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Activists go to dizzying heights to protest coal-powered electricity plant in Krabi
INSIDE TODAY

March 30 - April 5, 2013 PhuketGazette.Net In partnership with The Nation

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PHUKET IMMIGRATION OVERLOADED AS FRESH WAVE ARRIVES

No vacancies for Rohingya

Immigration chiefs urge Bangkok to set down clear policy as soon as possible

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THE arrival of more than 100 Rohingya men, women and children last weekend has left Phuket Immigration overflowing, with no respite on the horizon.

The huge influx of refugees fleeing strife-torn Myanmar in past months has forced Phuket Immigration to seek help elsewhere, said Capt Angkarn Yasanop.

Of the 102 Rohingya taken into custody last weekend when the refugees sought shelter on Koh Lone after their boat engine seized, 35 men were transferred to Ranong Immigration.

"The women and children are now at a shelter on Koh Sireh [on the east side of Phuket Town]," Capt Angkarn explained.

"We had to transfer some of them because Phuket Immigration was built to accommodate only 50 people," Capt Angkarn said, noting that 67 Rohingya were still currently under detention.

Yet Ranong Immigration is also running out of room. More so since another group of 39 Rohingya landed...



Exhausted and hungry, the refugees wait at Phuket Immigration. Photo: Marine Police

Continued on Page 3

Slick move



Illegal tanker sinks, spills thousands of liters of diesel fuel into canal near Phuket Town.

Full story on Page 6

Diverse solutions proposed for Koh Racha Yai

SPECIAL REPORT The deadline for the raft of measures to save Koh Racha's pristine environment looms. In this issue, the *Gazette* takes an in-depth look at the slow progress being made.

Full story on Page 7

Gunfight survivor recounts events

The sole surviving suspect in the Phuket Town gunfight last week has recounted to police his version of events of the early morning shootout, but declined to confirm or deny whether a Tourist Police officer was the shooter.

Full story on Page 3

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This Week



Business
Health officials raise the bar for produce suppliers. **Page 11**



Property
Sansiri launch their first high end housing project in Phuket. **Page 16**



Food
Le Versace's panoramic and gastronomic treats revisited. **Page 36**



Books
James Eckardt takes on JK Rowling's latest novel. **Page 39**



Tech
Explaining the pains of getting a new email address. **Page 40**



Sport
An interview with Thailand's national futsal coach. **Page 50**

Saturday



36 - 25

Sunday



36 - 25

Monday



36 - 25

Tuesday



37 - 25

Wednesday



36 - 26

Thursday



36 - 25

Pothole blamed for Kata hill tuk-tuk flip

By Orawin Narabal

A PICKUP driver, a tuk-tuk driver and a motorbike rider all escaped serious injury last Sunday when they piled into one another after the pickup driver slammed on the brakes to avoid a huge pothole on Kata Hill.

"The accident occurred near the sharp Sator Curve at about 12:20pm," said Ruamjai Rescue Foundation emergency responder Sayan Thammaphan, who was among the first to arrive at the scene.

"The pickup truck driver told our rescue team that while he was heading down the hill towards Chalong Circle, he hit the brakes to avoid a hole in the road, which caused his pickup to spin out of control," he said.

"The tuk-tuk driver behind him could not stop in time and rammed the back of his pickup, which caused the tuk-tuk to flip onto its side and slide down the hill," Mr Sayan explained.

"The motorbike rider following



A rescue worker inspects the damage to the tuk-tuk, which luckily was not carrying passengers at the time of the accident. Photo: Dean Noble

behind the tuk-tuk could not stop fast enough and slammed into the tuk-tuk," he added.

All three motorists suffered only minor injuries in the accident.

"The pickup truck and motorcycle drivers had bruises and scratches," Mr Sayan said.

"The tuk-tuk driver had a cut on his eyebrow and scratches and bruises on his body," he added.

The tuk-tuk driver, Kittisak Onphan, 45, was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital in Phuket Town for further treatment, and later discharged from the hospital.

Marked Phuket grave gone to the dogs

AFTER a report from local villagers that they feared a foreigner was buried in a grave near the Big Buddha image in the Nakkerd Hills, Karon Police on Monday trooped up the hill and exhumed the remains – only to find the body of a buried dog.

"At about 10:40am, we received a report from a local plantation owner that he had found a grave marked with a rough gravestone on his land," said Lt Sathaporn Seenoon of the Karon Police.

"He said that last month he came to cut the grass in the area and at that time he did not notice anything odd. This morning, however, he panicked after seeing the grave on his land," Lt Sathaporn added.

A crowd had gathered at the scene, about 500 meters from the Big Buddha image, by the time the officers arrived.

The gravestone was marked "R.I.P. BABY TYA", Lt Sathaporn explained.



The plantation owner begins the fearful exhumation of the grave. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

"We dug about 60 centimeters to recover the body, which was covered with a white cloth. The smell was awful. Everyone started thinking it was probably the body of child.

"We uncovered the body, and then discovered it was the remains

of a white-haired dog," he added.

Relieved and somewhat bemused, the officers re-interred the poodle Tya to her final resting place before heading back down the hill to carry on with their daily lives.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Body of Russian tourist washes ashore at Kata three days later

THE body of a Russian man last seen spearfishing a few hundred meters offshore from Kata Beach on March 22 was found washed ashore at the same beach three days later.

The body, still dressed in a wet suit and flippers, was identified as that of 43-year-old Oleg Udaloj, Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Pachai Matthayan confirmed to the *Gazette*.

"On Friday [March 22], he and his wife hired a longtail boat to take him out to dive and spearfish near Koh Phu [Crab Island]," Lt Col Pachai said.

Mr Udaloj, apparently adept at his chosen sport, caught four fish



Officers from the Karon Sea Rescue Center recover the Russian tourist's body from Kata Beach.

in four concurrent dives. "The fifth time he dived, he never resurfaced," Lt Col Pachai explained.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong






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Employment Office chief Yawapa Pibulpol (left) and Vice Governor Chamroen Chamroen (center) inspect a Russian store in January. Photo: file

Top cop promises fairness in police shooting investigation

By Orawin Narabal

ONE of the two survivors of the gunfight on March 20 which left two dead and a Tourist Police officer charged with murder has given police his version of the shooting but has not identified the shooter.

Natthapong Kaewkuanchum, 25, was shot three times in the chest in the early morning of March 20, and is in the surgical ward at Vachira Phuket Hospital.

Phuket City Police investigators questioned him about what transpired in the room at the Phuket Garden Ville. "He told us he was sleeping in the room when a loud bang woke him up. As he was getting up, he was shot," Phuket City Police chief Col Sermphan Sirikong told the *Gazette*.

"We asked who shot him. He did not answer. We showed him a picture of Sen Sgt Maj Pinchai Piyadilok and asked whether he was the shooter.

"Mr Natthapong thought for a while and then closed his eyes. He did not answer our question," Col Sermphan said.

"We did not ask him any more questions about the incident, such



Every policeman is expected to be able to control his temper in terms of gun use, said Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalviwat.

as why he was in the room or what his friends were doing before they were shot because he was not ready. He looked very tired and was still in bad condition.

"We will question him later when he has recovered more," Col Sermphan said.

The other survivor, Sgt Pinchai

of the Tourist Police, was shot in the stomach and leg during the gunfight and transferred to Prince of Songkla University Hospital in Haad Yai, where his wounded leg was amputated.

"Our officers will question him soon," Col Sermphan said.

On March 21, the day after the

shootings, Sgt Pinchai was charged with murder "as a precaution", Col Sermphan told the *Gazette*, adding, "He has been charged because we believe that he was somehow involved in the incident, but at this stage we just don't know how."

"Right now we still cannot say whether Sgt Pinchai overreacted, because Mr Natthapong is our only witness," Tourist Police Division 5 Superintendent Yotsavee Pornperaparn told the *Gazette*.

Phuket's top-ranking police officer, Provincial Commander Choti Chavalviwat said, "We will be fair to each side."

"If Mr Natthapong was not trying to resist but Sgt Pinchai shot him anyway, then Sgt Pinchai will be prosecuted. If Mr Natthapong resisted Sgt Pinchai as he [Pinchai] tried to do his job, we will press charges against Mr Natthapong," he added.

"Every policeman is expected to be able to control his temper in terms of gun use. He must realize that he is a law protector, not a law breaker. The most important duty of a policeman is to obey the law," he said.

Crackdown on illegal Russians to target north

LOCAL officials will conduct raids across Thalang District, targeting any businesses involving foreigners. The raids will first target businesses involving Russians, a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall was told on Tuesday.

As have other recent immigration crackdowns, the Thalang operation will specifically target foreigners either working illegally in Thailand or using Thai nominees to open businesses.

"The raids, starting from today [March 26], will target Russians first because we have received a lot of complaints from Thai people accusing Russians of stealing their jobs," explained Phuket Vice Governor Chamroen Tipayapongtada.

"We will not only check their work permits, but also check that the workplace address cited in their work permits matches the place where they are working," he added.

According to Phuket Employment Office records, there are currently 1,005 foreigners of 17 nationalities registered to work in Thalang, including 109 English, 99 Russian, 80 French and 69 Italian nationals.

"We are collecting and checking the details of foreigners working in Thalang to help solve the problem of foreigners stealing local people's jobs," Vice Governor Chamroen explained.

Immigration runs out of room for Rohingya refugees

From page 1

...at Tab Tawan beach in Phang Nga last Saturday.

"They were very exhausted and hungry from the journey. They survived on water and uncooked rice," Takuapa Police Superintendent Khemarin Hatsiri said.

"They looked pitiful, and some of them cried out loud when they saw us. We offered them food and water, then brought them all to

Takuapa police station to be processed.

"We intended to transfer them to Phang Nga Immigration, but Phang Nga Immigration has no room for them; they are already at maximum capacity with Rohingya arrested previously... We do not have a place to detain them while they wait to be deported," he explained.

"I would like to ask the government to resolve the problem of Rohingya as soon as possible," Col Khemarin urged.

Phuket Immigration Superintendent Col Sunchai Chokkajaykij said he did not know how long he will have to keep the Koh Lone arrivals in custody.

"We are waiting for orders from our superiors in Bangkok," he said.

"There are more than 1,000 Rohingya being detained across the country. We do not have room for all of them," Col Sunchai added.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

Entertainment venue patrons and staff to face random drug testing

PHUKET Governor Maitri Inthusut has launched a campaign to conduct random drug tests at bars and nightclubs across the island.

"Police will conduct random urine drug tests of venue staff and customers," Governor Maitri said during raids on eight nightlife venues in Phuket Town on Monday night.

"We will also check that the entertainment venues are legally registered as well," he added.

The Monday night raids hit the popular Kor Tor Mor pub near Nimit Circle on Chana Charoen Road; Ploenchit and Sofa pubs on Dibuk Road; Timberhut; Sanaeha and Rom Dee pubs on Yaowarat Road; and Intro Club on Phang Nga Road.

The campaign will also target video game and internet cafes, Gov Maitri said.



Officers exit the popular Ploenchit pub on Dibuk Road in the Phuket Old Town area. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

At the Kor Tor Mor pub, officers conducted urine drug tests on 18 men and six women. At Intro Club, officers tested 16 men and 37 women.

"We did not find anyone who tested positive for drugs and ev-

ery entertainment venue we inspected was registered legally," Gov Maitri said.

"We will keep randomly checking entertainment venues in other areas around the island," he added.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Sea gypsy's home repairs unearth human arm bone

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

SEA gypsies in the southern Phuket beach area of Rawai panicked last week after discovering a bone believed to be human buried underneath a house.

The bone could be up to 100 years old, said Panuwat Uasamal, an archaeologist at the Fine Arts Department Office in Phuket, who was contacted by the sea gypsies.

The bone was discovered under Waek Lakkoh's house while a neighbor was repairing one of the support poles under her home.

"Last night he started the repairs by digging a new hole," Ms Waek said.

"We found the bone at about 8pm. After discussing it with neighbors, we decided to stop the house repairs for now," the 88-year-old homeowner said.

"We were scared. If it belongs to an ancestor, we will keep it and worship it after the experts finish examining it," she added.

Ms Waek confirmed there have been no reports of any paranormal goings-on connected to spirits or ghosts in the village since the discovery.

Fine Arts archaeologist Panuwat said the bone was found in a shallow hole about 30cm deep.

"The bone is from the lower part of a human arm. From visual inspection, we believe it is about 50 to 100 years old," he said.

"Villagers told me that in the past when digging holes for water pipes, they found shards of pots and bones. This time, the villagers dug around the hole at the same depth, but no more bones were found."

Mr Panuwat, satisfied there are no other relics to be found in the immediate area where the bone was found, said the repairs to Ms Waek's home can continue.

"We will examine the bone further to see if we can learn any more details from it," he added.



Panuwat Uasamal, archeologist at the Fine Arts Department Office in Phuket, inspects the bone. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Bank employee turns himself in over fatal hit-and-run

THE bank employee involved in a lethal hit-and-run in central Phuket late last month has surrendered himself to police.

Chaowarot Jantarak, 38, was wanted by police after witnesses saw his car hit security guard Jarin Weenada, 21, just after midnight on route 4027 east of the Heroines Monument in Pa Khlok.

Mr Jarin died at the scene.

"Mr Chaowarot has been charged with negligent driving causing death," Thalang Police case investigator Chatree Chuwichian told the *Gazette*.

"He told us that he did not see Mr Jarin's motorcycle at the time of the accident," he added.

Sub Lt Chatree explained that Mr Chaowarot had agreed to pay compensation to Mr Jarin's widow, but declined to reveal any details of the compensation agreed.

"The two parties reached an agreement and I am still working on closing the case," Lt Chatree said.

— Orawin Narabal

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Water-play zones will be established across Phuket to promote road safety during Songkran. Photo: Gazette file

Safety plans set for Songkran

POLICE checkpoints and water-play zones will be set up to increase safety on Phuket during the Seven Days of Danger for Songkran, April 11 to April 17.

"Police checkpoints will be set up around the clock during the period in order to check on drivers," San Jantharawong, chief of the Phuket office of the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) told the *Gazette*.

The safety measures were discussed at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last week, Mr San explained. "At the meeting, we also agreed that we need to set up water-play zones to improve road safety," he said.

"Police in each station will identify water-play zones. On April 3, we will have another meeting to clarify where these areas are

going to be," he added.

"This year the Seven Days of Danger for Songkran are from April 11 to April 17, the same days as last year," Mr San said.

In 2011, 7 people died and 52 were injured in 43 reported accidents. In 2012, 3 people died and 43 were injured in 44 reported accidents.

"We hope the number of deaths, injuries and accidents will be lower this year," he said.

In 2012, drunk driving was the cause of 39.2 per cent of all road accidents in Thailand during the Songkran period, according to Yongyuth Wichaidit, Deputy Prime Minister of the National Road Safety Center.

In Phuket, 43.1 per cent of the accidents during Songkran 2012 were attributed to drunk driving.

— Chutharat Plerin

Krabi coal plant up in the air

Greenpeace activists go over the edge to protest coal-fired power plant in Krabi

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

HANGING from the cliffs of Railay Bay in Krabi, east of Phuket, Greenpeace activists recently staged a dramatic protest against the Thai government's plan to build coal power plants across Thailand, including an 800-megawatt plant in Krabi.

The protest, held on March 21, follows that of 500 Krabi villagers on February 11 who claimed that a coal-fired plant in their area from 1964 to 1995 had left many of them with respiratory problems and cancer.

Holding signs that said "Stop Coal" and "Coal is not the answer", Greenpeace was sending a message to the public and the government to exchange coal-powered plants for clean energy, said Jariya Senpong, an energy and climate change campaigner with Greenpeace Southeast Asia.

"Coal is not the answer for critical energy problems today," Ms Jariya said.

"They should think about sup-

porting clean energy which will be a sustainable solution," she added.

"Local people and Greenpeace are standing up against the project because we believe the plant will create pollution that could affect not only the villagers' way of life, but also tourism in Krabi.

"Thailand's second largest seagrass area is here," Ms Jariya noted. "It is a habitat for dugongs. If pollution harms the seagrass, it would negatively affect the dugongs, which are an endangered species."

Ms Jariya also called for a government crackdown on corruption and conflict of interest of dirty energy industries that help politicians.

"Villagers will be the ones who suffer," she said.

At the time this article was sent to the press, a meeting was planned for Wednesday, from midday to 6:30pm for villagers, Greenpeace Southeast Asia and other supporters to discuss Thailand's energy crisis and the Krabi coal power plant, she said.



Activists hang from the Railay cliffs to protest the proposed 800MW coal plant in Krabi. Photo: Greenpeace

Rangers step up patrols to stave off tree bandits

OFFICERS at the Khao Phra Thaew wildlife sanctuary in Thalang have vowed to step up their efforts to keep bandits from cutting down valuable eaglewood trees in the park.

Eaglewood trees are wanted for the aromatic resin they produce, which is also known as agarwood. The resin is used in making incense and perfumes.

The news follows Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut's summons of Awat Nitikul, chief of the Environmental Conservation Unit based at the wildlife reserve, to Phuket Provincial Hall on March 21 to explain what action had been taken in response to reports of tree cutters operating in the area.

Local residents had filed a complaint to the Phuket Press Club about wood cutters felling eaglewood trees in the park.

"The villagers thought the trees were cut down only recently, but it actually happened on January 27, when our night patrol found three men trying to steal them," Mr Awat explained to the *Gazette*.

The thieves cut down two eaglewood trees. In 10 other trees, they made incisions about 30-40cm into the trunk to check whether they were producing any of the resin required to make the fragrance.

"The men ran away when they saw us. We chased after them, but it was difficult to catch them because it was dark, so the three escaped," Mr Awat said.

"We contacted park officers in



The felled eaglewood trees recently discovered by local villagers were leftovers from a foiled nighttime raid by tree bandits. Photos: Kritsada Mueanhawong



nearby provinces to keep a lookout for the them," he added.

The men were finally arrested in the Khao Pra - Bang Kram Wildlife Sanctuary in Krabi while trying to cut eaglewood trees there.

"Officers arrested two Vietnamese men and a Thai man," Mr Awat explained.

Although his resources are already stretched, Mr Awat said he would step up the number of officers on patrol in the park.

"Khao Phra Thaew covers an area of about 10,000 rai and has more than 100 eaglewood trees. Almost every day, my team and I patrol the area. However, some wood cutters still try to enter the park to cut down the eaglewoods," Mr Awat explained.

"We currently have only one patrol team. We have to set up more teams to make our work more efficient," he added.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Body washes ashore near Phuket Town



Rescue workers recover the body from Laem Tukkae, on Koh Sireh.

POLICE are trying to determine the identity of a man whose body was found washed ashore at Laem Tukkae, on the east side of Phuket Town, on March 21.

The man was likely a Burmese crewman aboard one of the many vessels operating out of Phuket, said Phuket City Police Duty Officer Chaleaw Taihoo.

"He may have had an argument with other crewmen, who possibly stabbed him to death and then dumped his body overboard," he added.

The man had dark skin, was about 170cm tall, dressed only in shorts with a piece of cloth wrapped around his head. Police believe he died about three days before his body was found.

The body had one deep cut in the back, one to the throat, one to the head, four on the left shoulder and one in the left underarm area.

Police had the body taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital to formally determine the cause of death.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



Marine Police rushed to stem the leak, which was spotted by villagers at about 7:30am. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Officials scramble as illegal tanker sinks

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

PHUKET Marine Police scrambled early on March 22 to contain an oil spill from an abandoned illegal tanker that sank in the Tah Jeen Canal on the east side of Phuket Town.

The sunken boat, modified into an illegal tanker with the capacity to hold an estimated 50,000 liters of diesel oil, was spotted by local villagers at about 7:30am.

"We called in another tanker, the *Chok Thavorn 11*, which recovered about 10,000 liters of oil from the sunken boat," Phuket Marine Police Deputy Inspector Jeerayuth Onthong told the *Gazette*.

To stop the oil slick from spreading into the canal, which separates Koh Sireh from Phuket,

the team of officers installed a containment boom around it.

Officials could not determine how much oil leached into the canal, at the mouth of which sits the busy Rassada Pier, Phuket's main jump-off point for tourists heading to Phi Phi Island.

"Local residents told us the boat anchored there last night. It's likely the boat started taking on water while at sea, so the captain would have brought it into the canal to fix it," Lt Jeerayuth explained.

"He probably abandoned the boat once he realized he couldn't salvage the boat or the oil," he added.

Phuket Marine Office records identify the sunken vessel as the *Premika*, registered as a fresh water tanker owned by Teerakrit Suesakul, from Rassada.

"We have identified the boat and the owner, but we have yet to find him," Phuket Marine Police Inspector Chatchai Sakdee explained.

Lt Col Chatchai explained this was not the first time the *Premika* had been found illegally carrying diesel oil.

"We checked our files and found that the boat was seized two times in 2011. Both times were at the Deep Sea Port," he said.

"The first time it was seized while illegally carrying 20,000 liters of diesel oil. The second time it was caught with 40,000 liters," Col Chatchai added.

The petroleum company PTT provided a 200-meter boom and chemicals costing 2 million baht to help in the cleanup, said Wichai Khamkong, Director of the Marine Office Region 5.

Russian tour agent faces deportation

PHUKET Immigration officers arrested a Russian tour saleswoman in Patong on March 21 for working illegally and for illegally entering the country.

"We inspected the Kathu area for illegal foreign workers. As we reached the Leon Speedy Travel tour counter on Thaweewong Road, we found Oleg Tikhomirova, 34, discussing tour packages with foreign customers," said Phuket Immigration Investigator Chidchanok Sakornyen.

"To confirm that she was working there, our officer pretended to ask her about a tour package. When it was clear that she was a saleswoman, the officer told her who he was and asked to see her passport. She did not have it with her, and said that a friend had it. She also could not produce her work permit," he added.

"She told us she has been selling tours for a year. We arrested her and handed her over to Kathu Police to prosecute," he explained.

The penalty for working without a work permit is 2,000 to 100,000 baht, or up to five years in prison, or both. The penalty for illegally entering the country is a fine of up to 20,000 baht and deportation, Lt Col Chidchanok said.

— *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



Oleg Tikhomirova (right) faces deportation from Thailand.

Leave your lights off

ALTHOUGH there was no official event to mark Earth Hour 2013 on March 23, the chief of the Phuket office of the Provincial Electricity Authority urged people to join the global event to show their support for conserving energy.

"It is a very good campaign that everyone can join. It is easy to do at home, just turn off

the lights," PPEA Somchai Krueapat told the *Gazette*.

"By doing this you will have the chance to help save world energy reserves and you may feel good about doing it," he said.

The annual event asks people to switch off their lights for one hour from 8:30pm to raise awareness of the importance of saving energy.



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How much can a yogi bear?

A 35-YEAR-OLD Indian Sikh is in police custody after allegedly tricking villagers in Surin Province into believing he was a yogi with magic powers.

Balvinder Singh extracted thousands of baht from at least five believers to "cleanse" them of their bad karma, police say.

Mr Singh was arrested while he performed a "magical" ceremony for "Mr Ek", a 31-year-old Thai whose name has been changed to protect his identity.

Mr Ek told police he paid the Indian 2,000 baht to fix his bad karma.

Mr Singh told Mr Ek that he was being followed around by the spirit of a young child. Mr Ek believed Mr Singh was telling the truth because his wife had had an abortion.

He was also aware that the Indian had performed such ceremonies for other Thai people, and thus asked him to do the same for him.

Mr Singh told Mr Ek to rip a piece of paper into three pieces. The "yogi" then crumpled up the pieces and placed them in Mr Ek's



Balvinder Singh was charged with illegally entering the country.

belly button. Then he started chanting an incantation. When he pulled the paper out again, it appeared to have magically fused back into a single sheet.

This led Mr Ek to believe Mr Singh really did have special abilities.

Mr Singh then soaked the sheet in some water. The figure of a

young girl appeared on the surface of the paper.

Mr Singh then pulled out an envelope and told his amazed victim to put 1,990 baht in it.

Mr Singh said he would use the money to buy the girl's spirit certain items, which he would use in ceremonies that he would perform in three different cemeteries. The ceremonies would allow the girl to be reborn into the world, he claimed.

Mr Ek said that throughout the ceremony he felt like he was under a spell. He felt like he had to obey everything the Indian said, and that he couldn't control himself.

But when the immigration police burst into the scene, Mr Ek snapped out of it.

The police investigation revealed that Mr Singh had performed the same kind of ceremony on about five other people, charging them 1,500-2,000 baht each time for his "magic".

Mr Singh is being charged with fraud and entering the Kingdom of Thailand illegally.

— *Sanoek.com*

Racha: sink or swim?

SPECIAL REPORT

By Saran Mitrarat

WITH only two weeks remaining until the deadline set by Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa to have environmental protections in place on Racha Yai Island, questions are being asked about how much has been achieved and what remains to be done to protect the popular tourist island's pristine environment.

A campaign lasting nearly a year asking for government help to protect the environment on the island, about 25 kilometers south of Phuket, was answered six weeks ago when V/Gov Sommai visited.

On February 8, she saw for herself the problems that increased tourism and lack of regulation have brought: mishandled wastewater and garbage, encroachment, and diving practices which are potentially harmful to coral.

V/Gov Sommai delegated responsibility for solving the problems and set a two-month deadline to put environmental protection measures in place.

WASTEWATER

A low-cost wastewater treatment machine developed by Kasetsart University could help island businesses properly deal with their wastewater before it is released into the sea, but five machines are needed and it is not clear where funding for the machines will come from.

V/Gov Sommai assigned the Natural Resources and Environment Phuket office to address the wastewater problem, and the Director of Environment, Nutthakrit Polpetch, explained his proposal to the *Gazette* last week.

"Our department got an idea from Nonthaburi that is using a wastewater treatment system from Kasetsart University. This low-cost system was developed at the initiative of His Majesty The King Bhumibol Adulyadej."

"Comparable wastewater treatment machines cost about 10 million baht each, but the machine invented by Kasetsart University costs only 4 million baht and can treat about 100 cubic meters of water per day using low energy," Mr. Nutthakrit said.

"The Racha resort has volunteered to buy this machine and be a model for us. They are in the process of approving a budget for it and negotiating and coordinating with Kasetsart University to develop a machine adapted to the



Growing numbers of visitors to Racha Yai Island has caused tourist facilities to expand. Improper management of wastewater (top right), trash, construction and risky dive practices (lower right) threaten the beauty of the island and its coral (above).

island environment. Funding is an issue and we will need to ask business owners on the island to share the costs," he said.

"We probably need four more machines in addition to The Racha's to support all the businesses on the island," he added.

TRASH

The trash-disposal problem was assigned to Rawai Municipality.

For the local people on Racha Yai, there isn't a garbage problem, said Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Rachen Phuntarakit: "They just bring their own trash to the mainland. They drop it off at Friendship Beach in Rawai, and then we take it to the dump."

The problem is with the hotels on the island, he said.

Rawai's Director of Public Health, Surachad Jitmaid, has been tasked with solving the garbage problem.

"I have already had discussions with a couple of hotels on the island," he said. "Rawai Municipality has set up two additional containers on Friendship Beach, to bring the total to three, and the hotels can take their own garbage there."

"We don't have boats to transport their garbage, and we don't

have a budget to buy boats," he said.

Mr Surachad said he is planning a meeting with business owners on the island soon, this month or next, to continue the discussion about trash management.

TRY-DIVING

In the past four years alone, the coral surrounding Racha Yai has suffered damage from barges, cement that was tossed off a boat, soil dumped onto it from land clearing, and the coral bleaching of 2010.

The latest assault on the coral, according to Sarit Jandee, president of the Racha Conservation club, is Try-Diving, in which a professional diver grasps an untrained scuba-suited customer underwater and leads him on a tour.

Piya Koeysin of dive company Raya Scuba explained that coral could be damaged if the inexperienced diver were dropped by his carrier.

In her visit, V/Gov Sommai asked that action be taken to stop the practice.

Try-Diving was banned in an agreement reached by local businesses and Dr Pinsak Suraswadi, the director of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources, at a meeting on March 15.

Dr Pinsak noted that the agreement reached was an extension of a previous agreement in which businesses on the island had agreed to protect the beauty of the environment, the safety of the diver and the health

of the coral.

"Under the agreement, only scuba diving and snorkeling are allowed near the island, and the diving must be under the auspices of a professional diving association," he said.

"I will send a report of this meeting to Phuket Provincial Hall to establish penalties and issue an announcement as fast as I can," he added.

Contacted by the *Gazette* on Monday, Mr Sarit noted that one of the Try-Diving companies, Devil Divers, had apologized and already moved their offshore boat out of the area.

Mr Sarit plans to meet with Devil Divers again to find a way to accommodate clients they have already sold packages to. The other company, Dive Marine, still has a boat in the area, Mr Sarit said.

"We will wait for the official

announcement from the Phuket Provincial Office," he added.

ENCROACHMENT

It is not clear whether the last problem, encroachment, has been solved or not.

V/Gov Sommai asked the Phuket Marine Office to take care of it, and Chief Phuripat Theerakulpisut of that office told the *Gazette*, "This problem was resolved by the resort, which already razed a building."

Mr Sarit, however, told the *Gazette* that the contentious structure was not a building but a wall in a stream that was blocking water from flowing to the sea. The wall is still in place, he said.

Photo credits: Main photo, Suppachai Thammachote/Raya Dive Center; Top right, Gazette Files; Lower right, Piya Koeysin/Raya Scuba.



Longtail boats return recyclables to mainland Phuket. Photo: Gazette Files

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Aid arrives as refugees mourn

RELIEF supplies began arriving in force at the Ban Mae Surin refugee camp in Mae Hong Son on Tuesday after 37 people were killed and 2,300 rendered homeless by a blaze that tore through the camp last week.

Survivors told of seeing old people and children burned alive in the fire, which initial reports suggested stemmed from a cooking accident at a house in the camp last Friday evening.

An aid operation involving both local and international humanitarian organizations as well as the authorities including His Majesty the King – is underway.

Many survivors narrowly escaped death by running into a nearby creek, one told *The Nation*.

Sako Thu, 20, said residents were told through a public-address system to help extinguish the fire. But the blaze spread rapidly due to strong winds.

Hundreds ran towards the creek for shelter. "People were shouting, telling others to run into the nearby stream," he said.

The man said many residents were trapped by the blaze and he saw several people – mostly chil-

AROUND THE
nation

dren and the elderly – burned alive. He joined others running into the water as the inferno raged through their thatched-roof bamboo huts.

"There was a huge commotion and I could hear people crying for help all around," he said.

With more than 2,300 people left homeless, local authorities and private groups set up plastic sheets and tents two kilometers from the scene and sent the elderly and children to nearby temples and schools.

A military source at the camp said so many were killed because the fire quickly engulfed the camp hospital and many patients were unable to be evacuated in time.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) dispatched two teams with rescue staff to the area, providing 800 tents for the affected.



Rescue workers cover their mouths as the bodies of the 37 victims of the fire are laid to rest. Photo: The Nation

Meanwhile, His Majesty the King ordered 500 bags of relief to be delivered to survivors.

Centers have been set up in each district in Mae Hong Son to raise donations, while the province also opened a Krung Thai Bank account under the number 508-

0-256-109 for the concerned to send money to.

Meanwhile, Tak Province, where most camps housing Myanmar refugees are located, is implementing new preventive measures to prevent more tragedies. This includes finding

volunteers to watch for fires and setting up fire drills and escape routes.

Ban Umpiem camp also suffered a fire that burned down 1,000 homes and left about 3,000 people homeless last year. No one was killed.



Red-shirt leader Jatuporn Promphan leaves the Criminal Court after listening to the verdict. Photo: The Nation

Two more red-shirts freed

TWO men became the latest jailed red shirts to regain their freedom after a court acquitted them of burning down the Central World shopping mall on May 19, 2010.

Southern Bangkok Criminal Court cited "benefit of the doubt" in setting free defendants Saichon Paebua, 31, and Pinit Channarong, 29.

The court was not convinced by testimonies provided by security guards and employees of Central World who acted as witnesses for the prosecution.

The court consequently found the pair innocent of arson causing a death, a charge stemming from the death of one man in the complex due to suffocation.

However, the court found both men guilty of violating the emer-

gency decree.

Mr Saichon was sentenced to one-year imprisonment. The court reduced the term to nine months due to his cooperation in the trial.

Mr Pinit had already served six months for violating the state of emergency law and the court ruled that he could not be punished again for the same offense.

The pair were accused of setting fire to the shopping mall, the biggest in Thailand, on May 19 that year after the massive red-shirt protests had been called off.

The red-shirt movement denies having anything to do with the spate of arson attacks that day, which engulfed buildings across Bangkok and in several Northern and Northeastern Provinces.

Prisons cry poor over tagging

A NEW scheme that could reduce the population of Thailand's heaving prisons can't get underway – because the Department of Corrections doesn't have enough money.

Electronic tagging and monitoring of convicts is set to allow many prisoners to return to the community before completing their sentences, *The Nation* reported.

A new ministerial regulation governing the scheme has already been announced in the Royal Gazette. But it won't become a reality yet.

"We don't have any devices to support the electronic tagging yet," the department's deputy director-general Kobkiat Kasiwiwat said. "The Budget Bureau has not yet allocated funds for these devices."

The regulation will allow prisoners who have already served a third of their term to leave the



Prisoners will not get the chance to walk out of jail with electronic tagging until the Corrections Department acquires the budget. Photo: The Nation

correctional facilities if they are eligible.

These prisoners will remain under surveillance of authorities – and electronic tagging would be crucial in the implementation of the regulation.

Mr Kobkiat also dismissed criticism that the new regulation was designed to benefit powerful offenders.

"That's groundless. The decision on who should be let out of jail lies with the court," he said.

Man nabbed with 10% of rare tortoise species

A MAN was arrested at Suvarnabhumi Airport with a bag containing more than 10% of the world's remaining population of endangered ploughshare tortoises.

The man, named by *The Guardian* as O. Visarnkol, 38, was collecting a bag containing the rare species from a 25-year-old Malagasy woman. Clara Rahantamalala was traveling from Madagascar to Bangkok and was also arrested.

When the Thai authorities swooped on the man on March 15, they found him in possession of 54 ploughshare tortoises



Endangered ploughshare tortoise

(*Astrochelys yniphora*) and 21 radiated tortoises (*Astrochelys radiata*).

Experts estimate there are only about 400 ploughshares left in the wild, making the confiscated haul

around 13% of the remaining population.

"We encourage the authorities to throw the book at these two. Making an example of them will hopefully serve as a deterrent for other smugglers," Chris Shepherd of TRAFFIC told environmental website mongabay.com.

"Releasing people on bail does not seem to be part of an effective strategy to reduce the smuggling and illegal trade."

The animals, which were still alive, were believed to be heading for the illegal pet trade. They are to be sent back to Madagascar.



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In brief...

Russian tycoon Berezovsky died by hanging: police

RUSSIAN oligarch Boris Berezovsky, 67, whose body was found in the locked bathroom of his luxury mansion near London last weekend, died by hanging, British police said on Monday.

An autopsy showed no signs of a violent struggle but further tests would be carried out, including toxicology and histology examinations, police said.

Once known as the gray cardinal of Kremlin politics, the former billionaire power broker helped Vladimir Putin come to power before fleeing in 2000 for Britain where he became one of the fiercest critics of Russia's new elite.

Congo warlord Bosco denies guilt in war crimes trial

Bosco Ntaganda, a Congolese warlord known as "the Terminator" who evaded arrest on war crimes charges for seven years, denied guilt when he appeared for the first time at the International Criminal Court on Tuesday.

Ntaganda unexpectedly gave himself up to diplomats at the US Embassy in Rwanda last week, walking in off the street and demanding to be handed over the ICC. Within days he was put on a plane to The Hague.

He is accused of murder, rape and other crimes over a 15-year period of fighting in Rwandan-backed rebellions near the eastern border of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

London schoolboy scores US\$30mn with Yahoo app

LONDON schoolboy 17-year-old Nick D'Aloisio has scored a deal with Yahoo to buy his Stumly news app for US\$30 million (880mn baht).

Other notables interested in buying the app included Yoko Ono, Ashton Kutcher and Rupert Murdoch's NewsCorp for its Wall Street Journal.

Cyprus bailout rocks Europe

By Michele Kambas and Costas Pitas

THE chairman of Cyprus's biggest commercial bank offered his resignation and thousands of students protested in the capital Nicosia this week as banks stayed shut to stop a run on deposits after the island agreed to a painful bailout to avert bankruptcy.

At the time this article went to press, the banks were ordered to remain closed until Thursday, and even then will impose capital controls to prevent depositors from stripping out all their funds.

A Reuters eye witness estimated up to 3,000 high school students protested outside parliament, the first real expression of popular anger after Cyprus agreed to the 10 billion euro (379.8bn baht) bailout with the European Union. Though the deal prevented a meltdown in its banking system, it could also saddle the country with years of austerity.

The chairman of the Bank of Cyprus, Andreas Artemis, who found himself at the center of the financial turmoil gripping the eastern Mediterranean island, offered to resign on Tuesday, a source at the bank said.

"He sent a resignation letter this morning which will be examined by the Board of Directors convening this afternoon," the bank source said, requesting anonymity.

After returning from last-ditch negotiations in Brussels, President Nicos Anastasiades said late on



Cypriot students protest the bailout at an entrance of the presidential palace in Nicosia March 26. Photo: Reuters

Monday that the rescue plan reached with international lenders was "painful" but essential.

He agreed to close down the second-largest bank, Cyprus Popular, and inflict heavy losses on big depositors, many of them Russian, after Cyprus's outside financial sector ran into trouble when its investments in neighboring Greece went sour.

European leaders said a chaotic national bankruptcy that might have forced Cyprus from the euro and upset Europe's economy was averted. Investors in other European banks are alarmed by the precedent of making depositors

bear losses.

"The agreement we reached is difficult but, under the circumstances, the best that we could achieve," Anastasiades said in a televised address to the nation.

Many Cypriots say they do not feel reassured by the bailout deal, however, and are expected to besiege banks as soon as they reopen after the shutdown that began over a week ago.

Reversing a previous decision to start reopening at least some banks on Tuesday, the central bank said late on Monday that they would all now stay shut until Thursday to ensure the "smooth

functioning of the whole banking system".

Little is known about the restrictions on transactions that Anastasiades said the central bank would impose, but he told Cypriots: "I want to assure you that this will be a very temporary measure that will gradually be relaxed."

Finance Minister Michael Sarris said capital controls to prevent big outflows of cash would probably last "a matter of weeks".

Without an agreement by the end of Monday, Cyprus risked becoming the first country to be pushed out of the European single currency.

US Supreme Court tackles gay marriage

AMERICA'S top court took up the delicate and divisive issue of gay marriage on Tuesday, March 26, when the nine Supreme Court justices considered the legality of a California ballot initiative (proposition 8) that limits marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Tuesday was the first of two days of oral arguments on the issue. On Wednesday, the court considered the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which limits the definition of marriage to opposite-sex couples.

Rulings in both cases are expected by the end of June.

In what was scheduled to be about three hours of deliberations with lawyers over the two days, the justices had their say on what gay activists see as a key civil rights issue reminiscent of famous Supreme Court cases of

the past, including *Loving v. Virginia*, a 1967 case in which the court invalidated bans on interracial marriage.

The cases come before the high court at a time when more states have legalized gay marriage. Last year three more – Maryland, Maine and Washington – did so, bringing the total to nine plus the District of Columbia.

"Never before in our history has a major civil rights issue landed on the doorstep of the Supreme Court with this wave of public support," said Theodore Boutsos, a lawyer for opponents of the California initiative, which is known as Proposition 8.

Strong opposition to gay marriage still exists, however, both among Republicans in Congress and in many states across the nation. A total of 30 states, including California, have constitutional amendments that ban



Same-sex marriage supporters take part in a march in San Francisco. Photo: Reuters

gay marriage. Nine states, including California, recognize civil unions or domestic partnerships among same-sex couples.

Italian court orders Knox murder retrial

ITALY'S top court on Tuesday ordered a retrial of American Amanda Knox and a former boyfriend for the murder of British student Meredith Kercher, reopening a case that prompted harsh criticism of the Italian justice system.

Kercher's body, with more than 40 wounds and a deep gash in the throat, was found in the apartment she shared with Knox in Perugia in 2007.

Prosecutors accused Knox and Raffaele Sollecito of killing the 21-year-old Leeds University student



Amanda Knox. Photo: Reuters

during a drug-fueled sexual assault. The two were initially found guilty and sentenced to 26 and 25 years in prison respectively after a trial that grabbed world attention and drew stinging censure of

the investigation by independent experts appointed to review evidence in the case.

In 2011, their convictions were quashed after forensic investigators challenged scientific evidence in the original trial. They were released after four years in prison and Knox returned to the US.

On Tuesday the Court of Cassation added a further twist by overturning the acquittal, accepting a request from prosecutors and Kercher family lawyers for a retrial, which will be held at a court in Florence.

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Cholanan Srikaew leads an inspection tour of the Baan Saan market in Phuket Town. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Formaldehyde free for the AEC

THE Deputy Minister of Public Health declared the Baan Saan fresh market in Phuket Town as formaldehyde free, following an inspection tour of the market earlier this week.

The Baan Saan market, also known as the Phuket City municipality public fresh market number 1, is located on Ranong Road, near the local bus (*sawng taeo*) boarding area in Phuket Town.

The recently opened Baan Saan market is being positioned as a model 'safe and clean' fresh market ahead of the Asean Economic Community (AEC).

Deputy Minister of Public Health Cholanan Srikaew, joined by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut and Narong Saiwong, deputy chief of the Department of Health, led the inspection tour as a follow up on the Ministry of Health's campaign to promote food safety confidence among consumers ahead of the AEC. The appraisal of Baan Saan market follows a series of inspections of Phuket market places since last year, which revealed several cases of contaminated produce (see below).

Mr Cholanan affirmed that the government's policy is to regulate public food safety, with a specific emphasis on the public and tourism sectors.

In preparation and anticipation for the AEC, which is set to come into full effect from 2015, the government has been monitoring and inspecting the threat of chemical contamination of produce sold at local fresh markets.

The campaign is being spear-headed with the slogan "Phuket Seafood Formaldehyde Free". "Food safety is very important in creating confidence among Thai and foreign consumers. Phuket is a [popular] tourism destination that generates substantial income for Thailand.

"Of about 10 local fresh markets, Baan Saan market is a bench mark. Consumers can have 100% confidence in the market as it is fully up to standard, maintains good sanitation and has regular chemical and contamination inspections [conducted there].

"Other than this, understanding about food standards is continuously facilitated between officials and food operators here."

Dr Narong explained that in addition to formaldehyde, the Health Department were also testing for six other contaminants, including insecticide, borax, sodium hydrosulfite, salicylic acid, salbutamol and formalin.

He went on to cite tests from last year in which 526 produce samples were taken from fresh markets, flea markets and supermarkets from throughout Phuket. Out of these, he said that 15, or 2.85% were more contaminated than the allowed limit.

Of these, 10 of the samples came from Mueang district (Phuket Town and Chalong), including insecticide contamination in eight samples of salted fish, chili paste, cabbages, morning glory and egg plants.

Additionally, two samples of the fern/herb known as "sabai naang" (*Drynaria quercifolia*) were contaminated with formalin.

Another sample of the herb from Thalang was also contaminated with formalin. In addition to this, four other samples from Thalang were contaminated with insecticides.

These included kale, kawawya (in Thai "Bai Ra"), bell peppers and tomatoes.

- Phuket Gazette

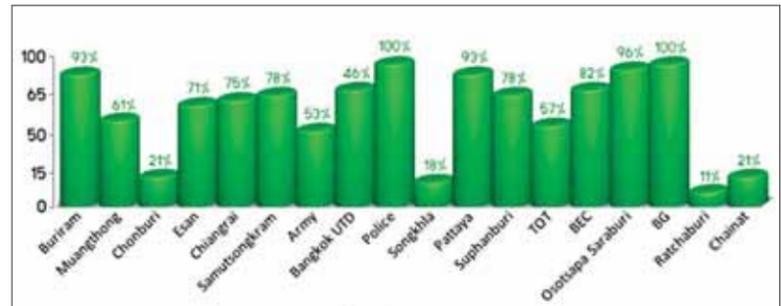


In addition to formaldehyde, officials are also looking out for insecticide, borax, sodium hydrosulfite, salicylic acid, salbutamol and formalin.

Pro Thai football market value set to triple by 2017



PROFESSIONAL COMPLIANCE: The graphs chart the licensing compliance progress of Thai pro teams in YL1 (above) and the TPL (below).



THAILAND-based sports media corporation, Siam Sports Syndicate Pcl, has set a five-year target for the value of the Kingdom's professional football market to grow by 300%.

VIPs from Thailand's professional football leagues met last month in Bangkok to sign a five year licensing management and administration agreement for the broadcasting and promotion rights, and work out benefits of the lucrative industry.

Among the VIPs who attended the agreement signing ceremony were Dr Wichit Yaembunreung, chairman of Thai Premier League Co Ltd (TPL), Worawi Makudi, president of the Football Association of Thailand (FAT), Adisai Warinsirikul, director of Siam Sport Syndicate Public Co Ltd, and Vimon Kanchana, chairman of the AIS regional league [Division 2] competition managing committee.

The licensing administration and management agreement covers the period from 2013 to 2017, stipulating that Siam Sports will look after both the broadcasting rights for the two professional leagues, as well as seeking sponsorship for the various

competitions managed by the FAT.

TPL governs both the Toyota TPL (Thailand's elite division) and Yamaha One League (first division), while Thailand's semi-professional second division is overlooked by a separate committee, who collaborate with the TPL for the AIS Champions League (promotion tournament for top division 2 teams up to division 1) towards the end of the year.

Mr Adisai Warinsirikul said that Thailand's professional football market is currently valued at 200 million baht, and that the agreement would enable it to triple in value to 600mn baht by the end of the five year window.

He said that of the total revenue, 60% would go back to all the (34) clubs of the TPL and YL1, with a set target of no less than 20mn baht allocated for each club per year.

Meanwhile, the remaining 40% would be allocated among all the organizers to cover their expenses for broadcasting, sponsorship seeking and organization, as well as administrative costs of the TPL Co Ltd, and promotional media and commercials.

- Phuket Gazette

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In need of some extra Zs

Thailand-focused study finds that sleep deprivation affects life in and out of the office

SLEEP-starved workers struggle to juggle family and work commitments, a recent survey shows.

A fifth of workers in Bangkok, Thailand (21%) report that they have to sacrifice sleep to fit in personal and work commitments, either by waking up too early or by burning the midnight oil. Although flexible working is highlighted as a way to reduce commuting, create more hours in the day for sleep or family life and improve productivity and staff retention, the survey found that only 52% of firms are rewarding management for encouraging the creation of a flexible workforce.

Workers also highlight that a shorter commute (26%) and greater flexibility of location (10%) would give them more time spend with their families as well as to catch some extra shut-eye, but businesses can also benefit from introducing greater flexibility, which is reported to improve productivity and help retain staff.



INFORMATION DEFRAGMENTATION: If we don't give our brain enough time to sort itself out, it could catch up with us at work. Photo:gino.mempin

These are some of the key findings of a global survey by Regus, the world's largest provider of flexible workplaces, based on interviews with more than 24,000 business-people

from over 90 countries.

"Lack of sleep is clearly detrimental to worker health and happiness with long working hours closely linked to heart disease," says John Henderson,

Asia Pacific Regional Director at Regus. "Respondents highlight that a shorter commute and more flexibility over work location would help them spend more time with their families, finally spelling an end to sleepless nights filled with catching up on work or personal tasks that couldn't be squeezed into the day."

Key Findings and Statistics:

- Globally, 29% of workers are sleeping less than they wish, to fit all their commitments and in the Philippines 25% of workers are sacrificing sleep to fit in work and personal commitments, while a fifth (19%) feel they have to over-compensate for time taken off for personal matters.

- Workers highlight a shorter commute (29%) and location flexibility (30%) as ways of helping them spend more time with their families.

- But businesses can benefit too, as flexible work is thought to

improve productivity (75%) and help staff retention (82%).

- Currently management is being rewarded for encouraging a flexible work environment in 58% of firms surveyed.

Henderson continues: "This survey shows that allowing employees to work closer to home in professional and fully efficient environments can have an important impact on family life and provide workers with a few more minutes' kip each morning. But the benefits are not just for workers, and firms can also improve productivity and retention by introducing flexible working. Yet, in spite of the win-win benefits that flexible working can bring on both employee and company, there is evidently still plenty of grounds for improvement as almost half of Thai firms do not recognize or reward managers for encouraging the creation of a flexible workforce." – *Regus*

PTT pushes for bioplastics

THAI petrochemical giant PTT will propose to the Energy Ministry and the Cabinet that promotion of the bioplastics industry be made a national agenda item to stimulate domestic demand for the products.

Nuttachat Charuchinda, chief operations officer for PTT's downstream petroleum business group, earlier this week said that bioplastic production required high investment and entailed a higher production cost than conventional plastic. It is therefore important that consumption of bioplastic products be strongly promoted.

PTT is developing the Asia Industrial Estate in Rayong, which will become its base for bioplastic production, as well as that of its partners.

The conglomerate is preparing the area and constructing utilities, buildings, joint labs and water treatment systems, all for the planned investment of PTTMCC Biochem at the location. The estate is expected to be up and running by the middle of next year.

PTTMCC is a 50:50 joint venture between PTT and Japan's Mitsubishi Chemical for the production of bio-succinic acid and polybutylene-succinate plastic pellets from sugar.

Nuttachat said foreign companies had expressed interest in partnering with PTT in the bioplastics arena, and that they planned to establish plants in the Asia Industrial Estate.

The zone occupies 1,500 rai (240 hectares) and the cost of constructing the buildings and utilities is estimated to be 1.3 billion baht. The estate will mainly serve the PTT group, including the possible production of polylactic acid (PLA) by NatureWorks, in which PTT owns a 50% stake.



Nuttachat Charuchinda

– *The Nation*

US tax regime to scrutinize taxpayer bank accounts

IN LIGHT of the 'federal fiscal fiasco' in Washington DC – to the tune of nearly 17 trillion dollars – the American government is looking to expand its worldwide tax base.

As such, US citizens and green card holders conducting, contracting or controlling business operations in or from countries outside the US, including Thailand, need to ensure consistency and transparency when complying with the latest reporting requirements.

"They're [the US Internal Revenue Service (IRS)] going after undisclosed, offshore bank and securities accounts," says John Andes, a US CPA and Thai-American partner with the Bangkok-based accounting firm KMPG Phoomchai Tax Ltd.

Speaking at a US tax update seminar sponsored by Phuket Chapter of the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) at the Holiday Inn, Patong on March 8, Mr Andes reiterated that all American citizens, regardless of their domicile or residency status, are required to file US income tax returns, report worldwide income and disclose certain information about foreign investments annually.

In addition to increased scrutiny by the IRS for individual income reporting, the Department of Treasury is also putting the onus on foreign banks to disclose certain information about non-US financial accounts held by Americans.

"More stringent reporting requirements and enforcement by the IRS came about after the IRS discovered large sums of unreported money by US account holders in Swiss bank accounts," explains John.

In last week's "You can run, but you

Thailand	No. US corporation returns	Controlled Foreign Corporations					
		No. of foreign corporations	Total assets		Total receipts	Earnings and profits (less deficit) before income taxes	Income taxes
			Beginning of 2008	End of 2008			
All industries	455	767	24,502,762	23,502,008	30,820,484	1,186,487	492,606
Raw materials and energy production	14	20	982,043	943,619	964,401	398,631	128,958
Goods production	168	234	11,242,041	9,790,778	21,386,070	178,934	181,985
Distribution and transportation of goods	145	173	2,261,203	2,282,634	5,380,105	232,648	76,245
Finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing	33	104	8,077,289	8,688,741	1,471,999	148,402	44,274
Services	144	201	1,885,489	1,738,120	1,580,847	228,142	59,006

US controlled foreign corporations in Thailand, 2008. Monetary values in thousands of US\$.

can't hide" article, Mr Andes identified two primary options for Americans residing overseas to consider when trying to reduce their US tax obligations – electing a Foreign Earned Income (FEI) exclusion, and claiming a foreign tax credit.

In addition to filing taxes with the IRS, US citizens and resident aliens with financial assets outside of the US and its territories, may also need to file the Foreign Bank Account Reporting (FBAR), using form TD F 90-22.1.

This form must be received by the US Department of Treasury no later than June 30, and there are no extensions possible.

"The FBAR is required for US citizens or resident aliens who had a financing interest over one or more foreign bank and financial accounts, in aggregate, amounting to or more than US\$10,000 at any time during the year."

Mr Andes explained that "having a financing interest in an account" means that the US citizen (or resident alien) was the owner, individual or jointly, or simply had signatory authority over the account, even if he did not control or own the respective funds.

Reportable accounts include bank accounts, insurance policies with a cash

surrender value, securities, securities derivatives, or other financial instrument and mutual fund accounts.

Meanwhile, bonds, notes and stock certificates held directly by the person are not FBAR reportable.

The IRS is increasing enforcement of this reporting requirement.

"There are significant civil penalties imposed if it is determined that there was willful failure to file. These can be up to \$100,000 or 50% of the aggregate balance in accounts."

"There are also potential criminal penalties, which can amount to \$500,000 and/or five years of jail time."

US taxpayers who are living abroad on the general tax filing deadline of April 15 get an automatic extension of two months to file.

The taxpayer can file for an additional four month extension (total six months, or by October), using form 4868.

If, however, the taxpayer has an amount owing to the IRS, he must pay that amount by April 15. The extension is only an extension to file, not to pay.

Next week, we'll conclude with advice and updates about foreign assets and investments.

– *Steven Layne*



A computer generated image (CGI) of what Shivalai Resort Condominiums and Private Luxury Pool Villas will look like once completed.



A CGI of what a completed unit at Shivalai Resort Condominiums and Private Luxury Pool Villas will look like inside.

Shivalai shimmers above Kamala

By Andrew Scott

THE Shivalai Resort Condominiums and Private Luxury Pool Villas will be a new boutique development perched on a hillside overlooking Kamala and out to the sea. The eight stylish three-storey low rise condominium buildings will have only two units per floor and five luxurious private pool villas when construction is completed in 2014.

The *Phuket Gazette* spoke to Jakkrit Changsalak, CEO of Wilson Height Property Co. Ltd about the development.

Phuket Gazette: Why did you choose to build your development in Kamala?

Jakkrit Changsalak: Kamala is a quiet beach area that has maintained its natural beauty. The long sandy beach, mountains and forest are still intact. It's a good place to live. Kamala has the potential to expand

What does the development offer?

Shivalai has 48 units in eight three-storey



ocean view condominium buildings and five luxury pool villas. The projects landscaped hillside includes a swimming pool, parking, coffee shop and lobby.

How much are the units?

Prices start at 75,000 baht per square meter and the condominiums start at 2.55 million baht. Compared with other condominiums in Kamala, our price is lower.

Who is the project aimed at?

The project is aimed at foreign residents and real estate investors. The development has a clear return on investment and low

risk. Because the price is relatively low, owners are able to see a return on their investment immediately.

What do you think are the project's key selling points?

Location is important. Kamala Beach is one of the most expensive areas to buy a home. Shivalai is located on high ground, where every room has a view of the sea and the beautiful beach. The sea view is an important part of the project. Also, Shivalai is surrounded by hills and forest. The surrounding forest and project itself is a water resource with cold water running all year round. We will help to preserve this forest and this idea is seen with our slogan "living with nature."

The development has an airy design with a modern style that blends seamlessly with nature. We use materials that focus on energy efficiency.

The company is also looking at how to manage the sales and administration of the building. We provide a professional

management team that will help customers rent out their unit.

How do you promote the project as an eco friendly development?

The project is on a good site on the side of a mountain with the forest in the background. The design is focused on the surrounding greenery. The vertical garden is landscaped to blend in with the natural world. Each room is provided with a private jacuzzi on the balcony so the residents can live close to nature.

In addition, the materials we have used on the walls have an oval mound, which can heat up more than other walls. The room is cool and can save a lot of energy. This technology comes from a study within our own group.

What other developments do you have in Phuket?

Our other projects are still in the design stage located in Kata and Patong. They will be launched at the end of this year.

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This imagery is for conceptual purpose only and may not be the same as the actual complete project.

Phuket FC constructing a new complex on Chao Fa West road

THE island's professional football club, Phuket FC, are in the process of constructing a new state of the art training facility just south of Phuket Town, en route to Chalong.

This complex will afford players badly needed upgrades to equipment and facilities and will include a natural grass football pitch, as well as an artificial grass pitch, swimming pool, fitness center and physical therapy room.

The complex is located in front of Chao Fa Thani housing subdivision on Chao Fa West Road.

Work is underway to level the ground beneath the complex and install a drainage system, which will be up to European standard in terms of stadium and facility construction.

According to a statement released on the team's website: "The grass will be laid by the end of this month and we expect completion to be later this year. We will keep you updated on



BREAKING GROUND: Workers level what will become Phuket FC's first dedicated training facility off Chao Fa West.

[our] progress."

The grass planting ceremony was held earlier this week and attended by honorable guest, Mr Ron van Oijen, AIA insurance firm's Thailand CEO, as well as other administrators from the company.

The team says the grass will need to mature for a period

of three months before it is ready to play on.

A spokesperson from the Phuket FC office told the *Gazette* that the primary reason the team is constructing the new grounds is to have their own dedicated training facility.

The club had previously

utilized the FIFA Tsunami Memorial Football center, commonly known as "Sanam Fifa" (literally, FIFA field), which is located on Chao Fa East Road, on the way to Cape Panwa.

According to the Phuket FC spokesperson, that Sanam Fifa facility, which is valued between 40 and 80 million baht, was under the management and control of the Football Association of Thailand (FAT), and that Phuket FC simply wanted their own facility.

The new facility has an estimated value of no less than 260mn baht, of which 200mn baht was used to purchase the land the facility is being constructed on.

- *Phuket Gazette*

In brief...

PHILLIPS Group has acquired the internet real estate portal phuketproperty.com.

The site was launched in 1998 and has drawn a considerable amount of traffic for property and rentals. Managing Director Martin Phillips has said he is keen to continue to develop the group's island interest and their regional expansion from Singapore.

AFTER the debacle during this last peak season with Phuket International Airport banning private jets for an extended period of time, the Thai Navy may provide a solution.

According to national Thai media a 40-rai plot adjacent to PIA, which is used by the Royal Thai Navy, may be partially used for the parking of private jet aircraft pending discussions with AoT.

The comments come from the AoT and look to be only an interim solution until the new airport upgrade is completed in 2015.

PHUKET-based Prime Real Estate have won an International Property Award in the Asia Pacific region. Prime is headed by long-time local property player Barry King. An award ceremony will be held on May 10th at the Shangri-La hotel in Kuala Lumpur.

- *The Phuket Insider*



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Fragrant investing in Myanmar

FRAGRANT Property has announced an investment of more than US\$300 million (8.8 billion baht) to expand its business in Myanmar.

The company has allocated an initial budget of about \$40 million for the registration of its two subsidiaries in Myanmar, Myanmar FrAGRANT Development and Myanmar FrAGRANT, to undertake property business there, especially involving city planning, electric train systems and general utilities.

Chief Executive Officer James Duan said the company had offered two mega-projects to the Myanmar government.

"We are in discussions with the government to draft mega-projects in the future, including the development of utility systems in Yangon. The project includes the construction of a straight road from Shwedagon Pagoda to the seaport and to promote it as a landmark or walking street similar to those in countries in Europe, such as the Champs-Elysees in Paris," he said.

He added that the discussion with the government about the two investment projects would be finalized by the end of the year.

The second project will be the development of a residential and office complex for foreign investors, especially from Thailand, Hong Kong, mainland China, and Asean countries.

The project will be a 50-floor multipurpose building, which will include a shopping mall, hotel and office space. After the project is developed, it will be sold, potentially to buyers from Singapore or Thailand, who will operate the complex's mall and hotel.

Duan said the government's decision to open the country was aimed at attracting Myanmar businesspeople investing abroad to return and bring capital back into the



POTENTIAL: A straight road from Shwedagon Pagoda (above) to the seaport is one of the ideas suggested by FrAGRANT Property. Photo: Sarahdepper

country. They will benefit from the exemption of corporate income tax for five years for investments in technology and other products supported by the government.

"The overall investment atmosphere in Myanmar is favorable and attracting strong interest from both domestic and foreign investors, especially from Thailand, Japan, China and Asean countries.

"Thai investors, however, need to have direct contact with the officers of the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand or the Myanmar government so that they will know the investment regulations and to ensure that the investments are in line with

the demand and requirements made by the Myanmar government," he said.

He said land prices in Myanmar had been surging because of low ownership by the private sector, which accounts for only 25 per cent of the total land. About 75 per cent of land plots in Myanmar are owned by the government, including prime and high-potential locations as well as antique buildings.

However, as one of the private investors interested in Myanmar, FrAGRANT Property wants to urge the government to evaluate land prices and set median prices for the investors. - *The Nation*

CBRE achieves top-three ranking

CBRE announced, on March 26, that the company has achieved top-three rankings in 25 categories across 13 countries in the Asia Pacific Property Awards in all real estate categories, in nearly every major market across the region from New Zealand to China.

The Asia Pacific Property Awards are part of the long-established International Property Awards and its winners' logo is recognized as a symbol of excellence throughout the global industry. Later this year, the highest scoring winners from the Asia Pacific Property Awards will compete against other winning companies from Europe, Africa, the Americas and Arabia to find the 'World's Best' in each category.

"For CBRE Thailand, this takes our running total of International Property Awards up to 36 awards including past wins such as World's Best Commercial Real Estate Website in 2009, Asia Pacific Best Real Estate Agency in 2012 and Best Property Consultancy in Thailand in 2011 and 2012," added Mr. David Simister, Chairman of CBRE Thailand.

Stuart Shield, president of the International Property Awards, said, "The entries that we receive from the Asia Pacific region become more impressive year after year. The winning companies have outshone their peers and proven exceptional levels of professionalism and competence in their field."

- *Phuket Gazette*

For more information on the awards, please visit: internationalpropertyevents.com/asia-pacific.

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Sansiri housing project targets hi-end segment



SOMETHING DIFFERENT: This Computer Generated Image shows what the club house will look like.

RELIEVING anticipation in the single-house property market to the north of Phuket Town, Sansiri Pcl finally lifted the curtain on 'Burasiri Koh Kaew', the developer's first up-market resort-style, detached housing development in Phuket.

Valued at about one billion baht, the new development is superbly located in the Koh Kaew sub district, just opposite the British International School.

The project responds to desires of business owners and young families alike, who prefer an urban lifestyle yet enjoy living close to natural surroundings, enjoying privacy in their homes.

The official pre-sales event will be from March 29 to 31, and homes off plan start from 5.9 million baht.

Mr Suriya Wannabuit, executive vice president of Sansiri's Project Management and Marketing Department, revealed that "Sansiri is proud to introduce Sansiri's first single detached home in Phuket, under the Burasiri brand - Burasiri Koh Kaew."

The project is developed from the concept of experiencing resort-style living while enjoying natural surroundings.

"Burasiri Koh Kaew is designed for Phuket customers, whether they

be business owners or modern families. Our target market is people who seek a property that can fulfill their town-style living desires, yet be assured of total privacy.

"Most importantly, its prime location provides the utmost convenience with easy access to all destinations across the island."

He went on to note how the development will combine the project's characteristics with surrounding natural areas to achieve a resort ambience.

"Such special features cater to the preference of target owners who have a uniquely modern-style of living amid a good environment."

Sansiri has developed the project to be "stylishly outstanding", to include spacious gardens to a luxury clubhouse, fitness center and swimming pools.

Additionally, living space in each home is cleverly designed using high quality materials to be functional and practical for daily use.

"Combining all this, we expect this much-anticipated project will meet with the same terrific response as other Sansiri developments." Mr. Suriya concluded.

Burasiri is Sansiri's premium-class single home brand. The Burasiri brand concept is that each development is unique in character, designed in harmony with its location, yet with the overall brand concept of creating an Oriental Resort atmosphere.

Burasiri Koh Kaew will feature a collection of modern-style homes that blend perfectly with nature using a harmonious choice of colors.

Common project facilities are subtly designed. For example, the clubhouse concept derives from 'Bukit', the word in Malay that means mountain or large hill; mountain lines and slopes as well



Suriya Wannabuit says Burasiri was designed specifically for Phuket.



PRIME LOCATION: The development is situated just across from the British International School, Phuket.

as the rock surface are used strikingly. Residents at Burasiri Koh Kaew will delight in the surrounding nature and resort-style atmosphere.

Burasiri Koh Kaew spans an area of just under 39 rai – about 15 acres or 62,000 square meters. The project will comprise a total of 156 two-storey single detached homes on plots ranging from 52.4 – 106.80 square wa (209.6 to 427.2sqm), with living areas ranging from 149 to 178sqm.

Two home types are available: BuraRata offers a living area of 149 sqm, featuring three bedrooms, three bathrooms, living room, dining corner, cooking preparation zone, Thai kitchen area and parking space for two cars.

The larger room type BuraBulkit will offer a living area of 178sqm with three bedrooms, three bathrooms, relaxation room (on the upper floor), living room, dining corner, cooking preparation zone, Thai kitchen area and also parking space for two cars.

These two types of homes will be offered in the price range from

5.9 to 10mn baht.

The project boasts complete facilities including a common area spanning over one rai of land (1600sqm), which is thoughtfully designed with residents' benefits in mind. It includes an expansive green space that features 'Strip Park' areas allowing for 24 hours of fresh air and exercise.

The large clubhouse is equipped with swimming pools (including one kid's pool) and a fitness center, plus a 24-hour security system with CCTV together with a double gate and card access system at the project entrance to provide security and peace of mind.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Burasiri Koh Kaew show units are available for inspection, and the pre-sales event will be from March 29-31, 2013 at the Sales Gallery on site. Customers who book during these two days will receive a Mac Book Air and Blu-ray Disc Home Theatre, at a value of 120,000 baht. For more information, please call 1685 or visit sansiri.com.

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How expats can cut their investment costs

IF YOU are like many expatriates, you have probably failed to realize the impact trading or investment fees can have on your portfolio's return, as such costs are often hidden and can quickly add up over time. In a rising market, these costs may not be so noticeable; but in a stagnant or falling stock market, they may quickly become very apparent. With that in mind, here are a few ways you can cut your investment costs in order to boost your investment returns.

Island Investor

By Don Freeman

might encounter when investing include annual fund expenses; custodian/account fees; advisory fees; FOREX transaction charges and bid-ask spreads, with the later being particularly hard to evaluate as a lousy spread can quickly increase your trading costs.

Remember, there are some investment fees that can't be avoided, but there are also plenty of other fees that can be minimized or completely avoided—so long as you are made aware of them before you invest. That's why it's critical for your financial adviser to be transparent about all of your fees. If he or she isn't being completely trans-

parent, then find someone who is.

Invest in ETFs rather than expat target products

Many ETFs have no extra commissions beyond normal transaction costs and have average annual expenses of just 0.49%, while the average stock mutual fund will cost investors around 1.57% in annual fees. However, many managed funds or offshore investment products targeted for expats come with high upfront fees (often 5% or more), annual fees of around 2% and a sales commission when they are sold. When these high fees are combined with taxes, inflation and currency fluctuations, you might be left with little to no return at all on your money.

Buy and hold rather than trade

Even if you are investing in low cost products like ETFs with a discount broker, the best way to reward your broker rather than yourself, is to trade frequently, as trading will generate commissions. You should only trade when changes in your personal situation, market conditions or the value of an investment calls for changes in your portfolio's investment allocation. Otherwise, a general portfolio review each quarter and around the beginning of the year should be sufficient for making necessary portfolio adjustments.

Limit FOREX transactions

As with frequent trading, moving in and out of currencies can be both costly and unnecessary. Ideally, you should use the currency of the country or countries you hold citizenship of as a base currency for your investments, and invest only in products that transact in your base currency (for example, for Americans, an ETF listed on the NYSE) to gain exposure to other currencies or markets.

Consolidate your accounts

While having multiple financial accounts may seem like a good way to spread your financial risk around, it likely means you won't have economies of scale with any single financial institution. After all, the larger your account balance is with one financial institution, the more interested they will be in servicing your account and keeping you happy as a client by offering lower investment and trading fees. They may also be able to offer you investment products not available to clients with lower account balances.

Use tax deferred or tax exempt accounts



Cash in hand. Photo: Tax Credits

If you are an American, tax deferred or tax exempt accounts will often be your best choice to hold all of your investments, since you are taxed on your worldwide income, while the use of offshore investments will draw more scrutiny from tax authorities or is simply not allowed. If you are a citizen of another country, it would be wise to consult an expert in your country's tax matters to determine what the best tax structure for your investments would be.

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



CONFUSION: Be careful not to overstay your visit home. It could change your UK residency status. Photo: Pedro Simoes

Changes to UK residency

Retirement Years

By David Mayes

WITH the Finance Act 2013, the UK is making changes to the statutory residency laws, which may affect some expats living in Phuket. It is well worth taking the time to review the changes if you are one of those who have just left the UK or who, and although you reside in Phuket, you maintain significant ties to the UK and spend a significant amount of time visiting there.

If someone is classified as a non-resident for tax purposes, the UK government does not tax on worldwide income. Thus a huge benefit of being an expat, for everyone except Americans sadly, is the right to have investments and assets in any jurisdiction of your choosing and pay taxes according to the laws there. Using tax free offshore jurisdictions such as Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man, is a perfectly legal way of avoiding unnecessary taxation. A huge potential benefit of maintaining a non-resident status for many is the ability to remove one's UK pension from the tax regime and move to a jurisdiction with much more favorable tax laws, such as Gibraltar where the tax

is a flat 2.5%

For those not automatically classed as a resident, the basis of residency will now be determined by whether an individual meets either the automatic overseas residence test or the sufficient ties test. A person is deemed to be an overseas resident if:

Not a resident in the UK for one or more of the three tax years preceding the tax year, and spends fewer than 16 days in the UK in the tax year

-A resident in the UK for none of the three tax years preceding the tax year and spent fewer than 46 days in the UK in the tax year

-Where a person works full-time overseas in the tax year without any significant breaks, and spends less than 91 days, excluding deemed days, in the UK in the tax year, and the number of days in the tax year in which the person works for less than three hours in the UK is fewer than 31 days.

For people who are not automatically classed as an overseas resident (and who are not automatically resident (183 days or more in the UK or having a home in the UK or working full-time in the UK) residency will be determined as to whether or not they meet the sufficient ties test.

Therefore, any person who does not satisfy the automatic overseas tests and who visits the UK for

more than 16 days should be aware they might become a UK resident, particularly if they: have family in the UK; have accommodation in the UK (either their own or provided by a close relative); work in the UK; spend more than 16 days in the UK; spend more time in the UK than elsewhere.

If you feel that you may have a close enough connection with the UK to fall within the scope of the new test you should review the appropriate legislation and guidance notes at: hmrc.gov.uk/budget-updates.

It is recommended that if there is any doubt as to status under the new test, you should seek professional advice from an FSA regulated source to clarify and confirm. If you have already moved your pension offshore or have significant gains from offshore investments every year, it would be wise to plan any time spent in the UK to maintain your non-resident status in accordance with new laws.

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



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Fuelling the tyranny of greed

IT IS high time authorities took serious steps to crack down on oil smuggling in Thai waters. The latest reported case in Phuket revealed itself in the most noxious of fashions last week, when the 20-meter fishing trawler *Premika* sank in the shallow waters of Klong Tah Jeen, allowing much of its cargo of tens of thousands of liters of diesel fuel to spill out into the remaining stands of mangrove forest that line waterway (see news pages).

The case of the *Premika* is a tragic indictment of our government agencies' collective failure to prevent fuel oil smuggling. The vessel is just one of hundreds – if not thousands – that are used in the unregulated trade that thrives in virtually every coastal province of Thailand.

As previously reported, a former registered caretaker of *Premika* was caught discharging some 40,000 liters of "heavy fuel" at Phuket Deep Sea Port back in September 2011. The caretaker, whose name indicates he is a member of one of the island's most prominent political clans, was summarily taken to Phuket City Police headquarters and forced to pay a fine, calculated as a multiple of "taxes owed to the state". Like many others before him, he was subsequently released as the existing law does not impose prison sentences on violators.

In the latest case the owner of the vessel has been identified, but at last report "police were still looking for him". The *Gazette* would advise readers not to hold their breath waiting for the man to be taken into custody. Like land encroachment, oil smuggling is yet another "rich man, poor man" game in Thailand.

Financed by "influential figures" who are generally above the law, the smuggling work is carried out by some of the poorest members of society, including many illegal aliens. In the rare cases where arrests are made, the masterminds pay off the measly fines, which are merely viewed as a "cost of doing business". The financial and social factors that encourage fuel oil smuggling are very well known to the Marine Police, Excise Department and other agencies assigned with prevention. The huge difference in fuel costs between Thailand and neighboring countries, the paltry fines and rampant corruption all combine to ensure that the practice is here to stay until Thai legislators rewrite the law and then enforce it in way that ensures lengthy prison sentences mandatory for the people behind it.

Perhaps saddest of all in the latest case is the almost complete lack of public outcry about this environmental disaster, which would have been national news in any country with a developed sense of environmental awareness.

With all this in mind, the *Gazette* notes with irony that the much-needed development of our Deep Sea Port remains on hold because the project has failed to pass its EIA review "on environmental grounds".



All hail the mail service

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Opinion: Housing boom making snail mail slower, March 21*

I really don't know why anyone would complain about the Thai postal service (especially in the Rawai office). I go there almost every day as I receive regular mail parcels from overseas.

In the last year and a half I also mailed about 2-3,000 packages from there and only four of them were lost – all by the UK postal system.

Thai Post on the other hand has been nothing but helpful, and hasn't misplaced even one.

The only slow mail I have encountered in the last few years was with 3BB internet bills, but I just go online and pay them. Why, when there are so many areas that need improvement here, would anyone focus on one area that is doing a great job with very few resources?

D Vince
Gazette Forum

Russian benefits

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Russians targeted in Thai New Year crackdown, March 20*

I'm still wondering what job Russians could steal from Thais. I see more often that Russians only help Thais to get more money from Russian tourists and property investors.

Slava
Gazette Forum

Take the land back

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket to become land probe role model, March 19*

By all means take the land back. Go through the records at the lands and titles office and find out who officiated the illegal transactions and jail them and

Letters to the Editor

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

confiscate and sell their personal property which was from corrupt earnings and give it to the current owners as compensation.

If you can't do that, well go back to Bangkok and stop wasting your time in Phuket doing public relations exercises.

Skip
Gazette Forum

How to break the monopoly

Re: *Gazette online, Fear of attacks on Phuket's new airport buses delays launch date, March 19*

Can you believe this? A district ruled by tuk-tuk mafia. I thought the government was supposed to rule and the police were supposed to enforce, but obviously this is not the case.

Put police on the buses, arrest those that "attack" and the problem will be controlled.

Then start enforcing traffic and parking laws on the tuk-tuks and stop these gangsters from blocking public roads. The bus is fair competition against a mafia monopoly.

Frustrated
Gazette Forum

What's in a name?

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket's international boat show comes of age, March 21*

As a founder member of the ISPSA (International Society to Prevent the Spread of Acronyms) I would be fascinated to know how the acronym for the Phuket

International Boat Show: PIMEX gets away with not having a B for Boat or an S for Show in it and to find out what the M, E and X stand for.

Anthony Lawson
Gazette Forum

Garbage a turn-off at Karon Beach

I booked a condo in Movenpick with a fantastic view of Karon Beach which from afar is a long beautiful sandy beach.

I love to take long walks on the beach in the early morning, but I was shocked and very disappointed to see all the litter – cans, bottles, plastic and garbage.

I have also noticed that there are no garbage cans anywhere to be seen.

I have nothing against mass tourism, which the government of Thailand promotes, but they should be ready for it.

In a few years, this will for sure go from bad to worse. For me, all I can say is this is my first time here but never again.

ML from USA
Gazette Forum

Phuket youth sailing

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket youth sailing center officially open, March 15*

Good to see it finally materialize. For a very long time all Thai dinghy racing has been concentrated in Sattahip.

Hopefully good coaching will be provided so we will see Thailand again able to beat Singapore for the World Championship in Optimists as they so successfully did in 2010. Good wind to all!

Sailor
Gazette Forum

Phuket Gazette

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Who to call for help in Phuket

FIRST PERSON

FOR most foreigners who live on Phuket or those who choose a visit to this holiday island, it's a taste of paradise where almost all of earth's pleasures can be found and enjoyed. But for others who have come to join the happy-go-lucky chaos for which Phuket is now internationally famous, it is the end of the road. Like an elephant graveyard, the place where life ends, either by chance or by choice.

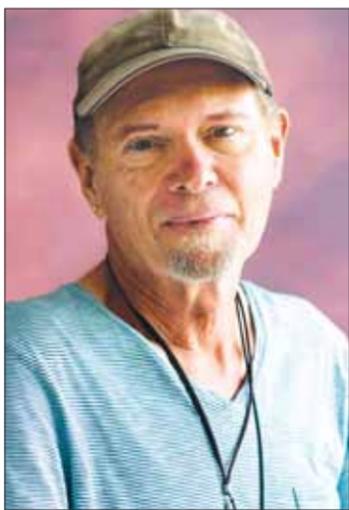
I recall one Sunday morning back in the 1990s answering a knock at the door where a fellow stood wearing nothing more than a towel.

"The police told me you could help me," he began. He then recounted the familiar story of the bar hostess that had come back to his room. By morning, she was gone and so were all his possessions, including his passport, wallet, clothes and even his shoes. I was able to get him on a bus to his embassy in Bangkok.

There are now far more international visitors to Phuket and the expat population has grown immensely. This has meant the problems have increased in complexity.

The response in part has been to create Honorary Consuls who provide consular services and often help their citizens when they have a problem.

Those who find themselves in distress should first contact their local honorary consul and see what



Bruce Stanley is an American who has been helping foreigners in Phuket for over 20 years, first with the Tourism Authority of Thailand and then the Tourist Police, helping foreigners in distress. For the past 10 years he has been a warden with the American Embassy, fulfilling a similar function.

Here, he talks about resources available to expats in need of assistance.

is recommended. There are solutions to most problems. The American Embassy has an exemplary service through their American Citizen Services (ACS) section.

It sometimes happens that an American citizen loses his livelihood while in Thailand and needs to be repatriated back to the States. ACS will contact family members and arrange to have funds sent to cover immediate costs.

Often there is a road accident or injuries from a confrontation. Many foreigners have no medical insurance which usually means they will be admitted to the government hospital in Phuket Town where they will be placed in a ward with a lot of other people.

No one should visit a foreign country without medical insurance. A brief tour through the head trauma unit at this hospital is a very graphic lesson.

The incidences of foreigners needing consular services is growing. Recently we've dealt with an elderly fellow who arrived to Phuket and then couldn't recall how he got here or where he was staying.

Another fellow is reported to have been kidnapped by ladyboys. And then there are the destitute who cannot afford the rising costs of life on Phuket. The exchange rate of many currencies has fallen against the dynamic Thai baht, leaving these seniors who depend solely on their pensions in a sore place.

When I moved to Phuket over 20 years ago, there were a lot of retiring men also arriving to live the good life. Now many are near 80 with declining health in a place where medical care is expensive.

I always tell people to have a back-up plan in case it becomes necessary to leave.



It pays to shop around for dental work too. Photo: mattlemmon

Toothless but no fairy

Island View

By Damian Evans

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

THE other day I had the unpleasant middle-aged experience of breaking a tooth. Not just any tooth, but the right incisor tooth. Alfred E Neuman eat your heart out.

By some amazing stroke of luck, the tooth had broken off but the root stayed intact, which made my experience relatively painless and gave me the chance to consider my options in choosing where to have it fixed.

My Thai wife made the calls to avoid any misunderstandings from my limited spoken Thai and my new-found lisp. I had heard many good reports about private dental clinics on the island, from both local expats and tourists, so we called them first.

I believe the polite parlance is that the prices given were "a little beyond my budget". One clinic particularly impressed me by offering to perform the required root canal treatment and insert a false tooth for a meager 50,000 baht.

So we checked with the hospital.

The Phuket Provincial Administration Hospital in Rassada, on the east side of Phuket Town, does not make appointments for dental treatment. You have to go there in person and queue. Same for Vachira Phuket Hospital near Samkong.

I was told that at the Provincial Hospital most people in need of a dentist turn up before 7am, but at Vachira some turn up as early as 5am and begin the hours-long wait

to see a dentist. Understandable, given that these are hospital dental clinics and emergency patients come first.

Having experienced Vachira treatment firsthand years ago, I opted to try my luck at the Provincial Hospital. We got there just on 8am and the lovely lady at the dental reception, knowing I had a broken tooth, slotted me in to see the dentist at 9am... on May 27.

And that was without having a dentist examine me to see if my need was more urgent than a 10-week wait.

We thanked the lady, returned the dour expressions directed at us by those in the waiting room, and left for the faithful Mission Hospital.

There, within 10 minutes I was sitting in the dentist's chair and the good dentist was assessing what needed to be done to fix my tooth. Ten minutes later I had scheduled a series of weekly appointments. Cost: about 15,000 baht.

I am not particularly fond of any institutions that exist on other people's pain, but if asked to choose which one I'd throw my lot in with, it would have to be "Mission Possible".

Thank you, Mission. Sincerely, and without the lisp.

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

No legit soliciting at Central

A young girl approached me at Central Festival Phuket and asked for donations for an organization called "JC Foundation" to feed hungry kids.

I thought it might be a scam. I couldn't find anything about this organization online - do you know anything about them? Does it sound like a scam? Is there somewhere I can report it?

Nikola Ivanov
Phuket

Krittaya Arjinajarn, PR Manager at Central Festival Phuket, replies:

Thank you for letting me know. Central does not allow representatives of any foundation to walk around and collect money from our customers in the mall, regardless of whether the foundation is registered or not.

However, we allow foundations to leave their donation boxes in the mall.

If you see solicitation in the mall, please contact me.

I am available during the mall hours at 076-291111 ext 1940 or 085-813-8312. Alternatively, email me at: arkrittaya@central.co.th or marketingpf@central.co.th

Snr Sgt Maj Suthep Chaivichit at Wichit Police Station replies:

If an organization wants to solicit donations in a public place, they need permission from the police.

We usually have an officer on patrol at Central Festival. If you are approached by someone there and suspect fraud, you can contact that officer or call Wichit Police Station at 076-355073-4.

Getting paid for an honest day's work

A female Thai friend works in a large restaurant. The rule there is that if an employee does not work a 12-hour shift each day of work, the employee gets no salary at all.

Is that legal under the employment law of Thailand?

Andy Chalong

An officer at the Phuket Provincial Labour Protection and Welfare Office replies:

It is illegal for an employee to not be paid for work they have done.

Under Thai labor law, a working day is eight hours, not 12. If an employee works less than eight hours, the employer must still pay the employee for the hours worked on that day.

The amount paid is calculated by dividing the monthly salary by



No free work. Photo: TJ Blackwell

the number of hours worked each month. This is the employee's hourly rate. The hours worked on the short day must be paid according to this hourly rate.

If your friend is working more than eight hours, the employer must pay her overtime.

Your friend can file a com-

plaint with us. If we determine that she wasn't paid for overtime work, we can demand that the overtime be paid, plus 15% interest per year on the unpaid salary.

Employees also get a one-hour break in an eight-hour working day, and at least one day off each week.

We can be reached at 076-211995 or 076-220760. We are open Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm.

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

YOUR Phuket

PHUKET INTERNATIONAL BOAT SHOW (PIMEX) 2013

Officially opening the show with the traditional ribbon cutting on the boardwalk were (from left) : Mr Gulu Lalvani, owner of RPM; Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut; PIMEX Show Director Mr Andy Dowden and Mr Charnchai Duangchit, director of TAT, Phuket Office.

The 10th Phuket International Boat Show (PIMEX) was opened on March 21, 2013.



VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

The British International School, Phuket (BISP) Year 13 IB Visual Arts Exhibition was officially opened on Monday, March 25 by local Phuket artist Romadon of Thailand's got Talent 2012 fame



QSI FUN RUN

The 11th QSI FUN RUN took place on Saturday March 23, 2013 at Bang Wad Dam. Athletes and families across the island enjoyed the walks and runs.



BURASIRI KOHKAEW

The press launch of Sansiri's first single detached-house development in Phuket "Burasiri Koh Kaew" took place on Monday March 25, 2013, at the Burasiri sales gallery in Koh Kaew.



Executive Vice President - Project Management and Marketing Department, of Sansiri Public Company Limited, Mr Suriya Wannabuit (center) poses with Sansiri staff.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

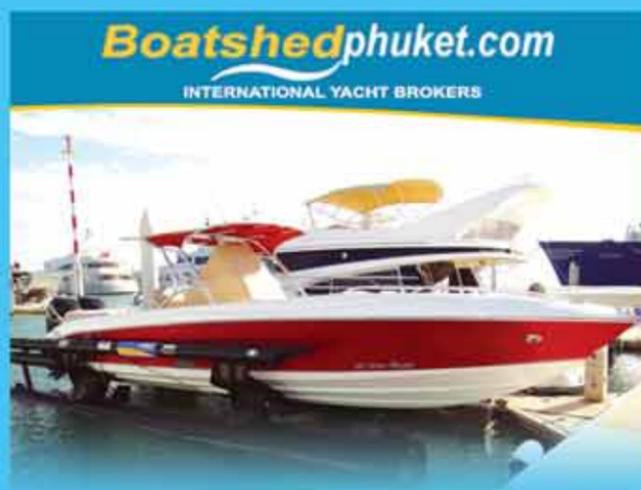
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*The Gazette is the top-ranked Website for Phuket. (Google Analytics)

BOAT of the week



See page 31

PROPERTY of the week



Real value in a changing world

AUCTION

Prime Condominiums in Phuket
Blue Canyon Country Club

See page 23

JOB of the week



See page 27

HOLIDAY CHOICE of the week



Beautiful Sea View Condominiums
Your Perfect Holiday
Home in Karon

See page 25

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

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

Properties For Sale

CONDO AT GREEN PLACES



Condo at Phansong Phuket Town with great view, 10 minutes from Central Festival. 36sqm, fully furnished. Bought: 1.7 million baht. Selling due to a move to another locality : 1.59 million baht. Tel: 082-812 1381. Email: ginophuket2@gmail.com

LAND FOR SALE IN CHALONG

Sea view, 9 rai, 50 million baht. Tel: 081-978 3480. Kirana: theeighthcat@hotmail.com

SALE HOUSE 192SQM

Jom Thong Thani, Vichit. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with spa pool. Tel: 084-191 1288. Email: homerenovationphuket@gmail.com

PATONG LOFT CONDO

For sale. 1 bedroom, fully furnished, 67sqm living area. Now only 2.5 million baht, reduced from 2.69 million baht. Tel: 089-872 6895. Email: jospeder@live.no

LAND ON KOH LON ISLAND



Flat land for sale. 3 rai and 150m from beach. Price: 6.5 million baht per rai. Email: kohlon@hotmail.com

PATONG LUXURY APARTMENT

3 beds, 4 baths, fantastic view, quiet, clean, fully furnished. Tel: 081-892 8208.

SEA VIEW RAWAI-NAI HARN

Luxury brand-new villa with infinity 12m long swimming pool + super sea view. Only a 150 meter walk to the beach. 16.9 million baht. Tel: 086-982 2888, 086-982 2888 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-374882. Email: prim_purdue@yahoo.com

NAI HARN BEACH CONDO

2-bed condo, 146sqm, ground floor unit, 3 mins walk from beach. Fully furnished. Large common pool. Only 7 million baht. Tel: 089-652 1951 (English & Thai). Email: phuket.pn@gmail.com

MAI KHAO 1 RAI CHANOTE

3.7 million baht. Walled and ready to build. Tel: +1-808-633 2688. Email: gg.consulting@rocketmail.com

PARADISE COMPLEX

Commercial building, 3 storeys, currently a clinic and accommodation for sale or rent. 14 million baht. Tel: 081-891 7887.

BEACHFRONT LAND FOR SALE



Prime beachfront land for sale on Koh Mak Noi, Phang Nga. Ideal for resort/villa development. Over 400 meters of beachfront. Up to 18 rai available at 10 million baht per rai. Contact 087-058 4001, 089-904 0266 or panan.titapura@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://redsunset.wix.com/kohmaknoi>

URGENT SALE/ RENT



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-476 9612.

KAMALA HOUSE FOR SALE



Near Phuket FantaSea. Price: 3.2 million baht. Negotiable. Tel: 081-719 1041. Email: teddykong0222@hotmail.com

LAND IN KRABI

3x420sqm, 2,500 baht per sqm, 3 minutes from Ao Nang Beach. Tel: 081-787 2008.

PATONG LUXURY CONDO SALE

2 beds, 1 bathroom, living room and fully equipped kitchen, 98sqm. Very high std, nice view. Big balcony, 2 swimming pools, gym, quiet location. 7.5 million or N/O. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English). Email: phv condo@aol.com

PHUKET TOWN CENTER

House for sale. 252sqm. 5.5 million baht. Contact Jiab. Tel: 087-269 3989.

3-BEDROOM DETACHED HOUSE

Chalong complex, secure, 240sqm land. Price: 3.2 million baht. Tel: 086-478 0201. Email: laongfa@hotmail.com

LAND AT CHERNG TALAY

390sq wah, nice flat land, quiet area, Chanote. In Pasak Soi 5 near Laguna Home. Price: 6 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118, 086-709 2933.

LAND AT AO POR

22 rai, Chanote title, flat land with rubber trees, directly on the major road no. 4007 towards Ao Por Pier. 1.5 million baht per rai, from owner. Tel: 084-753 3512. Email: hhphuket@hotmail.com

D CONDO 1, KATHU

-29.94sqm, mountain view, price 1,278,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, mountain view, price 1,280,000 baht.
-29.79sqm, pool view, price 1,330,000 baht.
-29.70sqm, pool view, price 1,365,000 baht.
Contact Vutdy on 081-892 3709.

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price 4.5 million baht. No agents, no furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Condo at Royal Place Project, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 37sqm, 2fl, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen, fully furnished (2 aircons, washing machine, refrigerator, TV, microwave, cable TV, 24 security with key card etc). Pls contact for more details. Tel: 086-476 9612. Email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

CONDO IN SUPALAI PARK



for sale. Near Sengho Bookstore in Phuket Town. Studio, 30sqm, floor 15, sea view, aircon, furnished. Price: 1.9 million baht. Ready to move in. For more info call 089-472 9118.

HOUSE FOR SALE IN BAAN PROMPHAN

2.5 floors, 5 mins to town, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Good for stay! 2.85 million baht. Tel: 083-506 9155. Email: sumitra.saetan@gmail.com

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

30 RAI IN TOWN

Flat land near Dowroong School in Phuket Town. Tel: 081-691 2526.

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www.lambertbrothers.co.th

SINGLE HOUSE FOR SALE/ RENT



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER

Great location, road access, 5 mins to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm with title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048 (English & German).

PRIVATE SALE OF HALF A RAI

At Ao Makham. Land is located opposite Port of Phuket and next to Bel Air Cape Panwa Resort. Price 4.2 million. For more information please call: 081-891 5932, 089-035 6702.

FREEHOLD CONDO

68sqm, fully furnished. 2.8 million baht. At www.thetreesresidence.com Tel: 083-982 9105.

HOUSE FOR SALE

2 floors, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Located in Permsap villa, close to Cherng Talay. Email: Pkthai1@gmail.com

LAND NEAR MISSION HILLS



Pa Khlok. 2 rai 32sq wah, 60m wide. Chanote. Located on Tha Ruea-Pa Khlok-Muang Mai Rd. 11 km from Heroines' Monument. Price: 7.8 million baht. Tel: 089-472 9118. Email: honda.1437@hotmail.com

Live in Cherng Talay?
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Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



Phuket Town. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 081-396 4264.

VILLA AND POOL

Soi NaYa, Nai Harn. Luxury 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Long-term rent: 37,000 baht per month. Tel: 083-396 4007. Email: mervyn.crocker@yahoo.com

BEACH CONDO, 3 MINUTES TO BEACH

Spacious 2-bedroom apartments, beach 3 minutes walk, free WiFi. Email: info@katagardens.net

NAI HARN, HOUSE FOR RENT

Available now! 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Price: from 26,000 baht per month. Up to contract. No agents. Tel: 082-420 7052.

KATA WESTERN APARTMENT

1 & 2-bedroom rooms, Sat TV and internet included, fully furnished, Western bathrooms and kitchen, huge covered terrace, car park. Long-term: 22,000 baht. Tel: 084-840 1262. Email: north8west98@yahoo.com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDO

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

HOUSE IN CHALONG

Near Palai Beach. For rent, 2 bedrooms, aircon, 1 bathroom, ADSL, fully furnished, cable TV, car park. Tel: 089-728 8311.

PATONG 3 BEDROOM TOWNHOUSE

140sqm, Western kitchen, common pool, internet, LCD TV. Na Nai area. 32,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-498 0872 (English & Thai). Email: elangold@gmail.com

NAI HARN BUNGALOW FOR RENT

Long term, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, aircon/fans, cable TV, WiFi internet, 19,000 baht per month, available immediately. Tel: 089-292 5309 (Thai), 087-464 3769 (English). Email: devizes@aol.com

URGENT RENT/SALE



House in Patong. Newly built 40sq wah, near Sea Pearl project, Patong. 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, fully furnished, 2 aircon, kitchen with hood, refrigerator, dining room, living room, hot water, cable TV and internet. Tel: 086-476 9612.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT/SALE



In Thanapa Park View village in Koh Kaew. 57sq wah, with 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a carpark and a garden. Rent: 11,000 baht per month. Sale: 2.25 million baht. Contact owner. Tel: 083-180 2143. Email: nana1225@gmail.com

HOUSE AT PRIME PLACE VILLAGE



Near Heroines' Monument. Furnished, aircon, 3 bedrooms, cable TV, kitchen. 25,000 baht per month with 30,000 baht deposit. Tel: 086-607 7493.

B.L. APARTMENT

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

LARGE HOUSE FOR RENT

7 bedrooms with swimming pool, golf view. Close to all shopping malls and international schools. Long term, short term acceptable. Please call 081-271 3228 or email to info@procarpentering.com for more info and photos.

KATA OCEAN VIEW CONDO

Fully furnished, seaview and non-seaview apartments, available for long-term rental. From 15,000 to 40,000 baht per month. Located on Kata Hill. Tel: 076-330641. For further details, please see our website at www.oceanic-global.com

PATONG 1 + 2 BED APARTMENTS

Large pool, maid, security, free WiFi, cable TV. Close to beach, mall and nightlife. From 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

LUXURY VILLAS FOR RENT KAMALA

2 villas in modern style, one of 3 bedrooms and one of 2 bedrooms, private swimming pool, big garden, jacuzzi. Contact Francesco. Tel: 085-790 7816. Email: francesco bonta@gmail.com See our website at www.villa cheloni.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 VILLAGE



For sale. Price: 4.2 million baht. No agents! Not furnished, with 4 aircons, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen and car park. Behind Kajonkiet International School on Chao Fa West Road, 5 minutes to Central Festival. For short or long-term rent, 16,000 baht per month. Call to see 087-270 9093.

COZY HOUSE NEAR NAI HARN



A high-grade built house, furnished and conveniently located minutes from Rawai and Nai Harn Beaches. 2 spacious bedrooms with en suite bathrooms. 1 guest toilet. Aircons. Large living-dining room. Telephone line with ADSL. Free water supply and garbage removal service. 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-383 0936 (Khun Nui). Email: hunt17@hotmail.com

EXCEPTIONAL HOUSE IN KARON

Fully furnished house available in the heart of Karon for long-term rental. 2 bedrooms with en-suites, aircon in every room plus ceiling fans. Modern kitchen, lounge, dining, courtyard. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-690 5248 (English). Email: lil@ladolcevitare.com.au

HOUSE FOR RENT

2 aircon bedrooms, 1 bathroom, living room, furnished kitchen. Near Phuket Zoo. Tel: 081-537 9878 (English & Thai), 089-729 8472 (English & Thai). Email: tiwus@hotmail.co.th

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment. Studio, 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. For further details, please see our website at www.orchid kathuheights-phuket.com

LARGE HOUSE KAMALA

Furnished, 280sqm, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, office, sundeck, pool, jacuzzi, carport. 32,000 baht per month, minimum 6 months contract period. Or sale: 3.3 million baht leasehold. Tel: 084-716 0502.

SINGLE HOUSE FOR RENT



Thalang. 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, fully furnished, cable TV, kitchen. Tel: 081-396 4264.

1-BED APARTMENT FOR RENT



New fully furnished apartment. Fitted kitchen with golf view in Chalong. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 089-922 2800. Email: simonchinner@yahoo.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG CONDO

Pool, security, studio, 46sqm, furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

NAI HARN POOL VILLA

New 3-bed/bath villa, 3BB internet, 9 fans, all aircon, big pool and garden. Tel: 081-569 7489 (English), 081-569 7472 (English). Email: ordersofte@gmail.com

LUXURY POOL VILLA

Big saving 6 months lease, only 25,000 baht per month, has all, near Laguna. Tel: 089-594 4067.

NAI HARN BUNGALOW FOR RENT

Long term, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, aircon/fans, cable TV, WiFi internet, 19,000 baht per month, available immediately. Tel: 089-292 5309 (Thai), 087-464 3769 (English). Email: devizes@aol.com

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Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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



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

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**HAIRCUT STAFF
WANTED**

Must Speak English skills in Rawai. Tel: 085-757 3240.

**CUSTOMER
RELATIONS @ RESORT**

Health Resort Customer Relations & Sales Rep. Fluent English Speaker & Experience Required. (Good Salary & Benefits). Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

**MARKETING
MANAGER**

Thai, age above 30 years, related experience. Salary: 30,000 baht + commission. Tel: 087-026 1362. Fax: 076-381717. Email: chalongmarket@hotmail.com Please send CV to e-mail, or call for info.

TEACHERS WANTED

Chalermprakit is looking for native English speakers to teach English. A degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Please email your cover letter and CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com For info please contact Clarke.

**FOREIGN STAFF
WANTED**

Secretary needed for online support and marketing. Fluent in English writing, computer literacy. Able to plan and organize your day to achieve results. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

**ADMIN &
COORDINATOR STAFF**

Small dynamic real estate agency based in Chalong seeking Thai female staff. Good command of both spoken and written English. Computer literacy. start immediately. Tel: 086-940 2266. Email your resume to sales@18excelsior-property.com For further details, please see our website at 18excelsior-property.com

British International School, Phuket**BISP - Requires Summer Camp Staff - July 2013**

The British International School requires experienced English Summer Camp Staff for July. Applicants are required to have a recognised degree and a TEFL qualification. As it is a residential camp overnight boarding duties are required. Camp dates 29th June - 27th July 2013. Applications can be submitted to pprezz@bisphuket.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BISP)
59 Moo 2, Thepkasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573
E-mail: patcharakorn@bisphuket.ac.th or sirivats@bisphuket.ac.th

**SALES MANAGER
& SALES EXECUTIVE**

A reputable tourist magazines looking for 24-45 yrs. old, male or female, good personality Applicants should have relevant experience and be able to speak English

Send resume to
ajapply@yahoo.com
086-490 3101, 081-806 2946

**NATIVE ENGLISH
TEACHER**

To teach class of 9-12 children, ages 6-9 years old, must have experience and degree. Start on 22 April, Chalong, 8am-4pm, Monday-Friday. Tel: 080-624 7060. Email: buds.span@yahoo.com

**AUTOCAD / 3D /
ADMIN STAFF**

Due to an increase in Lighting Design Projects we require AutoCAD people who have experience in producing architectural / ID / lighting / electrical drawings, 3D renderings and office admin of the same. We are interested to talk with potential employees, freelance individuals or companies who can offer these services. Tel: 081-893 7027 (English). Email: potter.ian@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

**ASSISTANT SALES
MANAGER**

Real Estate Agency is looking for an assistant sales manager. Requirements: Thai national, female, good skills in English, private car, working experience in real estate. Email: sales@rt-pro.ru

GUEST HOUSE STAFF

Reception - assistant manager who speaks English and Thai. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

**MAINTENANCE
MANAGER NEEDED**

Experienced maintenance/facilities manager is sought for a villa on the west coast. Send CV. Email: gdreg@yahoo.ca



Life Home Project Foundation
Life Home Project is a non-profit organization for helping women and children effected with HIV/Aids
We are looking for candidates the position in the following

Project Manager

Requirements:

- Male or Female, Thai nationality
- Bachelor's degree in Administration or related field
- Experience in accounting would be an advantage
- Able to coordinate and work for fund rising
- Excellent English, computer literate and good people skills
- Experience in child care would be interesting

Interested candidate, please submit your CV and recent photo to Life Home Project Foundation
10/11 Moo 1 Rassada, Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel 076-614060
Contact person : Khun Wan 083-9696084
Khun Joojee 0813979809
Email address : info@lifelhomeproject.org or sec.irelandconsulate.phuket@gmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Native Thai with good command of English, computer and administrative skills. Email: forsale.phuket@gmail.com

**SALESPERSON/
ASST. TO MD**

2 years experience. Thai or foreigner. Must be fluent in written and spoken English. Area: Phuket, Samui, Krabi. Send CV to info@macrae trading.com

COOKS AND MAIDS

Luxury villas in Patong looking for experienced cooks and maids. Live in or live out. Full or part time. Tel: 080-699 2436, 088-760 9841. Email: kokakat@gmail.com

**CUSTOMER SERVICE
RECEPTIONIST**

Female for Villa Resort in Rawai. Part time, full time. Computer skills are essential. Tel: 089-289 1502. Email: jittraming@gmail.com

RUSSIAN SALES

Two Chefs are now looking for an outgoing salesperson. Russian nationality. This is a good opportunity for the right person highly preferred to get high salary and good commission. If you are used to using Photoshop or Coral. Tel: 087-276 6796. Email: jon@twochefs.com For further details, please see our website at www.twochefs.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

- ▶ **Taurus Travel** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-344521-2
- ▶ **Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe** (Aroonsom Plaza) Tel: 076-290468
- ▶ **Deli Supermarket** (Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Rd) Tel: 076-342275

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

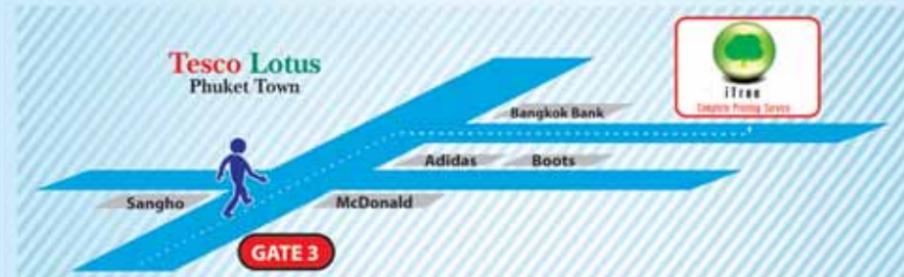
- ▶ **The Network property office** (Saiyuan Rd) Tel: 076-613173

KARON

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

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Native English speaking teachers wanted to work full time in and around Phuket. Very competitive salary, bonuses and insurance. Tel: 076-221940. 084-847 3033 (English & Thai). Email: maxbeardsly@gmail.com

THAI DRIVER WANTED

Driver for resort. Thai National only. Must speak English. Tel: 085-783 0141. Email: info@thailandcamp.com

RESTAURANT STAFF NEEDED

Small restaurant in Kata is looking for experienced staff, English is a must. Salary: 14,000 baht. Tel: 081-370 5855. Email: jad.nahle@hotmail.com

STAFF WANTED

Receptionist, good written and spoken English is a must. Word and accounting experience is a plus. Must have a friendly outgoing personality. Salary: 12,000-20,000 baht depending on experience.

- Office admin, good computer skills, Excel, and accounting is required. Good written and spoken English is a must. 15,000-22,000 baht monthly depending on experience.

- Office manager, must be proficient in Excel, written and spoken English. Prior experience required. Salary: 25,000+ baht monthly depending on experience. Please send your resume to smartbusinessphuket@gmail.com

BAR SUPERVISOR, THAI WOMAN

Stylish Thai woman, 35-45 years old, to recruit and supervise all female bar staffs in new 5-star VIP club. Must speak English and have employment references. Great salary + percentage of turnover + stylish accommodation on site. If you are trustworthy, stylish, and enjoy working with Farangs call us. Tel: 090-876 9687, 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

GENERAL MANAGER ON KOH LANTA

50-bungalow charming resort located on Koh Lanta, is now seeking a General Manager. The ideal candidate will have had a successful asian career in the hospitality industry, and be a naturally strong team leader, young-at-heart with the enthusiasm required to succeed in a lively, yet eco-friendly beach resort. Tel: 081-750 7072 (English & Thai). Email: stephane@stelcorpo.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

WEB PROGRAMMER

- ▶ Degree in Computer engineering, Computer Science or IT related field
- ▶ Minimum of 2 years experience in web programming and web development
- ▶ Experience in: PHP, asp, asp.net, OOP, Java Script, HTML5, CSS, JSON, AJAX, JQuery
- ▶ Expert in use of database tools and in SQL command (MS-SQL, MySql)
- ▶ Experience in php frameworks would be a plus
- ▶ Ability in spoken and written English
- ▶ Ability to work with team
- ▶ Ability to work under pressure and time constraints

Good salary for the right candidate.

Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to big@phuketgazette.net

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext. 303 Fax: 076-615240

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

Real Estate Agency is looking for an assistant sales manager. Requirements: Thai national, female, good skills in English, private car, working experience in real estate. Email: sales@rt-pro.ru

RECEPTIONIST PATONG

Hotel is looking for a reliable Thai female. 2 days off per week. Tel: 081-892 1621.

SWEDISH / FINNISH TOUR GUIDE

Swedish/Finnish speaking tour guide wanted for cruise boat. Tel: 087-897 1761. Email: lotta@lamoet.com

ARCHITECT

Thai national wanted. Ability to use AutoCAD, Sketch-Up and 3D-Max is a must. Tel: 081-788 1639. Email: sec@phuketa.wnings.com

STAFF WANTED

Cashier who speaks English and Thai, experience preferred. Tel: 086-987 7339 (English). Email: stanlays_phuket@hotmail.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Thai Nationality, not over 35 years old, Degree, Fluent in written and spoken English, Computer literate, Strong communication, Proactive and detail oriented, Experience in Management role. Able to work in Patong area and travel across the island to meet clients. Salary 20-30,000 baht per month, negotiable. Tel: 076-346800. Fax: 076-346802.

GUEST HOUSE STAFF

Reception - assistant manager who speaks English and Thai. Experience preferred. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

LIVE-IN COMPANION

For Thai lady, at Kata. House-keeping and cooking. Contact Noi: 076-330518, Tom: 087-627 3464.

ASSISTANT NEEDED

Rus Thai Business Group Company Limited requires Thai female, fluent in spoken and written English, good computer skills. Tel: 085-690 6052. Email: office@rt-pro.ru

RECEPTIONIST / SALES

LED Light company based in Chalong, looking for Thai girl to attend to our Thai and foreign customers. English, Office and basic PC use is important. Salary based on skills + good commissions on sales. Tel: 081-139 4774. Email: boost@aboranet.com

GUIDES WANTED

We are looking for 2 experienced guides, preferably Thai, with good English language skills. Must be outgoing and ensure that our customers have a fun time whilst keeping them safe. See our web site: www.mayabaytours.com. We will pay above average wages and will take good care of you if you take good care of our customers. Siripanon Tel: 087-382 9163. Email: phil@krabikonnect.com

British International School, Phuket

British International School, Phuket is looking for candidates to fill positions in the following areas:

Accountant (General Ledger)

Qualifications

- Bachelor degree in Accounting / Finance / Business Administration or related field
- At least 2 years experience in accounting
- Experience in A/R, G/L area and closing account is preferable
- Knowledge in SAGE AccPac Accounting System would be an advantage
- Familiar with Thailand taxation and accounting system
- Computer knowledge in MS office
- Good command of English

A/R Accountant

Qualifications

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting / Finance / Business Administration or related field
- Good command of English
- Computer literate
- At least 1 year experience in accounting
- Customer relation skills and service mind are essential

Design and Technology Technician

Qualifications

- In depth knowledge of electrical systems and circuitry
- Fluent in English
- Be hardworking, willing, enthusiastic, flexible and motivated to develop own skills
- Experience working in a Design and Technology role is desirable

Interested candidate please submit your cv and recent photo to patcharakornt@bisphuket.ac.th or sirirats@bisphuket.ac.th



British International School, Phuket (BISP)

59 Moo 2, Thepkrasattri Road, Koh Kaew, Muang, Phuket 83200
Tel: 076-335555 # 2113, 2110 Fax: 076-335573

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

79/94 Moo 4, Thepkrasattri Rd, Koh Kaew
A. Muang, Phuket 83000
Tel: 076-273555 Ext.303 Fax: 076-615240

RESTAURANT MGR

Russian Mgr Required with good English and experience. Tel: 082-415 4546 Please contact by email: lizunov.o@mail.ru

ESTATE / RENTAL MANAGER

Intira Villas is looking for a Thai person with a happy and positive attitude. Must be able to communicate in English and Thai, both in speaking and writing. Experience in management and rentals. Tel: 081-472 4925 (English). Please send CV and salary requirement. Email: jonas@intiravillas.com

HOUSEKEEPER

For 6 months in Australia. An Aussie man with 2 young daughters require help of young Thai woman to assist housekeeping. The candidate must have English skills, passport preferably, age between 25-35, enjoy children. Contact Jum Tel: 087-095 9274.

SALESPERSON / ASST. TO MD

2 years experience. Thai or foreigner. Must be fluent in written and spoken English. Area: Phuket, Samui, Krabi. Send CV to info@macraetrading.com

STAFF



Level- free school, Boat Lagoon. Top salary guaranteed for top qualification. 6-month internship required: Thai or foreign female, fluent written and spoken English, enthusiastic and challengeable in learning, hard working, dedicated, possible abroad. Great opportunities and future will be offered. Send applicant's resume with photo to geniuskkj@daum.net

SALES & ADMIN JUNIOR



We are looking for young and energetic sales & admin staff. 20 to 25 years old. Good computer skills & English command a must. Thai national only. Call for an appointment now! Tel: 076-325419, 085-619 0380 (English & Thai), 081-400 4678 (English & Thai). Email: orientalsamui@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.oriental-living.net

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Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

BISS FLAPPER

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly wired restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

Bulletins

SPONSOR A CHILD

The Phuket International Women's Club is a volunteer organization raising funds for educational scholarships. We rely on the goodwill of donors and sponsors - small and large. If you would like to put something back into the community in which you live, contact us to find out more about giving a prize or being a sponsor. Contact Carol. Please call 087-417 8860 or contact Sue. Tel: 087-277 6948. For more information please email us at info@phuketiw.com

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If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours
Daily Meetings

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081-956 4031
email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
AA Phuket

Business Opportunities

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT

At Sapam, Phuket. Size: 130-300sqm with crew room. Price: 8,000-20,000 baht per month. Quiet and secure. Tel: 086-689 3289.

GUESTHOUSE KARON FOR SALE

14 rooms, 35 seats restaurant, fully furnished, Chanote title, can be sold with company and work permit. Price: 27 million baht. Only mail please. Email: tomasholmberg77@hotmail.com

FITNESS CENTER FOR SALE

A well-established fitness center with a large membership base situated in Phuket Town. Now for sale. Price: 9 million baht. Tel: 087-275 3614 (English), 080-698 5021. Email: tradexpat@hotmail.com

PROJECTS FOR SALE

Rawai Construction Company, full service company, 7 years, Phuket. Design + drawings, engineering, land for sale. 97/37 Sai Yuan. Contact Construction manager: Ron Kite. Tel: 083-636 7147.

HOTELS IN PHUKET FOR SALE

Please contact info@luxuryphuketholidays.com

BAR FOR SALE DJ PLAZA

110,000 baht. 150,000 baht with brand-new furniture, 3 tables, 12 chairs. Tel: 084-839 9325. Tel: 084-839 9325.

DIVE COMPANY LTD. FOR SALE

Price: 50,000 baht, 2 work permits available. For more information please call 087-892 7565.

NEW BEAUTY SHOP FOR SALE PATONG



Opposite Esso. Newly renovated, 2 rooms + kitchen and bathroom, 2 cutting stalls, 2 hair basins, 1 face massage stall, 2 aircons, ground water pump for washing and drying machine. Rent on 3-year contract: 10,000 baht per month. Price at 500,000 baht, ready for work. Contact Nok. Tel: 080-632 6330 (English & Thai). www.beautycare.asia

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- All investment plans are completely controlled by the investors themselves via an independent appointed solicitor.
- Irrevocable option will be granted to every investor to re-invest after their one year plan expires on a one year, one year extension.
- Register your expressions of interest via email to bernster77@gmail.com or contact Bernard. Tel: 082-203 5177 (local), +66 82 203 5177 (international).

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In the heart of Patong. 20 rooms well furnished, fully operational with very good occupancy rates. 6-year lease for 10 million baht + rental fee 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 088-765 0165.

BAR FOR SALE

One of the most successful entertainment venues in the new Tiger Complex. In Soi Bangla. This bar is on sale due to personal reason. For more information please call 085-796 6144. Email: dtephpatong@hotmail.fr

BAR FOR SALE

Patong, central location, beside busy hotel, toilet, kitchen, TVs, pool table. Tel: 081-606 2918 (English).

BAR FOR SALE! NEW TIGER

Bar in New Tiger, fourth row from the front. Just under a two-year contract. 3.4 million baht. O.B.O. Please call 086-048 8394 (English). Email: Yellowfeverbar@gmail.com

SHOP IN KAMALA BEACH

Fashion clothes shop for sale in Kamala, best location at the beach road. Approx 40sqm, air conditioned, fully equipped if wanted. 20,000 baht per month. One year left of three year contract, very good trial period! For sale because I am moving back to Sweden. Please call 082-190 6107. Please send email to terece@loveforever.se

RESTAURANT

For sale. 6 years on contract, on great location, Patong Beach Road, full furniture and equipment. Tel: 087-075 2166, 090-175 9126. Email: omalarquraini@hotmail.com

LAUNDRY COMPANY SALE

Laundry capacity 6-700 hotel rooms. Professional machines only 1-1.5 years old. Building with 4 rooms, 2 with aircon. Sold without clients. Monthly rent 22,000 baht. Price: 1.95 million baht. For more information please call 089-882 0894 (English). Email: peter@conceptfeelng.com

SHOP IN SURIN

Shop in Surin, great location on the main road in Surin, this 50sqm shop is just 200m from Surin Plaza (towards the beach). 25sqm storage, bathroom with toilet and shower. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 082-190 6107 (English). Email: terece@loveforever.se

SMALL RESORT

8-house resort: 6 houses with 2 bedrooms, living and kitchen. 2 houses with 3 bedrooms, living and kitchen. Tel: 085-789 1773 (English). For more info use email: hakan.sederholm@gmail.com

COFFEE HOUSE / JUICE BAR

Fully equipped, outdoors and indoors, the latter fully furnished with aircon. Only 50m from Chalong Circle. Parking available. For more information please call 081-476 5808 (English), 081-693 2250 (Thai). Fax: 076-388 304. Email: lumpoon7@gmail.com

TOUR SHOP PATONG

Busy beach location with existing clients. Long lease: 180,000 baht. Tel: 080-690 8978.

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT



Luxury project for sale. 50% complete. Only 5 million baht. Tel: 080-891 1611. Email: patriklam bert@hotmail.com

Would you like to keep up on what's happening in Phuket - the good, the bad and the bizarre? Let us share it with you - every week!

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Club Memberships Available

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Full family membership. Price: 560,000 baht (includes membership, transfer fee, and 2013 maintenance fees) Tel: 087-895 8160, 087-890 3685. Email: faserio@gogold.hk

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Life membership. 580,000 baht. Must sell. Tel: 081-089 1407.

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Full membership 640,000 baht (included transfer). Call Mary on 087-266 7140. Email: mary9543@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB

Full family membership. Annual dues paid up to end 2013. 650,000 baht. Tel: 089-908 2454 (English). Email: evan.burford@gmail.com

COUNTRYCLUB GOLF MEMBERSHIP

Phuket Country Club Golf Membership (Family). Price: 600,000 baht (excluding transfer fee of 60,000 baht) - 2013 annual maintenance fee (25,000 baht) to be proportionally split based on timing of purchase. Tel: 087-895 8160, 087-890 3685. Email: faserio@gogold.hk

Dive Gear

DIVE EQUIPMENT

Tanks, compressors, and boats for sale. Tel: 088-760 3770.

20 NEW SCUBA TANKS

Unused 12-liter scuba tanks with valves, all cheaper than trade. Sale: 6,000 baht. Please contact Will. Tel: 080-595 0458.

MARES BCD FINS AND BOOTS

Mares BCD Hybrid like new. Sale: 6,000 baht or nearest offer. Scuba Pro boots UK Size 8-9: 800 baht. Mares Avanti Quattro Black: 1,000 baht. Tel: 085-260 2576 (English). Email: chrisgraham2@mac.com

Miscellaneous For Sale

BISS FLAPPER

Circuit integrity cross-checked by UL, SafeAsia and iFARD every four months. Documentation available. Certified by Thai OOC within two weeks of import. Can be blarfed into any properly wired restaurant kitchen in Thailand. Purchased new in Dijon, Nov 2010, for 82,000 baht; selling now for just 55,000 baht. Three-pole snard beans (4) with lithium backing plates. Gooze and Himmelman pork whistles, milled and graded in July last year. Insured through November this year (2013). Happy to demonstrate for serious buyers at Le Montage, Rawai, any night except Mondays (restaurant closed).

Contact Jack Martin for pics and documentation.
Tel or SMS: 081-207 4471.
Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

WHEELCHAIR SALE

Folding wheelchair: 1,200 baht. Carpet: 1,200 baht, good quality, 170x240cm. Tel: 087-381 5171.

SNUFFLERS

Set of five. Rounded edges with alloy spleen tables. Only 3 yrs old, no glinkle. Can be used without bessors or BRTs but not in tandem with cleester bins. Price new: 4,200 baht each. Will sell now at 12,000 baht for full set. Located Rawai, pics available. Email: jackmartin3@gmx.com

Notice

Announcement

Mr Anan Dumluck

Had a position as Resident Manager of Ayara Kamala Resort & Spa (Kamala Development Co Ltd). He has resigned as of March 21 2013. Any actions taken by such individuals are not associated with the company.

Pool Tables

1/2 PRICE 9FT POOL TABLE

Professional size pool table for sale. 1.5 years old. Brand new: 140,000 baht. Now sale: 70,000 baht with new felt +transport+installation+light box and all accessories. Tel: 081-823 4627, 085-782 1200. Email: ying@phuketpooltables.com

Personals

BACKGAMMON

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

FRIENDS

Male. Age: 49 years old. Looking for fun friends (couple). Please call 081-787 2008.

Pets

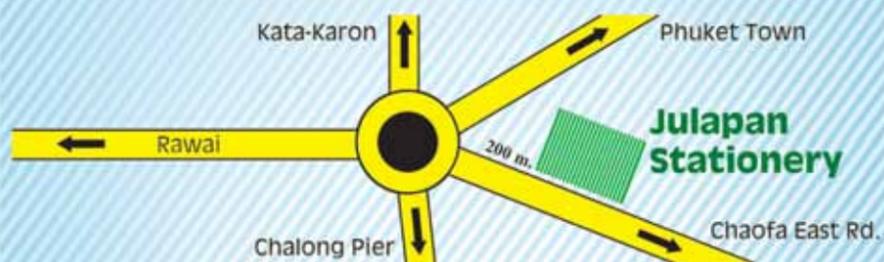


I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW HOME!

At Doggie Heaven we have several rescue dogs who are looking for loving homes. All are healthy, well behaved and groomed. For more photos view at www.doggieheaven.net or contact Sherin.peace@gmail.com All vaccinated & sterilised

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2001 Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 45.2
EUR 130,000
"Major reduction"

- Never chartered owner version.
- Fully equipped for liveboard around the world.



2007 PHINISI SCHOONER 26 m.
EUR 150,000



1999 Lagoon 470
EUR 280,000



2008 PRINCESS P42
USD 485,000
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Максим Волков
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- Massive teak beach or opening swim platform
- Atomizing water misters on the Fly bridge with Jacuzzi

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

▶ Yapluka 53 (2000)
449,000 Euro
OFF SHORE CATAMARAN



▶ Northshore 46 (1987)
\$125,000 AUD



▶ Super Maramu 2000 (2001)
\$358,000 USD



▶ Bougainvillea 62 (2004)
\$590,000 USD



▶ Seahorse 52 (2002)
\$315,000 AUD



▶ Sunseeker Manhattan 73 (2013)
2,390,000 GBP
PRICE REDUCTION



▶ Gulf Craft 36 (2009)
\$125,000 USD



▶ Imago 48 (2007)
445,000 Euro
SURFACE DRIVES AND FAST



Martin Holmes
 Mobile: 081 891 7057
 Email: martin@leemarine.com

Marcus Overman
 Mobile: 081 968 1437
 Email: marcus@leemarine.com

Jim Poulsen
 Mobile: 081 891 3237
 Email: jim@leemarine.com

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MOONSOON FOR SALE



28ft, registered for 15 passengers. 200hp V6 Mercury motor, only 240 hours, recently totally restored. Perfect for snorkeling, diving trips, island hopping or water taxi. Navigation system + fishfinder. 5hp spare motor. Boat and motor in very good condition. Located at Boat Lagoon. Priced for quick sale at 330,000 baht. Tel: 086-747 9292. Email: claudstrey@gmail.com

FIBERGLASS BOAT FOR 25+3PAX

Fiberglass passenger speed boat, manufactured in Pattaya, registered for 25 customers + 3 staff, registered 2007, located in Phuket/Khao Lak, length 13.3m, beam 2.7m, draft 1.35m, 2 x Yamaha 6V 200HP, estimated usage 2,000h (serviced), fuel capacity 600L, insured. Modified for scuba diving, ready to use. Quick sale asking 1.6 million baht. Tel: 076-280748. Fax: 076-280074. Email: info@rayadivers.com

HUNTER 280 (LEGEND) SAILBOAT

1996 Yanmar 2GM20F, Ray Marine, windlass, mooring, ready. 1.25 million baht or offers. Tel: 087-269 3743. (English). Email: davidrwarburton@hotmail.com

SY TOSCA 36

Blue Cruiser, excellent condition. Based in Yacht Haven. Antifouling this month (March 2013). Tel: 085-880 1968 (English). Email: salulami04@yahoo.fr Website: http://sy-tosca36.blogspot.com

MERCURY 225 OUTBOARD ENGINE

2 stroke-carburetor model. Checked and serviced. Run well. 90,000 baht. Tel: 080-038 4916.

NICE BOAT

26 foot center console. Good condition twin outboards, trailer, and more. Email for more pics and info. Tel: 085-691 1837, 076-054 4141. Email: mangedolsson@hotmail.com

RIVA HULL

10 meters long, marine plywood hull (not completed) for sale. Tel: 081-968 3118 (English & Thai). Email: info@procarpentering.com

Looking for a boat?
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 at www.phuketgazette.net

2009 POWER CATAMARAN



45ft. 4 cabins. Volvo D-4 IPS 300. Genset. Aircon. "Bose" surround. Ray marine. Low hours. Fully loaded. Fast and economical. As new. Bargain. Only 395,000 euros. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

43-FOOT CRUISING CATAMARAN

Built 2012, 2 sails, 15hp outboard. Ready to sail! 850,000 baht. Tel: 087-461 8089 (English). Email: peter.duengel@gmail.com

A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE



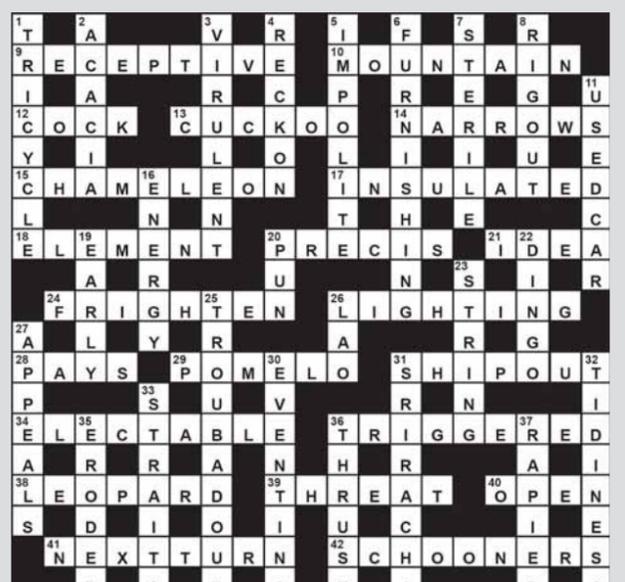
2007. Italian demo yacht. Cranchi 47ft. Hard top. Fully loaded with tropical aircon, genset, electrical winches, garage, roof. Ray Marine premium navy, BBQ, ice maker, 3 fridges, "Bose" sound, neon light. Twin 570hp with reliable shaft drive, under 300hr. Brand-new condition. 385,000 euros. Tel: 089-971 0278. Email: eddyelan@yahoo.com

KAYAK WANTED

Secondhand 2-man kayak. Tel: 088-381 5725.

SOLUTIONS TO THIS WEEK'S

CrypticCrossword





General Classifieds

Aircraft For Sale

YOUR HELICOPTER

Flying and owning your own helicopter has just become possible. Free complete flight instruction course with your purchase. Email: pat@aeropromgr.com

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

Superb trike with Konig radial engine. Great economical fun. Little used. Please contact for more information. Tel: 089-111 6457 (English & Thai), 081-397 7598 (English & Thai). Email: kajoda1954@yahoo.co.uk

1999 ROBIN 2160i

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



Notice from Thai Flying Club: There is a very nice Piper Cherokee airplane at the Thai Flying Club (TFC) in Bang Phra. It has fallen into disrepair. Someone took out the seats and some other parts... and then went away.

Owner Wichai Pettongkam loves this airplane and wants to get it back in the air. If you like flying and might want to be a partner in the plane, please come to the TFC to have a look, or contact **Khun Tom** (email tom@thaiflyingclub, Tel: 089-092 2711). Or talk to **Khun Wichai** directly on 081-633 7082.

Khun Wichai does not want to sell the plane, but would welcome a partner who can help to get it flying again. This could be a very good opportunity for someone to get a share in a nice airplane for a very good price. All negotiable.

TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
 - Registration: U-B08
 - Year of Manufacture: 2002
 - Equipment: Full standard equipment
 - Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs.
 Please contact for more information. Aircraft is based at Klong 15. Tel: 081-840 8418.

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS (in Thailand for the last 6 years)
 Previous Registrations:
 N4798W - USA
 N479GE - USA
 I-ECCE - Italy
 G-BVNL - UK



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

Specs:

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

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

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

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

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

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

RPM STAFF SURPRISED MR GULU LALVANI

RPM Staff surprised Mr Gulu Lalvani on his 74th birthday with a cake and a get together in front of his Grand Villa on March 9, 2013.



THE VIJITT RESORT PHUKET

Ms Kanokkorn Pruksakit – sales manager, Vijitt Paisarn Co, Ltd, representing The Vijitt Resort Phuket, received The Thai Chamber of Commerce Business Ethics Standard Test Award, presented by Dr Sumet Tantivejkul – secretary general to Chaipattana Foundation on March 18, 2013 at the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok.

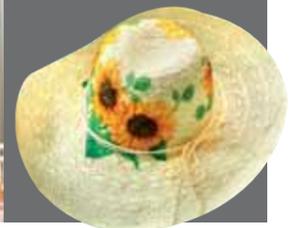


SKÅL INTERNATIONAL PHUKET AND SOUTH THAILAND HAVE A NEW COMMITTEE

Skål International Phuket have a new committee 2013 – 2014. From left to right: Urs Aebi (secretary), Pathum "Gee" Krapheenk (PR), Brice Borin (vice president), Sii Eawsakul (treasurer), Claude Sauter (president), Fredy Munger (IT/communication).

CENTRIO CONDOMINIUM

A Decoupage Lifestyle Workshop with Centrio Condominium Phuket was held on Saturday March 23, 2013



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สัมผัสชีวิต "พร้อม" ใช้ครบพร้อม inizio ใหม่กว่า กว้างขวาง สบายความทันสมัยกับบ้านเดี่ยว Modern Style ภายกลางสวนสวย ในสังคมที่ "พร้อม" เริ่มต้นมาตรฐานความสุขที่ทุกคนเป็นเจ้าของได้ จากแลนด์ แอนด์ เฮาส์

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We don't just make videos We produce TELEVISION



Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

It takes a diverse bunch to produce a **NATIONALLY BROADCAST TV SHOW** about a place as weird as Phuket. Arctic explorers and jungle gourmets, yoga masters and rap stars, Olympians and mermaids, world-renowned chefs, daredevils, Birdman and the All-Asia Women's Surf Champion!

All on one island. All on one TV show.

Broadcast 8 times a week* on TrueVisions channels HD99 and 58, to 1.9 million subscribers. Phuket Today is also aired on local and regional television networks – even as far away as Rangoon.

So, who's behind the show? Clockwise from top left:

Nattamon Mee – Trained to be Thailand's first woman astronaut, Khun Mon gave it all up to produce Phuket Today.

Action Girl Presenter Kiranee – Used to wrestle wild crocodiles for fun, but now gets her kicks in front of the Phuket Today cameras.

Tech Heads Pu and Chai – When not attempting to crack the DaVinci Code, these two keep our super-computers from leaking oil.

The PGTV Car – Recently signed a multi-million dollar deal with Michael Bay to appear in three more Transformers movies.

Tara – The official Phuket Today dancing coach.

Isaac – The world's first TV presenter to insure his smile for \$10 million.

Kristi Matzenberger – Advertising and promotions manager. Joined Phuket Today in search of the perfect recipe for bratwurst.

Mr Kai – Mild-mannered video editor by day. Super hero by night.

Khun Aoi – PGTV's chief pilot and network development executive. Loves travel. Flies herself to work every day in a helicopter gunship.

Mr Lee – The only cameraman to successfully determine the purpose of the squiggly buttons on the side of our cameras.

The Man in the Hat – No one has ever discovered exactly what he actually does. So he must be quite good at it....

Got talent? Call Kristi: 080-690 2564

*See show times on page 35

**WHAT'S ON
in Phuket**

March 30-31, 6:30 to 10:30am: Daily Breakfast on the beach at Moevenpick Bangtao
You are invited to our Daily Breakfast on the beach. For reservations please call: +66-76-310400

March 30-31, 7:30pm to 1am: Shipwrecked Party at The Green Man, Chalong
Come join the festivities at our Shipwrecked Party. Another Theme Party organized by the Phuket party Boyz. All proceeds will be donated to the Phuket Sunshine Village Foundation (phuketsunshinevillage.org). Price: 999 baht (includes Western and Thai buffet plus three drink coupons). Don't miss this opportunity to help children in need, simply by celebrating with us at the Shipwrecked party. Bring your friends, the more the merrier, and the more we can help the Phuket Sunshine Village children.

April 1, 15; 6pm to 1am: Surf Night at Two Chefs, Kata Beach
Every Monday at Two Chefs Kata Beach (opposite the Boat-house), we are setting up a big BBQ-Buffer, live music and cocktails to die for. Great food great fun and only 495 baht, with no extra costs added to your bill. For more info, visit: twochefs.com.

April 4, 8:30 to 11am: BIS Phuket Open Day at British International School Phuket
Visit us on Wednesday, 3 April 2013 at 8:45am and experience for yourself our enriched learning environments. BIS Phuket is a leader in providing child-centered inquiry learning. Find out how we support children in their Early Developmental stages. See children from 18 months to 7 years old learning in our stimulating and engaging



environments. Your child can join in while you have the chance to speak with our highly qualified staff about our curriculum. Finally, take a tour of our fantastic facilities for students from 18 months to 18 years old. RSVP info@bisphuket.ac.th, or 076-335555, ext 1105 or 1106.

April 6, Chakri Memorial Day
Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who made Bangkok the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the dynasty.

April 8-12 and 15-19, Sport Excel Camps 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club:
Realize your true ambitions! Sport camps for those who are interested to learn or improve their skills in Tennis, Football, Swimming and Triathlon, for ages 5-18. Learn with professional coaches in cutting edge facilities at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Tel: +66 (0)76 336 000

email: sportcamp@thanyapura.com or visit: thanyapura.com/tslc-sports-camps

April 8-12 and 15-19: Songkran Multi Sport Camps 2013 at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club:
Get active and learn multi-sports skills, camps are designed to be fun for kids of all ages at Thanyapura Sports & Leisure Club. Half day pass at 800 baht and full-day-pass at 1,300 baht. Special price for 5 day package. Tel: +66 (0)76 336 000 email: tslc@thanyapura.com or visit: thanyapura.com/tslc-sports-camps

April 13 to 15: Songkran Festival
Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival also known as the 'Water Festival'. Held during the driest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated throughout the country by pouring water on other people to wish them good luck for the New Year.

April 18 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Breeze at Cape Yamu
April's lunch will be at the newly opened Breeze@Cape Yamu. All are welcome. Members 500 baht, guests 650 baht. For reservations or further information, contact Carole on: +66-76-316711 or you can also email info@phuketiw.com

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

May 6, Substitution for Coronation Day (Public Holiday)

May 24, Visakha Bucha Day
Visakha Bucha Day is observed on the day of the full moon during the 6th lunar month, which usually falls in May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha.

July 22, Arsarnha Bucha Day
This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to disciples after attaining Enlightenment.

August 12, Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday
Her Majesty's Birthday is a

public holiday in the Kingdom.
September 19 11:30am to 2pm: Phuket International Women's Club monthly lunch at Holiday Inn, Patong
September's lunch will be at The Holiday Inn, Patong. Always a popular venue. All are welcome but registration is essential. Members 500 and guests 650 baht. To register contact: info@phuketiw.com

October 23, Chulalongkorn Memorial Day
Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.

November 17, Loy Krathong Festival
Traditionally performed on the full moon night of the twelfth lunar month. A Krathong is a banana-leaf cup, which is floated in a canal.

November 12-16, Phuket International Sport Fishing 2013
Registration will be on 13 November from 5pm onwards. Fishing days are 13-16 November. Prize giving party on the 16th. For more info, please see our website. This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and the nationally televised 'Phuket Today' show. We hope you will join us for another great tournament!

THE SPONSORSHIP EXPERTS
WWW.PAULPOOLE.CO.TH

Informal Sunday morning computer clinics

Do you have a question about computers, Windows, or the internet in Phuket? Need to find out where to get things fixed, or the best places to shop for new computer stuff? Drop by one of our FREE informal computer clinics. Every Sunday morning, starting around 10am or so, a group of computer savvy locals meet for breakfast at the Chalong/Fisherman's Way Sandwich Shoppe, 1 km north of Chalong Circle on Chao Fah East road. *We're moving Sandwich Shoppe Patong to Kathu in the next few weeks, and starting a new Sandwich Shoppe Express in Kata in the coming months. Stay tuned for more info about our new locations, and computer gatherings, as events unfold.*

Don't be bashful: introduce yourself to the group at the big table, and ask away. You might even find an iPad/iPhone, Android or Mac guru, if you're lucky.

Sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.
Contact at 076-282403, Woody@KhunWoody.com or visit KhunWoody.com

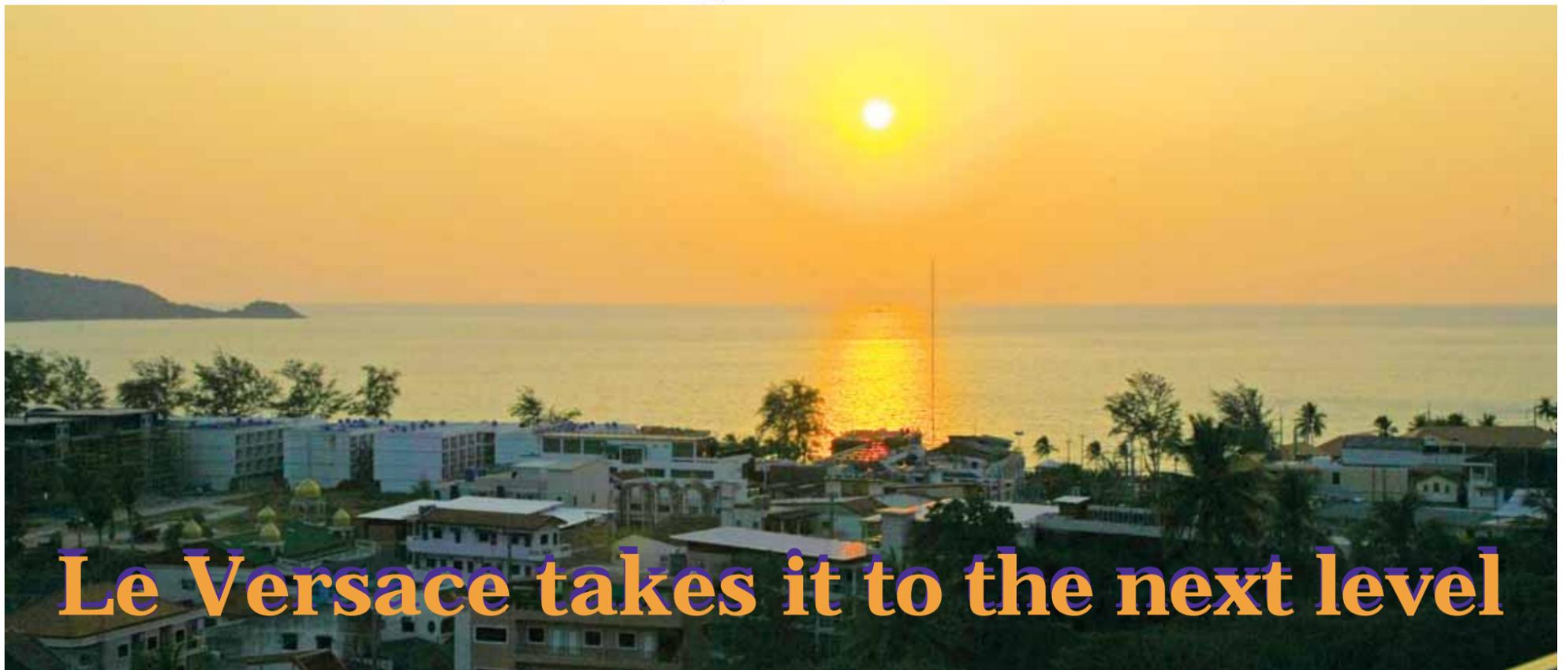
Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

Phuket Today is a 30-minute lifestyle show about Phuket. The show features resorts, villas, restaurants, yachts, private aircraft, nightlife, sports, leisure activities and events. Produced by PGTV, the television arm of the Phuket Gazette, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community resident in Thailand.

Catch the show at these times

<p>TrueVisions HD Channel 99 8 shows a week - MCOT World</p> <p>Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm</p>	<p>Phuket Cable Company (PC) Covers all Phuket. Channel 1 - 19 shows a week Monday - Friday: 10:30am, 6:00pm, 9:00pm. Saturday & Sunday: 10:30am, 9:10pm.</p>
<p>True Freeview Channel 58 8 shows a week - MCOT World</p> <p>Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm</p>	<p>Rawai Cable Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1 - 28 shows a week Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm, 10:00pm.</p> <p>Channel 43 - 8 shows a week Monday: 05:10am Tuesday: 11:10pm Wednesday: 10:10am Thursday: 01:10pm Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm Saturday: 01:10pm Sunday: 06:10pm</p>

Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket
And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.



Le Versace takes it to the next level

On the Menu

By Marc Mulloy

IT IS hot in Phuket at the moment, hot and dry, and the only relief comes when that scorching orb sinks below the horizon allowing for a slight drop in temperature. If you are fortunate, you may be able to enjoy that moment from a good vantage point. If you are very fortunate you will be watching the sunset from Le Versace, high above Patong, with a cool drink in your hand and some soft chilled music in your ears.

When I last visited Le Versace in November, I came away feeling that I had tasted some of the best French food available on the island. Five months on, when asked if I would like to visit the new open-air rooftop lounge I did not hesitate an instant.

Pampered patrons no longer have to retire to the opulent dining room downstairs to enjoy a meal, but now can stay put on the "Balcony of Patong" and enjoy a new menu that caters to a less formal dining experience.

But make no mistake about it, 'Versace' is a name synonymous with quality and style and this new menu includes the same ingredients and *savoir faire* that Swiss-born GM and executive chef, Georges Dufresne has put into the main menu.

For example, George's signature 'Le St-George: Beef with Café de Paris sauce' can now be ordered as a sandwich for only 480 baht (about half the price of the full dish served downstairs).

For those who prefer something hot there are fresh *tagliatelle* dishes served with pesto or seafood or two types of salmon. These menu items come in two sizes and prices, depending on appetite and budget, ranging from 450 for the small seafood plate, to 1,100 baht for a large plate of *tagliatelle* with *morille* mushrooms and a crunchy topping.

Salad lovers can also get their

fill of themed salads for 450 baht, while those who just want a nibble can choose from a variety of French-style tapas at a mere 150-180 baht. There's garlic bread; tomato bruschetta; *foie gras* on toast; beef or fish tartare and much more to choose from.

Having watched the spectacular sunset, I'm feeling hungry and, having been stood up by a colleague of mine, a little lonely, so I opt to go downstairs to the opulent dining room decorated with lavishly ornate, genuine Versace-designed furnishings.

The last time I was here I was treated like a VIP and this time is no different. Georges Dufresne has ensured that tonight's menu will be as special as my last visit and it starts with a duo of snow fish and salmon *carpaccio* so fresh it seems to quiver. Things warm up with duck liver ravioli with a white butter sauce (550 baht) followed by the chef's signature wild prawn on a bed of leek (650 baht); both exquisite.

The main course tonight is French-style lamb with Potato *Dauphinois* (990 baht) served, as with the previous items, on beautiful Versace dishes. The fireworks are going off both on my palette and actually above the Patong skyline. Again, we have the best viewing area for this.

I look across to a table where another solo diner meets my look and nods with approval.

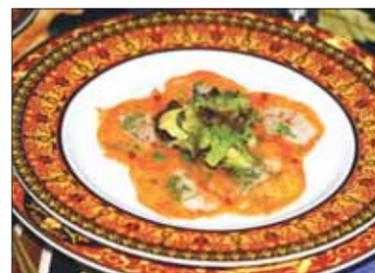
"Where are you from in France?" I ask him, having heard him order in French.

"Bordeaux, I fly back tonight," he replies. He then proceeds to tell me that he's not looking forward to it, the weather there is unseasonably cold, many people are miserable and fed up with the recession and, he confides with a nod to his plate, even the French cuisine is better here in Phuket.

As the delicious dessert of Panna Cotta cream with vanilla bourbon and strawberry coulis, topped with fresh tropical fruit arrives (290 baht) I smugly think



POINT OF VIEW: Le Versace is situated on the northern hillside above Patong and commands stunning views over the entire bay from each of its three levels (see top of page). Photos: Marc Mulloy



Wild prawn (left), salmon and snow fish duo (above left) duck liver ravioli with white butter sauce (above right) and a tropical dessert (below).



to myself that he's right. In Phuket we have all this and that sunset too.

Le Versace is situated at 206/5-6 Prabaramee Road. There is limited parking in front and valet parking is available. Reservations are recommended at 076 290 492 or 082 448 4887. Visit: leversace.com for more information.

Manassanan Thiensawangkun

LANDING in Phuket six years ago, Manassanan Thiensawangkunnot not only took up a new residence but also a completely new and unfamiliar line of work.

Manassanan, who used to work in the automobile business in Bangkok, was offered the position of assistant vice-president at The Royal Place Phuket, a post she still holds today.

She remembers being intrigued by Phuket as a remarkable province quite unlike others. "I was impressed by the business potential of Phuket and its rapid economic growth, even when compared to Bangkok where I came from so I wanted to know what made it tick," she says.

The president of the project is a family friend and she admires his vision. The Royal Place was one of the first few condominiums on Phuket, which featured a modern and high-rise living concept.

However, she recalls that management and marketing strategies then were anything but visionary.

"Just imagine, they still used a marching band in promotional events! It was charming but I knew we must change our ways if we were to garner enough interests from our target group – affluent young professionals."

Enter Manassanan, an experienced sales and marketing specialist and with a master's degree in communications and advertising.

THAI gallery

By Nanthapa Pengkasem

Manassanan did prove her worth. During her six-year period in office, she single-handedly revamped the management policy, retrained sales staff, revised all marketing strategies, and improved after-sale services.

One who strongly believes in robust communications as an advertising tool, she used all forms of media – print, radio and online.

"The key is to adapt the kind of marketing model that I know, and mix it with the local flavors, the ways things are done here. You can't change things, but you can come up with a hybridized and practical framework," says Manassanan thoughtfully.

Looking back, she says she is proud of what she has achieved.

Apartments from the first two buildings of The Royal Place Phuket are more or less sold out. Units from the third building, which went on sale recently, already boast 70 per cent reservations. Of the whole 400-room complex, 20 per cent of tenants and buyers are expatriates.

But Manassanan doesn't live there. "I need a small garden space for my dog," she says. "Besides, if I lived there, I'd be mistaken for

a landlady who's available 24/7!"

As a woman on top, has she ever felt professionally threatened in anyway? "A little," she answers. "But I try not to pay too much attention to it. I am very firm and some people take it the wrong way. There's a difference between being firm and being dictatorial."

A self-professed perfectionist and somewhat *jai ron* (hot headed), Manassanan turns to *vipassana* meditation as a way to temper her spirit. "In professional life anyway, it makes me more calm and focused. I believe I have matured emotionally since practicing meditation, have become more refined as a person. Now, even when my staff are slow, I don't get angry e," she says, laughing.

Six years of living in Phuket doesn't mean that Manassanan has cut all ties with the capital. She still has a circle of friends and relatives there whom she sees on a monthly basis. She also visits the north quite often. "I love the wintry landscape produced by the mountains – the mist and all."

However, she concedes that she rather likes holidaying abroad as well. The Czech Republic, she says, has made an impression on her. And she is particularly fond of Switzerland.

"It has the prettiest mountainous landscape. Besides it's a great place for shopping – watches, of course."



About Thai Gallery

The individuals profiled in "Thai Gallery" are chosen on the basis of their contributions to Phuket as an *international* community, and, often, for having made those contributions through successful social and/or working relationships with foreigners. This implies some foreign language skills and an interest in interacting with different cultures. They are people who in our experience help make the lives of expats far more enjoyable here than might be the case without them.

GPS Position: 7.847700, 98.345678a

Phuket Botanic Garden
สวนพฤกษศาสตร์ภูเก็ต

An impressive horticultural display in Phuket

Visitor Information Opening Hours:
09.00 - 17.00 hrs.
CLOSED ON WEDNESDAY

Phuket Botanic Garden
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Chalong Subdistrict, Muang District, Phuket 83130, Thailand,
Tel: 076 367095, Fax 076 367076
Email: info@phuketbotanicgarden.com, www.phuketbotanicgarden.com

OPEN DAILY 08:30 - 18:00 hrs

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Email: info@phuketbirdpark.com, www.phuketbirdpark.com

Sol o sombra? A seat in the sun



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

IF YOU go to the huge, intimidating amphitheater that is a Spanish bullring to witness a series of *corridas*, you may be asked at the ticket office if you want “*sol*” or “*sombra*?”

And the reason? The seats in the shade (*sombra*) are more expensive, because there you are shielded from the fierce rays of the Iberian sun. “*Sol y sombra*” (sun and shade) is a similar expression used to denote seats that start in the afternoon sun and conclude in the evening shade.

The same general principle applies to other sporting events played out in torrid climes. If you watch little-league baseball in the southern United States, you can choose to save money by watching events from the bleachers, an apt name coined long ago for those unroofed and inexpensive areas of the stadium exposed to the bleaching effect of constant sunshine.

Sometimes, of course, people actually prefer the sun on their skin, whatever the potential hazards from ultra-violet rays, and whatever the cost – both to health and to wallet. To test the truth of that observation, just go to Kata or Karon beach any day and see the palefaces of northern Europe absorbing as much *sol*, as their exposed bodies will take.

Judging by the amount of burnt and reddened flesh, these sun-worshippers are altogether too ardent in their reverence.

Plants have the same polarized inclinations. In the wild, and by an eon-long process of adaptation, plants will eventually settle

in habitats that are appropriate for their needs.

But as a gardener, you have to make an instant choice for them. And in the tropics, an awareness of these needs is crucial. Some books on tropical plants help the decision-making by using symbols such as a diagrammatic full sun, half sun or cloud to indicate preferred conditions. Helpful to the uninitiated...

In essence, tropical plants, like spectators at a bullfight, fall into one of these three categories. Take, for example, shrubs or perennials that do best in full sun. Often plants from dry or even arid regions, require less moisture and more light than most of their brethren. *Adeniums*, for example, will produce more flowers in full sun: so too *allamandas*, *codiaeums*, *ixoras*, milkweeds, *euphorbias* and *tabernaemontanas*.

Most sun-loving plants have strong, glossy, even leathery leaves, which lose little in the way of moisture through evaporation.

Again, some foliage plants will not produce their full range of hues without adequate sunshine. By way of illustration, consider the following example. I recently bought two newish cordyline cultivars – single stemmed, usually crimson leaved or edged perennials that always look good when strategically placed among greener plants. Exposed to the full tropic glare in the plant nursery, they had brilliant magenta leaves, which were suffused with vivid tints of orange and yellow where the sun had caught them.

Back in my garden and put in filtered shade, most of these dramatic tints were soon replaced by a dull khaki-red. A clear case for full “*sol*”.



SUN WORSHIPPERS: Both *Adenium* (above) and *allamanda* (below) will produce more flowers when exposed to full sunlight throughout the year. Photos: Peter McKienan and Tony Rodd

However, and because of the sheer power of the tropic sun, most plants prefer filtered shade, some respite from the heat of noon. Indeed, many plants, and especially broad-leaved ones, will, like palefaces, scorch when exposed to full sun.

This particularly applies to denizens of the forest understorey, but unwise positioning can also affect many garden shrubs that you might think of as impregnable. Of course, inadequate supplies of water for the roots will usually exacerbate the problem.

So *sol y sombra*, both sun and shade, is the answer for most tropical plants. If in doubt, go for a combination of both, for filtered shade, for a *via media* (Latin for the middle of the road). You may not satisfy all your customers, but then, what's new...



If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured, you can email me anytime at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com

Tip of the Week

More pest control

OTHER pest control methods include pruning and destroying branches, canes and other plant tissues that show evidence of actively developing problems such as leaf borers, scale insects, molds, powdery mildew and other fungal infections. Sometimes all that is required to eradicate an infestation of small insects such as mites, aphids and thrips is a strong jet of water, maybe with detergent added to the solution.

Rotate the location of plants in your garden from season to season. This is particularly helpful for combating plant diseases that survive in the soil.



GOOD BUGS: Insects like ladybugs (left) and assassin bugs will help get rid of ‘bad bugs’. Photos: William Warby and kestrel360

Get to recognize and encourage so-called “good bugs”: for example, ladybirds (which feed on aphids), assassin bugs, hoverflies (whose larvae also feed on green-

fly), spiders, mantids, lacewings and hunting wasps. Frogs, lizards, many birds and some species of snake also prey on potentially harmful insects.

JUST LIKE HOME...

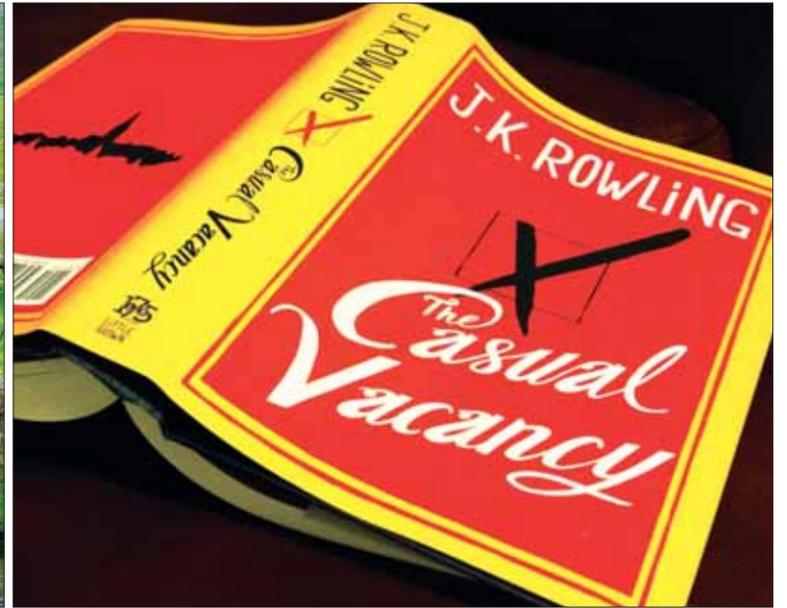
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A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT: JK Rowling's new novel, *The Casual Vacancy*, is set in an idyllic village in the West Country of England, where 'polite society' is exposed. Photo (left): floato

A microcosm of modern England

Books

By James Eckardt

THERE'S stuff I don't read. I don't read science fiction or westerns or low rent crime fiction. I certainly don't read children's books which is why, unlike 450 million people around the globe, I haven't touched JK Rowling's Harry Potter series.

But I have just finished her first adult novel, *The Casual Vacancy* (Little Brown and Company, New York, 2012, 503pp) and was thoroughly entranced. There are no giant ogres or geeks flying around on broomsticks but modern characters thoroughly immersed in computer culture.

The scene is Pagford, an idyllic village in the West Country of England, 160 miles from London. A river runs through the quaint old bungalows and shops, crossed by a picturesque stone bridge and presided over by a ruined abbey on a hill.

Nearby is 'The Fields', an eyesore of a public housing project. The land here was sold by the aristocratic estate owners of 'Sweetlove House' to the neighboring city

of Yarvil but the criminals, drunks and drug addicts here have the right to send their children to Pagford schools. Grossly fat delicatessen owner Howard Mollison, the Parish Council Chair, wants to end this practice by re-drawing the village boundaries so the Fields and a nearby methadone clinic are expelled from Pagford and consigned to Yarvil.

In this they are opposed by council member Barry Fairbrother who had grown up in a trailer park in The Fields and took advantage of a Pagford education to rise to become a prominent banker. "Barry Fairbrother had moved up through the school, a popular and clever class clown, only occasionally noticing that the smile of a Pagford parent stiffened when he mentioned the place where he lived."

A high-minded faction of the Parish Council, prominently general practitioner Dr Parminder Jawanda, form a coalition behind Fairbrother, but his sudden death by an aneurism culminates in a struggle for his vacant seat.

A more interesting layer of the novel is the substratum of teenagers. Acne-ridden Andrew Price, called "Pizzaface" by his

irascible, violent father, is painfully, hopelessly in love with Gaia, the beautiful daughter of Kay Bawden, a London social worker who has recently moved to Pagford to be close to her boyfriend, Gavin Hughes, partner in a law firm with Miles Mollison who is a candidate now for Fairbrother's seat. Gavin regrets leading Kay on as he is falling in love with Fairbrother's widow Mary.

Gaia befriends Sukhvinder Jawanda, the daughter of doctors, who is learning impaired. Sukhvinder is tormented in class and on Facebook by Fats Wall, the most popular boy in school, best friend of Andrew Price. Fats is obsessed with the notion of "authenticity" and seeks it in the slums of the Field and the arms of the school terror Krystal Weedon, daughter of Terri, a heroin addict and prostitute.

"Krystal's slow passage up the school has resembled the passage of a goat through the body of a boa constructor, being highly visible and uncomfortable for both parties concerned."

Kay Bawden becomes Krystal's social worker and helps to get Terri back into a drug program and her three-year-old

brother Robbie into nursery school. Barry Fairbrother had also mentored Krystal as volunteer coach of the school's rowing team. Her team's victory over the snooty team of a posh private girls' school is the high point of her life. Desperate to get away from her mother and to protect her brother, she has sex with Fats Wall in hopes of getting pregnant, on welfare and into her own apartment. Foul-mouthed, shrewd, spontaneous, passionate – "funny and tough, impossible in intimate, always coming out fighting" – Krystal is the moral center of the novel.

It takes a while for Rowling to assemble all these characters and wheel them onstage but once all the connections are established the plot rollicks on through public character assassination via the Parish Council website, beatings, drowning, rape, a heart attack, self-mutilation and suicide.

This is nothing less than a microcosm of the class and generational conflicts of modern England. All the characters are flawed but in the end, at least a few are looking forward to new lives. And the reader roots for them all the way.



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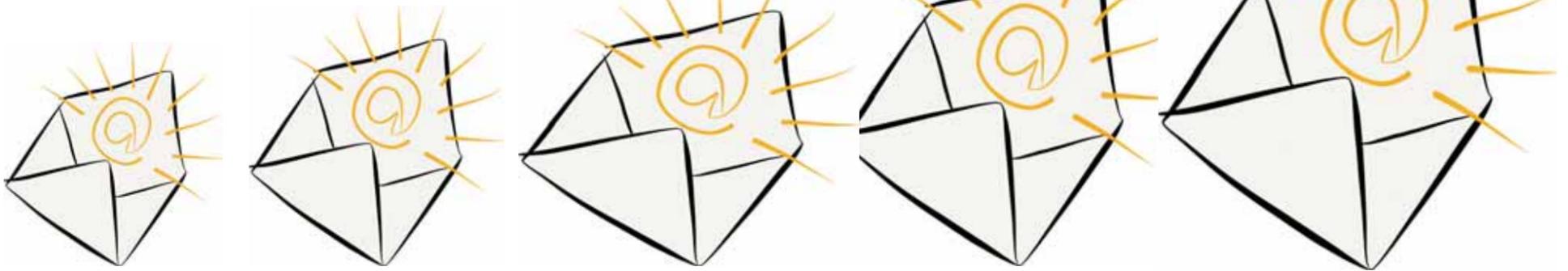
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NAMESAKE: Don't drive yourself and your recipients crazy. Choose a reliable email provider and keep your address simple. Photos: Christoph S Penn, Sean MacEnte

How to change your address

MANY of my friends here in Phuket are in the process of changing their email addresses from blahblah@phuket.ksc.co.th to blahblah@phuketemail.com. Some of them have written to me, asking why a disruptive change like that is necessary, and looking for recommendations. Can't say I blame them: changing an email address is considerably more difficult, in this day and age, than changing a street address – and certainly belongs in the same category as changing a phone number.

Here's what I've been able to piece together. Bangkok-based KSC was the very first Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Thailand. Hard to believe, but the company started in 1994 as a joint venture between CAT and a company called the Internet Knowledge Center Co, Ltd. Back in the day, KSC pre-paid dial-up internet cards were all the rage. The company gradually phased out dial-up, and finally moved to ADSL in 2004, if memory serves.

These days, KSC is still going strong, but I rarely see any mention of them in Phuket. They have a reputation in Bangkok for providing stable lines and good service, but I never hear anybody speak up about their speeds.

The ksc.co.th domain name was registered in 1999. It expires on April 16, 2015. KSC still has control over the domain name, and thus control over email addresses of the form blahblah@ksc.co.th.

A Phuket company by the name of ExpressData apparently had a contract with KSC that allowed ExpressData to hand out @phuket.ksc.co.th email addresses.

As recently as November, 2011, ExpressData was giving out instructions on how to use Zimbra open source email software to manipulate @phuket.ksc.co.th email addresses, which work with the website mail.phuket.ksc.co.th.

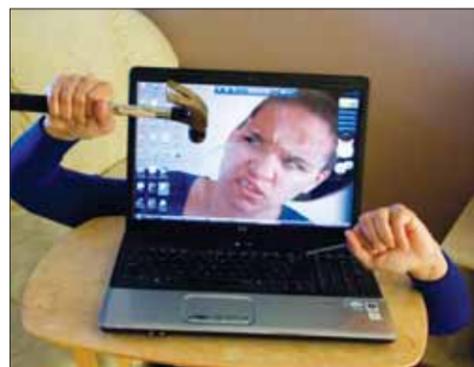
ExpressData Phuket is located around the corner from Makro. They also have offices in Phang Nga, Krabi, Hatyai, Cha-Am and Samui. As of 2011 (the last date mentioned on their web site), ExpressData's "core network is direct-connected with the 'Internet Backbone' via Internet KSC, offers the highest performing internet connection with speeds up to 665Mbps (VSNL 155Mbps + TIG 200Mbps + IIG 310Mbps) for international network linkage, and 2.2Gbps for domestic. Total 77MB high bandwidth capability from Phuket – Bangkok via two major National Media Providers, UIH and TOT (45+32Mbps)."

I was told that KSC in Bangkok has decided to discontinue all email addresses with the form blahblah@[province name].ksc.co.th. I haven't been able to

verify that change, or talk with anyone in a position of authority at KSC, but it certainly seems reasonable.

Perhaps KSC has decided it isn't making enough money out of their email addresses to keep the service viable.

Whatever the reason, ExpressData has registered the domain name phuketemail.com, and is now requiring customers with blahblah@phuket.ksc.co.th to switch to a different email address. For some of you, that may not be a big deal. But I guarantee that if you use your email address all over the web, like I do, losing an active email address is a painful experi-



No sense in getting frustrated. Photo: fluffster

ence. I'd have to log in to hundreds of web sites and change my contact address. Sites that require multiple authentication, such as Apple's and Google's, make you jump through many hoops to get a verification email address changed. Then there are all of the sites that use an email address for a login name. I'm on dozens of mailing lists that would have to be changed. My email programs would have to be jiggered to run with a new email address, and I might never be able to merge the messages across addresses properly. My business cards would have to be changed. My bios in a dozen places. My resume.

Then there's the little problem of notifying hundreds of people that I regularly correspond with, and convincing them to update their contacts list.

It's ugly. If I had paid for a service that came with an @phuket.ksc.co.th email address, I'd be livid at this point.

Which brings me to the point of this article. If you're being put through all of this hassle anyway, why on earth would you change your email address to blahblah@phuketemail.com? If a venerable, ancient email domain like phuket.ksc.co.th can get tossed out with hardly a thank you or fair thee well, why would you change to an address that could be tossed just as un-



Live Wire

By Woody Leonhard

ceremoniously a year or two from now?

No disrespect to ExpressData, but they just registered the

phuketemail.com site, through bulk licensing site Tucows.com, on January 9, 2013. The domain expires on January 9, 2014. While I don't doubt that they have every intention of renewing the contract on the site, most companies register key sites for four years or more, if they can, just to lock in the name. Imagine what would happen to your mail if somebody forgot to renew the domain registration.

If you're going to go through all of the hassle of changing your email address, why not change it to something that's absolutely certain to be around for a while? Like, until the internet freezes over.

Signing up for a free email account on Google's Gmail is like falling off a log.

Go to gmail.com, and on the left, near the bottom, click on the link to Create an Account. Once you have a new blahblah@gmail.com email address, you might give Gmail a try, and drop your current email program whatever it may be. (Using Gmail has the added advantage of making all of your mail instantly available on an iPhone, iPad, Android phone or tablet, through various apps, or any place you can get an internet connection.)

But if you really want to use your current email program, there are detailed instructions for setting up Gmail.com accounts with any email program. Just Google "Gmail POP3" and the name of your email program, such as "Outlook," or "Outlook Express," or "iPad Mail," or "OS X Mail."

Similarly, signing up for a free Hotmail account is incredibly simple (although Microsoft now calls the service "outlook.com"). Just go to hotmail.com and follow the instructions. You'll end up with an email address that ends in @hotmail.com, @outlook.com, or @live.com.

One bit of advice: when setting up a new email address, think hard about the name you're going to use. I strongly advise that you avoid situations where people could confuse the number "0" and the letter "O" – for obvious reasons. Similarly, "1" and "I" are easy to mix up. Avoid names that are frequently spelled in different ways (is it Rawai or Rawaii?). Hyphens and underscores will drive your correspondents crazy. And most of all, keep your email address short, short, short.

The last thing you need is an email address that looks like phukets_best_diving-company_number13_years_running_on-the-sands_at_rawaii_beach@hotmail.com.

If you really want to take control of your email future, don't sign up for a free account. Bite the bullet and register your own domain name. Imagine an address like Jim@phuketbestdive.com. It's much cheaper and easier than you think.

Our regular weekly computer clinic roundtables continue every Sunday morning, 10am at Sandwich Shoppe Chalong. If you have a Windows problem that needs to be solved, or a question about internet service in Phuket, drop by and ask one of the assembled gurus. Sponsored by the Phuket Gazette and Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppes.

Good news: contracts are almost in place for keeping Sandwich Shoppe Patong open for the foreseeable future. We'll have a Sandwich Shoppe Express in Kata in the coming months. And watch out for a new kind of bakery in Kathu. Stay tuned for more info about our new locations, and computer gatherings, as events unfold.

Live Wire is Phuket Gazette columnist Woody Leonhard's weekly snapshot of all things internet in Phuket. Shoot him mail at Woody@KhunWoody.com, follow him on Twitter, @PhuketLiveWire, or "like" his page at facebook.com/SandwichShoppe.

New star added to Galaxy series

LAST WEEK Samsung Bangkok launched a new addition to its Galaxy series, the Galaxy S4 smartphone.

"The smartphone benefits people with ease of use, fun and companionship. We try to bring the best smartphone to the market. The Galaxy S4 is a flagship product for us," said Gregory Lee, president and CEO of Samsung Asia.

The design of the Galaxy S4 is

fundamentally that of the Galaxy SIII. This version carries software that allows people to use the phone around the world, and includes features such as S-Voice and camera functions that are easier to use than Galaxy earlier version, he said.

The Galaxy S4 will be available by the end of next month in 155 countries with 327 operators worldwide. – *The Nation*

Tips for your panicked pooch



Where's Pavlov? Photo: Magic Madzik



Dog Whisperer

By Russell D Russell

works closely with the endocrine system, which is responsible for chemical coordination in the body. The nervous system conveys information from one place to another by neurons or nerve cells.

Chemical secretions called neurotransmitters travel from one cell to another. They contain and convey information. Some of the more important neurotransmitters are Dopamine, Norepinephrine and Serotonin. Got that?

Dopamine is involved in motor coordination and reaction time. A deficiency in this can cause an inability to learn, irritability, anxiety and a decline in endorphins (a dog's natural pain killer). Dopamine influences the brain's pleasure center and a decline in this neurotransmitter can result in a diminished positive feeling.

Norepinephrine is related to adrenaline. It is responsible for your dog's energy level. A depletion of this can cause your dog to shut down and display signs of lethargy and depression.

Serotonin regulates mood, pain and arousal levels. Low levels of serotonin can result in aggression, impaired learning, anxiety and obsessive behavior.

Now, when a dog becomes overstressed the nervous system releases Norepinephrine and Dopamine, which causes a suspension of the part of the brain responsible for learning and higher thought process, previous learning, impulse control and social inhibition. Previously learned coping mechanisms may become inaccessible which can provoke

species-typical coping mechanisms (chewing, digging, urinating/defecating, vocalizing).

Addressing the problem...

There's a number of ways to treat Separation or Isolation Anxiety, and in many cases it's largely a combination of a number of them – but remember, all dogs are different so consult a canine behaviorist first.

Mental Stimulation:

Possibly the best way to help your dog, is to encourage active participation and focused enjoyment of something. You can increase mental stimulation in your dog by feeding part of his meal in a fun ball or hide portions of his meal around the house when you leave. One of the best ways to stimulate your dog mentally, is obedience training.

Physical Stimulation:

A tired dog is a well behaved dog. Exercise stimulates the production of serotonin and is a way for your dog to release all of his energy appropriately. When you start exercising your dog, start out slow and increase the amount of time and the level of the exercise – you know your dog, so you'll know what's too much and what's not enough. It's a good idea to have your dog examined by a veterinarian first to make sure there are no issues that may have an impact on your exercise program such as obesity, arthritis, hip dysplasia.

Second Dog Syndrome:

Dogs are social animals and are generally happiest when in the presence of other dogs. Many people believe that getting another dog will treat the current dog's anxiety but that often backfires and can actually increase the stress on your current dog. In many separation anxiety cases, the

dog has developed a hyper-attachment to humans, so another dog makes no difference.

Scent Item:

Providing your dog with a soft item that smells like the attachment object or person can sometimes help in minor cases. The best way to accomplish this is by wearing a t-shirt to bed and leave it with your dog in the morning when you leave.

Here one minute... gone the next

For the first 15-20 minutes after you arrive home or before you leave completely ignore your dog. This means no eye contact, no speaking, and no fast, noisy activity. The goal is to reduce the contrast between your presence and absence. If there is damage or mess in the house, ignore the dog and simply go about cleaning up. **DO NOT PUNISH YOUR DOG!**

Pharmacology

A major contribution to the treatment of separation anxiety is a drug called Clomicalm, which helps by increasing the serotonin levels in the brain which in turn decreases the level of fear, stress and anxiety experienced by the dog. But lots of people aren't keen on taking anti-depressants themselves, let alone giving them to their dogs...

Remember, this is not your dog's fault and he is not acting this way to get back at you for leaving him. Treatment for Separation or Isolation Anxiety take time, patience and lots of work but you can make a difference.

For more information on separation anxiety, or to inquire about training classes contact the Thailand Canine Academy on 089 588 4050, email canineworld@me.com or check the website tk9a.com

Dog of the Week



GUCCI

HELLO. I'm a female puppy (about three months old), who loves children and cuddling. I'm not too sure if I like having a bath – because I'm still very young and not used to the water yet, but I'm sure I'll get used to it over time.

I've already done some leash training

when I go out to the park for my walk every morning and I also know how to walk without pulling on the leash and to sit when I am asked. I'm well on my way to being a good-mannered dog.



I would love to find a new home with a family, since I love children and would like to be a guard dog with a family to protect as we grow and bond together.

I am fully vaccinated and very cute and cuddly. I have two white socks on my front paws and black whiskers around my mouth. Please consider me if your looking for a new dog.

I am fully vaccinated and very cute and cuddly. I have two white socks on my front paws and black whiskers around my mouth. Please consider me if your looking for a new dog.

I am Located at Doggie Heaven in Thalang, if you'd like to adopt me contact: sherin.peace@gmail.com



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Introducing Curmudgeonism



RECENTLY I met the self-styled social philosopher Vermyn R Carrion ("Verm-Bob"). He has formulated a new philosophy that he hopes will become the defining ideology for the 21st century. He calls it Curmudgeonism.

As a professional curmudgeon, I thought this would be right down my alley. Perhaps I had finally found a sage who could function as my guru, savior, and spiritual guide. But alas, it was not to be. My interview with him went like this:

Me: Can you tell me about your philosophy?

VRC: Yes, I can, Curm, and as a curmudgeon yourself, you should find it perfectly suited to your grouchy temperament. Your very name makes you the ideal candidate to be our first convert.

You'll notice that things are getting worse and worse. Everything is turning to crap. The world economy is going to hell; entire nations are getting ready to default on their debts; wars and insurrections are popping out all over; North Korea is getting ready to nuke us all into oblivion and global climate change is slowly killing us – the world's a mess, and it keeps getting worse.

Curmudgeonism celebrates that dismal reality.

Me: Can you elaborate?

VRC: I sure can. Curmudgeonism is the cynical

philosophy of the terminally embittered. It rips off the rose-colored glasses and boldly faces the bleakness of our squalid lives. When people say, "Good morning!" we snarl, "What's good about it?" When they say, "Have a nice day," we growl, "It's bound to be crappy." When they say, "Things could be worse," we sneer, "Yep, and they soon will be." When they say, "Yes, we can!" we snap, "No, you can't."

Me: Isn't that somewhat negative?

VRC: You bet your sweet bile duct it is! This is a negative philosophy for negative times – a feisty, snarly, kick-ass philosophy that provides a bracing counterweight to the infantile bleating of the namby-pamby, touchy-feelie, sharing-and-caring, puke-talking,

politically correct crowd.

Me: This is not going to sell in Disneyland.

VRC (roaring): Damned right! There are many feel-good philosophies in this world. This is the first one designed to make you feel rotten. Our motto was devised by the famous curmudgeon Ebenezer Scrooge: "Bah, Humbug!"

Me: I believe that the point of the story in which Mr Scrooge starred was that his misanthropic, hate-filled sourness was dead wrong.

VRC: Hah! Dickens fabricated that pukey little tale to satisfy the fantasies of the pansified Victorian lace-and-crinoline crowd. You gotta admit that Curmudgeonism is a robust take on reality.

Me: It's a dead end, Verm-Bob.

Who do you think is going to sign on to a movement that just wants to make people feel bad?

VRC: I can't believe I'm hearing this. You call yourself a curmudgeon? You're no curmudgeon! You're a traitor to your kind – a gutless, bleeding-heart daisy-worshiper just like everybody else. You ought to call yourself Ye Olde Sunflower.

Me: Sorry, but my curmudgeonliness has been mellowed by a prolonged residence in the 'Land of Smiles'. I aspire to be a kinder, gentler curmudgeon.

This debate has been truncated for lack of space, but you can contribute your thoughts to Ye Olde Sunflower at s.tsow@gmail.com.

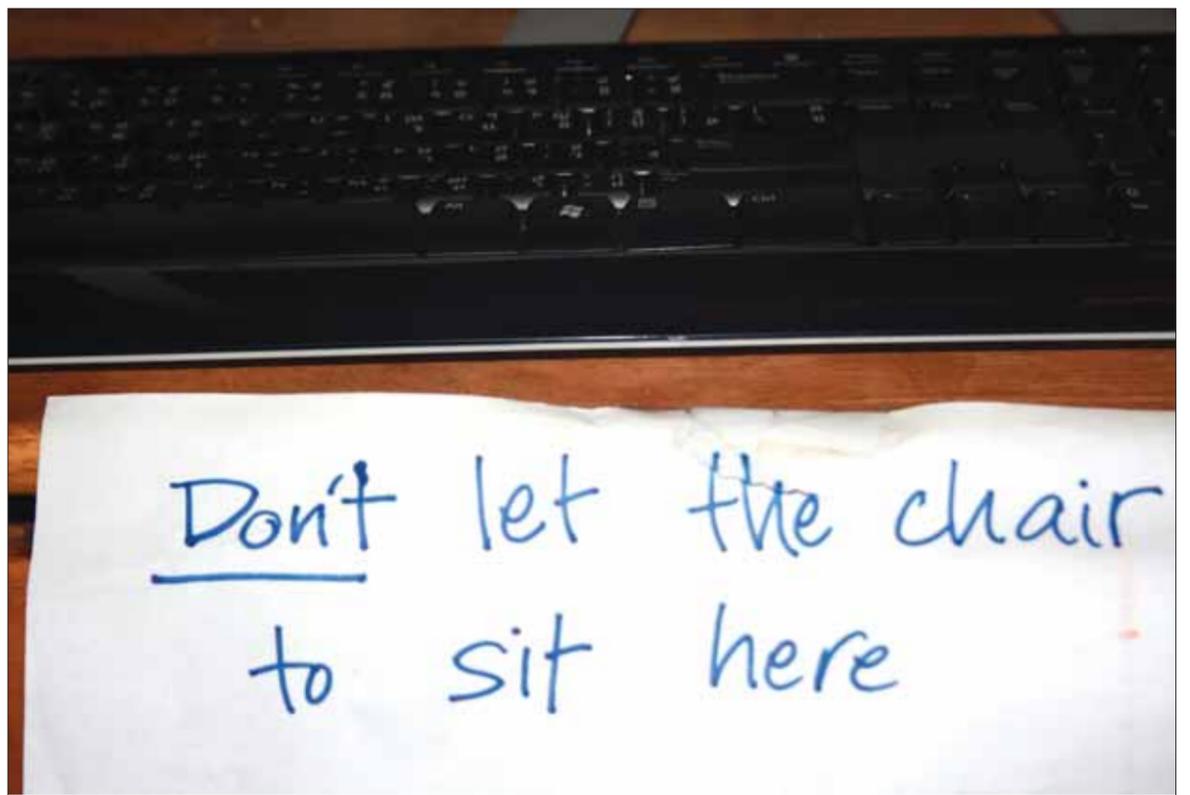
More signs o' the times



A heart stopping traffic sign.



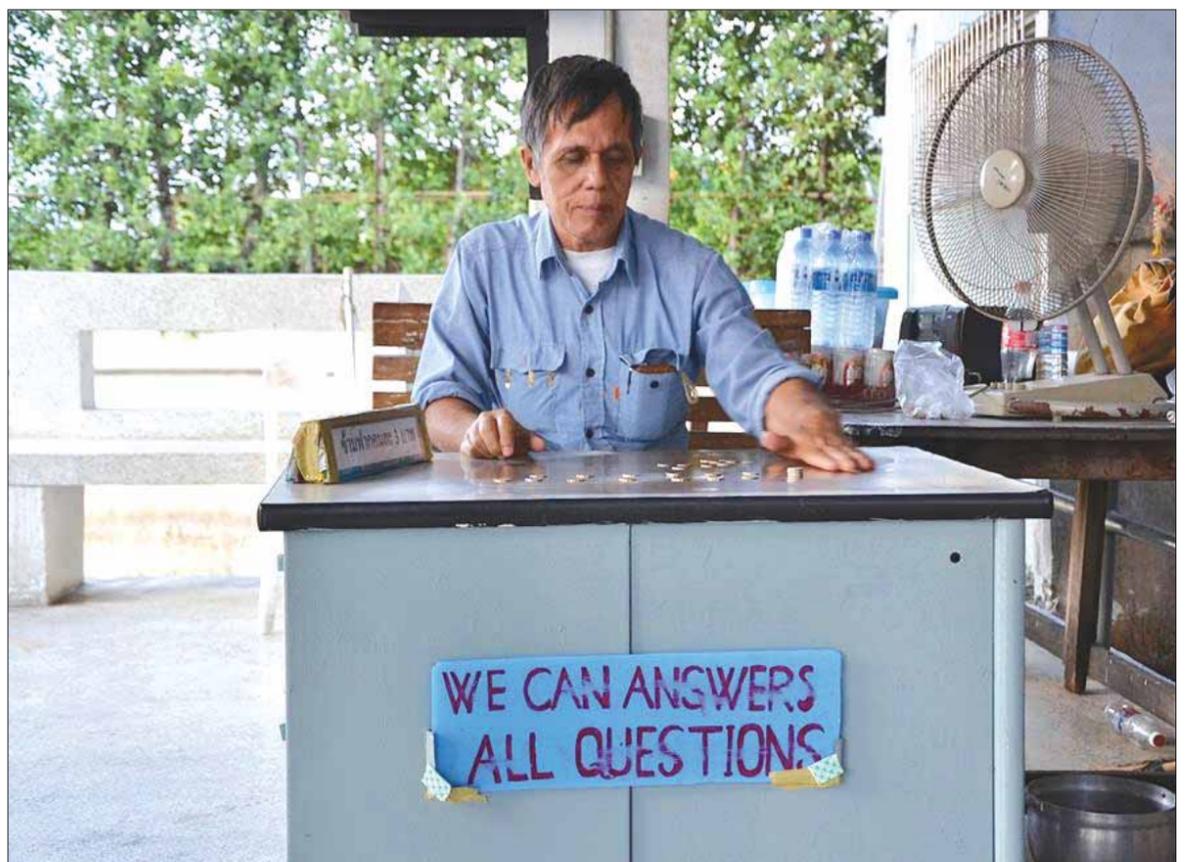
I'll have what she's having.



STANDING ROOM ONLY: Is the chair being punished? Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli



HEY, STRANGER: Never talk to people like this. Photo: Marc Mulloy



A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS: I've got a question. Who writes your signs? Photo: Massimo Reverberi

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

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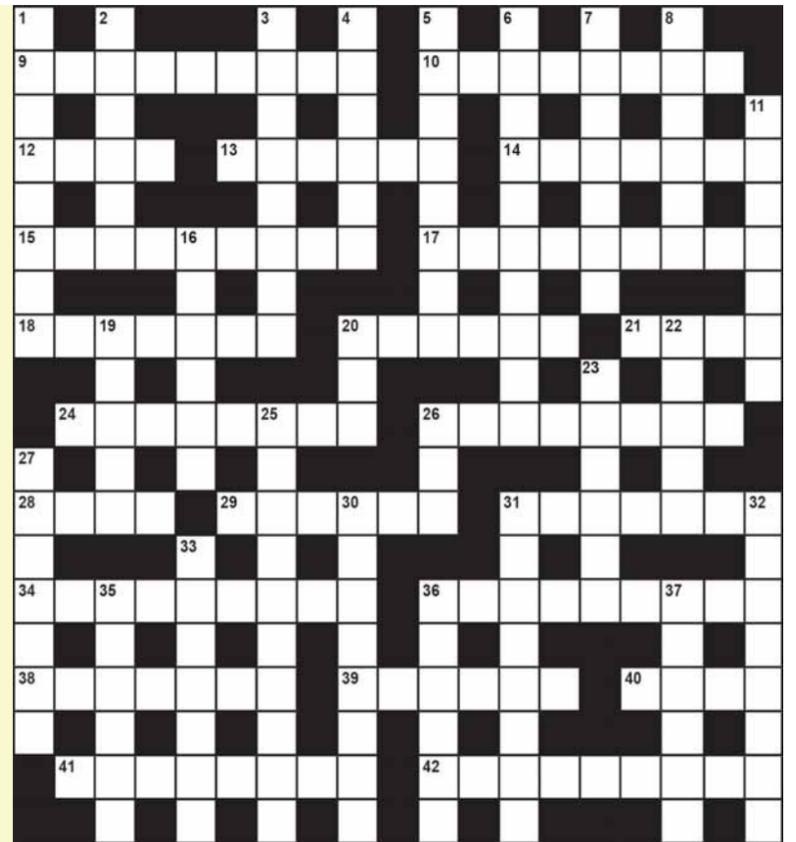
COFFEE break

Across:

- 9. Open-minded about vice, Peter (9)
- 10. Get on first class Northern peak (8)
- 12. A bird! Get gun ready! (4)
- 13. Disturb cock, turn in round another bird (6)
- 14. Back, sworn holding a right to the straits (7)
- 15. On me, leach out inconsistent character (9)
- 17. Lagged, saluted in error (9)
- 18. Meet Len, could be a constituent (7)
- 20. Summary of prices to be altered (6)
- 21. Concept one of French article (4)
- 24. Scare, caught right in marsh (8)
- 26. Illumination from lightning not new (8)
- 28. A spy possibly picks up the bill (4)
- 29. Pilot Officer, possible mole, produced shaddock (6)
- 31. I park, shout out move goods away (4,3)
- 34. The Spanish European Community list could get in (9)
- 36. Set off, get girder exploded (9)
- 38. Or plead wildly for animal (7)
- 39. Re. that strange warning (6)
- 40. Peon may be honest (4)
- 41. Upcoming act following rotation (4,4)
- 42. Glasses for vessels (9)

Down:

- 1. Tie off electricity to assemble child's vehicle (8)
- 2. Account a group of American agents to supply an ornamental tree (6)



- 3. Catching live turn out (8)
- 4. Work out neck or break it (6)
- 5. In plot, i.e., I'm maybe not civil (8)
- 6. Fitting out, finish, rung off (10)
- 7. For antiseptic, Lister rewrote note (7)
- 8. I grout carefully to get ready for use (3,3)
- 11. Utilize card arranging second-hand vehicle (4,3)
- 16. Green, maybe unknown, power to perform work (6)
- 19. Before expected year, maybe around fifty (5)
- 20. Turn up new play on words (3)
- 22. Noise! Move wild dog (5)
- 23. Street call for yarn (6)

- 25. Bad tour, bad, our old traveling singer makes (10)
- 26. Rice liquor for a Thailand neighbor (3)
- 27. Earnestly requests to slap ape around (7)
- 30. On occasion, gin swilled in horse trials (8)
- 31. Sir, a char maybe made a Thai chili sauce (3,5)
- 32. I sent Sid out in order (8)
- 33. Troubles its star badly (7)
- 35. Ed rode out, worn down (6)
- 36. Push the gist (6)
- 37. Foil in river a landing place (6)

Cryptic crossword compiled Patong Bill. Answers on page 31

Your weekly pith: "The man who insists upon seeing perfect clearness before he decides, never decides. Accept life, and you must accept regret." - *Henri-Frederic Amiel*
 These quotes were taken from Ian Hewitt's book 'Quotes for prosperity'

ARIES (March 21-April 20):

 Arians are advised to be more open to work or financial opportunities as the month of April commences. An offer you receive on Monday is no joke, but it won't be on the table for long. Those with a birthday in the days ahead should have fewer financial worries in the coming year. Dazzling days for romance are Tuesday and Wednesday. Your lucky number this week is two.

TAURUS (April 21-May 21):

 Your powers of concentration are likely to be put to the test at the start of April. Last minute paperwork requires careful attention on Monday or Tuesday; the stars suggest that this could result in financial gain. Where romance is concerned, Monday is the best day to say what's really on your mind - another earth sign is forecast to be relieved by your confession. Number seven can bring good fortune this week.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 The astral atmosphere encourages positive vibrations for those born under the sign of Gemini during the first half of April. Those who are on the receiving end of a joke on Monday should see the funny side.

This might not work so well the other way round - a water sign's irritable mood could mean a negative reaction to your well meant joke. Gemini's could see that number three is important this week.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Where work is concerned, your trust in another water sign can be compromised at the start of April. The stars indicate that this person's forgetfulness can make it hard, or even impossible, to meet an important deadline. In the realm of romance, this weekend is an auspicious time to bring sensitive issues out into the open. Finances are well-starred on Wednesday and Thursday. Number five stands out for Cancerians this week.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

 In the world of work, the stars show that something you have wanted to happen for a long time now has chance of turning into reality. If this involves promotion, Thursday is an auspicious day for discussions about responsibilities and financial compensation. In the realm of romance, time is on your side where a possible relationship with another fire sign is concerned. Leos' lucky number this week is one.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

 Unannounced arrival of family could cramp your style this weekend. Virgoans who had other plans are advised to put these on hold, rather than risk being caught in the middle. A fire sign is predicted to be inflexible at work midweek - the stars advise keeping your cool until an alternative approach comes to mind. A mild joke on Monday can be a romantic introduction towards an air sign. Your lucky number this week is eight.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 Too much stress in your social circle can prompt some Librans to seek out different entertainment this weekend. The stars advise making contact with an earth sign you haven't seen for a while; this person can be the calm company you need. Where work and business are concerned, it would be wise to keep to routine during the first week of April. Number nine can be special this week.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

 A close call in the world of work can leave some Scorpios wondering what they did wrong. There are signs that cutting corners earlier this month could be the cause of this situation and it would be wise to stop and think before April gets underway. Your luck in love increases during the coming days and flirtation with another water sign can be a confidence booster this weekend. Number six can be fortunate this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 Silence is golden for stressed out Sagittarians this weekend. As this month ends, the stars advise taking quality time out to regroup before April starts. An air sign could try to make waves in your world of work on Monday - the recommended approach is to stay in the background until this blows over. Hot days for romance are Wednesday and Thursday. The stars indicate that number four will be lucky this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

 Work is well-starred as April commences. A fire sign provides more support than anticipated and your ideas should be taken seriously by those with influence. In your

personal life, sharing household tasks can be an issue for those Capricorns in a relationship with another earth sign. If you are single and seeking, flirtation with an air sign can lead to more this weekend. Number three shines this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 Sudden changes and new challenges suit your temperament and this will be an advantage in the world of work as April commences. This is an auspicious week to tie up loose ends, both at work and at home. Domestic problems that Aquarians have conveniently forgotten can be fixed with less inconvenience than you thought; taking care of these issues will encourage harmony at home. Your lucky number this week is eight.

PISCES (Feb 20-March 20):

 Going with the flow will bring Pisceans closer to their goals. The stars suggest that your determination to have everything your way has been preventing progress. Where personal relationships are concerned, expect another water sign to remind you of a promise that was made in the heat of the moment. A joke played on Monday helps you see the lighter side of life. Number one can bring good luck this week.

International Sport

European World Cup qualifiers

By Mike Collett

EUROPE'S top teams took important steps towards next year's World Cup finals in Brazil with qualifying victories on Tuesday, notably world champions Spain, who scored a hugely significant 1-0 win over France in Paris.

Netherlands, Germany and Italy also picked up three points but England, fourth in the world rankings, were held 1-1 in Montenegro after a bright start in which they scored first.

After a weekend of speculation about Spain losing their way on the road to Rio after a 1-1 home draw with Finland on Friday, their victory at the Stade de France steadied the nerves and put them back on top with 11 points, one more than France.

Pedro scored the only goal in the 58th minute after a scramble in front of goal and a desperate attempt to keep the ball out by home keeper Hugo Lloris while France finished with 10 men after Paul Pogba was sent off 12 minutes from time.

Spain are now unbeaten in their last 50 World Cup qualifiers since March 1993 and coach Vicente Del Bosque was a happy man.

"This is a very important three points. It helps support the conviction we have in our ideas," he told Spanish TV. "Everyone has doubts at times."

"When they went down to ten men in theory it should have been easier for us, but this is when we perhaps had the most problems. The team played like men today."

Netherlands steamed to a sixth straight qualifying win in this campaign – and a 14th overall – when they thumped Romania 4-0 in Amsterdam with Robin van Persie scoring twice.

The Dutch moved on to 18 points, seven clear at the top of Group D, after second-placed Hungary drew 1-1 with Turkey.



RESURGENT: From left, Spain's Jesus Navas Gonzalez, Sergio Ramos Garcia, Sergio Busquets Burgos and Xabier Alonso Olano celebrate after defeating France. Photo: Reuters

"This was the best match under my management so far," Netherlands coach Louis van Gaal told reporters.

"We executed our game plan much better than we did on Friday (in a 3-0 win over Estonia). We only played sloppily in the final quarter of the first half and that resulted in their sole chance of the match."

Germany also moved a step closer to the finals when they followed up Friday's 3-0 win in Kazakhstan with a 4-1 victory over the same opposition in Nuremberg to climb to 16 points and open up an eight-point gap at the top of Group C.

Sweden, who did not play, Austria and Ireland are all on eight points after the latter drew 2-2 with the Austrians in Dublin after the visitors salvaged a point with an equalizer from David Alaba in the 92nd minute.

Germany, again without a recognized striker, hit three goals in eight minutes through Borussia Dortmund trio Marco Reus, Mario Goetze and Ilkay Guendogan in the first half.

Reus added a fourth in stoppage time to give Germany their fifth win in six qualifiers as they also hit the woodwork six times

in a one-sided game that at times looked like a friendly.

"Obviously, in the second half our concentration and our presence was not as strong but we still could have scored two or three more goals. But the game was decided by then," Germany coach Joachim Loew said.

"Kazakhstan had 10 men around the box and waited for us but did little else. They did not want to play football."

Italy also consolidated top spot in their section when they won 2-0 in Malta with a double from in-form Mario Balotelli to move three points clear of second-placed Bulgaria who drew 1-1 in Denmark in their Group B game. Italy now have 13 points.

Balotelli, buoyed by his outstanding goal in a 2-2 friendly draw with Brazil on Thursday, again delivered for Italy who survived two first-half scares before applying the killer blow with a second goal in the dying minutes of the opening half.

"We have to treasure the fact that when we come up against a well-organized team we have to be quicker with our play," Italy coach Cesare Prandelli told Rai television.

"But the great performance against Brazil

and the three points tonight are paramount."

Balotelli opened the scoring with a sixth-minute penalty after Malta defender Luke Dimech floored Stephan El Shaarawy in the penalty area but Malta refused to lie down.

Their bold reaction unsettled Prandelli's men whose struggles were laid bare when, after 16 minutes, goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon brought down Malta midfielder Andre Schembri in the box after an intelligent pass from Roderick Briffa.

Michael Mifsud marched towards the spot but his low effort was stopped by Buffon.

England briefly looked like replacing Montenegro at the top of Group H as they took the lead in Podgorica with a Wayne Rooney header after six minutes.

Although England started brightly and dominated the first half, the home side battled back and deservedly equalized through Dejan Damjanovic in the second half to move on to 14 points, two points clear of England.

Belgium and Croatia, who started the day joint-top of Group A with 13 points, stayed neck-and-neck after Belgium beat visitors Macedonia 1-0 with a goal from Eden Hazard and Croatia won 2-1 in Wales with late goals from Dejan Lovren and Eduardo.

The pair are nine points clear of third-placed Serbia, who won 2-0 against Scotland 2-0 who became the first team in the European qualifiers to be mathematically eliminated as they cannot catch either of the joint leaders Belgium or Croatia.

Portugal rekindled their chances by winning 2-0 in Azerbaijan after stumbling to a 3-3 draw against Israel on Friday to move within a point of Group F leaders Russia, who did not play.

The Israelis also maintained their hopes of a first World Cup finals appearance since 1970 with a 2-0 win over Northern Ireland in Belfast to stay level with Portugal on 11 points.

– Reuters



ALWAYS HIM: Mario Balotelli (third from left) celebrates scoring a penalty against Malta during Italy's 2014 World Cup qualifying match. Photos: Reuters



Wayne Rooney (center) celebrates his goal against Montenegro.



Jeremain Lens of Holland (white top) scores against Romania.

FIFA WORLD CUP Brasil												
MARCH RESULTS												
Group A			Group B			Group C			Group H			
Serbia vs Scotland	2-0		Armenia vs Czech	0-3		Germany vs Kazakhstan	4-1		Ukraine vs Moldova	2-1		
Belgium vs Macedonia	1-0		Denmark vs Bulgaria	1-1		R. of Ireland vs Austria	2-2		Poland vs San Marino	5-0		
Wales vs Croatia	1-2		Malta vs Italy	0-2					Montenegro vs England	1-1		
Group D			Group F			Group I						
Estonia vs Andorra	2-0		Azerbaijan vs Portugal	0-2								
Turkey vs Hungary	1-1		N. Ireland vs Israel	0-2								
Holland vs Romania	4-0											
FRANCE vs SPAIN 0-1												
TABLE												
Group A	Belgium 16	Italy 13	Group B	Croatia 16	Bulgaria 10	Group C	Germany 16	Holland 18	Group D	Russia 12	Montenegro 14	Spain 11
Group E	Serbia 7	Czech 8	Group F	Austria 8	Hungary 11	Group G	Israel 11	England 12	Group H	France 10	Georgia 4	
Group I	Wales 6	Denmark 6	Group J	R. of Ireland 8	Turkey 7	Group K	N. Ireland 3	Ukraine 8	Group L	Belarus 3		
	Macedonia 4	Armenia 3		Kazakhstan 1	Estonia 6		Azerbaijan 3	Moldova 4		Finland 2		
	Scotland 2	Malta 0		Faroe Island 0	Andorra 0		Luxembourg 2	San Marino 0				

PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES	
Sunderland vs Man Utd	SAT, 30 MARCH 2013 19:45
Arsenal vs Reading	SATURDAY, 30 MARCH 2013 22:00
Man City vs Newcastle	
Southampton vs Chelsea	
Swansea vs Tottenham	
West Ham vs West Brom	
Wigan vs Norwich	
Everton vs Stoke	SATURDAY, 30 MARCH 2013 00:30
Aston Villa vs Liverpool	SUNDAY, 31 MARCH 2013 20:30
Fulham vs QPR	TUESDAY, 02 APRIL 2013 03:00

PREMIER LEAGUE TABLE			
	TEAM	GD	PTs
1	Man Utd	38	74
2	Man City	25	59
3	Chelsea	28	55
4	Tottenham	14	54
5	Arsenal	23	50
6	Everton	11	48
7	Liverpool	18	45
8	WBA	2	44
9	Swansea	2	40
10	Fulham	-4	36
11	Stoke	-8	34
12	Norwich	-18	34
13	Newcastle	-11	33
14	West Ham	-11	33
15	Sunderland	-9	31
16	Southampton	-10	31
17	Aston Villa	-25	30
18	Wigan	-21	27
19	Reading	-22	23
20	QPR	-22	23

International Sport

Howlers, hunger, humbling and howls

WHAT an unexpectedly delicious race Sepang provided. The race was characterised mainly by sins; sins of omission and sins of commission.

Errors took Ferrari, McLaren, Lotus, and Force India out of contention, leaving only Red Bull and Mercedes to take the first four places. But that summary contains none of the drama that left three miserable men on the podium.

Lotus made a baffling decision to use only one lap to qualify Kimi Räikkönen, who took chances and ended in a pitiable starting position. He lost part of a wing on the first lap, the car misbehaved, and Kimi visited the rough several times. He finished a brave seventh. Fernando Alonso also lost part of his wing, his team failed to pit him for a replacement, and he retired early.

McLaren had significantly improved since Melbourne, and Jenson Button looked to be in for a possible podium finish when a horrible pit stop lost him the race. Force India looked very good until they retired hurt, seemingly with wheel nut problems.

That left Red Bull as one and two, and the best of the rest was



Formula 1
By The Digby

Mercedes at three and four. Then the plot took a twist. Hamilton in the lead Mercedes had low fuel and was ordered to take his foot off the pedal. The Red Bulls had tyre management issues, and Mark Webber in the lead was also instructed to slow down. That left two teams with German drivers in second position who wanted to overtake their teammates. Both team managers needed to assure maximum points; the drivers coveted glory.

For Red Bull, Vettel ignored explicit and repeated team orders, and charged past Webber in a hazardous manoeuvre to steal victory. For Mercedes, Nico Rosberg who had managed his race well, and had a chance of pressuring the Red Bulls, pleaded to be allowed to overtake Lewis Hamilton.

Ross Brawn told a frustrated Nico not to overtake his eminent new team leader. Rosberg reluctantly followed orders.

That left Vettel looking like a truculent child caught in the

cookie jar, a furious Webber, and a shamefaced Hamilton on the podium for what should have been a moment of joy for each.

Alonso is also angry with Vettel whom he blames for causing the accident that destroyed his wing, and ultimately caused him to beach in the gravel and lose a "certain win". Vettel is in danger of gaining a reputation reminiscent of Schumacher's unprincipled commitment to winning.

Webber is not the sort of chap to forget pain easily. He said, "There were a lot of things going through my head in those closing laps. Not just from today, but from the past as well."

Perhaps he was thinking about the 2010 Turkish GP where he was again leading, and Vettel was again second. Webber had again gone into fuel-saving mode when Vettel opted to attack him. On that occasion Vettel's action caused a collision that cost Webber the lead, and Vettel went out of the race. Or perhaps he was recalling the 2010 British GP when his new improved front wing was passed to Vettel. He won nevertheless and famously commented "Not bad for



SHAME: Red Bull Formula One driver Sebastian Vettel (right) and team mate Mark Webber on the winners podium at Sepang. Photo: Reuters

a number two driver". Worse, he might have been thinking about Red Bull advisor Helmut Marko's recent interview comment that while Webber could win races, he struggled to handle the pressures of a championship challenge.

Marko said at Sepang, "Seb made his own decisions and will have protection as usual."

Many observers see a spoilt golden-haired child indulged beyond his competence, versus Webber the mercenary, who turned down an offer from Ferrari to stay with Red Bull. Webber is swallowing pride for lucre; but he has a big ego too.

Webber can brood until Shanghai on April 14. It has been mooted that Vettel should "give" Webber a win in compensation. But Webber does not want Vettel to give him a win; he wants to win. Nico Rosberg has the same time to consider his new spot, outshone by Hamilton's bling.

So Shanghai will be as fascinating for its interpersonal relationships as for the reliability that McLaren and Force India can bring after the break, and a return to sanity for Ferrari and Lotus. Red Bull did not look exceptional at Sepang – even Mercedes challenged them, so Shanghai is boiling up to be a great event.

England battle to draw NZ in third test

ENGLAND captain Alastair Cook found himself pacing around the dressing room as the three-match test series against New Zealand drew to a gripping climax at Eden Park on March 26.

He changed seats when Stuart Broad was the eighth man to be dismissed, having decided that "the luck" had run out of that perch, so he needed somewhere else to watch the final few overs.

Cook, however, gave up on that when James Anderson lasted just two deliveries, instead relying on a running commentary from fitness coach Huw Bevan and team mate Jonathan Trott.

When last man Monty Panesar mistimed his dive trying to get off strike, Cook said there were a few "ooh-aahs", followed by a string of expletives, from the amateur commentators. Then, like the rest of the 6,754 spectators at Eden Park, laughter.

And finally, when Matt Prior blocked the last ball from Trent Boult to save the match and series, with England on 315 for nine, relief.

"Yeah it was quite a nerve-racking day when you can't do anything about it," Cook told reporters.

"Ideally you don't want to be in that situation but the character we have shown today...can only be a good thing.

"We have proven to be quite a tough side to beat, which we will need in the coming months."

Locked 0-0 after two rain-affected draws, Tuesday's final day of the series promised so much.

New Zealand had not beaten a major cricketing nation since they overcame West Indies 2-0 at home in 2006 and the England series had been attractive advertisement for the longer form of the game that ebbed and flowed throughout.

Auckland's New Zealand *Herald newspaper*, the country's largest, had put the



RELIEF: England's Matt Prior (left) celebrates with Monty Panesar after saving the test match against New Zealand on day five of their final cricket test at Eden Park. Photo: Reuters

match on the front page with the caption "We can do it" emblazoned across a photo of Tim Southee being congratulated by captain Brendon McCullum with the knowledge that just six wickets were needed to wrap up the win.

Truancy officers would have done a roaring trade at Eden Park as fathers and grandfathers took advantage of the offer of free entry for children, hoping to create a shared experience of a rare test success against the England team.

Tension gradually ratcheted up throughout the day as Ian Bell and Joe Root battled through the first 105 minutes and neighbors began to look nervously at each other wondering if England may get to the break without losing a wicket.

'Friendly' text messages began to fly between expat Englishmen and New

Zealanders about whether the tourists would survive, not just the session but the entire day. The second new ball, however, gave the hosts renewed hope.

Paceman Boult steamed in and with a delivery that nipped back from middle stump, he had Root trapped in front for 29.

In his next over, the final one before lunch, Bell was dropped by Dean Brownlie at fourth slip before Jonny Bairstow was spilled by Kane Williamson in the gully two balls later.

The match was crackling with tension with Bairstow's dismissal after the break as New Zealand's bowlers, knowing the Bell-Prior partnership was the one to break, charged in, seeking that one delivery that would tip the game in their favor.

Southee hit Prior on the pads twice in one over. One appeal was turned down, the

next was successful, but the England wicketkeeper immediately asked for a review, knowing that he had nicked the ball into his legs first.

Less than 10 minutes later, Prior mistimed a pull shot from a Southee bouncer and Neil Wagner turned at mid-on, bolted 20 meters in a desperate attempt to make the catch that would place the hosts under huge pressure.

His diving effort fell just short, however. Wagner then hit Prior in the helmet and the ball dropped down the face of the stumps, bounced and spun back and nestled at the foot of the wickets but failed to dislodge the bails.

The left-arterm ultimately had the final say when a tired-looking Bell fell in the final over before tea and New Zealand's players celebrated as if they had won the match.

Play after the tea break only heightened the drama.

Every ball that zipped past the bat was greeted with an almighty "Oooooohhh" from the crowd, while cries of "Catch it!" from the field and deliveries thudding into pads periodically brought them to their feet.

Prior, as is his style, counter punched, while Broad simply stayed put, taking 102 minutes to get off the mark.

The introduction of part-time spinner Williamson, however, changed the match when he had Broad and Anderson caught by Ross Taylor at slip in the same over, sending Panesar out to join Prior for the final 19 deliveries.

Panesar almost chopped his first delivery onto the stumps, fell over himself trying to give the strike back to Prior and played and missed at two deliveries before he managed to push a single off Boult to leave his partner to face the final three deliveries.

On the third, Prior blocked it away raised his arms and the traveling Barmy Army rose to their feet in jubilation. – Reuters



WORLD CLASS: Thanyapura's Aquatics Center welcomes Asia's rising sport stars.

Dive into TSLC

THANYAPURA Sports and Leisure Club (TSLC) welcomes some of Asia's most prolific rising sport stars from Malaysia, the Philippines, Hong Kong and mainland China, to compete alongside local swimmers in the 2013 Thanyapura Long Course Swim Championships on March 30-31.

The competition takes place at Thanyapura's world-class Olympic standard Aquatics Center.

"We are excited to be hosting yet another of Asia's sporting events aimed at young people here at Thanyapura, we really believe in inspiring the young athletes of today in their pursuit of sporting excellence and that is exactly what is achieved by hosting these international events. Also, we are proud to be drawing worldwide attention to Phuket, strengthening Thailand's global reputation as a major sports destination," said Thanyapura President Robert Hauck.

This latest event at Thanyapura has attracted some of the biggest sports names in the Asia-Pacific region, including the ex-coach of the Australian Swim Team and former director of swimming at the Singapore Swimming Association, John Dempsey, who has previously coached a number of high-profile swimmers, such as 200 meter butterfly world record holder Jessica Schipper, who will also be in attendance as the coach of the Hong Kong-based Ladies Recreational Club.

Presenting the awards will be world-renowned and well-respected coach, Roly Crichton from England, who is now based

in New Zealand and has coached one of the most successful Paralympic swimmers of all time, Sophie Pascoe, winner of six gold and four silver medals at the Beijing and London Olympics.

"Once again, we will be seeing some really promising swimmers here at the Aquatics Academy, including 13-year-old Francesca Ho Ching Leung from Hong Kong, who is a very exciting up-and-coming swimmer, leading the way in all of her events. Also heading up the field in every event with some potentially very fast swimming is 19-year-old Filipino talent Daniel Gian Berino," elaborates Thanyapura's director of aquatics, Simon Jones.

Among the teams taking part will be the Aquatics Academy's own resident junior swim team 'Silverfinz', as well as TSLC's CSR project 'Team Extreme' - six young aspiring athletes from local schools Ban Bang Tao and Thalang.

There will be 16 teams competing in the event in total: Alice Smith School from Malaysia; RP Swimming League from the Philippines; the Hong Kong clubs comprising Coast Aquatics, Select Athletes, Ladies Recreational Club, Excel Sports and ISFA; Shanghai-based Champion Swim Club and Concordia International School as well as Dulwich Colleges Shanghai and Beijing and Thai teams, Bangkok Dolphins, International School of Samui and local Phuket teams Flying Fish, Silverfinz and Team Extreme.

- *Phuket Gazette*

Recycle with Phuket Soccer Schools

PHUKET Soccer Schools (PSS) has been running a football equipment recycling program on the island for the past three years. The program benefits underprivileged youth players from the local Thai community.

PSS collects used or new equipment (in good condition) from their customers at various coaching and academy programs around Phuket. Then they distribute it to worthy children at various facilities, organizations and clubs on the island.

Previous donations were made to Barnhem Muang Mai, a Swedish-run home for underprivileged children and families in north Phuket, Baan Par Klong Cheap School, a

local Thai school in Thalang, and the "Thalang Tigers", a junior football club.

Phuket Soccer Schools (PSS) are currently looking for donations of used soccer equipment. So, please have a look in your garage, bedroom or store room, and if you have any boots, shin pads, shirts, socks, balls or anything else soccer related, please contact PSS. They will help distribute the much needed equipment.

- *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about the PSS recycling program, or to make a donation, please contact: Martin Hill 085 331 0295 or info@phuketsoccerschools.com



PRECISE: Laguna's Sami Ullah finds the middle pin to bowl Patong's Paddy Morton.



Patong's Richard Desmond bowls to Laguna's Sameer Khan. Photos: Michael Way

Patong stay on top

IN ONE of the most highly anticipated matches of the second round, league leaders Patong took on the undefeated Laguna side on a scorching hot day at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG).

Patong managed to beat Laguna for the first time in two seasons, which now sees them almost certain of a finals berth in the Jones Lang LaSalle Hotels league. Patong posted a solid score of 230-9 batting first, which proved too much for Laguna, who were bowled out for 143 in the 29th over.

After winning the toss, Patong had no hesitation in electing to bat and putting the Laguna side in the field, hoping to sap their energy under the hot sun. After a delay in commencing the match, as a result of the dismantling of the stage from the previous night's "Big Night Out" music event, Patong got off to a blistering start, hitting 12 runs from the 1st over.

Laguna eventually fought back getting a breakthrough when Sami Ullah bowled Mike Kahn in the 6th over. Ullah struck again just two balls later, bowling Paddy Morton. Shortly before the 10-over drinks break, Ullah was in the action again, running out Neil Quail and the match was evenly balanced at three wickets down for 58.

However, Patong consolidated their innings with a 38 partnership between Seemant Raju (47) and David Watson (35) until Seemant fell in the 14th over with the score on 96. Watson then teamed up with Manish Sadarangani (31) to post another 32 runs until he fell with the score on 128 in the 19th over. However, captain Anthony Van Blerk (45) put on a match winning 72 run partnership with Sadarangani, taking the score along to 200 until he was dismissed in the 32nd over.

The Patong tail then managed to accumulate a further 30 runs to take their innings total to 230 runs for the loss of nine wickets after their 35 overs. Pick of the bowlers for Laguna were Sami Ullah (3 for 43) and Sameer Khan (2 for 49).

After the lunch break, Laguna set out to chase down the Patong total. After opening batsmen Bill Stahmer (14) hit a six from the first ball of the innings, it looked like game on, however, their top order then collapsed with four wickets down for only 22 runs in the 5th over.

When Val Guiraud (13) fell lbw in the 8th over, Laguna were reeling with five wickets down for 40 runs. Sameer Khan (39) then combined with Roly Cooper (27) for a 55 run partnership before he fell on the last ball before the 20-over drink break with the score on 95. With another 136 runs required from 15 overs, a run rate of nine per over was going to be tough, with only four wickets in hand. Captain Stuart Reading (18) then teamed up with Cooper, looking to push the score along at the required run rate, but he fell in the 24th over.

The Laguna innings eventually ran out of steam, bowled out for only 143 runs in reply. Pick of the bowlers for Patong were Richard Desmond (3 for 22) and Manish Sadarangani (2 for 20).

Patong have now extended their lead at the top of the table on 33 points while the others will now fight it out for a finals berth.

This Sunday, March 31, sees the Village take on Laguna. Will the Village roll the normally unflappable Laguna or will Laguna put this defeat behind them and get back on track? Why not come down to the ACG and see for yourself.

- *Phuket Gazette*

Cyclists head to Phuket

THE final stage of this year's cycling event, the "Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Cup Tour of Thailand", will be held here in Phuket.

Lt Gen Decha Hemkasri, secretary general of the Thai Cycling Association, under the Royal Patronage of His Majesty The King said:

"The Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's Cup Tour of Thailand will [be] held from April 1-10 [in order] to celebrate Her

Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn 58th birthday, on April 2."

"The men's event will feature 25 international teams (including T-Thailand and T-All Star from Thailand) on April 1-6.

Mens cyclists will start from Suphanburi then head to Hua-Hin (Prachuap Khiri Khan), Chumphon, Ranong, Phang-Nga and finish in Phuket, covering a distance of [approximately] 999 kilometers" he added.

"The women's event will feature 15 international teams (including T-Thailand and T-All Star from Thailand) on April 8-10 covering a course Phuket - Phang Nga - Phuket, which is 299 kilometers."

The competition aims to improve the cycling skills of those taking part and also promote tourism.

Prize money for the event will total 1.5 million baht.

- *Phuket Gazette*

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Sport

The rise of Thailand's futsal team

National coach Vic Hermans talks about his ideas for futsal in Thailand



SIGHTSEEING: Thailand's national futsal coach, Vic Hermans (left) and Phuket United's assistant coach Patt "Tum" Sriwijit. Photo: Steven Layne

By Andrew Scott

SITTING on a weathered white couch in the VIP section of the Saphan Hin Indoor Sports Complex, Thailand's national futsal coach, Vic Hermans looks like he'd rather be on the touchline at the Phuket United vs Surat Thani match instead of watching it from the stands.

The Dutchman visited Phuket on March 2 to check out a few members of the Andaman Pearl, as well as seven players on Surat Thani's team, who currently play for Thailand's futsal team.

Vic's enthusiasm for the game rubs off on those he talks to and you get the sense that this is a man whose passion for the game means he would happily talk about it for hours. As with most fans who watch Phuket United, he agrees that the three Brazilians – Jackson Santos, Marcos and Jardel – are the stand out players.

Coach Hermans singled out Marcos for praise.

"He looks like the leader of the team. He tells the players, even the coach what to do. He will be a manager one day."

Vic Hermans started his career as a player for the football team MVV Maastricht in Holland, before crossing over to play futsal.

As a futsal player, his career spanned 23 years: winning the Dutch league five times, capped 50 times for the Dutch national team and in the 1989 Futsal World Cup, held in Holland, he was crowned the tournament's most valuable player.

When his playing days finished, Vic embraced his role as manager for the national teams of Hong Kong, Malaysia, Iran, Malta and now Thailand. He doesn't believe futsal as a game has changed much over the years.

"I see the same style. Everywhere I have been, I have seen the same style. Even here I see the same style as it was in my time, only it is faster."

The Thai national team has not played a competitive match since last November's World Cup – won by Brazil – which was held in Bangkok.

Thailand made it to the second round before eventually losing 7-1 to the beaten finalists Spain. Vic was happy with his team's performance, as they have never made it past the group stages in their three previous world cup appearances, but the gulf in class between teams such as Spain and Brazil compared to Thailand was evident to anyone who followed the World Cup.



BUILDING A TEAM: Vic Hermans (second left) and the Thai national futsal team at their first get-together earlier this year after the World Cup. Photo: Vic Hermans

Vic told the *Gazette* that in order for the Thailand to catch up, the futsal infrastructure in the country needs to change

"The Thai national team is number one for the people but I think the league is more important. The league in Thailand is so important, as every week they play games at a high level. Thailand must have a well structured league competition. The league must be played regularly from August to March – that's the main priority."

The current GMM Thailand Futsal Premier League has come to an end and focus will once again shift to the national team.

He added: "The other thing is in Thailand we have a lot of young players and there is nothing for the young players."

I tried to set up an under-21 team. When you have an under-21 team, the national team will feel the pressure. Last year, in St Petersburg, I was invited to the under-21 tournament, which had teams like Spain competing but Thailand could not enter a team. For the next under-21 tournament we need to enter a team."

Spain and Brazil are the dominant futsal nations and Thailand should follow their lead to help the country evolve as a futsal nation, not only in the way they play, but the actions

of the players off the pitch.

"What we should do is look at teams like Spain, Argentina and Brazil and see what we can take from them. For example, their mentality and how they prepare for a game, how they [spend] their rest time. Thailand's players, when they finish the game, they go to their room in the evening and look on YouTube and [other idle activities]... no no.

When you watch Spain's team or Brazil's team, watch what they do after a game – massage, healthy eating, rest. Our Thai players can learn a lot from that mentality."

Obviously, the top futsal nations also show Thailand how a team should perform on the pitch

"We must think more tactically. The Brazilians can play slow but here they think we must play fast. Controlling the game with the ball is key. When you have the ball I cannot score. When we have the ball we try to move it too much, too fast... I tell them to wait, wait."

The honor of hosting the Futsal World Cup was not lost on Thailand, even if the country suffered the indignation of failing to construct the tournament's 12,000-seater indoor futsal stadium in time for the Cup. Vic hopes that his players used the World Cup experience as a learning curve.

"When the team gets together in April, that will be my first question to the boys, 'What are your feelings from the World Cup?' I am looking in the mirror and I want to know if they are looking in the mirror."

Vic has a lot of faith in his project but he is aware that it will be a long term one. The country as a whole needs to work together to help futsal grow and move on to the next level.

"I think Thailand can be level with Brazil and Spain. But we need to make a project and decide what we are going to do at certain points. Have projects for kids. Make Phuket important, make Lamphang important, make Chiang Mai important and you will see you have a lot of potential from players. You must find discipline with the players and you have to give them direction."

Vic Hermans knows which direction Thailand needs to go in order for the national team to catch up with Brazil and Spain in the long run, but he will need help from Thailand's futsal league, clubs and players.

In the short term, Thailand will compete at the 4th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games to be held at Incheon, Korea, from June 29 to July 6.



Jenson Button drives during the F1 Grand Prix at Sepang. Photo: Reuters

Malaysia hope to keep F1 at Sepang

THE Malaysian government is considering extending its contract to host the Formula One race at Sepang after it ends in 2015, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said on March 24.

"We will be seriously looking into it [renewing the contract]. We have to look at the terms and conditions and all that... and we will make the decision when the time comes," he told reporters after the 2013 Petronas Malaysian Grand Prix race at the Sepang Circuit.

Najib noted that Malaysia had a proven

record in organizing international events.

"Organizing the Formula One has put Malaysia on the world map. It shows that Malaysia can organize an international event of this stature; we have support from the local as well as the international community. So, all in all, it has been positive," he said.

Najib said he was happy with the results produced by the Malaysian-backed Mercedes AMG Petronas F1 Team. The team's drivers – Lewis Hamilton and Nico Rosberg – finished the race in third and fourth positions respectively.

The race was won by Germany's Sebastian Vettel.

Meanwhile, Sepang International Circuit Sdn Bhd (SIC) chairman Datuk Mokhzani Tun Mahathir said there was a great possibility that SIC would renew the contract to host the Formula One race.

"We will discuss the matter, then we will get the views of the spectators and sponsors. We will then have to see whether the organizer wants to continue [the contract] or not.

"The decision has yet to be made," said Mokhzani. – MCOT

Sport

Pearl conclude season with 7th straight win



IN THE AIR: Phuket lost despite having more shots. Photos: Steven Layne

'Fire Power' burn Phuket's cup hope

By Steven Layne

A LATE added-time goal, was enough for the PTT Rayong "Fire Power" to douse Phuket FC's Toyota League Cup ambitions in a closely fought match last Saturday in Phuket Town.

Played in front of about 4,700 fans at Phuket's Surakul Stadium, the cup match between the two Yamaha One League (YL1) teams yielded the same score-line as the last time these two sides met last year.

The match's only goal was scored by Rayong's speedy Ivorian striker, Amadou Ouattara, who came off the bench in the second half.

"I wasn't expecting to play today, but it worked out good for us in the end," a euphoric Amadou told the *Phuket Gazette* after the match.

Both sides enjoyed a number of chances, and despite the visitors advancing, the home team's Brazilian star striker Luiz 'Dudu' Eduardo was honored as "Man of the Match".

Dudu, who had more scoring chances than anyone else, commented: "Even though I was awarded Man of the Match, I'm quite sad... It was our side who attacked more and had more chances tonight. I want to say sorry to all the fans, and that now we will really focus hard on getting promoted to the Thai Premier League."

Phuket FC Coach Paniphon Kerdyuem remarked: "The result is regrettable as we missed out on several scoring chances. They [PTT Rayong] deserve credit as they were a strong team and we were unable to beat them this time."

"I also want to give praise to our players. We made a mistake and let our guard down in extra time, but other than that, did our best."

On the more cheerful end of the pitch, PTT Rayong Head Coach Noppaporn Eksatra said: "We were underdogs. Our team was not in the best form today. Phuket FC came at us with everything, but we had good team spirit. Luck does play a part in football sometimes and today we were lucky."

Phuket FC will now focus their efforts back on the YL1 2013 season, with their next match on the road on March 31 against TTM (Thai Tobacco Monopoly) Lopburi.

TTM Lopburi were relegated from the TPL last year (as TTM Chiang Mai).

The match will be played on Sunday, March 31. Although initially set to take place in Lopburi (at 4pm), the *Gazette* has learned that the game has been switched to a pitch located off of Khlong 6, just north of Bangkok in Rangsit, Pathum Thani province.



Luiz "Dudu" Purcino.



Thongchai Kuenkhunthod kicks the ball.



STRONG FINISH: Phuket's Jackson Santos (center) scored a hat trick in the team's final match against Highways Department. Photo: Natakorn Nimmanee

By Steven Layne

The island's pro futsal team Phuket United ended the GMM Sport Thailand Futsal Premier League (TFPL) 2012-2013 season in fine form last Saturday in Bangkok, beating lowly Highways Department 2-4 to secure a top-five league finish.

The season closer comes in contrast to Phuket's season debut in which they were defeated by the same team on the same pitch.

The victory was the Andaman Pearl's seventh in a row, and ensures that they met their initial season goal of being one of the top five of 16 teams in the national futsal league.

Played at Fashion Island Futsal Arena in Bangkok, the match was both sides 30th and final match of the season.

Going into the game ranked 6th with 48 points, Phuket needed nothing short of three points to move past CAT FC for a 5th place finish.

Employing a quick 'samba' start, Phuket took an early two goal lead, first through Brazilian

powerhouse, Marcos in the second minute.

Marcos nearly scored again from just inside the area four minutes later, but it was Phuket's top scorer Jackson Santos, also from Brazil, who reacted first and drove it in to the back of the net.

But the home team quickly answered with two goals by Noppaporn Suti on 11 minutes and a penalty by Chainarong Thipkanha on 16 minutes.

Phuket controlled play for much of the second half, but a string of fouls by both teams slowed the game down.

With his eyes on finishing as runner up for the golden boot, Santos found the net in the 36th minute, going on to complete his hat trick in the final minute.

Santos concludes his first – but hopefully not last – season with Phuket with 36 goals, becoming the runner up for golden boot, which was sealed by Si Saket's star Brazilian Ramualdo Namorato (39 goals).

The Highways Department, along with Leo Bang Seu will be relegated from the TFPL.



LEAGUE TABLE FINAL

Rank	Team	GP	Pts.
1	Chonburi	89	81
2	Thai Port	25	63
3	Si Saket	59	60
4	Bangkok	35	56
5	Phuket Utd	13	51
6	CAT	13	50
7	Surat Thani	-3	47
8	Lampang Utd	-9	45
9	Royal Navy	12	43
10	Nonthaburi FC	-12	40
11	Samut Songkhram	2	38
12	Prachin FC	-11	33
13	Samut Sakhon	-30	31
14	Samut Prakarn	-63	21
15	Highways Dep	-58	14
16	Leo Bang Seu	-66	13

TOP SCORERS

Rank	Scorer	Goals
1	Romualdo Namorato (Si Saket)	39
2	Jackson Santos (Phuket Utd)	36
3	Jessada Chudet (Royal Navy)	35
4	Natee Tusiri (Samut Sakhon)	32
5	Supawut Thienklang (Chonburi)	28

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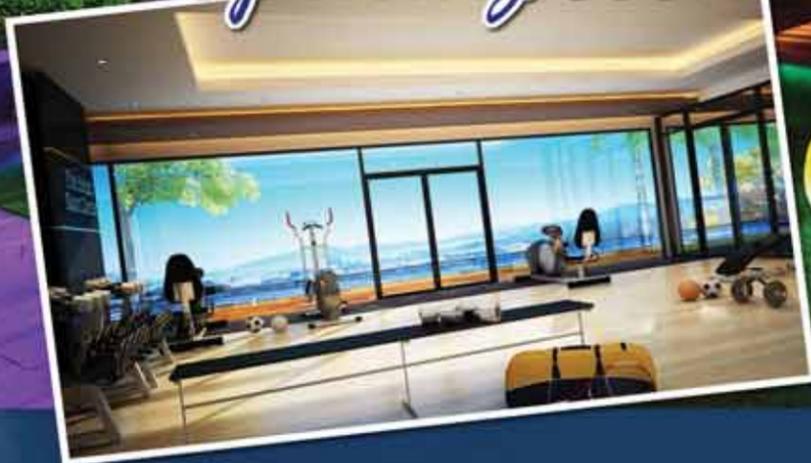
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