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Fatal leap

Tourist killed bungy-jumping, owner forced to close tower

INSIDE TODAY

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■ 'WE WANT TO INVOKE ARTICLE 44 FOR THE CASES'

Leading officials land in hot seat

■ Many suspects named in sweeping corruption probe

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) named names on May 30, as it started gunning for local officials tangled up in millions of baht worth of infrastructure and illegal land issuance scandals in Phuket.

At the top of the list of 17 cases cited at a meeting led by Wicha Mahakun, spokesman for the NACC, was that of former Phuket Governor Wichai Phraisa-ngop.

The original complaint against Mr Wichai, filed by Sirinath National Park Chief Kitiphat Taraphiban in September last year, centered on two *Chanote* titles, valued at more than 1 billion baht, that were issued in 2009 for land allegedly inside the park. The complaint accused Mr Wichai and several...

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Wicha Mahakun named some of the local officials under investigation.

Expat supplies lifeguards with safety cards

THE news that lifeguards have returned to Phuket's beaches prompted Tourist Police volunteer Simon Luttrell to return to printing multilingual beach-safety advice cards and distributing them to lifeguards.

The cards are designed to assist the lifeguards in communicating with foreign tourists about the meaning of the red flags – 'no swimming – dangerous' – and the importance of heeding lifeguards' warnings.

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Officers to sniff out nominee shareholders

OFFICIALS launched an island-wide inspection of tour companies with foreign shareholders on May 27 in an attempt to root out the practice of using Thai nominee shareholders to maintain control over a company.

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Article 44 put forward to fight encroachment

OFFICIALS have requested the use of Article 44 of the interim Charter to reclaim national park land that has been illegally commandeered by investors, the Sirinath National Park chief said.

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Phuket's ideal home is waiting for its perfect family. **Page 24**



Property

Smaller-sized condos take property market spotlight. **Page 25**



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Discover the tastes to be found between black burger buns. **Page 27**



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Bangkok hosts fight against wastefulness in Asia. **Page 29**



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Tour companies vetted

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

OFFICIALS launched an island-wide inspection of tour companies with foreign shareholders on May 27 in an attempt to root out the practice of using Thai nominee shareholders to maintain control over a company.

More than 3,700 'foreign-owned' businesses are registered in Phuket, explained Department of Business Development Phuket Office Chief Nimit Kangkajit back in 2013, when a similar investigation was backed by Bangkok officials.

"Of course Thais will hold at least 51 per cent of the shares of any business and foreigners will be limited to only holding 49 per cent of the shares," Mr Nimit explained. "However, we will be sending teams to check on the issue of Thai nominees being used."

About 80 of those businesses are tour companies, confirmed Santi Pawai, director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sport (MOTS) Phuket office, who led the latest round of investigations.

Also joining in the latest investigation was Mr Nimit, who assured those he was working with that if anything was found amiss, his office would take immediate action.

"There are many foreigners who have invested in Thailand, especially in the tourism sector. At the forefront are Chinese, followed by Russians," Mr Nimit said.



Mr Santi (right) led the raid on ten tour companies. Photo: MOTs

"Because a foreigner can't own a majority share in a company, there is a temptation for these investors to use Thai nominees."

The investigation looked into the books of 10 companies operating in Thailand, two of which had suspicious documents, confirmed Mr Santi.

"We are looking closely at these documents to ensure that everything is legal and that foreign investors in these companies are not using Thai nominees," he said.

Mr Santi did not detail exactly

which actions would be taken against the companies at this stage of the investigation.

"There are about 80 companies that we will be looking into. We are collecting details about the companies, including registration, finances, tax information and many other relevant documents," Mr Santi said.

"We want to keep a close eye on tour operators to avoid any future problems that might tarnish our reputation, such as the recent fraud case."

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Man killed for 'bad' dancing

FIVE men were arrested on May 31 for the stabbing death of a man in Phuket Town in the morning on the same day.

The fatal argument that led to the death of Sayompoo Kuomsup, 21, and the serious injury of Sompong Boonrak, 21, stemmed from an issue with their dance moves at the 'At Time' pub.

Police named the men arrested as Anon Ketkaew, 22; Ritchoti Ruksasup, 21; Trairat Sae-or, 24; Aphichai Siri-watcharakit, 24; and Anan Boonroong, 25.

"All five confessed to the crime and explained in detail what happened," said Lt Col Somsak Thongkiliang of the Phuket City Police.

"The group got irritated with the way the two men were dancing. When the men left the bar, Mr Anon and his friends followed them and attacked them."

Mr Anon told police that he was the one who had drawn the knife and stabbed the two men, while Mr Aphichai, Mr Anan and Mr Trairat all confirmed that they had taken part in the assault. Mr Ritchoti was driving the motorbike for Mr Anon, explained Col Somsak.

The men have been charged with murder, attempted murder and illegally carrying a knife in public, confirmed Col Somsak.

— Kritsada Mueanhawong

Police bust three illegal tour guides in Phuket



The three tour guides were caught working illegally. Photo: MOTs

THREE illegal Thai tour guides were arrested in front of their tour groups in Phuket on May 27.

Thanachai Sae-yang, 29, was the first of the three swept up in the raid as he lead a group of Chinese tourists through the Kathu Temple grounds.

Though Mr Thanachai is a registered tour guide — he was working outside of Chachoengsao Province, which is where he is permitted to work, explained Pensirarat Arthaweekul, head of the Bureau of Tourism Business and Guide Registration.

"He was charged for the improper use of his tour guide licence," Ms Pensirarat said.

The other two tour guides caught during the random checks

were Suphachia Saeyang and Teeruch Monochouw. Both were arrested at Phuket's iconic Promthep Cape.

"Mr Suphachia was breaking the law in the same way as Mr Thanachai. However, Mr Teeruch attempted to get away with producing a fake tour guide card — he was charged accordingly," Ms Pensirarat explained.

Santi Pawai, director of the Ministry of Tourism and Sport Phuket office, explained after the raid that he believed that the number of illegal tour guides operating on the island was decreasing.

"We still receive some reports, but not as many as we used to," he said. — Kritsada Mueanhawong



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Kuwaiti man dies after fall from bungy-jump

By Thawit Bilabduh
and Kritsada Mueanhawong

WORLD Bungy Jump in Patong has been temporarily closed while officials investigate the death of a 25-year-old tourist who was fatally injured at the facility on May 27.

"The business will be closed for at least a month while police determine if this was an accident or reckless endangerment on the part of the bungy-jump owner," explained Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup.

Abdullah Adel Kadhmbadman was rushed to Patong Hospital after hitting the ground from his jump off the 30-meter tower at the facility.

X-rays of Mr Kadhmbadman revealed that he had a broken neck and several broken ribs. He died shortly after arriving at the hospital.

Employee Manoon Ninmin, who was at the scene at the time of the incident, explained that the incident happened on Mr Kadhmbadman's second jump.

"The first jump went very well. However, the during second jump, which was from 30 meters, the incident occurred," Mr Manoon said.

From the initial investigation, police believe that the wire securing Mr Kadhmbadman's feet during the jump broke.

However, charges have yet to be pressed, as the evidence was sent to Bangkok to be analyzed. Police expect it to take one or two months to get the results back.



A military official points at the spot where Mr Kadhmbadman hit the ground. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"Due to this business being more than a decade old, it will take time to collect and check all documentation. Additionally, we'll have to review the evidence in order to decide whether or not the incident was an accident or if it was a result of reckless endangerment," Ms Chalermluck said.

Only recently have new regu-

lations been implemented that require businesses such as World Bungy Jump to register their equipment with the local authorities, Kathu District Chief Sayan Chanachaiwong explained.

"We need time to check and see if everything was up to standard," Mr Sayan said.

Vinat Chanthornwiboonkul,

owner of World Bungy Jump, expressed his sadness about the tragic death of Mr Kadhmbadman.

"We have been in this business for 13 years and have never had an incident like this. We are very sorry for this accident and are ready to take responsibility for our role in it."



Koo Ping Sze was arrested.

Fake credit card shopping spree lands woman in police custody

POLICE arrested a confessed credit card scammer as she waited to board a plane back to Malaysia at Phuket International Airport on May 27.

Koo Ping Sze, 20, was arrested after police received a report from Kasikornbank (KBank) that she had used a fake credit card to make a purchase in Patong.

"Kbank identified that the cardholder was a Malaysian national, but that the card details were for a US citizen," explained Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan.

At the boarding gate for the AirAsia 9:40pm flight to Malaysia, police caught up with Ms Sze. In her possession they found a total of 17 fake credit cards – all issued in her name.

"Ms Sze was waiting to board her plane when we arrived. She allowed us to search her belongings, and confessed to being in possession of fake credit cards and using them," Col Prawit said.

"She told us that she got the cards from a credit card skimming network in Malaysia in order to have a shopping spree abroad. She had used the cards to buy brand name items in Vietnam, before her visit to Phuket."

She was taken to the Tah Chat Chai Police Station.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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Fix is in for Phuket lottery ticket prices

LOTTERY tickets on the island will no longer legally be allowed to be sold for more than 80 baht starting on June 3, Governor Nisit Jansomwong said at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last week.

The meeting with local officials follows Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha's decision to replace the Government Lottery Office's board on May 1 by invoking Article 44 of the provisional constitution.

"The new system should prevent sellers from having price wars that can damage their bottom lines, which has a significant impact on their lives, as they are usually poor or disabled people struggling to get by," Governor Nisit said to the *Gazette*.

"The wholesale price will be 70.40 baht with a 9.60 baht profit per ticket. Fixed prices will start on June 3 for the lottery period of June 16."

The penalty for selling tickets at a higher rate is a 10,000 baht fine, up to one month in jail or both.

— **Thanaphon Phromthong**

NACC turns heat up on Phuket officials

From Page 1

...officials of abuse of power and reporting false information.

The former governor is also at the center of cases involving allegedly illegally issued *Chanotes* for land on Coconut Island and in the Nakkerd Hills, as well as in Khlong Bang Chi Lao, Klong Tah Jeen and Khao Ruak-Khao Muang.

"Mr Wichai is accused of having asked for more than 150mn baht to issue these land titles," said Mr Wicha.

Also named among the accused is former Vice Governor Weerawat Janpen. Mr Weerawat and a team of his officers are suspected of illegally issuing an *Chanote* title to Three Dolphins for land inside Sirinath National Park, as well as a conservation area in Khao Ruak-Khao Muang, in Thalang.

At a more local level, the current Rawai mayor, Aroon Solos, is on the chopping block for issuing building permits for the Eva Group project, which is under construction in Rawai.

A trial regarding the project names Rawai Municipality and the provincial standing committee for approving initial environmental evaluations (IEEs) and environ-



Wicha Mahakun named some of the local officials under investigation.

mental impact assessments (EIAs) as the accused.

The trial centers on whether or not the project in question breaches the building code and whether the building permits for the site were issued illegally.

In regards to the Eva project, Mr Aroon said he signed off on the permits as per his duty after approval letters came back from the environmental office.

Additionally, Mr Aroon is facing the music for allegedly costing the

government an unnecessary 3.77mn baht for the Rawai pier project.

"Mr Aroon asked for about 49mn baht to build the pier, when the project actually cost about 46mn baht. We are still investigating this case," said Mr Wicha.

Mr Aroon explained to the *Gazette* that Rawai Municipality made a mistake in estimating the budget needed to construct the pier.

"I am now negotiating with the pier construction company to see how we can spend the remaining

funds on the bridge to ensure that the money isn't wasted."

The NACC is also investigating Ma-ann Samran, president of Chong Talay Tambon Administration Organization, for his alleged acceptance of bribes to build a 1.9mn baht canal in Bang Tao.

When asked about the alleged bribes, Mr Ma-ann told the *Gazette* that he was not involved, but admitted that the NACC had already questioned him about his signature on a check for the project.

Several other officials are being targeted for their alleged roles in illegal, related crimes – some of which were publicly named at the meeting, while others were not.

Those named includes Somsak Eamthaisong, a former deputy chief of the Land Department; Phuket Land Office chief Paatoon Lertkrai and members of his team; and Wuthipong Promthawee, chief administrative officer (*palad*) of Chalong Municipality.

To expedite its efforts, the NACC has confirmed that it will call on the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) to invoke Article 44 for more than 100 illegal land possession cases, many of which involve former and current high-ranking Phuket officials.

Helmetless ghost-rider killed making u-turn

A GHOST-RIDER making a u-turn on Phuket's busy Thepkasattri Road was killed after being hit by a pick-up truck in Koh Kaew on May 31.

Rescue workers arrived at the scene to find the body of Ittawit Promrang, 42, laying in the road, against the curb. The 34-year-old driver of the pick-up truck, Nuntawat Suwansang, was still at the scene, confirmed Lt Kraisorn Boonprasop of the Thalang Police.

"I was heading south from the Heroines' Monument when I saw the man driving his motorbike against traffic," explained Mr Nuntawat. "He cut in front of me to make a u-turn, and I



No helmet was found at the scene.

couldn't stop in time."

Mr Nuntawat was charged with reckless driving causing death.

— **Thawit Bilabduddar**

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Park chief tables Article 44 to tackle land encroachment

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

OFFICIALS have requested the use of Article 44 of the interim Charter to reclaim national park land that was illegally commandeered by investors, the Sirinath National Park chief said.

The news follows a meeting on May 28 at the Sirinath National Park Office, during which both Phuket and national officials discussed the progress of an ongoing investigation into suspicious documents issued for land within the park.

"We have proof that many land titles and documents were illegally issued. As soon as we have enough evidence in a particular case, we send it to the court. However, the court process is very slow," said Sirinath National Park Chief Kitiphath Tharapiban.

"The same goes for requests to the Land Department to cancel illegal land documents. It takes quite a long time. Article 44 would help us speed up this process."

Prime Minister Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha introduced Article 44 last month to replace martial law. The article bestows PM Prayut and the military with unlimited power to handle security and political matters.

Requests have already been submitted to the Land Department to void the land titles held by several companies and resorts, which have been under fire for years for suspicious land documents, Samak Donnapee, director of the Depart-



DNP Director Samak Donnapee confirmed that several cases had been given to the Land Department, so the land titles could be cancelled.

ment of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP), confirmed to the *Gazette* on May 29.

"We are waiting for the Land Department to heed our request to void land titles for 16 plots that cover 244 rai of land within the park," said Mr Samak.

Luxury resort Trisara, owned by Three Dolphins, was developed on some of the plots that officials have requested titled deeds be voided for.

Last year, Nipon Chotibal, acting director-general of the DNP, told the *Gazette* that Three Dolphins originally submitted a *NorSor 3 Kor* for 37 rai for an upgrade to a *Chanote* title. However, when the land was issued a *Chanote*, it was for 99 rai – not 37 rai. This led the officials to believe the *Chanote* had been wrongfully issued.

"We have requested the cancellation of eight *Chanote* titles and one *NorSor 3 Kor* covering land

belonging to Three Dolphins," said Mr Samak.

Another resort whose titles have long been in question is Phuket Peninsular Spa and Resort, an abandoned property that is visible from Nai Yang Beach.

"Part of the resort's *Chanote* was originally a *SorKor 1* for two rai. However, that increased in size to six rai when it was upgraded to a *Chanote*," said Mr Samak last year.

Officials have also requested that the Land Department void the land titles for plots belonging to: Central & City Development Co Ltd; Landstate Co Ltd; Suchada Sangsuwan; Andaman White Beach; Suree Samlit Co Ltd; Pavilions Beach Resort Co Ltd; La Colline villa development; and Layan Phuket Co Ltd.

Mr Kitiphath went on to explain that officials are facing many other problems in reclaiming the more than 4,000 rai of encroached land in Sirinath National Park, and that the battle is far from over.

"This is not a new issue. It has been going on for years," he said. "We have lost no less than 30 billion baht worth of land as a result of people illegally obtaining land titles for it."

"Most of the documents for land within Sirinath National Park are actually 'flying' *SorKor 1*."

Flying *SorKor 1* are title deeds that have been legally issued for a specific plot of land, but are then applied to another plot of land elsewhere.



Aorrathai Iadwong, 20, was busted at a Mai Khao bus stop.

Police pounce on cake-box drug runner

A TRANG drug runner was arrested at a Phuket bus stop in possession of about 1 million baht worth of methamphetamine stuffed into a cake box last week.

Aorrathai Iadwong, 20, confessed to police that she had been paid to bring the drugs to Phuket by a drug dealer in Trang, whose name she has claimed not to know.

"We were able to catch her because we received a tip-off about the shipment coming up on the Trang-Phuket bus with a young woman," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchua.

Police moved in to make the arrest after she disembarked at a bus stop in Mai Khao.

"In the cake box she was carrying, we found 103g of *ya ice* [crystal methamphetamine] and 2,000 *ya bah* [methamphetamine] pills," Lt Col Prawit said.

Ms Aorrathai was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong



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A man wades through the water at the station. Photo: Patong Police

Flash floods put Patong Police in deep water

PATONG Police were scrambling to keep dry after their station was hit by flash floods on May 30.

"The flood happened just after lunch. This morning the weather was fine. However, this afternoon our office began filling up with water," Lt Col Suttichai Tianpho of the Patong Police said.

Similar flash flooding left Patong Police officers knee deep in water in August last year.

Several days after the police station flooded, flash floods hit Samkong Intersection, the site of the island's second underpass.

Though heavy flooding at the intersection on Tuesday caused traffic tailbacks, it did not delay construction of the underpass, experts confirmed. – **Kongleaphy Keam**

Expat distributes beach-safety cards to help island lifeguards

By Gazette Reporters

THE news that lifeguards have returned to Phuket's beaches prompted Tourist Police volunteer Simon Luttrell to return to printing multilingual beach-safety advice cards and distributing them to lifeguards.

"Now that all beaches have lifeguards again, I wanted to check that they all had my cards to help warn foreign tourists about the unseen dangers of rip currents, and to heed the advice of the lifeguards at all times," Mr Luttrell said.

The cards were designed to assist the lifeguards in communicating with foreign tourists about the meaning of the red flags – 'no swimming – dangerous' – and the importance of heeding lifeguards' warnings.

The laminated A4-sized cards, printed in English, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean, allow lifeguards to clearly communicate surf dangers to tourists who are unable to understand English, or



The cards are in English, Russian, Chinese, Japanese and Korean.

who believe they are stronger than the rip currents.

Mr Luttrell pointed out that he paid mother-tongue translators to write the warnings in each lan-

guage, to ensure that the advice would be fully understood.

"It was very encouraging to make an unannounced visit to the beaches and see lifeguards patrol-

ling with my cards in hand," Mr Luttrell told the *Gazette* late last month. "I visited Ya Nui Beach, Nai Harn Beach, Kata Noi Beach, Kata Beach and Karon Beach, and was able to replenish the lifeguard stations with advice cards. In some cases, the cards had been damaged by constant use, while some smaller lifeguards stations did not receive cards last time."

The cards were designed, printed, laminated and distributed by Mr Luttrell – all of which was paid for out of his own pocket.

"If I don't do this, I don't really know who else will. It is very important that all Phuketians – Thai and non-Thai, locals and expats – help to assist and inform our foreign tourists, so that they can have a pleasant and trouble-free holiday, and thus recommend Phuket to their friends and colleagues."

Mr Luttrell invited all people who work with or regularly encounter tourists about to enter Phuket's surf to contact him for free cards at 096-356 6040.

No change in policy means no gap-guarantee next year

NO CHANGE in policies in the Phuket lifeguard contract means there are no guarantees that lifeguards won't walk from the sands again as their contract expires and the dangerous southwest monsoon season begins anew in 2016.

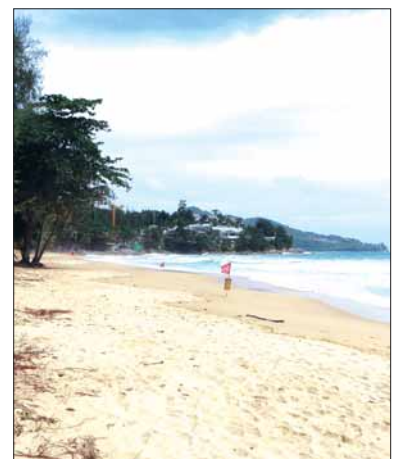
"We want the public to be confident about their safety. However, we cannot change the laws or system for the bidding process. We also cannot change the need for any company bidding on the contract to make a five per cent deposit," Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (PPAO) Deputy President Saratham Jinda told the *Gazette*.

The delay in the re-signing of the contract this year was due to issues concerning the five per cent deposit. However, last year, the beaches went unguarded for almost a month, following the lifeguards walking off due to issues concerning the details of the contract.

Phuket Lifeguard Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan reiterated to the *Gazette* last week that the PLC didn't have the capital to make the deposit until the contract had expired, that is after last year's deposit was returned to the club.

"Everything remains the same. The PPAO has not made any policy changes, and we simply don't make enough money to pay the deposit before receiving back the previous year's deposit," said Mr Prathaiyut.

"I'm glad to hear that the PPAO will be doing its best to expedite the process. We'll just have



Surin Beach once again has lifeguards putting out red flags.

to see what happens next year – hopefully there won't be a gap," Mr Prathaiyut said.

Mr Saratham confirmed that the PPAO would be doing what it could to prevent a gap in lifeguard presence on the island's beaches from occurring again, within the confines of the current system.

"However, it will depend on how the bidding process goes, the PLC and the governor – who has to sign off on us taking the next step in getting lifeguards on the beaches, assuming no company bids during the two months that the contract is up for grabs," Mr Saratham said.

Though the PPAO plans to expedite the paperwork to prevent a gap, it was noted earlier this month that the bidding for the current contract – which left Phuket beaches without lifeguards for about two months – was opened almost six months prior to the contract ending.

– **Kongleaphy Keam**

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Racers rounded up

AROUND THE nation

HUNDREDS of illegal road racers, including more than 100 minors, were arrested in a major operation in Bangkok on May 31. Of the 431 suspects arrested, 251 were road-racers, while 180 were classed as 'supportive' passengers.

The passengers were fined 500 baht each for inappropriate behavior and causing a public nuisance, before being released, reported *The Nation*.

The remaining suspects are to be charged with two counts related to illegal road racing. Both offenses carry a possible jail term and a fine. For delinquents under 18, their parents will face a charge of abetting or allowing their children to engage in inappropriate behavior. If convicted, they face a fine of up to 30,000 baht, up to three months in jail or both.



Police arrested more than 400 suspects. Photo: The Nation

Talat Phlu Police Superintendent Manop Sukhonthanapat said of the 251 illegal road racers, 126 were younger than 18.

"We will bring their cases to the

Central Juvenile and Family Court on June 1," Col Manop said, adding that the 125 adult offenders were to be taken to Thon Buri Court on Monday.

Army man wanted for trafficking

POLICE on Monday obtained a warrant for the arrest of an Army major-general accused of running or at least benefiting from trafficking Rohingya and other migrants in Southern Thailand provinces.

Maj Gen Manas Khongpaen has been accused of various crimes, including slavery of humans aged under 15 between November 2102 and May this year.

Gen Manas, 58, was serving the Army as an adviser in several prominent positions in the southern Thailand, reported *The Nation*.

A key piece of evidence implicating him in human trafficking surfaced during the raid of the home of a suspect last month in which bank transaction slips showing Gen Manas as the recipient of a large amount of money were allegedly found.



Photo: The Nation

Thais pick up on smoking

THE National Statistical Office has revealed the number of Thais over 15 years old who are smoking has risen to 11.4 million in 2014; the total surged by 21 per cent from 2013.

Every year there are 50,000 smoking-related deaths.

The statistics also showed that the average age of new smokers dropped to 15.6 years of age – from 16.8 years old in 2007. The number of smokers younger than 18 years old is around 400,000; and 100,000 youths were becoming new smokers annually. Seven in 10 of the new smokers would be addicted to tobacco for the rest of their lives, reported *The Nation*.

The World No Tobacco Day

fair in Thailand this year, which opened on May 31, concentrated on supporting the new tobacco product control bill as this modernized law will prevent the younger generation from access to tobacco products.

Her Royal Highness Princess Soamsawali opened the event at Future Park Rangsit in Pathum Thani on May 31. The fair was held by the Public Health Ministry to warn of the dangers of smoking and encourage new tobacco laws.

The No Smoking Day event featured academic exhibitions, medical consulting for quitting smoking and activities intended to publicize the effects of smoking and its dangers to others.

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Stop national park plunder

THE recent request by the Sirinath Marine National Park chief to invoke Article 44 of the interim Charter in order to speed up the investigation and prosecution of long-standing land encroachment cases raises important questions and concerns.

Use of Article 44 would speed up the judicial process in encroachment cases already in the court system and hasten the Land Department's cancellation of land title documents illegally issued for park land, stated Sirinath National Park Chief Kitiphat Tharapiban (see page 5).

The need for this issue to be swiftly addressed can be seen in the scale of the problem. Some 4,000 rai, or almost 30 per cent of the marine park's total terrestrial area, needs to be reclaimed from alleged encroachment of various types, the park chief said.

Such a staggering amount of encroachment could not have been carried out without involvement of government officials.

That this was indeed the case is indicated by the fact that at least five former park chiefs, along with one former deputy governor and many other Land Office officials and other bureaucrats, face charges for illegally issuing documents that allowed swathes of prime park land to fall into the hands of so-called 'investors'.

While the powers issued to the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) under Article 44 have drawn criticism from abroad, most of the orders issued thereunder do indeed address serious issues that affect national security and are, for the most part, rooted in corruption.

Previous governing bodies failed to put an end to encroachment at Sirinath National Park and a score of other parks nationwide. The plundering of these national treasures was carried out in plain sight, with many of those responsible for protecting these precious resources more interested in using their positions for profit than upholding sworn oaths to protect them.

If 'extraordinary measures' need to be taken to tackle the problem, expats and locals on Phuket should help by supporting this initiative – for the simple reason that previous efforts by elected governments failed so miserably.

That said, it is important that the prosecution of those involved in encroachment be carried out in a fair and transparent way.

Businessmen who can prove they invested in these projects in good faith and were duped by lawyers, land officers and others operating up the ladder of corruption should be treated leniently under the spirit of the law, not as scapegoats.

Corrupt officials who facilitated this plunder of Phuket's only national park should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law and, if found guilty, have their assets seized and be sentenced to stiff prison terms in order to set an example for all who follow.



Differences in drinking cultures revealed

Re: Gazette online, Patong stabbing leaves 'drinking mate' dead, June 1

Why is it that when Thai men go out drinking together, they so often end up killing one of the guys they're drinking with.

It seems that when foreigners go out drinking together, they all end up in a good mood and think of themselves as great buddies afterward – a reaction completely opposite to that of the Thais.

Jao
Gazette forum

Lifeguards cannot be optional for Phuket

Re: Gazette online, No-gap guarantee as Phuket lifeguard contract policy remains unchanged, May 30

Just imagine if this ridiculous situation happened annually for other essential services, such as rubbish collection, ambulances or the fire department.

Lifeguards are not an optional extra for Phuket; they need to be employed on a permanent basis, either by the authorities or the private sector.

Agogohome
Gazette forum

Clean up the courts

Re: Gazette online, Article 44 tabled to return 'stolen' Phuket park land, May 30

The heel dragging and cronyism in the courts here is well known.

Look at cases, like the Red Bull one, when they have been allowed to drag on outside the statute of limitations.

The Tiger Disco fire is just another example of irregularities. Time for a review of the judicial system to weed out the delays.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Can't a girl just stay dry in the rain?

With rainy season almost in full swing, I am very disappointed at the availability of proper rain jackets and rain boots.

Most places only sell cheap plastic ponchos, or slightly heavier plastic ponchos, that rip apart or disintegrate within weeks, at best.

As far as foot wear, I find the same problem – cheap plastic shoes that fall apart within weeks of purchasing them.

I have found some very expensive boots and jackets in Central and similar shopping outlets that are of good quality but outrageously priced.

There seems to be no middle ground.

On an island that deals with rain so much, so often, I am in awe at the difficulty to find decent outwear.

Jane Whitman
Chalong

Cheers to a fun event, and a great race

Last weekend I attended the 2015 Southern Criterium at Saphan Hin, and just wanted to say what a wonderful and fun event it was. Good job to the organizers and racers alike.

The crowd was full of families cheering on loved ones and the food carts were in full swing.

Not to mention the sponsor tents that were packed full of biking gear, giveaways and free samples.

Great music, great people and

a great time.

I hope that there are more events like this in the future.

Mike Freeman
Phuket Town

Please consider the sticker placement

Recently I started a nutrition plan that requires me to calculate my daily intake of sugars, fat, sodium and so on.

I find it very difficult to find food that has labels in English, which I am not too surprised at, but I have been getting frustrated with the stickers of nutrition facts written in Thai stuck over its English counterpart.

I understand the need to translate the English to Thai, but at the same time a bit annoyed that they can't just place the sticker next to the English label.

Laura Thompson
Kathu

Bring more comedy to Phuket – we need it

Tom Rhodes standup comedy show in Phuket was exactly the sort of entertainment we need.

It was one of the very few times in recent years that some could say 'internationally famous' and it be someone you didn't have to look up online to see who the person was – assuming you follow standup comedy.

Though Tom never really found his stride, he delivered an enormous amount of laughs, and didn't hold back when it came to using foul language, as well as recounting comedic drug-fuelled moments and perverse sexual thoughts.

The eyes of the crowd seemed to be glistening with laughter – and I'm sure the teenagers in the front row learned something.

Michael Coons
Phuket

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Tackle criminals with technology

FIRST PERSON

CRIMES are unpredictable and challenging for police to solve. The time it takes police to close a case depends on how much evidence we have; sometimes there is enough evidence, and sometimes there is not.

I will admit that technology has greatly improved our ability to search for clues, as we can consult CCTV footage, GPS tracking information, pictures and video for relevant information.

Technology plays an especially important role in our investigations when there are no eyewitnesses to a crime. Phuket has CCTV for almost the entire island, so we are able to identify and track down many criminals using this footage.

One problem we do face, though, concerns mobile phone information and GPS tracking. Thailand does not have top-of-the-line technology in that respect. In addition, mobile network carriers are not very co-operative when it comes to releasing information to police. They are always concerned with customers' privacy. This can really slow down an investigation.

I think all parties – police, mobile network carriers and customers – should come together and suggest ways to improve this system in cases of solving crimes.

Besides adequate technology and access to information, quality human resources play a big part in being able to carry out our duties as a police force. We have enough police officers to do what we need to do, but the quality of officers, in some cases, is lacking.

It is important that the government addresses this problem, and employs more stringent and strict



Col Kraithong Chanthongbai, 60, from Phang Nga province, is the superintendent of the Phuket City Police. He earned a PhD in public administration from Bangkokthonburi University, and has been superintendent since January this year.

Here, he talks about the role of technology in the investigation process, problems Phuket police face in solving crimes and different approaches taken in cases involving foreigners and Thais.

standards when choosing citizens to enter positions in law enforcement. We need more quality police on the island.

Phuket is very unique in that both Thai people and foreigners commit serious crimes here. We must have police that are equipped to handle any case handed to them.

Phuket police take different approaches when handling a crime committed by a Thai versus a crime committed by a foreigner, as each type of criminal has his or her own style. For instance, foreigners often commit crimes in teams. The criminals are also often more professional and take time to strategize.

Take ATM skimming cases for example. These criminals are professionals. They understand technology, they understand Phuket and they know what to do.

The process of finding and arresting suspects also varies depending on their nationality. For foreigners, police have to consult both local police databases as well as immigration databases in order to track down a suspect. We also have to be careful with evidence and questioning witnesses to en-

sure that we have accurate information before requesting an arrest warrant from the court.

Like our issues with mobile phone information access, we often run into problems with police and immigration databases, as our technology isn't as advanced as in Western countries. This often leads to long investigations when foreigners are involved.

For Thai criminals, however, the process is a bit quicker and easier, as we have more accessible data about our own citizens. We can also consult relatives, friends and acquaintances to help us track the suspect down.

Each case is different. In my experience, the most difficult cases involve murders and hiding of bodies and evidence, and cases which involve high-ranking or well-known locals. We must always be careful and make sure we have enough evidence for the court.

We always do our best to uphold the law and bring criminals to justice, but we also must have co-operation from other local authorities and parties involved. When it comes to battling crime, we must all work together.



Parked vehicles in the bike lane are one of the many dangers cyclists face on a daily basis. Photo: Richard Drdul

For cyclists' sakes

THERE has been a lot of talk lately about bike safety throughout the nation, with even the idea of cyclists needing some sort of licence to ride being considered.

Concerns were made ever more vocal after last month's road deaths up north in Chiang Mai and Bangkok where a total of five cyclists were killed within a two-day span.

It wasn't until this weekend, when I attended the 2015 Southern Criterium at Saphan Hin, that I realized how many cyclists there actually are on the island.

I now understand clearly the need for more safety regulations concerning bike lanes, parked cars and the like.

There are not many areas on the island in which cyclists can freely ride around without having to play a veritable game of Frogger with cars, both stationary and in motion.

Parked cars are one of the most dangerous obstacles a cyclist can face, either causing them to ride into traffic or swerve away from a driver opening his or her car door without first looking.

If the government is truly wanting to make eco-tourism popular on the island, then there needs to be a safer way to ride. It is dangerous enough to ride around when

Island View

By Debbie Adams

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

you have an idea of the roads and traffic, but what of the tourists who come and are expecting to have a somewhat relaxing bike ride around the island?

The city I used to live in was very cycle friendly. In fact, it had what they call the 'green way' – a highway of sorts for bikers and skaters that ran through the city – which would reach out to the suburbs.

In addition, the streets throughout the city had a designated bike lane of which cars were considered – for the most part. Why? Because they were fined if they were caught driving in or parked in it. No questions asked.

I know you can't change overnight what has already been in place, but instead of making it harder for cyclists to ride with mandatory licencing and only 'warning' cars who park in designated lanes, why not actively push toward driver awareness and safer trails. If not for tourists, then for the people who live and love being here.

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

Who can come take care of my fallen trees and branches?

WHO can I call to remove broken branches and fallen trees from my property?

Does the local municipality provide this service?

Nina Thompson
Patong

Natnacha Phakor of Patong Municipality officer replies:

Thank you for your question. In order to start the process of having fallen trees and branches removed from your property, you

must come down to the Patong Municipality and provide our officers with some personal information.

We will need to get some details about the incident from you, as well as your address and a copy of your identification card or passport.

It would also be very helpful if you have photos of the fallen branches.

We will then pass along this information to our engineering department.

It will take one to two days to prepare our officers and the tools needed for the job.

Please note that if something like this happens on any other part of the island, all you will need to do is contact the appropriate municipality for help.

Get rid of these scorpions, please

I AM having a scorpion problem in my house. I can't get rid of the things because I don't want to mess with them. Is there an organization who can come remove the scorpions for me?

Stanley Goodman
Phuket Town

Phonkrit Ragthong, head of the Kusoldharm Foundation Communication Department, replies:

Thank you for your question. Please note that our foundation deals mostly with snake removal. We hardly ever face any situations in which we have to capture and remove scorpions. However, we are equipped to do so.

Do not panic if you see a scorpion, as most of them are not very dangerous – but do be cautious. Like the snakes that we catch, scorpions will be taken to the Khao Phra Taew National Park in Thailand to be released.

The Kusoldharm Foundation's areas of responsibility in Phuket include Patong, Thung Thong, Phuket Town and Thalang.

You may also contact the Tourist Assistance Center or the Sub-district Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*) in your area.

If you see a scorpion inside your house and you wish to have it removed by Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers, please call us at 076-246301.



If you see one of these, call for backup. Photo: Thomas Quine

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

Submit your issue at

www.PuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

Strong dollars for investors



Finance

By Don Freeman

ONE of the biggest and most unappreciated risks faced by global investors this year is the continued strength of the United States dollar holding back key investing asset classes.

After all, a strong dollar tends to be a double-edged sword.

BAD FOR LARGE CAP US STOCKS

As foreign currencies weaken against the dollar, US stocks that are large cap multinational corporation doing either global business (Coca-Cola, McDonald's, Procter & Gamble) or who tend to focus on exporting (Caterpillar) will likely report lower sales and profits when their earnings abroad are converted back into dollars.

Many US companies have been caught off guard and unhinged by the dollar's rapid rise.

BAD FOR COMMODITY STOCKS/ETFS AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES

As the dollar rises, dollar denominated commodities such as oil tend to become cheaper.

While cheaper gas prices are great for consumers and commodity importing countries, it's not good for commodity stocks with expensive equipment, large payrolls and debt to service.

The same can be said for commodity dependent or driven economies like those of Australia, Chile, Russia and South



A strong US dollar is a double-edged sword with benefits for some and risks for others. Photo: 401(K) 2012

Africa, whose economies slow.

BAD FOR CERTAIN EMERGING MARKETS

Any emerging market country that has its currency pegged to the dollar will likely see their exports fall and GDP growth affected.

Many emerging market companies and countries alike also binged on US-denominated debt in the years after the 2008 financial crisis, with some countries feeling extra pain with the potential of going into default.

POTENTIALLY BAD FOR CHINA

In theory, a strong dollar should not be bad for China, as the US is the country's biggest trading part-

ner and the Renmibi is sort of pegged to the dollar.

In practice, a strong dollar harms China's exports to other countries and could force the government to do more structural reforms, do more expensive stimulus or do a controlled depreciation of the Renmibi.

GOOD FOR EUROPEAN STOCKS, COUNTRIES

Although the EU continues to have its share of largely unresolved problems, the weaker Euro will help European exporters as well as give a boost to the region's tourism.

European companies tend to be more globalized and should see revenue and profit increases at the expense of their American counterparts.

GOOD FOR MID CAP OR SMALL CAP US STOCKS

Assuming the overall US economy does not begin to slow, stocks that do most of their business in the US (usually mid caps or small caps) or are importing either raw materials or finished goods, should fare well. However, certain US stocks with their operations concentrated in shale oil regions (e.g. restaurant or retail chains) or who depend upon foreign tourists (e.g. certain luxury retailers, hotel groups) could be adversely affected by the dollar's rise.

GOOD FOR SOME ASIAN COUNTRIES

While commodity exporters are hurt by a strong dollar, Asian countries that are commodity importers and/or exporters of

manufactured goods should see some positive economic benefits.

In addition, some of the sectors or areas mentioned earlier (e.g. commodities, certain emerging markets) may be or could get beaten down by a strong dollar that now, or in the near future, might be an attractive entry point for investors who can stomach some risk and have a long-term time horizon.

Most other investors would be wise to keep an extra portion of their equity allocation in US domiciled stocks while paying attention to where these stocks conduct most of their business. Investors also need to be mindful that US interest rates could start to rise in the near future, but this should further support US-based investments.

It's still very difficult to predict where the dollar will be at the end of the year – let alone five years down the road. And while its important to consider how a strong dollar will impact investments in the short term, investors should not let potentially short-term currency fluctuations determine their long-term portfolio allocation.

Don Freeman, BSME is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket. He has over 15 years experience working with expatriates, specializing in portfolio management, US tax preparation, financial planning and UK pension transfers. Don can be reached by calling 089-970-5795 or sending an email to: freemancapital@gmail.com.

SCB pushes for debt restructuring to ease troubled SME conundrum

THE troubled situation of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) has prompted banks to launch both normal practices and special measures to help their customers, while Siam Commercial Bank has had to become more proactive about offering debt restructuring.

Several banks recently jointly provided assistance to small and medium-sized enterprises through normal practices such as waiving principal payments, extending debt payments and trimming loan interest rates by 10-25 basis points.

Some banks are preparing loans for only debt restructuring.

Vipon Vorasowharid, first

executive vice president and head of business banking at SCB, said that in the first three months, the bank lent more than 30 billion baht to SMEs, of which 17bn was restructured to support customers facing liquidity crunches.

The bank needs to adjust the process of debt collection and launch proactive measures to prevent loans from going bad.

"Debt collection from SMEs in the past was running as normal, but in these difficult times, the normal practice might be late and the borrowers might turn into bad debtors faster than the bank expected," he said. – *The Nation*

E-commerce to drive Asean retail growth

E-COMMERCE can help grow Asean's retail sector and will benefit both consumers and retailers in the region, the Asean Business Advisory Council (Asean BAC) said in its latest report.

In its 2015 report to leaders, Asean BAC said business-to-customers Internet sales in Asean account for only one per cent of total sales as opposed to eight per cent in developed economies.

According to global management consulting firm AT Kearney, Singapore is the only Asean country to be placed in the top 30 in a ranking led by the US, China and United Kingdom.

In the firm's 2015 Global Retail E-Commerce Index, Singapore ranked 14th with a 41.5 score in terms of online market attractiveness.

The study said the city state has infrastructure that makes the retail environment conducive for online shopping.

In terms of consumer behavior, Singapore was rated at 89.4, a score higher than the US, which indicated a favorable consumer base for online transactions.

Asean BAC said e-commerce



E-commerce will benefit consumers and retailers. Photo: Jorge Franganillo

technology is essential for the integration of Asean's retail sector, as it makes shopping easier for consumers. It also helps grow businesses without having to contend with too many pre-existing impediments.

But in order to develop e-commerce, the council said Asean needs to work on its logistics, develop an online payment system and promote access to finance.

Asean should also consider the establishment of a region-wide e-payment regulation system that will help companies identify their clients.

To speed up the payment pro-

cess, an e-payment escrow solution could also be explored, the council said in its report.

Asean should also encourage partnerships between e-retailers and logistics players to improve trade efficiency.

The integration of logistics systems in Asean must be accelerated. The council added in its report that the Asean Single Window system should be fully implemented.

Asean BAC said access to finance and use of regional e-commerce platforms will help Asean e-commerce players keep up with their international competitors.

– *The Nation*

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Market boon to businesses

Boat Lagoon's Lighthouse Weekend Market to carry on through rainy season due to popular demand

By Phuket Gazette

THE new addition of a mini-motor expo at the Lighthouse Weekend Market last month produced four on-the-spot car sales, tagging the event as a business generator on Phuket – one in so much demand that it will continue through the rainy season.

The cars that sold were Mini Cooper, Volvo and Subaru models, confirmed Kanittha Prasopsirikul, market organizer and Managing Director of By Kanittha.

In its fifth month, the popularity of the market has been a boon to local retailers and independent vendors, and is now attracting more international brands as the local dockside trading area is expanded.

Visitor numbers totalled 1,700 over the three days; Saturday being the busiest day with about 1,000 visitors between 5pm and 10pm.

Many of the food vendors had to replenish supplies early on Friday evening as visitors filled the dockside to take advantage of the

special early-bird deals on drinks and meals for an end-of-week rendezvous with friends.

"The success of the weekend market comes down to bringing a healthy mix of affordable, high-quality local produce, handicrafts and merchandise to a central location, where visitors can shop, eat and chill along the board walk of Phuket's liveliest marina, while being entertained by a variety of professional performers," said Kanittha.

■ We were persuaded to extend the market to three days and make provisions in case of rain. We were surprised by how many visitors and vendors turned out this weekend, despite the threat of stormy weather. ■

What began as an experimental idea to bring together about 50 local traders on the last weekend of January this year, quickly caught on to become a regular monthly event and now boasts a total of 80 stalls and other attractions.

Naka Toru, president of Kabuki from Siam Paragon, explained to the *Gazette* how impressed he was with the event.

"The purchasing power in Phuket is high and growing, especially when it's compared to the current situation in Bangkok," Mr Naka said.

Plans for the Boat Lagoon's



Plans for the next Lighthouse Market at Boat Lagoon are underway. Photo: Nick Davies

next Lighthouse Market are underway to bring more entertainment and expand on the shopping and dining options.

"Due to popular demand from vendors and visitors, we simply couldn't just stop running the

weekend market during the rainy season, as we'd initially planned," said Kanittha.

"In fact, we were persuaded to extend the market to three days and make provisions in case of rain. We were surprised by how

many visitors and vendors turned out this weekend, despite the threat of stormy weather."

Vendors and sponsors can contact organizers By Kanittha on facebook at The Lighthouse Market or by calling 081-810 3328

Re-make marketing plans



Business Buzz

Simon Wetherell

WE ALL know that social media marketing is popular, but how can we best use it for our business to increase awareness, grow our customer base, make more sales and improve profitability?

Targeting people using social media is simple and easy if done correctly, but to be successful and get the best results, you need a blueprint to make sure everything works toward your goal.

Once you get established and have a successful operational plan, it makes it difficult for someone to catch up with the advantage you have built without having to put in a lot more energy or resources, so taking action first has its benefits.

Once you have analyzed your needs and what it is you are trying to achieve, then it is best to put it all down on paper and map out a step-by-step action-plan.

Over the next few weeks, we

are going to review the steps that are crucial to building your business and helping create the right social media strategy for you.

The important factors to consider are the following: Who is your perfect target market? Are you building a database? Can you automate your social media to get the best results and save time? How do you create a sales funnel and positive customer user experience? How are you promoting your sales funnel and is it successful? How can you track and test your results to get better performance?

Social media is not something to be afraid of. In fact, it should be seen as one of the greatest revenue producing opportunities your business has had in years.

Simon Wetherell is a social media expert, lawyer, best selling author & international speaker. He now resides in Phuket where he trains businesses and individuals on how to profit from the use of social media.



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Sax on a boat



A saxophonist puts on a live show at the Boat Lagoon Lighthouse Weekend Market.

I want a Baba Wedding



Phuket Today presenter, Rose Maitland Smith (center) meets with Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana (right), and Kosol Taenguthai, deputy mayor for Phuket City and president of the Thai Peranakan Association, to discuss their plans for the Baba Wedding Festival, which will take place in Phuket Old Town on June 20-21. Photo: PGTV

The 69th ASEAN Committee on Technology and Science Meeting

The official opening ceremony for the 69th Asean Committee on Science and Technology (Asean COST-69) was held on May 28 at Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket.



Hansruedi Frutiger (right), GM of Mövenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach Phuket, welcomes His Excellency Pichet Durongkaveroj, minister of Science and Technology for Thailand.

Be healthy, be happy

Bangkok Hospital Phuket celebrated its 20th anniversary on May 22 with the 'Be Healthy Fair 2015'. At the party, the hospital launched its 'Bike Ride Project', which was designed to encourage local people to practice a healthy and environmentally friendly way of life on Phuket.



Narongrit Havarungsi (3rd from right), director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket, and Lalita Kongseeha (2nd from right), deputy director of Bangkok Hospital Phuket, are joined by employees on stage at the opening.

Blu Anda heads to Koh Yao



Members of the Phuket media, from various companies, join the trip to Koh Yao.

Helping Nepalese children

Skal International Phuket & South Thailand donated 100,000 baht to UNICEF, following an urgent call for funds needed to take care of children in Nepal, following the devastating earthquake last month.



HEROES: (L) Claude Sauter, president of Skal International Phuket & South Thailand; Heike Garcon, secretary of Skal; Brice Borin, vice-president of Skal; and Richard Mehr, head of PR and marketing for Skal.

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

PROPERTY FOR SALE
of the week



**MA KHAM BAY
SEA VIEW LAND**

See page 14

PROPERTY FOR RENT
of the week



**LAND & HOUSE PARK
CHONLADA PROJECT**

See page 16

WHEELS & MOTORS
of the week



**STUNNING
1997 GTO 3000**

See page 18

BOAT & MARINE
of the week

Boatshedphuket.com
INTERNATIONAL YACHT BROKERS



See page 19

HOT Promotion – Gazette **CLASSIFIEDS**

Introducing
Phuket's Best
Bargain on Classifieds

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ONLY!**

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Phuket Gazette Classifieds
Phuket's **LARGEST** Classifieds Marketplace

Terms and Conditions:

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- 2) Ads must be placed in person or on the Gazette Online.
- 3) Ad Power Card discounts not available for this promotion.

THE NATION
Classifieds

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Questions?
Anna@PhuketGazette.Net

OCEANFRONT VILLA



PATONG SEAVIEW WITH POOL

HOTEL IN PATONG FOR SALE

**MA KHAM BAY
SEA VIEW LAND**



KATA BEACH HOUSE SALE

REAL SEAVIEW LAND

BEST VIEW AND AREA IN PATONG

LUXURY VILLA SALE

**TOWNHOUSE
SUPALAI CITY HILL**



**PROPERTY
AND MOTOR
INSURANCE**

- Property Insurance
- Construction
- Public Liability
- Professional Indemnity, Director and Officers
- Group Health and Individual
- Personal Accident and Travel
- Motor insurance

Contact: Paew, Ton, Jane
Phuket Boat Lagoon
info@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: + 66 76 273 385



www.lambertbrothers.co.th

BUILDING FOR SALE CHALONG

LAND + HOUSE FOR SALE

OCEAN VIEWS, KATA

QUICK SALE HOUSE

BAKERY SHOP FOR SALE

MASSAGE SHOP FOR SALE

LOVELY RAWAI VILLA

MODERN THAI-BALI VILLA

PATONG 2-BEDROOM CONDO

**All classified
in these pages are**

PAID!

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

Gazette Classads - they work!
because they're real.

Classified Advertisements

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

[illegible]

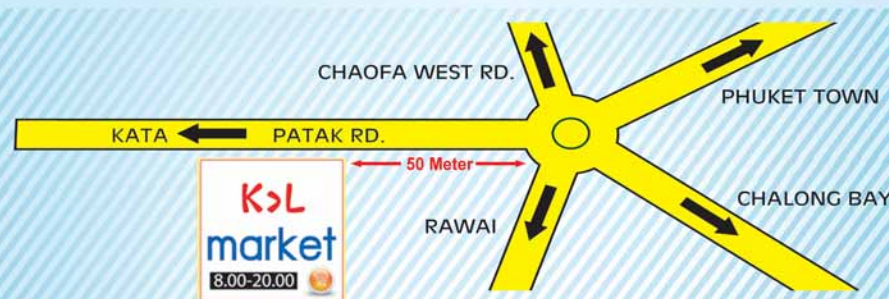
Classified ads are charged per line. Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (heading included) per ad.

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.

Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Live in Chalong?
Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at
KL Mart



Simply write out your ad,
pay and leave it with
Khun Laddawan:
(076 - 280 400)

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!**

Properties For Sale

CHERNG TALAY LAGUNA

Landplots 400sqm till 1,000 sqm. Ask for more information at laplphuket@gmail.com

CONDO KATHU FOR SALE

30.15sqm. Fully furnished. 1 bedroom. Living room. Kitchen. Aircon. Tel: 087-508 3516.

HUGE FIVE-BED BIG POOL VILLA

This huge five bedroom villa with massive feature pool in Rawai is greatly reduced for urgent sale at 12.5 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandaman realestate.com

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

400sqm. Furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, European kitchen, 4 aircons, swimming pool. Sale: 4.9 million baht. For more information, please call 081-787 4831.

QUIET NAI HARN POOL VILLA

Well-maintained 2-storey traditional Thai-style pool villa with 3 bedrooms, in small group of 4 homes. Private and serene. Desirable location with a short walk to Nai Harn Beach, restaurants and shops. Perfect for investment. Price reduced to 4.3 million baht. Email: rgartland@comcast.net

OCEAN VIEWS, KATA

New 1-bed condo, 44sqm. Great views. In-house management & rental program. A valuable investment. Ready to move in. 3.98 million baht or nearest offer. Email: ianscon do@yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLA SALE

5 bedrooms. 10x5m pool. Big living room. Nice kitchen. Fully furnished. About 300sqm. Quick sale only 8.5 million baht. Tel: 093-713 2278.

THE DECK CONDO

2-unit condo for sale at the center of Patong. The Deck Project. 1) studio unit no.0103309, floor 3, building A, 31sqm, 3.5 million baht. 2) 1-bedroom unit no.010310, 41.5sqm, 4.5 million baht. Full-furnished, ready to move in May 2015. Tel: 081-085 7550 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-344789. Email: ornhol land@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH CONDO

Pay in 10 years. Sell for 1.1 million baht in 40 trimestrial payments of 27,500 baht. Full Chanote title. Ownership forever. Brand new. Fully furnished. Aircon. Kitchen. Tel: 098-331 6449.

FREEHOLD CONDO FOR SALE

Patong Tower building. One bedroom with 270-degree view of Patong beach and town. 10th floor. 54.35sqm. 11 million baht or nearest offer. Genuine buyers only. No brokers please. Tel: 081-737 8662.

22 RAI - 400,000 BAHT PER RAI

Beautiful plot of land with nice mountain views. Has paved road access and electricity. Located 5km from Tablamu golf course and 10km south of Khao Lak. Price: 8.8 million baht. Tel: 087-277 7794 (English & Thai). Email: patchanee.samranjai@gmail.com

KAMALA NEW HOUSE

Living room. Bedroom. Bathroom. Terrace. Cable TV. Internet. Quick Sale 2.5 million baht. Secure place. Tel: 098-045 5421.

URGENT SALE

60sqm apartment in Kata Beach center. Reduced from 2.9 million baht. Sale now: 2 million baht, furniture included, free transfer. Please call 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

LAND FOR HOTEL

1.5 rai, 50m from beach, close to Amora Hotel. Plan for five-storey hotel with 108 rooms. For sale at 28 million baht. Please call 061-261 3486.

3-BED HOUSE LARGE GARDEN

Chuan Cheun Lagoon, close to British International School and the Boat Lagoon Marina. Chanote land title, 146sqm. (584sqm), private cul-de-sac location in secure, clean village. Cool, bright, open plan with large Western kitchen and good water supply. Large car park, patios. 6.85 million baht, negotiable. Please call 086-040 6866 (English), 081-979 6707 (Thai).

FAMILY POOL VILLA IN RAWAI

450sqm. Very peaceful and secure cul de sac. 3 bedrooms. 2 decks. 2-3 car park. 5 minutes to Rawai pier. Close to all amenities. Walk to beach. 9.9 million baht. For more information, please call 083-642 1300 (English & Thai). Email: adgareau@yahoo.com

NAKA ISLAND

Unique 4-bedroom beachfront house, panoramic views to the south, 10 mins to Ao Por pier. 240sqm on 2 floors, 750sqm plot, separate house for staff. Tel: 084-846 1270 (English).

STUDIO FOR SALE

In Phuket Town. 5 mins to Central, Big C. 2nd floor, 33sqm. Kitchen, furnished. Price 680,000 baht. Tel: 081-719 7015. Email: jassarabee@gmail.com

ANDAMAN BEACH SUITE

Spectacular seaview condo located on the 12th floor in Patong. This 127sqm apartment, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 balconies and a spacious living / diningroom, has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minute walk), access to swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 081-691 1580 (English & Thai). Email: Es therandi@gmail.com

LAND IN NAI HARN FOR SALE

Nai Harn. Chanote title. 1 rai. 300m to the beach. 13 million baht. Tel: 086-943 0871 (English). Email: vodorod12@mail.ru

KATA HOUSE SALE

4 bedrooms. Reduced price, must sell. Was 3.5 million baht and now 2.99 million baht. Tel: 082-465 9939.

KARON BEACH CONDO

This 1-bedroom Karon apartment is for sale. Ground floor with direct pool access. Tel: 087-892 3876 (English). Email: info@phuketcondo.net

AMAZING VILLA

Modern villa, swimming pool in Rawai, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, seaview, fully furnished, 3 floors, close to beach & shops. Price only 9 million baht, no brokers. please call 098-464 9220.

RAWAI BEACHFRONT CONDO

New fully furnished with amenities, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Great location. Must see. Only 7.2 million baht. Tel: 081-892 6710 (English), 081-895 7908 (English & Thai). Email: peterh@asianwind.biz

CHALONG HOUSE SALE BY OWNER

Chanote title. 412sqm. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, in and outdoor kitchen, beautiful garden. 4.2 million baht, negotiable. Tel: 093-737 1242. Email: konradantonsson@gmail.com

1-BED APT. SALE / RENT

Fully furnished apartment in Chalong. Sale: 1.95 million baht, rent: 12,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

POOL HOUSE

Near Heroines Monument, Pa Khlok Road, 250sqm. Land 452sqm. 3/4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 aircons, big kitchen, furnished, 9x3m pool. Price: 5.25 million baht. Tel: 089-854 0277. Email: catayacht@csloxinfo.com

POOL VILLAS RAWAI

New top design pool villas, 2 & 3 bedrooms and bathrooms, large 5x8m pool, nice green area, Rawai, close to Makro. Start 9 million baht. Tel: 096-284 2463, 084-898 8258. Email: p.bumrung515@gmail.com

KATA OCEAN VIEW

1 bedroom, fully furnished, 91sqm, seaview. Best price in complex. Only 60,000 baht/sqm, 5.5 million baht total. Tel: 095-037 9680, 089-617 2312.

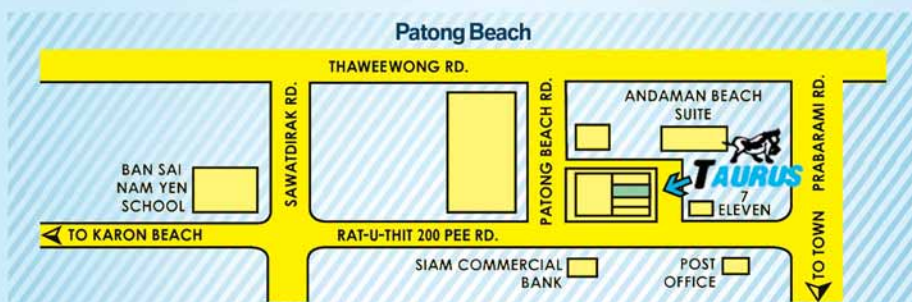
CONDO FOR SALE

Royal place condo, 3fl at the corner with swimming pool view, 45sqm. Fully furnished.

Pls contact 086-4769612 | annanoi@hotmail.com

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel



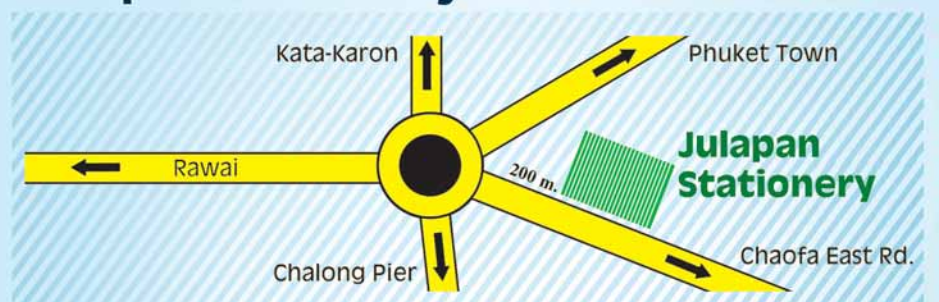
Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Kai: (076-344321-2)**

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

Live in Chalong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Julapan Stationery



Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Aoi: (076-282254)**

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

Properties For Rent

**STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT**

Please contact 086-4769612
email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

Royal Place condo, Phuket City, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 37 Sqm, 2 fl. Studio room, fully furnished.

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartments. Free WiFi, 75sqm, studio. 1 bedroom 1 bathroom. 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms. Plus duplex apartments overlooking the rooftop pool. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038, www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

THAI POOL VILLA NAI HARN

2 bedrooms villa in Soi Naya, available July 1. 37,500 baht / month, yearly rental. Tel: 081-270 5126, 083-396 40 07. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com or http://sites.google.com/site/mervyncrocker/home

HOUSE BOAT LAGOON

For long-term rent. Fully furnished. Tel: 084-629 3244. Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

STUDIO & 2-BED WITH POOL

2 bedroom & studio aircon apartments for rent in Chalong. Special rates now through August from only 8,000 baht for select studios and 18,000 baht for 2 bedrooms. Includes WiFi, maid service, full furnishings, balcony, kitchenette, shared pool. Tel: 086 - 282 6221 (English & Thai). Email: info@chalongapartment.com or http://chalongapartment.com

PATONG 1 & 2 BED LONG TERM

Rentals available. Pool, weekly maid, free WiFi, parking. From 20,000 baht / month. Tel: 080-052 8082. Email: solitude001@aol.com

SPA APT. KATA BEACH

500 baht / day, aircon, WiFi, kitchen, clean & safe. Tel: 086-595 8512. Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

1-BED BUNGALOW RAWAI

Large terrace, big kitchen, aircon, WiFi, quiet. 9,000 baht. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

NEW MAI KHAO BEACH HOUSE

10,000 baht. New fully furnished and aircon. 500m to beach. For more information, please call 081-693 4463 (English & Thai). Email: 321orchidilla@gmail.com, www.orchidilla.com

CHALONG AREA HOUSE

1-3 bedrooms. Quiet area. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-892 4311. Or visit our website at http://palaigreenweebly.com

BOUTIQUE ROOM FOR RENT

Fully furnished, WiFi, Mae Luan Road. Tel: 089-668 3639 (English & Thai). Email: zhunaumann@gmail.com, http://BoutiqueRoomPhuket.com

LUXURY APARTMENT PATONG

1 bedroom, 50sqm, fully furnished, kitchen, balcony, big swimming pool. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-080 8831 (English & Thai). For pictures please email to jstuder@loxinfo.co.th

BEACH HOUSE CHALONG

Furnished, 2 bedrooms, cable TV, WiFi, garden, quiet, secure, from 12,000 baht / month. Please call 095-046 4039.

LONGTERM RENTAL PATONG

Starting from 13,000 baht per month, including cleaning, utilities, Wifi, 24-hour security, gym/pool. Fixed rate. Tel: 081 083 1505 (English). Email: danex01@gmail.com

4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA CHALONG

4-bedroom, 5-bathroom private villa with 8 x 4m private pool for rent in Chalong. Fully furnished with TV and entertainment systems. Includes WiFi and cable TV. Secluded with gated entrance. For more information, please call 093-584 3711 (Thai), 081-397 6921 (English). Email: terryleetuck@hotmail.com

CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

Furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge, gym & pool. 10,000 baht / month. Tel: 092-991 9624. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

12,000 BAHT A MONTH

2 bedrooms, fully furnished, on 0.5 rai, in a nice area. Close to PIA, golf and beach. Tel: 081-125 1873, 081-892 4804.

CAPE YAMU VILLA

900sqm, ultimate luxury villa, amazing sea views. 195,000 baht per month. No agents. Tel: 082-420 3270.

CHEAP RENT HOUSE

Fully furnished 1-3 bedrooms, aircons, free WiFi, starts from 6,000 baht per month. Please call 081-892 4311. http://panwagreen.weebly.com

FAMILY HOUSE + POOL

Kathu - near schools, shops. Located at Baan Suan Loch Palm. This modern home has 3 bedrooms + maid room. Secure and safe in a patrolled gated community, major schools including BIS are only minutes away. Major shopping centers such as Central and Tesco Lotus are an easy 10-minute drive. House features an excellent all-weather outdoor area, swimming pool, nice gardens. Longer term rental preferred. Fully furnished. Contact Bea: 087-352 4114 (Thai), Justin: 083-551 1633 (English).

SHOP HOUSE FOR RENT

2-storey, 2-unit shop house for rent near Karon Circle. For more information, please call 076-344922, 083-102 5928. Fax: 076-341870. Email: kki ran23@hotmail.com

Accommodation Available

FOR RENT: COSY HOME NEAR BIS

3-bedroom / 2-bathroom home, aircon, equipped kitchen, internet, garden. 10-minute drive to BIS. 22,000 baht per month. Please call 081-803 1560 (English & Thai). Email: pak.lifestyle@gmail.com

NAITHON BEACH PALACE

New boutique apartment. 3,800 baht / month. Tel: 081-000 9917. Email: merienhotel@gmail.com

TOWNHOUSE SUPALAI CITY HILL

For sale (2.8 million baht) in Supalai City Hill Estate, Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, quiet, convenient location, furnished, full kitchen, decor, garden, car park, 2 aircons. Available from May 2015. Tel: 089-874 0061, 086-291 4115. Email: stephenfein@gmail.com

House for Sale / Rent



Land&House Park Phuket - Chonlada Project
2 bedrooms, 3 ensuite bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished, 2 carparks, maid service.
Sale: 10 million baht
Rent: 55,000 baht / month
Tel: 081-892 4997, 087-698 9431

RENTAL PROPERTIES

We manage & rent in south Phuket, and are looking to add quality properties. Also managing whole condominium complexes. Email: assetmanagementphuket@gmail.com

KAMALA BEACH HOUSE

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, furnished, WiFi, cable, maid, secure, clean. 16,000 baht / month. Tel: 083-645 3546.

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Only 20,000 baht per month, lease for 5 months, in secluded resort, near Lauguna. Tel: 089-594 4067.

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

HOUSE ON THE GOLF COURSE

Loch Palm. Small 2-bedroom/bathroom house for long-term rent. No pool. Great views. Fully furnished. Tel: 081-894 0339 (English). Email: hilltribe@poppies samui.com

Property Wanted

30 RAI JUNGLE WITH STREAM

Waterfall or creek on property and secluded quiet location a must. Chanote or Nor Sor 3 Gor titles only. Anywhere in Thailand. Tel: 081-892 2419 (English & Thai). Email: linprachakrich@gmail.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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 2 POSITIONS

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV to
Diao@PhuketGazette.Net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555, ext 207 Fax: 076-615240

TIMESHARE / TELESALES PROS

\$\$\$ Exceptional opportunity \$\$\$ Work at our lakeside resort in Chiang Mai. Looking for a few top guns to work the phones into Australia. We supply full training, excellent leads, top commissions & great working environment. Tel: 081-020 4023. Please send resume to brad@spachiangmaiwaterside.com or go to our website at www.spachiangmaiwaterside.com

BUSINESS CONSULTANT

Jus Laws & Consults Company Limited is looking for a Business Consultant. Native English speaking. Law education background. Please send CV to marina@juslaws.com or call 076-304353, 091-035 9191.

EXECUTIVE SALES MANAGER

Male / female Thai, excellent in communication and presentation skill both Thai & English, self-managed, car fuel covered. 30,000 - 60,000 baht / month. Please call 098-331 6387. Email: info@phuket solar.com, www.phuket solar.com

REAL ESTATE EXECUTIVE 70,000+

Live Phuket is a leading agency looking for a talented, motivated and hungry person to join our sales team. The role will involve managing and maintaining leads and inquiries for the sales team. Email: paul@livephuket.com

JUNIOR WEB DEVELOPER

Salary: 20,000 - 30,000 baht / month+ bonus. Must be a female / male Thai national who is start-up minded, with clear thinking. We work with worldwide clientele and welcome any junior / beginner. Necessary experience with: Classic ASP or PHP. Some experience necessary with XML, JSON, Javascript, JQuery, HTML5At, ASP MV CA, SQL Server and IIS / Windows. For more details, please call 098-671 8466 (English). Email: marina@juslaws.com. See more details on www.sednasystem.com

FRONT OFFICE MANAGER WANTED

Thai and English speaking. Salary negotiable. Please send CV or contact Anne. Tel: 084-845 0003. Email: admincontrol@bayshore projects.com

COOKS AND MAIDS

Vacation villas in Patong looking for full-time and part-time Thai staff to work in holiday villas in Patong. For more information, please call 080-699 2436 (English), 081-133 6477 (English & Thai). Email: kokakat@gmail.com

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. For more details, please call 081-893 5492 (English & Thai).

JOB, CAREER AVAILABLE

Villa Manager, Guest Service Supervisor (Natai), Villa Technician, Accountant, Housekeeper, Therapist, Beautician. Please send CV or apply in person. Tel: 076-527 633. Email: hr@luxuryvilla sandhomes.com

ENGLISH TEACHERS

Teachers from N.E.S / European countries to teach in schools: Phuket city, Chering Talay. TEFL / TESOL (+ Degree preferred but only essential for F/T). Must be good with YL. 1 x F/T. 2 x P/T. 30,000-35,000 baht / month. Contact head teacher ECC, Phuket. Tel: 076-307 0579, 089-139 8453 (English & Thai), 091-647 5465 (English). Email: Giles@ecc.ac.th

TUTOR TEACHER

Tutor / Teacher wanted for 5-year-old Australian/Thai child, to teach K3 Math, Reading, as well as Thai language. Monday-Saturday, 4 hours per day. For more information, please call 093-418 9529. Email: Shayne.Michia@gmail.com

ENGLISH TEACHER WANTED

Or native English speaker. Needed for private lessons for my 19-year-old Thai son. Tel: 081-797 1497.

FITNESS PROGRAM INSTRUCTOR

Wanted. We are recruiting for our Weight-loss / Fitness Program Department. We are looking for qualified professionals to join our team. Fluent English speakers only! Rawai. Tel: 087-271 7447 (English & Thai). Email for job details at recruitment@phuketfit.com or www.phuketfit.com

ANIMAL CAREGIVER WANTED LIVE IN

Starting March 1. Full time. Position involves handling sick animals, dog walking, grooming & medicating, cooking meals & running errands. Occasional after-hours & nights expected. Animal experience essential. Please send your resume to Email: jellinecastro@yahoo.com

SALES REP. AND TO.

DVC looking for English Reps and TO. For more information, please contact 098-270 8099, 076-342794. Email: hr@davidvacation club.com

SALES MANAGER

• Excellent communication, reading & written English skills.

• Ability to adapt quickly to new trends and new markets.

• Experience working in property markets.

• Must be hard working & dedicated.

• Co-ordinate and work with Management team as required.

• Thai national preferred.

Baan Yamu Residence. Tel: 076-310507. Email: info@baanyamu.com

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Career opportunity for a dedicated sales representative at a holiday ownership company, based in Phuket. Tremendous potential for huge earnings. Legal working status will be arranged. Please send email to rbv@royalperspective.com

SALES COORDINATOR

Siam Real Estate requires an experienced naturalised English speaker to administer and co-ordinate sales/rentals enquiries at our Rawai office. Must be a strong organiser, have a pre-emptive approach, be computer literate and have good people skills. Salary + WP provided. Tel: 076-288 908.

MARKETING MANAGER WANTED

Marketing manager wanted for new product. Thai national. Basic English. Tel: 087-893 8747 (English). Email: info@platinumresidencepark.com

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Tropical Properties real estate is urgently looking for an Office Assistant. Must have good knowledge of spoken and written English. Basic accounting and good computer skills are essential. Must be able to organize, work independently. Thai national only! Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

SECRETARY

Female, Thai nationality, good command of written and spoken English, good computer knowledge (Word and Excel programs), good attitude and positive person. Benefit: salary 12,000-15,000 baht per month + commission 10-20%, social fee, public holiday, vacation. Tel: 086-940 5187, 081-415 7774.

GUEST RELATIONS

Luxury villa in Nai Thon looking for an experienced Guest Relations Manager. Must have education, be reliable and flexible. Salary 20,000+ baht. For more details, please call 080-440 0772. Email: richard@ivanhoe.net

CHINESE WEDDING PLANNER

Wanted Chinese wedding planner, good command of Mandarin, working online, work at home and earn extra money for side business, basic fee plus commission included. Please call 087-268 8159. Email: wedding@samer.com

CHINESE PROPERTY AGENT

Phukets leading Real Estate agency is now looking for a Chinese Real Estate Agent to join our successful team. You need to be able to write and speak Chinese fluently. Main job description is to introduce Phuket properties to our Chinese investors and buyers. High earnings are expected for the right candidate. Please call 076-341 045, 081-459 0152. Please send your CV to info@proper tyinphuket.com

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

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

PATONG

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

PHUKET CITY

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

CHERNG TALAY

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

RAWAI

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

KARON

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

Business Opportunities

SACK YOUR BOSS

An affordable home based business that has a 30-day trial + a 30-day money back guarantee. A must see. Please call +61-49-917 8152 (English) or send email to tracy_j_cooper@hotmail.com, <http://ipasdiscount.com/pre/?id=76298&tid=#sthash.xvBSLAbQ.dpuf>

OCEANFRONT VILLA

Brand new, fully furnished, 3-4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, 10m infinity swimming pool, beautiful view. For quick sale only 19.5 million baht. Guaranteed rental 8% per year. Tel: 081-343 0777.

BAR FOR SALE

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Pick-ups

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Grainger Barefoot 40 (2011)

Asking \$425,000 AUD

Win regattas while still being able to cruise the islands with family and friends in an easily sailed and simply maintained cat. Sound good? Just Us may be what you're looking for. Lying: Phuket, Thailand

**THE SOLUTION TO
THIS WEEK'S****Cryptic Crossword****COFFEE
break**

Abbreviations: UPPERCASE (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. FORESTALL: *floralset* 10. EXADMIRAL: Ex.-A.D.-M-rail 12. EACH: *ache* 13. DIVINE: make out 14. INANGER: *nearing* 15. TANGERINE: *ninegreat* 17. ROADSIDES: *doerssaid* 18. DUE DATE: *dudeeat* 19. FAMOUS: *ofusam* 20. BLUE: off color 23. MOVIE STAR: *imove-star* 25. PREVALENT: *prev-a-L-ent* 26. NODS: no-D-S 27. DEACON: de-a-con 29. GRAMPUS: *sugarp* 32. LOWLINESS: *newssoill* 34. UNANIMOUS: U-onaminus 35. SHUTOFF: *shoutff* 36. CHACHA: dance 37. STYE: S-yet 38. LODGEMENT: *modelgent* 39. LICENSEES: permit-E-S

Down:

1. AFFECTED: assumed 2. PRECONCEIVED: *priceevencod* 3. MARITIME: *aremitim* 4. ALPINE: a-L-pine 5. CARICATURE: *itraceaur* 7. IMPASSE: I'm-pass? 8. FLORESCENT: f-L-or-E-scent 11. RIGID: rig-I'd 16. ENAMEL: *name-el* 19. FAR: fair 21. LAEMPROMTHER: *morphatemple* 22. MALAWI: *imalaw* 23. MINDLESSLY: *sillymends* 24. THEREAFTER: *fatterhere* 25. PEN: put down 28. COSTCUTS: Co's-T-cuts 29. GRAPHICS: *cashprig* 30. SUSPENSE: *sensesup* 33. WOULD: W-ludo 34. UNABLE: un-A.B.-L-E

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Specs:

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

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

Contact Tony Scragg at 081-906 3250, or email tony_scragg@hotmail.com

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Shifting into gear for the Southern Criterium

Singha presented 'The Southern Criterium by Specialized' on May 30 at Saphan Hin. Nearly 300 cyclists saddled up and joined the competition, which wrangled the *Phuket Gazette* as the media sponsor.



SUPPORT CYCLING: (L) Oranee Hildebrand, managing director of the Phuket Gazette, Chaiyapat Chaturongkul, office of the president for Boon Rawd Brewery; Kawee Tunsukatanun, deputy mayor of Phuket City; and Nattakorn Eiamworakul, GM of Bike Avenue Phuket.



Cyclists who took part in the race put on their kits and prepared for sharp turns.



Chatree Ruchupoj (L), marketing officer of Boon Rawd Trading, is joined by Teeruth Satitkul from Finadasia.



The Thalang cycling team didn't have far to go to join the race.



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Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pitaya Tantipinyakij. Registered Capital: 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid). 88 Land and Houses Koh Kaew Phuket, Location: Thepkasatri Rd. Koh Kaew Sub-district, Amphur Muang, Phuket, Title Deed No. 2848, 104515, etc. Project Area 53.58 Rai, Financial Institution: Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start: March 2013 Expected Completion: 2015 applying for Operation License. After full payment is completed, transference is made within 7 days.



Words from the wise

“No matter what people tell you, words and ideas can change the world.”

– Robin Williams

Medium

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

Hard

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

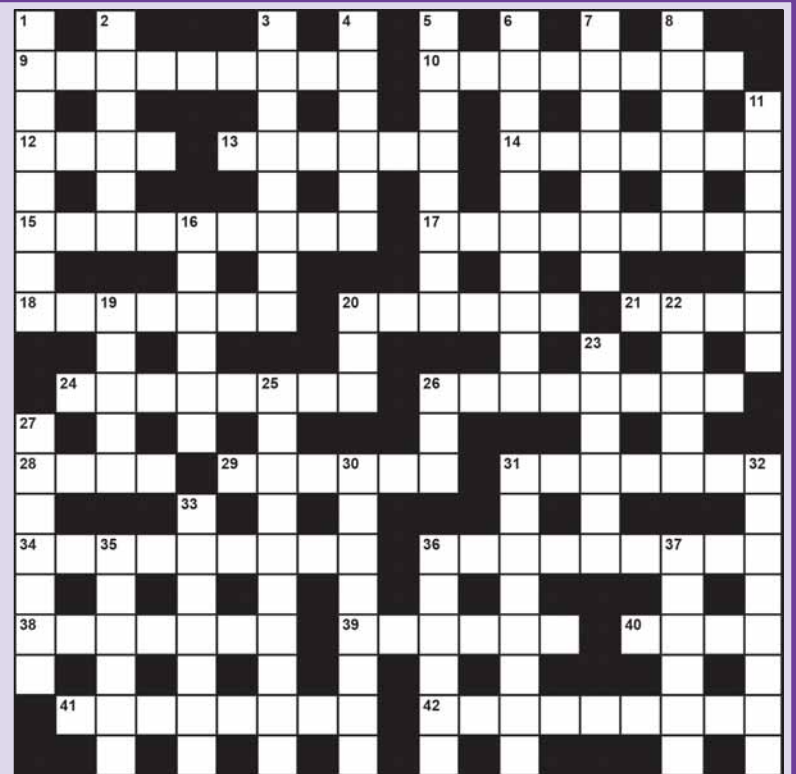
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

9. Anticipate different floral set (9)
10. Old naval officer, former wife, nowadays many rail about (2-6)
12. Ache about every one (4)
13. Make out the angelic (6)
14. Possibly nearing losing temper (2,5)
15. Nine great crushed fruit (9)
17. Doers said rearrange the areas beside the highways (9)
18. Time to pay perhaps, Dude, having eaten (3,4)
19. Out of us, am well known (6)
20. Filthy color (4)
23. Screen idol! I move around the heavenly body (5,4)
25. Prevent a large inclusion being widespread (9)
26. No, daughter, son signals acquiescence! (4)
27. Minister of French a convict, in short (6)
29. Arranged sugar, p.m., for a dolphin (7)
32. Bad news, so I'll be in a humble state (9)
34. Turn out on a minus, undivided (9)
35. Possibly shout very loud to stop supply (4,3)
36. Dance slow in Thailand (3,3)
37. Son yet to develop eye problem (4)
38. Model gent could make deposit of money (9)
39. Permit two points for publicans (9)



Down

1. Assumed to be pretentious (8)
2. Thought beforehand of new price, even C.O.D. (12)
3. A remit I'm sorting out to do with the sea (8)
4. A large conifer of the high mountains (6)
5. Printed radio message in time, note large new mark (8)
6. I trace a cur badly, a grotesque representation (10)
7. There's no escape, I'm past my prime (7)
8. Flowering, left in for Eastern fragrance (10)
11. Piece of equipment I'd find inflexible (5)
16. Possibly name the Spanish gloss paint (6)
19. A good way off fair, not I! (3)

21. Possibly morph a temple into a Phuket viewpoint (4,8)
22. I'm a lawmaker in an African country (6)
23. Maybe silly, mends stupidly (10)
24. Subsequently fatter here, unfortunately (10)
25. Put down in cage (3)
28. For decrease of expenditures, Companies time reductions (4,4)
29. Cash prig made from images (8)
30. Uncertainty moves senses up (8)
31. Upset to prove it wrong (3,4)
33. Wife, playing ludo, was willing (5)
34. Lacking means to do it, one

Gemini (May 22-June 21)



You'll revel in the info coming your way. If you're taking a study course or are in a full-time learning environment, you might be amazed at how new knowledge can change your life and perspectives for the better. Do be determined to seek out new opportunities, as a proactive approach could reveal one that is attractive to you.

Cancer (June 22-July 23)



Any intuitive ideas you have may be helpful for resolving problems, encouraging creativity and paving the way for overall progress. But the key will be to not ignore flashes of inspiration, as they could be crucial in helping you move ahead. This is a week when you'll have an opportunity to consider your next move and need to work to make it happen.

Leo (July 24-Aug 23)



The people you mix with can prove to be a real inspiration, and much can be gleaned from an off-the-cuff

remark or a lighthearted chat that benefits you or answers a query. Even so, where the bigger questions in life are concerned, you'll make progress by relying on your curiosity, backed up by others' experience.

Virgo (Aug 24-Sept 23)



Many ideas may vie for your attention as you consider future plans. However, limiting yourself to one or two may be your best bet if you're to really power forward. Don't discount coincidences or unexpected events that might point out the way ahead. With your regent Mercury 'going direct', recent delays might soon be a thing of the past.

Libra (Sept 24-Oct 23)



A fortunate alignment of planets can bring you to the point where you may be about to make an exciting discovery. With Jupiter moving into a fab angle with Uranus, the stirring power of Mars encourages you to look into new areas for growth opportunities. In addition, plans look smoother once Mercury 'turns direct' from Thursday.

YOUR horoscope

By Patrick Arundell

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 22)



Whether you run a business or want finances to improve, this week's planetary influences suggest this can be the perfect time to talk with the right people. Getting sound advice, as well as valuable hints and tips can certainly enhance your long-term prospects. Meanwhile, Tuesday's quarter moon suggests looking into a creative idea.

Sagittarius (Nov 23-Dec 21)



Chances are you can be swept along by a wave of vitality and enthusiasm, one which could see you teaming up with another in a truly dynamic way. And as Mercury dances ahead, any sense of frustration you've recently felt should soon melt away. Mind the fact that it's crucial not to resist changes that definitely need to happen.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 20)



Small decisions and changes of habit or routine can make a positive difference in your life. Perhaps it's something you read or a recommendation that pushes you toward trying out a new idea – potentially with good results. If obstacles have plagued your path recently, there's a good chance they'll soon ease, leaving you free to forge ahead.

Aquarius (Jan 21-Feb 19)



You could get extensive backing for an innovative idea of yours that may have all the hallmarks of true ingenuity. In fact, this might be one of those weeks in which you can excel by sharing any of your foresighted insights or intuitive hunches. Unexpected events can also play a part in success, along with Mercury's forward motion from Thursday.

Pisces (Feb 20-Mar 20)



Home and family affairs can take precedence, but in a good way. It's a week when you may be busy with all kinds of

activities – such as celebrations, changing the look of your home or having guests to visit. From Friday on, as Neptune rewinds, this could help you see a confusing situation with greater clarity and be an aid to making some smart decisions.

Aries (Mar 21-Apr 20)



A fortuitous blend of energies can lead you to make a bold move, stretching your abilities a little more than you might normally consider. Look out for a special opportunity. If you are alert and seize this chance, it could turn out to be a case of being in the right place at the right time. Furthermore things will speed up as Mercury forges ahead on the 10th.

Taurus (Apr 21-May 21)



If money matters have been a cause of frustration recently, the week ahead shows better promise. The more information you can get hold of, the more informed the choices you'll make. However, the potential revealed by one offer may hit the mark right away, and solve a few problems in the process. Swift action can be required though!

WHAT'S ON in Phuket

June 12. Filipino Fiesta at Two Chefs

After last year's success, we are getting ready to celebrate the Philippines' Independence Day again.

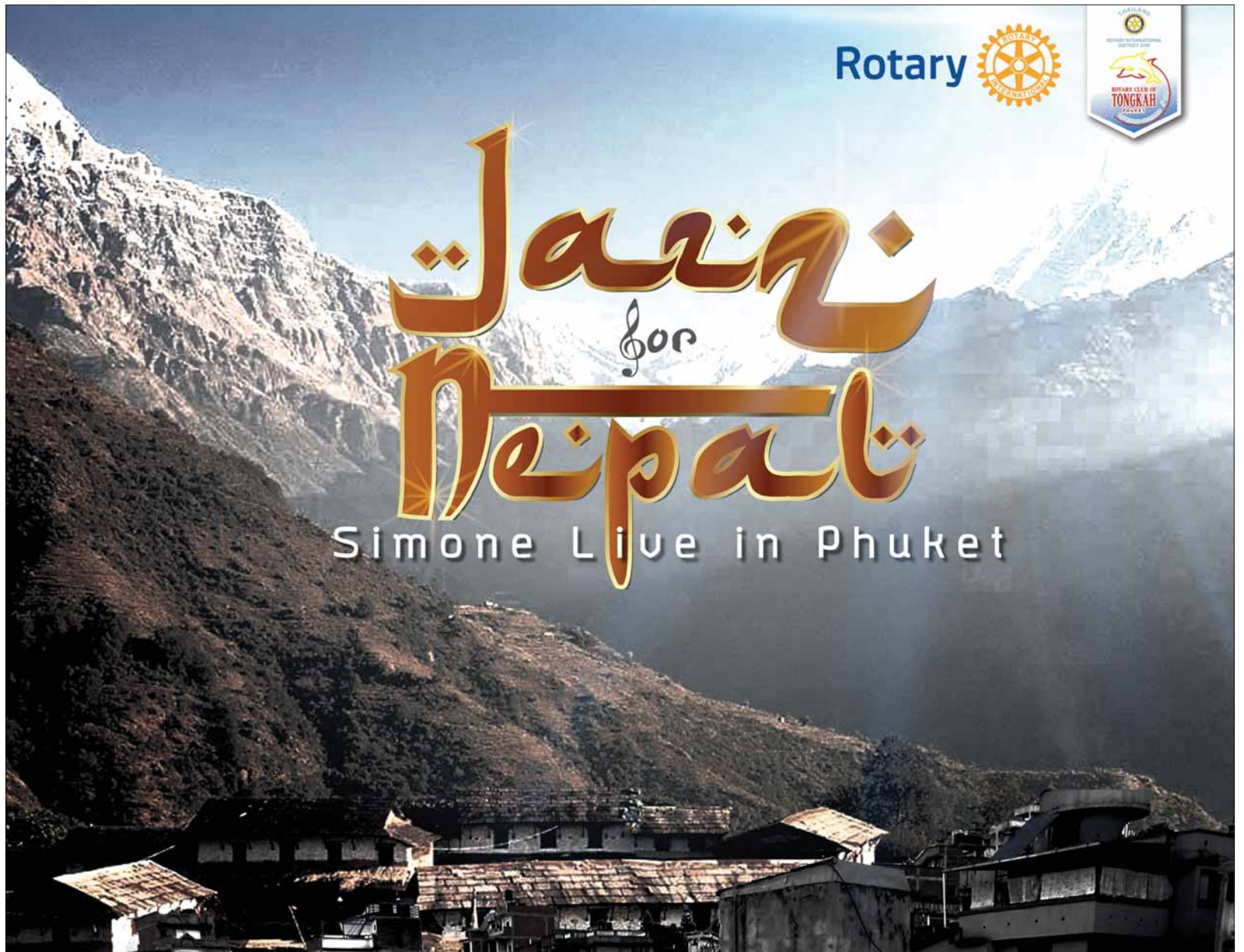
This year it will be held at our Kata Center branch. There will be a large buffet available at only 395 baht, as well as special prices in the bar. Our famous Filipino house band will be entertaining you until the late hours.

We welcome guest performers to join us for this evening; there will be some great prizes for the best of them. 6pm to 11:30pm. Make your reservations now by emailing katacenter@twochefs.com or calling 033-0065. Come for the food and stay for the fun.

July 15-July 19. Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek

Now in its 12th year, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek offers exceptional sailing on the east coast of Phuket and quality accommodation at our host sponsors. Four nights of extravagant event parties that have become infamous around the Asian Yachting scene make this one of the best Asian Summer sailing regattas.

Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek 2015 has a comprehensive Commercial Sponsorship and Partnership Program that enables corporate Asia to get involved with the world of sailing. The growing popularity of sailing in Asia makes it the ideal platform for companies to increase their brand awareness.



Join the Rotary Club of Tongkah for a night of smooth jazz and help raise funds for victims of the May 12 earthquake that shook Nepal.

For more information email info@phuketraceweek.com or call 089 000 4664

June 22. Jazz for Nepal Simone Live in Phuket

Rotary Club of Tongkah invites

you to join 'Jazz for Nepal Simone Live in Phuket' on Monday, June 22, at 6:30pm at LimeLight Avenue, featuring world renowned Austrian jazz vocalist Simone Kopmajer.

Proceeds after expenses will be

forwarded to the Rotary Club Thamel district, Kathmandu, Nepal 3290 to assist victims of the May 12 quake and repair damaged schools.

For more information, contact K.Aom at 086 410 1246.

July 30. Asahna Bucha Day

This day commemorates the Buddha's first sermon after he attained enlightenment. Evening candlelight processions will be staged in all Thai Buddhist temples throughout the island.







Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

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

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LOCAL COVERAGE	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div> Phuket Cable Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <div> Rawai Cable Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">  <div> KDTV Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm </div> </div>	<div> MCOT World Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm Wednesday: 6.10pm Thursday: 1.10am Friday: 1.10am Saturday: 1.10am Sunday: 6.10am </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> Truevisions Channel: 79 PSI Channel: 223, 320 Dynasat Channel: 106 Thaisat Channel: 185 Infosat Channel: 185 Sunbox Channel: 81 GMMZ Channel: 103 </div>	<p><i>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</i></p> <div style="margin-top: 10px;"> Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H Tuesday: 6.10am, 12pm, 7.10pm Wednesday: 6.10pm Thursday: 1.10am Friday: 1.10am Saturday: 1.10am Sunday: 6.10am </div>

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Phuket Pads

Patrick Lusted

THE perfect family home is located on a secure estate just walking distance from British International School, and only 15 minutes from Phuket International Academy, two of the most well-known international schools on the island.

The six-bedroom – or five-bedroom plus office – home is in an estate which is already full of expat families, making it extremely convenient for children and parents to settle in and make new friends.

As you drive up the newly paved road, you will notice the quality of build of the property.

Everything is immaculately constructed and pleasing to the eye.

At the front of the house are some pretty gardens, grassy areas and a small entrance way. To the right is a gated parking space for two vehicles, which is covered by part of the house. Lighting has been strategically placed around the perimeter fence and looks terrific when lit up at night.

At the rear of the house are more grassy areas, big enough for the current owners to install a volleyball court. Landscaping includes many designer bamboo trees as well as other indigenous plants and shrubs.

When you walk through the double doors you enter the huge main living space. In fact, the entire house is quite large at 600 square meters. The floors here are

tiled, and ceilings fanned, and extra cooling is supplied by several air conditioning units.

The living space is bordered by sliding aluminum doors which open to a large terrace with a dining area, a private, well-stocked bar with stools and an in-ground swimming pool of approximately 60sqm. This area has been set up specifically for entertaining, with a sound system and ceiling fans. What more could you need?

To the left of the main living space is a closeable area which is used for a formal dining room. It looks out over the terrace and swimming pool area.

To the right is a fully appointed western kitchen with a breakfast nook. The kitchen has gas and electric cooking appliances and black granite counter tops.

The six-bedroom home is in an estate which is already full of expat families, making it extremely convenient to make new friends.

Beautifully crafted wooden stairs lead to the second level, which has hardwood flooring – a very attractive feature. The master bedroom is upstairs, overlooking the backyard and surrounding bushland. All bedrooms on this level have en-suite bathrooms and sliding doors which lead to a large balcony and sun deck. There is even another outdoor staircase which leads down to the pool area.

Up another set of stairs you will find the attic, which has been converted into both another bedroom and a private office for those who wish to work from home.

This lovely property comes fully furnished and many included utilities such as satel-



This beautiful home is just a short walk away from British International School Phuket.

lite TV, telephone lines, fiber-optic broadband connection, central water heating and three-phase electricity.

The house and *Chanote* land title

deed are held in a clean company for an easy purchase.

The property has been drastically reduced to 18 million baht for a quick sale.

For more information contact: Patrick Lusted at Siam Real Estate, quote reference number: HSIL1554 Tel: 076-288908 www.siamrealestate.com

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Famous architect bids promenade design

THE National Artist on Architecture, Sumet Jumsai na Ayudhya, has presented his plan for a Chao Phraya riverside promenade to the prime minister, while the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) has agreed to permit the public to participate in the project.

Mr Sumet submitted his alternative model for the riverside walkway together with examples of similar projects in Australia and Canada, plus a letter to the prime minister with suggestions.

His design focuses on the traditional Thai style of living in harmony with the river.

In his riverside promenade, there is a pedestrian walkway and floating houses along the shoreline. This resembles a floating market and traditional housing of Thai people in the past.

According to his secretary, the letter and his design were sent to the prime minister but there had been no response from the



Sumet Jumsai na Ayudhya's model for the promenade. Photo: The Nation

government as of yet.

Work on the project, which aims to give a new face to the river, is expected to start this year and conclude by 2017.

Tuesday, a BMA source said the office had not ignored opposing voices from academics and the public, saying it has been open to any suggestions to improve the project.

The source said the plan has

already been amended – to be 12 meters wide. Moreover, it guaranteed that the structure of the promenade would not block the river flow or riverside scenery.

The BMA has given its assurance that local communities' way of life would not be affected, as locals would be able to take part in the project.

The office said five communities near Krung Thon Bridge in Dusit district would be most affected, as there were many houses that encroach on the river – up to 30-40 meters from the bank.

However, the BMA already held talks with the communities. Residents had agreed to move out and did not object to the project, as the BMA had accepted conditions to compensate them for relocating – offering new cheap accommodation, taking care of education for children in the communities and taking care of the residents' quality of life.

–The Nation

Small condos boost in sales

New research shows that the sale of smaller condos is on the rise in Phuket

By Nina Suebsukchareon

A SEA change set in for Phuket's condominium market post-2008 with units smaller than 70 square meters now vastly outnumbering larger ones, according to in-depth research results by Knight Frank Thailand.

Research director for Knight Frank Thailand, **Risinee Sarikaputra**, explained last month that prior to 2008, as much as 84% of Phuket's condominium supply was larger than 70sqm, with only 16% being smaller than that.

However, a significant transformation took place between 2008 and 2014 leading to 82% of the units on the market being smaller than 70sqm.

It is noteworthy that condos smaller than 40sqm could only be

sold if priced below 5 million baht.

The research points to the west coast as a good area to invest in a condominium, but adds that while the compact one-bedroom unit has investment potential, the bigger two-bedroom sea-view condos from 71sqm to 99sqm are a better choice for investors because of scarcity.

The compound annual growth rate of a sea-view unit was 5.2% from 2007 to 2014.

Although Phuket continues to attract a fair share of high-net-worth foreign property investors it has become apparent that fewer are now willing to spend 100 million baht or more on a luxury villa.

Previously, the demand on the island was for large lifestyle villas with usable areas of at least 1,600sqm and a selling price point of 100mn baht



Previously the demand on the island was for large lifestyle villas that were at least 1600sqm. Photo: Werner Bayer



The Laguna area remains a very sought after part of the island due to the range of facilities.

or more," said Ms Risinee.

"But lately, demand is highest for villas priced below 20 million baht, with 690 out of 950 available units, or 72.6%, sold in this price range.

"Most villas in this range have two to three bedrooms with usable area of 200sqm to 300sqm located on small plots of 50 square wah to 70 square wah.

"The small one-bedroom [condos] performed reasonably well, but not to the extent of the more sizeable counterparts. The overall take-up rate for the entire market

continued to improve – with 78.7% for the first three quarters of 2014."

While villa investors are usually interested in all west coast beach areas, the Knight Frank Thailand research points out that two of the beaches, Bang Tao and Patong, are of particular interest as they have complete facilities and amenities for daily life.

Although it was the vast Laguna development and other subsequent high-end projects that turned Bang Tao into a classy residential and tourist area, recently more mid-

market and economic villa projects have emerged in the area.

"The Laguna area remains a very sought after part of the island due to the range of facilities in the area and proximity to the airport," explained Ms Risinee.

"There are also international hotel branded villa projects, including Banyan Tree and Dusit."

Ms Risinee noted that the price of villas managed by Banyan Tree range from of 59 to 125 million baht per unit, while those managed by Dusit are a few notches lower, at 34 million baht per unit.

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Breaking down stats

Bill returns to Gazette property pages with FazWaz's hard facts



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

ISLAND condominiums continue to be the horse you have to ride, which is evident when you see mid-rise buildings coming up as far as the eyes can see. For the market though, talk continues to turn toward a bubble, a crash or at least a short break for a little 'me' time.

So what's up for Phuket property as we storm into rainy season 2015? I've just run through some impressive data by online real estate platform FazWaz.com, and the numbers are very telling in terms of trends. There has recently been a lot of talk in the trade about shifting demand from end-users to investors, but let's crawl into this sheet by sheet.

It's impossible to classify the island property sector in broad, absolute terms – there is too much diversity and, in reality, there are two specific markets. The first is domestic grade properties, which have traditionally been aimed at buyers who intend to live in the units. One highlight of the sector is that it tends to have inland locations that carry relatively high-density profiles.

The other is the resort-grade market, which has a legacy of overseas buyers and has been typically oriented more toward investment or part-time usage. These properties are, of course, in tourist areas or key demand generators such as the ocean, golf courses, marinas and other up-scale facilities.

Clearly, the former versus the latter makes up the lion share of the transactions and available inventory of condominiums for sale



There are many factors to be considered before diving into any condo investment. Image: Zscape

in Phuket. For more astute readers, the classification of these two segments is somewhat arbitrary, but can best be defined by selling price per square meter. In an international context you often have a grading system of 'Grade A, B, and C'. However, no such system really exists for leisure type units.

Pricing is the clearest indicator of the specific asset type. This is best demonstrated in the FazWaz

numbers by looking at median condominium pricing in Phuket Town, which is approximately 74,000 baht per square meter. On the flip side, Patong is currently edging toward the 158,000-baht high-water marker.

However, it's important to connect the dots between buying motivation and expected returns. For property, of course, this is mainly in either rental yield or else

capital appreciation on re-selling. What's perhaps the most confusing for prospective purchasers is determining what the upside is.

While Patong is expensive, the argument might be that growth in land prices will continue upward and positively influence pricing for investors. That said, the reality is that supply and demand have to be considered as strange bedfellows: to cash in on a sell means

that there must be a willing buyer at the right price.

There does remain the question, though, of what will happen to the slew of smallish studio units that have flooded the market over the past few years and whether or not they can be filled by either end-users or renters.

One topic that also has to enter the mix is re-sales, the secondary market, and how this plays out.

Frankly speaking, there is limited data on the sector in the public domain and what consumers read about broad-market metrics is based on off-plan sales. For buyers, the question of re-selling is quite relevant given that's often the best yield for an investment. Buyers have spent years covering the bank financing for the unit, just staying at break even. Then, when it comes time to cash up and out, whoops, the market turns out to be a phantom one.

Currently, the secondary market has what could be termed a 'massive overhang' of units. There is not a single common denominator for why the owners are trading. They range from financial stress, to those wishing to invest in other asset classes or else fatigue from low-recurring rental income. And then, there are the dreamers who ask, why not list and see if someone will buy at a highly-inflated price?

There is traction in this sector, but the pricing is volatile and highly subjective to negotiated deals and heavy discounting.

What is evident, for now, is that Phuket's condominium market is maturing and as in any age-related story, the wrinkles might be coming around the edges and be creating their own unique story lines as well.

Asean foreign investment boost as countries increase leasehold periods

TO BOOST foreign investment in the region, Asean countries are revising their laws, especially those concerning investment in property by extending the length of leasehold contracts for industrial and commercial use, according to a survey by *The Nation*.

The Thai government on April 2 approved 99-year leases for state land to speed up the development of six special economic zones (SEZs), covering a total of 24,871 rai in five provinces: Tak, Sa Kaeo, Trat, Mukdahan and Nong Khai.

The decision is based on the law on land leases for commercial and industrial purposes enacted in 2009, which allows 50-year leases. Plus a 49-year renewal term, the lease period will now be 99 years.

Under normal circumstances, Thailand's leasehold law allows a 30-year maximum period, with the possibility of renewing a lease for additional 30-year periods.

While leading property developers agree with the government's extension of leaseholds to 99 years for SEZ land, they also want the government to revise the leasehold rules for residential and other commercial

buildings from the current extendable 30-year period to a full 99-year term, as is done in Singapore and Malaysia.

"If the government opened up the opportunity for foreign buyers to hold residential leases for up to 99 years, like Singapore and Malaysia, it would boost residential demand when the country is the gateway to the [upcoming] Asean Economic Community [AEC]," said Thai Condominium Association President Prasert Taedullayasatit, who is also managing director for condominiums at Pruksa Real Estate.

Meanwhile, Vietnam is revising its laws so that foreigners can extend their property ownership after their 50-year ownership period expires under the Housing Law, up to an additional 50 years,

according to *Viet Nam News*.

The newspaper said the government decree is expected to be issued this month,

■ If the government opened up the opportunity for foreign buyers to hold residential leases for up to 99 years, like Singapore and Malaysia, it would boost residential demand when the country is the gateway to the [upcoming] Asean Economic Community [AEC].

– Thai Condominium Association President Prasert Taedullayasatit

becoming effective on July 1, in accordance with the amended Housing Law, which was approved by the National Assembly in November with a separate clause on regulation on foreign ownership of properties in Vietnam.

The report said the ruling was part of a draft decree being proposed by the Construction Ministry, which specifies and guides a number of articles of the Housing Law.

According to Item I, Article 77 of the draft, the provincial People's Committee is authorized to extend house ownership, at the request of an owner.

Under the amended Housing Law, foreigners are in total allowed to own a

maximum of 30 per cent of the units in any apartment building.

Singapore and Malaysia lead the way in Asean in terms of opening up opportunities for foreign investors, with their maximum 99-year leases being far longer than those currently allowed in other member states.

Meanwhile, Cambodia, Myanmar and the Philippines make 50-year leasehold periods available to foreign investors, while Laos and Indonesia have 30-year leaseholds for land for foreigners, according to a report by property agency CB Richard Ellis (Thailand).

The latest report, "The Emerging Powerhouse of Southeast Asia: What does it mean for Real Estate Investors?" by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), says this year marks the creation of the AEC, a single market of more than 600 million people.

This large economic and population bloc has already translated into significant opportunities through increased inter-regional and intra-regional trade, tourism, expanded financial and insurance services and higher demand for logistics, JLL said in the report.

– *The Nation*

Welcome to the dark side

By Katie P Arnold

THE black burger is all the rage in Bangkok lately, but unless one is actively paying attention to food trends from around the nation, one might not have had any idea that such a trend even existed.

What makes this particular burger special, and gives it its color identifier, is its black bun, which has edible charcoal powder mixed into the dough.

In addition to the color, the charcoal also offers a unique flavor, as if the burger itself was cooked on a charcoal grill.

One Phuket restaurant is bringing the black burger to the south and channeling the dark side with its homemade 'Darth Vader' burger.

Ooy Street Kitchen, located on the corner of Phang Nga Road and Montri Road in Phuket Town is the conception of Hat Yai native Rathapol 'Ooy' Sukhum and his girlfriend, Phuket native Temjai 'Jeab' Limsakul.

Their Darth Vader burger is no ordinary black burger. Ooy has adapted the bun recipe, and the buns are made at home by Jeab. And the name? Well, I think it's safe to say that Ooy is a *Star Wars* fan.

The burger itself can be made with beef or pork, but it is what goes on top that makes it really special.

Of course you have your traditional tomato, onion, cheese and lettuce, but to add a little sweetness, Ooy puts in pineapple and

his homemade, tangy barbecue sauce, which gives it an extra kick.

"The recipe includes raw sugar, brown sugar, vinegar and dried Thai chilis," Ooy hinted.

Another exciting dish served at Ooy Street Kitchen is called the 'Merica'. Inspired by an American Independence Day sandwich containing huge amounts of bacon, Ooy created his own unique version.

"Because bacon is so expensive in Thailand, I decided to add more ham and incorporate some sweet flavors into the mix," Ooy said.

This sandwich is massive and includes bacon, ham, egg, cheddar cheese and that wonderful combo of pineapple and barbecue sauce, on a homemade bun. It should also be noted that this and the Darth Vader come with a side of excellently seasoned fries.

The open concept of the restaurant was inspired by popular street kitchens throughout Thailand. Ooy, who is a former interior designer, likes to call it a 'show kitchen' and it's easy to see why. The western-style kitchen gives off an air of a television set for a Food Network show, which is always playing on the flat screen near the counter.

Each dish at the restaurant has a story behind it and a unique twist that makes it special, whether it is the chicken parmesan served on linguine with the flavorful addition of Picorino Romano, or the signature Ooy salad made with lettuce, parmesan, homemade



The 'Darth Vader' burger's black bun gets its color and flavor by mixing edible charcoal into the dough.



Ooy likes to think of his open kitchen as a 'show kitchen'.



The 'Merica' is full of bacon, ham and BBQ sauce smothered goodness.

dressing and a generous portion of sausage and diced ham.

Ooy Street Kitchen keeps things fresh with their monthly specials, which in the past have included

tacos, nachos and pork chops with mushroom sauce.

At a mere 10 months old, Ooy Street Kitchen is a unique and delicious addition to the Phuket

Town food scene.

Open from 5pm to 10pm, Tuesday through Sunday, this street kitchen is definitely one to write home about.

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* Channels and schedules: See page 29, this issue of the Gazette.

Phuket Gazette

Fighting wasted food

THE government, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations, launched a major awareness-raising initiative to address food loss and food waste in Thailand on May 25.

The national Save Food Campaign in Thailand, endorsed by partners of the Save Food Network, is the first of its kind in Asean. It was launched at CentralWorld by the deputy minister of agriculture and cooperatives, Apichart Pongsrihadulchai, and FAO assistant director-general and regional representative Hiroyuki Konuma.

"Worldwide, food worth more than 32 trillion baht, or US\$1 trillion, is lost during production, at harvest, during handling, transportation, distribution, and storage or is simply wasted and thrown away at the consumer level, and in the retail and food service sectors," Mr Konuma said during the launch. "That is the equivalent of some 1.3 billion tonnes of food lost or wasted each year. To put it another way, that's more than one-third of all food produced worldwide."

Rosa Rolle, FAO technical coordinator of the Save Food Campaign, said, "While this is a global issue, and while there are no exact figures on how much food is wasted at the consumer level or in the food-service and food-retail sectors in Thailand, it is easy to see in many restaurants that food prepared for consumers often isn't finished."

"Food losses continue to be the main issue of concern in Thailand. While value-chain development is making a difference in reducing the levels of food losses, losses in



About 30 to 50 per cent of fruits and vegetables are ruined during transport and handling. Photo: McKay Savage

the traditional systems that supply the bulk of food requirements to the mass market are high, largely due to a limited knowledge base of handlers, the high cost of post-harvest technology, and improper packaging and handling. Strategies are, therefore, needed to overcome these bottlenecks."

Mr Konuma said, "Mishandling along the value chain and food

waste by consumers result in more than economic loss. They represent a loss of all the valuable efforts and natural resources that were required to grow, harvest, produce and deliver the food to us."

HARD WORK

"We need to remember all the hard work of farmers and fishermen to

source the food and the waste of natural resources that were required to grow the food. This is especially true in the case of consumers who often order too much food in a restaurant or buy too much when shopping, eventually throwing it out later. This borders on indifference and even disrespect of food and the efforts of people who bring it to us," Mr

Konuma said.

The launch of the campaign included a walk-through display area of how food is produced, and how it is too often lost or wasted. A video presentation highlighted consumer attitudes towards food loss and waste and offered suggestions on some of the simple actions people can take to reduce the loss and waste if they think before they order, think before they buy, and think before they throw food away.

Thai celebrities also joined the event to lend their support including a mini-concert by Thanakrit 'Wan' Panichwid, a celebrity talk with Chanokwanan (Took), save-food cooking and storage tips from Chef Bun 'Ik' Borriboon and celebrity MC Ning Saraichatt.

The event revealed that, depending on variety, 30 to 50 per cent of fruits and vegetables in the Asia-Pacific region are ruined during transport and handling, while anywhere from 12 to 37 per cent of rice produced in Southeast Asia is lost during harvest, processing, transport and storage.

From a consumer's point of view, something as simple as making a shopping list before going to the market and avoiding impulse over-buying is a smart and economical approach. When eating at a buffet restaurant or even a la carte, it makes more sense to take or order just enough, as one can always order more later. These simple measures make it less likely that consumers will waste food.

From the perspective of those along the value chain, better packaging and transport of food would lead to less spoilage. Improved storage and handling of food would also save money. — *The Nation*

Kingdom on path towards lower energy consumption

NEW buildings will soon be required to introduce new technology and equipment to reduce energy consumption by 30 per cent from the 2010 base if they are to win construction licences.

The list of products with the 'Eco' label will be expanded to cover new devices like tablets and mobile phones, to ensure that only energy-efficient devices are in use.

These are among a series of measures outlined by the Energy Ministry in the quest to lower Thailand's energy intensity by 30 per cent by 2036 from the 2010 base. The integrated energy-efficiency plan is designed to put stricter control on existing industrial and commercial buildings, all new buildings, electronic and electrical appliances, utility producers, the transport sector and government agencies.

Twarath Sutabutr, deputy permanent secretary of the Energy Ministry, said the target was achievable with the advanced technology available today and in the future.

Energy intensity is in focus as the authorities seek to achieve a more balanced strategy. While supply will be boosted by new investment locally and overseas, the demand side will have to be lowered to en-



Talks are underway to replace highway light bulbs with LED lights. Photo: Giovanni Collazo

sure long-term national energy security and combat climate change.

In 2010, every kilotonne of oil and other energy sources consumed in Thailand cost the Kingdom 15.6 billion baht. That cost will be cut by 30 per cent by 2036, when energy consumption should be cut by 56,142 kilotonnes of oil equivalent (ktoe).

To achieve this, the Building Code will be strengthened, to issue construction licences

to only those buildings that can meet the requirements. Starting this year, government agencies that are constructing new buildings have to comply with the requirements, or their expenses will not be approved. For private buildings, the new rules are set to take effect in 2017, when electricity consumption should be cut by 20ktoe. The rate of reduction will be gradually stepped up, eventually reaching 1,407ktoe in 2036.

The Eco-label list will be extended from 54 items at present to cover cars, motorcycles and notepads, for example.

"With the labels, consumers will find it easier to buy energy-efficient products. This will be changed in line with the changing lifestyle," Mr Twarath said.

The plan will cover financial support to energy-saving projects, entailing subsidies, soft loans, funds to energy service companies and tax incentives.

Talks are under way to replace conventional light bulbs on highways and public venues with LEDs (light-emitting diodes), which will reduce electricity costs and will be less harmful to the environment. To encourage a change to LEDs in the household, business and industrial sectors, the Energy Conservation Fund will extend loans for replacement. The interest-free loan can be repaid with the savings in electricity costs in a 24-month period.

"We have to make a move, though all these may not be completed within this government's term. These measures coupled with price signals will significantly cut down energy consumption," Mr Twarath said with confidence. — *The Nation*

Between a rock and a hard place

Serpentine roots of banyan trees, limestone outcrops melded into home design



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

I WAS recently invited by my good friend Paul Maitland-Smith to Cebu, in the Philippines. Like Phuket, Cebu is an island, and on much the same latitude. It is, however, considerably larger, with mountains rising to 3,300 feet – twice the height of those in Phuket. Much of the tropical vegetation there prompted memories of the hillside rainforests in Phuket – mangoes, bananas, huge clumps of bamboo, myrtles, banyans and mountain ebony, even the odd African tulip tree and flame tree in brilliant scarlet bloom.

But limestone underfoot had replaced Phuket's granite, and the temperatures were two or three degrees cooler, especially at the elevations – 2,000 feet or so – where we were reconnoitering.

The result? Plants growing wild that I have not seen in Phuket. For example, the steep hillsides had abundant displays of deep purple spikes of verbenas, and masses of eggplant bushes with tiny green, pea-like fruits (*solanum torvum*). They are valued as a food source in Thailand, but here the locals seemed indifferent to their presence. *Lantanas*, known here as *coronitas*, had established a flowery footing on many of the slopes.

Another more eye-catching shrub, native to the Philippines, was surviving at these altitudes – the *medinilla* or rose grape. It has attractive clusters of pink flowers and red seed pods complemented by bluish green, deeply veined leaves. *Brugmansias*, which I have always struggled to grow in Phuket's salty and humid climate, were there growing wild in the mountain upland air.

In Thailand, you have to go to



DREAMING: Creating a home intertwined with nature in the mountains of the Philippines. Photo: Madeleine Deaton

Chaing Mai and its environs to find similar specimens. On the adjacent terraced slopes – a surprise to me – the local farmers were growing row upon row of chrysanthemums destined for the cut-flower trade.

Paul's current project is an extraordinary one. On an exposed rocky outcrop, he envisages the creation of a structure which will not only make a magnificent new home, but will incorporate both a museum and an art gallery to house some of his unique collection of antiques and 'objets d'art', as well as to provide a dramatic space in which local artists can display their creations.

And here's the rub: Instead of

flattening the existing craggy rocks and thereby creating a level platform, our visionary has decided to retain these limestone shapes, eroded into fantastical patterns and textures by eons of rain and wind, and incorporate them in his design.

Part of a series of enclosing structures composed mainly of plate glass and stainless steel, the rocks will feature both within and without its confines, part and parcel of a mountain citadel approached by winding steps which follow the contours of the terrain from the landscaped gardens below, and rise past a huge rocky pool complete with waterfalls and

koi carp. As you climb, you will pass through the portals of an Indian temple, ancient pillars and arches reassembled in this remote setting.

There is more. A number of these outcrops are embraced by the serpentine roots of banyan trees, clinging like giant octopods to these immovable crags. They too will be a feature of this domain. Once completed, you will be able to enter this series of glazed structures and see on every side, the sea or mountains. Look in the immediate vicinity and you will literally be within touching distance of rocks and roots. Man and nature in harmony.

My brief was to recommend plants for such a high, arid environment which might enhance the visual experience of owner and visitor alike. Below, down in the valley, and set in checkered shade, were plants in abundance, already expertly selected and cared for – feathery columnar ferns, lady palms, spiky yuccas, huge bird's nest *aspleniums*, colorful *bromeliads*, all sprouting from a dense carpet of creeping vetches and aesthetically landscaped amid rocks, water features and statuary.

In the micro-climate above, conditions are less bountiful, since soil is always at a premium in exposed craggy sites. It gets washed away by unremitting tropical rain, thus revealing the bare rock beneath. What little soil that does exist is a mixture of broken down grains of rock and deposited organic matter such as dead leaves.

Thus many plants that exist on mountain rocks in holes, declivities or crevices are epiphytic, that is to say they need little soil for their roots and take their nutrients and moisture mostly from the atmosphere. Many of these are *bromeliads*.

It is good to see that Paul, fast out of the starting blocks, has already planted a number of gold and red *neoregelias* which have rapidly become established in cracks or where there is a thin covering of soil. Because of their sculptural shape, *bromeliads* look particularly effective when used in mixed plantings with other, maybe less dramatic neighbors.

A good way to start the ball rolling.

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



Work with what you have to create a inspired home.



Working around the rocks. Photos: Patrick Campbell

Tip of the Week

Using your wood for landscaping

TREES can be used in your garden in a number of ways. Specimen trees can be planted within the lawn where they can develop fully and display their ornamental qualities. They should be chosen for their eye-catching form, such as the pyramidal shape of many conifers, or the characteristic form of most palms.

Remember that grass will not grow under dense foliage, so choose a small tree with an open habit for lawns. Something like a foxtail palm is ideal.

Color can be introduced by foliage, though few trees in the tropics develop autumnal hues



Trees should be chosen for ornamental qualities. Photo: Brooke Hoyer

like the temperate maple. Obviously, smaller trees such as *cassias*, *tecomas*, *dillennias*, and *acacias* better suit a small garden. All these have abundant flowers.

For distinctive foliage, consider breadfruit, neem, the yellow-leaved *pisonia*, the dwarf *casuarina* or the evergreen Norfolk Island pine.

Thai tennis darling keeps gunning for gold medals

By Patrick Johnston

THAI trailblazer Tamarine Tanasugarn is well prepared for life after tennis having completed a law degree, but retirement talk remains on hold while the 38-year-old chases more success on the court rather than in one.

After more than two decades on tour, her grand slam appearances have receded, but the California-born Thai is a central figure in the country's Southeast Asian Games party, looking to sweep the tennis medals in Singapore from June 5-16.

Tamarine is already a SEA Games champion, having won the women's doubles titles at home in 2007 and in Laos two years later. She was denied the chance to complete a hat-trick when Myanmar scrapped tennis from the 2013 Games because of a lack of facilities before Singapore restored it to the programme.

"We aim to take home at least four gold medals. Indeed, we could sweep all seven gold medals," team manager Vichate Teepakakorn said last month.

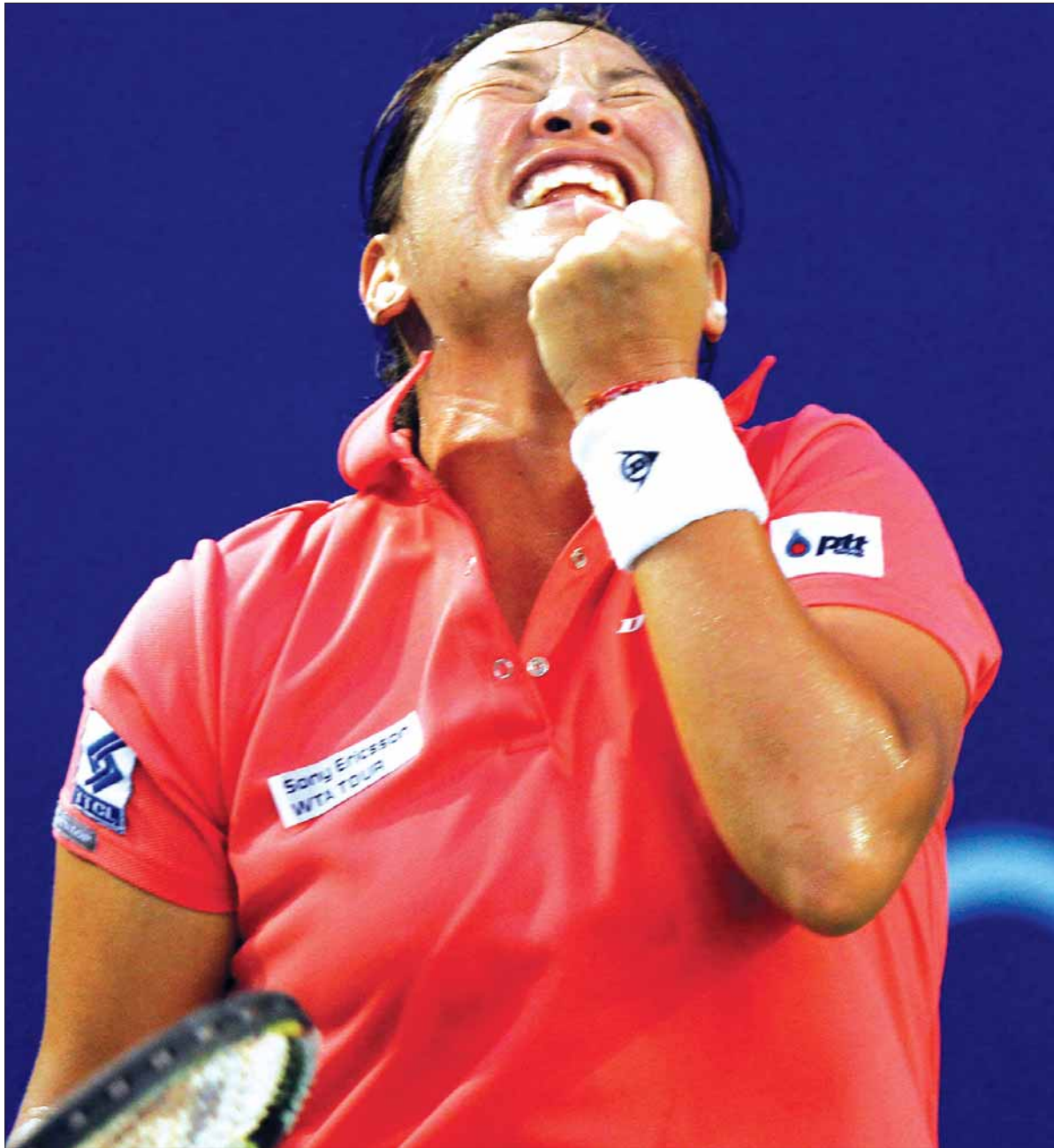
"We will first try to win the men's and women's team events as this will boost our players' confidence in remaining events."

In Tamarine, the Thais have an inspirational leader able to rouse belief and confidence.

The winner of four WTA (Women's Tennis Association) singles titles and eight doubles, two with Maria Sharapova in 2003, Tamarine has mixed it with the best in the world and her numerous records make her a darling of Thai fans.

Her best singles achievement in the majors was reaching the quarter-finals of Wimbledon in 2008, where she lost to eventual champion Venus Williams. In 2011, she made the semi-finals of the women's doubles at the US Open after teaming up with New Zealander Marina Erakovic.

Her last grand slam appearance was at the 2014 Australian Open



Thailand's Tamarine Tanasugarn celebrates her victory over Russia's Anna Chakvetadze at the WTA Tour PTT Pattaya Women's Open tennis tournament February 12, 2010. Photo: Reuters

where she and partner Zheng Saisai of China were beaten in the first round of the women's doubles but recent success has come in Fed Cup matches and challenger events.

She now sits at 255 in the world rankings, some way down of her career high of 19 in 2002, but still has the ability to compete with regional rivals.

In September, she teamed up

with Luksika Kumkhum to win the Asia Games women's doubles gold medal in Incheon, South Korea and was subsequently named Thai women's athlete of the year.

That success led to her ponder the prospect of securing a Thai record fifth Olympic appearance at Rio de Janeiro 20 years after her first in Atlanta, but her lowly ranking makes that an unlikely proposition.

That does not mean Tamarine, who was taught the game by her Olympic basketball playing father, will not be trying to secure a seat on the plane to Brazil.

"At my age, it is not easy but I will give all I can," she said earlier this year.

"I am really in good shape this year and I do not have any plan to retire in the near future."

— Reuters



Scandal puts more fuel on the fire as Qatar continues to battle to hold the World Cup. Photo: Reuters

Qatar screams 'scapegoat' in FIFA scandal

'It will blow over' tends to be Qatar's unofficial response to criticism of its World Cup bid, but with a FIFA corruption scandal exploding onto the world's front pages, the Gulf state has glumly realized it may have a real fight on its hands.

Super-rich Qatar would suffer no economic pain if it lost the right to host the world's top soccer event. At stake is influence, including its use of sport as a platform to operate on the global stage, opening doors to finance, media, diplomacy, property and tourism.

Years of allegations of corruption in the vote that won it the 2022 cup, and of abuse of migrant workers, mean Qatar has struggled to convince world opinion of the justness of its cause.

Now Qatar must work even harder to protect its brand after US prosecutors charged nine international soccer officials with corruption and Swiss authorities announced their own investigation into the award of the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.

In Doha, there is resentment at the prospect of having to spend the next seven years fending off allegations of sleaze, and a feeling the country is being made a scapegoat.

Some suspect anti-Arab bias. Others blame countries sore at losing hosting rights to Qatar.

"The attack on Qatar's World Cup is racist," foreign minister Khaled al-Attiyah was quoted as saying on the Twitter account of the editor in chief of Qatar's pro-government newspaper, *al-Sharq*.

— Reuters

F1 head says Mercedes needs more common sense

MERCEDES need to show a bit more common sense in the future, motorsport head Toto Wolff said on Tuesday after the Formula One team had analyzed the blunder that cost Lewis Hamilton the Monaco Grand Prix.

Asked, in an exchange with fans on Twitter, what the key findings were from post-race debriefs and how the world champions would improve strategically in races to come, the Austrian replied: "Improve software, better communication and a spice (bit) more common sense."

Hamilton led Sunday's showcase race from pole position until the safety car was deployed in the clos-



Hamilton loses lead in pits. Photo: Reuters

ing laps and he was called in for what turned out to be a needless pitstop while those immediately behind stayed out.

Mercedes were wary of Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel pitting for fresh supersoft tyres, which could have made him a threat even on a circuit like Monaco where overtaking is extremely difficult, and thought Hamilton had enough of a gap to pit and

safely retain the lead.

They were wrong and the Briton ended up third with his overall lead over winning team mate Nico Rosberg halved to 10 points.

— Reuters

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SPORTathlon

Cyclists roll up for Southern Criterium

By Pruth Kulprasit

THE first-ever Southern Criterium attracted more than 300 cyclists to the shores of Phuket and completed without a hitch on May 30, with competitors and organizers already amped up for next year's edition.

Spectators and racers from all around the nation were watching the event results closely, as members of the Thailand National Team and professional fixed-gear criterium racer Paolo Bravini from Team Cinelli Chrome were in attendance.

The event was comprised of seven races: a VIP five lap race,

women's five-lap mountain bike race, a men's 12-lap mountain bike race, a women's five-lap road bike race, a men's 12-lap road bike race, a men's 12-lap fixed-gear race, and a men's elite 15-lap road bike race.

The VIP race had a surprising and exciting end, with Jessada Choodath coming in first place as the only competitor riding a fixed-gear bike racing against mountain and road bikes. Mr Jessada blazed past the other racers, coming in a full 25 seconds before the second place competitor, Tirakit Wanichayakorn, crossed the finish line.

Mr Jessada told the *Gazette*

that he had been on a business trip in Phuket from Bangkok when he decided to join in the race.

"Normally, I use fixed-gear bikes on a daily basis in Bangkok. I am so happy to have won first place riding this bike," he said.

"I will be back for the next race in Phuket."

Vissaves 'Born' Kumpanthong, event organizer and director of Bangkok Criterium, told the *Gazette* that he was thrilled with the outpouring of support for the event and the overall attendance.

"My expectations were exceeded. Next year, we will be back in Phuket with a bigger and even better race, under the name Phuket Criterium," he said.



RESULTS

VIP five-lap race	Men's 12-lap mountain bike	Men's 12-lap road bike	Men's elite 15-lap road bike
1.Jessada Choodath 20:55	1.Tawaichai Jiradechatam 37:02	1.Okart Bualoi 36:41	1.Tanasak Tarnchai 41:35:842
2.Tirakit Wanichayakorn 21:19	2.Teerasak Boonchuay 37:50	2.Seree Ruangsiri 37:19	2.Surasak Taweasamorn 41:36:119
3.Wicharn Petchmalee 21:20	3.Rachun Rukcheap 38:37	3.Amarni Gates 37:32	3.Tawatchai Jiradechatam 41:36:797
Women's five-lap mountain bike	Women's five-lap road bike	Men's 12-lap fixed gear	
1.Apiya Saisamorn 19:17	1.Dimity Duke 16:15	1.Paolo Bravini 36:03	
2.Chidchanok Puangchit 20:29	2.Apinya Saisamorn 16:26	2.Faz Adhill 36:08	
3.Nopjakorn Wanthong 21:01	3.Anothai Puengrang 16:31	3.Chanasart Ruangkert 36:56	

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