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**INSIDE TODAY**

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## ■ 'I am not afraid of being killed. This is my job.'

# Death threat

■ Navy steps in as caller claims six hitmen paid to assassinate park chief

By **Chutharat Plerin**

NAVY security personnel have been assigned to protect Sirinath National Park Chief Kitiphat Taraphiban after his office was warned that professional hitmen have been hired to kill him.

The 24-hour military bodyguards were called in after Mr Kitiphat's assistant was told over the phone that "five M16s are ready to get him [Mr Kitiphat] over beach restaurants".

"The caller said that two hired professional gunmen were already on the island: one from Surat Thani and one from Nakhon Sri Thammarat," Mr Kitiphat told the *Gazette* on Monday morning.

"We were told that four others hired from Phetcha Buri province will arrive tomorrow."

Police and military investigators are working together with Mr Kitiphat and his team of park rangers to identify the caller and hopefully avoid an assassination attempt. Mr Kitiphat explained that the warning was delivered when the caller phoned his assistant's personal mobile last Thursday.

"We are working together with police from the Central Investigation Bureau. Some restaurant owners have been questioned, but no one has been charged. As soon as we can reveal more information, we will," said Mr Kitiphat.

In the meantime, the park chief will continue working as usual.

"I am not afraid of being killed," Mr Kitiphat said.

"My priority is reclaiming our national treasure. My assistant and I had a talk, and we agreed that it was worth our lives. My kids are all grown up. I have nothing to worry about. I have talked to my family. This is my job. And everyone dies."



Navy personnel are on site to protect national park chief Kitiphat Taraphiban.

## Furniture shop blaze kills four in Phuket Town

A FAMILY of three and one other person were found dead after flames consumed a furniture shop in Phuket Town on August 2.

Firefighters took three hours to battle their way into the house, despite knowing that four people, including a 9-year-old, were inside the building.

*Full story on Page 3*

## Cash payments for tourists in desperate need

AN ITALIAN under witness protection after testifying in a Hong Kong mafia case became the first Phuket tourist to receive compensation from a national fund designed to help foreign victims of crime and natural disasters.

The fund of 20 million baht a year has been regularly used by those in Pattaya, but officers in Phuket were unaware of the program until this week.

*Full story on Page 2*

## Jet-skis return to beaches as 'guardians'

JET-SKI operators were able to return to the beaches after a four-day ban after promising to double up as volunteer lifeguards, as well as beach cleaners.

*Full story on Page 5*

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## This Week



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Von Bundit operates the world's largest rubber factory. **Page 29**



### Property

Life could be a breeze by the water at The Bay Presta. **Page 31**



### Aviation

Choose a perfect flight attendant in a new Thai reality show. **Page 34**



### Boating

Ao Po Grand Marina takes waterside life to a new level. **Page 35**



### Well-being

Krix Luther says a walk a day keeps the fat away. **Page 37**



### Sport

Full Metal Dojo strikes again with MMA action in Patong. **Page 38**

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# Millions set aside to help tourist victims

By Saran Mitrarat

OFFICIALS on Tuesday revealed that a national fund of 20 million baht to assist tourist victims of crime and natural disasters was available for tourists in Phuket.

The news was announced after it was disclosed that 44-year-old Antonio Papaleo, a victim of a stabbing attack in Phuket, became the first tourist in Phuket to receive assistance from the fund, which is operated by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports (MOTS).

Mr Papaleo was awarded 100,000 baht to cover his medical costs after he was stabbed twice in the abdomen during a bungled bag snatch on July 3.

He was put immediately under police protection, as he had just arrived in Phuket after testifying in a Hong Kong mafia corruption trial, during which he had repeatedly received death threats.

"Ten days after Mr Papaleo was released from hospital, he was transferred to a safe location off the island," said Karon Police Superintendent Natthapakin Kwanchaipruk.

"We thought that the victim should receive some form of compensation. What happened was not his fault, so why should he have to pay for medical costs?"

"I contacted the Phuket Tourism Association [PTA] to find out if they had a budget to cover such incidents. If it turned out that they didn't have one, police had already decided to donate money for him after discussing our options with Phuket Provincial Police Commander Krajang Suwannarat."



Karon Police Superintendent Natthapakin Kwanchaipruk said that police had already agreed to donate money for Mr Papaleo if there was no fund.

Officials from the PTA then contacted the MOTS Phuket office, which revealed that the MOTS sets aside a total of 20 million baht per year to compensate all tourists in the country who have been affected by crimes or natural disasters.

"Although the fund was set up years ago, it has not been advertised to Phuket tourists, which is why not many people know about it," Santi Pawai, director of the Phuket MOTS office, said.

However, Mr Santi noted that tourists in Pattaya were often compensated through the fund. He explained that the best way for tourists to apply for assistance from the fund is to talk to the police investigator in charge of their particular case.

"The police can file the necessary paperwork and send it to the ministry," said Mr Santi. "It will then be considered and approved by a committee led by a Tourism and Sports permanent secretary."

## Officials ponder solutions for Promthep Cape safety

RAWAI Mayor Aroon Solos is looking at what safety measures can be taken to prevent accidents at Phuket's iconic Promthep Cape after a second man was thought to have slipped from the rocks and disappeared into the sea last week.

Though 25-year-old Teerawat Prasomsub was found safe on August 31 after he was reported missing from the view point, on August 29, Somchai Yungtala was dragged out to sea while fishing from the rocks in the area. His body was found washed on to Ya Nui Beach two days later.

"We are thinking about adding more warning signs in Thai, English and Chinese about the dangers of large waves knocking people from the rocks," Mr Aroon said.

"Although we already have a few signs, we can't prevent tourists from walking down to the rocks - we just want them to be aware of the dangers and be safe."



Mr Teerawat was found safe, still drunk. Photo: Rawai Municipality

"People need to understand that the sea can be rough in this area. Large waves roll in, so don't turn your back to the ocean, even for a picture."

The issue will be raised at the next meeting, and staff will probably be sent out to check on tourists and make sure they all get back to safety before dark, said Mr Aroon. - Chutharat Plerin

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# Family killed in fire

## Mum, dad, son found dead huddled together

By Saran Mittrarat

A FAMILY of three and one woman were found dead in a smoldering Phuket Town furniture shop on August 2 after firefighters spent three hours battling deadly flames.

The family was found huddled together and the woman was found near a barred window. A fifth person, the owner of the building, managed to leap to safety from the second floor.

"While the fire was still burning, Janhorm Jakkaew, 51, jumped. Firefighters caught her with a jump sheet," said Maj Sakchai Chunyong of Phuket City Police.

"She first realized that there was a fire after the smell of smoke woke her. She tried to notify the others in the building, but she couldn't find anyone in the heavy smoke."

Despite the Browder Life Saving net, Ms Janhorm suffered a broken arm and leg. She was rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital after she informed firefighters that four people were still stuck inside.

Steel cages over many of the windows prevented firefighters from entering the building through alternative routes, forcing them to battle the blaze at the main door, Maj Sakchai said.

"The fire started at about 2am and wasn't under control until about 5am," said Maj Sakchai.

Once firefighters were able to gain access, they found and identified the victims as: Mongkol Rueanchai, 45; Nucharee Rueanchai, 42; Theerawat Rueanchai, 9; and Thanya Karnapat, 32.

"The three bodies of the family members were found in the same place. They were all huddled together. It appeared that the father was trying to protect his son from the smoke, while the child was holding onto his mother," Maj



Firefighters took about three hours to contain the flames that consumed the Phuket Town furniture store.

Sakchai told the *Gazette*.

The three victims had no signs of burns.

"We believe that they died from smoke inhalation," Maj Sakchai said.

The fourth victim, Ms Thanya, was found near a barred window. She was severely burned.

The fire in the Chokchai furniture shop, located at the intersection of Srisutat Road and Amphur Road, started on the first floor of the three-storey building, and quickly spread because of the presence of highly-flammable material used for furniture con-

struction, said Maj Sakchai.

The first to respond to emergency calls was a Phuket City Municipality firetruck that had only half a tank of water. It took another 20 minutes for five more firetrucks to arrive.

Witnesses told police that they heard what sounded like an explosion before the fire started.

"At this stage, we do not believe the fire was started on purpose. No one from outside the shop could have started the fire, as all the doors and windows were tightly locked," said Maj Sakchai on Monday.

"We found that the most serious damage was at the center of the first floor, which makes us believe that the fire started there."

Forensic police are continuing their investigation, said Maj Sakchai, and will confirm the cause as soon as possible.

The Chokchai fire marks the deadliest blaze on the island since four people were killed in a pre-dawn fire at the Tiger Bar and Discotheque in Patong in 2012.

The long-awaited manslaughter trial over the deaths of the four people at Tiger Disco will begin with its first witness testimony in April 2015.



The teen accelerated into the officer to avoid a helmet check.

## Helmetless teen takes out officer amid rush hour

A TEENAGER attempting to avoid a helmet check put a Phuket City Traffic Police officer in hospital after running him over on Tuesday morning.

Officers found Sen Sgt Maj Chakkapong Korsawat unconscious on Nakhon Road, behind Phuket Wittayalai School, at about 7:35am.

The minor, whose name was withheld, was standing next to him in shock.

"There was blood coming out of Sgt Chakkapong's ears. His neck and hip were also injured from being hit hard by the speeding motorbike," said Lt Kraisorn Phakaree of the Phuket City Police.

"Another officer on duty explained that Sgt Chakkapong was directing rush-hour traffic when the student came speeding toward him without a helmet on.

"When the student saw the officers calling him over, he accelerated to avoid the helmet check."

The 17-year-old hit Sgt Chakkapong and then continued driving for another 30 meters with him stuck to the motorbike, Lt Kraisorn explained.

"Sgt Chakkapong was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital. The student was taken to the police station to be questioned with his parents present, as he is underage," Lt Kraisorn said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*

## More than 5% of drivers tested positive for meth

FIVE checkpoints manned by 150 military personnel and local officials in northern Phuket netted 37 drivers that tested positive for drugs on August 1.

The checkpoints were set up as part of Governor Maitri Inthasut's ongoing campaign to combat illegal drugs and weapons in Phuket.

"We set up [the checkpoint] at 5pm to crackdown on illegal drugs and weapons," Thalang District Chief Supot Chanakit said.

Out of a total of 667 tests, 37 urine samples came back positive for drugs.

Officials said that they were specifically targeting suspicious looking men and young males.

Those who tested positive were



Teens and suspicious males were targeted. Photo: Phuket PR

taken to the Thalang District Office and registered as drug offenders, though formal charges were not pressed. Instead, they were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital to undergo rehabilitation.

— *Woranut Pechdee*



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The flight landed in Phuket on its way to Bangkok. Photo: Gazette file

## Captain lands AirAsia flight after possible bird strike

AIRASIA Flight FD3187 was forced to land at Phuket International Airport at 5:15pm on Tuesday after the captain voiced his concerns about possible engine trouble.

"The captain believes that the engine might have sucked in a bird," said AirAsia communications officer Piyasuda Archasantisuk.

The flight, carrying 153 passengers, departed from Nakhon Sri Thammarat at 4:20pm, and was destined for Bangkok.

All passengers were taken to the airport terminal while airport personnel examined the engines.

— **Saran Mitrarat**

# Reward offered for fingering foreign thief caught on CCTV

By Gazette Reporters

A 20,000-baht reward was offered this week for anyone able to identify a foreign man who was caught on CCTV robbing a home in Bang Jo, Cherg Talay, on July 24.

The area has been targeted by burglars for years, said Jo D'Hondt, the business partner of the high-end Diamond Condominium project in Bang Tao who offered the reward.

"My house has been burgled four times, another house in the neighborhood has also been burgled four times, and many other villas in the area have been robbed," Mr D'Hondt said.

Over the years, thieves have made off with more than 8,000 euros in cash, expensive watches and many other valuables, from Mr D'Hondt's home.

But on July 24, the foreign burglar made off with a bumper haul, including an iPhone 4, a Gucci watch, an Emporio Armani watch, a gold watch by Ulysse Nardin, a



Police are struggling to identify the man due to the mask. Photo: Supplied

gold amulet, a gold necklace valued at about 20,000 baht, a laptop computer, 2,000 euros in cash and a few hundred baht in Thai coins.

When Mr D'Hondt reported the break-in to the Thalang Police officers investigating the scene, he and his Thai partner thought the CCTV at their home wasn't working.

"But when we checked it thor-

oughly, we found that we did have a recording, so we went through everything," Mr D'Hondt said. "We found out only yesterday [July 31] that we had caught him on CCTV."

Although the cameras showed clearly that the burglar was a Westerner and had broken into the home at 7:30pm,

the thief was wearing a ski mask, making him difficult to identify.

"This will make it difficult to identify him, but we are trying to and we are still questioning residents in the area," Lt Col Sanit Nukong of the Thalang Police said. "Anyone who believes they can identify the suspect should call 081-535 3966."

Reports that the burglary of Mr D'Hondt's home was "the first known case of a non-Thai burgling homes in Phuket" were proven false after a search of the *Gazette* archives showed that in 2010 police were seeking a Caucasian man for carrying out a burglary in Kalim while the Canadian homeowner and his wife were asleep in their bedroom.

Also, 35-year-old Russian Pavel Zhuravlev was arrested by Kamala Police for robbing several homes during the Christmas holidays in 2011.

Moving on from robberies to muggings, the *Gazette* is proud to remember the nunchuk mugging of a Russian couple by Spaniard Mario Arturo Tovar Ferras, 23, in Kata in April this year.

## Marine office tackles tar tainting beaches

OFFICIALS are set to re-launch a campaign to prevent used oil being dumped from boats off Phuket's shore after balls of black tar appeared on the island's beaches late last month.

A beachgoer expressed his concern about the then-unidentified pollutant after stepping on a black, sticky ball and finding many more scattered along Karon Beach.

"Dozens of pieces were visible on the short stretch of beach where I was walking. I do not know if it went the whole way down to the traffic circle, but I saw the same thing one week ago," said the beachgoer.

Phuket Marine Office chief Phuriphat Theerakulpisut identified the substance from pictures as tar balls formed by boats dumping old oil into the sea.

"It is illegal to release oil into the sea and it is the responsibility of boat operators, especially of fishing boats, to make sure that this is not happening," he explained.

Mr Phuriphat confirmed that he would again promote a campaign that urges fishing boats to safely dump old oil into tanks provided by his office. The tanks are located at every seaport throughout Phuket.

Those dumping oil into the sea are in violation of two different laws:

1) The Act on Navigation in Thai Waters BE 2456 Section 119, which carries a penalty of



Tar ball afoot. Photo: Supplied

up to three years imprisonment, a 60,000 baht fine or both. Violators are also required to make a payment toward the treatment or rehabilitation of the contaminated area.

2) The Enhancement and Conservation of National Environmental Quality Act BE 2535, Sections 96 and 97, which states that violators must pay the cost of water treatment or pollution cleanup, and pay for any damages, whether to the livelihood or the health, of people affected.

However, the law is difficult to enforce, explained Mr Phuriphat.

"We can only make the arrest if we catch them in the act of dumping oil," Mr Phuriphat said.

— **Chutharat Plerin**

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# Safety warning issued after parasailing operator's plunge

A PATONG Beach parasailing operator plummeted from the sky after he lost his grip on the parachute ropes on August 1.

Watchara U-yen, 23, who fell from the parachute, suffered a serious wrist injury when he hit the sand. He was discharged from Patong Hospital last Sunday, a rescue worker confirmed to the *Gazette*.

Mr Watcharapara's fall prompted the

Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) Phuket office to issue a safety warning about the popular beachfront activity.

"All the equipment should be checked before taking off, including the harness and safety belt. We need to guarantee that the activity will be safe for customers and for staff," DDPM Phuket Chief San

Jantharawong said.

"That means operators must also wear harnesses.

"There are a lot of activities on the island for tourists to enjoy, and safety is paramount. If we cannot assure that these activities are safe, visitors will not want to take part."

— Woranut Pechdee



Parasailing in Patong. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

# Jet-skis' quick return

Operators back on sand with promises of lifeguarding, cleaning

By Chutharat Plerin

JET-SKIS are back on the beaches after operators vowed to double up as beach cleaners and volunteer lifeguards, Phuket Jet-Ski Club Nucha Petchvimol told the *Gazette* on Monday.

However, their return to the beaches may be temporary, confirmed Commanding General of the 41<sup>st</sup> Military Circle, Peerapol Wiriyaikul.

"I have yet to receive a full report. All I know at this point is that officials are working on beach-vendor management. We understand that people need to make a living. However, it must be done in a lawful manner and must not harm anyone," explained Maj Gen Peerapol.

The operators, who were banned from the beach for four days and have been the focus of thousands of international complaints over the years, were granted permission to return to Patong Beach after raising the spurious issue of needing to make loan payments for the jet-skis.

"Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada and Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsab agreed that jet-ski operators can still work on the beaches.



Though operators are allowed back, they can no longer park the jet-skis on the beach. Photo: Gazette file

The decision was made by local authorities, and approved by the Army," said Col Somchai Ponatong of the Army's 41<sup>st</sup> Military Circle.

"However, the jet-ski operators might not remain on the beach for long. We are now working on a more comprehensive plan, which includes

solutions for all beach vendors."

Mr Nucha expressed his gratitude for permission to continue to operate jet-skis at the tourist-popular beach.

"All we need is a place to earn a living and pay for our jet-skis. One jet-ski can cost up to 400,000 baht," Mr Nucha said. "It is good that the military is lending us a

hand. If you come to the beach, you can see how clean and organized it is."

Mr Nucha told the *Gazette* that all the jet-skis are now being kept under the trees that line the beach.

"They are brought down to the water only when a customer wants to use one," Mr Nucha said.

# One hurt in high-speed taxi crash



Witnesses say the driver rear-ended a 10-wheeler before crashing.

A TAXI moving at high speeds slammed into a power pole near the Heroines' Monument in Thalang on Tuesday morning.

"The driver, Somkid Chantak-uapa, 42, was rushed to Thalang Hospital," Lt Col Sanit Nookong of the Thalang Police said.

"He had chest pain and blood was coming out of his nose."

Mr Somkid was discharged from hospital care hours later.

"He was travelling northbound along Thepkasattri Road," Col Sanit said. "Witnesses said that the taxi struck the rear end of a 10-wheeled truck before slamming into the power pole."

There were no passengers in the taxi when it crashed.

"This now looks like a matter for the insurance companies," he said. No charges were pressed.

— Thawit Bilabdullar

# Free training to make island beaches safer

THE Phuket Lifeguard Club will hold its fourth annual five-day surf lifesaving training course this month.

"The surf lifesaving course will be held from August 25 to 29 at Bang Tao Beach. Accommodation and meals will be provided for the entirety of the course, which is sponsored by the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization [PPAO]," Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan said.

The course is open to anyone who lives in Phuket, but it is recommended that attendees be able to understand and speak Thai, as the instructors will teach the classes in Thai only.

The PPAO launched the annual training course after witnessing an increase in the number of near-drownings and deaths at Phuket beaches in recent years, said Mr Prathaiyut.



Having fun training. Photo: Gazette file

"The goal of the training course is to increase the number of people who are able to employ lifesaving skills in emergency situations. We never know when an accident will happen. The more people we have, the better chance we have to save lives," said Mr Prathaiyut.

— Chutharat Plerin

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## Government should provide compensation, poll reveals

MORE than 90% of locals believe that the government is responsible for helping those adversely affected by the island's beach reboot, according to poll results released on August 1.

The results are based on a questionnaire cataloging 480 locals' opinions about the National Council for Peace and Order's (NCPO) move to return beaches to the public, explained Laongdao Komson of the Phuket Statistic Office.

Of those 480 participants, 91.9% felt strongly that officials should help people who are affected by providing them with new places to set up their businesses and pay compensation for jobs lost. Only 8.1% disagreed, saying that those who have been working on the beaches have made enough money already.

However, when asked about overall feelings about the beach cleanup, 67.5% of participants said that they thought that it was "very good" for the island.

— **Saran Mitrarat**

# Out-of-work vendors speak up

By **Saran Mitrarat**

PHUKET police have revealed that more than 90 per cent of Patong Beach vendors are in loan sharks' books after busting a gang of four loan sharks on July 31.

"We received a tip-off from an out-of-work, debt-ridden beach vendor about four men in Patong who were charging 20 per cent interest on loans and harassing customers who weren't able to make their daily payments," Tourist Police Deputy Superintendent Milin Pianchang told the *Gazette*.

The legal maximum that can be charged is 15 per cent.

"More than 90 per cent of beach vendors are reliant on loan sharks," said Maj Urumporn Koondejsumrit of the Phuket Tourist Police. "The standard loan was a 24-day loan of 10,000 baht, where the men would collect 500 baht a day from their customers."

"Since officials pulled everything from the beaches and prevented vendors from returning, many of them are now unable to pay their loans."

Tourist Police set up an appointment with the loan sharks on Thaweewong Road and sent an



Col Somchai (left) will deliver the vendors' letters to the NCPO.

undercover officer to act as a customer after the suspects were identified by the vendor.

"At about 4pm, Wirat Juncompa, 20; Watchara Kongdee, 34; Anek Hoihongtong, 35; and Wichan Pumta, 23, showed up and asked for the undercover officer to pay 500 baht interest on a 10,000 baht loan he had taken," said Lt Col Milin.

After the exchange, officers swooped in to make the arrest.

All four suspects were charged with operating and assisting in an illegal loan business and charging illegal interest rates.

The National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has since called on displaced vendors to put into words the troubles they face as a result of the mass cleanup.

The comments – and suggestions for solutions – will be collected at the Phuket Damrongtham Center (ombudsman's office), Third Naval Area Command base and island municipality buildings until August 10, said Capt Petcharat Teanjun of the Third Naval Area Command on August 1.

After the comments have been compiled and organized by a research team at Prince of Songkla University Phuket campus, they will be sent to Col Somchai Ponatong of the Army's 41st Military Circle, who will hand the results to the NCPO in Bangkok.

"Anyone who is facing hard times as a result of the beach re-organization should ask for help. We are happy to receive any suggestions on how to increase people's happiness," said Capt Petcharat.

Capt Petcharat asked anyone with suggestions and comments to include in their letter to the NCPO their full names, ID card numbers and a full description of the problems they face, as well as any possible solutions that the NCPO can assist with implementing.

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## Patong to be island's model for ideal beach



Patong Beach free of vendors as of August 4. Photo: Nucha Petchvimol

PATONG will remain steadfast in keeping its beach clear, as it is to be the model for beach management, it was revealed after a closed-door meeting on Monday.

"Patong Beach will be the first to implement a new system, now that all the west coast beaches are [mostly] clear of encroachers and vendors," Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut told the *Gazette*.

"It is now time to help those people who have lost their jobs – not the investors."

Four solutions were proposed during the meeting between provincial government and municipality officials:

1) Operators must change from waiting for customers on the beach to being on-call to provide services

2) Operators must move the location of their businesses to a legal place, which will be determined by the municipality

3) Career counseling

4) Place operators in hospital-ity positions

"I have assigned municipalities to open their doors to people who were negatively affected by the

beach clearing so they can register for help," Governor Maitri said.

"Officers will look into the number of household members, previous job experience, hobbies, how much money the vendor needs to survive and so on.

"If they can work in the hotel industry, for example, as a masseuse, I will ask a hotel to help out by giving them a job."

Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsab showed her support of Gov Maitri's solutions.

"The beach belongs to the public. It is not something for people to take advantage of for personal gain," Ms Chalermluck said. "The next step is for us to gather relevant officers and set a date to visit the people who have registered for our help."

A total of 346 people from Patong, comprising 62 beach chair operators, 192 beach masseuses and 92 goods vendors, had registered as of Monday.

"If we find that they really are poor and have no other way to make a living, we will support them," Ms Chalermluck said.

— **Saran Mitrarat**



# Airport bus to service Karon

By Saran Mitrarat

THE Phuket Airport Express Bus is prepared to push through Patong as its owner looks to roll out a new final stop in Karon by mid-August.

Airport Express Bus owner Prakob Panyawai is working out the final details of the new route, which will terminate in Karon Municipality. The airport bus was initially planned to run to Kata-Karon, but fear of violent reprisals from local tuk-tuk and taxi drivers necessitated scaling back the route to terminate in Patong, Mr Prakob noted earlier this year.

The news of the public transport breakthrough follows a meeting between Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) officers, Mr Prakob and Col Somchai Ponatong of the Army's 41<sup>st</sup> Military Circle.

"Col Somchai promised that he would ensure the safety of our drivers and passengers. He made it clear that we didn't have to worry about violent attacks from tuk-tuk



The Airport Express Bus plans to expand service to Karon with a promise of Army protection. Photo: Gazette file

cartels or the taxi mafia," Mr Prakob told the *Gazette*.

"We are also determining, from our past statistics, when the demand for the service will be lower, so we know when we will be able to use vans instead of buses.

"At this stage, we cannot afford

to send the big bus to Karon every time."

The idea to use vans for the extended route to Karon was announced last month after an Army-bolstered campaign battled illegal "mafia-style" taxi groups on the island.

Mr Prakob also mentioned that he is waiting to launch the service after receiving final approval from the Airports of Thailand (AOT) to open an Airport Express Bus counter on the first floor of Phuket International Airport.

## Police accused of demolishing legal taxi stand



The stand was allegedly on private property. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

OUTRAGED taxi drivers from Phuket's tourist-popular Kata-Karon area who vowed to file a complaint with military leaders on Tuesday about the tearing down of taxi stands on private land, as of Wednesday, pushed back their mission to Friday.

"We spoke with officers at the Cape Panwa Navy base to find out who we should file the complaint with. They told us that both Vice Adm Tharathorn Khajitsuwan of the Third Naval Area Command and Col Somchai Ponatong of the Army's 41<sup>st</sup> Military Circle had left for Bangkok," Suparp Pime-Kaew, head of Kata-Karon taxi drivers group, told the *Gazette*.

"They are the ones in charge, and we want to file our complaint with military leaders, so we are going to wait until Friday when they are set to return from Bangkok."

Kata-Karon subdistrict chief (Kamnan) Winai Chidchiew told the *Gazette* on Tuesday that the taxi drivers were planning to file a complaint against a Karon Police Superintendent over claims that police tore down a taxi stand that was located on private land.

"We are out of work and in trouble now. We want to know when the taxi cleanup will be complete and where we will be allowed to park and wait for customers, so we can start working again. We have families to take care of," said Mr Suparp.

— Saran Mitrarat

## Police pushed to protect legal taxi drivers

THE military issued a threat on August 1 to any Phuket police officers who fail to protect people wanting to become legal metered taxi drivers.

"The military will ensure that police look after the safety of customers and their drivers. If officers are found doing otherwise, they will face firm action," said Capt Petcharat Teanjun of the Third Naval Area Command during a meeting on August 1.

"We ordered police on July 25 to start hunting down influential people who protect drivers that threaten passengers, charge extortionate prices or refuse to allow other taxi services in 'their' area."

Capt Petcharat promised legal drivers their safety after concerns about violent backlash from the taxi mafia were voiced ahead of

the opening of Phuket's one-stop metered taxi registration service, which is part of a slew of initiatives designed to revamp Phuket's taxi system.

"Some people wanting to become legal metered-taxi drivers are afraid that the mafia or other people will attack them, as they have seen happen in the past. For our plans to work, we must make sure that the island is free of taxi mafia," said Jaturong Kaewkasi, chief policy adviser of the Phuket Land Transport Office.

Capt Petcharat also showed his support for the police and made it clear that the military would support those who uphold the law.

"As long as you work to protect the law and the people, the military will support you."

— Saran Mitrarat



Capt Petcharat has promised taxis protection.





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# Happy Mother's Day

## MOTHERS AND SONS

### Maitri Inthusut, Phuket Governor

"My mother always taught me to give, to love other people and make them feel good and safe. She also taught me to be generous, patient and to always think about other people before thinking about myself."



### Paiboon Upatising, president of Phuket Provincial Administration Organization



"My mother made me who I am. She was always loving and taught me to be good."

Phuket people knew her very well. She was always smiled at and respected. She passed away in 2004. Her funeral took place on December 26, the day the tsunami hit Phuket. It has been said that even after she died, she saved people from the tsunami."

### Debbie Dionysius, Director of Marketing, Thanyapura Phuket, mother of two

Motherhood is putting your children's needs ahead of your own and trying to hold it all together to keep everyone happy.



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### Phatchara Kotha, mother of four



"Being a mom is both mentally and physically tough. I have four children under six years old. I have to plan and organize everything for them, which is tiring and leaves me with no time for myself."

"My children changed my life, they make me happy every day and give me real love. It makes me happy to see them grow up. They love each other and do well at school. I'm very lucky."

ON AUGUST 12, Thais throughout the country and world celebrate the birthday of their beloved Queen and Mother of the Nation – Her Majesty Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara, who turns 82 this year. The day is also celebrated in the Kingdom as National Mother's Day..

Born in Bangkok in 1932, Queen Sirikit is the eldest daughter and the third child of HRH Prince Nakkhatra Mangkala Kitiyakara and Mom Luang Bua Kitiyakara. Her name, which was given by Rama VII, King Prajadhipok, means "the Greatness of Kitiyakara".

Her Majesty spent her early years in Bangkok, but joined her family in Europe in the 1940s. As her father was an ambassador, she travelled and lived in various countries including the United Kingdom, Denmark, France and Switzerland.

It was at the Thai embassy in Paris that she became acquainted with the newly-crowned Thai monarch, HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, who was visiting the "city of love" during a break from his studies in Switzerland.

In 1948, HM King Bhumibol was involved in a car accident in Switzerland, and as the story goes, the young princess visited and tended to him while he was recovering in the hospital; a blossoming friendship soon bloomed into a storybook romance.

The young couple were married by April, 1950, a week before HM King Bhumibol's coronation. Queen Sirikit went on to bear the King a son – the Crown Prince – and three Princess daughters.

Initially, Mother's Day was celebrated on April 15 in Thailand, but the date was changed to August 12 as directed in the *The Royal Mother of All Thai Citizens*, published by the Ministry of Education on July 6, 1977.

From that point, on August 12 Thais not only honor and show appreciation for the life, deeds and accomplishments of their beloved Queen and Mother, they also take the opportunity to show love and gratitude to their own mothers.

To commemorate this special day, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut presented Queen Sirikit as an example for all mothers to follow.

"Her Majesty The Queen is concerned about five things and I wish that we all follow her lead," he said.

"Her Majesty is concerned about water pollution. We cannot deny that water is critical to all of us. Forests are also a priority for Her Majesty, which is why we always plant trees whenever we have a chance.



"HM Queen Sirikit also concerns herself with the preservation of the traditional methods of producing Thai silk, as well as with eradicating drugs and being of service to society. She always has the good of society in mind and she is willing to help people all the time.

"I wish every mother would follow the great example of HM the Queen."

A host of special ceremonies are being held at different locations across Phuket on August 12 to honor and celebrate HM Queen Sirikit's 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday and to celebrate Mothers' Day.

In Phuket Town, ceremonies organized by the Phuket Provincial Office will start

at 6:30am, in front of 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary Queen Sirikit Park with a breakfast blessing ceremony by 83 monks.

At 7am, everyone who attends the morning ceremony will have the opportunity to offer alms to monks. After the morning ceremony has concluded, well-wishers may sign a book at Satee Phuket School to pay respect to HM Queen Sirikit and to wish her a happy birthday.

Night festivities at Saphan Hin will begin at the main stage area at 5pm. The evening's itinerary includes homage-paying ceremonies and stage performances, followed by a candle-light ceremony at 6:50pm led by Governor Maitri.

– *Phuket Gazette*



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# Teachers told not to worry

IMMIGRATION officials have urged teachers in Phuket not to panic "right now" about visa and work permit crackdowns after Facebook rumors caused a stir in the online teacher community.

"Please do not worry right now. We have yet to receive an order from the Phuket Immigration Chief to crack down on school teachers," Immigration Inspector Tianchai Chompoo confirmed to the *Gazette* on July 30.

"The order you have heard about is not on a national level. I will update you if an order has been issued that includes Phuket."

The statement follows an inquiry posted on Facebook on July



Don't fret, teachers. Photo: Gazette file

30 that read, "Good morning Phuket! Does anyone have any info on Immigration Police going around schools, checking for work permits and visas during this week? Apparently they've started today in Trang."

Maj Tianchai explained that

Phuket Immigration officers have other orders they are currently carrying out.

"Right now, Phuket Immigration officers are focusing on registering and legalizing illegal migrant workers," he said.

However, an officer from Immigration Division 6, which covers 11 of the 14 provinces that comprise Southern Thailand, confirmed that his office has been ordered to check that teachers in their jurisdiction have proper work permits and visas.

The provinces identified were Satun, Patthalung and Trang, said an officer who declined to be named.

— *Saran Mitrarat*

# Poll reveals readers' approval of beach clearouts, cleanups

THE bold campaign to clear Phuket's beaches of all structures has received overwhelming support from *Gazette* readers.

The support was voiced in an online poll launched on June 22, which attracted more than 3,300 respondents.

The *Gazette* asked: "Should beach clubs be allowed to use at least some parts of the beach as they promote the island's image as a high-end, world-class tourist destination?"

Likely the most important response came from "Tourists / Visitors to Phuket", of whom 82% voted: "No, beaches must remain

completely clear for everyone to enjoy."

In comparison, 74% of Local Foreign Residents and 68% of Local Thai Residents who took part in the poll voted that the beaches should remain clear.

The strongest support for beach clubs came from Thai nationals, with 23% saying that they should have some claim to the beaches, as "they are an important aspect of the tourism industry and must receive full support."

Only 12% of Local Foreign Residents and even fewer Tourists / Visitors to Phuket (9%) agreed. — *Phuket Gazette*

# Rohingya left out of official talks

By Saran Mitrarat

THE Royal Thai Police have asked their Myanmar counterparts to launch a public-awareness campaign to make Myanmar nationals aware of the dangers of slavery by working illegally in Thailand.

Royal Thai Police Assistant Commissioner-General ML Pansak Kasemsant announced the news at the Thailand-Myanmar Bilateral Meeting on Strengthening Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Co-operation in Combating Trafficking in Persons.

The four-day international conference took place from Monday to Thursday at the Phuket Cape Panwa Resort.

The public-awareness campaign aims to stop people in Myanmar from voluntarily seeking illegal work in Thailand, explained Lt Gen ML Pansak.

The campaign, if launched, would also explain all the benefits Myanmar nationals receive if they work legally in the Kingdom, Lt Gen ML Pansak said.

"If we can get cooperation from Myanmar to explain this to their nationals, I think the problem could be resolved," he added. However, the plight of thousands



Lt Gen ML Pansak is hoping to add Rohingya to the agenda in fighting human trafficking from Myanmar.

of Rohingya who fled persecution in Myanmar, and landed on Phuket and elsewhere along the Andaman coast, remains unresolved.

Brig Gen Win Naing Tun, the Head of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Division, Joint Secretary of Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons (CBTIP), Myanmar Police Force, dismissed that Rohingya were of

any concern to Myanmar officials.

"Rohingya are not Myanmar nationals. They are people who live in a neighboring country," he said through a Thai translator.

Brig Gen Win Naing Tun warned the *Gazette* to not ask further about the issue.

"It might affect relations between the two countries," he said, declining to comment further.

we have to relocate them to displacement shelters.

"The UNHCR and the IMO\* are helping in providing care for them while the Thai government provides food and shelter, and it will remain that way until another country accepts them or another solution is found."

Gen ML Pansak pointed out that the conference between the Thai and Myanmar police had made progress in stemming human trafficking from Myanmar.

"The good news is that the deputy commander of the Royal Thai Police Foreign Affairs Division, Col Khemarin Hasasiri, will be stationed as Coordinator of Human Trafficking and Migrant Labour in Myanmar from September," he said.

"This should help us in our efforts to target human traffickers – and those being trafficked – at their point of origin."

Thailand was downgraded to Tier 3, among the worst and on par with Malaysia and Gambia, in the US State Department's Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report earlier this year for failing to take steps to prevent human trafficking.

The move could trigger sanctions by the US.

## Regent Phuket Cape Panwa Presents Donnafugata Wine Dinner

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Regent Phuket Cape Panwa invites you to an exclusive dinner and wine pairing at The Restaurant on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Enjoy a welcome reception followed by a six-course dinner designed by our Executive Chef, Justin Baziuk. Each course will be expertly paired with Donnafugata selections, chosen by BB & B including Lighea, Sedara, Mille e una Notte, Kabir and Ben Ryé.

\* The Library Lounge from 7pm followed by the dinner at The Restaurant from 8pm onwards

\* THB 2500 per person including wine pairings (subject to 10% service charge and 7% VAT)

\* Seats are limited, advance reservation is required

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BB & B DONNAFUGATA





Dr Wisut was released from prison on Monday. Photo: The Nation

## Killer doctor released for good behavior

A GYNAECOLOGIST found guilty of murdering his wife and flushing her dismembered remains down the toilet in 2001 was released from jail on Monday.

Dr Wisut Boonkasemsanti was sentenced to death in 2007 and both the Court of Appeals and Supreme Court upheld the primary court's ruling.

However, since Dr Wisut began taking care of ill inmates, his sentence was commuted to life in prison, reported *The Nation*.

In accordance with the rules of the Corrections Department, Dr Wisut's release comes after he served two-thirds of his sentence – 10 years and 10 months. His exemplary behavior in prison won him two royal pardons, culminating in his release.

However, Corrections Department Director-General Withaya Suriyawongse said Dr Wisut was still under observation and had to report to parole officials every month. He is banned from travelling overseas.

Before the murder, Dr Wisut was a respected gynaecologist at the Faculty of Medicine at Thailand's reknowned Chulalongkorn University.

His wife, Dr Phassaporn, was also a gynaecologist.

At the time of her murder in February 2001, the couple were estranged and in conflict over marital assets.

Police found human remains in septic tanks at a dormitory at the university and at the Sofitel Hotel in Bangkok, where Dr Wisut stayed in February 2001. DNA tests confirmed the remains were those of Dr Phassaporn.

# Baby Gammy plot thickens with accusations all around

THE Thai surrogate mother of baby Gammy, the seven-month-old with Down's syndrome who was left behind by an Australian couple, said on Tuesday that she wanted his twin sister returned after finding out that the biological father is a registered sex offender, reported *The Nation*.

"I am in shock after hearing this," said Pattaramon Chantua, the mother, as quoted as by Fairfax Media.

"I need help from anyone who can bring my girl back to me as soon as possible," she said. "This makes me sick. I am worried about my baby girl."

Court documents were released that show the Australian father was convicted of sexually abusing at least three girls in the 1990s, Australian media reports said.

The man was jailed for three years for molesting two girls under 10 and later convicted and sentenced on charges of indecency involving a 13-year-old, *The Australian* newspaper reported.

Ms Pattaramon said the unnamed Aussie couple refused to take the boy after learning he was born with Down's syndrome and had a serious heart condition.

The Australian couple hit back on Tuesday, claiming that Ms Pattaramon had misled the world over what had happened, according to a friend of the family.

The couple has come under heavy criticism for apparently re-



Ms Pattaramon decided to look after baby Gammy after he was left behind after birth. Photo: The Nation



jecting the boy and taking only his healthy twin sister back to Bunbury, south of Perth.

Ms Pattaramon has said she will raise Gammy after reporting that the biological parents had, at first, requested an abortion and then walked away when they learned of his condition.

However, the Australian couple said in a statement – issued through a friend to the *Bunbury Mail* – that the allegations were false, and they did not know he had Down's syndrome, though they were aware he had a congenital heart condition.

"[He] was very sick when he was born and the biological parents were told he would not survive and he had a day, at best, to live and to say goodbye," the friend, a woman, told the media.

The birth was supposed to take place at an international hospital in Thailand, but Ms Pattaramon went to another facility, which

made the surrogacy agreement void, according to the newspaper.

This meant that the couple had no legal rights to the babies, though the surrogate mother agreed to hand over the girl, the report said.

"The biological parents were heartbroken that they couldn't take their boy with them and never wanted to give him up, but to stay would risk them losing their daughter also," the friend said.

The friend added that the couple spent two months in Thailand but due to unrest at the time, late last year, felt they had no option but to leave without Gammy.

## Military court tries first civilian cases

FORMER education minister Chaturon Chaisang and academic Worachet Pakeerat on Monday became the first civilians to be tried in a military court under martial law since the coup, after the court's prosecutors resolved to indict them for defying separate orders issued by the junta.

"I'm disappointed and feel there's injustice against me in many ways," Mr Chaturon, a prominent politician from the former ruling Pheu Thai Party, said at the decision.

He said that he did not consider it necessary to respond to the summons from the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) after the May 22 coup, *The Nation* reported.

The prosecutors resolved to press three

charges against Mr Chaturon: defying the NCPO's summons; violating martial law or inciting unrest; and breaching the Computer Crime Act. The offences carry a maximum combined penalty of 14 years in prison and a fine of 140,000 baht.

Mr Worachet, a Thammasat University law lecturer, was also released on 20,000 baht bail, his lawyer Winyat Chartmontri said.

A key member of the Nitirat group of academics, Mr Worachet was charged with defying two separate NCPO summonses to report to the junta. He could face up to four years' imprisonment if found guilty.

The court set the same conditions for Mr Worachet's release as in Mr Chaturon's case.



Mr Chaturon will face the court. Photo: The Nation

## Police shooting at student's car may be attempted murder, claims lawyer

THE actions of three Bang Chan policemen who opened fire at a university student's car during a drug bust falls within the definition of attempted murder, Sunthorn Payak, the vice president of the Lawyers Council, said on Monday.

Mr Sunthorn was referring to the case in which Chulalongkorn University law student Apisada Sajjanaroj, 21, found her Suzuki Swift car being shot at last Saturday after it was apparently mistakenly identified as belonging to a drug suspect.

He said this reckless behavior could have caused damage to life and property, and hence should be taken to the Civil Court, *The Nation* reported.

Mr Sunthorn said the case could also be filed at the Administrative Court over state officials' violation of a "damaged" person's rights.

He said if Ms Apisada thought she was affected and if the remedial measures were not enough, she could seek legal help from the council to proceed with criminal, civil and administrative lawsuits.

Meanwhile, Metropolitan Police Bureau deputy chief Itthipol Piriapinyo, who led the disciplinary probe against the three police officers, confirmed that he would ensure justice to all, adding that it would take the team seven days to gather evidence and interview the officers, the victim and witnesses.

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# Braving the backlash

THE island should applaud the courage and dedication of Sirinath National Park Chief Kitiphat Taraphiban for continuing the campaign to rid the park of all encroachment – even in the face of recent death threats (see page 1).

The state of many national parks and protected conservation areas is an embarrassment, with many beautiful locations degraded by corruption-fuelled, unregulated development.

Even the United Nations has issued warnings to Thailand about illegal development in and around tourist destinations that have been afforded the coveted status of World Heritage Site.

Encroachment is common in many countries, but in the vast majority of them it tends to involve desperately poor people trying to obtain shelter as part of their battle to survive. In most developed countries, clearing land inside a national park to set up a commercial operation is, well, simply inconceivable.

However, here in Thailand, encroachment has been very much a rich man, poor man phenomenon. As American podcast comedian Adam Carolla puts it, “rich man, poor man” behaviors are those that seem to be restricted to the very rich and the very poor. Examples include never carrying a wallet and spending evenings in front of a roaring fire, to name just a few.

In this sense, the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) seems to be conducting quite an even-handed crackdown on encroachers nationwide, targeting both the rich and poor.

The scale of the problem at Sirinath National Park was revealed by Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation Director Samak Donnapee in July, when he said that an estimated 2,700 rai of the park’s total 13,000 rai had been encroached upon.

This is hard to imagine in an age when satellite and mapping technologies have become so advanced. It also reveals the corruption that has spiralled out of control in the country, and needs to be handled as quickly as possible during the NCPO’s time in power.

As for the death threats made against Mr Kitiphat, we expect and hope that they are only that – threats. Those who have followed crime on the island know that assassinations tend to be carried out in a formulaic fashion that seldom involve advance warning, especially at the level of detail in this case.

There were no such threats reported back in 2003, when Phuket Provincial Land Office Deputy Chief Pongtorn Hiranyaburana was shot while conducting an investigation into the illegal issuance of title deeds. This case remains unsolved.

Nevertheless, we hope the Navy unit assigned to Mr Kitiphat never lets down its guard in the months to follow.

## No sympathy for beach club investors

*Re: Gazette online, Surin Beach building clubbing unnerves Phuket investors, August 3*

Gimme a break. I’m crying an ocean of tears – from laughter, of course – for those foolish enough to have invested money in businesses built on public land.

Can any of you deny handing out gratuities to someone, somewhere, to ensure a successful outcome? I doubt it very much.

*Agogohome Agogohome  
Facebook*

### Stay safe, park chief

*Re: Gazette online, Navy steps in as hitman death threats issued to Phuket park chief, August 4*

Mr Kitiphat is exactly the kind of person needed here in Phuket. I am disgusted at the cowardly threats to another human being, made by selfish lawbreakers that are so used to buying their way out of everything with their dirty money.

I hope that they find the source of these cowardly threats, and it doesn’t seem like it will be too hard; just look at the illegal businesses that stand to lose the most. Best of luck!

*Ed Sanders  
Gazette forum*

### Bad guys on the beach

*Re: Gazette online, Jet-ski operators back on beach, vow to protect Phuket tourists, August 4*

This is a bitter disappointment. Jet-skis were the worst thing about the old beaches and they are the first to be allowed back.

My advice is: Get rid of them now! Alternatively, designate an area or beach where they can operate, preferably where people don’t swim or snorkel. I would be very happy never to see them on the beach again.

*Beachlover  
Gazette forum*

## Letters to the Editor

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

### Stop it with the signs

*Re: Gazette online, Officials ponder safety solutions for deadly, iconic Phuket cape, August 2*

What’s next? Posting signs along the streets that warn pedestrians of the danger of crossing the road? Or posting signs at traffic lights to warn about people running red lights?

Why not post only one single sign at the Phuket Airport saying: “Beware – Phuket is dangerous – stay away!”

*Frank Heise  
Gazette forum*

### Aussie lifesaving tips

*Re: Gazette online, Body of musician, swept from Phuket rocks, found washed ashore, July 31*

Condolences to the family. In Australia, a life-saving device, a simple life ring with GPS tracking known as an Angel Ring, is placed in high-risk locations. Also available in high risk locations are small buoys with retrieve line. Promthep Cape has taken many lives over the years, if not every year. This popular tourist destination deserves a life ring, a buoy with a line and signs with instructions and warnings about the dangerous swell.

*Gerard Wiseman  
Phuket*

### Finally, law and order

*Re: Gazette online, Any Phuket police failure to protect legal taxis will have consequences, says military, August 1*

People might start coming back

to Phuket when they see some law and order. Well done to the Army; I hope they stay for a long time.

*Cj  
Gazette forum*

### Perhaps good news for displaced vendors

*Re: Gazette online, NCPO calls on unemployed Phuket beach vendors to voice concerns, August 2*

Several thousand migrant aliens can be returned to their home country and their positions filled by these ex-beach vendors. This will help stop baht from being shipped out of the local economy.

*Michael Maurice Arvin  
Gazette forum*

### Enough is enough, beach cleanup crews

I understand the need to clean up the beach but this is too far!

If I wanted to sit on the sand of a naked, dead beach I would just stay in Australia!

I come to Patong to relax in the shade and have access to food and drink... please, please regulate, not strangulate!

*DEKA  
Australia*

### Poverty means more crime on the streets

*Re: Gazette online, Government responsible for Phuket beach vendor compensation, says poll, August 3*

When poverty rises, more crime will be on the streets. A responsible government has to provide an alternative to the people to make a living. Illegal or not, they have a right to provide for their families.

*Mike Fonzie  
Facebook*

## Phuket Gazette

In association with The Nation Multimedia Group PCL

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# Surf safety should be island's priority

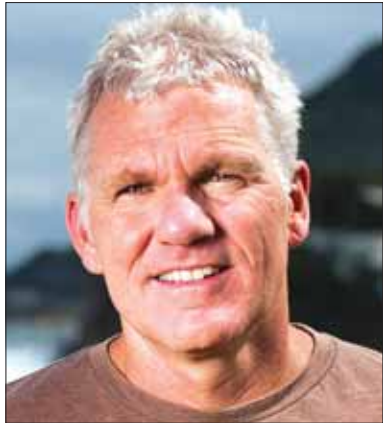
## FIRST PERSON

STANDING on Karon Beach in late June this year, I was amazed to see what looked like an Australian surf beach. While most visitors associate Phuket with lovely placid waters, this isn't the case during the southwest monsoon season, which occurs between May and October. Strong winds and storms generate persistent waves and hazardous surf conditions for everyone, particularly those who are unaware of the dangers, or are unfamiliar with strong surf.

Tragically, each year, many people drown on beaches like Karon, usually as a result of getting caught in a rip current.

Rip currents are strong, narrow flows that take water brought toward the beach by breaking waves back offshore. People who lose their footing can be carried significant distances offshore by these "rivers of the sea", usually against their will. They may panic, become exhausted and, in too many cases, drown.

Despite this hazard, rip current drownings are avoidable. If someone doesn't get caught in a rip, they won't drown in one. Thanks to efforts by organizations such as the Phuket Lifeguard Club, many beaches are now guarded. Each day, lifeguards erect pairs of red and yellow flags to designate supervised and safer swimming areas, and red flags to indicate dangerous swimming conditions, often in the vicinity of rip currents.



**Robert Brander** is a coastal geomorphologist and senior lecturer at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Dr Brander completed a master's degree at the University of Toronto and a PhD on the morphodynamics of rip currents at the University of Sydney. He has been studying beaches and surf science since 1986.

Here, he talks about what can be done in Phuket to improve beach safety and awareness of rip currents.

However, while these efforts are commendable, they are not enough.

First, not all beaches have lifeguards, and those that do are patrolled only during the prime daytime swimming hours. On unpatrolled beaches, or outside of patrol hours, the only thing keeping people safe when they enter

the water is their own knowledge and awareness of surf hazards, or luck. Unfortunately, it is unlikely that most beachgoers are aware of rip currents, know what they are or what they look

like, or how to react if caught in one. Given this situation, Phuket needs a dedicated beach safety program.

All beachgoers need to be further encouraged to seek out lifeguarded beaches and swim only between the red and yellow flags. People should also be advised not to go in beyond waist depth when breaking waves are present. In particular, they should be made aware of the presence of rip currents.

Awareness can be achieved through the development and implementation of a beach safety program. Aside from improved signage and widely-available brochures, a safety video can be developed for communication to locals via schools and tourists via social media. The use of footage from releases of harmless purple dye into a rip current, similar to a demonstration I made at Karon Beach recently, is an engaging, non-threatening and visually powerful tool that could be incorporated into such a program.

However, none of this will be achieved without a formal study into the beach safety issue on Phuket, collaborative efforts between lifeguard organizations, tourist agencies, resorts and hotels and local governments and, of course, funding. Until this happens, the drowning rate on Phuket beaches will likely not improve.



Rip demo. Photo: Robert Brander



The truth in the case of baby Gammy may only be revealed after a lengthy, extensive investigation into the arrangement. Photo: The Nation

## Moral confusion

### Island View

By Mark Knowles

Do you have an opinion to voice?  
Email [Editor@PhuketGazette.net](mailto:Editor@PhuketGazette.net)

THE recent case of baby Gammy has highlighted the ethical and legal minefield of commercial gestational surrogacy arrangements. Gammy, who suffers from Down's syndrome and other medical complications, is one of the twins born to Thai national Pattaramon Chantua, after she was paid 300,000 baht to be implanted with the fertilized eggs of an Australian couple – under the agreement that the baby, once born, would be given to them (see page 10).

Once the fertilized eggs were implanted it was soon discovered that twins were conceived. Later, it was found that one of the twins had Down's syndrome. This is where the whole case becomes murky, with Ms Pattaramon claiming that she was asked to abort the fetus affected by condition, and after she refused and gave birth, the healthy child was given to the Australian couple and she was left to care for Gammy.

The case hit world headlines, bringing condemnation for the Aussie couple for abandoning the baby and an outpouring of donations to help pay for the child's medical care.

Regardless of who did what, I can't help but feel that the ultimate moral responsibility falls on the Australian couple.

Rapid advances in reproductive science over recent years have created a situation, once again, where our ability to do

something precedes our ability to properly consider its ramifications. Lawmakers across the globe have either not had a chance to draft laws covering commercial surrogacy arrangements, or, at best, have put into place a hodgepodge of quickly written laws that fail to take into account the international nature of many surrogacy cases.

The inevitable result is a situation where rich Western couples exploit ill-informed, and often poor, women in other countries by paying them large amounts of money to carry their child.

I think all infertile couples, desperate as they may be, need to weigh up the morality of entering into a commercial surrogacy arrangement. Pregnancy can be a risky business, even more so when it is assisted by modern techniques of reproductive science which are still being tested and developed. By paying someone to undergo this inherently risky medical procedure, as well as to face all the possible complications of pregnancy, at your behest – you have a moral responsibility for the outcome far beyond the mere monetary or legal obligations.

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

## Struggling to find a dive company with a proper licence

Is it required for dive shops to have a Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) licence? Is it important that they do? I have been searching, without any luck, for a dive shop on Phi Phi that has a TAT licence so I can book a tour for a group of 12 to 14 year olds. I contacted the TAT office in Phuket, but was informed they are not responsible for the licence.

A Davids  
Phuket

**Kitisak Narungsri of the Bureau of Tourism Business and Guide Registration Phuket office replies:**

Yes, all tour businesses, including dive companies, must have a licence from a local Bureau of

Tourism Business and Guide Registration office.

Phi Phi is actually in Krabi Province, so you will need to contact the office there. However, the rules and regulations are the same throughout Thailand.

It is important that companies are legally registered, as it ensures that a particular level of quality is met. To get the certification, the dive company must have its equipment certified as safe by a relevant authority.

The company needs to have its boat properly registered, which in-



Dive companies must have licences. Photo: Go Eco Phuket

cludes having the necessary documents to enter a national park.

The specialized dive staff, such as dive masters and dive instructors, must also be registered.

Last, the company must have

insurance that covers every person in the group.

Please ensure you are booking with a company that is registered. If they meet all the criteria, it only costs 1,000 baht every two years to be certified, so the only hurdle for them to get the certification is by meeting basic quality standards.

**Alan Philmore at Phi Phi Scuba Diving Center replies:**

We have a licence from Bureau of Tourism Business and Guide Registration Krabi office.

However, because the participants in the group are under 15 years old, their parents or guardians will need to sign a liability release form. They will also have to fill out a medical form to ensure that are physically able to dive.

Additionally, the maximum depth to which anyone under 15 years old can dive is 12 meters.

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

Submit your issue at

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



## WHAT'S ON in Phuket

### Until August 28, 2-4:30pm. Kidz Activities by Quest

During July and August, kids and parents are invited to visit Canal Village every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon to take part in the kids' activities program of the day, which include treasure hunt, wacky games, bbq chefs, and kids vs. wild, all taking turn for an afternoon of kids' entertainment.

"Kidz Activities by Quest" is the highlight activity during Laguna Phuket's Summer Family Promotion, a trove of extra benefits and added value for all Laguna hotel guests which include free dining for kids, free kids' golf, free Laguna Tours Excursions and extra beds (terms and conditions apply).

For more information call 076-362300 or visit: [lagunaphuket.com/events/family-festival](http://lagunaphuket.com/events/family-festival)

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

HM Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara's Birthday, also celebrated as Mother's Day in the Kingdom.

### August 21, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club August Lunch

The August lunch will be at Hyatt Regency Kamala. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Carole at: [info@piwc-phuket.com](mailto:info@piwc-phuket.com)

### August 22, 6-11:30pm. Scandinavian Crayfish Party at Two Chefs Kata

Two Chefs are serving a large crayfish and seafood buffet, including imported crayfish boiled the traditional Scandinavian way, smoked salmon from our smoke house, and freshly baked breads and pastries from

our bakery. All you can eat for only 795 baht, children 395 baht.

The Two Chefs' house band will entertain you until the late hours, and we'll have happy hours on selected drinks all night. For more info, log onto our website [twochefs.com](http://twochefs.com), or follow us at: [facebook.com/TwoChefsThailand](https://www.facebook.com/TwoChefsThailand). Come for the food and stay for the fun! For more information call 076-330065 or email: [katacenter@twochefs.com](mailto:katacenter@twochefs.com)

### September 18, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club September Lunch

The September lunch will be at Bollywood, Phuket Town. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Carole at: [info@piwc-phuket.com](mailto:info@piwc-phuket.com) or call 086-594 1758

### October 16, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club October Lunch

The October lunch will be at Divino, Cherng Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Carole at [info@piwc-phuket.com](mailto:info@piwc-phuket.com) or call 086-594 1758.

### October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day

Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who abolished 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, email [info@piwc-phuket.com](mailto:info@piwc-phuket.com) or visit [piwc-phuket.com](http://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.

# Scandinavian Crayfish Party

August 22, 6-11:30pm

## Two Chefs Kata

### November 6. Loy Krathong Festival

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

### November 7-8. 2014 BISP International Football Tournament

British International School Phuket (BISP) in Thailand is proud to host for the thirteenth consecutive year, the seven-a-side Football Tournament. Well over 1,000 young players from all over Asia are expected at this exciting competition.

For more information email BISP Athletics Director Jeff LaMantia at [jlamantia@bisphuket.ac.th](mailto:jlamantia@bisphuket.ac.th)

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.

### December 5. HM The King's Birthday.

His Majesty the King's Birthday is also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

### Dec 10. Constitution Day

This day commemorates the signing of Thailand's permanent constitution by King Prajadhibok (Rama VII).

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

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<b>Rawai Cable</b> Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm	<b>Truevisions HD Channel: 79</b> <b>Truevisions SD Channel: 107</b> <b>PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37</b> <b>GMMZ Channel: 103</b>	<b>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H</b> Tuesday: 12.05pm & 7pm Wednesday: 6pm Thursday: 1pm & 8pm Friday: 9am Saturday: 1pm Sunday: 6am
<b>KDTV</b> Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm		

Online: [www.phuketgazette.net/tv](http://www.phuketgazette.net/tv) | [www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket](http://www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket)  
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# YOUR Phuket

## Thai silk fashion show

Last week at Phuket Rajabhat University a gala event entitled 'Phuket Under the Chakri Dynasty' was held in honor of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej, HM Queen Sirikit and the Royal Family, with hundreds of VIP guests dressed in Thai traditional-style clothing. The evening also involved a fashion show, with guests taking to the stage to showcase their elaborate garments, many of which were made from exquisite Thai silk.



Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut and his wife Pavinee dressed in dark blue silk for the occasion.



From left: Olivier Marque, Julien Héritier, Kaewta Upatising, Paiboon Upatising, Mehdi Kamali and Vijit Dasantad.



Troy Dehaas, director of sales at Thanyapura and Nathaphat Asavathanachart, marketing and communications manager.



Patong Mayor Chalermluck Keksab.



Janpen Arno (left) and Krisana Matzenberger.



Marie Laure Fleury, GM of Boathouse by Montara dressed in pink and silver silk.



Laura Kamali and Marco Di Paolo, supervisor of transport for Club Med Phuket.



Oriol Montal, general manager of JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa and his wife Ann Christine Klosowski.



Dr Siripattra Kusuwan.



The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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

## PROPERTY of the week



See page 17

## JOB of the week

myclip studios  
**VS** ASIA

See page 21

## PERSONAL SERVICES of the week

Phuket Mental  
Health  
Counseling

See page 23

## BOAT of the week



See page 25

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## Properties For Sale

## LAND FOR SALE

Close to the beach in Mai Khao. 4,136 sqm. Chanote title 16.9 million baht. Negotiable price. Contact Khun Tik. Tel: 085-784 7218 (English & Thai). Email: khutphuketproperty@gmail.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

LUXURY  
POOL VILLA

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

ZCAPE  
1-BEDROOM CONDO  
LAGUNA

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

LAND WITH SEA VIEW  
FOR SALE

200sqm with a beautiful view. Located on 50 Pee Road, Patong. 4.9 million baht. Tel: 098-386 6408 (English), 087-268 2396 (Thai). Email: jasonsfriday6@gmail.com

SEAVIEW LAND  
FOR SALE KAMALA

2.75 rai 4,500sqm. Nor Sor 3 Kor title, ready to be built, building permit, electricity, road access, only 10 mn baht/rai. Tel: 088-768 0942. Email: pascal.elephantboutiquehotel@gmail.com

## 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.

NICE STUDIO APT, B 1.5  
MILLION

Studio of 36 sqm. Phuket Town at Green Places. Quiet. Details on request. Tel: 095-437 9062 (English). Email: lilly@mail.ru

HOUSE FOR SALE  
NAI HARN

3-bedrooms, fully furnished, 5 minutes to the beach. Reduced to 3.9 million baht for quick sale. Tel: 088-168 5032.

BEAUTIFULLY  
FURNISHED  
CONDO

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

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.

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. Freehold. Price: 11 million baht. Tel: 080-789 4500 (English & French). Email: Chris tophe.soula@hotmail.fr

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 FOR SALE IN  
UDON THANI

59 rai: 150,000 baht per rai. Beautiful land, perfect for resort living. Many big trees and a creek, very peaceful mountain views. Next to a national park. Power, water, easy access. 15 minutes from airport. Beautiful part of Thailand. Contact Nisa 086-211 1599. (English & Thai). Email: moon\_nisa@hotmail.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

PHUKET NEW CONDO  
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2-bed, 2-bath. Sugar Palm Condo. Right at Suan Luang Park with direct access to superb park, lake and ocean views. 10th floor, corner unit, 90 sqm. 10 min to Central shopping center, 20-30 minutes to beaches. 65,000 baht per sqm. Call Noi 087-269 8492.

## LAND FOR SALE

Back of Loch Palm, 510sqm, part of a small gated community of 2 villas, next to small lake. Chanote title and, if interested, complete house plans provided for free. 6 million baht, negotiable. For more information, please call 087-266 4583 (English), 082-440 6884 (Thai).

LARGE SEAVIEW  
HOUSE AT LAYAN

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

TOWNHOUSE  
PHUKET TOWN  
FOR SALE / RENT

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

SEAFRONT LAND  
KAMALA FOR SALE

6 rai, Chanote, seafront 66m. Tel: 089-897 2141.

LAND AND HOUSE  
PARK

3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 2-storey house for sale. 200 sqm land, for photos. Tel: 084-845 4743. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

FOR SALE / RENT  
SEA VIEW

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

## VILLA WITH POOL

4-bedrooms, pool villa for sale, fully furnished, 12.5 million baht or rent long term: 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-729 2989. Email: tabppg@gmail.com

NEW SEAVIEW  
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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

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E-mail: info@baanyamu.com  
Tel: 076-310507

## URGENT SALE

Anuphas Kathu, refurbished, 2-storey, 3-bedroom villa 4 sale. 081-968 4314 (English). Email: johnhideaway@hotmail.com

TITLE CONDO 2BR  
REDUCED

Rawaii: 66 sqm, 6.5 million baht if closed within in 30 days. Tel: 089-772 7136 (English). Email: tedleefisher@hotmail.com

## 2-STOREY HOUSE

Close to the Heroines' Monument. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

## LAND - PATONG BEACH

Opposite White Box restaurant. Sea View & beach front. 48 million baht/rai. Plots of 22 rai, 10 rai, and 4 rai Tel: 084-847 9977 (English & Thai), 084-058 8892 (English & Thai). Email: info@pacificlighthousehotel.com

## LAND FOR SALE

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.

BEACHFRONT  
VILLA RAWAI

800sqm, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 living rooms, private beach, from 35 million baht. Sale: 29.9 million baht. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

PATONG SEAVIEW  
CONDO

Located in Andaman Beach Suite, this 120 sqm, 12th floor apartment consisting of 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms and 3 balconies, a spacious living room and spectacular sea-views has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minute walk), access to swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 076-341879 (English). Email: jayneymac@yahoo.com.au

POOL VILLA  
FOR SALE / RENT

Rawai, 800sqm land, fully furnished, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: 15 million baht. Contact Nisa. Tel: 089-674 4898.

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



## Properties For Rent

**KATA BEACH APARTMENT**

Nice 1 bedroom, kitchen, WiFi, spa, fully furnished, 500 baht per night. Tel: 086-595 8512 081-970 4638 Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

**2-BED APT PATONG**

100 sqm, pool, fully furnished, WiFi. 18,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

**APARTMENT FOR RENT PATONG**

Condo pool, security, 46 square meters, fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005 (English&Thai). Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

**KARON OCEANFRONT LUXURY APT**

5-star, 1 bedroom. Pools, quiet area. 24,000 baht per month. Available now. Tel: 087-531 1124 (English&Thai). Email: dfenocchio@hotmail.com, www.karonhill.altervista.org/

**PATONG 1 & 2 BEDROOM UNITS**

Modern kitchens, large pool, free WiFi, maid, cable, parking, gym. For more information, please call 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phv condo@aol.com

**MODERN SEAVIEW APARTMENT**

Kata, quiet location, 2-bdrm, from 1,900 per night (1-year contract). Please call 086-281 9311. Email: bao200@gmail.com

**BRAND NEW MODERN POOL VILLA**

Brand New Modern Pool Villas (2 & 3 beds). Fully furnished. Free WiFi, Satellite TV, Pool & Garden Maintenance. Between Cape Yamu & Ao Po Marina. Tel: 081-893 5270, 093-014 5072. Email: srdupouy@gmail.com, www.tropical-house.net

**2-BED APTS, BEACH 3 MIN WALK**

160sqm, kitchen, terrace, large shared pool, gardens, Nai Harn Beach 3 min walk, 45K pm + utilities, until Nov. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

**ZCAPE CHERNGTALAY**

Studio apartment. Fully furnished. Large Flat screen TV. Fridge. Microwave. Email: Pktthai1@gmail.com

**3-BEDROOM VILLA LONG TERM**

Nice villa, Central Phuket, 3 beds, 2 baths, GT, 200sqm, fair rent. Gated, quiet, unfurnished. Available from August 2014. Take over aircon. Price for sale 60,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 086-281 1264. Email: info@contexpuket.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

**FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE**

3-bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-892 4311. http://palaigreen.weebly.com

**KATHU GOLF AND VALLEY VIEW VILLA**

1, 2 and 3 bed Kathu golf and valley view villa. For rent, big pool, 4 km to BIS. Quiet, on top of a private hill. Fully furnished. Maid, WiFi, security. Long-term 35,000, 38,000 and 75,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 087-269 8492.

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

Near BIS single house. 3 bedrooms, fully furnished, airconditioners, furniture, kitchen. 28,000baht per month. For more information please call 081-892 1732. Email: ann@siammileage.com

**CHALONG HOUSE**

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons. Please call 087-266 7191.

**CONDO IN LAGUNA**

ZCape condo, one bed. Next to Boat Avenue, 6th floor. Nice view, changed from original design. Great kitchen, 30 sqm, gym, pool. 18,000 baht/month, long term. Tel: 083-185 9487, 081-273 4212. Email: phuketcondo@gmail.com

**2-SHOPHOUSES FOR RENT**

One minute walk to beach. Ideal for restaurant, bar, massage. 2nd fl furnished as 2-bedroom apartment w/2 baths and kitchen. Tel: 084-189 7696. Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

**200SQM WAREHOUSE**

Near Chalong circle, modern lockup. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-082 5707.

**LUXURY 1 BED PATONG**

100 sqm, pool, Fully furnished, WiFi. Price: 18,000 baht per month. For more information please call 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

**BANG TAO LUXURY POOL VILLA**

For rent 100,000 baht per month. 500m to Bang Tao beach. 3 bed / 3 bath plus maid's room. Available 1 July 2014. Tel: 076-325986, 089-867 7154.

**HOLIDAY HOUSE AND VILLA RENTAL**

Private pool villa Rawai, 2 beds, 2 baths, short term only. Tel: 085-787 3046(English). Email: patrickmeo@gmail.com

**KATA BUNGALOW SOI 4**

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

**VILLA FOR RENT NAI YANG**

3-bed, Fully furnished. Long time rental. 21,000 baht per month. Please call 084-847 4377 (English), 084-842 6147 (English & Thai). Email: info@thaidreams.se

**FOR RENT, RAWAI / NAI HARN**

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

**4-BED, 3-BATH NEAR LAGUNA**

4-bed, 3-bath with private pool, landscaped garden, and only a few minutes drive to Villa Market and Laguna. Short and long term. Available now. Call: 089-655 7480. Email: suppmas@live.com

**CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN**

Furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Gym and pool. 7,500 baht per month until September. Tel: 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

**HOUSE FOR RENT**

3-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 4 aircon. Fully furnished with small garden, quiet area. Rent 15,000 baht / month. Tel: 086-690 0626. Email: bcarrent@hotmail.com

**CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE**

Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fl at the corner with swimming pool view. 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, hot water, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, 24 security and internet provided). Pls contact 088-4769612. Email: annano1@hotmail.com

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!**







# Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

## REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

## The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

## DETOX CONSULTANT WANTED

English speaking Thai National with previous detox or nurse experience. Good salary + benefits! Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: [liam@phuketfit.com](mailto:liam@phuketfit.com)

## FINANCE MANAGER 30K+

LivePhuket is the fastest growing holiday rental & real estate platform based in Kamala, Phuket. Must have 5+ years finance experience and speak and write excellent English. Tel: 092-474 6157. Send CVs to [Paul@livephuket.com](mailto:Paul@livephuket.com) For further details, please see our website at [www.livephuket.com](http://www.livephuket.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](mailto:hr@davidvacationclub.com)

## MARKETING STAFF

Fast-growing real estate company is looking for marketing executives to join our property booth in Patong. Female / Thai national - Friendly personality and outgoing communication skills, fluent in English, multilingual is a plus. Good salary and attractive commission. Send your CV with recent photo to [helenaphuketabc.com](mailto:helenaphuketabc.com). Tel: 076-613680, 087-267 3747 (English). Fax: 076-613680. Email: [helenaphuketabc.com](mailto:helenaphuketabc.com)



## Marketing Staff Wanted

Staff needed to join a marketing team to work in Real Estate. Thai female with good English communication skills.

Please call 089-594 6888. Email: [info@arhouse.asia](mailto:info@arhouse.asia)

## HOST FOR TOUR GROUP

Looking for part time host / guest attendant in Phuket. English speaking. High pay. Email us. Tel: 098-487 4168 (English). Email: [aarenlee@ilike-phuket.com](mailto:aarenlee@ilike-phuket.com)

## SALES REPRESENTATIVES

English speaking TO and Sales Reps needed. Experience in timeshare only. Start immediately. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Email: [hr@davidvacationclub.com](mailto:hr@davidvacationclub.com)

## P.A. / COMPANY SECRETARY

Managing Director of multiple companies is looking for a Phuket-based, native English-speaking foreigner or a Thai national with native English speaking capabilities. • Company Secretary experience is a must. • Experience as an Executive Assistant with strong organizational/detail-oriented administrative skills. Must possess excellent business e-mail correspondence skills. Must also possess excellent note-taking skills and be very computer savvy and proficient with Microsoft Office. Tel: 090-9163460 (English). Email: [securecomm@yahoo.com](mailto:securecomm@yahoo.com)

## EUROPEAN CHEFS

We are hiring Sous Chef and Executive Chef. We want both full-time. Good salary and work permit for the right candidate. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: [hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net](mailto:hrbangtao@oceanresortgroup.net)

## COPY WRITER

Siam Real Estate require an English speaking freelance copy writer with experience in real estate copy. Flexible working-times; own hours. Good rate per copy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to [jobs@siamrealestate.com](mailto:jobs@siamrealestate.com). NO calls.

## LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER

Live-in housekeeper wanted for small family in Kathu. Duties include cleaning, laundry, some childcare and cooking. Excellent salary. Tel: 094-593 0729 (English). Email: [ritalouisedobson@hotmail.com](mailto:ritalouisedobson@hotmail.com)

## BOAT CREW

Two positions available on the Chalong-based premier power catamaran Blue World – a Chinese Speaking Tour Guide and a qualified Boat Engineer. Both vacancies are for Thai Nationals. Excellent conditions and rates of pay. Please send photo and CV to Mike. Tel: 085-475 0447 (English). Email: [blueworldsafaris@gmail.com](mailto:blueworldsafaris@gmail.com)

## Laguna HOLIDAY CLUB

Laguna Holiday Club, part of the Laguna Phuket family of resorts, permits members to own their holiday getaway in one of four luxury room types based on a points system that allows great flexibility.

We are currently seeking passionate and experienced candidates to join our team.

- **Sales Representative** (English with Chinese, Arabic and Russian speaking)
- **In House Sales Representative** (English with Chinese speaking)
- **OPC Team Leader / Marketing (Thai Nationality)**

Have experience in timeshare business for all positions. We are proud to provide an excellent benefits package including: Basic salary, generous commissions, medical coverage, training, etc.

Call for an interview 076-362400 Ext. 5140  
[career@lagunaholidayclub.com](mailto:career@lagunaholidayclub.com)  
Visit us at [www.lagunaholidayclub.com](http://www.lagunaholidayclub.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](mailto:minami007.jn@gmail.com)

## ENGLISH TEACHERS NEEDED

ELT Phuket is looking for teachers. Competitive salary and bonuses. Apply within. Tel: 084-847 3033. Email: [maxbeardsley@gmail.com](mailto:maxbeardsley@gmail.com)

## CHINESE PROPERTY REP

Phuket's leading agency is now looking for one position only to represent us and deal with our Chinese speaking clients. You should have extensive knowledge in sales and know Phuket island well. Reading and speaking Chinese is a must. Terms and conditions will be presented at the interviews. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Please send your resume to [info@phuket-condos-homes.com](mailto:info@phuket-condos-homes.com) For future details, please see our website at [www.phuket-condos-homes.com](http://www.phuket-condos-homes.com)

## GERMAN TEACHER NEEDED

We are looking for a German teacher for a 10-year-old child from 22-28 Dec 2014 and for 1 Jan 2015 - every morning for two hours in Patong. (41) 079-369 6535. Email: [bharati.schneider@gmail.com](mailto:bharati.schneider@gmail.com)

## SWEDISH STAFF

Swedish-speaking 20-30 year old staff wanted. Tel: 089-874 8929 (English). Send your CV & photo to [naturejob13@gmail.com](mailto:naturejob13@gmail.com)

## DEPUTY EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

We require an organized, dynamic and experienced professional to assist our top executive management team. Our business is focused on Hotel Management & Hospitality, Property Management and Financial Services. This role will be biased toward supporting the CEO in financial services, and experience or background in this industry would be ideal. Tel: 087-895 7026 (English). Email: [paceo@richmondth.com](mailto:paceo@richmondth.com)

## Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

### CHALONG

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

### PATONG

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

### PHUKET CITY

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

### CHERNG TALAY

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

### RAWAI

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

### KARON

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

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



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

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

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



Staff urgently required for all service / kitchen positions

- Thai applicants only, permanent residents of Phuket. Must have excellent written and spoken English skills and restaurant experience.
- Benefits: High salary.

**Khun Eddie Tel : 081-187 7242,  
076-346271**

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to:  
Email: [whitebox@ugolinigroup.com](mailto:whitebox@ugolinigroup.com)

**Phuket International Hospital**  
Phuket International Hospital, 44  
Chalemprakiat Rd 9 Rd, Phuket 83000  
Tel: +66 (0) 76249400  
Fax: +66 (0) 76361800

**Phuket International Hospital is looking to recruit:**

- Scandinavian Coordinator
- German Coordinator

- The successful Scandinavian Coordinator candidate be fluent in one or more Scandinavian languages
- The successful German Coordinator candidate be fluent in German
- Other language skills are a strong advantage

Clinical, nursing or relevant healthcare skills or experience, proven ability in promoting marketing strategies, and experience in accountancy are also highly desirable

Please send your CV by email to:  
**james@phuketinternationalhospital.com**  
[www.phuketinternationalhospital.com](http://www.phuketinternationalhospital.com)

#### SALES / OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

Starting in August for 6 months at the Yacht Haven Phuket. Good computer / English skills. Yacht charter company, open to foreigners. Tel: 081-270 2449 (English), 081-978 6086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: [mel@phuket-yachts.com](mailto:mel@phuket-yachts.com)

#### SALESPERSON

Sales person wanted for smart home systems integration company. Please email CV. Tel: 084-443 9863 (English). Email: [daragh@techworx.asia](mailto:daragh@techworx.asia)

#### LICENSED BOAT CAPTAIN SAMUI

For wooden boat under 20 tons at Koh Samui for snorkeling day tours. Tel: 077-961911, 081-737 1984 (English & Thai), 081-396 8383 (English & Thai). Email: [tk@tourskohsamui.com](mailto:tk@tourskohsamui.com)

#### CHINESE REAL ESTATE SALES

Siam Real Estate require experienced Chinese speaking sales person with good English and computer literacy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to [jobs@siamrealestate.com](mailto:jobs@siamrealestate.com) or see [www.siamrealestate.com](http://www.siamrealestate.com)

## Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

#### SUB-EDITOR

- 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](mailto: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

#### THAI TEACHER NEEDED

I'm looking for a private teacher of Thai language for a six-year-old boy. Mobile: 090-957 1687 (English). Email: [zaz.anna18@gmail.com](mailto:zaz.anna18@gmail.com)

#### PART-TIME TEACHERS NEEDED!!

Native speaker for English, Chinese and Japanese. Bachelor's degree or higher. Must be able to teach various ages of students. Tel: 076-219337, 095-429 5251 (English & Thai). Email: [nyc.phuket@gmail.com](mailto:nyc.phuket@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](mailto:hr@davidvacationclub.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@bayshoreprojects.com](mailto:c@bayshoreprojects.com)

#### RENTALS CONSULTANT 100K+

LivePhuket.com is the Number 1 holiday rentals platform in Phuket. We require a talented and smart Rentals Consultant. You have the opportunity to easily earn over 100,000 baht every month! Must be a Thai national and have excellent English, written and spoken. Tel: 092-474 6157. (English) Email: [paul@livephuket.com](mailto:paul@livephuket.com)

myclip studios VS ASIA

#### Career Opportunity : Sales & Marketing Executive (Asia)

We're looking for a new generation responsible for the Asian Market, especially for Hong Kong and China. Our available position is Sales & Marketing Executive. Any interested candidate must be experienced and skilled at sales and marketing for the international market, including online + offline businesses.

Position: Sales & Marketing Executive (Asia)

#### Job Description :

- Search potential customer lists and develop to make sales
- Introduce and present our services to potential customers
- Maintain and develop responsive business strategies for Asia; especially Hong Kong and China
- Implement a knowledge of online marketing, online channels, fashion trends and shopping online

#### Job Qualifications:

- F/M, Thai or Chinese Nationality
- Good communication in Chinese and English skills, good presentation skills,
- Min 2 years experience as Sales Executive (any sales skills will be an advantage).
- Able to work full time at local or overseas country (Hong Kong-China)
- Interested in fashion / photography / creative design / online shopping

#### Salary & Welfare:

Salary, work permit & visa, social security insurance, tax, food, etc. Commission and yearly bonus (upon reaching a sales target)

Any interested candidate please apply in person or send your current resume or CV listing complete employment experience, a recent photograph, references and salary expectations to [info@myclip.asia](mailto:info@myclip.asia) / [info@vsdma.com](mailto:info@vsdma.com) / or call 076-380600

Our Contact Info:

#### MyClip Asia by VS Asia Co., Ltd.

40 and 42 Moo3 Palai Sol 2, Chaofa Rd., Chalong, Muang, Phuket 83130 Thailand

Tel. 076-380-600 Fax. 076-380605

email: [info@myclip.asia](mailto:info@myclip.asia) email: [info@vsdma.com](mailto:info@vsdma.com)

#### SALES / OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

Starting in August for 6 months at the Yacht Haven Phuket. Good computer / English skills. Yacht charter company, open to foreigners. Tel: 081-270 2449 (English), 081-978 6086. Fax: 076-273476. Email: [mel@phuket-yachts.com](mailto:mel@phuket-yachts.com)

#### HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

#### Live in Town?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at iTree Complete Printing Service



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

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

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

#### Live in Patong?

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



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

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

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

Looking for a **JOB?**

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://WWW.PhuketGazette.Net)



## Business Opportunities

RESTAURANT  
FOR RENT

Kata Beach, nice area, 6 months deposit + 20,000 key money. Tel: 095-473 5769.

CHINESE  
PROPERTY REP

Phuket's leading agency is now looking for one position only to represent us and deal with our Chinese speaking clients. You should have extensive knowledge in sales and know Phuket island well. Reading and speaking Chinese is a must. Terms and conditions will be presented at the interviews. Please send your resume to the email address below. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152. Email: info@phuket-condos-homes.com

BUSINESS  
FOR SALE

Looking for a business? Since 2005, Business Brokers in Phuket have been finding the best opportunities and prices. Please call 081-278 71 17(English). Email: unic.coli@gmail.com, www.phuket-islandproperty.com

## RESORT

67/18 Moo 4 Soi Sermasuk. 2 rai. Chanote. 8 bungalows, 22 rooms, restaurant, pool, well, company, reduced to 26mn. Tel: 076-381934, 086-940 1860. Fax: 076-381934. Email: bigasail@samart.co.th, www.bigasailing.com

GUESTHOUSE +  
RESTAURANT SALE

Small guesthouse + restaurant for takeover. Contact for details. Tel: 082-270 6385 (English & Thai), 081-891 4019. Email: tkoschig2000@hotmail.com

## BAR &amp; RESTAURANT

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

## BAR FOR RENT

On Bangla Road. Great location, fully equipped, near road. Contract until January 2015. Price: 590,000 baht only. Contact Khun Robert Tel: 082-829 4106 (English).

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

LIST OF BUSINESSES  
FOR SALE

Buy a Business in Phuket! Email: thaiblazo@gmail.com, www.phuketadvertising.com/business

2 SHOPHOUSES  
FOR RENT

One minute walk to beach. Ideal for restaurant, bar, massage. 2nd fl furnished as 2-bedroom apartment w/2 baths and kitchen. Tel: 084-189 7696(English & Thai). Email: janum0012@hotmail.com

UNIQUE STRETCH  
LIMO BUSINESS

Only stretch limousine in Thailand. Turnkey business with website and many customers. Just start and make money! 2.8 million baht. For more information please call 089-932 5175(English&Thai). Email: woji.dkowbengt@hotmail.com

B10MN MORTGAGE  
WANTED

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

GM TOP ECO-  
RESORT KHAO SOK

Ideal candidate should speak Thai, be keen on environment, strong in web marketing, hospitality business experience. Farang with Thai partner welcome. Compensation 1.2 - 3 million baht per year depending on experience. Work permit, housing and meals provided. For more information, please call 02-863 3180, 081-850 3632 (English). Email: dicksandl@gmail.com

KARON  
GUESTHOUSE

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

GUESTHOUSE  
FOR SALE / RENT

Rawai. Too much to list. For more information please contact 081-808 1804. Email: ttpitstop@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. Email: roy\_baldman@yahoo.com

Bar &  
Restaurant  
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## Phuket Gazette

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.....	
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Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com  
Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com  
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#### PACE 40FT SPORTFISHER



Twin CAT 3208 TA, needs repair, new fiber glass and paint to hull October 2013. Urgent sale. Price: 800,000 baht ono. Tel: 082-839 7701. Email: ger ryhodes@live.com.au

#### HYPALON DINGY 3.3M



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#### VOLVO PENTA 380HP



Marine engines for sale: Volvo Penta TAM71B, 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@food comthailand.com

#### SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic crossword



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. DEVILISH: *dishvile* 10. MAO: Ma-0 11. ERODED: *dodeer* 12. STRATA: *starat* 13. STAGGER: stagger 14. IDOL: I/ D-0-L 15. BENEFICENT: *niceifbent* 17. LICENSED: L-I/C-dense 13. ARRESTS: *shares(R)* 19. SLOT: *lots* 21. OAFISH: *ahifso* 24. MIDSUMMERSOLSTICE: *mocuresmidst smile* 27. HANDED: *denhad* 29. EDEN: *need* 30. TESTATE: test-tea 33. FANFARES: fan-fares 35. SHATTERING: shattering 36. ADEN: a-den 37. UNNERVE: *evenrun* 38. RIDDLE: riddle 40. INSECT: in-sect 41. TOY: to-Y 42. STANDING: standing  
**Down:** 1. KETTLEDUM: *metturkled* 2. DIVA: *avid* 3. FINALIST: *failin-St* 4. CHASTEN: chaste-N 5. COAGULATION: Co-goaltuni 6. DETRACTORS: de-tractors 7. NOTION: not-I-on 8. RECOVERS: Re-covers 10. MEANT: *metan* 16. EMENDED: *deemend* 20. LARGE: *lager* 22. FRITTER: waste 23. IMPERSONATE: *spare no time* 25. UNDERQUOTE: *queerdonut* 26. ENTANGLING: *net-angling* 28. ABANDONS: a-band-son 31. EXTERNAL: *nextreal* 32. FAREAST: *afaster* 34. FUNNEL: fun-len 35. SIRAY: *aysir* 39. DODO: do-do

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## Phuket Domestic MICE Mart

Laguna Phuket was the host venue of Thailand's first Domestic MICE Mart series, which took place last Friday, August 1. The event was the finale of the five-city domestic MICE tradeshow organized by the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau.



## California wine course

Holiday Inn Patong recently hosted an intensive wine course focused on the wines of California. The event was hosted by WineCraft and attended by representatives of the island's top hotels.



From left: Saksri Kerdphol, distributor of The California Wines Company and World Class Wines; Nantachai Keeratimongkollert, director of The California Wines Company; Pongsak Tiamsuttikarn, director of marketing and sales for World Class Wines; and Lim Hwee Peng, international wine specialist.

## Sofitel celebrates 50 years

A fun-loving crowd recently gathered at the renowned Sofitel Krabi Phokeethra Golf & Spa Resort for its first ever Mini Concert and Pool Party. The event was part of Sofitel's ongoing 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations.




Guests enjoyed a refreshing dip in the pool to cool off from the tropical heat of Thailand.



Dozens of guests attended Sofitel's 50<sup>th</sup> year celebrations in Krabi.

 LAND & HOUSES

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**88**  
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## Words from the wise

"It's fine to celebrate success but it is more important to heed the lessons of failure." – Bill Gates

"Failure is not fatal, but failure to change might be."  
– John Wooden

## Hard

	6	9				8	5	
	5	2	1		6	7	3	
	3		6		5		8	
		8			6			
	2		8		1		7	
	8	3	4		7	9	6	
	7	6				4	2	

## Medium

	1			5			7	
7	5						8	4
			2		4			
		8		4		3		
1			7		5			8
		9		1		7		
			9		7			
6	9						2	5
	3			8			6	

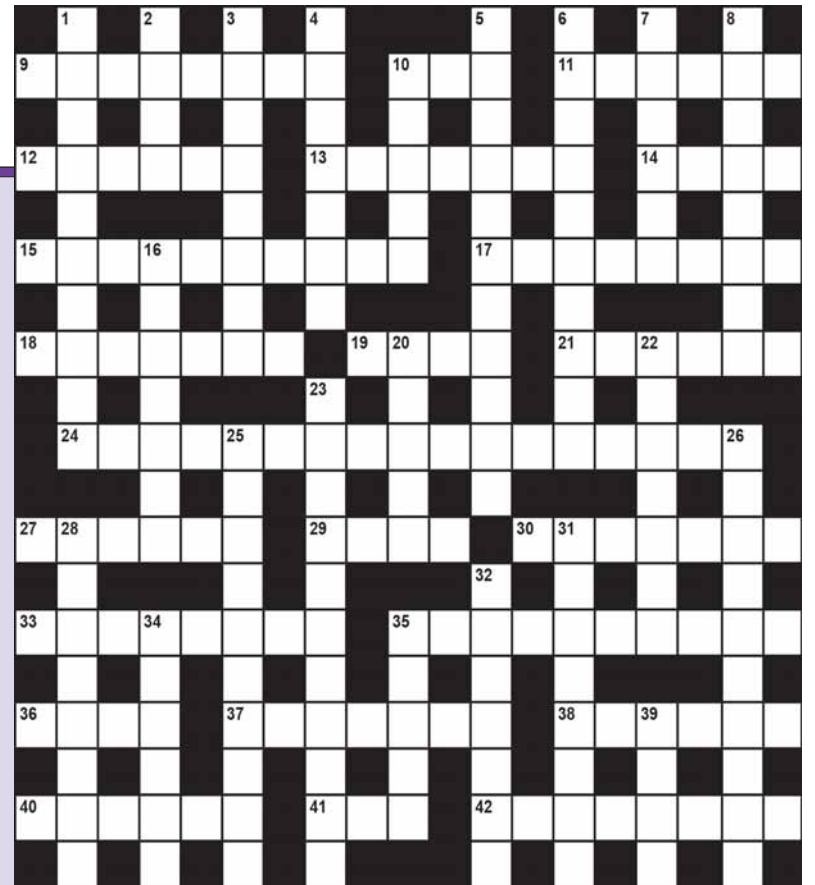
**SUDOKU:** Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. ©Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE  
break

## Cryptic Crossword

## Across

9. Damnable cooked dish vile (8)  
10. Mother nothing to Thai drunk (3)  
11. Worn out, do deer reassemble? (6)  
12. Star at different levels (6)  
13. Leave aghast, walk unsteadily (7)  
14. In identity document, nothing left for greatly respected person (4)  
15. Unusually nice if bent on doing good (10)  
17. Left in charge, maybe dense, but authorized (8)  
18. Stares out, outright, apprehends (7)  
19. Opening lots rearranged (4)  
21. Ah! If so, could be stupid! (6)  
24. M.O. cures, 'midst smile, around the longest day (9,8)  
27. Den had possibly passed over (6)  
29. Need rearrange old garden (4)  
30. Having a will to try tea perhaps (7)  
33. Enthusiast gets along with instrumental flourishes (8)  
35. Breaking up is devastating! (10)  
36. A home in an Arabian port (4)  
37. Make afraid and upset, even run off (7)  
38. Separate out puzzle (6)  
40. Insignificant creature in religious cult (6)  
41. Play to Yankee (3)  
42. Upright reputation (8)



## Down

1. Murk let Ted destroy percussion instrument (6,4)  
2. Prima donna avid to rise (4)  
3. Fail in destroying good man, a competitor in the decisive match (8)  
4. Pure new discipline (7)  
5. Setting firm goal at Uni., unusually (11)  
6. Critics of French farm vehicles (10)  
7. Idea not on, I interposed (6)  
8. Regarding bedclothes, gets better (8)  
10. Met an unusual intended (5)  
16. Deem end bad, took out errors (7)  
20. Lager can be great! (5)

22. Waste food cooked in batter (7)  
23. Spare no time arranging to pass oneself off as (11)  
25. Offer at less than list price a twisted, queer donut (10)  
26. Getting caught up in net awkwardly, fishing (10)  
28. Gives up a band son arranged (8)  
31. Next real move is outside (8)  
32. A faster change in the Orient (3,4)  
34. Fun, Len, working as guide (6)  
35. Ay, Sir, move to an island off Phuket (5)  
39. Party twice with an old bird (4)

## CANCER (June 22-July 23):



Are you involved in finding constructive ways to work around limitations?

Although responding to difficulties may not be easy, part of the reason could be that a creative project or budding relationship is going through growing pains. The full moon could aid you by bringing feelings into the open to be acknowledged and released.

## LEO (July 24-Aug 23):



There's an ongoing dance between expressing your love of life and treading gingerly around home and family affairs which could be holding you back. However, all of this might be helped by focusing on solutions. For romantics, the weekend's full moon could enhance a special occasion and bring you and another even closer.

## VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):



If faced with uncertainty or dilemma, withdrawing from the world may be the wrong strategy, even though it might seem the easiest. Doing

so could add to any confusion when it could be better to tackle the situation head on. This week benefits show up if you're willing to make changes and can zero in on what's best for everyone.

## LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):



Your assertive yet charming way with others can inspire friends to collaborate with

you on creative ideas and other plans. Yet, watch out for unresolved issues that pit your social expectations against a backdrop of financial angst. Later though, the Aquarian full moon brings a promise of fun, along with heady romantic feelings.

## SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):



You might have to contend with a few stumbling blocks concerning the realization of

ambitions. However, attuning to your creative flow could help you see ways around any pitfalls. As the Sun squares Saturn, there's a chance you're resisting an idea or opportunity that may be good for you, if you're willing to give it a chance.

YOUR  
horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

## SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):



Perhaps your mind is set on an idea with an intellectual bias that could help

re-create your future, or maybe faraway shores and exotic sun-kissed locations beckon. Yet, deeper forces are also at work encouraging transformational insights, with the full moon bringing an opportunity to discuss and resolve edgy or awkward feelings.

## CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):



Keep your eyes open for opportunities that arise from seemingly improbable sources, as they could lay the groundwork for future security. In addition, this week's blend of energies hints that it helps to be patient with friends who are on edge. Taking time to talk things over can bring understanding and healing regarding an ongoing issue.

## AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):



The warmth of a confident Leo line-up helps support business and romantic

relationships. Yet, this week's influences can also foster stronger connections with those who might assist you with a key ambition. Later, the full moon in your sign encourages you to share information or feelings that you may have kept to yourself up until now.

## PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):



You seem to be brimming with bright ideas that you're easily able to communicate

and that might benefit your job or income as a result. Be on your guard though, as your positive outlook and resultant success could encourage jealousy. Over the weekend make time to kick back and take it easy, especially if you've been ultra-busy earlier in the week.

## ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):



Complex energies reveal that the week could have its ups and downs, yet with the right approach

you can still overcome difficulties and gain traction. The issue of whether to express yourself and your creativity freely, as opposed to withholding feelings and information, can be eased by allowing your intuition to guide the way ahead.

## TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):



Thoughtful reflection may show you the way to seal a deal or stabilize communications,

particularly around finances and domestic affairs. Although a compromise might not be easy, it's possible that by trying different perspectives for size the right course of action will reveal itself. Yet, flexibility could be a useful asset too.

## GEMINI (May 22-June 21):



Optimism combines with liberating opportunities to encourage new beginnings, second chances and positive initiatives. The current alignment hints at a life-changing decision or a progressive option that could expand your horizons. Yet, as Mercury challenges Saturn, more practical matters could curtail this desire for fresh adventures.



# Ruler of the rubber world

By Jeremie Schatz

IT STARTED way back in the 16<sup>th</sup> century when an explorer saw tribal people in Mexico playing games with balls made out of a soft, bouncy material. It took another couple hundred years before anyone actually sat down and took a long, scientifically inquisitive look at what that material was. And its first practical use came in the form of... an eraser.

Since then, chemists have found different ways to process latex and rubber and whether we realize it or not, we are surrounded by products which contain this naturally occurring material. In Thailand, we are not only surrounded by products, we are in the rubber production capital of the world.

"For the rubber industry in Thailand, it pretty much all started in the southern area... it started in the Hat Yai, Songkhla and the Yala area," said Marketing Assistant of Von Bundit Co, Ltd Michael Ong.

With their main offices located just north of the heart of Phuket Town, family-owned Von Bundit Co, Ltd plays a serious role in the production of rubber for the global market. In fact, after getting into the rubber processing industry in 1987, they now operate the largest processing plant on the planet, located in Surat Thani.

As the largest exporter of raw rubber in Thailand, Von Bundit's five factories churned out 550,000 metric tons last year, or 15 per cent of Thailand's total export. Nearly half of that came out of their behemoth Punpin factory in Surat Thani.

"This factory we actually took over from Euro Siam. Euro Siam was the Thailand-French company. At that time [they produced] only 2,000 tons per month," said Executive Director Tanawat Phankosol.

Von Bundit Co, Ltd acquired their Punpin factory from Euro Siam Co, Ltd in 1994. Since Von Bundit assumed control of the factory, they have been able to ramp up production capacity to a massive 38,000 metric tons per



Von Bundit Co, Ltd Regional Manager Yeamyong Yepmontasiri inspects a rubber sheet and discusses the quality control process with a prospective client from Japan. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

month.

Surprisingly, considering Von Bundit's scale of operations, they don't own a single rubber tree. Instead, some rubber tree plantations are operated as small holdings while others are independent family-owned tracts. About 1 million families in Thailand are involved with rubber production which accounts for four per cent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

The way the system works is that intermediaries – what they call second-dealers in the business – source the latex or rubber (latex comes from the tree and rubber is processed from latex), make an initial assessment of quality, sell the liquid latex directly to the factories, and stockpile the rubber and sell it to the factories when the price is right.

The factories consider a spec-

trum of variables to come up with the current market price, which at the time of writing was about 63.5 baht per kilo.

When asked why they don't

Because the rubber tree plantations are fairly small and there are thousands dotted across the landscape, Von Bundit buys their material from several hundred second-dealers.

In turn, Von Bundit sells to a global market of around 450 customers which range from tire factories to trading houses (companies which manage import-export and purchase and sell goods for another company) that supply various other industries.

"Usually the traders that we sell to, in turn, sell back to the tire manufacturers," explained Mr Ong. He claimed that an estimated 80 per cent of their material found its way to tire manufacturers with Bridgestone being their largest client.

Rubber plantations and processing factories such as Von Bundit plan for a seasonal lull in production during the wintering

period from March through June when the deciduous trees lose their leaves. While typically peak rubber production occurs between November and February, this year the industry suffered from the worst drought in 30 years.

"We expected to be able to tap the latex since June, but as of now we don't see as much latex coming to the market – I would say now about 70 per cent of what we had expected," said Executive Director Bundit Kerdvongbundit.

Last year, rubber farmers took to the streets in protest and demanded that the then current Prime Minister Shinawatra's administration double the existing subsidy. The farmers succeeded, only to see the subsidy abandoned shortly thereafter due to excessive cost and market distortion.

The protests followed a 2012 plan, similar to the rice pledging scheme, which saw the Thai government purchase and stockpile more than 200,000 metric tons of rubber in a failed attempt to raise market prices.

"Government stockpiles [of rubber] can be helpful or harmful depending on the way it is being treated. If we treat the stocks as dead stock that must be sold off, then it is harmful. But if we treat this as strategic stock, where there is proper management, then it will be helpful," explains Mr Bundit.

"Our target is to reach [production of] 1 million tons by 2016 and it should account for about 20 per cent of the total export [from Thailand]."

Currently, the only competition to natural latex and rubber is a chemical version synthesized from crude oil. According to the Rubber Manufacturers Association, more than 70 per cent of all rubber that hits the market today is synthetic.

Following a report that Thai exports in all sectors, except rubber and sugar, were up 2.6 per cent last month, the NCPO announced that it is allocating over 6 billion baht to be distributed to registered rubber farmers to help offset their losses.



As the largest exporter of raw rubber in Thailand, Von Bundit's five factories churned out 550,000 metric tons last year, or 15 per cent of Thailand's total export.

control the entire production process, Mr Ong replied, "For us, we don't want everything. The profit is there but we do want the community to share [in the profits]."

## Cheap eats for all

THE Commerce Ministry and the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) are creating a project to provide the capital's residents with cheaper food and drinks.

According to Miss Chutima Boonyaprapat, the Ministry's Permanent Secretary, the two agencies would push to establish at least 1,000 vendors offering discounted food throughout the capital.

She said that the vendors would provide meals priced within the range of 25-35 baht. Miss Chutima, added that the project would eventually expand throughout the capital and reach distant provinces. – NNT

## Expanding investment

THE Thai Board of Investment (BOI) held a seminar for Thai entrepreneurs last Friday at the Montien Hotel, Pattaya, Chonburi Province to develop entrepreneurs' potential for international expansion.

Siriporn Nurak, director of the Northern Region Investment and Economy Center announced that the BOI has set policies to fully promote Thai entrepreneurs looking to invest abroad. The new policy is an adjustment of strategic investment plans and seeks to educate investors about the business environment in countries which they are considering investing in. – NNT

## Preserving IP rights

THE National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) has called a meeting searching for effective measures to deal with intellectual property (IP) rights violations in Thailand.

Head of the NCPO's economic division ACM Prajin Juntong has convened with officials from the Commerce Ministry with the objective of hammering out legal provisions and practical guidelines for future implementation.

The efforts are in a bid to gain a better ranking in the US's annual Special 301 Report on Intellectual Property Rights. – NNT

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# Youthful energy

## What Club Med's newest face lacks in age, he makes up with experience

By Maciek Klimowicz

PORTUGAL, France, Morocco, Switzerland, Australia, Indonesia and Mauritius are some of the places where Julien Heritier worked in the past. That's enough work experience to split between a couple of 40-year-old managers. Yet Julien is just 27 and now he has landed in Phuket to take the reins of the Club Med resort in Kata Beach as the resort's new hotel services manager.

It was two years before Julien Heritier was born when Club Med opened in Phuket in 1985 to completely change the face of the island. Its launch marked the beginning of a new era in Phuket's history that changed it from an industrial center to one of the world's top tourism destinations. Today, 29 years later, Club Med Phuket is still here and two months ago Julien Heritier joined its team.

"I asked to be relocated to Phuket after one and a half years in Mauritius," he explains. "It's good to stay in one place for at least one year which allows you

to make real change, but then it's good to keep on the move and have new people come in and bring new ideas."

It's also the need for fresh, new ideas that brought Julien to Phuket. Two months in and he is already working on improving the resort's services.

"We already begun the changes. Phuket is visited by many different nationalities and they usually stay short term – a couple of days – which has to be reflected in our program, the information we provide to the guest and so on. It's all these kind of things that we're working on with our team to bring the best quality of service to our guests."

One of the recent developments at Club Med includes a new guest relations desk with information in different languages. This information reaches the customer not only when they are at the resort, but also before their arrival to Phuket and after they leave, in the form of a postcard or a snapshot from their stay on the island.

Another idea is to open the resort to outside guests. "A few

years ago Club Med was more of a closed property only for the residents of the resort. But now we are open to outside guests," explains Julien.

This opening is to be achieved through Club Med day and night passes which grant the guest access to the resort's facilities plus dining, bar and live entertainment. With the Phuket resort's focus on land activities like basketball, archery, tennis and trapeze, the offer should appeal both to individual guests as well as companies looking for team-building activities for their employees.

It's this diversity and chance to work with different people that Julien enjoys working with Club Med. "I like the diversity, I work with a number of services like housekeeping, reception, public relations, bar and restaurant, kitchen, groups and incentives. I like working with different people. Here in Phuket we have more than 200 employees in the hotel services. It's not monotone, everyday is different," he explains.



Photo: Maciek Klimowicz

Club Med's new hotel services manager Julien Heritier.

Julien comes from a traditional hospitality background and it's his education and experience that he believes helped him achieve his position at such a young age.

"I completed the École hôtelière de Lausanne. Also my experience from a number of countries helped me learn how to work with different people, in different cultures, and at establishments of different levels from three to five stars."

All this should also help Julien

in ensuring a pleasant stay for the 750 guests at the resort's 340 rooms. A task he is eagerly looking forward to. He has visited Phuket three times before and now, two months after his arrival to the island, he's getting the idea of the island's atmosphere and culture. But whatever the future brings, his previous experience taught him one thing, to adjust.

"I can't say some places are easier to work at than others, I just adapt."

# How will markets react to the end of stimulus?

THE Fed has finally announced a specific month to mark the end of their stimulus program which has been running since the beginning of the financial crisis in 2008. In the minutes of their most recent meeting, they have announced their intention to continue scaling back monthly bond purchases, which had run at US\$85 billion per month, and to end the program with their final purchase in October. The implications for the broader markets could be very substantial.

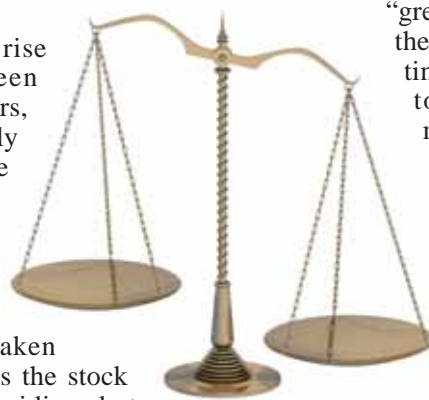
The thing about stock markets, or any exchange traded security for that matter, is that buying and selling pressure is ultimately the reason for them to go up or down. Usually, good economic times spur investors to feel optimistic, and thus the balance shifts to an excess of buying pressure and markets rise. What has been going on, however, is that this massive amount of buying into bonds by the Federal Reserve has led to the money finding its way into risky assets such as the stock market. We have seen one of the greatest runs in the

history of the New York Stock Exchange since 2008 while the world has teetered economically on the brink of disaster.

Further fueling the rise in markets has been demand from pensioners, who would normally rely on safe, fixed-income investments. As the Federal Reserve has continued to maintain a long-term zero per cent interest rate policy, these investors have taken advantage of the returns the stock markets have been providing, but they are playing a very dangerous game. While the end of the stimulus program is in sight, keep in mind that currently there is still US\$35bn per month being pumped into the markets by the Fed. Market rises usually end when there is

## Finance

By David Mayes



Graphic: Toby Hudson

nobody left to buy. The markets really do function just like a Ponzi scheme. As long as there continues to be a "greater fool", as the famous theory coins those who continue to buy and push prices to new highs even as markets get ready to crash, the ride continues. However, at some point everybody who is going to invest, already has.

This is a very important point in time, because all of those who had been buyers now become potential sellers. When the selling pressure becomes stronger than the buying pressure, prices begin to fall. Panic usually ensues and accelerates the process until it becomes a full-blown crash. This cycle has been repeating for as long as

there have been exchanges.

So as of October, every institutional investor and pensioner that has relied on the biggest buyer to come to the market each month and propel the Dow Jones to the ridiculous 17,000+ level it is currently hovering around, will be left on their own. The big question now is this. Is there anybody left to buy? Will the balance of pressures shift dramatically in the absence of such a large underlying bid to the market?

Unfortunately, nobody knows for sure. The one thing that is certain however, is that the downside risk in the stock market is currently at some of the highest levels of my working life.

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



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## MICE Mart makes it to Phuket

PHUKET played host as the final stop on a five city tour of the first annual MICE Mart trade show on Friday.

Organized by the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB), the events sought to promote MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) activities in hotspots throughout the Kingdom.

The Phuket event saw 50 sellers representing hotels, convention venues, business event organizers and tour agencies, as well as 60 buyers from the public and private sectors. The tour had made stops in

Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Pattaya and Khon Kaen before the final stop at Laguna Phuket. The organizers hope that the event will play a key role in elevating Phuket to become ASEAN's leading MICE destination.

"In line with TCEB's bold 2014-18 Andaman tourism development plan, advancement of MICE in Phuket will be achieved using a three-pillar approach, including the development of infrastructure, the development of tourism and natural conservation, the development of human resources and marketing promotion capabilities. All three pil-

lars will be underpinned by TCEB's three key strategies: win, promote and develop," said TCEB President Nopparat Maythaveekulchai.

The TCEB has teamed up with Phuket Rajabhat University in the implementation of a development strategy to establish a provincial MICE database.

The TCEB has announced that they predict a 2 per cent growth of the domestic MICE market in 2014, the number of MICE travellers to reach 4.5 million and revenue to rise 4 per cent to over 14 billion baht.

– Phuket Gazette



# Life's a breeze by The Bay

By Mark Knowles

THE Bay Presta is a modern duplex-housing and commercial building estate that seems to have struck the perfect balance of location, style and diversity

to entice buyers to snap it up quickly. In fact, 95 per cent of the available residential units in the coastal housing estate have been sold, with just three units still available.

Located just east of the charming heart of Phuket Town, near all of the recreational facilities of Saphan Hin Park, residents will also have easy access to bustling downtown street markets, several shopping centers, supermarkets as well as Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

With a total of 56 commercial and residential units spread over 6.5 rai, including 24 commercial shop-house-style units and 32 duplex residential units in two layout variations, the development looks set to be a hub of activity in the area.

There are three duplex house type B units still available and the developers have just announced a special promotion to entice buyers to buy them. The promotion includes a reduction in the required deposit, from 25,000 baht down to only 5,000 baht and the contract fee will be reduced to only 80,000 baht from 100,000 baht. Too

**PROPERTY**  
**Gazette**

sweeten the deal further, all three houses come with three air conditioners and two water heaters installed.

The type B units, with a generous floorspace of 215 square meters, are

priced from 4.59 million baht and include two car parking spaces. Located on the edge of a natural mangrove forest, the development is perfectly situated to take advantage of cooling sea-breezes and residents will have access to a large communal garden for socializing and outdoor activities. All residential units are scheduled to be completed by June 2015, and commercial units by January 2015.

According to the developers, the area surrounding The Bay Presta has been slated for improvements by Phuket municipality to increase the quality of living for local residents. And it is also located close to the planned route of the proposed Phuket monorail system.

"This piece of land has a lot more potential than everyone thinks. In the near future, Phuket Municipality is planning to develop the area around the project so that people will have a better quality of living. Moreover, the [proposed] monorail will also be passing Saphan Hin Intersection as well, which is very close to The Bay Presta,"



The Bay Presta is located on the breezy coastal edge of the Phuket Town Photos: Supplied

said a company representative.

The developers are also welcoming foreign investors to buy into the project, offering to provide legal assistance to ensure that foreign buyers can be confident in their purchase.

"There is no specific condition. If you would like to be a part of The Bay Presta,

we can work things out together. We can provide a law consultant that will guide you through everything that must be done in order for you to become a part of our family."

For more information call 095-429 5700 or visit [thebaypresta.com](http://thebaypresta.com)

## Property associations urge changes to fees

THREE property associations will propose that the Finance Ministry revise all current taxes and fees in the property sector to match the Land and Construction Act, which is being considered by the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO).

The Thai Real Estate Association, Housing Business Association and Thai Condominium Association plan to send a draft of their proposals to the ministry today.

Last month, the ministry proposed to the NCPO two acts to cover inheritance tax and a land and construction tax. The stated aim of this legislation is fairness for Thai society. Similar bills have been proposed before but previous elected governments failed to make pass such laws because of opposition from wealthy landlords.

"If the Finance Ministry wants a law governing land and construction tax, it has to revise other fees and taxes that landowners, property developers and home-buyers have to pay. That would ensure fairness for all of parties," said Thai Condominium Association president Prasert Taedullayasatit, who is also managing director for condominiums at Pruksa Real Estate.

At present, when people buy a home, they have to pay a transfer fee of 2 per cent of the asset's appraised value and a 1 per cent mortgage fee, while property firms have to pay a 3.3 per cent special business tax.

Meanwhile, when people sell a home they have owned for less than five years, they also have to

pay the special business tax of 3.3 per cent, and must add the revenue from the sale to their personal income for tax purposes. If they have owned the home for more than five years they can avoid the special business tax, but still must declare the sale revenue as income.

Prasert argued that if a land and construction tax were added to these existing costs, it would be unfair to homeowners. His association is therefore urging that the transfer and mortgage fees be reduced if the new tax becomes a reality. It also wants either a cut in the special business tax from 3.3 per cent or adjustments to the requirement for home-sale revenue to be included as personal income for tax purposes.

This would reduce costs for homebuyers and owners. It would also help drive the property market, for both new and resale homes, in a sustainable way, he said.

Housing Business Association president Atip Bichanond said his group was proposing exemption from the land and construction tax for homes with appraised asset value of not over 1 million baht or land not over 50 square wah (200 square metres). This would be fair for low-income people.

Kittipol Pramote na Ayudhya, director of the Thai Real Estate Association, said the land and construction tax could result in fairness for society. However, the tax has to be fair for lower-income people and also have a clear system for considering who has to pay it and who does not.

— The Nation

  
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# These are a few of my favorite things



## Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

HAVE you ever heard music ringing in your ears or else started humming to yourself in a hotel room? You have indeed stumbled as an extra onto the movie *Sound of Music*. Not. But hotels that provide an emotional uplift from design, art or creative energy can be a source of inspiration for even the most road hardened traveller.

What's key to this type of experience is that the luxury of style can be affordable. One of my touchstones remains the legendary citizenM brand. This brand has set the gold standard – starting out in the Netherlands, and now featuring properties in London, New York and Glasgow. I was recently in an audience listening to Michael Levie, one of the company's founders, who talked about the importance of communal areas and the wisdom of encouraging guests to get out of their rooms and congregate in the open areas – similar to how people living in a house tend to gravitate towards the living room.

Earlier this year, citizenM announced a roll-out in Asia, in partnership with Shun Tak Hold-

ings, under the venture name of Artyzen. China, and eventually gateway cities in Southeast Asia, are both high on the expansion agenda. Shun Tak was founded by gaming magnate Stanley Ho and is now looked after by the next generation of his family. Part of their game plan in Asia included recruiting noted hotelier Edmund



citizenM has set the gold standard for affordable, yet stylish, hotels. Photo: citizenM

Ip, whose work history includes positions with Banyan Tree, Hyatt and InterContinental.

But back to my own wish list of hotel brands that create a difference – from European budget-with-style group Chic + Basic, to the more upscale Grupo Habita in Mexico, which is sprouting wings internationally or Australia's funky QT Hotels and Resorts. Travellers can now come out, come out, wherever they are and play (or work).

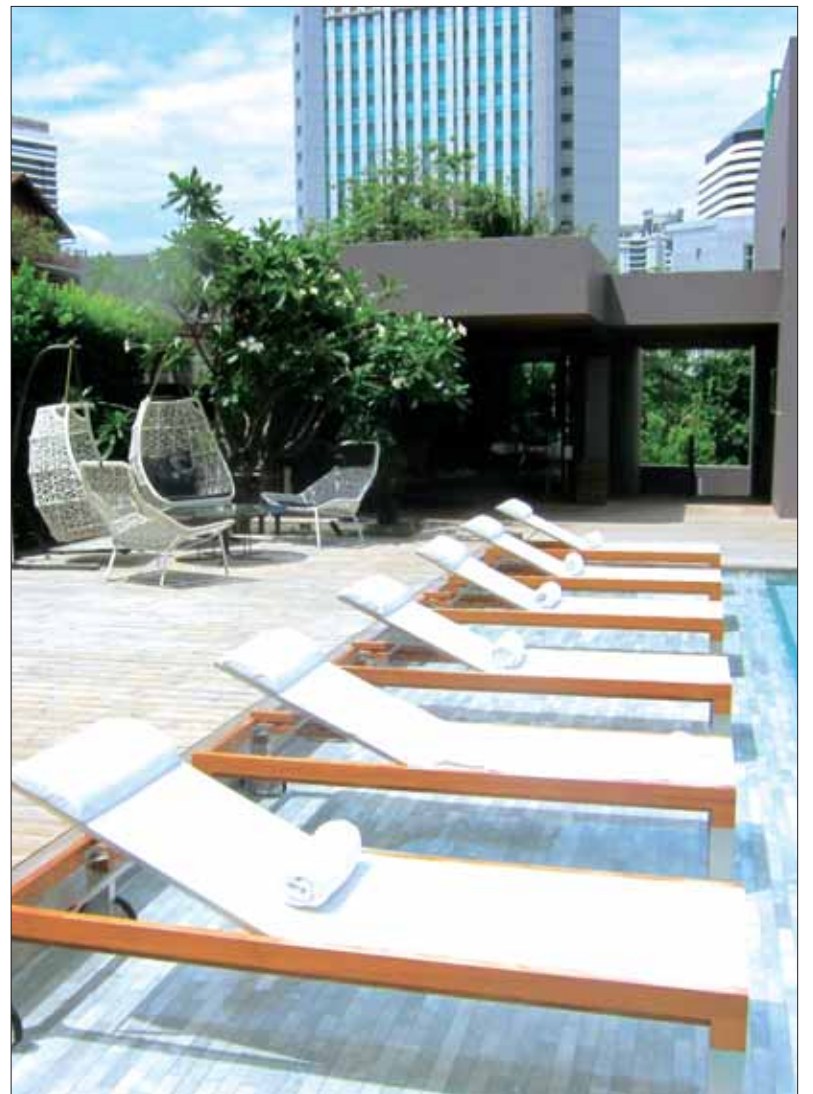
Institutional hotel groups re-

main keen to cash-in and develop scalable models. From IHG's Indigo, to Hyatt's Andaz, the big boys want in on the game. One venture that has captured wider imagination is hospitality giant Marriott's venture with IKEA on the brand Moxy. Brash, bold and now developing a footprint across Europe, keep an eye on this mover and shaker. Certainly, there are other contenders, from Starwood's Aloft, Radisson Red, and even the purpose built Yotel who tasked aircraft designers with creating the perfect little-big hotel room.

Going local is never a bad idea and one small but inspirational property that recently opened is Ad Lib just near Bumrungrad hospital, Bangkok. Here, Thai entrepreneur Gavin Vongkusolkiet enlisted architect Martin

Palleros of Twinpalms Phuket fame, James Stuart of The Brand Company and Bangkok interior firm August to come up with an understated, creative and stylish design.

It's understated and out of the ordinary. One key feature is the food and beverage operation which is linked to Gavin's other ventures Kuppa Deli and Glowfish communal work spaces. Technology has been integrated thoughtfully by leading Hong Kong guru Terence Ronson – with



The Ad Lib features understated, creative and stylish design. Photo: Bill Barnett

a focus of form and function.

Staying small and thinking outside the box is something which looks to be happening across Asia and certainly the signs are right here in Thailand. Despite the creep of same-sames into the marketplace, and the creation of an entirely new set of bed factories, the flip side of the coin has some impressive new players bringing impressive new products into the

market. Just as low-cost airlines have changed our lives in such a profound way, the new niche hotels look to make travellers lives more interesting by tapping into our sense of individualism.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hotelworks. He can be contacted through: [c9hotelworks.com](http://c9hotelworks.com). See more of Bill's writing on his hotel industry focused blog *The Phuket Insider*

## Sansiri raises registered capital to 19.82 bn baht

SANSIRI'S board of directors has approved an increase in registered capital from 11.61 billion baht to 19.82bn baht as it seeks to boost its profit margin and achieve double-digit annual revenue growth, company president Srettha Thavisin said.

"Increasing our registered capital is part of our re-engineering of our business structure, what we call 'engineering for growth', by focusing on three categories: cost management, market strategy, and administrative costs. This will drive long-term, sustainable growth of our business," he said.

He added that the company had put off increasing its registered capital since 2009, but saw the need to do so now to support its business growth for the long haul.

After the increase, Sansiri's gearing ratio will drop from 2.1:1 to 1.5:1 by the end of this year and is targeted at 0.8:1 by 2017.

Chief operating officer Wanchak Buranasiri said the increase in registered capital would have little dilution effect on existing shareholders.

To increase registered capital by 8.2bn baht, the company will issue 3,614,411,911 new shares for its existing shareholders, for whom three existing shares will be worth one new share priced at 1.07 baht. Existing shareholders who buy the new shares will get one warrant for every three existing shares.

The board of directors will propose the capital increase at the shareholders meeting on September 12.

Srettha said that after Sansiri's financial restructuring is complete by the end of the year, it would also restructure its cost management by improving its construction system. It will also revise its marketing strategy to focus on its house brand and adjust its advertising strategy. These measures should boost its net profit margin and annual business growth to double digits between now and 2017.

It will develop residential projects throughout the country, but 80 per cent of its revenue will be from metropolitan Bangkok. Up to 40 per cent of its revenue



Srettha Thavisin. Photo: The Nation

will be from detached houses, 45 per cent from condominiums, and the rest from townhouses.

In terms of customer base, 30 per cent of its revenue will come from the premium market – units costing more than 20 million baht – 35 per cent from the medium market, and the rest from the lower-priced market.

Sansiri is confident of hitting its revenue target of 34bn baht this year, Srettha said.

In the first quarter, the company recorded revenue of 5.5bn baht and net profit of 829.98mn baht.

– *The Nation*

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Theroux spent six years of his youth teaching English in Africa. Now he says he is abandoning the continent forever. Photo: Bjorn Christian Torrisen

# Theroux throws in the towel

## Books

By James Eckardt

THE cover of Paul Theroux's new travel book, *The Last Train to Zona Verde* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York, 2013, 353p), is a whopping case of false advertising. The cover photo shows a railway track plunging into jungle. So the reader naturally anticipates the kind of train travel book – *The Great Railway Bazaar* and *The Old Patagonian Express* – that made Theroux's name and fortune. But there is no train in this book, or rather there is, but Theroux at the last moment fails to get on it.

Subtitled *My Ultimate African Safari*, this is Theroux's 17<sup>th</sup> travel book. He has also written 29 novels, the first few about Africa where he spent six years of his youth teaching English, including a stint as a Peace Corps volunteer in Malawi just as it turned independent in 1964. The most epic of his journeys, chronicled in *Dark Star Safari*, was from Cairo to Cape Town, roughing it all the way on bad roads in bandit country. Snubbed by international aid workers, he pilloried them as the villains in his last novel, *The Lower River*, about a Peace Corps

volunteer who returns to his village in Malawi after four decades.

In this sequel to *Dark Star Safari*, ten years later at age 70, Theroux heads up the west coast of Africa from Cape Town. Theroux has a lot of political opinions about South Africa and vents them freely and, alas, boringly. He is fascinated by the Bushmen of Namibia but discovers that they had abandoned their ancient hunter-gatherer lifestyle a half century ago. He despises zoos and animal shows but admits to enjoying a rustic camp in Botswana that caters to millionaires and features rides on domesticated African elephants.

It isn't till he crosses the border into Angola that he hits his narrative stride.

"No tourists ventured into the border area – why would they? The hotels were terrible, the food was filthy, the people were suspicious

and occasionally hostile. The roadside was littered with broken glass and crushed soda cans. A foul smell hung over it all – the stink of the latrines, of poverty, smoking gar-

bage heaps, diesel fumes."

This is a land of no wild game after 30 years of civil war. The country is rich in oil and diamonds but government is utterly ruthless and corrupt, leaving its people to live in squatter slums of hopeless grinding poverty.

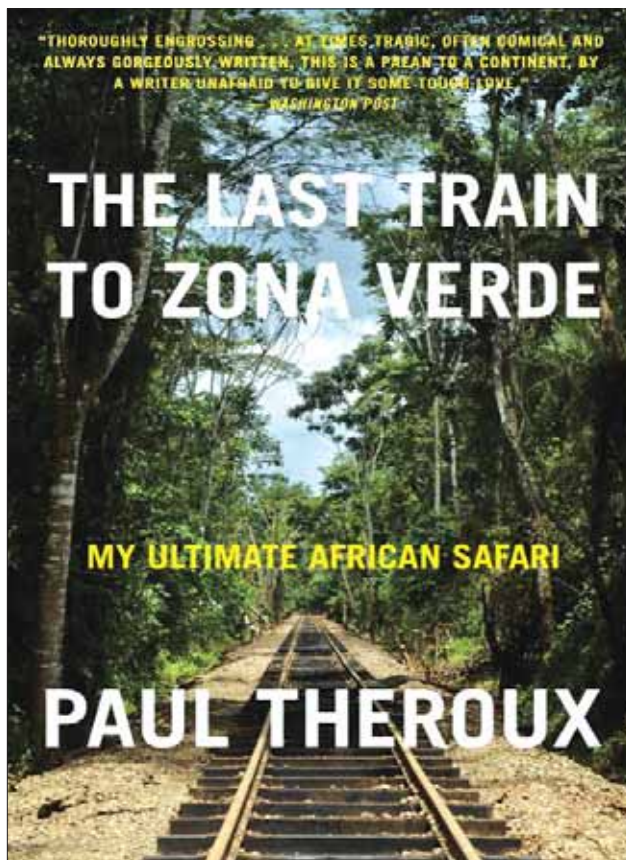
"Ondangwa was a blight of shacks, old cars, and empty shops, of skinny dogs chewing at heaps of trash, of crowds of people, some staring, some casually quarreling. Ondangwa was built on sand and scrub. There were no trees; it was a town without shade; its people dressed in cast-off clothes; nothing worked."

Luanda, the capital, is the innermost circle of a Dantesque hell.

Historian Rui da Camara e Sousa enlightens Theroux about the wretched four-century shambles of Portuguese colonialism, founded by slave traders and convict settlers.

The latest convict settlers were the Chinese sent on state construction projects. Now 70,000 Chinese have fanned out around the country to dominate the local economy. Theroux sees "Chinese digging into Africa, isolated in their enterprises, offhand with Africans to the point of rudeness, and deaf to any suggestion that they moderate their self-serving ways. Like the other adventurers in Africa, the Chinese are exploiters. They have no compact or agreement or involvement with the African people. Theirs is an alliance with the dictators and bureaucrats whom they pay off and allow to govern abusively..."

Theroux becomes so depressed in Luanda that he even sees the music and laughter in the slums as a form of desperate psychosis. At the last moment, he refuses to get on a train to the eastern bush country of Malanje. Instead he flies back to Cape Town. He reveals that his original destination had been Timbuktu but that was now under the control of fanatical Muslims as was much of northern Nigeria. His last chapter is a semi-hysterical rant about just how much he is fed up with the filth and fetor of one African slum after another. He is abandoning the continent forever.



Theroux's 17th travel book, no train journeys this time though.

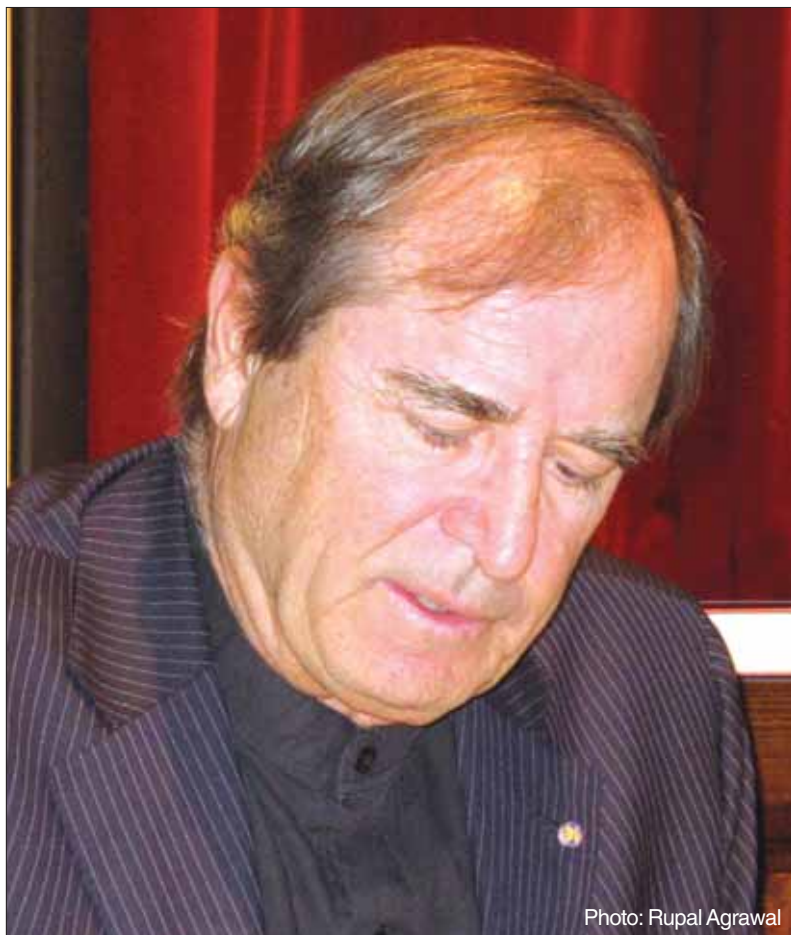


Photo: Rupal Agrawal

Theroux's has written 29 novels, the first few were about Africa.

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# The Angel takes flight



By Somchai Huasaikul

FOR better or worse, reality TV shows are an increasingly popular global phenomenon. Just about any country you can name has got its own version of “(Fill-in-the-blank)’s Got Talent!”, but trendsetting Thailand is the first to launch a reality TV show worthy of mention in an aviation column – one in which the winner secures what is still considered a dream job among many young Thai women: being an air hostess.

July 5 marked the premier of the new reality TV show The Angel. The fun and exciting competition, which has the Thai name Naang Faa Tit Peek (literally, “fairy with wings stuck on”), is worth watching even for those who do not understand much spoken Thai.

Indeed, the visual aspects alone are probably reason enough for tuning in: the contestants are attractive and vivacious young women who are definitely not too shy to strut their stuff in shorts and spaghetti straps before the eyes of the nation on primetime television.

There are no fatties in the mix. All con-

testants must meet strict requirements to be an air hostess for low-cost carrier Nok Air, the show’s primary sponsor. They must be no older than 26, hold at least a bachelor’s degree, stand no taller than 160cm – and they must be “real women”: no ladyboys need apply.

Up In The Air spoke with The Angel’s Public Relations Director Natdao “Toey” Jatupongsa about the concept behind the show.

The Angel is the brainchild of well-known Thai TV actor and game show host Kris Sripoomseth, owner of production firm Flagship Entertainment and also the high-powered host of The Angel.

“He wanted to follow the standard reality TV show format that has made shows like Thailand’s Got Talent popular, but he also wanted to develop a new concept, unique to Thailand. That is when the idea of a reality TV show to decide who could be a Nok Air hostess was born,” she said.

“Stewardess” or “flight attendant” might not seem like such desirable a job title these days in countries like the US or in Europe, where aviation union’s fight against age restrictions has resulted in many stewardesses or stewards old enough to be grandparents.

But here in Thailand, where these restrictions do not apply, the profession retains the cachet it once held in the West. So much so, that over 500 would-be angels made it into The Angel’s “belt audition” round, so-called because the contestants appear before the three judges on a baggage conveyor belt.

The belt audition rounds were followed by a month of “seat auditions”. Now under-



The contestants must be no older than 26, hold at least a bachelor’s degree, stand no taller than 160 cm – and they must be “real women”: no ladyboys need apply. Photo: Supplied



The victorious Angel will become a ‘brand ambassador’ for Nok Air. Photo: Supplied

way, these are the rounds in which the 200 remaining contestants who survived the belt audition are culled down to just 10 finalists, all of whom will be offered highly-coveted air hostess jobs with Nok Air.

As part of the seat audition rounds, the stewardesses are put into groups of eight and asked to rank themselves as to who is best qualified to be a Nok air hostess, with number eight automatically going home. The contestants initially show solidarity, but that is relentlessly broken down by the high-powered Kris, who singles them out and yells: “Quick, the plane is going down! You need to make a decision! Who is least qualified to be an air hostess?!”

Much dramatic backstabbing ensues to the delight of the large studio audience and panel of judges.

Whoever emerges as The Angel after the semifinal and final rounds are completed will not only be offered an air hostess position, but also will become a “brand ambassador” for Nok Air.

The eventual Angel will probably stand a good chance of simply climbing the stairway to heaven after collecting cash and prizes, including a car and condo, valued at around 6.5 million baht.

One has to wonder just how likely it is to ever see her pushing one of those awkward service carts up and down the aisle of a Boeing 737 painted like a big yellow bird.

In order not to defuse the growing suspense, Ms Natdao did not want to give away too much about what lies ahead in future episodes, but she did reveal that there will be a check for tattoos (which are not allowed by Nok Air), a swimsuit competition and even a swimming competition.

“All air hostesses need to be able to swim in case there is an emergency landing at sea,” she pointed out.

The Angel airs on Thai TV Channel 3 every Saturday from 5:30pm to 7pm until the finals on September 22.

## Phuket Airport lags behind other Asian airfields: Phuket Poll

PHUKET International Airport (HKT) was ranked poorly by *Phuket Gazette* readers in an online poll, with far less than one quarter of those taking part overall rating it favorably (“good” or “excellent”) when compared with other airports in the region.

The poll, concluded just before the National Council for Peace and Order took power on

May 22, found that just 22 per cent of readers overall rated HKT good (16 per cent) or excellent (6 per cent), while 61 per cent rated it unfavorably (“unimpressive” (27 per cent) or “poor” (34 per cent). The remainder rated it as “fair”.

By demographic, Thais taking part rated HKT the highest. Thirty-one per cent of Thais rated it as good or excellent compared

to just 13 per cent of expatriate residents, while 25 per cent of those identifying themselves as tourists gave the airfield a favorable rating.

A total of 3,191 readers took part in the 58-day poll, 702 identifying themselves as Thai; 1,260 as “local foreign residents” and 1,229 as “tourists or visitors to Phuket”.  
– *Phuket Gazette*



HKT was rated ‘poor’ by 34 per cent of readers. Photo: Gazette file



# Ao Po Grand goes large

By Chris Husted

PHUKET'S Ao Po Grand Marina, which opened as the island's latest high-end addition to the marina scene in 2008, has undergone a major upgrade to allow a fleet of more luxury yachts to take advantage of the east coast haven.

The expansion of the marina now allows 220 boats in the water, explained Marina Manager Derrick van Deventer.

"We can now accommodate 12 yachts of up to 60m berthed stern to, and three superyachts of up to 80m length moored alongside – all at the same time," said Derrick, a stalwart of Phuket's marina scene for more than 10 years.

The expansion includes boat services on land, with room for 60 boats on the hardstand, where owners can make use of the full services available, from hull repairs to deck rebuilds to chandlery and electrical services.

"We can currently haul out boats weighing up to 47 tonnes with a draft of 2.1m," said Derrick, "But we will soon have a new trailer that can lift yachts of up to 90 tonnes with a 3.5m draft. By the end of October, we will have an extra 5,000sqm for the hardstand."

But key to the expansion is the sea wall, which should be finished this week, explained Derrick.

"The sea wall provides 24/7 protection for the marina. No matter how strong the wind or the waves are, you can now come and go as you please – 24 hours a day, all year round," he noted.

Inside the barrier, the marina offers a seven-meter draft at low tide and maintains a three-meter draft all the way in to the smaller berths closer to shore.

Tied up proudly at the end of the new pier as testament to the marina's attraction for superyachts is the *Lady D*, measuring over 65m in length. The *Lady D* is usually based at Raffles Marina in Singapore, but is known to regularly take advantage of Phuket's spectacular cruising grounds.

Also among the mix berths in the marina are stunning Penisi wooden craft and even a Pershing 92, the envy of every luxury speed freak on water.

And with the boats comes the lifestyle. "Many of the boat owners fly down to enjoy the cruising ground and then head off," explained Derrick, noting that the marina is a 20-minute easy drive from the airport.

"We even have a Custom 60m superyacht on its way, scheduled to arrive by December, that will berth with us full time," he added.

Looking to make the most of his time while enjoying his yacht, the owner of the Pershing 92 has already bought one of the luxury residence units under construction at the Marina Living complex.

The units, being built by Italian-Thai Co Ltd, are scheduled for completion by April 2015, and are part of the marina's vision of providing a complete nautical experience, explained Derrick.

"It has always been the owner's vision to provide a complete nautical experience, from the water to the land," he said.

Central to this vision is the concept of "Aseanarean" – a term coined over a decade ago to describe a network of high-end marinas throughout Southeast Asia, and of course their inhabitants and their luxurious lifestyle.



The 65m 'Lady D', usually berthed at Raffles Marina in Singapore, has made her way up to Ao Po in Phuket.

Each unit owner has access to a private elevator that opens only to his or her unit.

All of the 2-3 bedroom units span the entire width of the building, giving the master bedroom a view of the sunrise over the marina and views of Koh Yao Yai and Noi, and Naka Island. The guest

bedroom has a view of the sunset over the hills behind.

With windows and balcony doors at each end, the design allows for cool breezes to enter each unit from either side, and thus uses the "local knowledge" of Aseanareans in enjoying nature, explained Managing Director Kasem Chiarasomboon.

Mr Kasem also pointed out the use of natural wood throughout and how design motifs bring a flair that ensures guests know they are in Southeast Asia. There is *takien thong* "Thai teak" ceiling on the deck, over the sun lounge and jacuzzi, and real wood throughout the units.

The bespoke design furniture, in its sublime simple, sturdy style, was created by a Thai who was based and worked in Paris, Mr Kasem noted, then pointed out the quality wood used for the "propeller" blades on the fans.

For a taste of what the completed units will look like, either inspect the viewing unit at the main marina building or venture into the recently revamped Port of Call clubhouse, which continues the design theme outside the units – as if guests never left home.

Other simple lifestyle additions available at the marina include the 18m infinity-edge pool in front of the clubhouse, use of the gym and its two resident trainers, a sauna, steam rooms, private massage facilities and a 25m infinity-edge pool for the exclusive use of the unit owners – the list goes on.

If Ao Po Grand Marina is making one bold statement in its philosophy, it must be that if you love life on the water, you might as well push the boat out a little further and enjoy the same luxury on land.



'It has always been the owner's vision to provide a complete nautical experience, from the water to the land'

– Derrick van Deventer, Marina Manager

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A screen grab from the award-winning documentary 'The Cove'. Image: Oceanic Preservation Society

## Dolphin rights activist show 'The Cove'

THE award-winning documentary *The Cove* was screened at Central Festival and Prince of Songkla University (PSU) this week to raise awareness of how dolphins are caught at the Taiji Cove in Japan and sold for use in dolphinariums around the world.

The screenings of *The Cove* come as environmentalists continue their campaign against the opening of the Nemo Dolphinarium. The facility is currently under construction in Chalong, which upon opening will become the first dolphinarium in Phuket.

Organizers of the screening, including Sea Shepherd Global and Ric O'Barry's Dolphin Project, as well as Phuket community members are all calling on the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO), the Fisheries Department and Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut to stop the opening of Nemo Dolphinarium.

"Dolphins are loved, and a symbol of our ocean's beauty and health," said their press release. "Displaying imprisoned, wild-caught animals says [that] Phuket doesn't care about the ocean, but only about profit."

*The Cove* received critical acclaim on its release in 2009 and won 25 film awards.

According to Sea Shepherd Global, several of the six dolphins for the facility are being transported from the Ukraine, but were originally caught in Japan.

— *Phuket Gazette*

# Army stormed Phuket before coup, for diving

## Diving

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

MONTHS before General Prayuth Chan-ocha stepped in with the Army's coup to wrestle some semblance of order back to the country, a group of military officers from throughout the nation stormed Phuket.

But they didn't come for the taxi mafia, tuk-tuk cartels, illegal workers or even the dubious land encroachers — they came for the diving.

Standing pool-side amid an air of excitement, Vince Moy from Kiwidiver gave a few last instructions in Thai to the students. All but two of the 14 military and police officers were about to take their very first breath underwater — a moment that few divers ever forget.

It all started when 34-year-old Maj Dolruedee Tanma contacted Kevin Black of Kiwidiver about some diving photos.

"I offered her a free DSD [Discover Scuba Diving course] if she ever came to Phuket," Kevin recalls. "She came — loved it — and immediately signed up for her Open Water course and started regular trips to Phuket to go scuba diving. "When I offered Maj Jiib a chance to take all her Army friends scuba diving, to show them just what she had experienced, she organized a group to come down."

PADI threw in its support, to help the development of the domestic Thai diving market, by giving the participants t-shirts, stickers and free certificates.

"The group breezed through their Open Water course, as it was all taught in Thai," Kevin says, noting that PADI has a Thai-language Open Water manual and that the tests can be taken in Thai.

The financial costs, this time



The happy Army officers arrive at the surface after exploring the underwater world. Photo: Kiwidiver.com

covered by Kiwidiver and PADI, are a major barrier for most Thais to become involved in diving, Maj Jiib explains before a pool session starts.

"Thai people have a lot of things to do, many festivals, many activities. With water activities like scuba diving, we have to know about the equipment... and it's so expensive for Thai people. This is why Thai people don't invest to try diving," she says.

"For some people, scuba is just for sport or just for fun, but it can also be used to protect the environment. However, the government doesn't promote this skill enough for Thai people. If they have the budget, they should support Thai people to become a diver,

guide or environmentalist."

As all divers know, however, once the financial leap is made, the payoff is extraordinary.

"Those that do discover what is under the ocean's surface usually find a different sense of appreciation for it. We actively try to get people diving as a way of helping them understand the beauty and the need for conservation," says Kevin.

"Many people from all cultures do not care about what is underwater simply because they don't know or understand it. Once people see it, it becomes real for them and they start to understand the need to protect it."

Though Phuket dive sites might no longer reflect the rosy tint that

divers who have been exploring its coral reefs, grass beds and walls more than a decade ago recall, the wonders below the surface are still riveting — even to an experienced diver.

There are still many species of shy seahorses, transformative mimic octopi, acid-trip designed nudibranches, cartoonish clown fish, drowsy leopard sharks and giant manta rays... the list goes on.

So, with the pool session complete, the Army officers, now comfortable in the equipment, buoyancy control and no one holding their breath, are ready for the beauty of the underwater world and a lifetime of coming face to face with some of the most stunning flora and fauna of the world.

## Beauties of Phuket diving



Nothing more beautiful than a marine conservationist. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli



It's a crab, it's a lion fish, it's a flatfish... no, it's a mimic octopus. Photo: Kiwidiver.com



Nudibranches and sea slugs are gems for the macro photographer. Photo: Sylke Rohlach



Divers based in Phuket spot manta rays when the season is right. Photo: Sea Bees



# Walking the line

By Krix Luther

THE act of walking is so simple; it is something that we do every day, without even thinking about it. But, it is one simple act that, if taken advantage of, can reap a huge amount of health benefits. Our bodies are complex, yet finely tuned, machines that can burn calories and fat even when we do something as easy and commonplace as putting one foot in front of the other.

We use our arms, legs and torso – hundreds of muscles – simultaneously while walking, which allows us to burn loads of calories and achieve easy weight loss, says leading holistic health practitioner Paul Check.

So much goes on below the surface during a walk, such as an increase in our bodies' metabolic rates and enzyme activities, and that is only the beginning.

The benefits of walking are endless. Walking can transform your body, and not just because it consumes calories. It improves the body's ability to digest, assimilate and eliminate waste products, and also increases natural detoxification, especially when aided with increased water consumption.

Walking even reduces the risk of one of the most dangerous diseases – cardiovascular disease – by a whopping 50 per cent! And the list doesn't end there.

Studies have shown that walking regularly over time can reduce the risk of life-threatening ailments and diseases, like stroke, diabetes and osteoporosis. It is

also a fundamental part of treatment for arthritis, high blood pressure and even depression.

Walking is a low-impact activity, which means that we can gain all of these benefits without overloading our joints or causing strain on our bodies. This is true even for those with sensitive or aggravated joints, so don't hesitate to participate.

Taking time to enjoy a nice walk on a regular basis can enhance an overall sense of health and well-being. Through enhancing our mental clarity and mood, we allow our minds time for reflection, and this can result in a general state of relaxation, which is a much-needed part of daily life.

There is never a bad time to go walking. Nevertheless, there are specific times of the day that you can focus on that can aid specifically with weight loss or injury recovery.

For example, body builders will walk on a treadmill for 30-40 minutes in the morning before eating breakfast to help with fat burning. When you wake up, your blood insulin level is at its lowest as you have not eaten for a long period of time, which makes it easier for your body to tap into your fat reserves as a source of fuel. Qualified trainers will readily confirm that it is difficult to burn fat in the presence of high insulin levels.

Alternatively, walking at the end of a high-intensity workout, such as those done by Thai boxers, can aid recovery. The act of walking after an intense training session also burns off free fatty acids released into the bloodstream during the workout.



Walking can transform your body, and not just because it consumes calories. Photo: Diana

It only takes these fatty acids about 10 minutes to be restored into the blood stream – so get to walking!

Walking can improve your health on a number of different levels, and happens to

be very easy to fit into your schedule, no matter how busy. Whether you are looking to improve your physical health, mental health, or both, walking is one of the best tools you can have at your disposal.

## Clean the Beach Boot Camp returns

KRIX Luther's Clean the Beach Boot Camp returns to Phuket on August 16, picking back up where it left off, at the newly cleared-out Nai Harn Beach.

The boot camp starts out with 45 minutes of interval training exercises, designed to get the blood pumping. Once they are finished, participants walk up and down the beach, collecting rubbish.

The Clean the Beach Boot Camp is a good way to take care of your body while also taking care of the environment.

Walking after the workout, said Krix, will burn up all of the free fatty acids that were released during the training.

"People notice quick results from the boot camp, even though it only happens twice per month," he said.



Take part in the Clean the Beach Bootcamps and you can help yourself and the environment. Photo: Gazette file





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# Full Metal Dojo strikes again

By Maciek Klimowicz

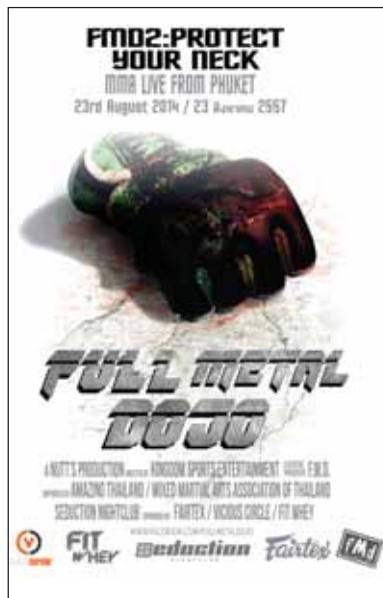
IT WAS on June 7 at Patong's Seduction Nightclub that MMA entered Phuket for the first time. The Full Metal Dojo MMA event featured a litany of warriors from around the globe. The event saw fighters from Thailand, Cambodia, Finland, the United States, France, and other countries enter the caged-dojo in Phuket. And now it's happening again.

Full Metal Dojo 2: Protect Your Neck brings a double-dose of MMA action back to the island. With an array of entertainment that surrounds the fight's card, a unique women's bout, and fighters from all over entering the cage, it promises to take the sport of MMA to a new level in Phuket.

Headlining the event will be a catchweight bout between Afghanistan's Baz Mohammad Mubarez (3-2) and Sweden's "Creepy" Kristoffer Persson (2-3). Both fighters regularly train in Thailand with Baz sharpening his skills at Phuket Top Team (by way of Afghanistan's Team Diesel Diva) and "Creepy" Kris hailing from Legacy Gym in Ubon Ratchathani

and Boracay, in the Philippines.

The fight card will also feature the debut of the promotion's female division as Amp "Pocket Rocket" Boonsorn takes on



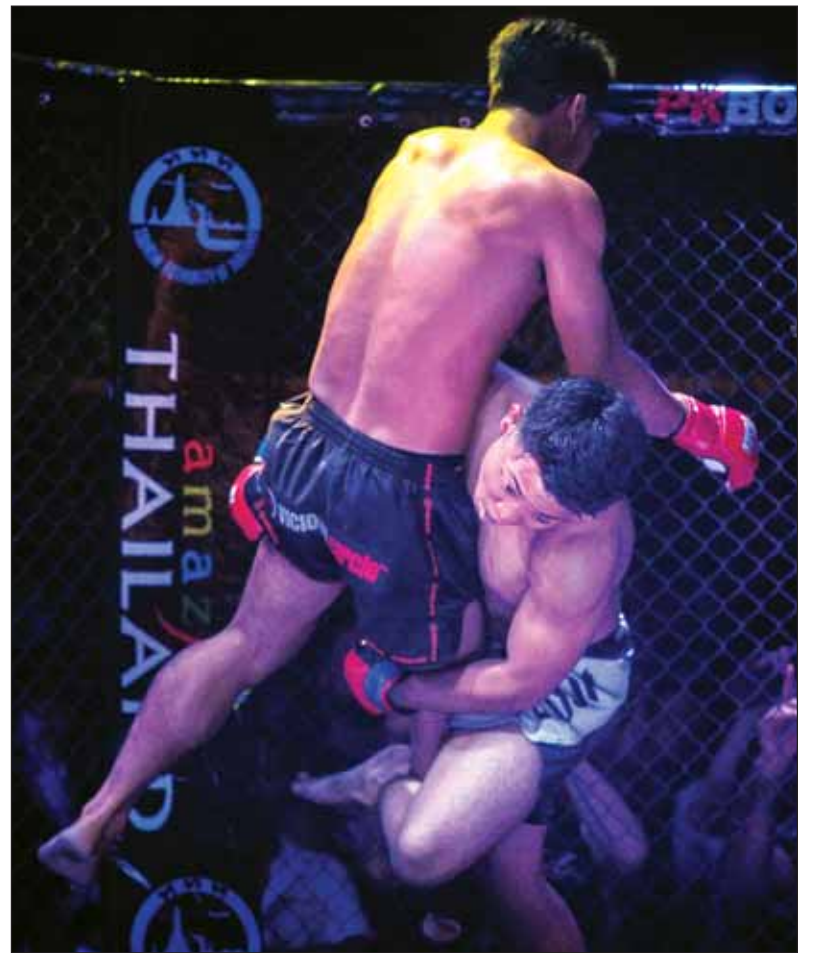
Kaewjai Prachumwong in a straw-weight bout (115lbs/52kilograms). This fight will mark the first Thai women's MMA bout featuring two Thai contenders competing on home soil.

The rest of the fight card will

feature warriors that are based across Asia as well as some returning heroes. In the inaugural Full Metal Dojo show, Chat-mongkhon "Noom" Simma (of Legacy Gym in Ubon Ratchathani) put away his fellow Bangkok-native, Sarawut "The Monkey" Petsing, in the first round via TKO. Noom will look to continue his winning streak when he takes on Tanabadee "Ninjaman" Supparukephusakun in an intriguing bantamweight (145lbs/66kg) bout.

The fan-favorite Muay Chaiya specialist Detchadin "Phetsing-korn" Sornsirisuphathin also returns to continue his run in the Dojo, this time against Cambodia's Chan Heng (AFighter Gym) – a fighter looking to redeem his loss in the Dojo against Alex Schild. In their previous bouts Phetsing-korn defeated Manaschai "Lee.O" Promsawad by kicks to the head, while Chan Heng was forced to tap to a rear naked choke.

Full Metal Dojo 2: Protect Your Neck will take place on August 23 at the Seduction Nightclub in Patong. For more information go to: [facebook.com/fullmetaldjo](https://facebook.com/fullmetaldjo).



More raw MMA action coming to Seduction Night Club in Patong. Photo: Supplied

## Thalang crush the Village in fourth round

IN the fourth round of the Outrigger T20 competition, Thalang took on The Village in the afternoon game, which also brought up the midway point of the 2014 Outrigger T20 season.

The Village lost the toss and weren't handed any favors from Thalang's captain Craig Murphy who sent the Village out into the field with only nine available players.

The extra gaps in the field were an invitation for Thalang's hitters to go to work and good bowling early from Divan Mydeen and Andy Ghadge brought about some chances that weren't grasped.

Thalang's Simon Wetherell (21 runs) was the first to go, bowled

by Sam Ali in the 5<sup>th</sup> over. He was the only wicket to fall prior to the drinks break as Thalang peppered the boundaries to be 102/1 at the break.

Directly after the break Justin Thomatos brought up his first Outrigger T20 half century only to be caught for 58 runs 3 balls later.

Sam Ali picked up his 2<sup>nd</sup> wicket in the 12<sup>th</sup> over but at 132/3 the Thalang train had already left the station.

In the 17<sup>th</sup> over, the small crowd were brought to their feet again when Ali took a great running catch on the boundary to dismiss Donavan Cowell for 52 runs.

Garry Lane (23 runs) and Thai



Simon Wetherell (Thalang) scores.

youngster 'Paan' (13 runs) finished off the innings with Thalang registering 195/4 at the end of 20 overs. Ali 2/30 and Mydeen 0/24 were the best with the ball for the Village.

Requiring 196 runs to win and

playing two men short The Village managed the extremely low total of 37 runs with no batsmen making it to double figures. The innings lasted just 12 overs with only three boundaries scored and all six Thalang bowlers taking at least one wicket. Thai youngster 'Paan' was the pick of the bowlers with two wickets and one wide from his two overs. Thai player 'Took' enjoyed the chance to bowl and she chimed in with the wicket of the Village captain Martin Platts (eight runs).

The record 158 run defeat places the Village on the bottom of the ladder at the midway point of the season. The Bondi Bar Bashers are on the top of the standings with

four wins from four matches, Thalang are second with three wins from four matches, ICC have won two from four, and reigning premiers Laguna have just one win from four matches.

The next fixture is on Sunday August 10 with Thalang playing Bondi Bar Bashers in the morning and The Village playing ICC in the afternoon. Start times are 10am and 2pm respectively. – *Phuket Gazette*

If anyone is interested in getting involved with cricket in Phuket, email the Phuket Cricket Group Chairman: [chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com](mailto:chairman@phuketcricketgroup.com) or visit [www.phuketcricketgroup.com](http://www.phuketcricketgroup.com) and [www.acgphuket.com](http://www.acgphuket.com).

## Play matches as if you were practicing

By Miguel Lopez

MANY times we hear or see tennis players complaining about not being able to play their matches as good as when they practice. There can be a few reasons why that might happen, probably nerves contribute, pressure, tension; as soon as we hear the words "points", "match", "tournament" something changes in our mind and we are not able to perform as well as we would like.

When you are practicing, try to implement many "match situation" drills where you can find yourself under pressure and need to perform as if you were playing a match. Also practice on your weaknesses and strengths, but at the same time, practice what you



Champions master stress management to play their best. Photo: Reuters

will be doing in your match. We get caught often practicing one way and playing matches in a completely opposite way; that might be a big reason why we cannot perform the same way in both situations.

So remember, try to play your

matches just like how you practice!

Tip by Thanyapura's PBI Tennis Professional, Miguel Lopez. To contact Migyel send an email to [tennis@thanyapura.com](mailto:tennis@thanyapura.com)

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AUG 10   4 pm				
Kasem Bundit University Gymnasium, Room Klao Campus, Bangkok				
FTPL TABLE				
PL	TEAM	P	PTS	
1	Chonburi Blue Wave	28	79	
2	Royal Navy	28	61	
3	Thai Port FC	28	60	
4	Phuket United	28	57	
5	CAT FC	28	53	
6	Ayutthaya City	28	50	
7	Samut Sakhon	28	45	
8	Sri Pathum Si Saket	28	44	
9	Bangkok FC	28	40	
10	Nonthaburi	28	40	
11	Khon Kaen	28	37	
12	Pattaya Arena FC	28	34	
13	Highways Department	28	20	
14	Chiangmai	28	12	
15	Uthai Thani	28	10	
16	Suphanburi	28	3	

PHUKET NEXT FIXTURE				
CHIANGMAI				
AUG 9   6.30 pm				
@Surakul Stadium				
YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE				
PL	TEAM	P	PTS	
1	Nakhon Rachasima	24	52	
2	Royal Navy	24	44	
3	Saraburi FC	24	43	
4	Bangkok FC	24	41	
5	Angthong FC	24	39	
6	Chiangmai FC	24	37	
7	BBCU	24	36	
8	Krabi FC	24	33	
9	TTM Customs	24	33	
10	Pattaya Utd	24	33	
11	Ayutthaya FC	24	32	
12	Phuket	24	31	
13	Roi Et Utd	24	30	
14	Trat FC	24	28	
15	NakhonPathom	24	25	
16	Phitsanulok FC	24	25	
17	Khon Kaen FC	24	17	
18	Sri Racha FC	24	3	

\*dates subject to change \*\*Last Update: 05/08/2014

\*dates subject to change \*\*Last Update: 05/08/2014



# Glasgow's great Games

By Sam Holden  
and Michael Hann

THE Glasgow Commonwealth Games proved to be much more than just "Friendly" as Scottish culture, sport and six-times Olympic champion Usain Bolt combined to create a memorable 11-day event.

The success of the Games was assured with the golden seal of approval from Bolt, the world's most recognizable athlete, whose cameo in Jamaica's sprint relay triumph lit up Scotland's biggest city.

Inevitably, Bolt stole the show, providing one of the images of the "Friendly Games" as he returned home with a gold medal from his maiden Commonwealth appearance.

The Games provided few truly jaw-dropping sporting moments, but they will be remembered for the spirit in which athletes and visitors from the 71 Commonwealth nations and territories were greeted by crowds determined to enjoy the party.

"In my view, they are the standout Games in the history of the movement," Commonwealth Games Federation chief executive Mike Hooper said.

"The way in which the people of Scotland and Glasgow have embraced the Games right from the get-go has been incredible."

With England's double Olympic champion Mo Farah pulling out, it was left to the world's fastest man Bolt to provide the glamor and boost TV ratings but there was no shortage of quality on show, from the netball courts, to the judo mats, the swimming pool and the velodrome.

After reportedly making disparaging remarks about the Games, eight-times world champion Bolt did not disappoint when he finally arrived at the Hampden Park track to rapturous cheers from a capacity crowd.

"It's always great to have fun with the fans. They made the Games what it was. They are so warm, even when I was cold they were always warm," Bolt, the 100 and 200 meters world record holder, said of his time in Glasgow.

Having anchored Jamaica to victory in the 4x100 relay to give the crowd the result they craved, Bolt continued his Scottish charm offensive by donning a tartan hat and scarf while performing his "lightning bolt" celebration and posing for selfies with ticket holders.

"I'm happy for the fans and I'm happy to get my Commonwealth gold medal. It (the Commonwealth Games) was always on my to-do list," Bolt said. "Other than the weather it's been brilliant."

There were few incidents to mar the feast of sporting action but two failed drugs tests did cast a shadow.

Nigeria's 16-year-old weightlifter Chika Amalaha was stripped of her gold medal after failing a doping test and Botswana's former 400m world champion Amantle Montsho also tested positive for a banned substance.

## Heart warming stories

But among the 6,500 athletes representing 71 mostly former British colonies, there were many heart-warming stories.

Kiribati celebrated its first Commonwealth medal after guitar-strumming David Katoatau won weightlifting gold while compatriot Taoriba Biniati fought another woman for the first time as women's boxing made its Games debut.

Cyclist Muhammad I'maadi Abd Aziz, Brunei's only athlete at the Games, enjoyed his lonely ride and the balti boys, Muzahir Shan and Mohammed Qureshi, co-owners of a curry house in Glasgow, formed part of Pakistan's first lawn bowls team.

At the other end of the scale, Olympic champion Chad le Clos of South Africa secured the biggest individual medal haul of the Games with seven podium finishes in the pool, including two golds.

For Australia's Sally Pearson, the Games offered a chance of redemption.

Vilified by Athletics Australia head coach Eric Hollingsworth for her decision to miss a



Jamaica's Usain Bolt poses with fans after Jamaica won the men's 4x100m relay. Photo: Reuters

pre-tournament training camp with her team mates in Glasgow, Pearson stormed to gold in the women's 100m hurdles to defend the title she won in Delhi four years ago.

The Australian swimming team dominated, winning 57 of 133 medals on offer at the Tollcross Swimming Center, and breaking the only world record during the Games in the women's 4x100 freestyle relay, beating a time set by the Netherlands in the now-banned bodysuits in 2009.

The Australian team could not stop England topping the medals table with 58 golds, surpassing their arch-rivals for the first time since 1986 when the Games were last held in Scotland.

Among the gold rush for England was three-times world champion Nick Matthew, who resorted to "caveman" tactics to retain his squash title in an epic final against compatriot James Winstrop and secure the highest honor in a sport still excluded from

the Olympic program.

Diver Tom Daley successfully defended his 10m platform title with a stunning performance, combining power and finesse to add to the silver he won in the synchronized event.

At the Chris Hoy velodrome, Olympic cycling champion Laura Trott overcame a kidney infection to win the women's 25km points race, but it was not all good news for England as 2012 Tour de France winner Bradley Wiggins had to settle for silver on his return to the track in the team pursuit.

Cycling ended on the rainy streets of Glasgow on Sunday in the road race, where Welshman Geraint Thomas overcame a late puncture in treacherous conditions to claim gold and provide late drama on the last day of the Games.

Australia's Gold Coast will host the Commonwealth Games in 2018. The south-eastern Queensland city has a lot to live up to.

— Reuters

## Nike edging out Adidas in Europe football deals - study

US SPORTSWEAR group Nike will supply shirts to more teams in the top five European football leagues this season than Adidas, but the German firm has cornered the most lucrative clubs, a study showed on Wednesday.

Sports marketing research group Repucom said Nike had outpaced Adidas in Europe for the first time since the 2009/10 season to supply 26 of the region's top clubs, up five compared with last year. Adidas is supplying 18, down four from last year.

Although it has been a serious player in football only since 1994, Nike is now threatening Adidas's leadership in the sport. At the World Cup in Brazil, it supplied more teams for the first time and put its boots on more than half the players.

Nike is ahead of Adidas in four of the five top European leagues.

The exception is the English Pre-

mier League, the most lucrative, with more than 5 million shirts sold last season. Adidas has five English Premier sides, including Chelsea, compared with four for German rival Puma and three for Nike.

"Whilst Nike looks to maximise the number of teams it supplies, Adidas is going for the most popular, most followed and ultimately biggest selling clubs in the world," Repucom football expert Andrew Walsh said.

Nike has signed more top teams in Spain, Germany, France and Italy, a total of 23, compared with 13 for Adidas and five for Puma. Repucom said 3mn Spanish club shirts were sold last season, compared with 2.3mn for the Bundesliga and about 1.2mn in each of the top leagues in France and Italy.

"Adidas and Nike, with Puma in third place, have managed to keep a good headlock on the market,"

Walsh said, noting that US brand Under Armour had not managed to sign another top side after English Premier club Tottenham Hotspur.

Adidas last month struck a record US\$1.3 billion shirt deal with Manchester United to oust Nike from the former English champions from the 2015/16 season, and it will also replace Nike at Italian champions Juventus next year.

Adidas expects record football sales of \$2.7bn in 2014, topping the \$2.3bn Nike reported for its financial year to end-May. Nike has suggested the US company could exceed the Adidas figure for 2014 in its 2014/15 financial year.

Puma, the world's number three sportswear firm, has replaced Nike as the kit supplier at Arsenal from this season as part of a strategy to restore a reputation for performance gear after it shifted too far into fashion.

— Reuters

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# \$100mn settlement in F1 trial

A GERMAN court on Tuesday halted a bribery trial against Bernie Ecclestone in exchange for his paying a US\$100 million fee, under the terms of a settlement agreed by prosecutors and the chief executive of Formula One.

Such an agreement is possible in German law, depending on the charges. It means the 83-year-old Ecclestone preserves his innocence and is spared the prospect of a lengthy trial.

Judge Peter Noll told the court the suspicion of bribery against Ecclestone could not, by and large, be backed up in a trial. He gave Ecclestone one week to pay \$100mn – \$99mn to the state and \$1 mn to a children's charity.

"The trial is temporarily suspended until you've honoured your commitments and then it'll be permanently discontinued," Noll said. "If you don't honour your commitments, we'll continue the trial. I assume we'll only ever see each other again on TV."

Ecclestone, 83, replied in English: "Thank you very much. I will honour my commitment."

Ecclestone went on trial in April over allegations he paid a \$44mn bribe to a former German banker to facilitate the sale of a major stake in the motor sport business eight years ago.

Ecclestone, a former used car salesman who became a billionaire by building the sport into a global money spinner over the past four decades, denied any wrongdoing.

The state prosecutor told the court earlier on Tuesday that due to Ecclestone's "advanced age" and "other extenuating circumstances", they supported the proposed settlement.

"The charges could not, in im-



Formula One Chief Executive Bernie Ecclestone arrives back in the courtroom after an adjournment, at the regional court in Munich August 5, 2014. Photo: Michael Dalder/Reuters

portant areas, be substantiated," Judge Noll said. He added that any other charges against Ecclestone that remained were not so serious as to warrant the continuation of the trial.

Ecclestone's lawyers applauded the settlement after the court heard more than 100 hours of testimony. "A conviction of Mr Ecclestone could not be expected with any likelihood," his lawyers said in a joint statement.

They also dismissed the suggestion that Ecclestone had bought his way out of the trial.

"Through this abandonment, the presumption of innocence in favour of Mr Ecclestone remains intact ... The monetary compensation is geared to his income and financial situation."

Private equity group CVC, the largest shareholder in Formula One with a stake of 35 per cent, has said it would have fired Ecclestone if he were found guilty.

The state prosecutor added that during the course of the trial it was becoming increasingly clear that the bribery charges would be difficult to prove.

## German law

If he had been found guilty, the British billionaire could have faced up to 10 years in jail, although a prison term would have been unlikely.

Under German law, judges, prosecutors and the defence can agree to dismiss a case or settle it with a light punishment, although terms for such an agreement are strictly defined.

A spokeswoman for the Munich court, Andrea Titz, said a settlement did not mean there was an admission of guilt.

"With this type of ending ... there is no ruling on guilt or innocence of the defendant," she told reporters. "He is neither acquitted nor judged – rather this is a special type of ending a procedure which is in theory available to all types of cases."

Ecclestone is accused of channelling cash to jailed BayernLB banker Gerhard Gribkowsky to smooth the sale of a major stake in the business by the bank to private equity fund CVC, which became the largest shareholder in Formula One in 2006.

Ecclestone was accompanied at the trial his wife, Fabiana Flosi, who watched from the spectator section of the court.

Despite his age, Ecclestone attends almost every Grand Prix and remains central to the sport's commercial success. He has always dismissed talk of retirement and has no obvious replacement ready to take over when he does finally quit or get forced out.

The German law is intended to ease the burden on courts of hearing relatively minor cases and to spare first-time offenders a criminal record. The sums agreed under the settlement are often paid to the state or charity organizations.

According to German broadcaster ARD, the procedure was used by ex-chancellor Helmut Kohl in 2001 to end a trial for accepting illegal party donations and by ex-defence minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg to prevent charges of copyright infringement in his dissertation. Former cyclist Jan Ullrich also paid to halt a German investigation into doping charges.

– Reuters

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