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Phuket Gazette



Alleged kidnapping victim discovered seriously injured

Arrest warrants issued for prime suspects, one victim still missing

INSIDE TODAY

March 22 - 28, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net | In partnership with The Nation

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Police hunt child killer

■ Mother's nightmare preamble to DNA test result confirmation

By **Irfan Jamdukor**

MORE than three months after 7-year-old Natthapa "Nong Dear" Papkaew disappeared, her mother had a nightmare that her beloved daughter had been raped by a tall man with a knife. Jaroon Papkaew, Nong Dear's mother, woke from the horrific vision only to discover a graver nightmare: DNA tests confirmed that the human remains found in a Chalong pine field were those of her daughter.

The case that started in December as a search for a missing child is now a murder investigation, and police are pursuing a suspect who they say is not the 30-year-old family friend, Khun Boy, who was last seen with the girl.

Khun Boy was initially in the spotlight when Nong Dear's family could not contact him and he failed to respond to two summonses from the police.

However, on Monday, he appeared at the home of Nong Dear's parents and explained that the summonses had arrived at an address where he does not live.

Accompanied by Nong Dear's parents, he...

Continued on Page 6



Jaroon Papkaew, Nong Dear's mother, weeps over the DNA test results confirming the remains.

Struggle to hack illegal logging

SIX men have walked free after being sentenced for their roles in an illegal logging gang.

Nonetheless, officers are continuing their battle to save protected trees in forest preserves from the bite of the many illegal lumberjacks' chainsaws on the island.

Full story on Pages 4-5

Brit fugitive picked up by Filipinos

MICHAEL Taylor, who fled Phuket after he allegedly killed his girlfriend, was arrested in the Philippines for overstay.

Mr Taylor, also known as "Mick the Pom", skipped out on bail in 2004.

He had since established a bar in the Philippines, claiming that his notoriety was good for business.

Full story on Page 2

Advisory

Booze Ban

A BAN on alcohol sales will be in effect from 6pm Saturday to midnight Sunday for advance polling for Senate election.

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This Week



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A new family-friendly project opens near Layan beach. **Page 13**



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12mn baht Koh Kaew canal dredging project commences. **Page 16**



Events
Late DJ Josh Ezelle's lust for life and music celebrated. **Page 34**



In Focus
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Environment
Phuket's natural heritage is disappearing due to development. **Page 44**



Sport
90 minutes of effort by both teams leaves no winners. **Page 47**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Wednesday



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Thursday



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Filipino police arrest Michael John Taylor

By Gazette Reporters

BRITISH murder fugitive Michael John Taylor, better known in Phuket as "Mick The Pom", has been arrested in the Philippines.

Mr Taylor, who turned 50 years old last year, was wanted for the stabbing murder of his girlfriend Jantra Weangta, 27, in Phuket.

Ms Jantra was found stabbed to death in Mr Taylor's rented bungalow near Chalong Pier on August 17, 2004.

The *Gazette* first received unofficial reports that Mr Taylor was taken into custody by officers from the Philippines Bureau of Immigration, which is currently staging a major offensive against fugitives staying in the country.

Then on March 13 the *Hull Daily Mail*, the local newspaper in Mr Taylor's hometown in the UK, ran the story of his arrest and quoted a British Foreign Office spokesman as saying, "We can confirm the arrest of a British national in the Philippines on March 6 and we are providing consular assistance".

The arrest comes after long delays and inaction by Phuket law enforcement authorities under the previous Provincial Police Commander Choti Chavalwivat, who



'Mick the Pom' was arrested on March 6 in the Philippines. Photo: Gazette file

had been informed of Mr Taylor's whereabouts last year.

Gen Choti retired from the Royal Thai Police last year.

His replacement, Maj Gen Ong-

art Phiewruangnont, handed the case to one of his leading deputies within days of taking up the post of Phuket's top-ranking police officer.

Drug mule busted with ya ice

CUSTOMS officers at Phuket International Airport on March 11 arrested a drug mule attempting to smuggle 7 million baht of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) from China into Phuket.

The 37-year-old woman, Pornphat Wattanachaisen, was on a watchlist for possible involvement in drug smuggling when she departed from Bangkok to China, said Phuket Airport Customs Director Montira Cherdchoo.

"We learned that Ms Pornphat left Hong Kong on Tuesday via AirAsia Flight 2965. When she arrived in Phuket at about 11:30pm, we presented ourselves as Customs officers and searched her luggage," said Ms Montira.



Ms Pornphat was apprehended in Phuket with 2kg of *ya ice*. Photo: Customs

"We found two kilograms of what appeared to be *ya ice* hidden in her bag. After testing the substance to verify we were correct, we charged her for possession and trafficking of a Category 1 drug

with intent to sell."

"Ms Pornphat has been handed over to the Narcotics Suppression Bureau for further investigation," she added.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Dazed and confused expat drives into appliance shop

POLICE are looking for an explanation as to what caused a car driven by a Danish expat to fly off the road and plunge into an appliance store in Thalang last Thursday evening.

Officers arrived at the scene, about 250 meters from Baan Nai Klam Mosque on the southbound side of Thepkrasattri Road, at about 6:30pm.

The 50-year-old driver, Per Erichsen, was in a daze, said Chatree Chuwichian of the Thalang Police.

"He was in shock," Lt Chatree explained. "He said he did not remember what happened."

Worathep Pattamawiriya, 19,



Mr Erichsen was taken to Thalang Hospital for treatment.

said Mr Erichsen's car started to drift as it passed him moments before the accident.

"The car cut across in front of my motorbike and crashed into the shop," he said. "It was like the driver was asleep."

- Thawit Bilabdullar

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30 cops take down 30 gamblers

PHUKET and Bangkok police last Thursday arrested more than 30 people for gambling on football in Phuket Town.

About 30 officers took part in the raid at a shop near the Nimit Circle (also called the Seahorse Circle), said Phuket City Police Superintendent Sermphan Sirikong.

"We went in at about 9pm and found more than 30 people either filling in gambling forms or watching TV," he said.

"We rounded the suspects up and took them to the police station to check their criminal records. Gambling is not a serious crime, but raids like this present an opportunity for us to nab criminals who



The raid took place near the Seahorse circle. Photo: Google Maps

might be on the run."

"The Bangkok police weren't along for any special reason, it's just a part of their job to visit every province and participate in raids like this."

After the record check at the station, eight men and two women were charged for gambling and the rest were released. The 10 accused are out on bail and attended court

last Friday to pay a fine.

"I know that people find pleasure in gambling. As long as it doesn't harm anyone, it's not very serious; but please keep in mind that it is illegal and if we find you doing it, we will arrest you," said Col Sermphan.

- Chutharat Plerin

Medical experts says pesticides cause of Belanger sisters' deaths

TWO Canadian sisters who died mysteriously on the popular resort island of Phi Phi in 2012 may have ingested toxic amounts of a lethal pesticide called aluminum phosphide, reports Canadian news network CBC.

The highly toxic pesticide is used to control bedbugs in some holiday hotels in Asia and may have contributed to the deaths of Audrey and Noemi Belanger, as well as several other tourists, according

to new evidence from an investigation by CBC's *the fifth estate* and Radio-Canada's *Enquete*.

The Belanger sisters were found dead in their room at the Phi Phi Palms Residence on June 15, 2012, covered in vomit, with similar signs of trauma on their bodies and blue fingernails and toenails.

In Canada, the use of aluminum phosphide is strictly regulated, and fumigators must get six months of training before they

can handle it, CBC reported. Denis Bureau, a fumigation specialist in Quebec who is licensed to use it, told *the fifth estate*'s Mark Kelley that it could kill a human in less than two hours if the concentration is high enough.

"If you're asleep in the room next to it or in the room where it's been under fumigation, you'll be dead in a few hours," Mr Bureau said.

- *Phuket Gazette*



The Belanger sisters may have ingested a lethal dose of pesticides. Photo: Gazette file

Police hunt suspected kidnappers

By Woranut Pechdee

POLICE have announced that they are seeking arrest warrants for two suspects in the alleged kidnapping of a Russian couple.

At a late-night press conference on Tuesday, police named in Thai the two suspects as expats Alexander Novichkov and Andrey (no surname provided).

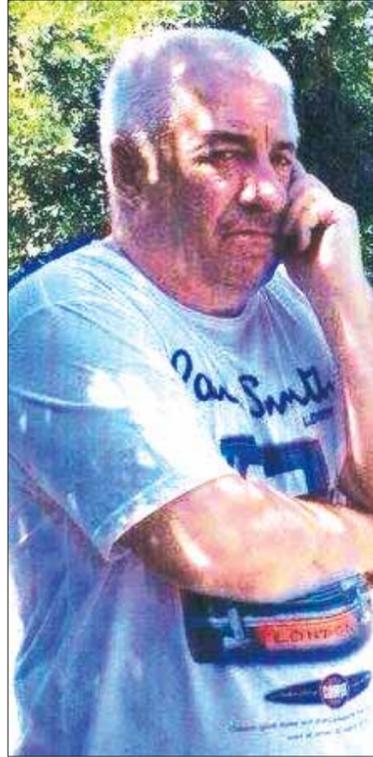
Iana Strizheus, 22, and her 39-year-old boyfriend, Alexey Slabinskiy, were reported missing by friends on March 12. Ms Strizheus was found injured and in shock in a hotel room in Cherng Talay on March 16. Her boyfriend has not yet been found.

Police believe that an argument over money between the couple and the two men is at the root of the case, but as of Tuesday were still not sure whether it was a genuine kidnapping that had transpired or a hoax to extort money.

The mystery surrounding the Russian twosome began on March 7, the last time they were seen by friends (see timeline).

It wasn't until nine days later that Ms Strizheus was discovered badly injured and alone at the Blue Garden Resort and Spa in Cherng Talay.

Ms Strizheus was taken to hospital and initially did not respond to questioning by police.



WANTED: Mr Andrey (left) and Mr Novichkov (right). Photo: Supplied

Provincial Police Chief Ong-art Phiwruangnont ordered a round-the-clock guard outside her room.

"We don't know how she was injured, but given the circumstances, we are taking the precaution of posting a guard at her room," Maj Gen Ong-art said.

Ms Strizheus later spoke to police, but Gen Ong-art said, "We

believe she's only telling 50 per cent of what she knows."

Police continue to search for all three men and are confident they can solve the case.

"We expect to have answers within a few days," Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Kaewwatee said on Tuesday night.

Incident Timeline

March 7: Relatives of Mr Slabinskiy, in Russia, receive a call from the couple alleging that they were kidnapped. Relatives are asked to send US\$100,000. No money is transferred.

March 8: Ms Strizheus checks into the Bang Tao Village Resort at 8:30pm, accompanied by the two suspects currently being sought by police.

March 12: Ms Strizheus reported missing by friends.

March 13: Mr Slabinskiy's relatives contacted by Ms Strizheus. Relatives told that if the money isn't sent, Mr Slabinskiy would be killed.

Noon: Ms Strizheus calls her younger sister in Russia, says that her hands and feet are tied up and she needs help.

Sister posts a frantic message online detailing the call and asking for help.

Alexander Kolesnikov, a Region 8 Police Volunteer, sees the message and contacts local police officers.

4:10pm: Ms Strizheus checks out of the hotel alone, but is immediately picked up by the two suspects.

5pm: Ms Strizheus calls her sister again and says that she is "free and safe" and going to see a friend in Cherng Talay. Relatives and police then discover that Ms Strizheus' telephone has been turned off.

March 14: At about midnight, Ms Strizheus checks into the Blue Garden Resort and Spa in Cherng Talay with the two men. Staffers see one suspect leaving the hotel.

March 16: A hotel employee visits Ms Strizheus' room to ask her to pay. Staffer finds Ms Strizheus on her bed in shock and badly injured.

Ms Strizheus is taken to Bangkok Hospital Phuket and later transferred to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where Gen Ong-art ordered a 24-hour police guard outside her room.

March 18: Police continue their search for the two suspects, as well as Mr Slabinskiy.

Blackout heralds end of worst drought in 30 years

A BLOWN transformer caused a two-hour blackout in parts of Phuket last Saturday as scattered showers broke the island's lowest recorded rainfall between the months of January and March for 30 years.

Electricity shut off in Chalong, Rawai, Kathu, Patong, Kathu and some areas of Phuket Town at about 3pm.

"After we got calls from the public, we sent a repair crew out. Within two hours, every area had electricity again," said Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority engineer Worasak Malarat.

The blackout came one day after Governor Maitri Inthusut chaired an annual meeting at the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation-Phuket (DDPM-Phuket) office to plan water usage strategies for the dry season.

"After receiving the reports of record-low rainfall levels, I became concerned about having enough water to sustain Phuket residents throughout the dry sea-



The volume of water released from the Bang Wad Reservoir (pictured) will be reduced, said Governor Maitri Inthusut. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

son. We must prepare for possible water shortages," said Governor Maitri.

Phuket has 3.3 million cubic meters of water in the Bang Wad Reservoir and 6.61mn cubic meters of water in the Bang Niew Dum reservoir, said Gov Maitri, which is enough to last until May.

"In order to ensure that we will have enough water to last until the next rainy season, I ordered Phuket Provincial Waterworks Authority [PWA] and the Phuket Irrigation Office [PIO] to reduce the volume of water they release each day," explained Gov Maitri.

— *Saran Mitrarat*

Carving a

SIX men were arrested in November for illegal possession of more than 50 kilograms of eaglewood. One of the men was caught with an illegal .45 handgun under his pillow.

Today, those six men roam free, all released on suspended sentences.

Here, the *Phuket Gazette's* Irfarn Jamdukor investigates the island's illegal logging trade.

SIX men were arrested during a morning raid of two neighboring houses near Kathu Municipality Kindergarten on November 18.

Five of them pleaded guilty to illegal possession of eaglewood, resulting in a speedy handing down of an initial sentence of three months in prison and a fine of 2,000 baht per person.

"All of them confessed, so the penalty was reduced to 45 days in prison and a fine of 1,500 baht each," said an officer at Phuket Provincial Court.

"The judge then suspended the jail terms and ordered the men to one-year probation."

The men spent the night at Thung Thong Police Station, but were free to go after their sentences were suspended the next day – despite being caught with contraband with a street value of more than 300,000 baht.

As the men were charged under Section 29 of the Forest Act BE 2484 (1941), the maximum penalty could have been up to one year in prison or a fine of up to 10,000 baht, or both, the court officer explained.

The current whereabouts of the men – Wiangchai Srichan, 34; Udon Srichan, 32; Thanad Petrit, 45; Sanan Kodking, 42; and Anucha Somsung, 38 – are unknown.

The sixth man, Wirat Sunsuwan, 38,

stood trial on January 20. Mr Wirat was charged with illegal possession of a firearm and ammunition after officers conducting the raid found an illegal .45 handgun, fully loaded, under his pillow.

"He was sentenced to two years in jail, but the sentence was halved, then commuted to two years' probation," said Maj Pramuan Jaikratok of the Thung Thong Police.

NIGHT PATROL

The rising incidence of illegal loggers plundering Phuket's protected forests has prompted officers to boost patrols up to five times a week, including night patrols.

"Many protected forests in Phuket are logged by different gangs," Maj Pramuan explained.

Paisarn Noopichai, chief of the Royal Forest Department (RFD)'s Deforestation Prevention and Suppression Phuket office noted that three areas were particularly prone to illegal logging: the Nakkered Hills behind Karon, the hills in Thalang; and the area near the Bang Wad Reservoir in Kathu.

"These gangs stash their illegal wood in houses near the forests or hide it somewhere in the jungle, but it seems each gang does not know where the other gangs keep their wood," he said.

IN THE DARK

The November arrests have reinvigorated interest in combating illegal loggers.

"After arresting this gang, we contacted other officers to be on the lookout for illegal logging in protected forest areas," Maj Pramuan said.

Chief Paisarn revealed that although his teams of officers had arrested five gangs of illegal loggers during the past two years, the persistence of the nighttime cutting crews was gnawing at him.

"We are very concerned about this. I believe there are many gangs in Phuket, and in

the past two years we have discovered more than 20 large eaglewood trees, as well as ironwood and *takien sai* trees, felled in protected Phuket forests," he said.

"These logging gangs operate at night and they separate into teams to scour the forest for trees to fell, which makes it very difficult for us to find them.

"We recently increased the number of our patrols, but we don't have enough officers to comprehensively protect the forests – which cover huge areas – and we're trying to find the loggers in the dark, which is not easy."

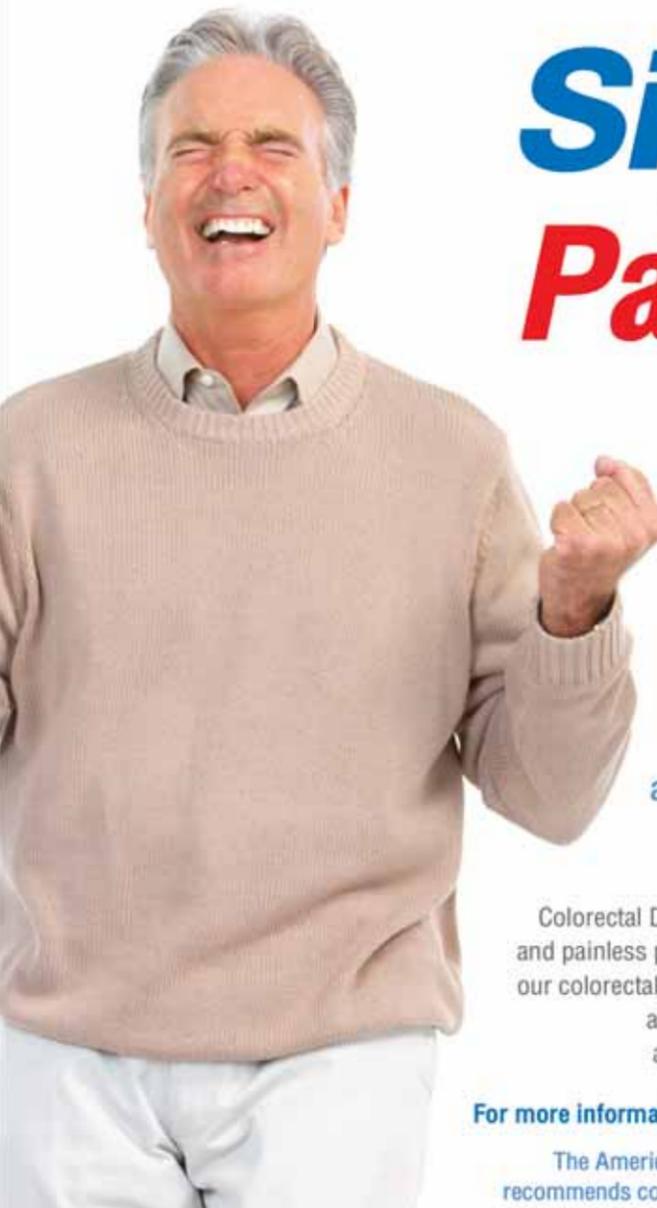
What officials did learn from the November raid is that felled wood



'The gangs operate at night and separate into teams to scour the forest for trees to fell'

— **Paisarn Noopichai,**
Royal Forest Department

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BLACK MARKET

Chief Paisarn was at pains to point out that 250 species of trees are protected under Thai law, but that eaglewood was the most likely to be targeted by illegal loggers.

“Eaglewood is the main target because the tree can be used to make fragrances,” he said.

“Top-quality eaglewood could fetch almost 100,000 baht per kilogram, while the parts of the wood not used to make fragrances can be used to make wooden products.”

Chief Paisarn estimates that the RFD, established specifically to protect natural forests throughout Thailand, knows of only 20 to 30 per cent of the total number of eaglewood trees on the island.

“These trees grow throughout Thailand and are more common in the South... but the number of these trees is diminishing. That’s why we have to protect them.”

See also our Feature Story ‘Going, going gone...’ on page 44, and our Editorial ‘Environmental time warp’ on page 18.

An officer points to the remains of what once was a protected tree, now stolen by illegal logging thieves to sell on the black market. Photo: Gazette file

stashed in the jungle is collected by transport crews who deliver it to customers waiting in Bangkok or other destinations elsewhere in Thailand, or even Malaysia.

“But we have learned nothing about the gangs and the networks of the operators who ply these routes,” Chief Paisarn said.

Col Natthapakin Kwanchaipruk, Superintendent of the Tah Chat Chai Police, confirmed that his officers had yet to make any arrests for lumber trafficking since he took charge of Phuket’s northernmost police station more than a year ago.

“Every truck carrying wood is stopped and checked at the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint,” Col Natthapakin said.

“However, it would be easy to hide illegal wood among a shipment of regular timber on the back of a truck.”

LEGACY

Much of the current impetus to target illegal loggers in Phuket stems from the passion former Kathu District Chief Veera Kerd-sirimongkol had for protecting the island’s forests.

Current Kathu Chief Sayan Chanachaiwong has vowed to maintain that pressure.

“This is an important issue. We do not want anyone destroying Phuket’s forests,” he said.

“Mr Veera did much good work and left behind many leads that we are still pursuing. Nearly everything I know about illegal logging in Phuket I learned from him.”

Chief Sayan, however, declined to reveal exactly which investigations were underway.

“We meet with relevant departments each month to learn the latest about the state of illegal log-

ging on the island and to develop strategies to prevent it,” he said.

“We also have volunteers to keep watch in certain areas and we have asked local villagers to inform us if they find any illegal

logging in their areas.”

However, Chief Paisarn noted, “Some villagers call in with tip-offs, but many do their best not to anger illegal loggers. After all, these gangs carry guns and knives.”

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THANYAPURA PHUKET



Nong Dear, pictured with her sister and her sister's boyfriend.

Nong Dear DNA test nightmare

From Page 1

...presented himself at Chalong Police Station and was questioned the same day, said Capt Thada Sodararak of the Chalong Police.

"The family believes he is not the killer and at this stage he is not a suspect," said Capt Thada.

Police declined to give any details about the suspect they are pursuing, as the investigation is ongoing.

On March 10, Mrs Jaroon and her husband rushed to the police station immediately after her nightmare. When they arrived, the police were calling to inform them of the unofficial DNA test results.

"We believe Nong Dear was murdered, but it is difficult to salvage any fingerprints from the remains," said Capt Thada.

"We are questioning villagers from the area in which we found the remains. We have already questioned several people. We believe we can make an arrest for this murder. We just need more time."

A heartbroken Mrs Jaroon said, "I want to know why anyone would murder a sweet little girl."

Nong Dear's father noted the changes in how villagers think about security.

"Families are now much more aware of the whereabouts of their children. Villagers have stepped up and volunteered to patrol the village twice every night. Children no longer walk around alone," he said.

"My daughter was the first missing child case in our village and she should be the last. I do not want any children in the village to go missing like Nong Dear did."

Shark killing elicits serious cyberspace reactions

PHOTOS posted online of a foreigner killing a shark at Kata Noi Beach prompted outrage, but the act was legal, a marine official said.

The pictures, posted on the Go Eco Phuket Facebook page last Friday, showed a man in the act of killing the shark on a rock. The post read, "We just received these awful pictures, it happened yesterday in Kata Noi beach."

Readers said they were shocked and appalled by the photos.

"We can't do anything to him," said Tanet Munnoy, chief of the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Region 5 Office.

"The photos show the foreigner at Kata Noi. It's legal to fish there, and the shark he

caught looks more than 50 centimeters long."

According to the Fisheries Act B.E. 2490, killing whale sharks is illegal, but killing other kinds of sharks is not, as long they are longer than 50 centimeters.

"I could not identify exactly which kind of shark is shown in the photos because the pictures were too small, however, it is certainly not a whale shark," Mr Tanet said.

Despite the legality of the action, Mr Tanet called upon island dwellers and visitors to refrain from killing sharks.

"It's sad what happened to that shark. In my opinion, it's better to leave them alone to live peacefully in the sea," he said.

— Saran Mitrarat



This picture was posted on Facebook, prompting angry responses. Photo: Go Eco Phuket

Officials hot on the park land encroachment trail

By Saran Mitrarat

THE plot thickened in the ongoing investigation into encroachment onto Sirinath Marine National Park last Sunday as five former park chiefs were accused of signing documents allowing encroachment.

"After reviewing land titles from owners in the area, we discovered that five chiefs signed their names, making it legal for landowners to build on land that is part of Sirinath National Park," said Samak Donnapee, Director of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP).

The five park chiefs accused — Thanapong Apaiao, Somkiet Soonthornpitakboon, Sukkhee Kamnuanslip, Jaruai Injan and Nontawit Jaturabanthid — worked at the park between 2005 and 2011, but are all now retired, Mr Samak said.

Current Park Chief Cheewapap Cheewatham has been tasked with filing police complaints against the five former officers.

"As part of our follow up investigation, we found one of the accused officers' signatures on documents provided by Baan Farang legalizing expansion of the resort.

"We inspected the resort and found that a new, small pier had been built on site."

The owner of the resort must present valid documents authoriz-



Park Chief Cheewapap Cheewatham led officers on the land encroachment investigation through the park.

ing the construction of the pier within one week, otherwise the DNP will file additional land encroachment complaints, warned Mr Samak.

However, the resort owner is suing Mr Cheewapap and former DNP chief Damrong Phidet for 45 million baht, claiming that the original encroachment investigation depreciated his land value and prevented him from selling it, said Mr Samak.

Trisara Resort also remains in the spotlight. When it was first

raided, it was found that the Chanote for the resort land was issued in 1994, even though Chanote titles for land in that area have not been issued since 1964.

"The Chanote is signed by the current owner, with his current name," explained Mr Samak.

"Records at the District Office show that at the time the documents were signed the owner was registered under a different name."

Meanwhile, two new targets came under fire for building on park land.

The Anantara Residence construction site allegedly built a stone pathway at its entrance that is encroaching on the national park, said Mr Samak.

Officials also inspected what they believe is an illegally built construction workers' camp in Cherng Talay.

"We are searching for the person associated with this building site to question them about the land rights. After that, we will file the complaint for the camp at the Cherng Talay Police Station."

Tourists safe after Patong Hill brake failure

THE driver of a Phuket tour bus avoided a serious accident on Patong Hill last Friday morning by running the bus off the road before driving down the steep slope on the east side of the hill.

Bus driver Sutthichai Pohad was ferrying about 20 Chinese tourists from Patong to Phuket Town at about 8am when he realized the brakes were failing, explained Sakchai Chunyong of the Thung Thong Police.

"Mr Sutthichai was worried he wouldn't be able



The driver was able to stop the bus. Photo: Thung Thong Police

to stop the bus, so he drove it off the road at the top of the hill before the vehicle gained too much speed," he told the *Gazette*.

"Luckily, he avoided plunging down the hill with no brakes." All passengers on board were safely evacuated from the bus and no injuries were reported, Maj Sakchai said.

"The Chinese tour company sent another bus to pick up the tourists so they could continue on to Phuket Town," he added. — Pannaphak Takruae

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Red Cross on the road for donations



Blood donations are always needed. Photo: Gazette file

THE Red Cross Society in Phuket is running mobile donation clinics during the month of March in hopes of restoring essential blood stocks.

"We currently only have 20 units of blood type A, 120 units of type B, 190 units of type O and 50 units of type AB," said Chief Pornthip Rattajak of the Phuket Regional Blood Center (PRBC).

"We need to maintain a minimum supply of 170 units of A, B and O blood types and we are always in need of more Rhesus-negative blood."

The PRBC often calls on Phuket residents to donate blood that could save the lives of both locals and foreigners.

Most recently, an urgent call for Rh-negative blood was made for a local teacher, Dean Jackson, after he broke his leg in a motorbike accident. Donors stepped forward and provided enough blood for doctors to be able to carry out the necessary surgery to repair his fractured leg.

To help replenish dwindling stocks, the mobile donation clinics will take place on the following dates:

March 21: Wang Talang Jewelry (Wichit), 11am-4pm

March 25-26: Tesco Lotus Extra, (bypass road), 11am-4pm

March 27: Central Festival Phuket, (bypass road), Midday-6pm

March 31: Makro (Wichit Songkram Road, Wichit), 1pm-4pm

Patong curfew after killing

By Saran Mittrarat

PATONG police announced last Friday that Myanmar workers living in Patong will be arrested if they are found outside their camps after 10pm.

The curfew is in response to the murder of a Thai man by a group of Myanmar nationals early last Tuesday morning in Patong.

"Construction operators typically keep the passports of their workers. If we stop workers out of their camps after 10pm, we will charge them with not being in possession of a passport and deport them from the country," said Patong Police Superintendent Col Chiraphat Pochanaphan.

Saksit Photong was leaving the Baan Mon night fair in Patong at about 2am on March 11 when he was attacked by 11 men on Phisit Gorani Road.

CCTV cameras in the area captured the attack and the footage has already led to the arrest of six of the men.

In the video footage, Mr Saksit is seen getting on a motorbike and driving off down a well-lit street. In the video are several other motorcyclists, pedestrians and people sitting by the side of the road.

One man abruptly stops Mr Saksit and strikes him. Mr Saksit gets off his bike and runs, but is pursued by the man and several



Any Burmese construction worker in Patong found outside his camp after 10pm will be deported.

others who rush to join the attack.

The men hit and kick Mr Saksit and one of them stabs him three times with a sharp tool before they run off. Other men then run up to hit or kick the fallen Mr Saksit before racing off.

Police examined the CCTV footage and spent almost three days searching for the suspects.

The first suspect arrested was Aron, 20, at a worker's camp near the Patong beach road on March

13. After that, police quickly rounded up Mac, 19, at a camp in Thung Thong; Ongteng, 19, and Pepsi, 21, in Karon; Aod, 22, in Palai; and Miewtoon, 23, near Phuket Villa 3 in Wichit, Lt Col Suttichai said.

"We found the murder weapon, still with blood on it, at Mac's house," he said.

"All of them confessed. Mac stabbed him, but all six have been charged with gang murder, even

though they told us they do not know each other."

The men told police they acted out of revenge.

"They said that two days before, one of them had been hit in the back with a bottle of beer at the Baan Mon night fair and they wanted pay-back," Lt Col Suttichai said.

"The one who was hit by the bottle was not seriously injured."

Police continue to search for the five other men.

Road to Freedom inches closer

THE controversial new road planned to provide access to Freedom Beach, south of Patong, took a step closer to becoming reality as the project passed its third and final public hearing last Friday.

About 80 of the 100 participants who joined the hearing voted to approve the project, rebounding from a 64 per cent approval vote from the 50-plus attendees at the second hearing on October 15 last year.

The first public hearing, held in July 2013, saw a 94 per cent approval rating.

Songkrit Sappakit, managing director of Phisut Technology Co, the consultancy hired by Patong Municipality to conduct the feasibility study, explained that the next step is to apply to the Office of the National Environment Board (ONEB) in Bangkok for approval.

"Once approved, construction will take two years to complete,"



Freedom Beach might soon have an access road. Photo: BlueEyeTea

Mr Songkrit said.

Local officials from the Royal Forest Department and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment will be consulted when filing the application with the ONEB.

Approval from both environmen-

tal offices is required as the planned route for the new road – which will connect Sirirat Road to Tri Trang Beach, and pass Freedom Beach en route – crosses protected forest and *SorPorKor* land.

Somyot Ua-Apisitwong, the Phisut Technology expert who is

compiling the Environmental Impact Assessment for the project, said his team spent nearly a year studying how the project will affect the area.

"We will include in our plans measures to prevent landslides, manage traffic, restrict heavy vehicles from passing through and replant trees in areas that will be affected," he said.

Out of the minority of local residents who objected to the project, Thanapong Chansawang, 45, voiced his concerns that the road would cause local boatmen to lose work as the number of tourists using their services would diminish and that the project itself would destroy the natural beauty of the area.

"The beach will be ruined when many tourists can easily get to it by using the road," he said.

– *Irfarn Jamdukor*

Police reach for the balls to unite business operators

PATONG Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan, ousted by the tuk-tuk blockade of Patong on March 3, is back and considering using ball sports, namely a football match, to unite competing factions in the busy resort town.

Col Chiraphat quietly returned to work on Monday, less than a week after his abrupt transfer to stave off violence during a blockade of the main roads into Patong by angry tuk-tuk drivers.

About 200 drivers staged the overnight

blockade after several of their members were arrested by undercover police who pretended to be illegal taxi drivers and parked in spaces on the beach road reserved for the public.

The tuk-tuk drivers, who said they asked the men to move their vehicles from the public parking bays, were subsequently arrested for threatening behavior.

"I returned to my post as Patong Police Superintendent on Monday," Col Chiraphat told the *Gazette*.

"What I am looking to do now is unite Patong business operators, as we have so many groups competing for income from tourists.

"We might hold a sports event such as a football match and have everyone join in so police and Patong residents can get to know each other better."

Col Chiraphat said he had yet to draw up plans to deal with any future blockades.

"I'm sorry. I have been busy at the police station," he said. – *Phuket Gazette*



Col Chiraphat takes back his post after being ousted by tuk-tuk drivers. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

Countering passport theft

Police recommend rental operators store images of identity documents online

Chutharat Plerin and Kraitsada Mueanhawong

THE news of the stolen passports trade in Phuket and the Russian “kidnap” victim (see page 3) prompted a visit from Thailand’s Tourism and Sports Minister to the island on Monday to meet with officials and get to the bottom of the issues.

“I came to Phuket to follow up on the cases concerning the stolen passports used to board missing Flight MH370 and the Russians that were reported kidnapped,” said Tourism and Sports Minister Somsak Pureesrisak.

Phuket has been put under the international spotlight after the news broke that two men boarded the ill-fated Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 using passports stolen on the island.

Last year, more than 2,500 passports were reported stolen in Thailand, explained Mr Somsak.

“In 2012, 2,000 passports were reported stolen nationwide. That number went up by more than 500 in 2013. Those numbers will have to be officially verified by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but after studying news reports, we can see an increase in the trend,” he said.

The lead investigator on the case, Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Col Arun Kaewwatee, told the press, “After discovering that the passports used to board Flight MH370 were stolen in Phuket, we learned that 372 passports have been reported lost in Phuket since January this year, and 274 of those were reported lost in Patong.”

Those most commonly reported lost were Australian



The international spotlight on Phuket brought Tourism Minister Somsak to the island. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

passports, followed by French, Chinese, British and Russian; the five biggest tourist groups that come to Phuket, said Col Arun.

Police are now pushing vehicle rental shops to collect more information about their customers and are planning to hand down stricter rules to keep foreign passports safe, he said.

“Phuket authorities are not taking this situation lightly, we are all pushing hard for solutions to the problem,” said Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa.

“The ultimate goal is for rental

operators not to hold passports as collateral on rented vehicles. Passports belong to the foreigners’ home governments.”

Patong Police on March 12 recommended motorbike rental operators take photos of renters and their passports and upload them to Line, a smartphone application.

Though Phuket’s number two cop said that police would encourage operators to stop holding passports as collateral, he acknowledged that officers were powerless to take action against

operators when renters’ willingly give up their passports.

“We are looking into what measures we can take, but as far as I know, there is no law in Thailand prohibiting foreigners from handing their own passports to another person to hold as per their own agreement,” Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arayapan Pukbuakao told the Gazette.

Police encouraged 30 operators at a meeting on March 12 to join a Line application group that would circulate information about renters

and make it available to the Foreign Affairs Division of the Royal Thai Police to check for fugitives.

“Every time someone rents a vehicle, we want the operator to upload to Line a photograph of the renter – a head shot – and a photo of the passport,” said Lt Col Khunnadet Nanongkhai of the Patong Police.

Police would keep the pictures in a database that could be used later in the event of a problem.

“Operators also need to make sure that the information on rental contracts is thoroughly filled out,” Col Khunnadet said.

The information includes: name, nationality, passport number, arrival and departure dates, and address in Phuket, he said.

Police suggested that operators call renters’ hotels to make sure they are staying there and, ideally, take another head shot when the renter returns the motorbike and picks up his passport.

“They must only give the passport to its owner,” he said.

Patong car rental club president Anat Lhaolang said the operators would follow the rules.

“We’ve told police we need some kind of guarantee when we rent out vehicles. If a customer doesn’t want to leave their passport, they can leave cash,” Mr Anat said.

“In our business, we face tourists who abandon bikes after an accident or just don’t bring them back,” he said. “We take a risk every day.”

“There are about 60 rental operators in Patong. We agree with the police and want to do our part to prevent passports from being stolen,” Mr Anat said.



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Siriporn Srichai was the 170th teacher killed in the restive South since 2004. Photo: The Nation

English teacher shot, burned in Deep South

ENGLISH-language teacher Siriporn Srichai, 43, was shot dead and her body set alight on March 14 on her way to work at Tabingtingi School in Pattani.

Ms Siriporn was the 170th teacher killed in the Deep South since unrest flared in early 2004.

Ms Siriporn had asked for a transfer to teach in Yala, near her home, as she was unsure of her safety while travelling to school, but the request was not approved because there was no vacant position, reported *The Nation*.

Fourth Army Region Chief Sakon Chuentrakul said that the attack indicated there were insurgents who still wanted to stir unrest by attacking women. He believed the assailants were from the same group that had carried out attacks against other women.

He went on to explain that attempts to bring peace to the southern border provinces were hindered by groups who wanted to create misunderstanding between the public and state authorities.

As for peace talks with the Barisan Revolusi Nasional, chief Sakon said that they were dependent on the government.

The change in the National Security Council chief would not affect the peace dialogue, he said.

EOD officers disarm two time bombs in Bangkok

TWO homemade bombs were discovered along Ratchadaphisek Road in Bangkok on Monday morning.

The first one was found at around 7am by a Bangkok Metropolitan Administration street cleaner at a bus stop outside the Office of Public Prosecutors Region 1, while security officials at the Criminal Court found the second one outside the front wall at about 9:30am.

Ratchadaphisek Road was closed to traffic while Explosive Ordnance Disposal

(EOD) officers defused the devices.

Fire extinguishers had been used to build the bombs, which were filled with 15 kilograms of explosives, said police spokesman Maj Gen Anucha Ramayanon. Each had an alarm clock attached.

EOD chief Pol Col Kamthorn Uicharoen said the explosions could have affected a radius of 20 to 40 meters, adding that investigators believed the same people were behind both bombs, though police had not yet established the motive.



An officer nears one of the bombs. Photo: The Nation

Toxic fumes force evacuation

PROVINCIAL officials ordered the evacuation of residents from about 1,500 homes in Samut Prakan after a fire broke out at a garbage dump on Monday and the site was declared a disaster area.

Toxic fumes from the fire have spread to many parts of the province and nearby areas in Bangkok, reported *The Nation*.

Kanit lamrahong, the governor of Samut Prakan, said on Monday that three communities closest to the dump, with 1,480 families, had been evacuated.

Many of the people evacuated were sent to the Praeksa Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*) office.

The Pollution Control Department (PCD) tested the air quality in areas around the burning dump and found harmful substances, such as sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide and some carcinogenic chemicals.

PCD Director General Vichian Jungrungruang said that the toxic fumes were harmful to the respiratory system and could cause eye irritations.

He advised children, the elderly and people with heart disease or high blood pressure to be extra cautious in avoiding breathing in the toxic gases. Some of the gases were deadly, he warned.

The PCD would monitor the air quality in the affected areas and report the results to the public, he added.

The agency on Monday urged people living within a 1.5km radius of the burning dump to move away from the area.

The fire began at around noon on Sunday at the former dump in



The Pollution Control Department found harmful chemicals in the air around the burning dump. Photo: The Nation



Bang Pu industrial estate. The site, covering an area of 150 rai, has been abandoned for more than 10 years, according to local authorities.

Firefighters managed to contain

the fire after 12 hours, but still failed to extinguish it. They said it would take at least three more days to completely put it out.

Governor Kanit blamed strong winds for the spread of the fire.

He noted that a fire had occurred at the same site about five years ago.

Governor Kanit said the owner of the dump, who was not identified, had been charged with violating public health and environ-

mental laws. He said officials would try to find out if the dump was illegally used after being abandoned.

Fumes from the fire affected at least five districts in eastern Bangkok – Bang Na, Prawet, Lat Krabang, Saphan Sung and Klong Sam Wa.

Residents and office workers in Bang Na, the Bangkok district closest to Samut Prakan, on Monday reported breathing difficulties as smoke from the fire spread.

Six agencies call for Yingluck, Suthep to nominate moderators

SIX organizations are calling on caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban to nominate 10 individuals each to mediate between both sides and help end the political impasse.

Leaders of the six agencies – the Election Commission, National Human Rights Commission, Office of the Ombudsman, National Anti-Corruption Commission, Office of the Auditor-General and National Economic and Social Advisory Council – hope to get a reply from the two sides within a week, *The Nation* reported on Tuesday.

“The big question is which individuals will be acceptable to both?” Election Commission member Somchai Srisuthiyakorn asked.

Mr Somchai said putting differences on the table was the best way forward for the country and the six organizations would



A team of mediators acceptable to both sides could break the impasse. Photo: The Nation

only facilitate the creation of a mediation team, comprised of at least five members who are acceptable to both sides and have no specific agenda set in advance.

“Obviously, there can be no negotiation if neither side is willing... The country has suffered enough and will suffer even more if there are no talks. If they won't come up

with nominees, then we can't go any further, which means there are no Thais who can act as mediators,” Mr Somchai said. “So carry on with the war. We have created a bridge for both sides, but if they won't use it, it's their choice, though they will have to take responsibility if it causes more damage to the country.”

The six bodies sent a joint letter to both Ms Yingluck and Mr Suthep on Tuesday, chief ombudsman Panit Nitithanprapas said.

“[We're] concerned the damage may go beyond the point of remedy, and we need to end the conflict and foster unity,” said Ms Panit.

Ms Panit also noted that a recent Dusit Poll that showed most people want both sides to start negotiating.

The group also said any demands found to be against the law or affect the duty of any of the six agencies would not be accepted.

Opas Tepalakul, chairman of the National Economic and Social Advisory Board, said if negotiations were not possible, then a “special process” would be held to end the conflict. He did not elaborate.

Malaysia blasted for plane search debacle

By A Ananthalakshmi

MALAYSIA'S top official in charge of the search for a missing jetliner rejected criticism on Tuesday from US officials that the country has not been sharing as much information as it could with foreign governments.

Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, serviced by a Boeing 777-200ER, vanished en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing in the early hours of March 8 with 239 passengers and crew on board. No trace of the plane has been found.

China has called for better coordination in the search operation now involving 26 countries, while US officials and politicians have expressed frustration at what they see as Malaysia's refusal of help.

Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein specifically defended coordination with the United States and China and said he had been in touch with his counterparts in both countries.

Mr Hishammuddin denied reports that Malaysia had discouraged the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from sending a team to Malaysia.

"I have been working with them. It's up to the FBI to tell us if they need more experts to help because it's not for us to know what they have."

Malaysian officials say they have been in touch with the FBI through the US embassy, where the agency has had a permanent representative, from "day one".



Malaysia's acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein (left) and Foreign Minister Anifah Aman face questions from the press about the missing Flight MH370 at a news conference in Kuala Lumpur. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE region

"No matter what everyone says, the cooperation that I am getting for Malaysia and for what efforts I am doing, it is overwhelming," Mr Hishammuddin said.

Two US security officials said on Monday that Malaysia had still not invited the FBI to send a team.

One source in Kuala Lumpur familiar with the investigation said an FBI team was in Malaysia to

help with the probe. But another source familiar with the matter confirmed that no one had arrived from the United States to reinforce the FBI presence in the country.

An unprecedented search for the missing flight now stretches across Asia, from the Caspian Sea to the southern Indian Ocean.

Investigators are convinced that someone with deep knowledge of the Boeing 777-200ER and commercial navigation diverted the jet, carrying 227 passengers and 12 crew, perhaps thousands of miles off course.

India, which suspended search operations for the Malaysian plane pending a review of the satellite data, has said it had no complaints

with the sharing of information.

"I think they [Malaysia] are sharing all the information. Every country has the capability up to their own airspace... So the information they have, they have shared," said Acquino Vimal, India's deputy high commissioner to Malaysia.

The jet disappeared in a region beset by rivalries over military capabilities and where sovereignty can be a gray issue.

The need to co-operate has also cast a potentially embarrassing light on regional surveillance capabilities, especially where the ability of nations to watch each other's airspace is concerned.

- Reuters

In brief...

Philippines' media figures caught in pork barrel probe

TELEVISION news anchor Erwin Tulfo and radio talk show host Carmelo del Prado Magdurulang have become the latest public figures implicated in the P10 billion (7.19bn baht) "pork barrel" probe.

The prominent broadcast journalists join four senators and 79 representatives who together stand accused of embezzling P1.7bn from the Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) to ghost projects of bogus foundations from 2007 to 2009.

- Philippine Inquirer

Myanmar human trafficking victims ask to come home

ABOUT 100 Myanmar nationals who have ended up in China, Thailand, Indonesia or Malaysia as the victims of human trafficking have contacted Myanmar Police to rescue them. Most of the male victims were exploited at work while most of the women were forced into arranged marriages or to work as prostitutes, said Brig-Gen Soe Myaing, head of the Department of Transnational Crime.

- Eleven Media

Laos to remember Battle of Thakhek

OFFICIALS in Khammuan Province on Friday staged a memorial event to remember the lives of more than 3,000 people killed in the historic Battle of Thakhek in 1946. The decisive battle with French troops later led to French sovereignty over Laos.

- Vientiane Times

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In brief...

Latest outbreak in bird flu leads to mass cull of South Korean poultry

SOUTH Korea has culled over six per cent of poultry in the country to curb a bird flu outbreak that has hit farms and migratory birds nationwide, government officials said last Friday.

That brings the total number of farm birds slaughtered to 10.16 million, according to data from the agriculture ministry.

Kerry branded as 'murderer' after Venezuelan death toll reaches 28

VENEZUELA'S foreign minister lambasted United States Secretary of State John Kerry last Friday as a "murderer" fomenting unrest that has killed 28 people in the South American nation.

"Mr Kerry, we denounce to the whole world, you encourage the violence in Venezuela... We denounce you as a murderer of the Venezuelan people."

Former Brit editor allegedly funded a royal family scam

ANDY Coulson, Prime Minister David Cameron's ex-media chief and a former Rupert Murdoch editor, agreed to fund the hacking of phones of aides to Princes William and Harry, a former reporter told a London court on Tuesday.

Mr Coulson is also accused of conspiring to illegally access the voice mails of mobile phones.

Hindu temple set on fire in revenge

HUNDREDS of angry Pakistanis attacked a Hindu temple and set it on fire in southern Pakistan overnight following a rumor that a member of the Hindu community had torn pages out of the Koran and tossed them down on the street, police and community leaders said on Sunday.

China rejects report accusing North Korea of mass killing

CHINA dismissed on Monday a United Nations report alleging North Korea has committed crimes against humanity, effectively confirming the fears of human rights advocates that Beijing will shield its ally from international prosecution.

The report, published in February, accused the reclusive country of mass killings and torture comparable to Nazi-era atrocities and said officials, even Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un himself, should face the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Chen Chuandong, a counselor at China's mission in Geneva, told the UN Human Rights Council that the independent commission of inquiry had made unfounded accusations and

recommendations that were "divorced from reality".

"The inability of the commission to get support and cooperation from the country concerned makes it impossible for the commission to carry out its mandate in an impartial, objective and effective manner," Mr Chen said.

Michael Kirby, chief author of the report, said the findings were unequivocal, and demanded closure of political prison camps believed to hold up to 120,000 people, many suffering "starvation and mistreatment".

China, as a member of the UN Security Council, would have the power to veto any move to refer North Korea to the Hague-based ICC.

— Reuters



UN says Kim Jong Un should face the ICC for crimes against humanity. Photo: Reuters

Crimea says yes to Russia

By Adrian Croft and Aleksandar Vasovic

THE United States and European Union on Monday imposed personal sanctions on Russian and Crimean officials involved in the seizure of Crimea from Ukraine as Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree recognizing the region as a sovereign state.

The moves heightened the most serious East-West crisis since the end of the Cold War, following a disputed referendum in the Black Sea peninsula last Sunday in which Crimea's leaders declared a Soviet-style, majority vote to secede from Ukraine.

Within hours, the Crimean parliament formally asked that Russia "admit the Republic of Crimea as a new subject with the status of a republic". Mr Putin and two Crimean leaders then signed a treaty on Tuesday making the Black Sea peninsula a part of Russia.

This will dismember Ukraine, a former Soviet republic once under Moscow's thumb, against its will. Kiev and the West said the referendum, held under armed Russian occupation, violated Ukraine's constitution and international law.

A complete preliminary count of Sunday's vote showed that 96.77 per cent of voters opted to join Russia, the chairman of the regional government commission overseeing the referendum, Mikhail Malyshev, announced.

Russian forces took control of Crimea late last month following the toppling of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich after



Pro-Russian supporters celebrate while waiting for the results of the referendum in Crimea. Photo: Reuters

AROUND THE world

deadly clashes between riot police and protesters trying to overturn his decision to spurn a trade and cooperation deal with the EU in favor of cultivating closer ties with Russia.

US President Barack Obama slapped sanctions on 11 Russians and Ukrainians blamed for the seizure, including Mr Yanukovich,

and Vladislav Surkov and Sergei Glazyev, two aides to Mr Putin.

Mr Putin himself, suspected in the West of trying to resurrect as much as possible of the former Soviet Union under Russian leadership, was not on the blacklist. A White House spokesman declined to rule out adding him later.

"If Russia continues to interfere in Ukraine, we stand ready to impose further sanctions," said Mr Obama.

The White House on Tuesday condemned Mr Putin's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and said it was preparing a fresh round of sanctions in response.

"More is coming," said White House spokesman Jay Carney, a day after the US slapped the sanctions that some critics said did not go far enough to get Moscow's attention.

In Brussels, the EU's 28 foreign ministers agreed to subject 21 Russian and Ukrainian officials to visa restrictions and asset freezes for their roles in the events.

US and European officials say military action is unlikely over Crimea. For now, the West's main tools appear to be escalating economic sanctions and diplomatic isolation.

— Reuters

US seizes rebel oil tanker

UNITED States special forces have seized a tanker that fled with a cargo of oil from a Libyan port controlled by anti-government rebels, halting their attempt to sell crude on the global market.

Gunmen demanding regional autonomy and a share of oil wealth had managed to load the ship, which escaped Libya's navy and triggered a crisis that prompted parliament to sack the prime minister.

A US SEAL commando team boarded the tanker *Morning Glory* from a Naval special warfare rigid inflatable boat as it sat in interna-

tional waters off Cyprus last Sunday night.

No one was hurt during the two-hour operation, and no shots were fired. Two AK47 rifles were found and the three Libyans holding the ship remain in US control, a US defence official said.

"The *Morning Glory* is carrying a cargo of oil owned by the Libyan government National Oil Company. The ship and its cargo were illicitly obtained from the Libyan port of Es Sider," Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said.

— Reuters



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A house that is a home

PROPERTY Gazette

A HANDFUL of mixed-nationality families are among the first in Phuket to be enjoying the latest in cozy suburban living after moving into the newly built tropical town homes in the western-style neighbourhood community, Baan Tak r Kard, near Layan and Bangtao beaches on the west coast of Phuket.

Built by Living Vis Ltd the affordable two and three-bedroom houses in a tree-lined neigh-

bourhood of just 59 trendy two-storey town houses are designed to be spacious starter homes for families with a taste for international lifestyles.

The contemporary European inspired design adapted for economical tropical living uses top-quality construction materials and ecological innovation to keep the homes naturally cool in the heat.

Phase I of the Baan Tak r Kard neighbourhood was completed in January, establishing a new community of 24 homes with large east and west-facing balconies, each with a private driveway and garden space in a well-planned layout with extra-wide connecting roads to ensure

individual privacy.

The Living Vis directors behind the heterogeneous community concept include award-winning designer of the Bed Supper Club, Mr Sokoun Chanpreda, and Judging Committee member of the Thailand Property Awards, Mr Sunchai Neungsit.

“Baan Tak r Kard was a collaborative project by local architects and designers with experience in European and American building design, which has been adapted to be economical and environmentally sustainable in Phuket’s tropical climate,” said Mr Sunchai.

“Baan Tak r Kard translates as a peaceful and private place where you can appreciate the natural surroundings – a holiday or weekend home somewhere quiet, away from the hustle and bustle of the town or city,” said Mr Sunchai.

“We wanted to ensure buyers get a home that lasts a long time and is an affordable investment in the long-term so the completed houses feature high-quality finishings such as durable Kohler bathroom fittings and sturdy soundproof glazing by Fletcher Aluminium, which along with the asphalt roof shingles, provides long-lasting weather protection and excellent noise reduction,” he said.

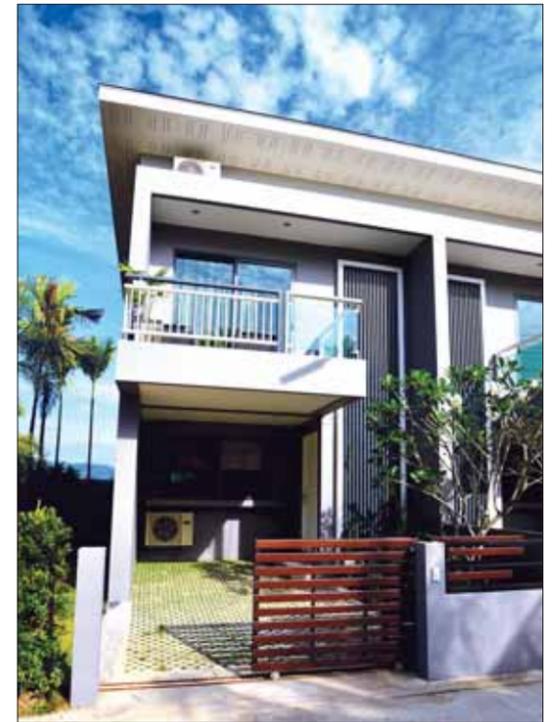
Broad, shaded bay windows overlook the front garden and driveway and fill the open-plan living and dining space with natural light, as well as a kitchen garden space at the rear. Underground water storage means more space above ground at the back.

Priced from 3.08 million baht, Emotion One (two-bedroom) and Emotion Two (three bedroom) homes measure five and six metres wide respectively.

Emotion One living space covers a total area of 108 square meters (sqm), plus an 18.4sqm driveway and a 12sqm garden.

The larger six-meter wide Emotion Two homes have three bedrooms and three bathrooms with living space covering 125sqm, a 23.6sqm driveway and 14sqm garden.

Living Vis Ltd has teamed up with Thanyapura Phuket to offer new home owners of phase one at Baan Tak r Kard a 1-year mem-



Modern, western design pleases the eye.



Houses range in size from 108 to 125sqm and all feel spacious.

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– *Phuket Gazette*

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When you're expecting

LIFE is odd. When you are young the future has no limits, time-frame or even for the most part, a firm direction. Sadly, we get older, not wiser, and the time-line gets shorter by the day.

Some nights, I lay awake and instead of counting sheep, start doing the math. This is not a happy place to be and I have to start to look for diversions to keep someone on the ledge, and not taking a dive off the second floor where my bedroom is. The fall would probably not kill me but the idea of life in a wheelchair is not a positive one.

But enough of these sunny tales, and back to the concept of self termination, the recent alleged suicide of the Bitcoin CEO in Singapore made headlines the world over. Was it in fact a solo ending, or was there foul play?

Who knows, that's what CSI is for.

What I do know, is that today's expectations of hitting it big, or getting the jackpot from property deals, business ventures or what not, keeps getting pushed up into the stratosphere of greed.

I'm old enough to still remember when rich meant hitting the magic million marker. Now that number has seemingly been multiplied a hundredfold. Sub prime and the tech boom did our collective heads in entirely, and today single digits mean nothing.

Heading off to a posh lunch, any Wall Street type may just bring along that monkey collecting change on the street



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

corner to get a multiple of fingers and toes. By that, I am literally talking about the furry type with tails, as this is just how strange this tale has turned.

I have nothing against capitalism as a concept of working hard and that age-old risk and reward paradigm. Like it or not, my passport reads American and we were born with this stuff in our blood.

What troubles me is the end game in all this, or more effectively that there is none. More becomes simply more. Bitcoin? Come on, if anyone in the front row can even begin to explain this, head to the front of the class and let me award you student of the week.

Be it alternative property investment, induced guarantees or what not, the fact in most cases is that if things appear to good to be true, well we know where this one is headed. And as a matter of fact, a good reality slap in the face may help.

Our heroes and our villains remain, for the most part, those who have hit the economic gravy train. My inner demons cry out there must be more, after all, the Platinum AMEX card can't get you much in the afterlife.

For now, I, along with most everyone else, remain confused

by Bitcoin, though the same used to be said for all those exotic derivatives which rock Wall Street every few years. Maybe it's time to look at Nick Leeson and see how his karmic dice have fallen.

Again, for the most part, capitalism remains a solid venture. Just tell this to all



Like it or not, my passport reads American and we were born with this stuff in our blood. J



Photo: AntanaCoins

The recent alleged suicide of the Bitcoin CEO in Singapore made headlines the world over.

those North Koreans or Cubans who can't get a decent latte or a monster flat screen television. But there have to be limits and our present circumstances have taken us to the absolute edge of reason. This, of course, is Bitcoin 2014.

Welcome to our world, and remember,

as the slogan goes, "only buy what you can afford to lose." That, of course, won't matter much to those who have lost everything.

Bill Barnett is the Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks and can be contacted through C9hotelworks.com.

Awards to highlight female architectural vision

THE trend in architectural design must be to balance the different approaches to materials and construction processes, conservation of the natural environment, and care for local and cultural values, according to female architects sitting on an awards jury.

The all-woman panel decided the final winner in this year's "arcVision

Prize – Women and Architecture" contest, conducted by Italy's Italcementi Group.

Jury member Martha Thorne, associate dean for external relations at the IE School of Architecture in Madrid, said architectural design was changing due to new technology and changes in raw materials.

This supports the goal of an

architect's building design and other architectural work to be symbolic in each location, she said.

This year's winner of the arcVision Prize – Women and Architecture, Portuguese architect Ines Lobo, designed her building to match the location and used natural materials to fit in with the environment.

In this year's competition, 21 female architects from 15 countries sent in projects for final consideration.

Austria, Chile, Egypt, France, Germany, Japan, India, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand and the United States were all represented.

The Kingdom's participant was Kanika Ratanapridakul, making her the first Thai contestant in an event whose inaugural edition was held last year.

Prize-winner Lobo was recognized for the ability to work on different scales, integrating new buildings within the existing urban fabric and creatively attacking complex architectural problems.

The central design theme of her projects is the use of materials to manage the light entering the new building. She also creates an interesting facade that changes throughout the hours of day and night.

"It's fascinating to see what women are doing in architecture," said arcVision Prize jury member Benedetta Tagliabue, founder with Enric Miralles of the EMBT Miralles/Tagliabue architectural practice in Spain.

"[This is] because we don't know yet whether we women can

create a slightly different, more sensitive architecture, and whether we can run an architectural practice in our own way. Last year, we awarded the prize to architect Carla Juacaba, in recognition of her creative intelligence and eco-sustainability, which for architects should be a contemporary issue, not an issue for the future. This year, we also have the creative design from our woman architect," she said.

Italcementi CEO Carlo Pesenti said the arcVision Prize – an initiative inspired by the Italcementi entrepreneurial vision – recognized the innovation and sustainability of the projects and constructions presented, with a special focus on the standards of technological innovation, environmental quality, cost-effective use of resources, social responsibility, functional and aesthetic research.

"New design concepts, different approaches to materials and construction processes, conservation of the natural environment, care for local social and cultural values – narrated through the professional experience of female designers from all over the world, who have brought techniques aesthetic sensitivities and different colors from all over the world," he said.

– The Nation

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Asian hotel investment reaches five year high

HOTEL investment volumes in Asia reached US\$7.5 billion at the end of 2013, up 218 per cent from 2012 and defying all industry expectations, according to the latest figures from JLL's Hotels & Hospitality Group. This makes 2013 the market's strongest year post since the Global Financial Crisis in 2007, when transaction volumes stood at USD\$10.3bn. JLL forecasts 2014 to be a similarly stand-out year, although transactions volumes are likely to fall on the back of limited supply, despite strong demand.

Japan, Singapore and Mainland China led the region's growth in 2013 with Japan top-

ping overall investment volumes at US\$2.7bn, up 480 per cent from 2012, as hotel trading performance improved in line with the expansion of the domestic economy and renewed growth in corporate and leisure travel.

2013 was also a remarkable year for the Singapore hotel market with capital values reaching new records, resulting in transaction volumes of US\$2bn, over ten times that recorded in 2012, predominantly supported by the sale of Grand Park Orchard hotel and Knightsbridge retail, the City's largest single asset transaction to date.

In third place, China accounted for around 13 per cent of total in-

vestment activity, recording US\$1.1bn of transactions, as recent government announcements to improve access to financing drove investor sentiment over the second half of 2013.

Other markets that experienced strong growth in the region as a result of improved connectivity and burgeoning outbound travel from Mainland China, include Hong Kong (US\$486.7 million, up 19% y-o-y), Thailand (US\$337.0mn, up 31% y-o-y) and the Maldives, which recorded US\$267.6mn in transaction volumes over the year, up a huge 614 per cent from 2012.

Mike Batchelor, Managing Director Investment Sales, Hotels

& Hospitality, JLL said, "Strong investor sentiment and, importantly, the availability of quality hotel assets were key reasons behind Asia's impressive sales volume in 2013 which was hindered only by the availability of additional stock as many owners increasingly hold off selling assets in anticipation of further market growth. Mature hotel markets such as Singapore continue to be governed by well capitalized, inter-generational investors and as stock becomes increasingly limited, investors are now starting to look further afield once again at new and emerging markets in the region in the search for greater yield and capital growth opportunities."

"There remains no shortage of capital to be invested into the sector in 2014 (mostly from interregional Asian investors) however, improved trading performance and the tightening of cap rates have elevated the ex-

pectations of the region's sellers. The resulting restricted supply will shape activity this year and, while overall deal flow will remain robust, we expect volumes to moderate in 2014 because of fewer landmark transactions and portfolio deals in the key gateway locations."

Frank Sorgiovanni, Vice President, Research & Strategic Advisory, Hotels & Hospitality, JLL comments on the markets that will receive most investor attention throughout the year, "Japan, Indochina and the Indian Ocean may account for the majority of transaction volumes in 2014. Investors are gradually considering emerging hotel markets such as Myanmar and Sri Lanka where deals will be opportunistic. The Singapore and Mainland China markets will also remain strong on the back of robust investor appetite."

- The Nation

Experts show how to live better in the city

IN THE Kingdom, the building sector accounts for about 25% of total energy use, especially commercial buildings, such as hotels, hospitals, shopping malls, supermarkets and offices, which consume between 30 to 70% of energy within the sector.

There lies a great potential for energy savings through modern air-conditioning and cooling technology, and energy-management systems, according to the German-Thai Chamber of Commerce (GTCC).

"In this connection, the Energy Ministry launched the Energy Efficiency Development Plan (EEDP) in 2011 aiming to achieve a reduction of final energy intensity by 25% in 2030. The building sector can contribute significantly to this ambitious, but not unrealistic target," the chamber said.

Besides, Thailand needs to create more green areas so that its residents can enjoy better health and more natural beauty, said Atch Sreshtaputra, assistant professor at Chulalongkorn University's Faculty of Architecture.

"We only have three square meters of green area per capita. We are among the lowest countries in Asia in terms of green area per capita. The World Health Organization recommends that there should be 10sqm of green area per capita, so that we don't have air pollution," he said.

Stressing the point further, he added: "According to the new city planning code [for Bangkok], at least 50% of open space must be green. If you have open space, half of the open space must be green area. The develop-

ment density incentive ranges from five to 20 per cent more buildable area for green buildings. If you have a green building, you can have a more beautiful area."

He also pointed to the importance of five main categories that are crucial to energy efficiency in Thailand: affordable housing, urban public space, mass-transit park and ride, storm-water run-off, and green building.

Concerning affordable housing, a low-income condominium can have 20% more buildable area if the sale price is 20% less than the market price.

Meanwhile, developments that provide public urban space can also have more buildable area, said the academic.

"Rainwater retention is also very important. If you provide one cubic meter of



Photo: Caspar

Lumphini Park green space in Bangkok.

rain capacity for 50sqm of site area, you can have a 5% increase in buildable area. It is not very difficult to do, when compared to the other options," he added.

Finally, developments that are certified green buildings can have five to 20% more buildable area, he said.

- The Nation

Property and estate auction to be held at RPM in May

PHUKET Real Estate Association (PREA) in cooperation with Harrison Public Company Limited (HR), have arranged the auction of property and estate projects in Phuket under the name of "P-REA Auction 2014", to be held May 17 and 18 at Royal Phuket Marina (RPM).

Mr Thanusak Phungdet, the Chairman of the Real Estate Club of Phuket said that the PREA aims to give assistance and instruction to entrepreneurs and investors in order to increase the sales of properties around the island.

The purpose of 'P-REA Auction 2014' is to support, promote and help speed up property and estate sales, said Mr Thanan Tanpaiboon, President of the Phuket Real Estate Association.

Mr Sahaschai Kwanchuen, Executive Vice President of Harrison Public Company Limited (HR) explained that, "Harrison have been entrusted by the owners of the properties and estates to arrange for the auctioning of various projects such as Paholyothin Park, The Winning Tower, Baan Phrayasuren and Baan Nonsi.

Potential clients are invited to explore investment options during an ongoing open house from April 1-16. The live auction will be held at RPM on May 17 and 18 and a sealed bid auction will follow on May 31.

- Phuket Gazette

For more information, visit phuketrealestate.or.th or call 086-471 4874.



Chairman of the Phuket Real Estate Association Mr Thanusak Phungdet. Photo: Phuket File



PROPERTY RESALE

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<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 5px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>3 Allamanda 2 Bedroom Duplex THB 12 M</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 beds 2 baths Condominium • Lagoon view • Thai Freehold • Fully furnished </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 5px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>4 Laguna Village Townhomes IV THB 19.5 M</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 beds 2.5 baths Townhome • Lagoon view • Leasehold • Fully furnished </div>
<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; border-radius: 5px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>5 Laguna Village Residences I THB 28 M</p>   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 beds 3 baths Residence • Lagoon view • Leasehold • Fully furnished </div>	

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Canal dredging project begins

By Mark Knowles

THE 12-million-baht project to dredge the Koh Kaew Canal and deepen the existing approach channel from Phang Nga Bay has commenced and is scheduled to be completed by October.

The project, which was approved in January by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut, will increase access to Phuket Boat Lagoon, Royal Phuket Marina (RPM) and the nearby village fishing pier, allowing larger boats to enter regardless of tidal levels.

Upon approving the project, Governor Maitri explained that the government was willing to spend the money on dredging the canal serving the two private marinas in order to improve marine infrastructure.

"Doing so will make Phuket more attractive for people organizing MICE [Meeting, Incentive, Convention and Exhibition] events and also for yacht owners who contribute to marine tourism," he said.

Chairman of Royal Phuket Marina Gulu Lalvani welcomed the commencement of the project and said it would enable him to market his marina to larger boat operators,

as access would no longer be restricted by tidal levels.

"It's a major breakthrough, we have been waiting for it for ten years, [and it] finally started yesterday," he told the *Gazette*

"We haven't been marketing to bigger boats, because we have had this problem that they are only able to go in and out on the high tide. It's inconvenient for large boat tour operators, because they want to have people leaving at 9am or 10am, and at that time the tides are not always suitable," he added.

The dredging, which began last Sunday, March 16, will increase the depth of the 1.6km canal and the 3.6km approach channel to two meters at low tide, allowing boats up to approximately 35 meters to enter and leave at will.

Deputy Managing Director of Phuket Boat Lagoon Boon Yongsakul echoed Mr Lalvani's comments, saying that the project would make accessing the marina much more convenient and increase the marina's yacht servicing business.

"We are very pleased that it has commenced, because it will enhance the marina's activity, more boats can come in,



The dredging will increase the depth of the canal and approach channel to two meters at low tide, allowing boats up to approximately 35 meters to enter and leave at will.

and it will be much more convenient," he said.

"After the [increased number of] boats come in there will be more people, more restaurants, more shops and it will enhance the value of the whole of Boat Lagoon."

"It will change the traffic, and it will be much more busy when the channel is dredged, and the big boats can come in to Boat Lagoon instead of going to Singapore or Malaysia," he added.

Mr Lalvani praised Governor Maitri for approving the project and said he hoped that once completed, the number of high spending tourists who arrive in Phuket on luxury

yachts would increase, bringing benefits to the economy of the whole island.

"Every year I've been requesting them to dredge the channel, because the channel belongs to the government, like the roads. And the government finally realized that marine tourists, the ones who come here on boats, spend, on average, a lot more than the normal tourists.

"So, finally, the current Governor, Maitri, who I have to say is really an action man, told me last year that 'I'll make sure there is money in this year's budget to dredge the channel, because I realize the importance of marine tourism to Phuket'."

Phuket's plans to lure MICE travellers

A RECENT conference organized by the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) examined the role of Meeting, Incentives, Conferences and Events (MICE) travellers in Phuket's diversifying tourism industry. The event, which was co-hosted by AMCHAM, the British Chamber of Commerce Thailand (BCCT) and the Australian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (AustCham), featured three experts on Thailand's rapidly growing MICE tourism industry.

The first keynote speaker was Mrs Supawan Teerarat, vice president of strategic and business development at the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB). Mrs Supawan spoke about the overarching campaign led by the government agency to promote Thailand as a global destination of choice for MICE events. She remarked that MICE travellers represented a high-

spending, "quality" segment of the tourism industry.

According to TCEB's figures, the average stay of MICE travellers in Thailand is 5.8 days and the average spent per person, per stay, is a substantial 87,306 baht. Furthermore, TCEB statistics presented by Mrs Supawan indicated that travellers from Asia made up the core of Thailand's MICE tourism, and that the number of visitors from China and India in particular, has exhibited rapid growth over the last few years. Chinese MICE tourist arrivals have risen from 48,596 in 2011 to a staggering 128,437 in 2013.

Mrs Supawan went on to outline the TCEB strategy and support programs in place to encourage MICE tourism and urged local hotels and businesses to take advantage of the wide range of support on offer which includes: business matching, destination matching, promotion within Asean



Speakers at the recent AMCHAM MICE tourism conference held at Angsana Phuket on Friday, March 14. From left: Mark Simmons, Supawan Teerarat, and Welf Ebeling.

countries, as well as online marketing and PR support.

"Every year we aim to attract more and more MICE events to Thailand. We [the TCEB] should be the gateway for all your wishlists. You should contact us to help make your events more successful," she said.

Under the TCEB's strategy, four key Thai cities have been branded as "MICE Cities" and highlighted for their various strengths as a way to direct the segments of MICE tourism into key destinations. The four cities are: Bangkok – "Evolving Metropolis"; Pattaya – "Festive Seaside"; Khon Kean – "Gateway to Greater Mekong and Indo-China"; and Phuket – "Luxurious Incentive Island".

The following speaker was Welf Ebeling, vice president of APAC – Global Business Travel Association (GBTA), who focused on the potential of his company's vast data resources which can be used to increase international MICE tourism

inflows through increased understanding of global business travel market trends.

Mr Ebeling presented research that clearly identifies Asia as the region with the strongest growth in business travel, taking advantage of economic uncertainty in the US and Europe. According to GBTA, forecasts for business travel spending in the Asian region is set to increase from US\$361 billion in 2011 to US\$624bn in 2016.

The final speaker, Mark Simmons, vice president of sales and marketing, Asia-Pacific, for Outrigger Hotels and Resorts discussed how the island could increase its slice of the lucrative MICE tourism pie. He noted that the value of MICE tourism on the island was estimated at more than \$US163 million in 2012. In 2013, Phuket hosted 788 MICE events attracting almost 80,000 visitors – roughly 75% of them international and the remaining 25% domestic.

Mr Simmons was adamant that the Laguna Group was at the epicenter of the island's push for "quality over quantity" MICE travellers, as it had the combined resources to host large events and provide the world-class standard of hospitality and service sought by international MICE organizers.

He cited a recent event held by Chinese skincare company Nu Skin, in which over 1,000 people were jointly hosted by Laguna Group hotels, as a perfect example of how local co-operation between businesses could benefit the economy of the entire island.

"It's about collaboration, it's about benefit for the whole destination [of Phuket] if we can get that thousand room piece of business, we are all going to benefit – not just the hotels, but the ground operators, the dive companies, the golf courses. That is why it's such a quality segment," concluded Mr Simmons.

– Mark Knowles



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Two Chefs' recipe for success

By Maciek Klimowicz

WITH 14 years in business, over 100 employees in four outlets around the island and big plans for the future, the story of Two Chefs is one of success upon success. The *Gazette* spoke to Two Chefs' co-founder Billy Agren to learn what it takes to get there.

"When we started up 14 years ago we had no ambitions of creating a chain of restaurants," says Billy, "That is something that has evolved over time."

It all began in the year 2000, with a

small restaurant in Kamala which soon moved to Kata. It took seven years of hard work to add another restaurant, this time in Karon. Another seven years later Two Chefs are the proud operators of four restaurants in Phuket – Two Chefs Bistro & Catering in Karon, Two Chefs Bar & Grill in Karon, Two Chefs @ Kata Center and Two Chefs @ Kamala.

Their ability to continually expand is based on the simple concept of offering a range of classic international dishes, served in style, and made from the best local and imported ingredients available.

Featuring comfort-food dishes from France, Russia, England, America, Sweden and more, Two Chefs clearly set their sights on Phuket's booming tourist market, and it has paid dividends. Now, on top of their success in Phuket, they are starting to look beyond the island.

"We are looking into the possibility of expanding outside Phuket. We are actually looking for new business partners, to work together with

us in the future," says Billy.

When asked about the key to running a successful restaurant business in Phuket, Billy replies, "Keep on improving your concept, adjust to time and customers, never be satisfied and always look for new things you can improve."

And Two Chefs live by these words, constantly expanding their culinary offerings. Not only have they continued to expand their menu, but also their range of services. For example three years ago, Two Chefs started offering live music at their Karon branch.

"We started with two musicians. This has been very popular among our guests, so we have been working hard on improving it. Now we have a total of six talented musicians working with us, and we now have live music available at all our locations, except the bistro. We also offer live musical entertainment to compliment our catering service."

But there's more to success. Billy is convinced that being a professional chef was a key part of becoming a successful restaurateur.

"I have spent a lot of time working with the menus over the years, as the supply of meat, veggies, and other produce has changed so much during our time in Phuket," he explains.

"Another thing that I believe has helped us a lot, is the fact that we both [Billy and co-founder Henrick Ojelind] learned the Thai language at a early stage. That has helped us

in many ways, especially when teaching our teams in the Two Chefs' kitchens," he adds.

One of the major milestones of Two Chefs' development was the introduction of their catering services, now popular at events across the island.

"We started the catering two years ago. We are doing well, but it is very different to running a restaurant.

"We have learned a lot during our first two years of running the catering, we are now starting to feel comfortable and proud of our catering, and we look forward to continue to see it grow over the years to come.

"One important reason behind our success with the catering is because we have such a strong team of staff that we work with."

It's the catering side of their business, among other things, that the Two Chefs want to keep improving on.

"We would like to keep working with the catering, and also keep working with our bistro concept. We are also working on improving our bakery section – right now we are expanding our cake menus."

With the rental contract for their long-standing Kata Beach restaurant soon coming to an end, the company is eyeing two new locations in the Kata area to reopen. And if they stick to their philosophy of only using the best primary products, making everything from scratch, and avoiding easy short cuts, the future is looking delicious for this homegrown culinary powerhouse.



Billy Agren, one of the fathers of Two Chefs' success. Photo: Supplied

Why Millennials aren't investing

Finance
By Don Freeman

IT'S hard to be a regular reader of Western newspapers or magazines and not read stories about the so-called "Millennials" or "Generation Y," those born between the late 1970s or early 1980s up until the end of the millenium or so, struggling to find good-paying jobs or even make ends meet – let alone have any spare money to invest in the stock market or pay into government retirement systems. But what do the problems of the Millennial generation mean for investors, and should you be overly concerned about them?

Do You Remember the 1970s?

To begin with, today's stories about struggling Millennials would be familiar to older generations, because if you were a younger "Baby Boomer" in a Western country graduating from high school or university in the 1970s, investing was the last thing on your mind because you probably entered adulthood facing high unemployment, stagnant or declining manufacturing economies, urban decay, soaring crime rates, violent strikes, oil shocks, terrorist hijackings, crippling inflation, corruption scandals at the highest levels of government, housing and com-

modity bubbles and don't forget about the Cold War and the threat of nuclear Armageddon.

Things were so bad in the 1970s that at one point, New York City, the home of Wall Street, was essentially bankrupt (thanks to uncontrolled deficit spending) and required a bailout from the local teachers' union pension fund after President Ford initially threatened to veto any bailout coming from Congress. Sound familiar?

In fact, some pundits even went so far as to predict the demise of the West and the eventual triumph of Soviet style communism. While things weren't much better outside the "West", as many of today's hottest emerging markets were either trapped behind Iron Curtains, ruled by despotic regimes or plagued by coups or violent insurgencies.

Do You Remember the 1980s and 1990s?

However, everything changed in the 1980s and 1990s when the Soviet Union turned out to be a bankrupted paper tiger, and entire new industries or technologies emerged – fueling a return of retail investors and especially Baby Boomers (who managed to "survive" the terrible 1970s) to the stock market.

It's also worth remembering that both the so-called "Greatest Generation" and much of the "Silent Generation", who were

either born before or during the Great Depression, largely shunned stocks that weren't utilities, to invest in savings bonds or CDs. They did this not necessarily because of the 1929 stock market crash or an irrational fear of stocks, but because many had defined pension plans while investing in savings bonds, or CDs often meant double digit and largely risk free returns – something that's a thing of the past in most countries.

However, many Baby Boomers who could no longer rely on defined pension plans made the twin mistakes of taking on too much risk and too much debt because they assumed asset prices (whether stocks or real estate) would keep on rising forever at a double digit clip. So, if there is any generation we need to worry about, it would be the Baby Boomers.

The Next Investor Wave?

And what about the Millennials? Sure, the job market and economic growth in the West appears tepid (just like in the 1970s), and many American Millennials are saddled with school loan debt, but certainly it's too early to write off the entire generation that has also, hopefully, learned from the investing mistakes of their parents.

Moreover, and just like the rise of the PC and the Internet helped to fuel the bull market of the 1990s, today we are seeing the



rise of the smartphone or tablet replacing the PC along with the emergence of new and potentially revolutionary industries like 3D printing, cloud computing and clean tech. And even if Millennials in the West choose to largely remain on the sidelines, there are hundreds of millions of people living in emerging markets who are or are just entering the middle class and have yet to move beyond just depositing money into savings accounts or buying real estate or gold when it comes to investing.

In other words, maybe we should not worry too much as a new wave of investors will inevitably break into the stock market.

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



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Environmental time warp

THE recent minor fining of five men who confessed to the illegal felling of protected forest reserves on the island highlights the need for an overhaul of the antiquated Forest Act BE 2484 (1941), the terms of which are sadly out of date in this day and age of substantial monoculture, dwindling biodiversity and ever-increasing human overpopulation (see pages 4-5 and 44).

Loud but highly ambiguous calls for "reform" have been much trumpeted recently by parties who currently find themselves without a place to sit in the cyclical game of musical chairs known as Thai politics.

It is easy to focus on this merry-go-round of power and influence while completely overlooking the big picture: what is left of Thailand's natural environment is increasingly under attack by that most pernicious mite of all – humankind.

The sad reality is that there have been nine successful coups – and almost as many failed ones – since the Forest Act of 1941 was promulgated. To say that the world has changed since that time, when forests were seen as a resource to be plundered and the first nuclear bombs had yet to fall, is an understatement.

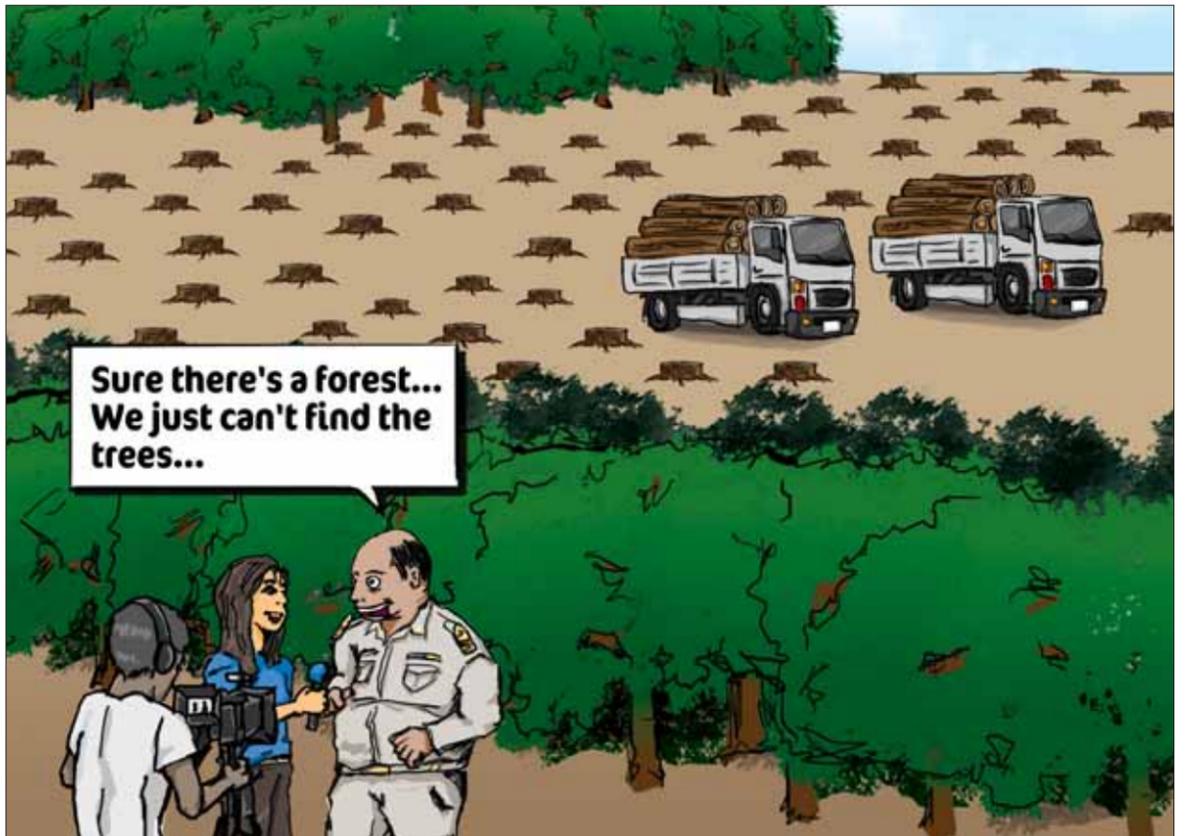
Yet here in 2014, the provisions of the Forest Act of 1941 remain in effect, a living testament to the collective incompetence of our leaders dating back generations. In most cases revision is years, if not decades, overdue.

Imposing fines on those who break the law is a fairly common practice in criminal justice systems across the globe, despite the fact that it is fundamentally less equitable than imprisonment. Those with deep pockets can afford to break the law, viewing the expenditure as little more than another cost of doing business. We have reported on such cases time and time again in numerous industries including the sale of counterfeit goods, failure to abide by pollution control laws, intentionally breaching safety codes in the marine transport industry and so on.

Meanwhile, our prisons are now used predominantly to warehouse people convicted on drug-related crimes, an estimated 75 per cent of inmates, according to the Department of Corrections.

We need to ask who is really the bigger threat to society: a drug user or someone who organizes gangs to attack protected virgin forest?

Those who commit serious crimes against our environment must be severely punished. Acts of law, and the ministerial regulations that support them, need to be updated at regular intervals. It is high time lawmakers spent more time actually working on legislation and less time yelling and screaming at one another, organizing protests and finding ever more clever ways to line their own pockets.



Punish the guilty, not everyone like them

Re: Gazette online, Murder brings curfew for Myanmar workers in Patong, March 14

I read the article about six Myanmar nationals who were arrested for the murder of a Thai man in Patong. I am also Burmese, currently living in the United States.

I would never support a violent act against a Thai citizen in Patong or elsewhere, but I disagree with the announcement that all Myanmar workers living in Patong will be arrested if they are found to be outside after 10pm.

The threat of arrest is in fact a form of discrimination. If a Thai gang killed a Myanmar citizen in Patong, would the police have issued the same threat to Thai citizens? I don't think so.

People who violate the law and commit murder must be arrested and prosecuted, but guilt by association based on nothing more than nationality is not only wrong, but unjust. Innocent people should not be punished for the acts of a few.

Patong Police Superintendent Chiraphat Pochanaphan should withdraw the curfew on Myanmar nationals immediately.

Htun Aung Gyaw
New York

Passports not ours to give as collateral...

Re: Gazette online, Tourism Minister targets Phuket's stolen passport trade, March 18

Hello, Thailand Vehicle Rental Agencies, and the police. I cannot give you my passport as collateral for renting your cars and motorbikes because the passport that I carry is issued by, and owned by, the United States. It is not mine. You can have a photocopy, but you are prohibited from using it as collateral and I am prohibited from allowing you to do that! Do you understand?

Me
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

...so just say no

Re: Gazette online, Raging Phuket black market passport trade, March 16

The police may be unable to stop the use of passports as collateral, but the people renting bikes and cars can – by refusing to rent from people who insist on keeping their passports.

If rental companies are worried about damage to their vehicles, they should take a large deposit instead.

Yvonne
Gazette forum

Twice a week drug tests are not enough

Re: Gazette online, Phuket tour bus drivers caught in Patong Hill checkpoint drug blitz, March 15

More than 20 per cent test positive. Is it any wonder there are so many tour bus accidents? With this percentage there must be testing every day till these potential murderers are eliminated.

Frustrated
Gazette forum

Send tuk-tuk drivers back to school

Tuk-tuk drivers are in regular contact with tourists and yet they have poor knowledge and poor skills in dealing with tourists.

A simple request to visit the local orphanage at a village near our hotel was met with, "I don't know where it is." We showed the driver a simple map in Thai and he said he couldn't understand it. "It must be far away," he said. It is no more than 10 km, but the price offered

was 1,000 baht, which we of course rejected. We will rent a car and drive there ourselves.

What happened to us happens to tourists every day. Profit from tuk-tuk driving should come from turnover and service, not from overcharging for one or two jobs a day. Drivers need local knowledge. They should be trained, and they should be taught to care about their clients

Stuart Davie
Australia

Tourists not to blame

Re: Gazette online, Phuket's B120mn road to Freedom Beach inches forward, March 17

It's not the tourists that will ruin the beach. No. It's the construction of businesses that will inevitably be built to serve them. Can we not leave just one beach on Phuket untouched for future generations to enjoy? Please?

Agogohome
Gazette forum

Look for the money

Re: Gazette online, Phuket national park encroachment investigation in full swing again, March 17

Perhaps Mr Samak of the DNP should investigate the assets of the five former park chiefs and determine whether or not they are "unusually wealthy".

Chas
Gazette forum

Police silence is good

Re: Gazette online, Phuket police connect two local expats to Russian missing persons case, March 18

Congratulations to the police for avoiding needless speculation by strictly controlling what information is released.

Mystery fan
Wichit

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Hooked on sea life

FIRST PERSON



I DON'T think people actively set out to damage reefs or harm protected marine animals. Tourists who go to beaches and islands want to enjoy themselves, and the tour companies who take them, as well as fishermen, seek to make a living.

The problem is, of the people using the beaches and the sea, there are too few engaged in preserving them. If we don't get more groups – including the government – more involved, we are doomed to irrevocably damage the very things that create jobs for so many people and give pleasure to so many more.

Let's start with fishermen. Their interest in the sea is diametrically opposed to divers'. Their job is to take fish out of the sea, and the more they take, the more money they make, in the short-term. Divers want to see as much aquatic life as possible, so dive companies need a pristine environment to attract customers.

It's sometimes difficult for divers and fishermen to talk to each other because their interests are so different, but I understand both parties – we just have different objectives.

The fishermen say that they don't have sufficient education to find other jobs, and don't want to in any case, because fishing is their family tradition.

Given that they are here to stay, we want them to understand environmental issues better. Go Eco Phuket has been trying to set up

meetings or classes for fishermen to help them appreciate the dynamics of marine ecosystems. We need them to understand why they shouldn't break fishing laws, why they should only use loose-meshed nets and why they should not fish in protected areas.

For those who can't understand, law enforcement needs to step in and take action. Here too we need to make significant changes. We hear again and again that there are not enough officers to look after all areas of the sea. The solution is simple: get more manpower.

Phuket generates huge revenues for the country from people coming to enjoy the sea and beaches. That's enough reason to find the money to supply more manpower to keep the environment attractive and healthy.

We continue to see flagrant violation of fishing laws. At the Similan Islands National Park at night you can see lots of lights coming from fishing boats fish-

ing in restricted areas. Officers are doing their best to catch fishermen who don't obey the law, but without more manpower they can't make a significant dent in the problem.

The government needs to increase the budget of the Marine Police, the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and any other relevant office so that they can increase their manpower.

The other thing that should be done at the government level is setting up new zoning for snorkellers and divers. Snorkellers are more likely to damage reefs through inexperience than divers, and they should be restricted to certain areas.

We also need to put some controls on the number of boats making day trips. When there are not enough moorings for the boats, anchors thrown overboard may damage coral reefs. Ideally, if we limit boats, we can do it in a way that is fair to both large and small companies.

The bottom line is that we can all help keep the sea healthy. Don't litter. If you see garbage in the sea or on a beach, collect it and throw it away properly. This is an easy way to contribute to keeping our beaches beautiful forever.



Each of us can help to keep the sea healthy. Photo: Gazette file



We need sharks, but their numbers are dwindling. Photo: Wyland

Don't kill sharks

Island View

By Melanie Long

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

I CAME across awful images of a man gutting a juvenile blacktip reef shark on Facebook via Go Eco Phuket and was horrified to see that it happened on one of our local beaches, Kata Noi (see page 6).

It was clear that this man was a spear fisherman from the wetsuit he was wearing and the spear hole on the shark's right side. It saddens me to see that people who are supposed to understand and respect the local environment abuse it in such a way. Or maybe they are just unaware of the damage they are causing.

As many divers in Phuket will tell you, over the years shark numbers have dwindled. This incident is particularly alarming as the shark pictured appears to be a juvenile. Sharks can take many years to reach sexual maturity. The killing of these young sharks means there will be even fewer in the future.

In the past few years, there have been major campaigns fighting for shark protection, yet I still meet people who have never heard of them. I believe that education is a powerful tool that we can use to help future generations better understand how to protect and care for their environment, on land

and underwater.

On March 6, I attended a presentation by Shark Guardian, a UK-based charity dedicated to shark awareness and conservation, at the Green Man in Chalong. They are doing some amazing work, travelling to different schools and educating youths about sharks and why we should protect them.

Unfortunately, there are few laws to protect sharks in Thailand. However, I believe that we as a community have a duty to keep our environment healthy.

Sharks are a vital part of our marine ecosystem. They help maintain a balance within the food chain, which in turn helps our reefs to stay healthy and alive. If sharks disappear, our reefs will suffer and so will we.

People will pay money to go snorkelling or diving with sharks; there is a huge tourism market there, but sadly it is being damaged by acts like this. Please learn about the local environment before heading out into it.

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

What do different curb colors mean?

What do the painted lines on curbs mean? I've seen black and white stripes, red and white stripes, and yellow and white stripes. And some curbs are not painted at all. I assume it has something to do with parking regulations?

Hesitant parker
Thalang

for example, to unload passengers. Drivers must stay with their vehicles.

If a curb is painted with black and white stripes or is not painted, parking is allowed unless specifically restricted by nearby signs.



Red means no. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

Samak Luadwonghat, Director of Provincial Highways Department, replies:

Yes, the different colors are connected to parking restrictions.

Red and white stripes painted on a curb mean that the driver should not stop or park there at any time. Violators will be fined.

Yellow and white stripes signify that short-term parking is allowed;

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

When will Soi Han Farang be fixed?

The *Gazette* wrote a story last September about residents protesting the large number of construction trucks spreading dirt and dust on Soi Han Farang. The article said that the road is in bad shape, and that the local administrative organization (*OrBorTor*) president promised to repair it.

The road has continued to deteriorate, and the arm on one end of the road to prevent trucks from travelling to the main road is constantly being run through by trucks. Will anything be done to fix this situation? This road is unsafe and no one seems to care.

PhuketDave
Koh Kaew

Lerdchai Srikhao, Chief of Engineering of Koh Kaew

Subdistrict Administrative Organization (*OrBorTor*), replies:

We have a budget of more than 3 mn baht to resurface Soi Han Farang, and we are now in the process of finding a construction company. Once we've chosen a company, work will begin as soon as possible. We expect it to be done by the end of the year.

We understand your concern over the danger of the road. We are doing our best to get it done as soon as possible.

Teeraporn Jirattanakorn, Phuket Rural Roads Office Director, replies:

We are in charge of the section of Road 3013 that branches off from Soi Han Farang and connects to Thepkrasattri Road farther

north. We are aware of the bad condition of the road and have asked the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*) for money to repair it.

We were told we would be given 9mn baht next year. We expect to begin work in May 2015 and finish it by the end of the year.



Heavy vehicle traffic has damaged the road. Photo: Waritnan Aoming

YOUR Phuket

AMARI PHUKET SOCIAL ACTIVITIES SUPPORT



Ms Suthasinee Telakul (center), recently represented Amari Phuket while donating 100 food boxes to support a cross-country bike race which is held annually to celebrate the two heroic sisters from the Phuket town of Thalang.



Amari Phuket recently got behind the 'Exercise for Health' project by sending a hotel representative to join The 14th Plukpanya Mini Marathon.

DUSIT GROWS ITS BRAND FAMILY AT ITB BERLIN 2014



From left to right: Edwardo Iswandi, executive assistant manager Sales and Marketing Division at Dusit Thani Hua-Hin; Tanya Klimentyeva, director of sales and marketing at Dusit D2 Phuket Resort; Maria Calvo, senior sales manager for UK and Europe, Dusit International; Myia A Caceres, director of sales and marketing at Dusit Thani Bangkok; Judy Holland, director of sales and marketing at Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket; Charin Tuncharoen, director of sales and marketing at Dusit Island Chiang Rai; Wacharee Pornchaiwisuthikul, director of sales and marketing at Dusit Thani Pattaya.

LAGUNA PHUKET



A representative of Laguna Phuket recently visited the Phuket Gazette to thank us for our support of the Laguna Phuket Tri-Fest 2013. Pictured (from left): Kanjana Sriboonsom, events manager for the Phuket Gazette and Prapa Hemmin, director of sales – MICE and Corporate Events at Laguna Phuket.

WOMEN'S DAY

Members of the Thai Women Empowerment Fund Phuket met at the Metropole Hotel in Phuket Town



President of the Thai Women Empowerment Fund Phuket, Nattaporn Phanichphichetwong (right), hands a gift to a lucky member.



Members donned local traditional costumes.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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

PROPERTY of the week



CONDO FOR SALE



See page 23

JOB of the week



Hootersphuket.com

See page 27

INVESTMENT of the week

KATA BEACH FOR RENT NEW RESTAURANT



See page 28

BOAT & MARINE of the week

LEE MARINE

International Marine Brokerage

SINCE 1997



See page 31

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PULL ME OUT!



Properties For Sale

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE



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

PRICED TO SELL

Patong. 5 separate luxury apartments in one block, each 100sqm, fully furnished and very large pool. Beautiful location, sea and mountain view. Freehold and Thai company limited. Would consider exchange for villa in Rawai area. Finance available. Massively reduced price 11.9 million baht. Tel: 081-271 7092.

HABITOWN KOH KAEW FOR SALE

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

HOUSE IN VILLA DOWROONG

Phuket Town. 3 beds, 3 baths, 47sq wah. Tel: 089-909 2771.

LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

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



- House: 1-rai area, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. 2.2 million baht. Please call 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

POOL VILLA FOR SALE



400m from the Heroines' Monument, Pa Khlok Road. 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large living room, big European kitchen, 4 aircons, teak wood furnishing, parking for 2 cars, autogate, pool, 460sqm land, 27 sqm building. Sale: 5.8 million baht. Please call 089-854 0277.

CONDOMINIUM PATONG LOFT

58sqm, 1 bedroom, 1 living room, 1 bathroom, fully furnished. Aircon, balcony, pool. 3rd floor, lift, comfortable. Includes car (Ford Laser Tierra) and motorbike (Yamaha Nouvo). Leasehold 3x30 years. Price: 3.9 million baht approx. For more information, please call 081-893 2566.

LAND NEAR KATA CENTER FOR SALE

Great location, road access, 5 minutes to Kata Beach and main road, 1,450sqm + title deed. Contact Lychee. Tel: 081-891 3048.

THIDA HOUSE 27MB



Thai-style modern townhouse with land. Size: 10.50m x 10.85m. 2-bedroom, 2-bathroom, living room, dining room, kitchen and car park. Single house on land size: 15m x 10.85m. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms with living room, dining area/kitchen, terrace and car park. Soi Mountain View Kathu Waterfall. For more information, please call 081-535 75 85, 084-119 4262.

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For sale. Big garden, 15m pool, 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, office, quality furniture, new condition, security, freehold. Please call 076-388236, 089-727 5407 (English). Email: cosmocampbell@yahoo.com, www.villasale-phuket.com

POOL VILLA MISSION HEIGHTS

3 bedrooms, 3.5 bathrooms, huge living room, large swimming pool, priced 12 million baht or 15 million baht, depending on your needs. For more information, please call 076-528024, 087-060 8400 (English). Email: picharly@gmail.com

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Property Classifieds

Properties For Rent

SEAVIEW CONDO



For rent, Rawai, 2,000 baht per night, 45,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 090-408 3800. Email: adrian_troy@yahoo.com

PATONG 54SQM STUDIO APARTMENT

Modern unit, large pool, gym, maid, free WiFi, cable, parking. From 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

PHUKET VILLA 5 FOR RENT

3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 aircons, car park. Not furnished. 5 minutes to Central Festival. Tel: 087-270 9093. Email: sec@phuketawnin.gs.com

KATA HILL SEAVIEW HOUSE

2-storey, fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, aircons, 3BB internet. Price: 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN

Furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Gym & pool. 10,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 1558 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA LUXURY

Live in tropical garden, near Laguna, has all, for 8 months: 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 089-594 4067.

PATONG NICE SEAVIEW CONDO

Immaculate 14th floor unit, quality renovation. Please send email for video tour. Tel: 086-757 1362. Email: peteroconnor1980@hotmail.com

RENT APARTMENT PATONG

Condo: pool, security, 46 sqm, fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005. Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

1 BED KATHU GOLF VIEW VILLA

For rent. 135sqm, 1 bathroom, big modern kitchen, living room and balconies, big pool, 4km to BIS, fantastic view of Loch Palm golf course and valley, quiet on top of a private hill, fully furnished, maid, WiFi, security. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-269 8492.

POOLVILLA RAWAI

150sqm living area is available for 5 months from April 17, 2014 to October 10, 2014. Tel: 093-723 8362 (English), 081-037 3229 (Thai). Email: hinsch@gsk-train.de For further details, please see our website at www.hinsch.org/Haus2/

LUXURY APARTMENT PATONG

2-bedroom ensuite, furniture, kitchen, WiFi, large pool, great location. 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 70 92. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

3 BED KATHU GOLF VIEW PENTHOUSE

For rent, 330sqm, 3-bathroom villa, big modern kitchen, living room and balconies, big pool, 4km to BIS, fantastic view of Loch Palm golf course and valley, quiet on top of a private hill, fully furnished, maid, WiFi, security. 65,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-269 8492.

SHARE SEAVIEW VILLA PHUKET

Rent out separate living & sleeping sections in luxury villa with seaview to female companion over 40 years old and share kitchen, terraces, garden etc. I am a German, wi-dow & lived in Asia for 25 years. Tel: 091-035 6690. Email: azzuro2000@gmail.com

MODERN GUESTHOUSE IN PATONG FOR RENT

12 rooms, all with aircons, hot & cold showers ensuite + toilet, fridge, WiFi, flat SAT TV. Modern and clean, plus bar with pool table, lounge, small kitchen, 2 toilets, reception, outside area, free parking. Price: 900,000 baht. Rent: 90,000 baht per month for long lease. Email: herbert.rapp@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT IN KAMALA



Tave Villa, 3-5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 5 aircons. Located in Kamala near Phuket FantaSea and close to the beach (3-5 minutes). Tel: 093-964 1649. Email: kamilahc@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://sites.google.com/site/tavevillaphuket/>

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Luxury kitchen, sea views, 2 aircons, giant pool, secure parking. 18,000 baht a month. Tel: 092-323 7087. Email: tucsonhouseforrent@yahoo.com

LUXURY VILLAS FOR RENT KAMALA

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TOP DESIGN VILLA



Direct from owner, 450 sqm, pool, 4 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, private elevator, close to BIS and Royal Phuket Marina. 75,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-060 2060.

PATONG 54SQM STUDIO APARTMENT

Modern unit, large pool, gym, maid, free WiFi, cable, parking. From 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

THAI VILLA AND POOL

In Soi Naya, Nai Harn. Long term: 37,500 baht per month. Short term negotiable. Tel: 081-270 5126. Email: merwyn.crocker@yahoo.com

KATA HOUSE RENT/SALE

1 to 4 bedrooms. 20,000 baht per month. 400 baht per night, can walk to the beach. Contact Nit. Tel: 081-303 2202.

LUXURY 1 BED KAMALA

Deluxe top floor 1 bed apartment, fully furnished, balcony, washing-machine, swimming pool & gym, cable TV, internet. No pets. No smoking. 27,000 baht per month, 6 months contract. Tel: 084-130 3234. Email: plongmore@hotmail.com

LUXURIOUS 4-BEDROOM VILLA

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CHEAP RENT HOUSE

1 bedroom, furnished, WiFi, near Panwa view point. Rent: 7,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311, <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

STUNNING 4-BED VILLA CAPE YAMU



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NEW CONDO FOR RENT



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

3-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

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

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. For more information, please call 081-692 3163.

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Property Services

RESORT & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Resort, property management and marketing by experienced hoteliers & property managers. We can help you! Email: resortgm@gmail.com

PDS PHUKET DRAIN SPECIALIST

At Phuket drain specialists, we can guarantee that you will receive a quick and efficient service for everything from blocked drains to drain repairs to pipe replacement. Our team of highly qualified staff have a wealth of experience in dealing with blocked drains. We operate a 24hr emergency service and ensure a quick response time. when you have a blocked drain, you know who to call. Phuket drain specialists. we guarantee we will beat any quote. Tel: 081-0909516 (English), 085-224 6685(Thai). Email: kjoshea@hotmail.co.uk

HOME MANAGEMENT / MAINTENANCE

Our new office in the main area of Soi Sai Yuan is now established for all your property management and maintenance needs. We have been established for 8 years and offered a fair price and reliable service. Property sales, marketing, long and short-term rentals, we have an established team. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at www.phuketandamanrealestate.com

Property Services Wanted

HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT
And rental/marketing management for resorts, condos, villas, estates by experienced hoteliers. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

Property Wanted

LAND WANTED
If you have small plot or land for sale in Kata-Karon, approx 400sqm, please contact me by email: pjtid@yahoo.com

VILLA / GUESTHOUSE / HOTEL WANTED
For purchase or rent long term: 15-40 rooms, no more than a 30-minute drive from Patong. Must be in a quiet location and have a sea view from at least 30% of the rooms. Tel: +41-79-289 1259. Email: hotel.phuket.wanted@gmail.com

IN KATA, KARON, PATONG
Experienced hoteliers provide property management (with own maintenance staff) and effective rental services. Email: resortgm@gmail.com

APARTMENT / HOUSE NEEDED
Our customers need urgently apartment rentals up to 25,000 baht per month, and house rentals up to 40,000 baht per month. For long and short-term contracts. Only Kata, Karon, Rawai, Nai Harn, Chalong. Tel: 082-420 7052. Please call or visit our website at www.stayonphuket.com

Accommodation Available

2-BEDROOM HOUSE CHALONG
Newly painted 4-year-old house, 2 minutes from Chalong Circle, 5 minutes from Tesco Lotus, great location, quiet and secure estate. 14,000 baht per month. Contact Pha. Tel: 076-384567, 093-165 1642 (English & Thai). Email: michaelhiggin s7@dodo.com.au

PRIVATE POOL VILLA
3-bedroom private pool villa located minutes from the famed Laguna area. Tel: 084-842 2262 (English & Thai). Email: lita.hine@hotmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT @ PATONG
Special rate. Daily, 2 weeks and monthly. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.nanaivilla.com

THE NCHANTRA POOL SUITE
1-3 bedroom private pool suites for sale and rent. Tel: 076-510011, 081-979 7306 Fax: 076- 614101. Email: info@nchantrapoolsuite.com More information, please see our website at www.nchantra poolsuite.com

SEA VIEW 3-BED VILLA, PATONG
Luxury villa of character w/ Patong sea view. Estate pool, private and secure. 60,000 baht per week; 200,000 per month; 1 million baht per year – plus utilities, service extra. Minimum deposit of 20,000 baht. Tel: 086-587 0196 (English & Thai). Email: natawa paeng@gmail.com

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDOS
2 bedrooms, also 1 bedroom, kitchen, lounge. The Point near Central Festival, many facilities. Tel: 081-8920 038.

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS
Serviced apartment, studio. 1 bedroom, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, rooftop, pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. www.orchidkathu heights-phuket.com

NAI HARN BUNGALOW
Nice bungalow for long-term rent, quiet location, fully furnished, 2 beds, 2 baths, aircon/fans, cable TV, WiFi internet. 15,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-891 7408, 087-292 5309 (English & Thai). Email: gillies18567@hotmail.com

NEW MODERN TOWN HOUSE
New, fully furnished town houses (completed in 2013) for rent. 3 bedrooms, water heater, 2 aircons, built-in kitchen, WiFi, etc. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-055 9576. Email: intrira.boonsith@gmail.com

KATA NEW SEA VIEW APARTMENT
New 1 and 2-bedroom apartments. Long and short terms. Sea view, huge balcony, TV panels, WiFi, free parking. Sea view, pools, gym, expensive furniture in side. Email: osa.com@me.com The best choice for living! For further details, please see our website at http://coolrent.com

VILLA WITH PRIVATE POOL
We are looking for a 2-bedroom villa with private pool on Phuket Island. South-west preferred. +41-79-651 3602 (English). Email: orca_67@hispeed.ch

Holiday Homes & Villa Rentals

FREEHOLD POOL VILLA
Freehold pool villa. From 1.1 million baht 800m from Nai Ham Beach. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandaman realestate.com

LUXURY APARTMENT @ PATONG
Special rate. Daily, 2 weeks and monthly. Tel: 081-894 4730 (English & Thai), 081-892 5983 (Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.nanaivilla.com

HOUSE+POOL 14,000 BAHT / MONTH
Furnished, aircon, WiFi, cable TV, swimming pool. Long term only. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcomeinn.com For further details, please see our website at www.welcomeinn-phuket.com

VILLA FOR RENT
Large 5-bedroom, 5-bathroom villa, set in 1.2 rai, gated garden with private pool and sala area, double carport. 90,000 baht per month. Tel: 076-272177, 081-597 6911 (English & Thai), 081-892 0534 (English). Email: damian@electrical-marine.com

Household Help

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

Household Items

REMOVAL SALES! 22-26 MARCH
Or other times on appointment until March 30. At house 23/131 Boat Lagoon. Be quick as most items are almost new and well priced. Big fridge, freezer, carpets, 3 near new beds/mattresses, table and chairs, floorlamps, desk cabinets, TV cabinets, kitchen cabinets, Chinaware and crockery, 2 leather armchairs new, outside table and chairs, dressing table. Please call 093-757 4608 for more information and to arrange time for viewing.

Household Services

MRK KITCHEN SERVICE
All you need for a professional kitchen: stainless steel work, gas system, air conditioning, security cameras, wood-fired pizza oven and used equipment. Tel: 081-416 7475, 084-845 4743 (Thai). Please see our website at www.mrkkitchen.com

Live in Town?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **iTree Complete Printing Service**

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

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

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

Looking for land to buy?
See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Classified Advertisements

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

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Deadline for Property Gazette page: Friday 3 pm.
Deadline for all other ads: Saturday 12 noon.

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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



Development Management Group Co., Ltd. is looking for the best candidates to join our successful team on a high profile hotel development project in Phuket. Thai national with relevant construction experience desired.

We have the following positions open:

Contracts Manager The successful candidate will have a proven track record of successful contracts work in a construction environment.

Quantity Surveyor The quantity surveyor will be responsible for managing all costs relating to building and civil engineering projects, from the initial calculations to the final figures.

Tel: 076-617763.
Email: hr@dmg-thailand.com

NATIVE ENGLISH TEACHER

Brainy House is looking for part-time native English teachers. Start as soon as possible. Tel: 076-522822, 080-907 7466 (English & Thai). Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

Aged 25 years or older, permanently resident of Phuket, Russian speaking with excellent knowledge of English and preferably Thai. Official papers (no benefits, work permit), salary starts from 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-8702796. Please send CV to opaopa543@mail.ru

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

To manage and ensure the cleanliness of our operation. Must be a dynamic team worker with a pleasant personality. Contact us. Tel: 076-281227, 081-8935492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-281227. Email: jtissi.er@aquamaster.net

THAI OFFICE WORKER FOR GYM

Muay Thai Gym. Wanting Thai office worker with good English. Tel: 080-613 3312 (English & Thai). Email: phuketopteam@email.com. Website: phuketopteam.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER, KHAO SOK

Our Jungle House is the top resort in Khao Sok, Surat Thani. Qualifications: Thai national only, minimum 2 years experience in resort, must truly love nature, excellent English and computer skills. Tel: 081-417 0546. Email: ourjunglehouse1985@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at <http://khaosokaccommodation.com>

REAL ESTATE OFFICE STAFF

Siam Real Estate are opening new office in Laguna and require Thai staff with good English, computer and admin skills. Salary + commissions. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com For further details, please see our website at www.siamrealestate.com

Job Job designer cupcakes



Learn how to make and decorate cupcakes with Thailand's leading cupcake makers - Job Job!

We have 3 FULL TIME vacancies for girls keen to learn with us and have fun.

No previous experience is necessary, all that is required is a big smile and positive attitude. Females preferred. English and / or another language (e.g. Russian, Chinese) is a big advantage, but not essential.

We pay a good salary with performance bonus, and you will have the opportunity to work in both our shops, Patong at The Kids Club in The Promenade, and also Central Festival on Level 1, opposite Swensens, behind Mr. Donut. We also give English lessons each week by a qualified foreigner.

Please call Khun: Ant on 081-601 2523, Khun Kea: 087-934 7089 or Anthony: 080 609-1128 anytime.

NANNY

Must be experienced with child care. Needed after school and weekends for two young boys. Thai only. Tel: 081-978 7756. Email: scot@paresaresorts.com

BRANCH MANAGER

ISS Facility Services require Branch Managers for 2 new locations in Had Yai and Koh Samui. Preferred applicants are English-speaking Thai nationals, degree educated with previous experience in property or hotel management. Excellent salary and benefits on offer. Tel: 076-610315, 081-958 6879. Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

THAI LAWYER

Thai national with BA in Laws, experience working in law firm, good English, excellent salary and benefits. Send English resume to lawphuket@yahoo.com

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

WEB DEVELOPER / PROGRAMMER

Bachelor's degree in related field. Knowledge of PHP, Javascript, jQuery, MySQL required. 2 years experience, English speaking. Send CV to hr@luxuryvillasandhomes.com

STAFF WANTED

Thai Basil Restaurant, newly opened restaurant is looking for waitresses: 15,000 baht. Bar staff: 15,000 baht. Manager: 20,000 baht. Located on 58/7-8 Soi Bangla, 5-8pm. Email: office@thai-basilphuket.com

3 WAITRESSES FOR RESTAURANT

Three English-speaking waitresses wanted for restaurant. Thai national only. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

YOGA TEACHER WANTED

Qualified yoga instructor to teach at PhuketFit Resort. Please apply with resume and qualifications. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

ASSIST. SALES MANAGER ASIA

Pfleiderer Asia Pacific representatives are looking for an Assistant Sales Manager Asia. Age: 25-30 years. Excellent English language skills required. Mandarin would be a plus. Approx 50% travel in Asia. Office location: Phuket. Please contact: jobs@apr-pfleiderer.com For further details, please see our website at www.pfleiderer.com

COOK / CHEF

Cook wanted in a small Ban Moon noodle bar, to cook basic Thai and European food. Room available as part of wages. Tel: 083-690 7014 (English). Please call or email micknppr@hotmail.com

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

Live in Town?

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



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

ASSISTANT SALES MANAGER

Looking: TO min 2 yrs exp. Com+spiff+ monthly bonus. WP+SS. Tel: 076-342794, 088-450 1833. Contact: hr@davidvacationclub.com

WEB BLOGGER IN THAI/ENGLISH

Thai national only. Write article in English and Thai in WordPress about technologies in internet, mobile, physical medias, duplication system. Tel: 098-013 9792 (English). For further details, please see our website at www.imt-ase.com

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

To assist with the accounting tasks, including accounts receivable. Good spoken / written English and pleasant personality are a must. Tel: 076-227281, 081-893 5492 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-227073. For further information on the job, please see our website at www.aquamaster.net/job.html

PR & MARKETING

The View Condominium.
- Female, 20-35 years.
- To promote the property with prospective customers at our booth
- Coordinate with recruiters
- Collaborate with team
- Language: English and Russian or English and Chinese. Tel: 086-439 9996, 081-666 6622. Email: sales@theviewphuket.com, info@theviewphuket.com

PROJECT SECRETARY (THAI) WANTED

At least 3 years experience in the construction industry. Able to speak, write and read English and Thai. Full understanding of Microsoft Office (Excel, Outlook and Word). Salary based on experience, excellent benefits. Send your CV to info@avcphuket.com

THAI STAFF WANTED

Bartenders and guest relations urgently wanted. Good pay + benefits. Tel: 085-184 9682 (English), 085-184 9659 (English). Email: tiffany.12321@hotmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.chamberofsecrets.com

PA / OFFICE MANAGER

Well established property agency is looking for a Personal Assistant/Office Manager. Able to work with Microsoft Office is a must, as is good knowledge of English in writing and speaking. Must have experience. Basic accounting knowledge and good communication skills. Must be able to work independent and start work immediately. Tel: 087-882 2856. Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP DOGS!

Soi Dog Foundation seeks a Social Media Officer to lead our Facebook page and create and publish content. Excellent creative writing, strong video and photo skills, and empathy for animals required. Tel: 087-263 0827, 081-788 4222 (English & Thai). Email: gregg@soidog.org Learn more at www.SoiDog.org

INTERNATIONAL LAW OFFICE

International Law Office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd.

OPEN POSITION

■ **Accountant**

Qualifications:

- Thai nationality
- Good accounting knowledge, skills and experience
- Knowledge of Accounting Quick book 2008 program would be advantage
- 3 years of working experience in accounting
- Fluency in English (written and spoken)
- Adequate computer skill

Please send English resume with work experience, references, recent photograph and expected salary to the following
Email : sam@ilo-phuket.com

International Law Office Patong Beach Co., Ltd.
17/6 Chaofaa Road, Talaadnuca sub-district,
Muang Phuket district, Phuket province
Tel: 076-222191 to 5. Fax: 076-222196.

Location: Phuket Town, Thailand

PHP PROGRAMMER

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

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Proficient in Word, Excel, uni graduate preferred. Photo shop Vany online experience valued highly. Tel: 081-205 3932.

RESTAURANT STAFF

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

KARON CLIFF

Hostess, maid, engineer, waiter, and kitchen staff wanted. Tel: 087-265 6089.

ADMIN HOTEL WANTED

Experience needed in Microsoft Excel and Word. Daily record on cash income, stocks, timecards, and booking vouchers. Good comments in English writing and speaking working under GM. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE

We are currently seeking trusted, fluent in English, professional candidates for the position of advertising sales representative in Phuket. Level/salary range: up to 40,000 baht (first-full year earnings potentials). The position is open for Thai and foreigners (work permit required). Kindly send your resume by email. Email: info@phuketitaly.com

HOOTERS IS HIRING

Hooters, the all-American themed sports bar famous for its wings, beer & iconic Hooters girls with over 400 locations worldwide is set to open Thailand's first legendary Hooters in Patong, Phuket. We are now looking for talented, fun & energetic people for all positions

Now Hiring:

- Floor Supervisors
- Servers
- Bartenders
- Hostesses
- Kitchen Manager
- Line Cooks
- Kitchen Stewards
- Cleaner
- Retail Sales Assistants

If you would like to join the infamous Hooters team & LADIES if you think YOU have what it takes to be a HOOTERS girl then we want to hear from you

- Positive attitude - Pride in appearance - Hard working

IF YOU MEET ALL OF THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS THEN WE WANT TO MEET YOU!!!!
ALL APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL. PLEASE FORWARD UP-TO-DATE RESUME WITH PICTURE INCLUDED

admin@hootersphuket.com

RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED

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

RESORT STAFF WANTED

Urgently: night reception, house-keeping, restaurant and kitchen staff. Tel: 076-613903, 089-723 1128 (Thai), 085-227 8864. Email: yusies@gmail.com

RECEPTIONIST WANTED

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

EARN 30,000-120,000 BAHT/MONTH

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

THAI RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

Small Tree House Resort in Khao Sok (Surat Thani) is looking for 2 receptionists (Thai only) with proper English skills. Salary from 10,000 to 15,000 baht depending on experience, accommodation, 3 meals a day and social security or free of charge provided by the resort. Tel: 081-273 8324 (Thai). Please send an email to khaosok.hotels@gmail.com For further details, please see our website at www.khaosok-hotels.com

Live in Chalong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Julapan Stationery

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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Patong?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Taurus Travel

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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for a JOB?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net/

Business Opportunities

HIGHLY RATED PATONG HOTEL

Successful, 2 years old, 17-room guesthouse. 1.5 million baht or best offer. Tel: 080-143 3660 (English). Email: marcuscrown@gmail.com, http://themark4sale.weebly.com/

HOTEL BEVERAGE BRAND

Ready to go, new designer beverage for hotel minibars. From US\$10,000. Tel: 086-057 7714 (English). Email: mike@humanba.com For further details, please see our website at www.hotelbeverage.com

LEGAL INCOME PRODUCER

Phuket Country Home, large 5-bedroom, 4-bathroom bungalow, bed & breakfast potential. In Chalong. High season: 15,000 baht per day income. No Thai taxes. 10 million baht. Garden/koi ponds/waterfall. Tel: 087-266 7514 (English). Email: rucker4012@gmail.com

KATA BEACH FOR RENT NEW RESTAURANT



RENT 35,000 baht a month

Includes Furnishing and Professional Kitchen

NO KEY MONEY

For visit call: Eng.084-441 3871, Thai.090-163 2140

OWN EXCITING PARTY STORE

Own a party supply business and have fun. Complete training provided. Exclusive product range. Ready to take over now! Tel: 082-989 8280. Email: funtasticmillionaire@gmail.com

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

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

5 LUXURY APARTMENTS PATONG



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

Bulletins

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business

If you want to stop that is ours

Daily Meetings

Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408

Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com

AA Phuket

UNIQUE STRETCH LIMO BUSINESS

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

RESTAURANT FOR RENT PATONG



250sqm, fully equipped and furnished with license, on Sai Nam Yen Road, close to Sai Nam Yen Plaza. Tel: 086-268 3963.

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

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

PATONG MESSAGE SHOP NANAI

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

US TREATY BUSINESS FOR SALE

3 USA shareholders only for transfer, no Thai shareholders needed. Tel: 085-159 7400 (English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

SEA VIEW RESTAURANT

With 6 rooms, Patong Beach Road. Lease / sale. For more information, please call 081-797 7199.

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

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

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: issue(s)

ONLINE OPTIONS:

Web link	350 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>
Photo	500 baht	<input type="checkbox"/>

All ads in the newspaper run online automatically and free charge.

TELEVISION OPTION:

Your ad with photo displayed by PGTV on 3 cable networks, 70 times a week **350 baht**

Total cost of your classified baht

Each line is 140 baht, with a minimum of 4 lines (headline included). All ads must be paid in advance. The editors reserve the right not to publish any unsuitable material. In the event of non-publication of an advertisement for any reason, the publisher's liability shall be limited to the amount paid for the advertisement.

Please note: We are unable to offer refunds for any unused ads.

For more information, Please call 076-273555.
Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net, or Diao@phuketgazette.net

PROMOTION PRICE

Your Ad on **PGTV**

SAMPLE ADS

TOYOTA HILUX HERO

Pick-up. 4-door. 2.4L diesel. Good condition. Stereo. Only 95,000 km. Carefully maintained, service record available. Quick sale at 120,000 baht. Tel Khun Noi on 076 668126/7.

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

Standard + Special font/layout + Box: 1,340 baht (incl VAT) →

NATIVE TEACHER OF ENGLISH TO YOUNG CHILDREN SEEKS CHALLENGING POSITION IN PHUKET

I will move to Phuket soon. Three yrs teaching in Bangkok.

Phone Mr Reece
(02) 668-1268

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

General Classifieds

Business Products & Services

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS

Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8.30am to 9pm. Delivery service. For more information, please call 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

NEW CARDIO TENNIS

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1	C	2	T	3	U	4	U	5	C	6	S	7	U	8	R				
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Central Festival Phuket recently hosted the 18th Andaman Motor Show, which featured the latest affordable vehicles, priced at under one million baht, from a variety of Phuket car dealers.



Organizers and all sponsors line up for a photo opportunity.



Organizer Kritphanat Patwarasit (center) presented a bouquet of flowers to Phuket Deputy Governor Mr Saeri Panitchkol (right).



Pop icon Gun Kantathaworn and winner of national talent contest The Star put on a mini concert to adoring crowds at Central Festival. Pictured with organizer Kritphanat Patwarasit.



Models posed for photos with luxury cars during the event.

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Celebrating a life in music

By Mark Knowles

THE recent tragic death of well-known and respected club DJ Josh Ezelle in a motorcycle accident, which left his four-month-old son Christian fatherless, has inspired fellow DJ's and performers who worked alongside him to organize an event to celebrate Josh's life and gather support for the young family he left behind.

The event titled "Music is my Life" will take place on Friday, March 28 at Diamond Beach Club in Surin, where Josh was resident DJ, and will feature high-profile local and international DJ's, as well as a performance by EKA, Canadian-born, number-one hit vocalist now based in Phuket.

Although relatively new to the island, EKA had worked once with Josh, and upon hearing the devastating news of his death she was driven to organize an event to help raise funds to assist Josh's newborn son.

"After Josh's passing, I was deeply affected by how the world had lost another artist, one who always had an undying, unwavering pursuit of his true passion, without compromise to money and commercialism. 'Music is my Life' is about just that – the never give up, never 'sell out' spirit which is increasingly rare in our times," she said.

DJ Josh Ezelle's long-time friend, co-worker and famous international performer, DJ Eddy Frampton, will be headlining the event with EKA and said he wanted the night to celebrate Josh's love of music.

"We want to really underscore the fact that Josh's love for music was insane, for some people it's a pastime, some people do it for money, some do it to pick up chicks, but he just loved music. We just want to put on a party for people who love music, and to maybe understand, hopefully, through our music, what he was about – his spirit was music."

Emmanuel Skinner, another of Josh's long-time friends and a well known DJ in his own right, spoke about Josh's passion for electronic music.

"Josh had a real ear, passion and deep knowledge of electronic music that no-one could touch. If a song was playing and he had 30 seconds left, he could find a track, cue it up and have it perfectly beat matched in seconds on vinyl," he said.

"He knew what he wanted, and not a whole lot of people do. About being a DJ, his mum would say to him, 'You have got to have something to fall back on,' to which he would counter, 'Music is my life'," added Emmanuel.

Both EKA and Eddy empha-

sized that the event was more than just a celebration of Josh's life and love for music, but also, crucially, to help raise funds to contribute to Josh's young family's livelihood and his son's future education.

"After his passing, Josh's partner Khun A had only a few thousand baht, so we did some cash donations, but we wanted to contribute some help to Christian on a long term basis," said EKA.

Phuket's DJ community has also gotten on-board to help make the event a success, with well known local club DJ's including Taz (Phuket House Mafia), Nemo (resident of Catch), James Dougall (Evil Twins) and an international DJ (former Music Director at Bed Supperclub) all geared up to perform tribute sets on the night.

EKA says she plans to make "Music is my Life" a regular event to create a space where music lovers on the island can come to enjoy fantastic electronic music on a regular basis, keep DJ Josh Ezelle's spirit and passion for music alive and help support his family through this difficult period.

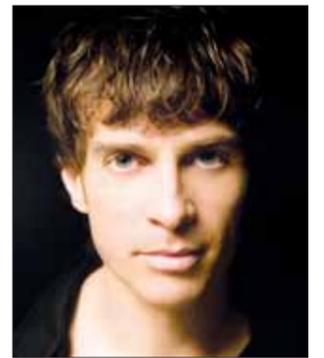
The event will be held on Friday March 28, at Diamond Beach club in Surin from 9:30pm, for more information and updates check the "Music is my Life" facebook page or see: diamondbeachclub.com



DJ Josh Ezelle's love of music will be celebrated at Diamond Beach Club, where he was a resident DJ before a motorcycle accident claimed his life.



EKA will be performing at the event.



DJ Eddy Frampton.

Young artists on show at BIS

PHUKET has been showing the signs recently of a burgeoning art scene that is maturing rapidly. Many resorts offer art displays in their gift shops or lobbies and Phuket Town has a number of galleries that host various media covering a wide range of genres. Keeping art alive and passing on the visual expression of culture to younger generations is an important consideration in our modern globalized world.

British International School Phuket (BIS) is doing their part to provide their students with an outlet for creative self expression. With a Grand Opening set for March 24 at 2:45pm, BIS is proud to announce their IB Year 13 Visual Arts Exhibition. The exhibition will be open to the public from March 24-28 at the school in Koh Kaew and will feature works from Inthu-on Lueangworaphan, Jooyeon Shon and Nathanon Khanijow.

Inthu-on Lueangworaphan, whose work examines ideals of beauty in modern society,



'In my Eye' by Jooyeon Shon.



'Vajrayana' by Nathanon Khanijow.

employing a range of media, typically feature bold colors, which she says were influenced by the modern art she has examined as part of her course.

"I researched Kang Ik-Jung, a Korean il-

lustrator, and incorporated his style to reflect the concerns I have about myself, showing my thoughts throughout IB [International Baccalaureate]. I enjoyed using paper and wood as a media for these pieces with vivid colors to create a positive mood."

Nathanon Khanijow says that during the course he discovered a passion for illustration, and many of his intricately detailed drawings bear this out.

"Being raised a Sikh in Thailand; there was a broad opportunity to investigate religion in terms of culture and tradition. With visits to Buddhist and Sikh temples, local artists, exhibitions and the vegetarian festival, I was taken on a spiritual journey that led me to produce a range of pen studies, detailed dot

work in particular," he said.

The featured students' artwork will include: acrylic works on canvas, clay sculptures, photographs, digital prints, embroidery, collages, charcoal works, plaster casts and various other mixed media.

In addition to the 48 original pieces displayed by the 17-year-old students, the exhibition will also include Year 2 students' Elephant Prints and Expert Media will be showcasing their 'Children of Karen' photo exhibition.

– Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show (daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59) are proud sponsors of this event.



'Leaders in Me' by Inthu-on Lueangworaphan. Media: Acrylic on clay.

**WHAT'S ON
in Phuket**

Mar 23, 8:30am-9pm. PVC-PHUKET.COM Invitational Car Rally 2014

PVCPHUKET.COM Invitational Car Rally 2014. Maximum 50 entries on first come basis. The entry fee is 2,000 baht per car and two person team. This includes entry to the event, commemorative T-shirts for the driver and navigator and lunch stop food, plus buffet dinner at the finish point. Additional adult passengers are 350 baht per person which includes lunch and dinner. Children up to, and including 12-years-old as passengers with a parent or guardian are 100 baht, which covers lunch and dinner. The finish is at Bliss Beach Club Bang Tao.

This event is sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*, PGTV and 'Phuket Today', the island's only national television show, broadcast daily on True Visions (channels 85 and 59). For more information call Rung on 089-000-4664 oremailrung@mbsthailand.com

Mar 24 - 28, 2-4pm. BISP Year 13 Visual Arts Exhibition

The British International School Phuket (BISP) Year 13 Visual Arts Exhibition includes 48 unique individual pieces by three different student artists. In addition, the Year 2 students have their elephant prints on display and there is an Elephant Parade 3D exhibition by Year 9 BISP students.

In conjunction with this BISP elephant-themed arts exhibition, Expert Media will showcase the 'Children of Karen' photo exhibition. Grand Opening Ceremony, to be held at BISP on Monday, 24 March at 2:45pm.

For more info send an email to events@bisphuket.ac.th

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59), are proud to sponsor this event.

Mar 28, 7-11pm, Indian Curry Buffet



All you can eat, authentic Indian Curry Buffet at 499 baht net per person. Come enjoy our cold mango and Strawberry Lassi with our delicious mutton vindaloo, dal makhani, bombay aloo, mutter paneer, butter chicken and mouthwatering chicken tikka, samosas, freshly baked naans and more. Location: Navrang Mahal in Karon Sea Sands Resort. For more info contact Jaspal Singh on 076 286 464, send an email to info@navrangmahal.com or go to navrangmahal.com

Apr 3-6, 8 - 6pm. Arnco Phuket Oilfield Classic

The 6th annual Arnco Phuket Oilfield Classic will be held from April 3rd to 6th and the organizers, Asian Golf Events, are expecting more than 130 oil and gas executives from around the world to gather in Phuket for four days of golf and entertainment. The event is being held at the Novotel Vintage Park in Patong where festivities will begin with a welcome cocktail party before players take to the course for a Texas scramble event at Red Mountain. The following day there is another individual

stableford event at Loch Palm, after which there will be a gala dinner.

For more info contact David Pettigrew on 081-988-0600, email davidjohnpettigrew@gmail.com or visit asiangolfevents.com

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 85 and 59), are proud to sponsor this event.

Apr 5-12. Phuket ITF Senior Pro Circuit 2014

ITF Senior Pro Tournament in Phuket at Thanyapura. Played on world-class covered plexi-cushion tennis courts. Entry deadline: March 19. For more information contact Club Services on 76 336 000 ext. 5055, email tslc@thanyapura.com.

Apr 6. Chakri Memorial Day

Chakri Day commemorates the origins of the Chakri dynasty, founded by Rama I, who established Bangkok as the nation's capital. HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej is the ninth monarch of the Chakri dynasty.

Apr 7. Substitute Holiday for Chakri Day

A public holiday in Thailand commemorating the Chakri dynasty.

Apr 13-15. Songkran Festival

Songkran is the Thai New Year Festival, also known as the Water Festival. Held during the hottest month in Thailand, Songkran is celebrated by Thais throughout the country, who pour water – traditionally only a little, but these days a lot – on other people to wish them good luck for the new year.

May 1. Labor Day

Public holiday for all commercial workers, but government offices will remain open.

May 5. Coronation Day

Coronation Day commemorates the accession to the throne of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej on May 5, 1950.

May 17, 10am-6pm. IELTS in Phuket

An International English Language Testing System (IELTS) test will be held in Phuket and organized by Phuket Australian Visa and

Student Services (AVSS). To register for the test contact: 076 210934 or 086-595 5148, email avssouth@gmail.com or go to theavss.net

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 either May or early June. It is a day to commemorate three important incidents: the birth, the enlightenment and the passing away of the Buddha. These events are believed to have fallen on the same lunar day and month (but on different years).

June 12 to July 13. FIFA World Cup in Brazil

Football (soccer) fans around the world look forward to the excitement of the 20th edition of the World Cup. This year will be played in arguably the top footballing nation on the planet. Here in Phuket, most of the games will be aired live in the morning hours, though many restaurants and bars will certainly screen reruns of all the matches.

Jun 28-July 27. (depends on moon sighting). Ramadan

Muslims worldwide, or roughly a quarter of the planet's population, observe Ramadan as the ninth month of their calendar, a time for fasting during the day hours and feasting at night.

Jul 11. Arsarnha Bucha Day

This full-moon day of the eighth lunar month (traditional Thai calendar) commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged at all Thai Buddhist temples.

Jul 12. Buddhist Lent

This day of a full moon marks the start of the Buddhist Lent, or rains retreat, the traditional time for Thai males to ordain as a monk, informally observed as the start of the rainy season, when the Southwesterly Monsoons are in full force.





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Head start for young athletes

GIFTED young athletes from Asia and beyond can now be fast-tracked to sporting success without sacrificing a thorough and international standard education. All this thanks to Thanyapura Phuket ground-breaking Elite Junior Sport Academies and boarding facility.

From August 2014, full board and week day boarding options at a purpose-built, state-of-the-art residential facility will be available to all students and athletes aged 13 to 18 years, complete with an exclusive sports scholarship program that will see gifted athletes streamed into elite international sporting colleges upon successful completion of their secondary education.

Until April 30 2014, Thanyapura is accepting applications for a limited number of full and partial scholarships inclusive of sport training, boarding and education at Phuket International Academy Day School, which offers an International Baccalaureate (IB) World School education.

This allows young athletes with Olympic aspirations to combine sports training with an exemplary IB education under one roof – a unique one-stop sports and education experience boasting world-class coaches, facilities and teaching methodologies on a 23-hectare campus. This type of highly fertile environment provides what's needed to propel young athletes towards greatness in the three academies offered – tennis, swimming and triathlon.

"I understand more than most what is needed to excel in sport," said Thanyapura Phuket Executive Chairman and four-time triathlon world champion Chris McCormack, "That's why I'm at Thanyapura and why my three children are here too."

"It has the type of cutting-edge facilities, amenities and progressive approach to the mind and body that is needed to get the very best out of an athlete. It's an all-round approach to excellence in education and sport, body and mind, health and wellness."

"One thing I learned on my way to the top of the sport of triathlon is that life's a learning curve. I finished my education before choosing a life of sport. Thanyapura's Elite Junior Sport Academies now give talented athletes the chance to pursue their dream while achieving a higher education."

"And for children who love sport but are not superstars, Thanyapura's boarding school offers a solid foundation in education, sport and emotional growth, with access to the best teachers and coaches without compromising lifestyle or security."

The Elite Junior Swimming Academy formulates a long-term development plan for athletes that aims to steer them towards college scholarships. Aquatics facilities include a 50meter-Olympic competition pool (3m deep), underwater video analysis window



Thanyapura Phuket Executive Chairman Chris McCormack knows how to get the very best out of an athlete.

and Omega starting blocks. Certified by the American Swimming Coaches Association and Australian Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association, Randy Simon has produced national champions and placed swimmers on Division One US college teams. He is currently coaching prospects at Thanyapura to represent Thailand in the 2016 Olympics. In 2013 Thanyapura's Swimming Academy achieved two gold medals at the SEA Games.

Thanyapura's tennis courts offer the same surface used at the Australian Open – while the Elite Junior Triathlon Academy's program is specifically tailored to International Triathlon Union draft-legal racing, providing the ideal springboard for success at the highest level.

Tryouts for the 2014 Elite Junior Sport Academies and scholarships will take place during the Thanyapura Excel and Sport Performance camps held

during the April and July school holidays. Athletes will have the opportunity to showcase their talent, with other high performing athletes, in front of Academy coaches and support staff.

Phuket International Academy Day School will conduct an Open Day on April 25 2014 for interested parties to visit the expansive campus and learn about the school's social emotional learning philosophy and IB curriculum.

– *Phuket Gazette*

BIS and BPH join forces

RECENTLY, senior management from Bangkok Hospital Phuket met with British International School Phuket (BISP) to discuss ways in which they could work to support each other. The two organizations have already collaborated to provide work experience opportunities at the hospital for BISP students interested in medical careers in Thailand and abroad.

BISP staff said that they were especially proud of two recent

graduates who are currently studying medicine at the joint Srinakharin Wirot and University of Nottingham medical program; Tanaporn "Ploy" Taveepattanakul who graduated from BISP in 2011 and Pophum "Kidd" Lawtongkum who graduated last year. Both of these former BISP students undertook medical work experience at the hospital at the same time as studying at BISP.

Recently, during the February

half term break, two of BISP's current IB Diploma students, Liam Kealy and Emily Han, spent a valuable week of learning within the orthopedic department at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

BISP said that providing work experience opportunities for students was an integral part of its educational curriculum and vital for imparting experience and real-world skills across a number of industries. – *Phuket Gazette*



BISP and BPH management plan on expanding cooperation and mutual support. Photo: Supplied

HeadStart gets outstanding rating

AFTER a thorough internal quality assurance inspection by three evaluators from the Office of the Private Education Commission (OPEC), HeadStart International School Phuket has been awarded a full 100 point score and been rated as outstanding.

HeadStart International School Director Jazon Edouard said that the rating result was a milestone achievement for the school and has praised his staff's efforts.

"This success would not have been possible without

everyone's diligence, care and attention to the many details which are required of us as educators on a daily basis," he said.

"OPEC evaluators informed us that we are currently the only school in Phuket to have achieved the full 100 point score and one of only several in the country to have achieved this score on the first accreditation visit," he added.

All private schools in Thailand are assessed by OPEC on a three year cycle.

– *Phuket Gazette*



HeadStart celebrates a milestone achievement. Photo: Supplied

At the edge of the bay

By Jeremie Schatz

PERCHED above the waters of the Andaman Sea, on the southern end of Patong Beach, sits a resort that has withstood the test of time. If Amari Phuket had eyes it would have witnessed quite a transformation played out on the shores of Patong Bay over the three decades that have passed since it was built.

But Amari's most recent evolution comes at the hands and knives of their new Italian Chef de Cuisine, Patrizia Battolu, who has taken the helm of the resort's well-regarded restaurant La Gritta.

Set the scene

To get to La Gritta, one must descend a long stairway from the parking area above the resort, before emerging in the newly renovated Voyager Lounge, featuring a breath-taking vista of the entirety of Patong Bay. The ideal location for a quiet sunset drink, the Voyager's open air terrace has little to distract from the spectacular ocean view.

Descending another flight of steps brings you to La Gritta, at first glance there will be no doubt that it truly is beachfront dining. Any closer and diners would have to sit in the water. Lights underneath the veranda illuminate gently lapping waves beyond the amber glow of the candlelit tables. This is the absolutely ideal place for a romantic dinner. There is an indoor, air-conditioned dining room, but who wants to sit inside and miss out on the salty, evening sea breeze?

Set the table

La Gritta describes itself as a, "Traditional Italian restaurant with a contemporary flair, with a

menu highlighted by a selection of gourmet pizzas, handmade pastas and delectable desserts." This description only alludes to the temptations that await diners.

Let's start at the beginning – the Antipasto Misto. A traditional selection of freshly cut salamis, bresaola beef, Parma ham, calamari, prawns, grilled zucchini and carrots, complemented by a selection of house baked breads, certainly gets you in the mood for the coming meal.

No Italian dinner is complete without bruschetta. Chef Patrizia's version exemplifies the contemporary flair mentioned earlier with its mushrooms and foie gras drizzled with a balsamic vinegar reduction. None of the flavors were too overwhelming, rather, a palette pleasing spectrum.

What followed was the beautifully presented and equally tasteful seared tuna with black sesame and fennel with an orange and black olive salad. At first, it sounded as if the fennel would dominate the other flavors, drowning out the fresh tuna and nutty sesame, but this wasn't the case at all. The fennel was used sparingly with just enough of a hint to add some complexity.

The meal shifted origins, departing the salty waters in exchange for the earthy flavors of lamb chops with a black pepper sauce and roasted rosemary and garlic potatoes. Not everyone is fond of the flavor of lamb, but if you are, this dish is an excellent choice. The lamb has a rich enough flavor to stand on its own, but with the sweetness and delicate bite of the black pepper sauce, not to mention the punchy flavor of the potatoes, one would be hard-pressed to be disappointed with this selection.

The meal shifted origins, departing the salty waters in exchange for the earthy flavors of lamb chops...



The beautifully presented and equally tasty seared tuna with black sesame and fennel. Photos: Jeremie Schatz



The Voyager Lounge. Photo: Supplied



La Gritta's beachfront location.



Chef de Cuisine Patrizia Battolu.

It is not an easy feat to find homemade pasta on the menu in Phuket – it is a laborious process and many restaurants don't undertake it. However, La Gritta does, and their effort pays off in spades. The seafood spaghetti with clams, mussels, prawns, and squid tossed in a white wine sauce with chili oil, garlic and tomato is delightful. The flavors are fresh and light, and the pasta has that texture and flavor that can only be found in the fresh homemade variety.

There is so much more on the menu but so little space in the stomach – just make sure you save some to tickle your sweet tooth with the cassata with preserved fruits and marscapone, the perfect light end to a hearty Italian feast.

And for those fortunate enough



Mushroom and foie gras bruschetta drizzled with balsamic reduction.

to call Phuket home, you can pick up an "Amari Phuket Resident Priviledge Card" free of charge. The card grants the holder to a 20 per cent discount at Amari's La Gritta Restaurant, Rim Talay Restaurant, Rim Talay Poolside Bar,

The Lobby Bar, The Jetty as well as the Breeze Spa.

For more information, visit amari.com or call 076-340106 ext 14 or stop by in person at 2 Muen-ngern Road, Patong Beach, Kathu, Phuket 83150



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Blighted bougainvilleas



The hardy bougainvillea, which thrives in pots, is often grown as a bonsai tree. Photo: Ewen and Donabel

PAULA has written to me with some questions about her *bougainvilleas*. Located in planters on a sun-drenched balcony, they have flourished for years. However, she is concerned because they are now showing signs of distress with many petals [bracts] dropping prematurely. She conjectures that it may be for several reasons: namely that the containers (which are permanent and cannot be replaced with bigger ones) may now be too small. Or that in the present drought, the shrubs need more water, adding that the soil is "very dry". She adds that they are given "fertilizer and new soil" every time she visits Phuket.

I hope, Paula, that the following general remarks help you to address the issue.

Bougainvilleas, like *adeniums* and *euphorbias*, (equally popular container plants) are among the most resilient of shrubs. Though they are not as drought-proof as

succulents, which store moisture in their tissues, they nonetheless need relatively little water. As your hotelier friend suggests, a soaking once a week should be sufficient. In the rainy season, your plants may need no additional water at all. That *bougainvilleas* thrive in hot, dry conditions is evidenced by the current spectacular displays around the island. I have never seen such a profusion of bloom.

In the present heat wave however, increase the dosage of water, but still allow the soil to dry out between applications. And ensure – and this is very important – that your planters drain effectively. In large measure, how well they drain depends on the soil in your containers. It may have become too compacted. A peaty mix, moreover, is too water retentive. So try not to replace or top up with commercial compost. If you must use it, then



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

add some ordinary soil. A sandy loam is best of all.

You say that the petals are falling. But they will drop at this time of year, especially if the plant is producing masses of colorful bracts (actually modified leaves). It does not mean, necessarily, that the plant is in poor health. But if leaf-drop is heavy and the foliage is discolored, then something is amiss: possibly soil that is actually too dry or has been suddenly watered too enthusiastically. Maybe, Paula, you have been a bit lavish with the granular fertilizer – which must always be used sparingly.

It is important to remember that *bougainvilleas* have two distinct growth cycles: the first is a period of rapid vegetative growth



Photo: Forest and Kim Starr

The colored 'flowers' of the bougainvillea are actually modified leaves.

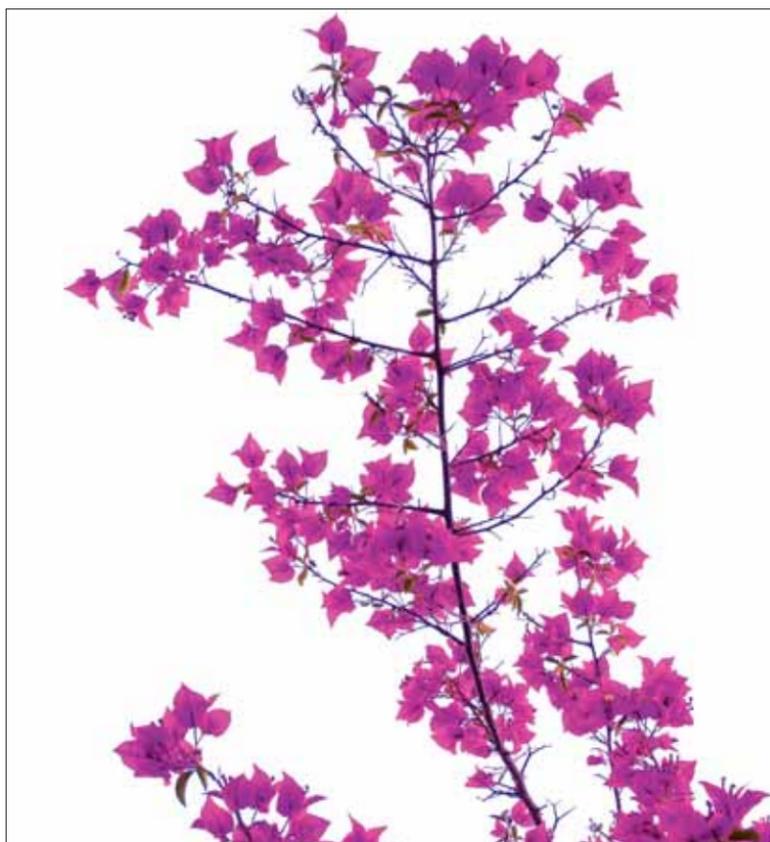
when the shoots are sappy and green leaves appear. If there is insufficient sunlight, the shrub will remain in this verdant state and may not progress to the second and flowering stage. Thus, a specimen in deep shade may never bloom. But given oodles of sun – say a minimum of five hours a day – the plant will put all its energy into the production of colorful bracts. How long the blooms remain on the prickly stems depends on the well-being of the plant.

You mention that the containers may now be too small. This is unlikely. *Bougainvilleas* have fine root systems, but given adequate nutrients, will cope with cramped surroundings. Unlike many woody shrubs, they are happy to be root-bound. That is one reason why they are often cultivated as "bonsai" specimens. Re-potting is not only unnecessary; it will disturb the plant and

retard growth. But they are heavy feeders and will need, as you know, light but consistent applications of fertilizer. Ideally use a phosphorus rich formula: a mix of – say N10-P15-K10 – is better than a standard one of 15-15-15. Added iron will ensure masses of vibrant color.

Finally you mention trimming. *Bougainvilleas* are tough cookies and in open ground will withstand any amount of pruning and cutting back. Obviously plants in pots do not need this kind of drastic treatment. But you are right to trim off what is frequently straggly growth. This trimming is best left till after the first display, so that new blooms can form on the shortened flowering spurs. Done that way, the all-important process of blooming should not be affected.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email me at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com



Bougainvilleas thrive in hot, dry conditions. Photo: Roni G

Thought of the week

Home sharers

WE ALL have geckos in our homes or scurrying around our garden walls. They are considered lucky in Thailand and with good reason: they consume an awful lot of insects, including mosquitoes and flying termites.

I had an extra large male red-spotted tokay in a bedroom in my house, so named after its raucous call. It had certainly done its job, including eating any other small geckos in the vicinity, but with so many droppings on the floor, it was time to eject the house guest. Not easy because they can bite. But I was determined not to harm the fellow – his kind are rapidly becoming a threatened species in Thailand because of their reputedly medicinal value, especially in China.

We managed to ensnare him in a net without breaking off his tail or ripping his delicately marked skin. He is far better off in the garden.



Photo: Jnguyen327

The tokay gecko is the second largest gecko species.

The other great master

Books

By James Eckardt

IN MY recent review of Thomas Pynchon's new novel, I wrote that I considered Pynchon and Robert Stone to be the finest living American writers. Stone has just come out with his own new novel: *Death of the Black-Haired Girl* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, New York, 2013, 281pp).

The pair share some similarities. They were born in the same year (1937), grew up in New York, and have written eight novels apiece. But while Pynchon writes the same as he did 50 years ago, on the same themes of entropy and paranoia, a closed universe with no opening to transcendence, with wild and wacky humor and great serpentine sentences that are a delight to read, he doesn't bother much with plot or characterization.

Stone is just the opposite, more conventional in style, but with thrilling plots and deeply-felt characters. He also wrestles with his own recurring themes of madness and religion. But unlike Pynchon, Stone has moved into a new elegiac phase, concise, fast-paced and powerful.

His novels have ranged from Vietnam to Nicaragua to Mexico to Jerusalem, AND to the open seas of a global sailboat race. His new novel is confined to the campus of an Ivy League college and the waning days of an illicit romance between Maud Stack, the black-haired girl of the title, and her married

professor, Steven Brookman.

The tall, beautiful Maud Stack is also a brilliant student. She shines in exalted company.

"These were kids whose high school teachers carried them to the airport on their shoulders – the preppie stars, the advanced-placement-class brains and scholar athletes, the alpha girls, the youths of destiny to be raised up or broken by time's wheel," Stone writes.

Maud has risen from an Irish Catholic neighborhood in Queens, where her father still lives, Eddie Stack, a former NYPD detective and alcoholic who is dying slowly of emphysema, both from smoking and excavating the Twin Towers three years previously. After the death of his wife, he abandoned his religious faith, as has his daughter. She writes a vicious screed in the college newspaper against the old-school Catholic activists who are picketing a local abortion clinic.

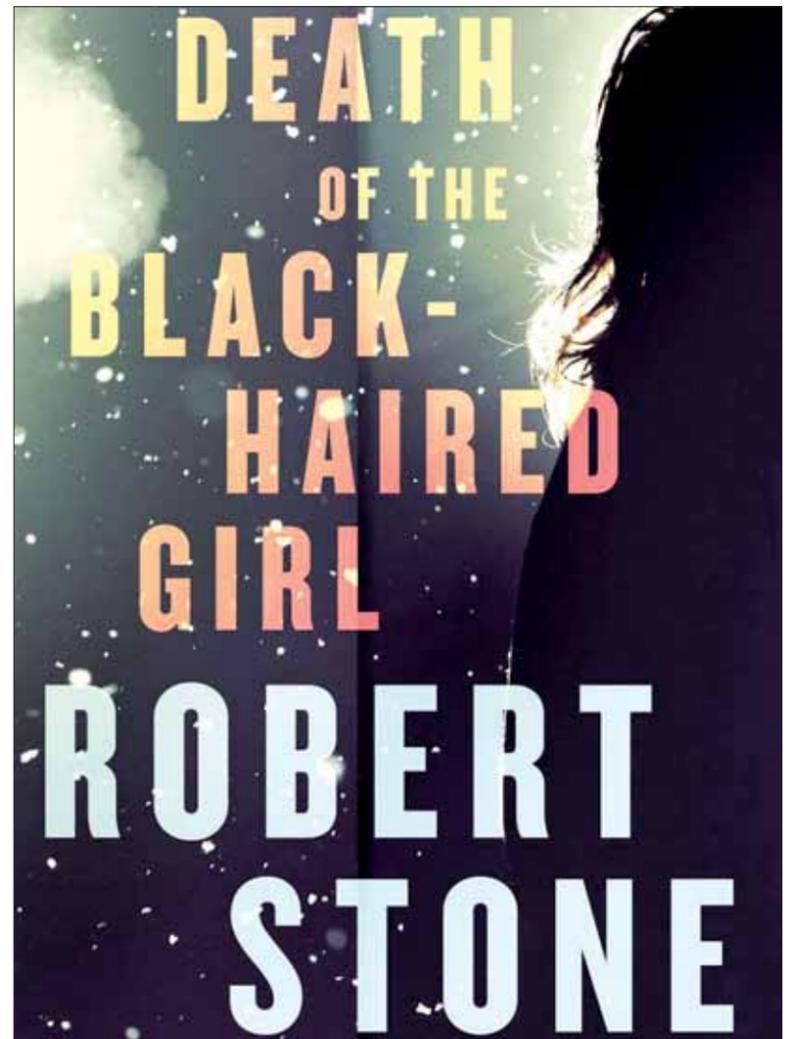
Many characters in this novel are God-haunted. While Professor Brookman is avowedly secular, his wife Elsie grew up in a rustic Mennonite community in Saskatchewan and believes that Brookman is the man God has chosen for her. On a family visit home, she writes to her husband that she is pregnant with her second child. Brookman resolves to break off his affair with Maud, causing her to flee college for New York and spiral out of control in a binge of heavy drinking, dope smoking and casual sex.

Also God-haunted is Jo Carr, Maud's former counselor, who attempts to help her. Carr had been

a missionary nun in the remote Andes and witnessed mass terror and atrocities under a charismatic rogue priest, a leader of the Shining Path guerillas. She wonders if he had played a part in her death, which occurs less than halfway through the novel. On a snowy street, crowded with fans returning from a college hockey game, a drunken Maud Stack confronts the Brookmans outside their home and is killed by a hit-and-run driver.

Packing a Glock, Eddie Stark arrives at the college on a mission of vengeance. Seeking to deter him are Jo Carr and the highly respected wife of the college dean, Mary Pick, heir of an ancient English Catholic family.

"Jo and Mary had each soldiered through the unraveling ranks of the Catholic religion on various of its forced marches through the abysmal sleep of reason. They had both borne the burden *Credo quia absurdum*. Mary, bred in the bone, had proved the stauncher trooper, with a commando's grip on absurdum."



It is Mary Pick, in the midst of madness, fanaticism, rage and hatred, who delivers a simple message. "We are taught that the universe is beautiful. We believe it is good. We believe its phenomena reflect a perfection beyond our

understanding but that we can partly experience... Reflecting that being we know as God. Matter, stuff, quickened to human life, is therefore sacred."

Is it enough to save Eddie Stark?

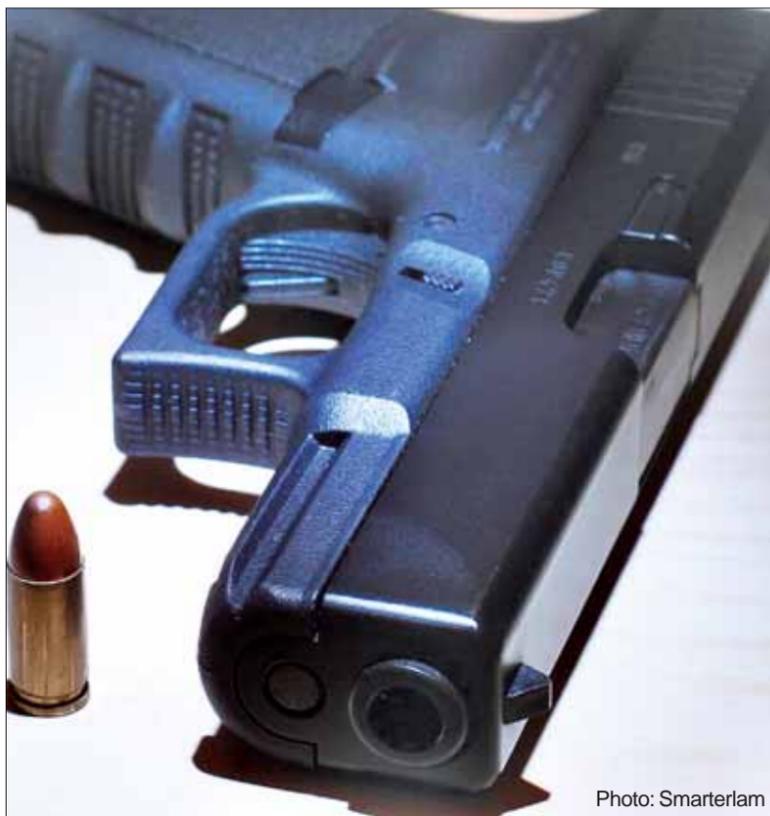


Photo: Smarterlam

Packing a Glock, Eddie Stark arrives at the college on a mission of vengeance.



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Seeking asylum, finding abuse

Trafficking of Rohingyas into Malaysia threatens to undermine its anti-human-trafficking record

By Stuart Grudgings

HUMAN traffickers have kept hundreds of Rohingya Muslims captive in houses in northern Malaysia, beating them, depriving them of food, and demanding a ransom from their families, according to detailed accounts by the victims.

The accounts given to Reuters suggest that trafficking gangs are shifting their operations into Malaysia as Thai authorities crack down on jungle camps near the border that have become a prison for the Muslim asylum seekers fleeing persecution in Myanmar.

Police in the northern Malaysian states of Penang and Kedah have conducted several raids on the houses in recent months, including an operation in February that discovered four Rohingya men bound together with metal chains in an apartment.

But Reuters' interviews reveal a trafficking network on a far bigger scale than authorities have acknowledged so far, with brokers herding groups of hundreds of Rohingya at night over the border and holding them captive in the Southeast Asian country.

The abuse in Malaysia is the latest oppression against the Rohingya. They are mostly stateless Muslims from western Myanmar, where clashes with majority Buddhists since the middle of 2012 have killed hundreds and forced about 140,000 into squalid camps.

Many of the tens of thousands of Rohingya fleeing Myanmar by boat have fallen into the hands of human traffickers at sea who then hold them hostage in remote Thai camps near the border with Malaysia until relatives pay thousands of dollars to release them, according to a Reuters investigation published on December 5, 2013.

Some were beaten and killed, others held in cages where they suffered malnutrition. The Reuters investigation found Thai authorities were sometimes working with the traffickers in an effort to push the Rohingyas out of Thailand because immigration detention camps were getting overwhelmed with asylum-seekers.

In January, Thai police said they rescued hundreds of Rohingya Muslims from a remote camp in southern Thailand, a raid they said was prompted by the Reuters investigation, and had launched a manhunt for the "kingpins" who routinely smuggle humans through southern Thailand to Malaysia with impunity.

The intensified trafficking of Rohingyas into Muslim-majority Malaysia threatens to undermine its anti-human-trafficking record, which is at imminent risk of being downgraded by the United States to a par with North Korea.

It also highlights the porous state of Malaysia's 500km-long northern border, with thousands of Rohingya entering unhindered at a time when the government has taken a tough public stance against illegal immigration.

For the desperate Rohingya, Malaysia is the promised land, where at least 30,000 already live. The country does not give them full refugee rights, but has allowed them to stay and register with the United Nations. Thousands have picked up work at the bottom rungs of the informal economy.

WE DON'T HAVE LAND

Mohamed Einous, a 19-year-old Rohingya from Buthidaung township, felt relief sweep over him as he scrambled over a border wall in a group of 270 refugees in mid-February, about a month after he left Myanmar. The crossing took place at night using two ladders supplied by his captors.

"I believed I could make money here," Einous told Reuters.

His hope of freedom was short-lived. Handed to a new gang of brokers on the Malaysia side of the border, the Rohingya were packed into vans and driven to a house with blacked-out windows the traffickers said was in the border town of Padang Besar.

Once there, the brokers beat Einous with long wooden sticks and threatened to kill him if he did not secure a payment of US\$2,000 from his parents in Myanmar. Distraught at Einous' cries over the telephone, his parents sold their family home for US\$1,600 and



Many of the Rohingya fleeing Myanmar by boat have fallen into the hands of human traffickers at sea who then hold them hostage in remote Thai camps. Photo: Kritsada Mueahawong

borrowed the rest from relatives, Einous said.

"There are no words to express how sorry I feel," Einous told Reuters on February 21, just hours after the brokers dumped him near a market in the town of Bukit Mertajam in Penang, ending his eight-day nightmare in the house.

"Now we don't have land. My parents have nowhere to live."

Einous said the brokers in Thailand had told him he could pay a much smaller amount ("whatever I wanted") to be released once in Malaysia. He said the refugees only received rice once a day in the house and were packed so tightly into two rooms that they couldn't lie down.

Abdul Hamid, a 23-year-old motorbike mechanic from Sittwe, in Myanmar's Rakhine state, recalled similar conditions at the compound where he was imprisoned for a week with more than 200 others in Penang.

About 16 guards kept watch over them in two shifts. The traffickers' boss, a man in his 30s known as "Razak" who wore a suit and steel-rimmed spectacles, regularly kicked, beat and threatened the cowering prisoners, Hamid said.

"They said we don't have money to give you food. You need to get money if you want to be free," Hamid told Reuters in Kuala Lumpur following his release in mid-February.

Malaysia, a labor-short country with an estimated two million undocumented workers that offers higher wages than its neighbors, has long struggled with a reputation as a haven for human trafficking. Like Thailand, Malaysia is at risk of being downgraded in the US State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons report from the Tier Two watchlist to the

lowest rank of Tier Three.

The scale of the problem appears to have surged in recent months.

"It is definitely increasing," said Chris Lewa, coordinator of Rohingya advocacy group Arakan Project, who regularly interviews those who make the journey. "In more and more stories I have heard recently they [Rohingya] have been detained in Malaysia."

Several of the 10 witnesses cited the brokers as telling them they had bribed Malaysian immigration officials to turn a blind eye when they crossed the border. Reuters found no direct evidence of corruption by Malaysian officials. Five immigration officials were arrested in 2009 for working with a smuggling syndicate to traffic Rohingya into the country.

"We didn't see any officials on the Malaysia side," said Korimullah, a 17-year-old from Maungdaw township, who spent more than three months in Thai camps and was then held by traffickers in a house in the northern Malaysian city of Alor Star. "The brokers said they had already given money to them."

Officials from Malaysia's immigration department, the prime minister's office, and police in Penang and Kedah states did not respond to requests for comment.

BORDER CHAOS

The surge of Rohingya trafficking activity in Malaysia followed a series of raids to harass human smugglers and drive them from illegal camps dotted across remote areas of southern Thailand. In two raids in January, Thai police rescued and detained more than 600 Rohingya and Bangladeshis.

Abdul Hamid and several other witnesses described chaotic scenes on the Thai side of the

border in recent weeks as their captors moved them from camp to camp and hurried them over the border before they had time to secure payments from their relatives.

"The guards said the police would come and drop a bomb on the camp and that we had to move into Malaysia," Hamid said.

Increasingly overcrowded and deadly conditions in the makeshift jungle camps in Thailand could be another reason for the shift of operations into Malaysia.

"We couldn't get enough food or water. People were dying with terrible pains in their body," said Eisoup, a 20-year-old from Sittwe, who estimates that 45 people died in 15 days at his camp in January.

Many of those involved in Rohingya trafficking are Rohingya themselves, according to Reuters' interviews and the Arakan Project's Lewa.

Mohamed Aslom's arms bear cuts and burn marks from where he says cigarettes were stubbed out on him by Rohingya brokers during seven days he spent in captivity in a locked, dark room in Penang with about 20 other victims.

The 21-year-old former shopkeeper said he was then sold to another group of brokers who drove him and three others across Malaysia to the east coast town of Kuantan, where the torture continued for four days in a three-storey house.

Finally, he saw a chance to escape. When one of his captors went to the toilet, he said he rushed the remaining one and bolted into the street.

"It feels worse when those from Rakhine [State] hurt us - they are our own people," said Aslom, speaking in Kuala Lumpur days after his brother picked him up from Kuantan. - Reuters

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Convict turned hero

Looking Back By Anand Singh

IN THE year 1782, King Taksin was deposed and Chao Phraya Chakri replaced him as King Rama I, ushering in the reign of the Chakri Dynasty. In the wake of political turbulence that followed, members of the old royal family, many high-ranking nobles and governors were accused of siding with the old regime and were relieved from authority or persecuted.

During this time, one of King Taksin's foremost generals, Chao Phraya Inthawongsa, escaped the capital, Thonburi, and marched with a handful of loyal supporters to Pak Phra, the narrow channel separating Phuket Island from the mainland, and seek refuge there. In the year 1784, the new King sent Phraya Thammatrailok down to Phuket to arrest Inthawongsa on charges of treason. However, it was not the general's intention to go easily and a fight broke out between his and Thammatrailok's men. Inthawongsa's supporters found themselves outnumbered and were soon defeated. The general managed to flee once again to Baan Tha Rua, further south of Phuket, where he later committed suicide to avoid imminent capture.

In the aftermath of Inthawongsa's final rebellion, Lady Chan, an honorable and highly respected noble woman of Thalang, was also accused of aiding the rebels. She was arrested on Thammatrailok's orders and sent to be imprisoned at Pak Phra channel.

On the western border however, a much bigger threat had been looming since the deposition of King Taksin. The Burmese, Siam's old enemy, were preparing yet another large-scale invasion of the kingdom. Almost two decades earlier, King Taksin managed to single-handedly drive the Burmese out of the kingdom. His reputation as a military genius had kept the Burmese at bay and discouraged them from planning another invasion of Siam. But now that the King was no more, the Burmese saw it as their opportunity to settle an old feud with Siam.

The Burmese divided their forces into nine armies and simultaneously spearheaded into the different regions of Siam. One such army made its way through the south of the kingdom and headed straight for Thalang, the largest town on Phuket Island.

Prior to the invasion of Phuket, the locals of Thalang were prewarned of the Burmese threat when the governor of Takua-Pa sent news about sightings of Burmese troops near his town to Captain Francis Light in Penang.

Light was an English captain and trader who had lived in Phuket for almost a decade. He was a close friend of Lady Chan and he relayed the news on to her as soon as he heard about the invasion.

In the year 1785, the Burmese reached Phuket Island with an army and a navy numbering 3,000 men. They attacked the island's fortifications at Pak Phra channel and soon the fortifications fell. The Burmese were thus able to land their troops on the island. According to a letter from Lady Chan to Captain Francis Light, she explained to him that in the confusion that followed the attack on Pak Phra, she was released and allowed to escape by boat to Thalang Town.

Thalang Town was reasonably well prepared for war, thanks to Lady Chan and Thien, her son, both of whom had stockpiled enough modern weaponry from European traders in the years leading up to the war. Many of Lady Chan's letters to Captain Light spoke about the purchase of European made muskets and cannons. Unfortunately for her and the people of Thalang, Phraya Phimon, their governor had recently died, leaving Thalang without a strong leader.

When news reached Thalang of the sacking of Takua-Thung town, Lady Chan called a meeting of all high-ranking officials of Thalang to plan the defense of the town. The Siamese troops of Thalang were divided into two camps stationed behind Phra Nang Sang Temple. From historical records, it is said that there were two cannons used by the locals of Thalang. One was named Mae Nang Klang Muang, or the Lady of the Town Center. The other cannon bore the more ferocious name, Phra Phiroon Sangharn, or Death by Phiroon (the Hindu god of wind and rain). Lady Chan assumed the highest command of the defense forces, with Khun Mook, her sister as her aide.

The Burmese were encamped opposite the fortifications built by the locals of Thalang. The two cannons continuously fired at the Burmese camp and skirmishes between the two sides continued for over a month. But the Burmese were discouraged to mount an offensive to break the Siamese defenses.

A month later, the Burmese had lost around three to four hundred men to the fighting and disease. With the Burmese invaders weakened, the forces of Thalang took the offensive and attacked the Burmese at their camps. The Burmese were taken by surprise and could not put up any effective resistance. They fled back to their boats and left Phuket on March 13, 1785. Against all odds, it was a glorious victory for the townspeople of Thalang.



Many of Phuket's festivals and celebrations commemorate the victory over Burmese forces. Photo: Gazette File

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ASIAN GOLF EVENTS

Into thin air

The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, is the greatest mystery in modern aviation history

By Somchai Huasaikul

THE disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, the greatest mystery in modern aviation history, remains unsolved as this edition goes to print. The ongoing investigation into the cause of the disappearance increasingly points to an intentional and dramatic change of the aircraft's course westward by someone on board, most likely one of the two Malaysian pilots, in an act of intentional sabotage – or possibly hijacking.

Numerous other theories have been suggested, but none confirmed, as the fate and current location of the airliner, and those on board, remains unknown.

Theories include an initially plausible sounding, but now largely discounted, scenario under which the flight may have been the world's first remote "cyber-hijacking", committed by persons unknown taking control of the 777's flight and communications systems remotely.



However, this theory has largely been dismissed by aviation experts who now say that the timing of the course change, just as the plane was leaving Malaysian airspace and entering that of Vietnam, and other factors, all seem to indicate that the course change had to have been carried out by someone on board with a great deal of knowledge of the 777's flight and communication systems.

The story of Flight 370 has

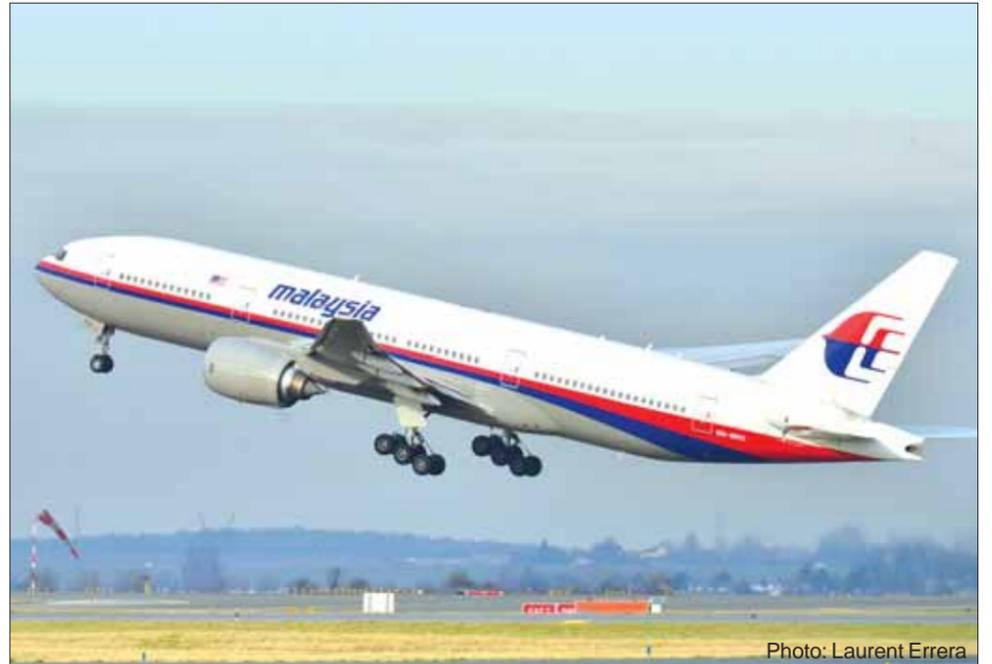


Photo: Laurent Errera

The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 remains unsolved as this edition goes to print.

several links to Phuket. First, two passengers on the flight were known to have been travelling on passports stolen from foreign tourists visiting Phuket, fueling speculation that control of the plane may have been taken over by terrorists. Under this scenario, the hijackers then managed to have the plane's commercial transponders turned off, eventually flying low enough to avoid detection by military radar – possibly with the intention of landing in a remote destination, possibly to refuel and carry out a 9/11 type catastrophe somewhere in the region.

Second, there are indications that MAS370's altered flight path may have taken it into Thai airspace in an area in the Thai south, which falls under the responsibility of AeroThai's regional control hub at Phuket International Airport. However, with the transponders turned off, it

would have been virtually impossible to detect by civilian radar, experts say. The Malaysian military did eventually confirm the westward flight path several days after the plane's disappearance.

Third, it has also been revealed that one of the two pilots, 27-year-old first officer pilot Fariq Abdul Hamid, had once invited Australian teenager Jonti Roos and another female friend to travel in the cockpit for the entirety of a flight from Phuket to Kuala Lumpur in 2011. This revelation was aired on a popular Australian television show. Malaysia Airlines subsequently issued a statement saying it was "shocked by these allegations".

With a lack of concrete answers, the fate of the flight has also been the source of much conjecture by the lunatic fringe and conspiracy theorists, who have offered a wide range of far out theories including "all the usual suspects": aliens, the Illuminati and so on. Such conjecture will likely continue and increase until more concrete answers are forthcoming.

Meanwhile, Up in the Air and the Gazette join the families and friends of those on board in hoping that the passengers are eventually found alive.



Malaysia's acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein shows the last known possible location of the plane. Photo: Damir Sagolj/Reuters

Thai AirAsia to begin major push to draw back tourists

THAI AirAsia is preparing to work with the AirAsia network regionally to promote Thailand more aggressively in an effort to revive a stable flow of foreign tourists into the Kingdom after it was hit by prolonged political turmoil, while in the process, meeting its cabin-factor projection of 84 per cent this year.

The Thai unit is working in cooperation with AirAsia's offices in other jurisdictions including the Philippines and Malaysia, and also its marketing offices in Hong Kong, mainland China, Indonesia and Singapore. Major markets are the primary focus, concentrating on mainland China, Singapore and Hong Kong.

Santisuk Klongchaiya, director of commercial affairs at Thai AirAsia, said the carrier

would work even harder in the remaining months of the year to achieve its goal. Regional media outlets will be exploited via campaign promotions and familiarization trips would be organized, inviting journalists to witness peaceful tourism scenes across the region.

The message to be delivered is that Thailand still has many places to explore, outside the capital city.

Since political tension started late last year in Bangkok and escalated after the government declared a state of emergency, the airline has faced a drop of foreign passengers. Its cabin factor this quarter has declined to 80 per cent, against 84-85 per cent in the first three months of last year.

The number of Chinese passengers has decreased 10-20 per

cent year-on-year. Santisuk said mainland China was the major market on which the campaign would focus with the hope of restoring tourists' confidence. Singapore and Hong Kong are also targeted because arrivals from those two markets have been hit hard by travel warnings issued by their governments.

However, the state of emergency is still a main enemy of the tourism industry. Santisuk said that if the decree is lifted in the near future, it will be a boon to tourism. The hope is for a revival during the low season in the second and third quarters, especially next month's Songkran Festival.

If the campaign is a success, Thai AirAsia's cabin factor in the next two quarters will be better than last year. And if the situation returns to normal, the cabin



AirAsia has joined with Counter Service to offer easy access to air tickets across the nation. Photo: Supplied

factor in the fourth quarter may reach 90 per cent.

Given easing political tensions, Thai AirAsia X, the country's first medium and long-haul low-cost carrier, is expected to launch its first flight in the second quarter.

An official announcement will be made in the near future.

Yesterday, the carrier joined with Counter Service Co to offer easy

access to AirAsia tickets across the nation, the first to offer international flights through the system. The airline hopes this new collaboration will expand its sales distribution channels and increase passenger traffic. Currently, online sales make up 75 per cent of the total. Counter Service is expected to contribute 3-5 per cent of offline sales.

– Phuket Gazette

Give it all you've got

By Maciek Klimowicz

TO understand what motivates people, what makes them move forward and what prevents them from quitting, I talked to a pop star, a successful academic and to a triathlete. A pop star, an academic, a triathlete. A pop star, an academic, a triathlete...are you getting it? These are not three separate people, this is one person! And his name is Navin Tar.

Not many people can put "actor, singer and professor" in the work experience section of their resume. He can. Having performed in a number of movie and TV productions, released several successful music albums, graduated with a PhD from the University of California and worked as a mathematics professor at one of Thailand's universities, Tar is easily one of the most versatile people out there. And now he's turned to sports. His success formula being, "give it all you got", he recently underwent hard triathlon training at Phuket's Thanyapura, giving the *Gazette* a chance to ask how he does it and maybe even more important – why he does it?

You're a popular actor, singer, you achieved a lot in the world of academics, so how did the triathlon come about?

Navin Tar: On a more practical side, after I took my PhD studies in the US, at one point my weight reached over 100 kilograms. So, I felt like I needed to do something for my health. But on a deeper level I believe that the more

you do, the more you get from what you do. That's the main reason I got into triathlon. It's like a one-on-one relationship – the more you train, the better results you get. You need to make an effort in order to achieve something.

You have a lot of experience in achieving your goals. You achieved a lot in academic life, a lot in the Thai entertainment business. What are you trying to achieve through triathlon?

Of course, I hope to win some races, and I do have some more defined goals, but it's hard to say it out loud because I'm the kind of a person who'd rather keep quiet about such things. Going around and saying, 'I'm going to do this, I'm going to do that' when you're not even that close, doesn't make much sense to me.

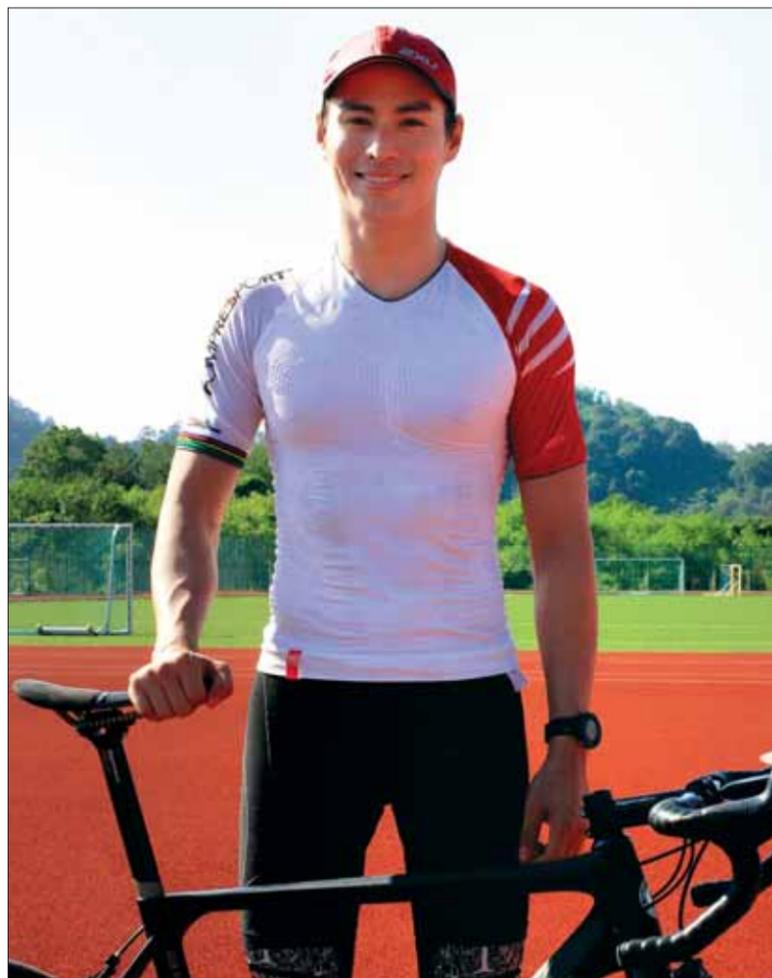
In the past, I've been trying to do my best whenever I tried something, and it's the same thing with sport. I'm the kind of person who likes to get out of their comfort zone because it helps you progress as a person and this is what I'm doing here.

You're training for triathlon in Thanyapura, did you do much training before and are you planning to continue your training back in Bangkok?

I had my rough schedule of training before, but combined with my work, it didn't seem to produce optimal results – even though I tried my best. I was giving it all I had. In fact, I had to organize my time outside sports more than I had to find time to train. It's my



Whatever Tar does, he gives it 100 per cent. That's why he chose to train for Triathlon at Thanyapura. Photo: Supplied



Navin Tar: 'If there's one thing I'm good at, it's trying hard' Photo: Supplied

priority, I just want to be out there running, swimming, practicing, not spending my time at work.

Here at Thanyapura, I learned a lot about organizing my training, and the coach has been very helpful. Now I know how to do it, and of course I plan on continuing my training.

The athletes I meet here at Thanyapura prize the center for different things – the facilities, the coaches. What is the biggest upside for you?

It feels like this place was made for triathlon training. It's a perfect place, well thought out, it feels like people who built this place had triathlon in mind. Second thing, would be the people, who share the very same vision. When people who are passionate about a certain sport get together, it's a lot of fun.

Is it fun? It's not an easy training, especially when you give it 100 per cent.

It's painful, super painful, and at a certain point you start asking yourself, 'why am I even here?' But what's great about this sport, is that when you realize that you're untrained in all its elements, you can't go back. The feeling of going forward is so great that you can set everything aside and you just keep going. You just have to be focused enough, and be positive enough so you never fall into a trap of wanting to quit. I don't know about motivation, about all these things, but I know how to keep going.

People in Thailand know you as an actor, singer and an academic. When will they be able to call you a triathlete?

I never really do anything so that people would look at me in a certain way. I always do it because I feel good about it. I think this is something people see in me and they appreciate it, at least that's something I hope for. I

strongly believe than whenever you put your mind to something, you can achieve what you want. Your mind is everything. So whenever I do something new, I go all the way. This is actually what I'm good at. I feel I'm not really that good at anything – not singing, not being a PhD scholar. But what I am good at, is that I try really hard, and that's something that I'm proud of.

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Going, going gone...

Phuket's natural heritage is disappearing fast in the face of unrestrained development

By Patrick Campbell

FIRST, a few facts. Only five per cent of the English landscape consists of so-called "ancient woodland", the lowest percentage in Europe. Ever since Neolithic times, man has plundered this asset, most recently in the era of wooden ships and then again by the rapacious energy demands of the Industrial Revolution. More recently, these sylvan landscapes have been further depleted by development, though there is a seductive argument that this can be mitigated by creating new habitats – that planting more trees than are felled offers a net gain.

Though such replacement is indeed better than nothing, this argument is barely relevant, since centuries old woodlands are priceless repositories of biodiversity which it would take hundreds of years to restore. A single mature English oak, for example, can host up to 25,000 individual creatures, including birds, mammals and as many as 280 species of insect. The older the tree, the more significant its role in promoting such riches, and the more bountiful the humus-laden earth for plants at ground level.

Switch to Thailand. The deforestation process has been both more recent and more drastic. A significant proportion of woodland disappeared soon after World War Two, and at an annual rate of 4,500 square kilometers, among the highest rates in the

tropical world. This depletion and degradation continued until the eighties, as the government pursued a policy of raising revenue from commercial logging, and permitting woodland encroachment both by untenured farmers, and by speculators.

Now, most of Thailand's original rainforest have gone: where woodland still exists, it is secondary growth, a degraded habitat from which most of the mature trees, especially those with commercial value such as rosewood, eaglewood and teak, have disappeared. Particularly sad, since tropical rainforests contain the greatest species diversity of all natural habitats on the planet – greater even than ancient oak woodland.

The problem has been exacerbated by a rapidly expanding population and the consequent need to clear forest land for food farming, especially for rice production in the north, and by the existence of property rights in the kingdom which are, to say the least, often ambiguous. These anomalies concerning land ownership have resulted in outbursts of illegal logging, encroachment and land occupancy. Over the years, there have been instances of fires deliberately started by farmers and property speculators. While a complete embargo on commercial logging was finally introduced in 1989, we continue to read about disturbing instances of encroachment.



Photos: Supplied

The area of Phuket's national forest reserves has halved in less than two decades.

In Phuket, the picture needs some modification: the destruction of rainforest was initially related to commercial initiatives, first tin-mining, then by the opportunities the island offered for cultivating mono-culture cash crops such as rubber, oil palm and pineapple. While these crops appear to be "natural", they are impoverished environments for wildlife. True, Phuket still has sixteen national forest reserves, but they are especially at risk since they are the only remaining areas that contain mature, indigenous trees and consequently support an unparalleled range of birds, mammals and reptiles. Ominously, in less than two decades, their total area has halved.

What makes the situation worse is the fact that this small resort island is one of the world's top holiday destinations. As the price of land has sky-rocketed, the inevitable loss of montane and lowland forest to land speculators, often backed by unscrupulous politicians, has increased. Poor farmers, given access to land through SorPorKor documents, have often "sold"

this valuable land, intended to be leased to them as "squatters", to buyers who promptly "acquired" chanote papers which granted them legal ownership.

The high price of land has also meant that mangrove swamps, richly bio-diverse, ecologically unique and, as the tsunami proved, crucial to the island's natural defenses, are under constant threat from developers who want uncluttered golden beaches. And at this very moment, a number of precious coastal lagoons and lakes are being filled in by columns of soil-laden dumper trucks, so that highly lucrative developments can be erected on top of the newly acquired land.

I said at the outset that I set little store by re-planting. But in Phuket, it hardly ever happens anyway. According to Forestry Department figures, a century of reforestation has resulted in plantations covering a mere 1.7 per cent of the kingdom's surface area. I wonder how much of that same area is now smothered by man-made "developments?"

See page 4-5 for related story.



Developers wanting uncluttered golden beaches contribute to deforestation.

Earth Hour 2014



Create the mood and do something good for Mother Earth – dim the lights. Photo: TokyoLunch

HELPING to save the planet starts at home – all it takes is to turn off the lights for just one hour, the Earth Hour.

On Saturday, March 29 at 8:30pm, millions of people across the world will switch off the lights to celebrate their commitment to the planet. They do it each year, and each year more people join in. It started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia with 2.2 million Sydneysiders and 2,100 businesses participating. Five years later in 2012, 6,950 cities and towns across 152 countries took part in the event, and world famous sites such as the Eiffel Tower in Paris, the Gateway of India in Mumbai or the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur went dark to save energy and promote the eco-friendly message of the Earth Hour organizer, the WWF.

What started as a symbolic happening over the years, turned into practical event aimed at improving our planet's condition through a number of activities such as tree planting, water conservation and promotion of public transport.

In Phuket, the yearly event has been supported by a vast number of local businesses and resorts. One of them is Angsana Laguna Phuket which will take part in the eco celebration for the third year in a row by turning off the non-essential lights and illuminations in the main resort, back-of-house lights, guest's rooms, six restaurants and XANA beach club, which will represent a 25 per cent energy savings compared to normal energy usage.

To celebrate the international energy saving event, Earth Hour, Angsana Laguna Phuket will hold a special "Dinner In the Dark" at XANA beach club using natural heat sources to cook food. Non-electrical live performances including fire dance and percussion will be the highlight during the dinner.

The challenge of keeping the lights off for one hour is an easy one in Phuket, after all, occasional blackouts are more than common on the island. This one is different though, this one you can prepare for and commit too. Blacking out has never felt so good!

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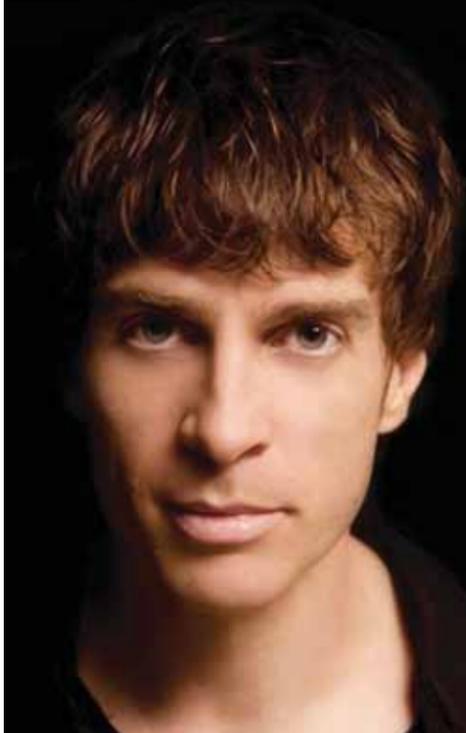
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Words from the wise

“It is even harder for the average ape to believe that he has descended from man.” – *H.L. Mencken*

“Let us permit nature to have her way. She understands her business better than we do.” – *Michel de Montaigne*

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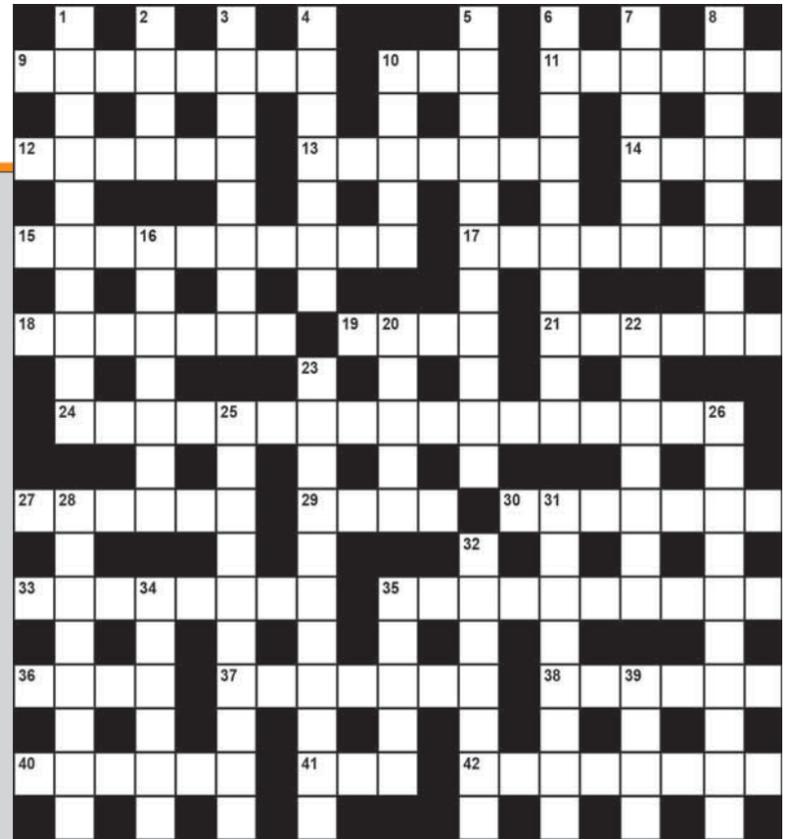
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SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Across

- 9. Not, Hank, a new arrangement in a N.E. Phuket island (8)
- 10. One who takes money in Public Relations circle (3)
- 11. And met out of order one behind the other (6)
- 12. A small measure pet moved to believe (6)
- 13. I blame a change of cordial (7)
- 14. Contested dive organization (4)
- 15. Mortician to get down to river (10)
- 17. After, firstly temporarily assign Liberal unknown (8)
- 18. Peers I'd maybe sit at the head of (7)
- 19. An Island in Phang Nga Bay. Circle around over. How much across, once again? (4)
- 21. Meaning bring in to the country (6)
- 24. Think about adept military detachment with great power (12,5)
- 27. Thai insect makes men lag badly (6)
- 29. Rugby Union editor was sorry (4)
- 30. All the time fever, or shivering (7)
- 33. Pastes I'm mixing for hobbies (8)
- 35. I'm on harbor assignment to get tax on incoming goods (6,4)
- 36. A long way round to a card game (4)
- 37. Rest won out at sailors' direction (7)
- 38. Decree road in to be destroyed (6)
- 40. To be precise, I'd left the district (6)



- 41. A tool for everyone, we hear (3)
 - 42. Player in charge, animus moves out (8)
- Down**
- 1. Study at the center concentrating on a point (10)
 - 2. The echo of the old you (4)
 - 3. Not spelt out by a student movement (8)
 - 4. Takes out of case, cap sunk, crushed (7)
 - 5. Flammable or inflammable? (11)
 - 6. Out of order if felt spec a bluff (5,5)
 - 7. Turn North, smooth, not bumpy (6)
 - 8. Party goer at right level perhaps, note right! (8)
 - 10. Before the religious boss (5)

- 16. Extract points arranging scene (7)
- 20. Silly move, a nine (5)
- 22. Give warning ten drop out (7)
- 23. Moved trail re. rest living on the ground (11)
- 25. In a meeting move to constantly repeat (10)
- 26. Treat Cecil badly, could be AC or DC! (10)
- 28. A real act, sorting out from the menu! (1,2,5)
- 31. Rouse! Oh, perhaps turn in where we live! (3,5)
- 32. Tie poem together to give perfect example (7)
- 34. French too much in charge at a parallel of latitude (6)
- 35. I trade in perfection (5)
- 39. Bend your neck to a bird (4)

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

 You could be feeling uptight over the weekend and it would be wise to avoid people in a similar state of mind. Arians waiting for answers regarding a financial matter will probably have to be patient until the end of March. If your birthday is due in the coming week, expect to travel to more distant shores in the year ahead. Sunday and Monday are dazzling days for romance.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

 Giving someone the benefit of the doubt can open doors to more possibilities. The stars suggest that you could be overly suspicious where work is concerned. In the realm of romance, an air sign platonic friend reveals that they have hopes of a more intimate relationship. Taureans are advised to let this person down gently if the feeling isn't mutual. Fortunate days for finances are Tuesday and Wednesday.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 Geminis will be feeling more emotional than intellectual during the last week of March. This is not an auspicious time to get involved in new business plans or tackle anything that requires practical

thinking. In the realm of romance, someone from the past who you have reason to remember well can make contact. Where finances are concerned, your earning power is forecast to become stronger towards the end of the month.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 Finances fall under unsettled cosmic conditions and Cancerians are advised to keep a closer eye on their spending; the stars suggest a costly impulse buy will not give lasting pleasure. If a particular friendship has become awkward, Sunday is an auspicious day to find out what is wrong. Those newly single can be lured into romance on the rebound too soon. A fire sign's charms are hard to resist this weekend.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

 Progress in the world of work is forecast to be shaky. The stars suggest that you will be more inclined to talk than to listen, which can mean missing out on important information. A romantic flame from your past is highlighted to make contact and this could land Leos between a rock and a hard place. If you are now involved in a committed relationship, the stars advise being honest with everyone concerned.

YOUR horoscope
By Isla Star

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

 The stars indicate that Virgoans can be offered chance to earn more money this week, but strings attached will require careful consideration. An air sign friend is ready to give their experienced opinion this weekend, but waiting until April before making serious decisions is recommended. Romance with another earth sign is put to the test this weekend when plans clash. Love with an air sign is bright and breezy.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 There is some nervous energy in the air around Librans this week and the stars suggest that you could be pushed into responding before you are ready. If this applies to the world of work, a fire sign is forecast to give an unrealistic deadline. Monday is the most auspicious day for standing your ground. In the realm of romance, a water sign's moodiness is best ignored this weekend.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

 A burden should be lifted from your shoulders during the last week of March. This should help you get back into the groove, particularly where finances are concerned. In the realm of romance, you can be swept off your feet by another water sign this weekend. Single Scorpios who thought they were happy with their status see reason to reconsider when they are introduced to this person.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 This is a week when the cosmic climate prompts the truth to come out – those born under the sign of Sagittarius who have been guarding a secret will be relieved to share this with the right person. The social scene is sizzling and work projects can be put on the back burner while finding pleasure becomes your aim during the coming days. Romance with an air sign becomes more serious.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

 Dreams of being in a more secure financial position can become realistic this week. The stars foretell that Capricorns will be able to see possibilities from a more practical perspective. A

calmer outlook also allows you to appreciate friends' opinions about your romantic situation. There are hints that a relationship with a water sign will settle down when you accept that this person has responsibilities they cannot cast aside.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 The stars indicate that Aquarians will be ready to indulge in some personal pampering this week. Your hard work earlier this month should be rewarded as March draws to a close and finances look more promising than they have for a while. This is an auspicious time to sort out differences where friendships are concerned; a water sign you fell out with recently is keen to forgive and forget.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

 An unsettled mood at the start of the week may cause Pisceans to reflect more on what they don't have. As the astral atmosphere clears midweek, you should find it easier to be grateful for what is good and positive in your life. In the romantic zone, the stars suggest that you will not be in the right frame of mind to talk about commitment. Money matters are luckiest midweek.

International Sport

With empty nets at the end



Phuket FC's Wasan Natasan takes an elbow to the face. Photos: Jeremie Schatz



Just a few of the 5,100 enthusiastic fans who attended Sunday's game.

By Jeremie Schatz

WITH a full moon overhead and a smoke filled sky, the scene yesterday evening in Phuket Town seemed more appropriate for a zombie apocalypse than a football match. The living dead did not make it out to the game, however, 5,100 fans did, and cheered on their home team Phuket FC as they lined up against TTM Customs.

Coming off the heels of their first loss of the season (2-1) to Ang Thong FC on March 8, the Ronins appeared tense during the first half of the match at Surakul Stadium. Although TTM Customs had the majority possession of the ball, they were unable to attempt many threatening shots on goal. However, Phuket FC was able to get plenty of shots on goal. While many of the goal attempts were frantic and lacked strategy, shots from Christian Alex Da Silva Santos, Eber Henrique Ferreira De Bessa and Sato Yusuke came close enough to plant a seed of worry in TTM Customs goalkeeper Nikom Kemkaeng.

Phuket FC was able to keep the ball moving towards the goal and TTM Customs delivering a couple of promising drives, yet neither team was rewarded for their efforts.

"I think they looked tense since the beginning of the game. I talked

to them during halftime to be more relaxed, they have to be loose in the game," explained Phuket FC coach Stefano "Teco" Cugurra. The coach's pep talk seemed to help bring some order after the hectic play of the first half. TTM Customs also showed more focus and nearly peeled paint off of the far post on a too-close-for-comfort shot that lifted the crowd to its feet.

The closest Phuket FC came to scoring was when the slow rolling ball escaped a maelstrom of activity in the penalty box and midfielder Pyne Soe broke out of the pack in an attempt to edge it in past the TTM goalkeeper, alas, to no avail.

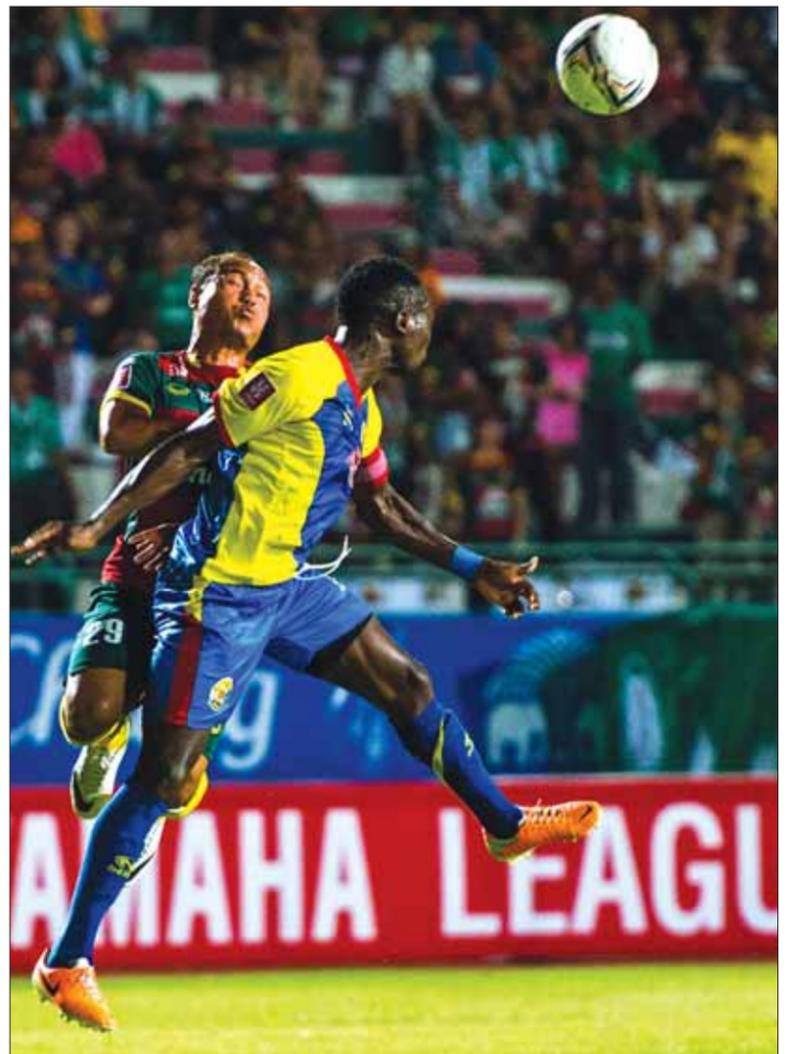
The pace quickened during the last few minutes but neither team was willing to give up a

goal and zeroes remained on the scoreboard with both teams walking away with one point on the Yamaha League One ladder board. In the end, Eber Henrique Ferreira De Bessa was presented with the "Man of the Match" title for his drives and shots on goal. It's not a loss, but Phuket FC needs points from wins in hopes of being on top to break into the Premier League.

The excitement builds as Phuket FC gears up to take on fellow southerners Krabi FC across the bay on their home turf next Sunday. Coach "Teco" expects to see a solid turnout of supporters willing to make the short jaunt to Krabi to cheer on their Ronins. See you there!



Eber Henrique Ferreira De Bessa was named Man of the Match.



Anusak Laosaengthai (left) vies for the ball against TTM Customs Jacques Bertin Nguemaleu during Sunday's match.

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE			
TEAM	P	PTS	
1	Angthong FC	3	7
2	Gulf Saraburi FC	3	7
3	Nakhon Rachasima	3	7
4	TTM Customs	3	7
5	BBCU	3	5
6	Chaingmai	3	5
7	Ayuthaya FC	3	4
8	Nakhon Pathom Utd.	3	4
9	Bangkok FC	3	4
10	Phuket FC	3	4
11	Royal Navy FC	3	4
12	Phitsanulok TSY	3	3
13	Roi Et Utd	3	3
14	Krabi FC	3	3
15	Trat FC	3	3
16	Khon Kaen FC	3	2
17	Sri Racha City	3	0
18	Pattaya Utd	3	0

Last Update: 17/03/2014

FIXTURE

KRABI FC vs **PHUKET FC**

MAR 22

@ Krabi Institute of physical education @ 6 pm

Next Fixture

Bangkok FC vs **Phuket FC**

MAR 22 | 4 pm

*Dates subject to change

@ Chaleam Prakeat 72 Pansa gymnasium

FTPL TABLE			
TEAM	P	PTS	
1	Chunburi Blue Wave	7	21
2	Phuket United	7	15
3	Pattaya Arena FC	7	14
4	Nonthaburi	7	13
5	Bangkok FC	7	11
6	CAT FC	7	11
7	Royal Navy	7	11
8	Thai Port FC	7	11
9	Ayuthaya City	7	11
10	Khon Kaen	7	10
11	Si Pathum Si Saket	7	10
12	Samut Sakhon	7	9
13	Hightways Department	7	6
14	Chiangmai	7	3
15	Suphanburi	7	3
16	Uthai Thani	7	1

Last Update: 17/03/2014

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SPORTathlon

Arnco Phuket Oilfield Classic celebrates its sixth year

THE 6th annual Arnco Phuket Oilfield Classic will be held from April 3-6 and the organizers, Asian Golf Events, are expecting more than 130 oil and gas executives from around the world to gather in Phuket for four days of golf and entertainment.

The event will be held at the Novotel Vintage Park in Patong. Festivities will begin with a welcome cocktail party be-

fore players take to the course for a Texas scramble event at Red Mountain. The following day, there will be another individual stableford event at Loch Palm, after which there will be a gala dinner and prize giving.

Asian Golf Events' representative Mark Cameron said, "I am really delighted to see so many old friends returning once again to play in this fun event, and we really appreciate the continued support of our

sponsors without which the event would not be possible."

Various fund raising activities will be held in conjunction with this event to raise much needed proceeds for the completion of a chicken farm at the Baan San Fan orphanage in Phang Nga.

Baan San Fan provides support for vulnerable children and a place where they can receive the care and attention they need. The

orphanage is working hard to become self-sustainable, and with the addition of a second chicken run, they will be able to meet the local demand for good quality organic eggs, and the revenue they generate will be used to support more children.

- *Phuket Gazette*

The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, are proud to sponsor this event.

Fun-filled football function

By **Jeremie Schatz**

RAWAI based Palm House International School hosted a football skills clinic for their students, as well as a group of fellow students from the nearby Wat Sawang Arom School on March 13.

About thirty students took part in the activities, which were led by Phuket FC players Ricarte Dos Santos Tales, Namchai Yongyuth, Alef Poh-ji and Wuttichai Sooksen. The professional Thai Division 1 football players split the kids into four groups and helped them practice headers, passing, shooting and other ball-handling skills.

The clinic was a joint effort organized by the two schools, along with the head of the "Mushy Peas" Phuket FC fanclub, Richard Dillon. The Wat Sarang Arom School students have visited their counterparts at Palm House once before, to join in on some cricket fun, and the football get-together was the continuation of that successful collaboration.

"The reason for having this event was primarily arranged as a charity function between Richey's [Dillon] company [propertyforsalephuket.co.uk], the school and the Mushy Peas, which are going to be coming

together and donating sports equipment to the local [Thai] school," says Palm House International Head Teacher John Kelly.

"We went to the school and said 'what you like'," explained Kelly. Kelly and Dillon have amassed a collection of sporting equipment including footballs, tennis balls, skipping ropes, stop watches and will be gifting them to the Wat Sarang Arom School on behalf of their respective organizations.

"It's a joint effort between the school, Phuket FC and the supporters club [Mushy Peas] and we just want to show that we really care about the community that we live in and we want to help out in any way that we can," says Dillon.

"The other reason for this is about the two cultures mixing together, meeting together and not just passing each other in cars on the street, and not being able to talk or be near each other. This is a nice way to break the ice between the groups," says Kelly.

Kelly said that he has extended the invitation for Thai school children to visit the Palm House school once a week to join in their school activities in an effort to integrate the international school kids into the local community.



Phuket FC professional footballer Tales Ricarte dos Santos teaching students football skills. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

"It is a fantastic opportunity for both sets of students to practice their language skills and learn about each other's culture in a safe and controlled environment," Kelly explains.

"These children came today on

a school holiday, we arranged it for today and then we realized that they were on holiday, so we said 'do you still want to come?' They said 'yes', so I went with the school buses today to bring them over and they were dancing in

the street by the school when I arrived," says Kelly.

Dillon envisions more community service on behalf of the Mushy Peas, such as a training day, clinic and field trip to a Phuket FC game for a local orphanage.



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

TrueVisions HD Channel 85
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Monday: 05:10am
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Monday: 05:10am
Tuesday: 11:10pm
Wednesday: 10:10am
Thursday: 01:10pm
Friday: 04:10am & 07:10pm
Saturday: 01:10pm
Sunday: 06:10pm

Rawai Cable
Covers Rawai, Chalong, Kata, Karon.

Channel 1 - 28 shows a week
Monday - Sunday: 10:00am, 1:00pm,
7:00pm, 10:00pm.

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

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Online: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

And in 4,600 hotel rooms around the island, international hospitals and Phuket Immigration Office.

Party time in Patong

SEEMAT Raju produced a dominant century for Patong Cricket Club in their bottom-of-the-table encounter with The Village in the Jones Lang LaSalle League on Sunday, March 16, at the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG). His 118 not out came off just 93 balls and helped Patong secure their first win of what has been a disappointing season thus far.

Patong went into the game in desperate need of a win and showed glimpses of the form that saw them to the final of the Jones Lang LaSalle League last season. The Village, having already beaten Patong earlier this season, would've been confident of a repeat performance.

Patong, who won the toss and were batting first for the first time this season, got off to a dashing start. Openers Dave Watson and Seemat Raju posted 52 off 46 balls for the first wicket before Watson (29 runs off 30) fell to the bowling of Olly Wingate. Fears of an early collapse – a Patong speciality in recent seasons – were dispelled after Neil Quail and Raju added a rapid 88 off 51 deliveries to take the

score to 140 before Quail (33 runs off 30) presented Kevin Quilty with his second catch and Tom Gordon his first wicket. At this stage Raju had reached his 50. With his stand-and-deliver style he was finding the boundary with ruthless regularity – an ominous sign for The Village. A scratchy 17 runs off 28 from Paddy Morton provided little respite as Raju continued to dominate at the other end. When Morton departed just after the second drinks break with the score on 183, The Village were in danger of having a snow-capped mountain to climb.

In stride Imtaz Mushtaq who took little time to get going, striking a number of ferocious straight drives. It was on 86 when Raju finally offered Village a chance after skying an innocuous wide delivery, it looped harmlessly towards the usually safe hands of Divan Mydeen at backward point, incredibly the catch was grassed. Despite a near-tragic communication breakdown in attempting a single on 99, Raju reached a superb 100 and went on to carry his bat. With the help of

Mushtaq's quick fire 47 not out, the total was pushed to 277 runs off the allotted 35 overs.

In his last match on the island, Martin Foster, with opening partner Mydeen, walked out to face a fired-up Patong side. A quick start was needed with an imposing total to chase. Soton Alamin, in his first game of the season, found a tidy line and length from the outset, tying both Villagers down and beating the outside edge on numerous occasions.

The breakthrough for Patong came with the introduction of the leg-spin of Morton. A well-flighted googly had Foster's bails off and the collapse was on. Mydeen (35 runs off 40) and Donovan (31 runs off 30) provided some resistance, however, the regular fall of wickets meant that The Village fell just short of the 139 runs needed to earn a losing bonus point and the inning ended on 134 all out. The pick of Patong's bowlers was Alamin who, despite receiving a warning for an untimely spotting of flight MH370, finished with 3 wickets for 24 off



Paddy Morton hooks for 4 during last weekend's game. Photo: Michael Way

his 7 overs. Patong won by 144 runs.

Patong have now given themselves an outside chance of reaching the knock-out stages of

the tournament, should they win their remaining games.

On Sunday March 23 Thalang will take on ICC. Play starts at 10am. *– Phuket Gazette*

Phuket International Cricket Week returns

THE newly refurbished Republic Phuket Football Ground and Kata Group Resorts Thailand will play host to the Asian Cricket Sixes Tour (ACST) 11th Annual Phuket International Cricket Week 2014 from April 10-20.

ACST Chairman Michael Maher said he was very impressed with the new "state of the art" clubhouse, the new re-laid surface of the pitch and the excellent new facilities available at the ground.

"I am looking forward to seeing the teams in action at this brilliant ground, and thank the Kata Group Resorts Thailand for investing in the future of sport and tourism for Phuket," Mr Maher said.

"ASCT is delighted to be returning to the Republic Phuket Football ground, which is about 20 minutes' drive from Kata and Karon Beaches where the teams stay. We are excited to be amongst the first to enjoy these fantastic enhanced facilities.

"This will be the 11th ACST event in Phuket and it is fitting that we start a new decade at this brand new, wonderful ground which reflects our 'Friendship Through Cricket' Phuket Cricket Week."

Pramookpisitt Achariyachai, President of the Kata Group Resorts Thailand and Phuket Football Club, said the Group was thrilled to continue to build the special partnership with the ACST's "Fun In The Sun" cricket events.

"Kata Group Resorts Thailand has a 32-year reputation for offering high-quality, affordable resort destinations and the world-famous

Thai holiday experience," Khun Pramookpisitt said.

"We are also proud to be a leader in supporting sport in Phuket through the kings cup sailing, beach volleyball, rugby, indoor soccer and, of course, the Phuket Football Club."

The Republic Phuket Football ground, which is owned by the entertainment media creator Republic Phuket, is managed by Mr Pariyawit Achariyachai, a son of Khun Pramookpisitt.

"Republic Phuket Football ground provides courses and a place for Phuket children aged between 6-12 who want to become professional footballers in the Phuket FC academy," Khun Pariyawit said.

"The ground will also provide a strong base for the ongoing development of international cricket on Phuket, as well as other international sports."

Mr Maher said millions of baht had been raised at the ACST events over the past 10 years for tsunami relief and to support orphans and junior cricket development in Phuket.

He said teams from Australia, the Middle East, the Indian sub-continent, England and the Asian region would come for the tournament, joining Phuket teams which included young local players funded by the ACST and supporters.

– Phuket Gazette

For more information about the tournaments, visit cricketsixes.com and phuketsixes.com or e-mail mmaher.padmira@bigpond.com

2014 ACYC races are on

AO CHALONG Yacht Club's (ACYC) Sunday sailing races continue with race two of series one commencing in Chalong Bay on March 23.

Those wishing to sail, but don't have a boat, are advised to turn up before 10:30am and the friendly staff will do their best to get you on a vessel. Show up early as breakfast will be available at the club starting at 8am.

The series is open to all keel yachts and multihulls with a length greater than six meters overall. Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry form on each race day, and by paying the racing nomination fee to the Race Officer or appointed ACYC representative.

There is no entry fee for boats however, crew fees cost 100 baht per person for ACYC members and 200 baht for non-members. Crew fees are applicable to each individual crew member.

There are four classes open for registration including racing monohulls, cruising monohulls, racing multihulls and cruising multihulls.

Racers will follow a course throughout Chalong Bay and the surrounding area. Details will be announced at the race briefing pending prevailing conditions.

Overall series prizes for first, second and third place in each class will be awarded. Individual race prizes will be awarded to podium finishers on race day pending number of entries. *– Phuket Gazette*

For more information, call Alan Carwardine 080-040 1114 or visit acyc.asia.



The ACYC regatta has begun. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

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Woods quits Arnold Palmer Invitational

By Julian Linden

TIGER Woods announced on Tuesday he had withdrawn from this week's Arnold Palmer Invitational, one of his favorite events and a key lead-up to next month's Masters.

The world number one said he pulled out of the tournament because he was still having problems with his aching back and was unsure whether he would be fit to play in this year's first major.

Woods posted a statement on his website saying he told Palmer in person that he would not be able to defend the title he won at Bay Hill last year.

"I personally called Arnold today to tell him that, sadly, I won't be able to play in his tournament this year," Woods said.

"I would like to express my regrets to the Orlando fans, the volunteers, the tournament staff and the sponsors for having to miss the event."

Woods has been plagued by back problems since last year but his condition worsened over the

past month.

The 38-year-old American failed to finish the Honda Classic at Palm Beach Gardens earlier this month, quitting after 13 holes in his final round.

Then he tweaked his back again on the last day at the WGC-Cadillac Championship in Miami a week later, tumbling out of contention with a final-round 78 to finish tied for 25th.

Woods won the last of his 14 majors in 2008 and said that he was uncertain whether he would be able to play in the Masters, starting at Augusta National on April 10.

"Unfortunately, my back spasms and the pain haven't subsided," he said.

"It's too early to know about the Masters, and I will continue to be evaluated and work closely with my doctors."

Woods missed the 2008 British Open and PGA Championships because after knee surgery and also skipped the 2011 US Open and British Opens because of a re-

currence of his knee problems.

But the American has never missed the Masters since he made his debut at Augusta National as an amateur in 1995.

The Arnold Palmer Invitational, starting on Thursday, is one of Woods's favourite events and attracts most of the world's top players.

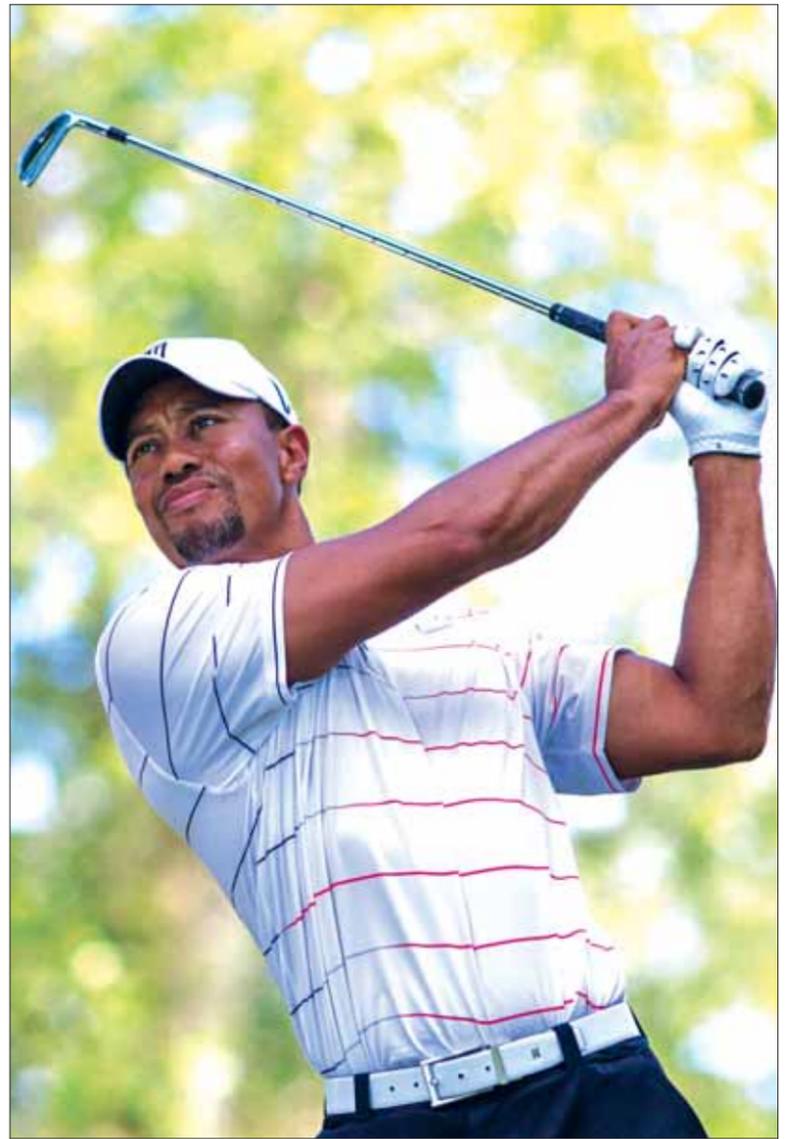
Woods has won the tournament eight times, including each of the past two years, and would have been chasing an unprecedented ninth title.

The only other player to have won the same PGA event eight times is Sam Snead, who won the Greater Greensboro Open eight titles between 1938 and 1965.

"I am certainly sorry that Tiger is not able to play," Palmer said in a statement.

"Quite obviously, we will miss having him here this week. He called me to tell me that his back was still giving him a lot of trouble and he didn't feel he should play.

"I told him I understood and wished him well." — Reuters



Back pain forced Woods to withdraw from the tournament. Photo: Keith Allison

Changing speeds



Changing the speed of the ball will confuse your opponent and break his rhythm. Photo: Supplied

AS INSTRUCTORS we often have students come to us saying how frustrating it is to play against an opponent who hits the ball softly. Then, later on in the class, the same student will ask how they can add speed and spin to their shots.

Do you see how this is contradictory thinking?

Yes, with the advancement of tennis equipment technology and how we strike the ball tennis has become more of a speed game. That does not mean we should try to hit every ball with an immense amount of speed. It is important to be able to change the speed of the shots that you are hitting to your opponents. It is very unsettling to play someone who can send you shots with a variety of speeds, as it becomes difficult for your opponent to get a rhythm going in the match.

The simplest form of changing the amount of speed is to adjust the length of your backswing. The larger the backswing the more potential power you can create, the shorter the backswing the more control you can obtain.

It is important to remember that hitting the ball the way you like, and hitting shots your opponents do not like must be balanced throughout the course of a match in order to be successful.

Changing speeds will frustrate your opponents and frustrating opponents is an essential ingredient to winning matches.

Happy winning!

Tip by Thanyapura's Tennis Head Coach, Roger Cochrane. To contact coach roger send an email to tennis@thanyapura.com

To stretch or not to stretch

HAVING worked in fitness for all of my adult life and exercising since I was a young child, seeing new fitness trends appear and fade away, I know that there is one thing that very few of us do enough of, and that my friends, is stretching!

Now, there are conflicting studies about the effectiveness of stretching with regards to injury prevention before exercise and soreness prevention after exercise but the undisputed fact is that stretching will make you feel better.

As little as 30 minutes spent on stretching each day can hugely improve hormonal balance in the body and help you move better in and out of the gym. Stretching your muscles in the morning will also give you a freeness from pain in joints and muscles, relieve stress and help blood flow to areas that may have previously had very limited supply.

We suggest starting your routine with areas that currently ache or are in pain, for example, the dull ache in your neck or the soreness in your lower back, once you have eased pain then move on to preventative areas to stop any aches and pains coming back. YouTube can be a great tool to give you some ideas on how best to stretch but for an in-depth muscle assessment and stretching plan,

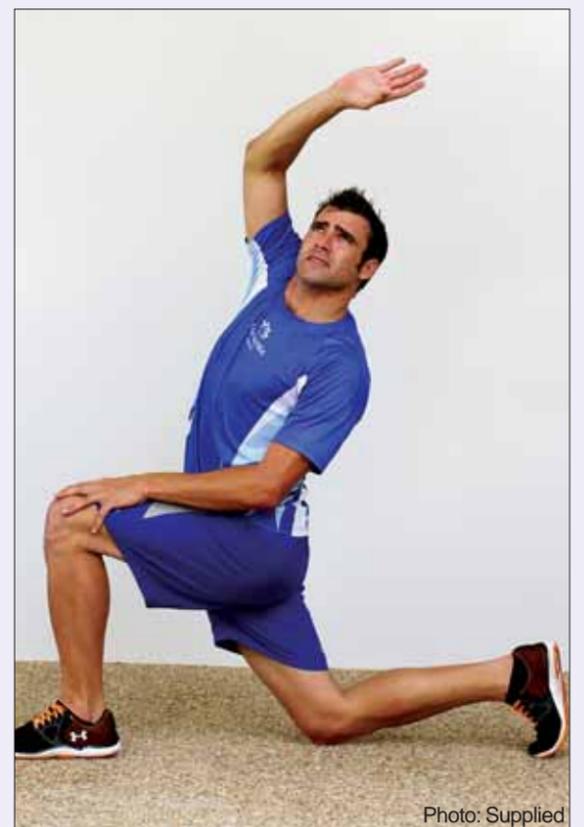


Photo: Supplied

It's a fact: stretching will make you feel better

come to Thanyapura and meet with our trainers who can ensure your time is well spent and your ailments cured.

Tip by Thanyapura's Fitness Manager, Chris Weeks. To contact Chris send an email to tsc@thanyapura.com

Crimean clubs to leave Ukraine league

By Igor Nitsak

CRIMEAN-based football clubs Tavria Simferopol and Sevastopol are considering whether to quit the Ukrainian premier league and join Russia's league next season.

Sevastopol are ready to complete the current season in the Ukrainian league but hope UEFA and FIFA will agree to the shift to Russian football, after Russia took control of the Crimean peninsula.

"We are working on an explanatory letter addressed to UEFA, FIFA and the football federation of Ukraine," the president of Sevastopol, Alexander Krasilnikov, told the Russian paper *Sport Den Za Dnem*.

"We are in close contact with Tavria. UEFA plan a meeting in Kazakhstan on March 24-25. Probably they will review our request. There are certain UEFA regulations and we do not want to face any sanctions."

Tavria were the first champions of

Ukraine after the country gained independence from Russia in 1991.

Club representatives said they had not contacted Russian football officials because they were waiting on political decisions. Ukraine does not recognise a treaty signed in Moscow on Tuesday which made Crimea part of Russia.

"We have not received any offers from the Russian Football Union or held any talks so far. To have grounds for negotiations we must wait until Crimea officially joins Russia," Tavria's sporting director, Alexander Boytsan, was quoted as saying by Russian media before President Vladimir Putin signed the treaty.

"The Ukrainian league should decide if they need clubs based on Russian territory and the Russian Premier League should understand how to legitimize it. FIFA and UEFA will have the final word here," Boytsan said.

Ukraine's football federation said in a statement on their website: "We are the witnesses of the unstable situation in our country which unfortunately touched upon football as well.

"Recent events in Crimea made two clubs think about their future. The Ukrainian premier league will review the situation and do their best to put things in order."

- Reuters



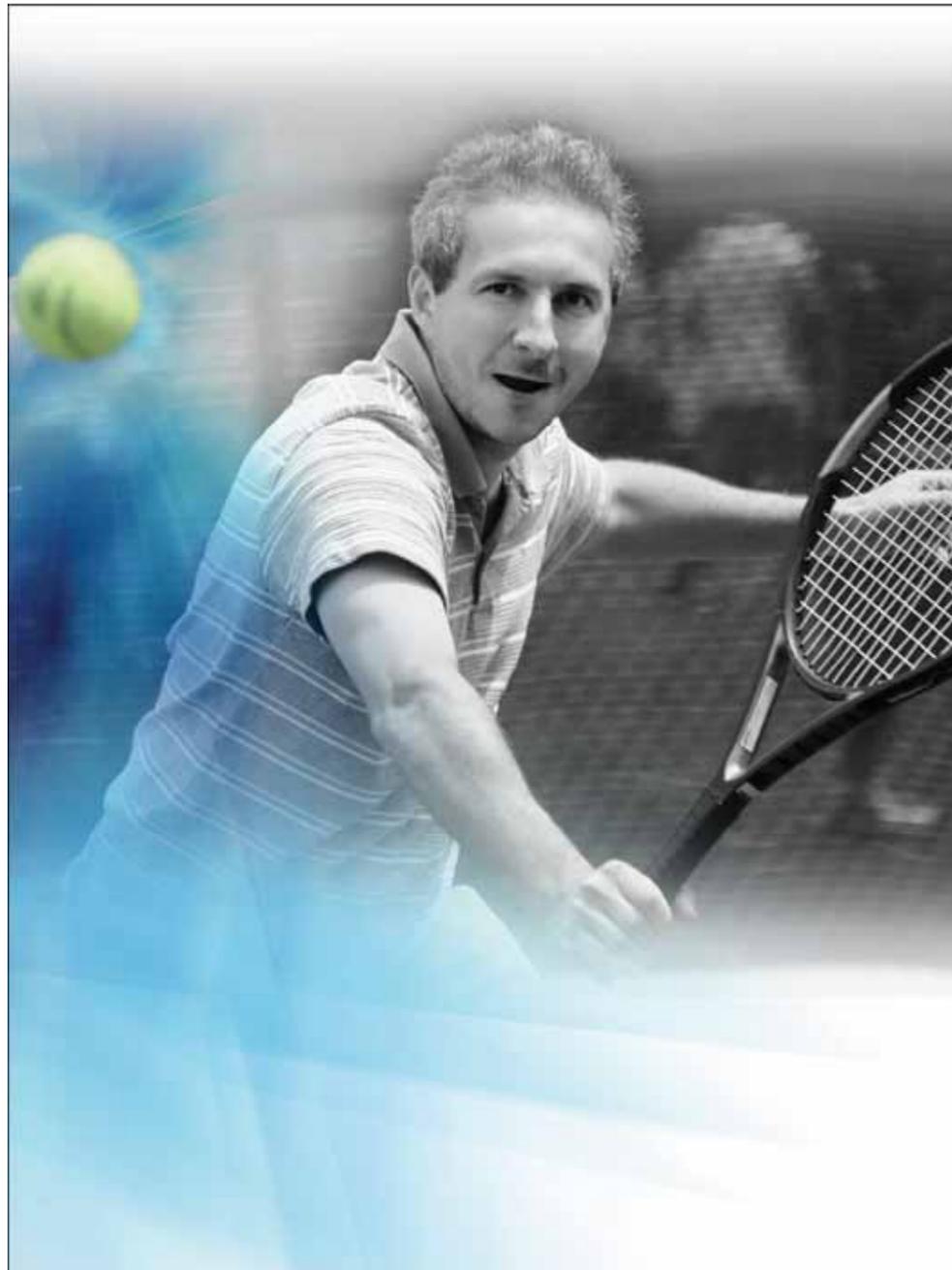
Photo: astique

Putin's offensive in Crimea presents a challenge to UEFA.



Photo:UFF

Ukraine lost Crimea, and the Ukrainian Football Federation (logo above) might lose two teams.



PHUKET ITF SENIOR PRO CIRCUIT 2014

7-12 APRIL 2014

ITF Senior Pro Tournament in Phuket
Played on world-class covered plexicushion tennis courts

MEN'S SINGLES & DOUBLES	35,40,45,50,55,60,65,70
WOMEN'S SINGLES & DOUBLES	35,40,45,50
MIXED DOUBLES	35,45

ENTRY DEADLINE 19 MARCH 2014

Sign in for Singles on 6 April (Sunday) from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. Start date 7 April (Monday)
Sign in for Doubles on 7 April (Monday) by 4:00 pm. Start date 8 April (Tuesday)

The official welcome dinner will be held on 8 April (Tuesday) at 7:00 pm at Divine Restaurant THB 700 per person.



Phuket Gazette

Entry Fee : Singles / Doubles THB 1,500
IPIN: All players must have an IPIN and valid IPIN membership to enter an ITF Seniors Circuit event. If players do not already have an IPIN they must go to www.Ifftennis.com/IPIN to register.

7 Nights Package : Single THB 31,050 / Double THB 23,000
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