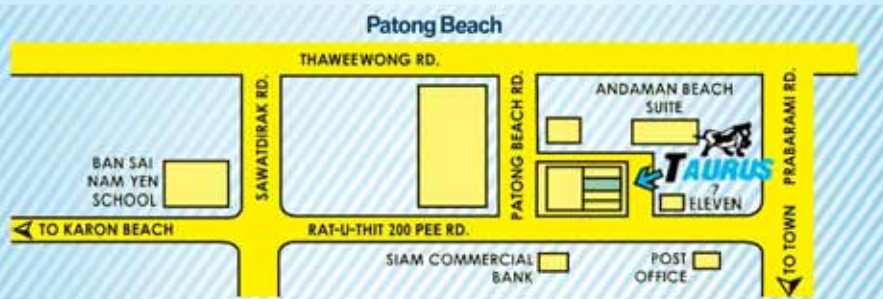
Maid wanted for private villa at Surin Beach. Window cleaning and general duties. Training provided by villa housekeeper. Some basic English necessary. 10,000 baht a month. Contact Khun Maew. Tel: 087-891 1385. Email: sonyaklapko@yahoo.com

Household Items

ARMANI / CASA
USED FOR SALE

In very good condition. Would like to sell quickly at cheap price.
Includes:
1 dining table, 2 chairs, 1 sofa, 1 king size bed, 2 bedside tables.
Please call 085-295 6519. Email: bkkbsn@gmail.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)

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

Classified Advertisements

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

(heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Looking for land to buy?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

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

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

RECEPTIONIST WANTED

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

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

SWEDISH STAFF

Swedish speaking 20-30 year old staff wanted. Send your CV & Photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

HTML, CSS WEB DEVELOPER

Thai national with good English. HTML, CSS skills required for long-term position. Send English resume to job@242ventures.com

MARKETING FOR PROPERTY

We are now looking for marketing executives to join our Property team. You should be a Thai national and speak good English. We are now recruiting for our property booths in Kamala and Patong. Excellent salaries and commissions are given. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@phuket-condos-homes.com For future details, please see our website at www.phuket-condos-homes.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@soidog.org Learn more at www.SoiDog.org

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-tropic-realestate.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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

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

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

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

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

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

GUEST SERVICES

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

NEED A MAID

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

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 khaosok.hotels@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.khaosok-hotels.com

CLBS Chiang Mai Lanna Business Services Ltd. twitter.com/clbsjobs facebook.com/clbsjobs

Live and Work in Chiang Mai

With Visa & Work Permit

Native Speaker (female)
We are seeking female German, English, French, Spanish and Italian native speakers for long-term employment as a Customer Care Representative.



Apply now! www.clbs.co.th/phuketgazette
or call us + 66(0)81 024 8080

Live in Patong?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Andy's Real Estate Agency (AREA)

Patong Beach
THAWEEWONG RD.
SAVOEY SEAFOOD
BANGLA RD.
RAT-U-THIT 200 PEE RD.
JUNGCEYLON
SANSABYE RD.

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!

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

PATONG

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**

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.aquamasster.net/job.html

PHP PROGRAMMER

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BANDS NEEDED

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

PHP PROGRAMMER

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

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

FINANCE MANAGER

ISS Facility Services require a qualified accountant to manage finances of four SouthernThail 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

SALES MANAGER

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

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

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

RESTAURANT STAFF

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

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, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 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:

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- 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

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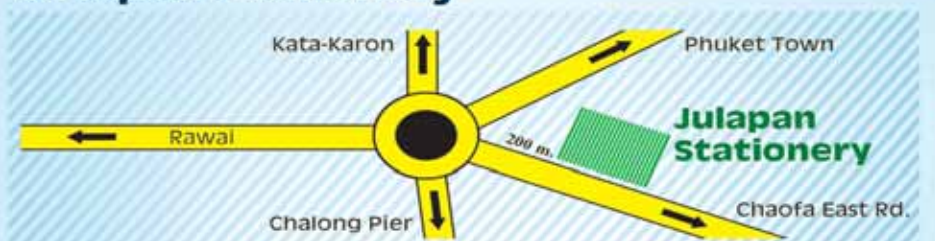
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Bar, commercial kitchen and restaurant. 2 storeys, 3 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 decks, includes furniture. In good location. For sale: 580,000 baht. Rent only 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-348 51 37 (Thai), 081-086 3812 (English). Email: matthew.wilson@xtra.co.nz

KARON GUESTHOUSE



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

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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.

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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

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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

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GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE / RENT

Rawai. Too much to list. Please call 081-808 18 04. Email: ttpitstop@hotmail.com

BAR & RESTAURANT BANG TAO BEACH

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

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

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

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

PATONG MESSAGE SHOP NANAI

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

RESORT FOR SALE



Small high yielding resort for sale in Rawai. Three, 2-year-old 3/4 bedroom pool villas on one rai. Perfect pension plan. 19 million baht. Tel: 082-048 2568 (English).

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.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

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Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

Tick here:

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: issue(s)

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Web link	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
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All ads in the newspaper run online automatically and free charge.

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

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

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Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

Standard + Special font/layout + Box:
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I will move to Phuket soon. Three yrs teaching in Bangkok.

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

Business Products & Services



DINO DAYCARE CENTER

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

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

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080-525 3135 (Thai)

DINODAYCARECENTER

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

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

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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



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

Rentals

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\$225,000 AUD

► **AIDhaen 360SF**
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► **Riviera Offshore Express**
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► **Sunseeker Manhattan 63**
880,000 GBP

► **Sealine T51**
\$250,000 USD

► **Island Packet 40**
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► **Jeanneau 45 SO Performance**
\$230,000 USD

► **Northwind 60**
249,000 Euro

► **Fusion 40**
340,000 Euro

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Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman
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Email: marcus@leemarine.com

Jim Poulsen
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Email: jim@leemarine.com

Mark Heath
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Email: mark@leemarine.com

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FOR SALE

YAMAHA FR-26 BOAT

PRICE: 2,300,000 THB.

LENGTH: 26 ft HORSE POWER: 300

FUEL TYPE: Petrol

NEW OUTBOARD ENGINE

Suzuki DF300AP year 2013.

TEL: 092-265 7221.

EQUIPMENT:

- Suzuki multi-function gauge
- 90 Amp battery
- Bimini top
- Anchor winch
- Shurflo pro washdown kit
- Windows & door curtains
- Horn
- Electronic remote control
- Marol hydraulic control system
- 200 litres plastic fuel tank
- Sony XAV-601Bt audio system
- Search light with remote control
- Transom for auxiliary engine
- 60 litres stainless steel fresh water tank

CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE

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

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

Hypalon RIB (LOA 24'). High quality Hypalon tubes. Free Chartplotter and VHF, 175hp 4-stroke Suzuki O/B. Bimini and trailer. 1,695,000 baht. Contact Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

HYPALON DINGY 3.3M



Brand-new, UV cover, storage cover, pump, oars, kits. Only 110,000 baht. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

FOR SALE: HOBIE BRAVO 12'

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

42FT BERTRAM SPORT FISHER

Strong seaworthy boat, priced to sell, Thai registered, needs little work for perfect fishing / cruising boat. 3 million baht. Contact Andy Tel: +014 471 539 4550. Email: as.ac@hotmail.co.uk

13-METER CRUISER

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

HARD TO FIND TEAK BOAT



This 80-year-old solid teak boat is ideal for a Phang Nga Bay live aboard, or a land-based guest house. 1.5 million baht. Call John on 090-798 5605. Email: johnemango@yahoo.com For current pictures and finish out options, www.facebook.com/TeakBoat

VOLVO PENTA 380HP



Marine engines for sale: Volvo Penta TAMD71B, 6 cylinder, 380hp, 2500 rpm, turbo charged. 1) Engine number 207112 4065, with reverse gear box Twin Disc MG-507, 198:1, 5M74752. 2) Engine number 2071 1240 64 with reverse gear box Twin Disc MG-507, 198:1, number 5M7 474. Net Weight: 850kg per engine. Two silencers: MGS IN /OUT 5', 45°. Price: 1 million baht per engine. Tel: 081-306 1150 (English & Thai). Email: rm2@foodcomthailand.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

American designed 29ft fast, folding Trimaran for sale with trailer. Suitable for racing or cruising. Thai registered, ex-pat owned. Tel: 085-781 9756 (English). Email: awildgoose@awildgoose.co.uk For full details and price, please go to www.awildgoose.co.uk

PACE 40FT SPORTFISHER



Twin CAT 3208 TA, storm damage, engines preserved, new fiberglass and paint to hull October 2013. Urgent sale: 600,000 baht ono. Tel: 082-839 7701. Email: gamefishingthailand@gmail.com

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

50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER

1989 Bertram 50S 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

RIB WILLIAMS 325 TURBOJET



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

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

THE 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: 9. ASTRONAUT: *roastanut* 10. TREATMENT: *t-mater-*
ent 12. DRAW: *ward[rev]* 13. FINALE: *last-E* 14. ROLLING:
ongrill 15. DIGNIFIED: *findiedig* 17. GUARANTOR: *agrantour*
18. TALLIED: *reckoned* 19. ACHARN: *a-Ch.-ran* STAG: *S-tag*
23. NOTATIONS: *not-at-ions* 25. RELUCTANT: *cantrule-T*
26. TIDE: *edit* 27. STAPLE: *staple* 29. SPLASHY: *pals-shy*
32. RUSTICATE: *tacitruse* 34. REENTITLE: *enterit-le*
35. CHATTED: *detach(T)* 36. EVILLY: *vile-L-Y* 37. COLD: *Col.-*
D 38. EXPRESSED: *expressed* 39. ENTERTAIN: *enter-at(REV)-*
1-N

Down: 1. SAKDIDET: *didstake* 2. STRANGULATED:
atlungsrated 3. RATIFIED: *ifdareto* 4. STRAND: *d-N-arts[up]*
5. STRENGTH: *strength* 6. BEERBARREL: *rebelbear(R)*
7. STELLAR: *allrest* 8. STAGERIGHT: *stage right* 11. EXIST: *Ex.-*
1st 16. IDIOTS: *doitis* 19. ASS: *a-S.S.* 21. TRANSITIONAL:
trad(N-S)itional 22. OCELOT: *O-C-E-lot* 23. NUTCRACKER:
truckercan 24. OTLANDISH: *andloutish* 25. ROE: *R-O-E*
28. PRETENDS: *Pr.-E-tends* 29. STELLATE: *tallest(E)*
30. YIELDING: *dingylie* 31. LITTLER: *litt-L-er* 33. SHARP: *S-*
harp 34. RAIDER: *reaid*

Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

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

Hooters Phuket Grand Opening

Hooters hosted a Grand Opening party for their new Patong restaurant on Saturday. Guests enjoyed some fantastic food and drinks, and of course, the world famous hospitality of the Hooters Girls. Miss Hooters International 2013 Marissa Raisor, was also on hand to welcome revellers and if you want to check out our interview with her, make sure you watch next week's Phuket Today' show.



From left: Louise Scott, actor; Mark Whittle, senior head of global development for Hooters; Gary Murray, owner of Destination Resorts Co Ltd; Pol Gen Pichit Kuandachakupt; Big Thongpoom, actor; and Miss Hooters International 2013 Marissa Raisor.



Miss Hooters International 2013 Marissa Raisor. Make up and hairstyling by Annette Jones.




Hooters Girls from Thailand and overseas underwent rigorous training to meet the internationally famous restaurant brand's high standards of service. The girls' make up and hairstyling was by Annette Jones.

Toyota Phuket welcomes South African dealers



Staff from Toyota Phuket Motors welcomed their fellow Toyota dealers who travelled all the way from South Africa to see Southern Thailand's only 'Eco Dealership' in action.

 **LAND & HOUSES**

 076-615-188, 076-615-180 www.lhphuket.com

88
LAND & HOUSES
KOH KAEW
Phuket



TROPICAL SERENITY

The New Aesthetic of Modern Living.
Weaving Peace and Happiness Amid Nature.

Embrace the aesthetic of life in a single detached house with a ground floor bedroom fully equipped for a new beginning in life, which is truly in tune with nature, a quality society with clubhouse, swimming pool and fitness room.

A high quality residential project you can trust from Land & Houses.

Start at **6.3 MB***

Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pittaya Tantipranyak. Registered Capital: 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid). 88 Land and Houses Koh Kaew Phuket, Location: Thepkasatri Rd. Koh Kaew Sub-district, Amphur Muang, Phuket, Title Deed No. 2948, 104515, etc. Project Area 53.58 Rai, Financial Institution: Sam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start: March 2013 Expected Completion: 2015 applying for Operation License. After full payment is completed, transference is made within 7 days.



Hotels take a hit from coup

By Chutharat Plerin

HOTEL occupancy has taken a hit in coup-time Phuket with cancellation and booking rates falling short of last year's numbers.

Though figures vary between the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office and the Phuket Tourist Association (PTA), both agencies agree that the coup has affected the tourism industry.

"Booking cancellation rates are up about 10 per cent compared to the same period last year," TAT Phuket Director Anoma Wongyai told the *Phuket Gazette* last week.

Additionally, new reservations have slowed by 10-20 per cent when compared to last year, Ms Anoma explained.

"However, we are monitoring the situation and expect to see booking numbers start to improve. We are gaining tourists' confidence by telling them the truth: they can continue their holiday as normal." The curfew was officially lifted in Phuket on June 3.

The statistics collected by the PTA reveal a less dramatic change.

"We have called hotels to check for cancellation rates and

early checkouts, and everything seems just fine," PTA Vice President Bhuritt Maswongsa said yesterday.

PTA has noted only a 3-5 per cent cancellation rate.

"I have heard that the TAT has estimated cancellation rates as high as 10 per cent. I don't think they are that high. Tourists are still coming to Phuket," Mr Bhuritt said.

"Hotel occupancy seems about the same as last year. However, I would say 10-15 per cent less people are planning on visiting Phuket in the future – mostly due to concerns about travel insurance."

Patong business owners confirmed to the newly-elected Patong Mayor that the curfew had impacted their revenue.

"It is the 'Green Season', so less tourists are coming to Patong anyway. However, the curfew and coup has affected tourists' opinion of Phuket," Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsab said.

"Nonetheless, tourists are still visiting. I think they understand that there is no violence associated with the coup in Thailand."

Though occupancy numbers have dropped, the lifting of the curfew has softened the impact



Patong Entertainment Business Association Weerawit Kurasombat told the *Gazette* that the relaxed curfew hours have helped nightlife operators in Patong stay afloat. Photo: PEBA

of the coup on Patong nightlife venues, said President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association Weerawit Kurasombat.

"The curfew had an immedi-

ate effect on Patong. The night entertainment industry took about a 10-million-baht-a-night hit. Now, with the relaxed curfew, the daily losses are probably

5 million baht or less," he said last week.

"This is much more acceptable. What happened is in the past; we will let it go and move forward."

A bull market

Political situation expected to have minimal impact on Thai stock prices

FOR those of us from the United States and Western Europe, it is hard to imagine a military coup occurring in our



Finance

By Don Freeman

home countries. As a matter of fact, I get calls from nervous friends and relatives asking if I'm okay and if there are tanks in the street. Well, for those of us that have lived here for quite some time, we have become like ordinary Thais, and view the coup as a non-event. Here in Thailand, coups are part of the ordinary course of business every few years.

What I tell the folks back home is to imagine a general who put the republican and democratic leaders in a room and said "stop this bickering and work together," and that's what the general did. When they failed to come up with a deal, he just said "both of you are useless and I'm taking over".

I view this as a bullish event for the long-term because it provides some stability to the country, which it so desperately needs. In fact, if you notice, it's business as usual. Factories are still humming and goods are being shipped in and out of the country. Thailand, in part due to its location, remains the industrial heart of Southeast Asia.

Both Thai exporters and we expats with savings and assets abroad, are benefiting from the weak baht. A weak currency is good for tourists as they can buy more with their home currency and it also makes Thai exports more competitive in the global market. In other words, it's cheaper to buy

Thai goods abroad.

This, in turn, has helped the Thai stock market. Here, you can see the long-term picture

of how well the market has performed.

The Electronically Traded Fund (ETF) that tracks the Thai Stock Market is iShares MSCI Thailand (THD). Shares have rallied since the lows seen in 2008 of around US\$20, to almost \$100 last summer. This was before Thailand was hit by protests and it fell to around \$62. Shares look to have formed a triple bottom (three equal lows) and gone higher.

As I like to say, "what can't go lower, must go higher." Furthermore, when a market is hit with bearish news like a military coup and goes higher, that is one of the hallmarks of a bull market. As a matter of fact, since Thailand has a history of coups, the Thai Stock Market has typically risen 3% in the first month after a coup.

Shares dropped initially when the coup was announced, but have since recovered. Furthermore, shares are about 25% off their highs seen last summer. Compare this to the S&P 500 SPDR (SPY), which is making new all-time highs.

Digging deeper, I see the top 10 holdings of the THD comprise the leading companies in Thailand and account for half of THD's assets. They include Siam Commercial Bank, PTT, AIS, Kasikorn Bank, PTT Exploration, CP Group, Siam Cement,



Shares dropped when the coup was announced but have since recovered. Photo: Rafael Matsunaga

PTT Global Chemicals and Bangkok Bank. These companies form the backbone of the Thai economy and are unlikely to be affected from the drop in tourism numbers. The companies in the THD rely more on domestic demand and their growth story is still intact.

These stocks are also incredibly cheap compared to their global peers. The holdings of the THD have a price/earnings multiple of 12 and are trading at just 0.8 times book value and 0.8 times sales. If we compare this to the SPY, we see that it has a price/earnings multiple of 16 and shares are trading at 2.2 times book value and 1.6 times sales.

My long-term outlook for Thailand remains intact. As an expat who has been coming to Thailand for many years, I know where Thailand was, where it is, and I have a pretty good idea of where it's heading. Even the World Bank agrees with me. In their assessment of Thailand, they say,

"Thailand became an upper-middle

income economy in 2011. Notwithstanding political uncertainty and volatility, Thailand has made great progress in social and economic issues. As such, Thailand is one of the great development success stories, with sustained strong growth and impressive poverty reduction."

I couldn't have said it better myself. For those of you interested in more of my writings, give me a call to get a copy of *Don Freeman's Expat Financial Guide*. I'm also available to discuss the THD and various other investment options for your portfolio to help build a more secure future.

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

TCT revises prediction on tourist numbers

POLITICAL tension is expected to further take a toll on the Thai tourism sector, including the upcoming annual shopping festival Amazing Thailand Grand Sales, which will kick off later this month. Air bookings to Thailand have seen a fall since the military took power and declared curfew last month.

The Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) has once again revised down the number of arrivals due to the continuing political tension. It estimated that 1.2 million tourists would skip travelling to the Kingdom over the next few months due to security fears.

This may have an enormous impact on the annual two-month shopping festival, scheduled to take place nationwide

from June 13 to August 15. Hundreds of shopping malls, stores and related business will offer up to 70 per cent discount at the Amazing Thailand Grand Sales.

Tourism council vice president, Pornthip Hirunkate said tourist spending per person during the festival is usually more than an average of 4,000 baht per head, which means the country risks further losses. Rival competitors like Hong Kong and Singapore also hold similar events to attract tourists during the low season. And they are expected to benefit from the arrival of more tourists shifting from Thailand.

The council believes that inbound arrivals would drop more than 15 per cent during the shopping festival. A lot of tour-



The TCT says Thailand will miss out on 1.2 million tourist visits. Photo: kallerna

ists have security fears, as curfew is still enforced. The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) has organised the annual shopping campaign 16 times in the past to lure heavy spenders, as well as to beat

shopping-destination places like Singapore, Hong Kong, and Malaysia

The campaign mainly targets 12 nations, including China, Japan, Indonesia, Russia, India, and the United Arab Emirates. Thailand was projected to get 28 million visitors this year, but the TCT has reduced the figure to 26.8 million due to the political turmoil.

The revised number may exceed last year's figure of 26.7 million. Domestic tourism, meanwhile, should enjoy a growth rate of 13 per cent over the previous year. Domestic revenue is expected at 700 million baht while income from tourists will be lower than the projected 1.2 trillion baht.

— The Nation

A place to call their own

ST JAMES Properties has entered the foray to secure its role in Patong's burgeoning family tourism market with the recent opening of The Kids Club, located off Soi Bangla, touted as the biggest indoor playground in Phuket.

Located at the Patong Promenade shopping mall, The Kids Club is presented as a premium children's venue, which is now fully operational following completion of a padded adventure play area on the entire second floor.

The 800-square-meter venue was completed in May with the installation of imported playground equipment including big slides, a climbing wall, adventure walkways, a trampoline, a flying fox, party rooms and an indoor soccer pitch – plus a “tired tots” rest area.

Finnish national Esa Veli Mikael Huovila, managing director of St James Properties Group, said the aim of the venture was to establish a dedicated one-stop party venue for children of all ages – and that “Phuket simply needed a place where parents can let their kids play in a safe, supervised environment.”

“The Kids Club also offers parents an ideal place to drop off the kids to do some shopping or take care of business knowing their children are in the safe hands



The Kids Club sports 800 square meters of play area to keep kids busy. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

of our team of dedicated staff,” said Mr Huovila.

“Of course, parents are welcome to relax here, too, while their children play. Wireless internet access is available for parents relaxing or working in the large lounge area, which has a reading corner and

pleasant view,” he said.

Open daily from 10am to 9pm, the club offers a range of hourly rates for one-year-olds, under 18s and adults (18+) between 50 and 150 baht per hour, plus daily rates up to just 300 baht for the whole day, with underground parking

available at the mall.

The venue is promoted as ideal for throwing birthday parties with all the trimmings. Parents can order custom-baked birthday cakes from creative cupcake franchise Joob Joob and magic shows are performed by resident magi-

cian KoKo The Clown.

Children and adults can learn the secrets of Joob Joob's famous creative cupcakes from the Joob Joob sisters, Ant and Kea. Classes can be booked in advance and are conducted in English, Thai and French.

The colorful sweet treats by Joob Joob are actually quite healthy snacks, said Anthony Reynolds, consulting partner to the Joob Joob sisters.

“The ice creams and sorbets are additive-free, containing no artificial colors or preservatives,” he said.

Also available is a daily variety of freshly baked cup cakes, crepes, waffles and natural ice cream, plus illy coffee at the colorful counter and comfy chairs in the lounge area.

In addition to wowing the kids with magic, KoKo The Clown teaches young customers how to do their own tricks, and there's a party supply store with shelves stocked with themed treats and toys to make any kind of party go off with a bang. Customers can also order helium balloons at the store. — Phuket Gazette

For more information, visit TheKidsClubPhuket.com or [facebook.com/thekidsclubphuket](https://www.facebook.com/thekidsclubphuket), or reach them at 076-341310 and info@thekidsclubphuket.com.

First-time car buyers to be repaid

THE Election Commission (EC) has approved a budget of over 3 billion baht to be set aside from the state coffers for payment to people who participated in the first-car buyer program.

EC Secretary-General Phuchong Nutrawong revealed that the commission had decided to use the emergency reserves of the 2014 central budget to fund the first-car buyer scheme, which was running out of money to pay tax rebates to participants. The approved amount

is 3.1 billion baht and is set to be handed out to recipients between June and July this year at the rate of 100,000 baht each.

On this occasion, the EC also granted high-ranking diplomatic officials a one-year extension for their term in office. The officials include the Thai Ambassador to New Zealand, the Thai Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York and the Thai Ambassador to The Hague, Netherlands.

Meanwhile, Inspector-General of the Ministry of Agriculture



First-car buyers will receive a 100,000 baht rebate. Photo: Zynos958

and Cooperatives Warawut Khantiyanan was endorsed as the new Director-General of the Department of Royal Rainmaking and Agricultural Aviation.

— NNT

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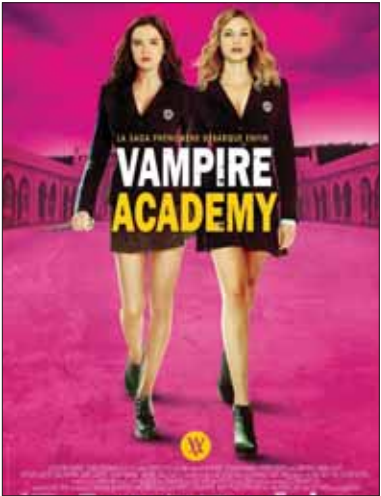
Wet season cinema guide

WITH the wild weather and torrential rain of the annual wet season beginning, heading out to the cinema, especially if you are on a motorbike, may not be the most tempting option. So for the next few months your best hope for some cinematic excitement is to wind up your big screen TV and plug in a DVD, Blu-Ray disc or other media device. Then sit back with your feet on the coffee table and chill out with a few pals over a pizza.

Fortunately, there's a fair pile of fun films just out that make for perfect home theater fodder. Here, we've broken them down based on the socio-economic groupings that may best appreciate their art.

TEEN SLEEP-OVER

Vampire Academy



Starring Zoey Deutch, Danila Kozlovsky and Lucy Fry, this movie had the potential to be yet another huge Harry-Potter-esque kids mega-movie series. Thanks to this first instalment, that is most unlikely to happen now.

The story is based on the best-selling *Vampire Academy* books by Richelle Mead that follow the adventures of a young half-vampire bodyguard-in-training, Rose Hathaway.

Rose's job is to protect a princess from the "good" vampire clan. She does a pretty terrible job of it, because they are soon captured by the "bad" vampires.

The Weinstein Company (motto: we'll get it right one day,

we promise) did a fairly terrible job as well, turning the big-hit book into a massively mediocre movie that was almost universally panned by the critics.

The film barely managed to cover half of its nominal US\$30 million budget from big screen viewings. The Weinsteins will probably make it back through DVD sales, though, because this is the perfect teen sleep-over movie, i.e. great background noise while blow-drying hair, a few good screams to ensure nail-polish ends up anywhere but on toenails, and the usual teen heart-throbs Dimitri Belikov and Christian O'Connell to go googly-eyed over.

LAD'S NIGHT IN

RoboCop



You'll want to hate this one, but you'll end up cheering it on in the end. Director Jose Padilha went to quite a lot of trouble to ensure that he was close enough to the 1987 Paul Verhoeven original but different enough to make it worth watching again.

Standing next to each other, Verhoeven wins (of course) but Padilha gets an honorable mention for this very good attempt to bring the story up to date.

At the outset it's a bit samey, but soon after Joel Kinnaman's street cop gets blown to pieces his character gains a new level of depth that Peter Weller's didn't.

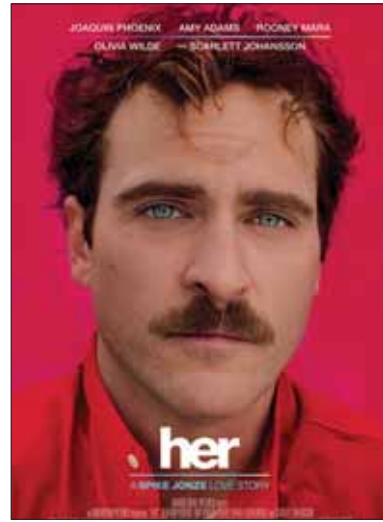
Some of the action is a little soft and the ending feels like they ran out of ideas (or money) but overall a passable remake, with Gary Oldman, Michael Keaton, and Samuel L. Jackson having the most fun on screen.

Guaranteed to get the lads shouting out "They didn't do that in the original," or "That's a rip-off from (fill in name of any dystopian future movie)."

LADIES NIGHT IN

Her

This Spike Jonze comedy drama is about a man who falls in love with his computer's AI operating system. Starring Joaquin Phoenix, Amy Adams, Olivia Wilde and



Scarlett Johansson, *Her* went on to earn numerous awards, Golden Globe noms (with Jonze winning for Best Screenplay) and five Oscar nods.

Jonze, best known for *Being John Malkovich*, likes to keep a dark edge to his movies, so he doesn't let the syrup run too far from the plot, so it's nowhere near as soppy as the similarly themed Al Pacino flick, *500 Days of Summer*.

ONE FOR MUM & DAD

The Monuments Men



George Clooney stars in and directs this slightly off-beat WWII romp about a group of over-the-hill soldiers charged with rescuing Europe's finest artworks from the Nazis.

A great ensemble cast saves an otherwise spotty script based on a much more exciting true story. Clooney's directing isn't at its best here – the story seems to get away from him at times. Despite its faults, still worth a watch.

ONE FOR THE BUFFS

Ravenous



Cannibal cowboys in the Californian wilderness. Sounds terrible, doesn't it. But, thanks to great acting from Guy Pearce, Robert Carlyle, Jeffrey Jones and David Arquette; an exceptionally light touch from director Antonia Bird; and an austere soundtrack by Michael Nyman and Damon Albarn, this 1999 art house flick is a dark but amusing, if modestly gory, movie gem.

Despite its age and subject matter, the Teen Sleep-over gang will have trouble enjoying this movie – too many beards, not enough bods.

– Alexander Maycock

Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

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

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

LOCAL COVERAGE	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE																								
<p>Phuket Cable Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm</p> <p>Rawai Cable Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm</p> <p>KDTV Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Chalong Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm</p>	<p>MCOT World</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table> <p>Truevisions HD Channel: 79 Truevisions SD Channel: 107 PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37 GMMZ Channel: 103</p>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am	<p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <p>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am
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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

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 14, 6:30-10pm. Special Wine Dinner at Wine Lovers

Wine Lovers Phuket invites you to a special wine dinner on Saturday, June 14. A six-course menu paired with Prosecco and four different wines for only 1,500 baht. Come and enjoy a nice and fresh atmosphere at Wine Lovers. Limited space available. For reservations call 076 384663 or email info@wineloversphuket.com. For more information go to wineloversphuket.com

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 listening 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



Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs June 7 and 8 at 11am

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 couples to tie the knot in an extravagant, memorable way, celebrating the traditions of the 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 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 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 12. Buddhist Lent

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

July 16-20, 10am-11:30pm, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek

Four days of world-class yacht racing in Phuket, combined with four nights of beachside parties at the five-star Cape Panwa Hotel. If it's time you got out on the water, then come sailing and join one of the crews, or sign up as crew on one of the Classics. Experience sailing on the East Coast of Phuket.

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.

August 12. Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday

HM Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara's Birthday, celebrated as Mother's Day.

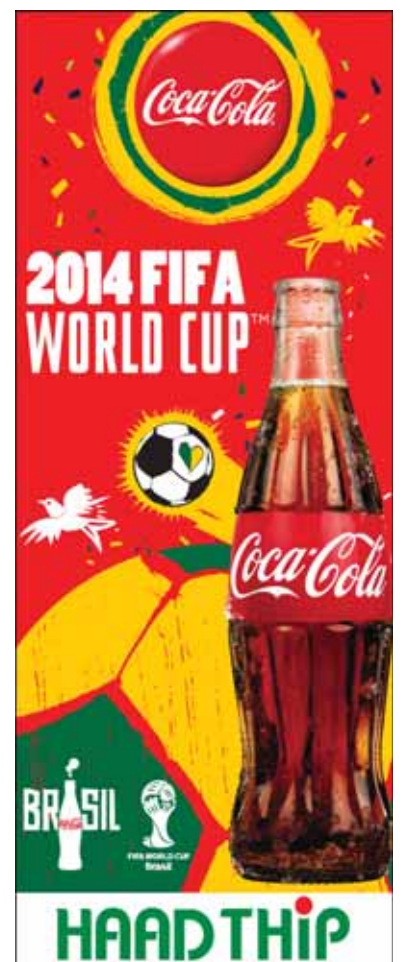
October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

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

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

The PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". For more information contact Carole Dux on 066-763 1671, emailinfo@piwc-phuket.com or visit piwc-phuket.com

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



Hurray for Suay

By Baz Daniels

THE evening of Thursday, May 22 will long be remembered in the annals of Thai history as the night of the declaration of the country's twelfth military coup. However, for a certain group of food lovers, it was the evening of the third gathering of the recently formed Phuket Foodies dining club and they were en route to the beautifully-named Suay Restaurant in the heart of Phuket Town.

The "Foodies" are the brain child of events marketing guru Graeme Lahman, who, following a successful career in Melbourne, and latterly starting a company in Beijing which blossomed during the 2008 Olympics, retired to Phuket. He initiated the informal non-profit group of Foodies dedicated to food, fun and friendship and as a means of networking and meeting like-minded lovers of the "good life". It's a formula which has caught on quickly and with great enthusiasm.

Suay is located on Takuapa Road and is a bistro-style eatery that has built a strong following from those who have tried it over the last few years, for its quality, relaxing ambience and fair prices.

Suay which of course means "beautiful" in Thai is an appropriate moniker for this restaurant which is set back from the soi in a little garden of its own and occupies a rather charming old wooden Thai style house made of white painted clapperboard, with a little white picket fence surrounding it. Around the perimeter of the house is a covered terrace allowing both indoor and outdoor dining.

Suay's owner/chef is Tammasak "Noi" Chootong, who trained in Germany and spent many years working in some of the most upmarket resorts and hotel kitchens in

Phuket before deciding to launch the delightful Suay in 2010.

Chef Noi's cuisine showcases a Thai/Western fusion approach through a refreshingly unpretentious menu which shows a strong Issan influence in its offering of classic Thai dishes. There's also a Western blackboard selection which changes frequently and features imported beef, lamb and seafood dishes embellished with local fruits and spices.

Suay's pricing of their Thai dishes is reasonable though the Western choices, featuring imported meats from Australia, New Zealand and the like, tend to be a little pricier, but are still very good value for the quality of their ingredients.

Our Foodies night started with wines and sensational mangosteen cocktails in Suay's charming interior, then the crowd of thirty food-lovers sat at the long tables on the outdoor terrace. Spicy yellow tuna on cucumber *carpaccio* followed by a *tom kha* with grilled sea scallops made up the entrees, with superb Tasmanian salmon spring rolls in Chiang Mai yellow curry with edamame bean salad as the main course.

The evening's enlivening selection of accompanying wines were presented by Sommelier Tobias Lauinger and despite being held in "interesting times" the night was a triumph for both Suay Restaurant and the Phuket Foodies Group.

Suay Restaurant:

50/2, Takuapa Road, Talat Nuea, Mueang, Phuket 83000. Telephone: 081-747 2424
Website: suayrestaurant.com

Phuket Foodies Group: Graeme Lahman

Email: graemelahman@live.com
Mobile: 091-823 8903



Tasmanian salmon spring rolls in Chiang Mai yellow curry with edamame bean salad. Photo: Supplied



'Suay style' spicy squid carpaccio. Photo: Supplied



Suay restaurant is a charming, old wooden Thai-style house with a covered terrace allowing both indoor and outdoor dining. Photo: Supplied

The Tao of shopping



NONE of the traditional religions have anything good to say about shopping. That just shows how out of touch they are with today's trendy, switched-on world. But there's good news for the pious, for a new school of Taoism is promoting an entire moral code devoted to that noble activity.

Traditional Taoism doesn't even mention shopping. But New Taoism offers wise advice to male shoppers, on the premise that women don't need it. Women have a gender-specific chromosome that gives them a natural instinct for shopping. They are genetically programmed to follow three principles: 1 – If it's for sale, buy it. 2 – If two identical items have different prices, go for the expensive one. 3 – When in doubt, buy both.

Men are genetically challenged, shopping-wise, so they require guidance. Sometimes they go shopping with a woman, usually their sidekick. (Scholarly digression: I use the term "sidekick"

instead of the cold and unfeeling term "partner," because "partner" implies a business relationship. A sidekick can be any woman with whom one enjoys an intimate relationship, ranging from the merely chummy to the utterly carnal.)

New Taoism gives men the following advice:

1 – Never go shopping with your sidekick. It will only give you ulcers.

2 – If you cannot avoid shopping with your sidekick, remember that the answer to any question she may ask must always be "Yes, dear." If it's an "either-or" question, never ask, "Which one is cheaper?" The approved answer is "Why don't you buy them both, dear?"

3 – If possible, try to run into one of her girlfriends. Then you can suggest, "Why don't you girls continue shopping? I'll just shuffle off to Soi Bangla to have a little drinkie with me mates."

4 – If you see something you like, buy it. Do not browse. Do not compare prices. That's what women do, and it is extremely debilitating for men. It's also a huge waste of time. Immediately upon completing your purchase, speed quickly to Soi Bangla for a little drinkie



If there is one thing women of all nationalities and cultures have in common, it's love for shopping. Photo: Adam Jones

with your mates. Tarrying in the shopping area can be hazardous to your peace of mind. You may come across a better product of the same type, at a cheaper price. And that will ruin your day.

5 – Remember the aphorism, "A Corvette always looks better in the showroom." Any product always looks bright and shiny before you buy it, but suddenly looks shabby and shopworn

immediately afterwards.

6 – To apply this insight, follow the Pretense Principle. Imagine that you've already bought the product. See how it has lost its magical allure, how its luster has suddenly dimmed, how it has morphed into a despicable cast-off – odious and foul! Who would want such a wretched thing? You can save a lot of money by following the Pretense Principle.

7 – Never try to explain the Pretense Principle to your sidekick. Women are genetically programmed to reject it instantly, without discussion, and may throw violent temper tantrums if you persist.

Ye Olde Curmudgeon can be praised for his insight c/o s.tsow@outlook.com, except when he's having a little drinkie with his mates.



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Special Cocktail Bucket



Let the bees be bees



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

THE expression “the bee’s knees” is an example of the dynamism of language, and of a phrase that completely changed its meaning. Once, it meant that something was trivial or insignificant. Now, like “the cat’s whiskers”, it denotes an outstanding person or thing. Thus, the honey bee (*apis mellifera*) literally lives up to its own metaphor: so indispensable to human existence that our very world is threatened without its fecundating presence.

First, take this stark statistic. The bee is the world’s major pollinator: it pollinates and thereby ensures the successful cropping of 70 per cent of the 100 plant species that feed 90 per cent of the global population. But they are disappearing... and fast. Have you noticed how few bees buzz around in your garden these days? The domestic garden is one of the bee’s last havens, but even here they are only an occasional presence.

Daily, bees fly miles to gather nectar for their hives to convert into honey. They also carry pollen in sacs on their legs. Both are

fed to young larvae, each of which inhabits a cell in the honeycombed nest. The surplus store of honey enables the hive to survive the winter; without it, they will expire.

But for us and our world it is not the honey – delectable as it is – that is so crucial, but the bee’s activity in gathering it. The process of pollination, ironically an accidental byproduct of the nectar-collecting business, transfers pollen from the male part of the flower (anther) to the female part (stigma). And while some pollination is

mediated by agents such as wind or water, without the need

for bees or butterflies, only 10 per cent are in this self-help category. It follows then that pollination is absolutely key: part of a symbiotic process, whereby not only do bees need flowering plants in order to survive, but humankind too. We also depend on the continued existence of plant life to stop us from going under. A bee crisis is a global crisis.

So why are bees disappearing? Just look around you. Phuket’s landscape is becoming a concrete jungle as more and more green areas are sacrificed to the developer’s back-hoe, and more and more mature trees are



If you tear down a honeysuckle, you could destroy an entire generation of baby bees. Photo: david.nikonvscanon

cut down. Regrettably, loss of habitat constitutes a global catastrophe. In the past few decades, 97 per cent of the world’s flower-rich grassland has vanished, grassland populated by those very wildflowers on which the bee is, and always has been, so dependent.

Of course, the bee has natural enemies apart from man – the arch predator. I once watched a group of migrating Blue-tailed Bee-eaters swooping from overhead cables every few seconds and returning with an insect. You knew it was a bee when the hunter rubbed the bee’s body against the wire to remove the sting. Bee-eaters, beautiful birds, are shot in Spain by beekeepers.

I think nature creates its own checks and balances. But the honey bee is threatened by a much more insidious foe and one spread by man – colony collapse syndrome. The main culprit? The crab-like *varroa* mite. A tiny creature which

invades hives, attaches itself to the bee’s back and sucks its blood. Enfeebled bees often die and sometimes entire nests succumb. In Europe, giant hornets from China that can kill fifty bees a day are the latest threat.

As if all this isn’t enough for the embattled bee, the increased, and often indiscriminate use of pesticides has worsened its plight. In the 1990s, a new kind of pesticide entered the market. Called *neonicotinoids* or *phenylpyrazoles*, these chemicals damage the nervous system of honey bees. The result? They become disoriented and unable to transfer information about food sources. Infected bees that struggle back to the hive can contaminate and wipe out a whole colony.

So, spare a thought for the humble bee. When you find a nest of wild bees in your Phuket garden, treat it with reverence. It is doing your garden a power of good. And don’t encourage local sellers of wild honey. They are poachers that sometimes hack down these suspended nests – and destroy a whole new generation of pupating bees in the process.

Bees are having a rough ride right now. And so will we, if we don’t watch over our bees.

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



Photos: Eleassar (right), Magnus Manske (above)

Tip of the week

Good looks, but at what cost?

THE modern trend is for fruit and vegetables that look good. On the market shelf, appearance is everything: shoppers don’t want knobbly potatoes, odd-looking tomatoes or apples with warty skin.

But commercial hybridists have often sacrificed flavor in the quest for good looks, heavier cropping, longer shelf life or products that travel well. Often this means picking unripe produce and maturing it during transit – usually the case with exported bananas and pineapples. Deprived of those final days of sunshine, these fruits do not ripen properly and lose taste.

Apples such as “golden delicious”, grown primarily for their appearance,



Market beauty contests. Photo: Patrick Fuller rarely taste as good as old-fashioned varieties such as “Cox’s orange pippin”. Some gardeners are now going back to heirloom varieties which taste better and can be picked for immediate consumption.

Dog of the week

Petra

PETRA is a mixed-breed female and is a very gentle and sweet-natured dog. She’s been at Doggie Heaven rescue center for about 17 months, but she really dislikes living in a place with so many other dogs. She would prefer to be in a real home where she can be loved by a family and be the one getting all the attention.

Before she was rescued by the folks at Doggie Heaven, she was living a hard life at the local dog shelter. Petra was locked up with about 400 other dogs who fought day and night as there was not enough food to go around and little shelter. As a result, she looks a lot older than she is.

If you are thinking of adopting, please



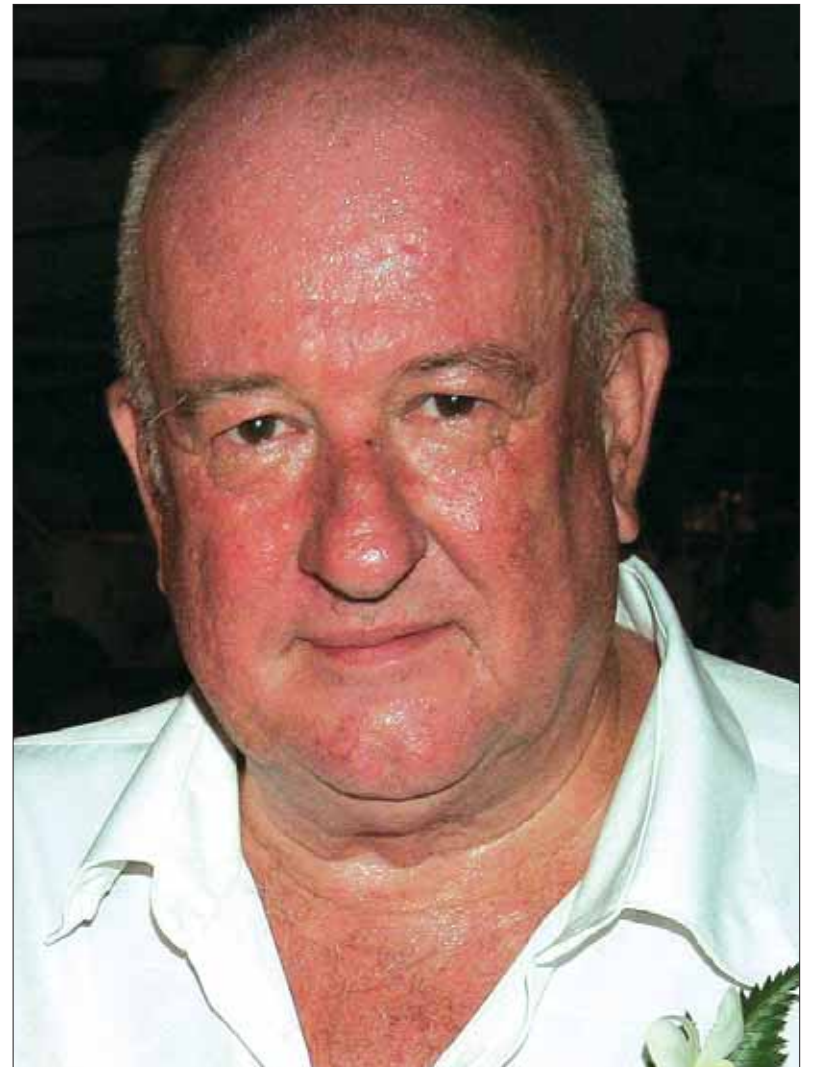
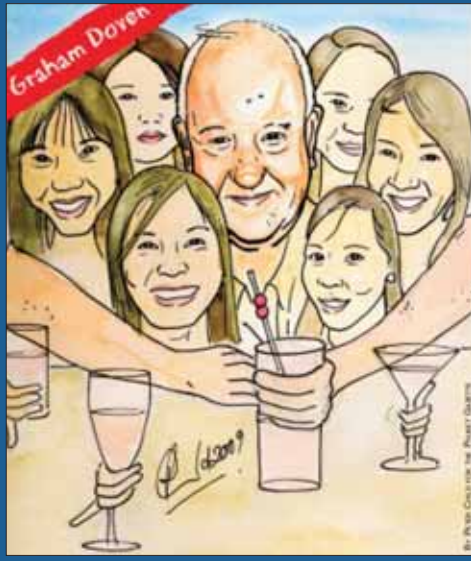
Petra could be your new family member.

consider Petra, she will be forever grateful. Doggie Heaven is located in the Laguna area. Please call 084-877 3566, email sherin.peace@gmail.com or pay a visit to doggieheaven.net

Goodbye Graham

Phuket property and island promoter Graham Doven dead at 62

Graham Doven, the well known and respected long-term Phuket expat and former *Phuket Gazette* columnist, who made his mark as an expert event and property promoter, died at Mission Hospital in Bangkok on Tuesday. The *Gazette* extends its heartfelt condolences to everyone who knew and loved Graham. He will be greatly missed.



BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME: Graham Doven. Photo: Facebook

LONG-term Phuket expat and property guru Graham Doven, 62, died at Mission Hospital in Bangkok at 4pm on Tuesday after a long illness.

The *Phuket Gazette* has yet to be informed of arrangements to mark Graham's passing, though a memorial ceremony is expected to be held on the island to honor a man who helped Phuket to become the major tourism and property icon in Southeast Asia that it is today.

Graham's marketing talent helped to create international excitement about Phuket as one of the world's most desirable locations for tropical villa investment.

He started presenting upscale island developments at the China Club in Hong Kong in 1997.

"Interest in holiday and investment property was fueled by the Asian financial crisis when the baht was pushed to 50 to the dollar and property on Phuket became a real bargain," he told the *Gazette* during an in-depth interview in 2009.

"Also, the success that Paul

Moorhouse had with his first project, Lakeshore Villas, proved that Phuket was attractive to the international investor."

Graham spent more than 12 years organizing large property shows and small, invitation-only events that not only brought investors to the island, but also helped to elevate Phuket's status from banal "paradise" to full-on lifestyle brand.

He organized events at the stylish Sukhothai Hotel in Bangkok and represented developers at major press conferences at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Thailand. He also presented exhibitions at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, at Earl's Court in London, and even in the Kazakhstan capital of Almaty.

Graham was involved in media and promotions all his life. He came to Thailand from Australia in 1989 to make videos, write media scripts and work with the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

He left behind an impressive career promoting events and organizing bands, concerts and

festivals around the Gold Coast, in Queensland, Australia.

As the coordinator for the Opening Day events at World Expo 1988 in Brisbane, he organized the talent from 72 participating countries. He also coordinated Australia's travelling Bicentennial exhibition in Queensland.

A graduate in journalism and communications, Graham started his working life as a film editor for Australia's Channel 7.

He also had substantial music training, and a visit to a music shop on the Gold Coast changed his life.

"I was asked to work in this shop, a Yamaha piano dealer in Murwillumbah, and over the next few years put bands together and produced concerts with performers such as Tom Jones and Joe Cocker. I also helped manage the careers of local artists, including singer Martine Monroe and bush bluegrass band Bullamakanka."

The young promoter and impresario convinced the Queensland Symphony Orchestra to play at the local Seagulls Football Club auditorium, which he was able to sell out. He also worked with the

Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) in setting up show tours that took live talent to the nation's most remote rural areas.

"The World Expo '88 was really an opportunity to show off to the world. We managed to have a full-sized pink submarine with 40 tap dancers dressed in pink tutus for Opening Day, as well as 36 orchestras playing behind the Queen of England and the 72 Heads of State," he once recounted to the *Gazette*.

But by the time World Expo '88

was over, Graham was ready for a change.

"When I first came to Thailand, I knew I wanted to live here. I love the freedom one feels in this country where every day can be interesting," he said.

"Phuket is a great place to live. The island has everything anyone could want."

The *Gazette* extends its heartfelt condolences to everyone who knew and loved Graham. He will be greatly missed.

— *Phuket Gazette*



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Photo: Rene Ehrhardt

Bicycling with James Bond

MY PASSION for cycling sprang forth at about the same time as my discovery of the dashing super-spy James Bond, when I was a spotty English schoolboy of some ten callow summers. At first blush, 007 and my first ten-speed, drop handlebar bike might seem to have little in common. But I think it was the potential for escape from my rain-sodden environment offered to me by Bond and my bike that first captured my imagination. Suffice to say, I became somewhat addicted both to pedalling and to all things Bondian as I reached adolescence, and I pursued both of these fixations with a growing relish.

Like many of us living in Phuket, I can clearly recall the day I saw my first James Bond film. It was *Doctor No* starring Sean Connery, and Ursula Andress as the delectable Honey Ryder, and filmed in author Ian Fleming's spiritual home – Jamaica.

As per normal in the English town in which I grew up, it was a miserable, chilly day with the icy rain flying in horizontally from the Irish Sea, when an audience com-

prised almost entirely of pimply schoolboys like myself trudged into the darkened interior of the cinema. News of Bond's exploits with sumptuous young women had travelled through my school like wildfire and so the air of erotic schoolboy anticipation was almost palpable. When the pneumatic shape of Ursula Andress waded out of the Caribbean waves, a dagger stuck in the belt of her white bikini, a collective sigh of semi-orgasmic longing travelled around the cinema.

The Phuket region has its own strong Bond connection in that the 1974 film *The Man with the Golden Gun* was partially set amidst the incredible scenery of Phang Nga Bay. Indeed the Bondian connection was reprised in 1997 when Pierce Brosnan, the fifth film actor to play the super-spy, re-visited Phuket in *Tomorrow Never Dies*.

When I first saw *The Man with the Golden Gun* starring Roger Moore as a new and rather fey incarnation of Bond, I must admit I wasn't quite sure that he was the man for the job! Sean Connery's uncompromising



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

muscular portrayal had set the "gold standard" of Bondism as far as I was concerned, and Roger Moore's depiction of Bond as a wise-cracking comedian who seemed to do most of his acting with his dancing eyebrows, wasn't quite "cricket". However, Herve Villechaize's cameo role playing an extremely silly dwarf named "Knick-Knack" and the sight of Britt Ekland's wondrous bottom wiggling about in various bikinis made up for the slightly limp-wristed version of Bond himself.

When I recently heard that the luxurious Six Senses Resort and Spa on Koh Yao Noi was running regular weekly James Bond evenings featuring a superb dinner, plus the showing of *The Man with the Golden Gun* on their private beach, I felt this was the perfect opportunity to re-unite my passions for bicycling and Bond, by riding over there and writing an article about it.

Of course most people arrive

at Six Senses aboard the resort's private cruiser, rather than by bicycle, and doing so, you could certainly be forgiven for believing that you'd strayed onto the set of a Bond film epic. The fabulous pool villas of the resort tumble down an imposing hillside overlooking the dramatic limestone karsts of Phang Nga Bay. This is the exotic setting into which Roger Moore, playing Bond in the 1974 film tracks Christopher Lee playing the arch assassin Scaramonger who kills for a million dollars a hit with a single golden bullet from his eponymous golden gun.

Arriving by bicycle at Six Senses Resort is probably not exactly what Bond would have done, but after transporting my mountain bike out to the island aboard the ferry from Bang Rong Pier, I pedalled my way around the sleepy byways of Koh Yao Noi on a cloudy Thursday evening arriving at Six Senses just in time for sun-downers.

Changing into a white tuxedo replete with cycling clips, I made my way onto the resort's beautiful private beach overlooking the stunning limestone karst topogra-

phy of Phang Nga Bay. A Six Senses staff member, who I have to say are as friendly and helpful as they are attractive, offered me a Bondian martini, shaken and not stirred of course, and the evening's adventure was launched.

Seated at a beachside table, with sand between my toes and dining on a sensational selection of Thai and seafood dishes, I had the incredible pleasure of watching once again the liberating magic of *The Man with the Golden Gun* on a massive outdoor screen. As Bond's helicopter swept majestically across the turquoise waves of Phang Nga Bay with its unbelievable rock formations spread across the waters like discarded jewels flung from the hand of an irate giantess, I had merely to turn my head to witness the real thing magically silhouetted behind me against a rising moon.

It was an eerie and unforgettable sight that transported me back to my callow youth and somehow I couldn't help but think to myself, "Eat your heart out Mister Bond, life doesn't get any better than this, either on the screen, or in reality!"

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Six Senses Resort on Koh Yao Noi runs weekly James Bond evenings on its private beach. Photo: Supplied

Peranakan style

Experience the old-world charm of Phuket's traditional culture at the 6th annual Baba Wedding

FOR most visitors to Phuket, it can seem that the island is all about beaches, bars, resorts and restaurants, but for those who want to get off the beaten track, there is wealth of fascinating cultural heritage to explore. One event that epitomizes the historical roots of Phuket is the annual Baba Wedding ceremony, held each year in Old Phuket Town.

Now in its sixth year, the Baba Wedding ceremony is organized by the the Thai Peranakan Association, a group dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Phuket's unique culture. Peranakan culture was borne out of the intermarriage between

Straights Chinese immigrants, who came to the island seeking their fortunes in the rich tin mines, and the local Thai people who had inhabited Phuket for centuries.

The original Baba Weddings were the most important celebrations in the life of the Peranakan people, where well-to-do families could display their wealth and prestige during lavish ceremonies. Now, the revitalized tradition is accessible to everyone, either as participants getting married, or as spectators watching the wedding procession as it ambles through Old Phuket Town's historic streets.

For bride and groom the Baba

Wedding provides a chance to invite their guests for a party of a lifetime. A lavish wedding reception will be held at the Blue Elephant Cooking School & Restaurant where the newlyweds and their families will celebrate this memorable day in style in the surroundings of the historical former Phuket Governor Phra Pitak Chinpracha's mansion. Those attending the reception will be able to taste such rare delights as *Tumi Curry* (fish curry), *Hu Shae* (Baba salad) or *Kao Niew Heep* (pressed sticky rice with kaya) in some of Phuket's most exquisite interiors.

But the attractions of that day won't be

reserved to the table and for the guests only. Casual bystanders will witness a splendid, colorful procession traversing the old quarter of Phuket Town which will be decorated with Chinese lanterns and floral displays, showcasing the beauty of peranakan traditional weddings – so get your cameras ready. – *Phuket Gazette*

The registration fee for the Phuket Baba Wedding 2014, which will be held on June 21-23, is 39,900 baht per couple inclusive of three nights accommodation and three day program in Phuket. For more information visit phuketbaba.com or call 081-691 1955.



Defy gravity in Phuket

Let your creativity take charge at the island's newest attractions

By Mauri Grant

BEWARE, fellow ladies of Phuket: skirts are not advised at the island's newest tourist attractions, as you might feel compelled to strike some compromising poses once you walk into Baan Teelanka – otherwise known as the Upside Down House. So, be sure to plan ahead and throw on a pair of shorts or pants.

Baan Teelanka is a place of dizzying delight, a quirky, yet fully functional house with just one catch – the floor you walk on is actually the ceiling, and everything that belongs on the floor is hanging above you.

As you walk into the house – camera at the ready – you may just hear Alex Riva, one of the masterminds behind the house, saying, “Welcome to the Upside Down House, where even the fish swim upside down. After six months of training, they finally got it!”

ATTRACTIONS

“We are not an attraction – we are attractions. Two is better than one,” Mr Riva told the *Gazette*, proudly boasting that Baan Teelanka and its backyard labyrinth, A-Maze-in-Phuket, are two separate sights, and each the first of their kind in Thailand.

“We are the first and only upside down house in Thailand. It is very simple; there is no magic in the house. Other places like this use magic or special effects, but that is not what we wanted to do. All we wanted to do was build a house – an upside down one,” said Mr Riva.

“The maze is a nice activity that the kids love,” he added.

Although the hedges are still growing, the maze has already seen kids and adults racing through its pathways trying to beat each other to the exit.

Mr Riva makes up just half of the dynamic, driving force behind Baan Teelanka; the other half is his wife, Tiwa Yodying.

“Teelanka means upside down. When kids do a flip we call it *tee lanka*. It is cute – *nah lak dee*,” said Ms Tiwa.

Baan Teelanka is fun for all ages, said Ms Tiwa, from tiny tots to grannies with canes.

“We have had people of all ages visit the house, even the elderly Chinese women. One woman told me, ‘Thank you for building this here, so I don’t have to go far away to see something like this.’ She came with

her grandchildren and had a lot of fun,” Ms Tiwa said.

ALL ABOUT THE PICTURES

Baan Teelanka was not originally designed with social media in mind, said Mr Riva, but the first wave of customers has proved that picture sharing is an integral part of most visitors’ experience.

“We thought that people would come to appreciate the architecture – the high ceilings, the high roof, the Asian-style design – but it turned out that for most of our guests, it is all about the pictures,” said Mr Riva.

“People want to take pictures here, so they will ask me, ‘What pose do I have to do?’ My answer would be, ‘It is a house, you do whatever you want!’

“They come with that in mind, so at every corner they are looking for a different pose, which is wonderful, because then they share the pictures through social media.

“Some just go lay on the roof and act like spiders – it’s great!”

The Facebook reaction to Baan Teelanka has been quick and very positive, said Mr Riva and Ms Tiwa. The homeowners also happily pointed out the creative picture-taking advantages of the house’s open spaces and nicely decorated rooms.

“I do hope that people appreciate the fact that this isn’t just a two-dimensional painting on a wall, it is a house – you have to appreciate the spaces,” Mr Riva said.

NOT A RESTAURANT

Baan Teelanka is colorful and starting to attract the attention of tour buses and cars as they drive down the bypass road. Mr Riva and Ms Tiwa said that they can see tourists pointing at the house as they go by.

The biggest issue the upside down homeowners face right now is informing the public and tour guides about what the house actually is.

“Tourists are asking their guides what the house is, and we think the guides are telling them, ‘Well, I think it is a restaurant,’” said Mr Riva.

“We have even had people come by in the evening, asking us, ‘Are you open for dinner?’”

Some tour guides have been visiting the house to inspect it for customers, said Ms Tiwa, but most agencies have been slow to

react.

“It is going to take some time. We did a lot of ground-work on Facebook so that when we opened, we could hit the ground running,” Mr Riva added.

A FAMILY AFFAIR

After 18 months of preparation, 10 long months of construction, countless hours of brainstorming and personal touches from the hands and home of the Riva family, Baan Teelanka opened its doors to Phuket on April 23.

The upside-down logo is the product of some serious brainstorming by the two younger Riva daughters, while several pieces of artwork featured in the house were created by the oldest. Some objects inside came from the family home, like the golf clubs found on top level of the house (which is actually the garage).

“We wanted this to be a Phuket family business,” said Ms Tiwa. “We saw that Phuket had nothing like this, so we wanted to bring it here.”

Baan Teelanka is open for business every day from 10am to 6pm. Tickets are 200 baht for adults and 120 baht for children. Try your hand at the A-Maze-in-Phuket for 120 baht for adults and 100 baht for children.



The happy upside down homeowners.
Photos: Saran Mitratat



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"I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands; you need to be able to throw something back."
— Maya Angelou

"Success is having to worry about every damn thing in the world, except money." — Johnny Cash

Medium

	1		3	5	8		4	
6		8				3		7
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Hard

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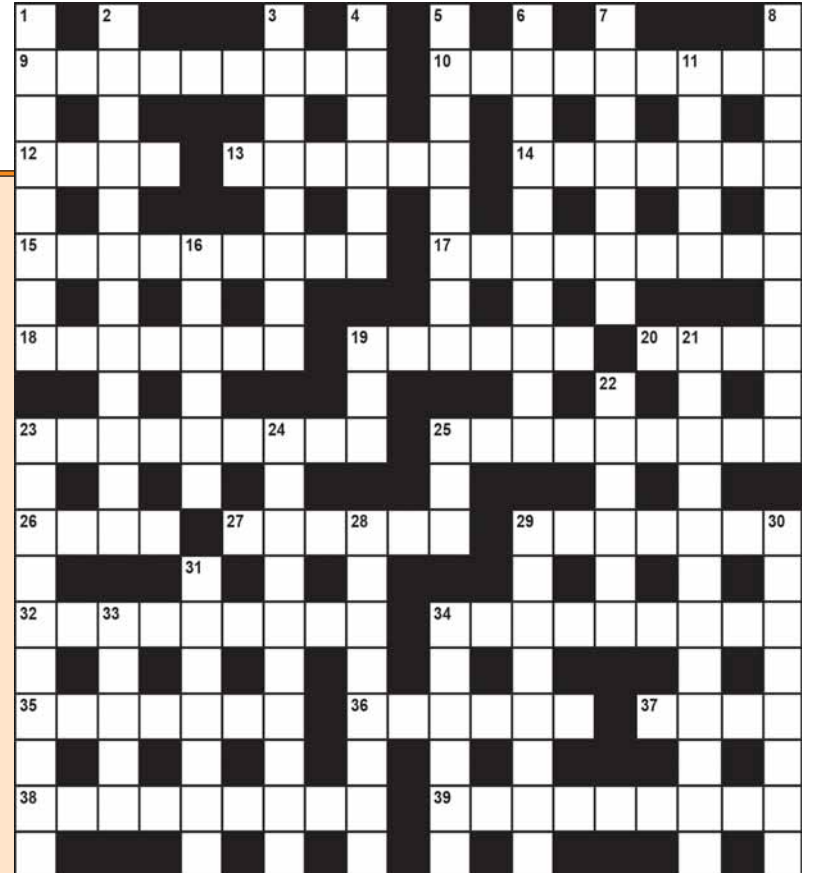
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE
break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Roast a nut carefully for the spaceman (9)
10. Mater moved into tent for therapy (9)
12. Pull backward (4)
13. Last note in last act (6)
14. Rotating on grill, cooking (7)
15. Distinguished find, i.e. dig out (9)
17. Arranged a grant, our underwriter (9)
18. Reckoned agreed (7)
19. A chapter ran out for a teacher in Thailand (6)
20. Second, identify sort of party (4)
23. Notions at hiding symbols (9)
25. Unwilling, can't rule new tenor (9)
26. Edit odd ebb and flow (4)
27. Fix important article of commerce (6)
29. Unnecessarily expensive, pal's maybe shy (7)
32. Possible tacit ruse, retire to the country! (9)
34. Possibly enter it, the French make eligible again (9)
35. Idly talked to detach, maybe about time (7)
36. Possibly vile, left unknown with wicked intent (6)
37. Colonel departs, unfriendly (4)
38. Definitely stated sent rapidly (9)
39. Go in at back, one November, to play host (9)



Down

1. Did stake new road approach to Panwa Cape (8)
2. Disturbed at lungs rated throttled (12)
3. Formally confirmed it, if dare to be wrong (8)
4. Darts up around new beach (6)
5. Sturdiness a strong point (8)
6. Terrible rebel, bear round right for the ale container! (4,6)
7. Of the stars, all rest in disarray (7)
8. Put on correct place actor may be found in (6,4)
11. Be former wife first (5)
16. Fools do it, is possible (6)
19. A vessel for a fool (3)
21. Traditional to take out daughter, put in new son in

the interim (12)

22. Round a hundred, note large number of leopard (6)
23. Trucker can be out of order in Tchaikovsky's suite (10)
24. Wierd maybe and loutish (10)
25. In river, observer, note fish eggs (3)
28. Pair, note, looks after fakes (8)
29. Star shaped tallest possible out East (8)
30. Producing dingy lie, perhaps (8)
31. Litter left in, not so much (7)
33. Second stringed instrument is above true pitch (5)
34. Attacker in rear I'd upset (6)

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Finances are positive this week, with focus on unexpected gain for many Geminis. Love moves in mysterious ways until the middle of the month. A fire sign's fear of commitment is forecast to suddenly dissolve, but a water sign could get cold feet about where the relationship is heading. If your birthday falls during the coming week, family relationships are forecast to bring more fulfillment in the year ahead.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Focus is on work this week; the stars advise viewing obstacles as stepping stones to improvement. There will be more ways to negotiate a difficult course than first apparent and Cancerians should take some time out to contemplate possible directions before proceeding. The second half of June will be a more fortuitous time for those concerned about job security as there are signs of reorganization being to your advantage.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):



Someone who has been inspired by your actions in the world of work could end up being a copycat. It would not be wise to give too much of your game away if profit is at

stake. Over indulgence this week-end is highlighted to affect your start to the working week. Celebrations are in the air, but Leos are likely to push themselves too hard in order to enjoy the party atmosphere.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):



Resolving relationship issues is well starred for Virgoans this week. In the world of work, another earth sign is ready to brainstorm ways to move forward after a period of stalemate. Where romance is concerned, an air sign partner is forecast to finally admit they have a problem; this should leave the way clear to finding solutions. Those who recently became single enjoy catching up with old friends.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Forgotten ideas can be brought back to life and given new energy. Librans are advised to take advantage of an astral atmosphere that supports creativity until the middle of June. Practical matters are not as well-starred this week; you will need to make extra effort to keep up with agreements. There are hints that taking understanding for granted will lead to bad feelings. Dazzling days for romance are Thursday and Friday.

YOUR
horoscope
By Isla Star

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



It will be important to set a steady pace during the coming week. There are hints that others may try to push for unreasonable deadlines and Scorpios should make it obvious that they will not be rushed or persuaded into doing more than is fair. An air sign's tendency to delegate too much needs to be addressed before matters get out of hand. Finances are fortunate nearer the middle of the month.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Sagittarians could be tempted to settle for less this week. The stars suggest that a vulnerable mood may allow others to take advantage; there is focus on another fire sign spotting an opportunity to do this. In the realm of romance, an air sign is keen to have a casual relationship. If your heart tells you that there should be more commitment, it would be best to make this immediately clear.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



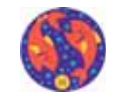
Closer communication is forecast for Capricorns. You will be on the same wavelength as those who matter in the world of work – expect a water sign to include you in lucrative long term plans. Creativity is highlighted as the middle of the month approaches and even the strangest ideas can turn into something worthwhile. Clearing the air this weekend is beneficial for a romantic relationship with a fire sign.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



It may be necessary to ease up on your principles as the middle of the month approaches. The stars indicate that some Aquarians can be faced with taking action that goes against the grain. Where work is concerned, paying attention to small details may be tiresome, but there are hints that if this is not done, something important may be missed. Financial gain is highlighted on Monday and Tuesday.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



Increased responsibility and challenges at work happily coincide with Pisceans entering a phase where mental energy flows more freely. This is an auspicious time to be taken more seriously, so prepare

to offload any issues that have been causing concern. Romance is well-starred until the middle of June. Those who are single should be pleased to discover that another water sign is mutually interested in starting a relationship.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Arians are forecast to discover that routine doesn't have to be boring this week. A harmonious astral atmosphere helps you see that steady progress in getting tasks completed brings quiet satisfaction. This is also an auspicious period for making plans, particularly where travel is concerned. There are hints that overdue family visits will happen during the coming months. In the realm of romance, avoid arguments this weekend by keeping strong opinions to yourself.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



If you're not certain of where you're heading, it would be wise to pause and regroup. The stars advise that Taureans could land in a situation that isn't what they expected, with too many responsibilities. Luck is still on your side where finances are concerned, but this lessens by the middle of the month. It would be wise to sign agreements relating to money and call in debts before that time.

SPORT



By Maciek Klimowicz

"I'M HOPING it won't take me more than 48 hours," Yassine Darkaou told me when I met him in Ao Yon in Cape Panwa, on Wednesday May 28, minutes before he took off on his record breaking journey. A grueling 77 hours later he reached the shore again, with not one, but two records in his possession, none of them, however, the one he was aiming for.

Yassine Darkaou was trying to sail the longest distance ever in a single handed dinghy. The current record is held by Tania Elías Calles from Mexico, who sailed 300 nautical miles, which took her 65 hours to achieve. Even though Yassine spent 77 hours on water, he covered 89 miles less – 211 nautical miles. Still enough to make him the world record holder for the longest time spent sailing a dinghy and Asian record holder for the longest sail in this type of boat.

"Tania Calles was sailing from point A to point B. We, on the other hand, have a lot of islands here and changeable winds so I had to adjust the route on the go," said Yassine.

"About 40 per cent of the time I didn't have wind so to finish 300 miles I'd have had to stay on water for 5-6 days," explained Yassine, "Once I was on the water I had to adapt my strategy. There were a lot of surprises, the wind wasn't at all like in the forecast and I had to find new ways to finish."

Sitting for 77 hours with limited space and exposed to the elements took its toll on the 35-year-old, Moroccan sailor. Salt-water, sweat and humidity caused serious skin irritation, eventually leading to bleeding, "At the end I was in so much pain I couldn't sit anymore. I tried different positions, even on my knees, but it was not possible."

Despite these hardships, fighting against the elements was also a challenge to his adventurous spirit, "The most difficult part was when I was coming back for the food and I had to say goodbye to my girlfriend Adelaide. She was the representation of comfort that I had to say goodbye to again and again."

"I also had hallucinations. For a while, I could clearly hear Sufi music ringing in my ears. It was

beautiful."

It took two years of preparation – both physical and logistical, to take up the challenge. No wonder Darkaou feels relieved to have completed his goal. "I feel relaxed because this was something I was waiting for for a long time, it took a long time to happen and I'm glad we did it."

"It was definitely worth it and a lot of fun. It was a big pleasure. Sailing is beautiful and I like the dinghy because it keeps you closer to the elements – you have to be their friend, feel the current, the wind."

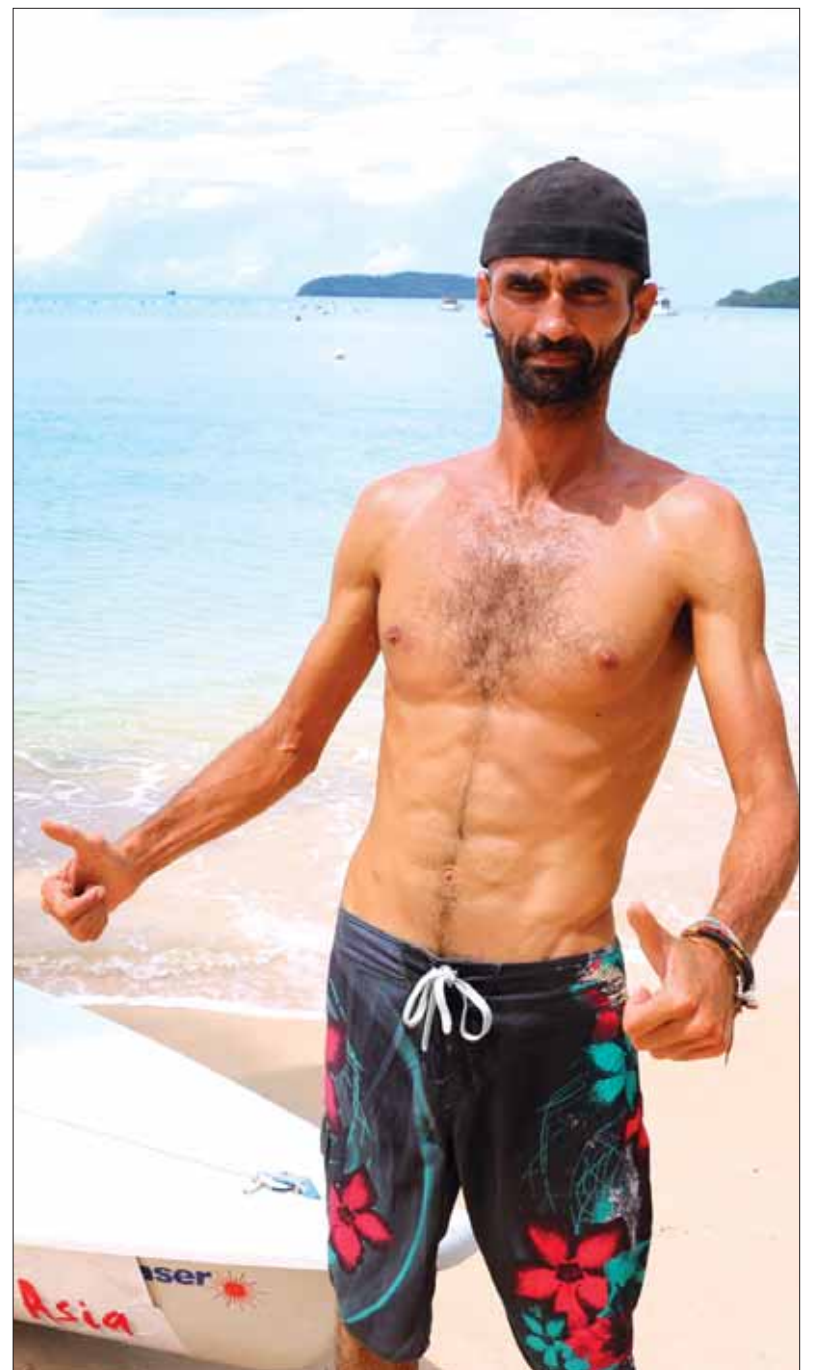
Even though Yassine has just completed the challenge he isn't daunted by the idea of getting back on the water. In fact, he's already dreaming of another challenge.

"Next, I want to sail from the north to the south of Phuket in the fastest possible time, maybe in July or August. But for now, I'll go back on the water just to have fun."

For more information about the challenge visit: facebook.com/pages/Andaman-Laser-Challenge.



Sailing a Laser is very demanding and requires constant attention. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



Yassine in good spirits before the challenge. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

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All Star football in Phuket

Thailand Legends to host former EPL heroes at Surakul Stadium

By Maciek Klimowicz

THEY might be past their prime, but still have a lot to prove to themselves, their fellow footballers and the spectators.

"Once you're on the pitch, the fighting spirit kicks in and you give your best. These guys don't want to make fools of themselves," says former Manchester United player and member of England's national football team Paul Parker. Parker will lead the EPL All Stars team in a match against the Thailand Legends on Sunday, August 10 in Phuket Town.

Players from Premier League teams, among them David James from Liverpool, Arsenal's Michael Thomas, Rob Lee of Newcastle and more – all over 35 years old, will make up the EPL All Stars team who will face the Thai Legends team expected to feature home grown players such as Piyapong Piew On, Wangchan, Chaikaew and

others.

The event, organized by Masters Football Asia in partnership with Emerald Phuket Development, will take place at Surakul Stadium, home of Phuket FC, and is endorsed by the Football Association of Thailand and the Phuket Provincial Sports & Tourism Authority.

Paul Parker is confident that the decision to host this kind of event in Phuket is the right one.

"Most of such events happen in the capital, and sure, people in Bangkok love football, but so do people in other regions and all these smaller cities, provinces miss out. I think that the appetite here is bigger than in Bangkok where people have a lot of football, lot's of sports and are spoiled.

"Who's to say, that there won't be another event, maybe some current players coming as well. Phuket might take this chance and bounce off to another level," says Parker about future



The event is organized by Masters Football Asia and Emerald Phuket Development. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

events in Phuket similar to this one.

There are 15,000 seats in the stadium waiting to be filled. Tickets go on sale Friday, June 13 and

will be available at the stadium, Tiny Coffee and Tiny Mart outlets at Shell petrol stations as well as Honda, Ford and Mazda car dealerships across the island. The

prices start at 200 baht and go up to 2000 for VIP seats.

For more information visit mastersfootball.com

Thongchai ascends to 37th in world golf rankings

THAILAND'S Thongchai Jaidee continued his swift rise up the world golf rankings to a career high of 37th following his victory at the Nordea Masters on Sunday.

Thongchai, a 13-time Asian Tour winner, was instrumental in leading Team Asia to an epic draw with Team Europe at the EurAsia Cup presented by DRB-

HICOM in Malaysia in March. The Thai displayed those battling qualities again when he outclassed the field to emerge victorious for the second time on European soil in his illustrious career.

"It's simply amazing to know that I've won in Europe again. This win is dedicated to my family, all the Thai people and everyone who

has supported me.

"It is a special week for me, to win a trophy outside of Asia for the second time. I'll keep performing better," said Thongchai after taking the trophy in Sweden.

The Thai ace is the only player to win three Asian Tour Order of Merit crowns.

At 44 years old, Thongchai is

simply in a class of his own and will now head into the year's second Major championship in the best of form at the US Open next week.

The Asian Tour legend will make his fourth US Open appearance, aiming to better his best result of tied-47th, at the 2010 edition.

– The Nation



Thongchai Jaidee. Photo: The Nation

Celebrate International Surfing Day in Patong

IT'S time to get out the calendars, flip to June 20 and pencil in International Surfing Day (ISD). Concocted by the Surfrider Foundation and Surfer Magazine in 2005, the unofficial holiday brings attention to things that negatively impact the surfing community such as polluted waters and access issues, and also to celebrate the sport, surfing culture and pay homage to our oceans.

Although ISD falls on a Friday, Surfrider Foundation Phuket and Andaman Sea and Surf will be holding their festivities on Saturday so more people can join in the fun. All who wish to participate can turn up at "DS.46" at the north end of Patong Beach opposite the Phuket Graceland Resort and Spa at noon.

Activities will include a beach clean-up, free barbeque, drinks, music, good times and, of course, surfing. Donation



boxes will be setup to accept donations for Baan Holland and Baan Lungpitak orphanages as well as the Soi Dog Foundation.

They are asking for powdered milk and formula, diapers, toys and children's clothing for the kids and old towels and bed linens for the dogs.

Kids from Baan Holland will be present to enjoy some time on the beach and have the opportunity to try out surfing.

Baan Holland and Baan Lungpitak are temporary homes for children whose parents have passed away or are in jail with no other family to care for them.

The Soi Dog Foundation sterilizes and helps to care for the many street dogs in Phuket.

– Phuket Gazette

For more information, visit [facebook.com/events/1617080335184716/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1617080335184716/) or email surfingday@baanandamanseasurf.com

NEXT FIXTURES			
League 1 ROI ET UTD JUN 07 @Surakul 6.30 pm	League Cup BANGKOK GLASS JUN 11 @Surakul 6.30 pm	League 1 AYUTTHAYA JUN 13 @Ayutthaya 6 pm	
*dates subject to change Home Away			
Next Fixture *dates subject to change Chonburi Bluewave Jun 07 6pm @Phuket's brand new 4,000-seat Indoor Sports Complex in Saphan Hin.			
YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Nakhon Rachasima	13	31
2	Angthong FC	13	25
3	Bangkok FC	13	25
4	Royal Navy	13	21
5	BBCU	13	21
6	Phitsanulok FC	13	21
7	Saraburi FC	13	20
8	TTM Customs	13	20
9	Chiangmai FC	13	19
10	Phuket FC	13	19
11	Ayutthaya FC	13	17
12	Pattaya Utd	13	16
13	Trat FC	13	15
14	Krabi FC	12	14
15	NakhonPathom	13	13
16	Roi Et Utd	12	12
17	Khon Kaen FC	13	6
18	Sri Racha FC	13	2
*Last Update: 03/06/2014			

Lampard not ready to quit

By Ken Ferris

ENGLAND'S Frank Lampard will proudly lead out his country against Ecuador in a World Cup warm-up match at the Sun Life Stadium on Wednesday determined to savor every moment in the twilight of his career.

The 35-year-old knows the sands of time are running out on his illustrious career at the very top of the game with a possible move to Major League Soccer on the horizon following his departure from Chelsea after 13 years at the club.

He has been linked with the ambitious New York City franchise, which is part-owned by Manchester City, and confirmed on Wednesday that a move to the United States is a possibility.

"The America thing is an

option, I make no bones about that," he told a news conference ahead of the Ecuador match.

"I am looking at different options. The main thing is that I want to carry on playing, I feel very fit and fresh and I am enjoying it. So I will keep going for as long as I feel that way. I'd love to play for a few more years."

While he has several prospects at club level, his international career is winding down, although he cannot yet face the fact that he will soon be out of the picture like his former Chelsea team mates John Terry and Ashley Cole.

Asked about retiring from international football, he said: "It is very difficult to get the words out to say that. I am very proud and very happy to play for England."

"If we go and win (the World

Cup) then I probably will certainly hang my (England) boots up. I don't like to say it because I love playing but it's kind of obvious that it comes in the end, but I am just appreciating and enjoying every minute at the moment."

Lampard is the sort of ever-green midfielder who gives the impression he could play on forever such is the ease with which he strokes the ball around the pitch and he has enjoyed some of his best moments late in his career.

"I have had quite a few opportunities. Most players sort of finish with England in their low thirties at the most and I have had some of my most enjoyable England years at the back end, in the last two years," he said.

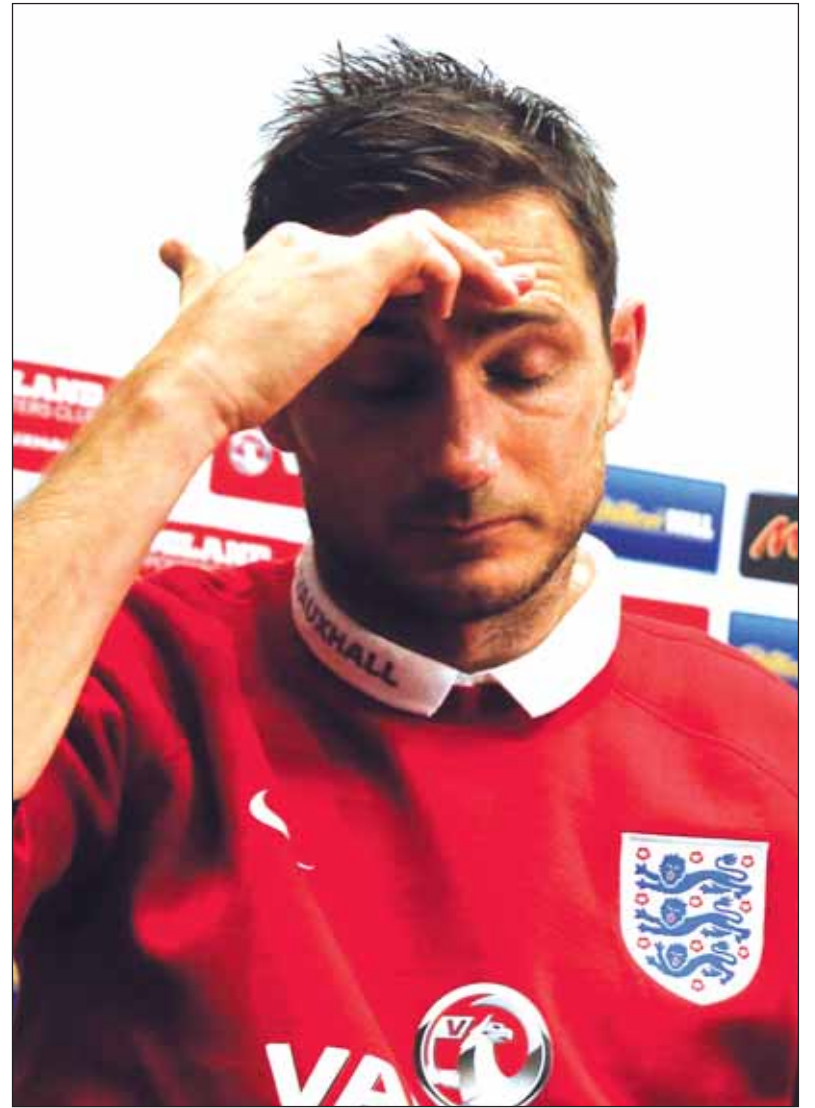
"I have appreciated what I have got. When you are young you don't always appreciate it. I've enjoyed the squad, the ambience around the squad and that is why I won't write myself off yet."

Lampard's departure from Chelsea was expected but the announcement on Monday still hit many fans hard because the midfielder is so much a part of the fabric of the club.

"It was a mutual decision really. It was obviously thrown up a lot last year and it was a bit of a distraction through the season, for probably everyone, it got its own legs in the end," said the club's all-time record goalscorer.

"Chelsea have been fantastic with me throughout my career and it was mutual. That was the way I wanted to go."

"If you had asked me 13 years ago when I walked into Stamford Bridge, whether I would be there



England's Frank Lampard. Photo: Wolfgang Rattay/Reuters

13 years later with all the things I have got with me, I wouldn't have believed you.

"If I look back on it, in that sense, I can be very proud and pleased with what's happened."

"I never really thought I would see the day, that's probably from being young and not really thinking about it too much but I got so entrenched in the life at Chelsea, it overtook my life."

Lampard joined the Premier League club from London rivals West Ham United in 2001 for 11 million pounds (US\$18.43 million) and scored 211 goals in all competitions for Chelsea. He played more than 648 games for the club – third on their all-time list.

But Lampard also thinks the fact that his future is definitely away from Stamford Bridge

means he can focus on England's World Cup campaign without the distraction of whether he might have another year-long contract at Chelsea.

"It certainly (means) a clear head for me. I'm quite a big boy and I can handle it. I am quite pleased, it's a weight off my shoulders to a certain extent and I'm concentrating, as I've been for the past two weeks, on training well, playing well."

"I do see my role here in a broader sense, as I think all the experienced players should, of helping things go in the right direction. We've been here before, we've been here when it hasn't been so great, we know the slight pitfalls at times and if we can bring that experience to help we can do that." – Reuters



Frank Lampard shoots at goal during their 2014 World Cup qualifying match against Moldova at Wembley Stadium. Photo: Darren Staples/Reuters

Brazil's Scolari 'demanding more' ahead of World Cup

BRAZIL turned on an impressive second half performance in their drubbing of Panama on Tuesday but have a ways to go before they are ready for their World Cup opener, according to manager Luiz Felipe Scolari.

Brazil struggled in the early minutes of their penultimate friendly until a goal from Neymar in the 27th minute and another from Dani Alves at 13 minutes set them on their way.

Hulk scored his team's third within seconds of the re-start and substitute Willian concluded the scoring during a 4-0 win that Brazil dominated.

"We still have a week and a half left," Scolari, referring to Brazil's World Cup opener, told reporters after the match. "There's a good

way to go. But keep calm, we'll get there. Today was reasonably better but I am still demanding more."

"We had problems with the transition," Scolari added. "It was off in the first 20 minutes of the match and things could have been different against a better team."

"If I had to choose one half it would be the second in which we showed more movement, better possession and more agility. I liked the end of the first half and the whole of the second."

Scolari praised Neymar, one of the day's outstanding performers. In addition to scoring the game's first goal, the 22-year-old Barcelona striker had a hand in two more and was at the fulcrum of Brazil's play all afternoon.

– Reuters

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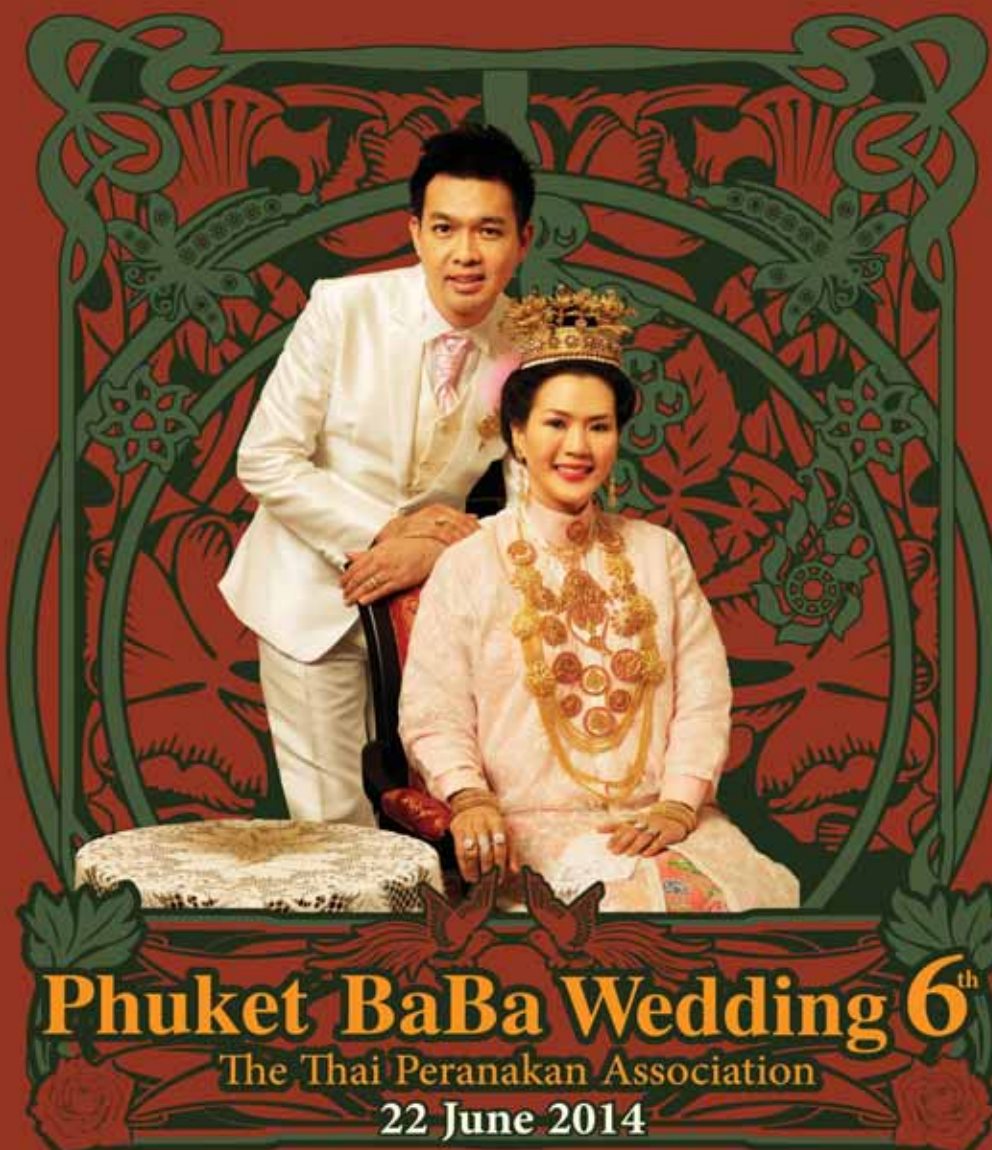


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