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ARMY BACKS DISMANTLING OF TAXI MAFIA

CRUSHED



Historic move paves way for public transport

By **Gazette Reporters**

THE historic overthrow of Phuket's taxi mafia by the Royal Thai Army and regional police this past week has opened the door for public transport to finally gain a foothold on the island.

More than 1,000 officers, supported by soldiers from the Fourth Area Command in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, landed on the island on June 4 and immediately began the purge by arresting

scores of drivers for working illegally or for deceptive, violent or abusive behavior.

Dozens of illegal taxi stands were torn down at key tourist beach spots along the west coast. Taxi mafiosos offered little resistance; some even helped officers dismantle the illegal taxi stands, while others begged for mercy (see pages 4-5).

Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut told the crushed taxi cartel leaders in Kata-Karon on Tuesday that he will take the opportunity to

allow the Airport Express Bus to extend its route from Patong, where the service currently terminates, to the southern reaches of Kata Beach.

"After we have cleared all illegal taxi booths from Karon and arrested all the people who behave like mafia, it's time to set up a new plan for public transportation," he said.

"At this stage, the easy way is to expand the airport bus route to cover all areas..."

Continued on Page 4

'Fake' cops turn out to be real deal

THREE men caught on CCTV falsely identifying themselves as Patong Police officers when checking the work permits of foreign staff at a Patong restaurant were later identified as Phuket Provincial Police.

The plainclothes officers, new to the island, refused to show their official IDs when conducting the search. The incident was written off as a misunderstanding.

Full story on Page 6

Killer Dane released by Thai police

DANISH national Dennis Mark Knudsen, apprehended at least three times by Thai police, has been arrested in Denmark for fatally slashing his pregnant girlfriend's throat with a steak knife.

Full story on Page 3

Police sting nets illegal abortionists

TWO Myanmar nationals who operated a roaming, illegal abortion service in Phuket were arrested as they readied to perform an abortion in a hotel room.

Full story on Page 8

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This Week



Property
Sansiri presents great deals on prime Phuket properties. **Page 11**



Business
New Thanyapura CEO outlines his vision for the future. **Page 35**



Travel
Malaysia's capital is a worthy weekend break destination. **Page 36**



Food
A mix of Thai and Japanese flavors at Kyoto restaurant. **Page 39**



In Focus
Discover the secrets of Phuket's new tourist attraction. **Page 40**



Sport
Full Metal Dojo brings the sport of MMA to the Thai public. **Page 45**

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Cement truck flips on rainy Karon hill, kills Swiss expat

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A PHUKET expat from Switzerland was crushed to death on June 4 when a cement truck slid out of control on Karon Hill and crushed his car.

Philippe Wagner, 46, died instantly, said Lt Weerayuth Thansirisukhaworakul of the Karon Police.

"He was alone in the car when the accident happened," he added.

Mr Wagner was on Patak Road, travelling toward Kata-Karon, when an oncoming cement truck swerved violently into his path, witnesses told police.

"The truck driver, Chart Junjit, 58, said that he was forced to slam on the brakes to avoid hitting a motorcycle that had pulled out in front of him. The motorcyclist was dodging a parked car," Lt Weerayuth explained.

Witnesses reported that the truck slid out of control on the wet road.

The truck flipped onto Mr Wagner's car, crushing it, and also struck the hood of a pick-up truck.

Police declined to name the pick-up truck driver, but identified his passenger as Kanyanit Chocksawat, 41.

"The two suffered only minor injuries. Rescue workers took more than two hours to free all



Philippe Wagner was killed instantly when the cement truck lost control on Karon Hill after having to slam on brakes to avoid hitting a motorcycle.

the victims from their vehicles," Lt Weerayuth said.

The driver and Ms Kanyanit, as well as Mr Wagner's body, were taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital, he added.

Police are continuing their investigation into the accident.

"We will reveal further information when we have a clearer understanding of what happened," Lt Weerayuth said.

"We are still calling witnesses in for their statements, and we have yet to finish questioning the driver of the pick-up truck."

Police bust drug den

PHUKET Police arrested three drug dealers on June 6 at their Koh Kaew house in possession of more than 2,000 pills of *ya bah* (methamphetamine) and more than 3 grams of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine).

Police made the arrests after a tip-off led them to the house in Chaofa Garden Home housing estate, said Lt Col Jarun Bangprasert of the Phuket Provincial Police.

"We had been watching the house for a while, then we saw three people leave at the same time," Col Jarun said.

"We stopped them and asked to search the house. Inside we found 2,833 *ya bah* pills and 3.4 grams of *ya ice*."



The three Phuket drug dealers.

The three men, all Phuket natives, were named as Anupong "Em" Chaitong, 34, Theerasarn "Pop" Sentira, 25, and Apisit "A" Songsaeng, 20.

The suspects were charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell.

- *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Students return gold to thankful Filipino

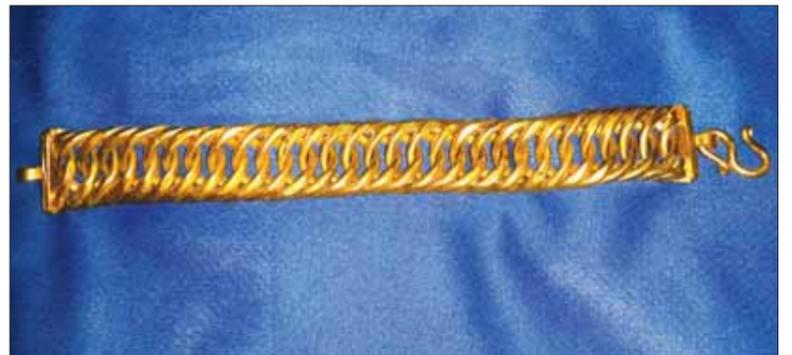
STUDENTS at Phuket Rajabhat University brought a Filipino to tears last week after turning in a gold bracelet that he had lost at the school gym. The item is said to be worth about 135,000 baht.

One of the students found the treasured piece of jewellery and immediately turned it in to one of the teachers there.

"I went home to Patong and noticed that I wasn't wearing any gold at all, so I went back to the school to look for it," Philippine national Rainelle John Causing told the *Gazette*.

Mr Causing, who had been playing basketball in the gym earlier, searched but found nothing.

"I was so hopeless. I thought my last option was to ask for help



Mr Causing's gold bracelet is valued at about 135,000 baht. Photo: Supplied

from the physical education teachers in the gym. I approached one of the female teachers, named Jay, and she told me that a student had found it and given it to her.

Mr Causing attempted to pay a reward, but the students and

teachers turned it down.

"The teachers were proud of their students' honesty," Mr Causing said.

"I just cried and hugged Jay. I was so thankful."

- *Isaac Stone Simonelli*

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Dane slashes girlfriend's throat

Knudsen arrested in Denmark after being released by Thai police

By Phuket Gazette

DANISH national Dennis Mark Knudsen, the intended target of a street shooting in Patong last year, has been arrested in Denmark for fatally slashing his 33-year-old pregnant girlfriend's throat with a steak knife.

Knudsen had previously been in custody in Thailand and released at least three times by Thai authorities.

Knudsen was arrested on June 7 after police were alerted to the murder, which occurred while the victim's five-year-old son and a seven-year-old daughter were in another room of the apartment, reported Danish national newspaper Ekstra Bladet.

In court on June 8, Knudsen claimed that he had doubts about his mental health.

"I cannot figure out if I'm

schizophrenic. When I get flashbacks, my thoughts are violent, and I do not know where I am. Sometimes I have to open the door and look out to see where I am,"

he said, according to a subsequent report.

Knudsen was first arrested by Pattaya Police on September 20, 2012 for skipping bail on an embezzlement charge.

Pattaya Police handed Knudsen over to the Patong Police.

However, Knudsen

was free on Phuket's streets in time for the January 24, 2013 street shooting by Australians John Cohen, 32, and Adam Shea, 26, who both named the Dane as their intended target when they opened fire on Patong's busy Soi Sansabai.

Two German tourists were injured by wayward bullets. Both injuries were non-fatal.

Despite the failed attempt on



Dennis Mark Knudsen.



Cohen and Shea named Knudsen as their target when they opened fire in Patong. Photo: Chaichana Keowkaew

Knudsen's life, Patong Police said they were "not interested" in questioning him over the shooting.

Knudsen was later arrested a third time, in Phuket, for undisclosed reasons.

Australians Cohen and Shea were released after serving about 40 days in prison.

The Patong Police officers who failed to provide enough evidence to charge the Australians over the shooting are to be investigated by the Public Sector Anti-Corruption Commission (PACC).

"I must withhold the names of the officers as they have yet to be formally charged," PACC Secre-

tary-General Col Pravesana Mulpamook said on May 6.

The Gazette has yet to learn of any investigation into how Knudsen was granted freedom again by the Phuket authorities and allowed to return to his home country, where he now faces trial for murder.



Phuket Provincial Commander Krajang Suwannarat is now on the case.

Armed robbers make off with almost B1mn

EMPLOYEES of a company transferring over 900,000 baht in cash from a gas station in Phuket to a bank were robbed at gunpoint at about 11:30am on Wednesday.

The two employees had taken the large sum of cash from the Shell gas station on Phra-Phuket-Keaw Road to the Tesco Lotus in Samkong. They had parked their vehicle at the Tesco Lotus when two men on a motorbike

stopped next to them, said Phuket City Superintendent Wanchai Ekpompit.

The person riding pillion on the motorbike pulled out a gun and demanded that the money be handed over. Once they had the cash, the two robbers fled by motorbike toward Big C.

Police are searching for the suspects.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Canadian slayer arrested after more than five years on the run

AFTER more than five years on the run, Nukul Sae-heng, 28, from Phetchaburi, has been arrested for his role in the contract slaying of Canadian national Francis Alex Degioanni in Patong in 2009.

Nukul was arrested in Ayutthaya on a Phuket arrest warrant on June 3, Patong Police told the Gazette.

He is now in custody at Patong Police Station.

Mr Degioanni, 34, was shot dead in his car outside his home on Nanai Road on February 19, 2009.

Police moved quickly, and within a week had six suspects involved in the slaying in custody.



Nukul Sae-heng (in black) was arrested in Ayutthaya on a Phuket warrant. Photo: Patong Police

One of the first suspects to be arrested was Singaporean national Go Li Fun, 32, who confessed that she had Mr Degioanni killed after he had refused to pay back millions of baht in personal loans.

The Singaporean, better known as "Diana", is alleged to have paid four men from Phetchaburi 1.5 million baht to carry out the murder.

At the time of his death, Mr Degioanni was involved in a court case, having allegedly been cheated out of 20mn baht in a real estate scam.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

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With cartels crushed by Army, time for public transport is now

From Page 1

... We already have the route from Phuket International Airport to Patong, and now is the time to expand it into Karon and Kata.

"We also need to change the attitude [of taxi drivers] so they can start looking for another job."

Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup told her new cabinet of councilors this week that she will push for a 24-hour hop on, hop off circular transport service, similar to the "baht bus" in Pattaya, to replace taxi ranks in the popular beach town.

"With the taxi booths gone, we have the opportunity to create a system of public transportation in Patong," Ms Chalermluck told the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview on Monday, adding that the displaced drivers could find jobs in the new system.

"The cost would be between 20 and 50 baht, but that needs to be discussed with the Phuket Land Transport Office and the Governor's Office, as well as tuk-tuk and taxi representatives.



Public transport is needed now, said Governor Maitri. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

"The goal is to agree on a price that covers operating costs and is reasonable for users, both tourists and local people."

The drivers' jobs would be

stable and offer a fixed salary, with Patong Municipality controlling how drivers operate the queue and helping to fix any problems that might arise, Ms Chalermluck said.

When the

Calls for clemency by taxi drivers ignored as purge of the island's transport mafia moves ahead

By Gazette Reporters

CALLS for mercy by taxi cartel members not yet arrested in the army-bolstered purge of Phuket's taxi mafia have fallen on deaf ears.

In Kalim, villagers last Saturday begged officials to stop demolishing illegal taxi stands.

"We have been here for 18 years and got permission from former Patong Mayor Pian Keesin," said driver Adisorn Maneesri.

"We understand why they are doing this, but please understand that we are working legally."

The plea came as more than 100 officers from the Patong Police and from the Patong Municipality arrived to tear down four illegal taxi stands.

Chalermluck Kebsab, the recently instated Patong Mayor,

sympathized with the villagers and said she would do whatever she could to help – but stood firm that the illegal taxi stands had to go.

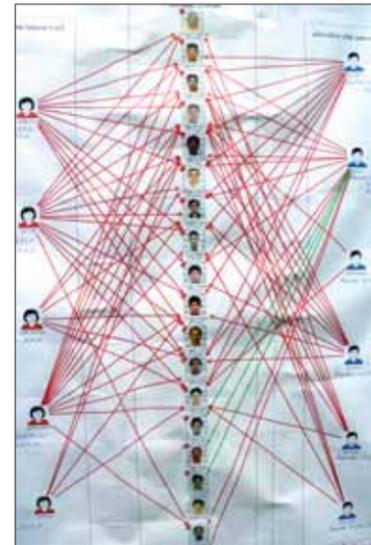
"Don't worry about the booths," she told drivers. "We will set up new ones in better locations.

After we clear the illegal stands out of Patong, we will call together all taxi drivers to find a solution together."

THE PURGE

The campaign against Phuket's taxi mafia began on June 4 when 100 soldiers from Southern Thailand provided military support to a task force of 1,110 police officers and 40 volunteers who swept through beach resort towns along the west coast.

In a blitz of arrests, officers took into custody 73 taxi, tuk-tuk and minivan drivers for working illegally or for violent, abusive or cheating behavior. In addition to the 32 warrants served in Kata-Karon, eight were served in Thalang, nine in Chergn Talay



The police are mapping the relationships among the players in order to take down the kingpins. Photo: Saran Mittrarat

and 27 in Kamala.

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

Police turn blockade busters

AS PART of the campaign to eradicate Phuket of all threats to the island's tourism industry, police this week arrested three people for their roles in major street blockades during the past year.

Police have arrest warrants for 23 people for joining blockades, Royal Thai Police Region 8 Commander Panya Mamen confirmed on June 5.

Three of them have presented themselves to police.

Chakkapong Limsakul, 40, was taken into custody for his role in the March 4 blockade in Patong, for which 10 people are wanted by police.

About 200 tuk-tuk drivers blocked all roads into Patong on March 4. The blockade ended with Phuket's police commander agreeing to the drivers' demands, which included transferring the Patong Police superintendent.

Somsak Pasarnphan, 41, one of the 10 suspects wanted for the April 24 blockade of Thepkrasattri Road in Mak Prok, Thalang, surrendered himself to Tah Chat Chai Police, but denied any involvement in the blockade.



Lt Gen Panya Mamen Photo: Woranut Pechdee

"On the way home, I saw the blockade and had no idea what was going on," he said.

"Somebody pointed for me to pull over my car. I was there just looking at what was happening."

The third suspect to voluntarily hand himself over to police was Sirichai Saengprichakul, 42.

Mr Sirichai was wanted for his involvement in the blockade at "100 bodies curve" on Chao Fa West Road, in Wichit, in April.

"We are questioning him and arrest warrants will be issued for two more suspects for this blockade," Gen Panya noted.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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mighty fall, they beg



An officer looks on as an illegal tuk-tuk stand in Patong is pulled down on Tuesday. Photo: Saran Mitrarat

Thammarat, provided security. Within 48 hours, the number of suspects arrested had grown to 95 as officers armed with 111 arrest warrants scoured the west coast under orders from Lt Gen Panya Mamen, Commander of the Royal Thai Police Region 8 division. Within four days, the raids had extended to Rawai, Kalim and Patong. The investigations that led to the arrests began at the end of January, Gen Panya said. “[Our] team questioned the staff and owners of 51 businesses, totalling 150 witnesses, which led to 111 arrest warrants issued for 108 people.” Gen Panya explained that the Army’s support was instrumental in enabling months of hard police work to come to fruition. “Since the coup, it has been easy for us to carry out raids as

we have military support,” Gen Panya said. One official also fell within the long arm of the law: long-standing Kata-Karon Mayor Tawee Thongcham, who was arrested for his connections to taxi mafia in his constituency. Mr Tawee had long been at the head of local politics in Kata-Karon. He was elected Karon Mayor for the third consecutive term in July 2012. “Mr Tawee surrendered to police after a warrant for his arrest was issued,” said Gen Paween. During the months-long investigation headed by Police Region 8 Deputy Commander Paween Pongsirin, officers discovered that an illegal taxi booth in Kata-Karon had electricity and running water supplied by the Kata-Karon Municipality. “This is evidence enough that

the illegal taxi operators were being supported by Kata-Karon Municipality. An arrest warrant for Mr Tawee was issued on that basis,” Gen Paween said. **WITNESS INTIMIDATION** As of Wednesday, only four of those arrested in the blitz had been granted bail on medical grounds, and on three conditions: that they do not drive a taxi; they do not conduct any activities at or near a taxi stand; and they do not intimidate witnesses. The rest remain in jail, where some face prison terms of up to 10 years. “We are concerned that they will attempt to intimidate our witnesses,” Gen Panya said. “On [June 5], we received a complaint from a witness who said someone had followed his daugh-

ter in Kamala. We have teams to assist those witnesses who are fearful,” he explained.

KINGPINS IN SIGHTS

Gen Panya told the *Gazette* that his initial goal was to abolish the taxi cartels by attacking them at the grassroots level. With the taxi mafia’s main revenue stream now stifled, police have started targeting the big guns, promising to bring down transport chieftains within weeks. “We are now collecting information from witnesses about the taxi mafia operating in Patong,” Gen Panya said. “It might take a long time before we get the results we want.” “In the past, we just arrested the small guys. Now we are going to root out the people who are behind the cartels.

THE ROAD AHEAD

Many of the honorary consuls resident on the island turned out last Sunday to personally thank Lt Gen Panya Mamen for leading the assault on Phuket’s taxi mafia. “People around the world will hear about what the general has done,” said French honorary consul for Phuket Claude de Crissey. “It will motivate tourists to come to Phuket. This is very important for tourism.” Meanwhile, Jaturong Kaewkasi of the Phuket Land Transport Office told the *Gazette* that plans were afoot to finally develop public transport on the island. “It’s time for everyone in Phuket to help Phuket move forward. We need ideas from everyone about how to improve the island’s public transportation,” he urged.



Maj Gen Paween Pongsirin will lead the investigation into possible money laundering.

B100mn found in taxi driver’s bank account

THE discovery of a taxi driver’s bankbook showing assets of more than 100 million baht has initiated investigations into possible money laundering. Officers discovered the bankbook on June 6 while searching the home of the driver, who has not yet been named. “A number of drivers had unexpectedly high bank balances, and we intend to check each of them, to determine whether they are laundering money,” said Royal Thai Police Region 8 Commander Panya Mamen. Any persons found guilty of laundering money will have their property seized, and those who have received money from these people will also be charged with money laundering, Lt Gen Panya said. “The punishment is up to five years in prison,” he added. A team led by Police Region 8 Deputy Commander Paween Pongsirin will investigate the money-laundering charges. “Give us two weeks to collect the information,” Gen Panya said. “We aim to wrap up charges against black taxi drivers by June 15. Nobody will be allowed bail.” *– Woranut Pechdee*



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Phuket's lizard namesake. Photo: Nakorn Ratchasima Zoo

Phuket boasts unique reptile

A NEW species of gecko was found in Phuket – two years ago, a specialist at the Khao Phra Thaew Wildlife Sanctuary in Thalang confirmed to the *Gazette*.

“The lizard was found in Khao Phra Thaew in 2012,” said Awat Nitikul, chief of the Environmental Conservation Unit.

However, the gecko didn't make headlines until recently.

“The species was named *Cyrtodactylus phuketensis* to mark that it had been found on the island,” said Mr Awat.

“[It] is unique because its small feet are not sticky, but have sharp nails. It also spawns two eggs at a time.”

The gecko can be found throughout Southern Thailand, especially in Satun, Krabi and Phuket, added Mr Awat.

– *Woranut Pechdee*

‘Fake cops’ real, says boss

By Chutharat Plerin

THREE plainclothes officers thought to be impersonators attempting to extort money from a local business on Monday have been verified as new members of the Phuket Provincial Police, said the Patong Police chief.

The owner of La Boucherie in Patong submitted CCTV footage to the *Gazette* on Monday that showed three men who claimed to be Patong Police officers, but refused to show official identification, entering the restaurant at about 12:30am.

The restaurant owner, who asked not to be named, said that the men asked to see work permits for all foreign staff, and left after briefly checking the documents. The men did not demand any money or threaten any official action.

“I have checked with the Phuket Provincial Police and was told that the three men in the video are Provincial Police investigators. They have been working here for about two months,” Patong Police Deputy Superintendent Khunnadet Nanongkhai confirmed



This CCTV screenshot shows the three officers inspecting the restaurant. Photo: La Boucherie CCTV

on Tuesday.

“I was told that they were checking for work permits, as per their normal duties.”

Phuket's top cop has since told the *Gazette* that he will talk with his officers and demand that they present official identification before conducting searches to ensure no further misunderstandings occur.

“If they don't show their identification or a search warrant, do not let them search your premises.

Call 191 immediately,” Phuket Provincial Commander Krajang Suwannarat said.

Lt Col Khunnadet chalked up the incident to a misunderstanding, but urged any concerned business owners to report incidents that seem suspicious.

“I believe language barriers contributed partly to this misunderstanding. Also, the men are new Provincial Police officers and were working in plainclothes,

which explains why Patong Police did not recognize them,” Lt Col Khunnadet said.

The owner of La Boucherie has been informed that the men in her restaurant were actually police investigators.

“I just wanted to express my concerns so that other business owners would be alert and always check for warrants and identification before letting officers search their property,” she said.

Bus driver stole from tourist passengers to support drug habits



Kanoksak Promdang, 21, was found with five bags that belonged to members of a Chinese media group he had just taken to Rassada pier.

A DRUGGY tour bus driver, after being arrested in Phuket on June 8, confessed to regularly stealing from Chinese tourists.

Kanoksak Promdang, 21, was caught after stealing five bags from members of a Chinese media group from Beijing.

“Mr Kanoksak picked up the group of about 30 people from their hotel and took them to Rassada Pier, where they departed on a speedboat trip to nearby islands,” said Maj Roongsak Maichandee of the Region 8 Police Crime Suppression Division.

“When the customers returned from their trip, they realized that five of their bags were missing from the bus.”

The bag owners contacted police, who searched Mr Kanoksak's room in Rassada.

“In his room we found the tourists' bags, as well as cash, a gold necklace, a gold ring and a mobile phone,” Maj Roongsak said.

“Mr Kanoksak confessed that he had done it many times before. He said that his salary with the company wasn't enough to pay for his drug addiction, so he supported it by stealing valuables from tourists.”

Police did not reveal the name of the company. However, it was confirmed that Mr Kanoksak had been fired.

“Mr Kanoksak was charged with theft,” Maj Roongsak said.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*



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Sting operation ends with abortion clinic shut down

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE arrested two Myanmar nationals operating an illegal abortion clinic in Phuket during a sting operation on June 5.

Sein Maung, 54, and Thein Thein Htwg, 35, were taken into police custody after preparing to give an abortion to a three-month-pregnant woman.

"We received a tip-off about the roaming abortion clinic, so we set up a mole to get the telephone information for Mr Sein," Phuket Immigration Superintendent Sunchai Chokkajaykij told the *Gazette*.

"The mole went to the 999 Hotel after confirming the appointment, which cost 12,000 baht. Our officers then waited outside until we got the signal," said Col Sunchai.

Inside the hotel room, police found Mr Sein and his assistant Ms Thein Thein preparing for surgery.

Officers confiscated the items to be used for the abortion: a syringe, needles, chicken feathers, a dildo and drugs.

Police turned the drugs over to the Phuket Provincial Health Office to have them identified.



Mr Sein is escorted out of the hotel room where he was preparing to perform an illegal abortion.

Mr Sein told police that he was a doctor in Myanmar and explained to them his abortion process.

"I first give the patient pain killers, then I inject a local anesthetic into her hip. Once that sets in, I insert a sharp piece of metal into her vagina and break the amniotic sac in the womb. Then, I stick

the chicken feather in and spin it around to break the fetus apart and squeeze it out," Mr Sein explained.

"The fee depends on the gestational period."

Mr Sein and Ms Thein Thein were charged with illegally operating a medical service, dispensing medications without a licence and

attempting to perform an abortion," Col Sunchai said.

Police have urged anyone with information about illegal abortions to report it immediately.

"Either call 1155 or go to your local police station. This is a very dangerous procedure that could kill the patient," Col Sunchai said.



Ao Mo after his arrest. Photo: The Nation

Man confesses to trafficking, helping illegals

POLICE arrested a Myanmar national at Phuket's fishing port on June 8 for scamming four compatriots into working on a fishing trawler for six months without pay.

The suspect, identified as Ao Mo, 49, later confessed to human trafficking and helping illegal migrants avoid arrest, said Lt General Panya Mamen, commander of the Royal Thai Police Region 8 division.

After Mr Ao lured the unnamed victims into unpaid hard-labor jobs on fishing boats, he later demanded 20,000 baht from each family to get the workers back to Myanmar.

Police made the arrest in a sting operation during which the families had agreed to cooperate with police by giving the money to Mr Ao at a rendezvous point.

Mr Ao confessed to duping Myanmar nationals into crewing on boats several times during the past two years. - *The Nation*



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AROUND THE nation

Army rejects rumors over power grab

IN AN attempt to quell speculation, the junta on Monday said it still maintained, at least for now, the status quo of governing political parties and the judiciary, as well as the staging of elections, rejecting rumors that it preferred selection rather than election of MPs.

Maintaining the existing organic laws and independent organizations will allow all controversial cases concerning corruption and election fraud to continue, analysts said.

The ruling National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) deputy spokesman Col Winthai Suvari denied reports on social media that a new government and the People's Council had been established to change the country's ruling system.

Col Winthai also categorically dismissed the following reports that have gone viral: that Provincial Administrative Organizations have been scrapped and only Tambon Administrative Organizations and municipalities have been maintained; that all governors must be elected; that *kamnan* and village heads will directly report to governors; and that the role of politicians has been curbed.

He also denied that 30 per cent of MPs will be elected, with one MP for each province and the remainder to be appointed; that police will directly report to governors; and that provinces will be divided into zones with the establishment of a Council of Dynamics.

Officers wrangle with World Cup gambling

AHEAD of the World Cup kickoff, police launched an operations center to crack down on football gambling, both online and offline, as well as SMS lucky draws.

Thais are expected to spend an estimated 69 billion baht during the upcoming World Cup in Brazil – with gambling on matches forecast to generate 43.5bn baht alone, according to a University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) survey.

The total amount represents a 16% increase in spending compared to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, and a 6.6% rise compared to Euro 2012.

However, despite the expected higher spending during this tournament benefiting the economy, the expected huge outlay on gambling could create economic and societal problems, Thanavath Phonvichai, director of UTCC's Economic and Business Forecasting Centre, said earlier this month.

"From a total amount of almost 70bn baht in a month, only about 26bn baht will be injected into the economy. It seems that people of late have shown less of an interest in football matches themselves and more interest in the potential benefits of gambling during a time of economic recovery," he said.

According to a survey by Chulalongkorn University's Centre for Gambling Studies, 40% of children who bet on football started as early as the age of 15 and 52.6% funded their habit with their own piggy bank money.

Maj Gen Noraboon Naenna, deputy Central Investigation Bureau



Police are looking to strike swift blows to punters. Photo: The Nation

commissioner, said that the center would join with each police precinct to tackle gambling at entertainment venues or other establishments showing live matches.

Landlords that allow gambling on their premises could face a permit revocation, while bookies, investors and gang members would also be arrested, reported *The Nation*.

Police and the Information Communication and Technology Ministry would immediately close

gambling websites, said Col Akkharadet Pimonsri of the Crime Suppression Division.

Police would monitor calls to the 191 and 1599 hotlines to arrest telephone bookies and operators of SMS draws and other gambling channels, he added.

Cases involving more than 10mn baht and over 100 people could also face legal action under the Anti-Money Laundering Act.

As some desperate losers might seek easy cash to repay debts, police would also get

tougher on robbers especially of banks, gold shops and 24-hour convenience stores.

Schools and banks were also urged to help alert police to student-gambling behavior and suspicious financial transactions.

Loan sharks using illegal methods for debt collection – as well as any police in their pockets – would also face severe legal action.

If police units nabbed gambling suspects in an area where local police were lax, they would face a probe over dereliction of duty, Col Akkharadet added.

Nuanoi Trirat, director of the Centre for Gambling Studies, said 49% of the 3,050 high school and vocational college respondents in eight provinces thought it was appropriate to wager on football matches with friends by using stakes other than cash as bets, while 21% of respondents thought using cash added excitement to football viewing.

Almost 10% thought it was alright to bet with bookies while 9% were fine with betting online.

A total of 53% of the 10% who said they intended to gamble on the World Cup 2014 matches were not worried about getting apprehended because they believed that football punters rarely got caught.

One-third of football-gambling youths were plagued with problems including having to find money illegally to clear gambling debts and becoming severely stressed to the point of seeking medical help and contemplating suicide, Mr Nuanoi said.

Beauty queen haunted by social media history hands in Miss Universe crown

BOWING to pressure, Weluree Ditsayabut on Monday tearfully relinquished her Miss Universe Thailand crown.

"I give up this title," the young beauty queen said at a press conference.

Appearing before media without a crown and a sash, Ms Weluree said she had taken the move to end huge pressure that had taken a toll on both her and her mother's happiness.

"I understand that a public figure is subject to public scrutiny. But I couldn't take it when those comments gave my mother sleepless nights. When she is unhappy, I can't be happy either," she said, as tears ran down her face.

Not long after claiming the Miss Universe Thailand 2014 title last month, Ms Weluree came under a barrage of severe criticism. She was criticized for having a less-than-perfect figure and for many



Weluree Ditsayabut will discuss with organizers what is to happen to the prizes, valued at over 4 million baht, she won. Photo: The Nation

things she had posted previously on social media. These included rude words and harsh remarks about red shirts, reported *The Nation*.

Ms Weluree said that she hoped all youths would learn a lesson from her case.

"An act out of ignorance can come back to haunt us," she warned.

With Ms Weluree giving up her crown, first-runner up Pimpongkod Chankaew will assume Ms Weluree's duties as Miss Universe Thailand.

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Vietnam, Philippines play ball in island spat

By Ben Blanchard

CHINA denounced Vietnam and the Philippines on Monday for getting together on a disputed island in the South China Sea to drink beer and play soccer and volleyball, calling it "a clumsy farce" and demanded both countries stop causing trouble.

The comments by a foreign ministry spokeswoman were China's first response to the gathering on the Vietnamese-held island of Southwest Cay last Sunday.

Philippine naval officials described the meeting of soldiers from the two sides as a chance to show there can be harmony despite a web of overlapping claims to the potentially energy-rich waters.

The gathering underscores the growing cooperation between Vietnam and the Philippines, which have both felt China's wrath over the South China Sea, even though both claim Southwest Cay and other islands.

The Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei all claim some of the Spratlys, while China, Taiwan and Vietnam claim the whole chain.



A Vietnam Marine Guard ship tows a Vietnamese boat that was rammed and then sunk by Chinese vessels at Ly Son island, near the disputed Paracels Islands in the South China Sea, on May 29. Photo: Reuters

China also claims 90 per cent of the 3.5-million-square-kilometer South China Sea, its reach depicted on its maps with a so-called nine-dash line deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia.

Diplomats and experts have described the partnership between Hanoi and Manila as part of a web

of evolving relationships across Asia that are being driven by fear of China as well as doubts among some, especially in Japan, over the US commitment to the region.

Separately, China accused Vietnam of ramming its ships more than 1,000 times and said while it wanted good relations with its neighbor, it would not abandon principles to achieve that.

A Vietnamese fishing boat sank on May 26 during a confrontation not far from where China has

towed an oil rig, accompanied by a cordon of Chinese vessels, 240km off Vietnam.

Last week, a Vietnam television broadcast video showed a large Chinese vessel steaming after two Vietnamese fishing boats, then colliding with one which capsized.

The dispute is the most serious deterioration of relations between the Communist states and traditional rivals since a brief war in 1979 following Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia. - Reuters

AROUND THE region

In brief...

Myanmar bolsters 270km fence amid high border tension

MYANMAR is intensifying its security along the border with Bangladesh to prevent illegal immigration, reports the Myanmar directorate of the Military Engineers' Office.

The Ministry of Home Affairs is spending about 60 billion kyat (about 2bn baht) to build the 270km border fence. Construction began in 2008, but the lack of electricity in the border area has delayed plans to electrify the boundary, an officer at the directorate said. - Eleven Media

Political slayings hike ahead of poll

AS THE number of killings related to local politics escalates, the Philippine National Police (PNP) vowed to beef up security in the run-up to the May 2016 election.

PNP Public Information Office chief Superintendent Reuben Theodore Sindac said in an interview this week that a recent spate of local political killings marked the start of "election fever."

- Philippine Inquirer

Aussie dies while climbing volcano

AN AUSTRALIAN died from a suspected asthma attack after setting out to trek up Indonesia's second-highest volcano, police said on Tuesday.

John-Paul Lipscombe, 53, one of 10 hikers on the trek, was two kilometers into the hike up Mount Rinjani on Lombok Island when he collapsed and died, said local police chief I Wayan Wartia said.

Mount Rinjani, at 3,726m tall, is a popular trekking spot for tourists.

An Italian tourist was killed when she fell into a ravine while climbing the volcano in 2010.

- Jakarta Post

Body of missing Briton found meters from holiday camp

THE body of Gareth David Huntley, the 34-year-old London accountant who disappeared while jungle trekking on Malaysia's Tioman Island on May 27, has been found.

After nine days scouring 850 sq km of dense jungle in a search-and-rescue effort that included helicopters, marine patrol boats and sniffer dogs, officers finally located the body just meters from the turtle conservation project where Mr Huntley had volunteered.

"How did we miss it?" said an exasperated high-ranking officer involved in the search.

Mr Huntley disappeared while trekking alone to the Lubuk Teja waterfall on May 27. Search-and-rescue personnel found his highly decomposed body in the Mentawak River, about 20 meters from a kayak storage unit at the Juara Lagoon chalet, on June 4.

The search teams said they did not smell anything pungent during their stay there at the

camp, although reporters did notice a sharp scent during their initial hike with rescue officers to the waterfall.

However, they assumed the smell came from the river water.

Pahang Police chief Datuk Sharifuddin Ab Ghani confirmed the body was that of Mr Huntley after DNA test results matched blood samples collected from Mr Huntley's mother Janet Southwell. - The Star

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In brief...

Egypt's gov hands resignation to new president al-Sisi

EGYPTIAN Prime Minister Ibrahim Mehleb submitted his government's resignation on Monday to new President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, state TV reported.

Mr Mehleb said the government would take on a caretaker role until a new cabinet is formed. Consultations had not yet begun, he said, although officials say many of the leading ministers such as finance are likely to be unchanged.

Mexican president hints about change in marijuana laws

MEXICAN President Enrique Pena Nieto hinted on June 8 that he may be open to changing drug laws, as some US states have done.

Marijuana has been a major source of income for violent drug cartels responsible for thousands of deaths in Mexico in recent years. Proponents of reform say legalizing marijuana would reduce the gangs' economic power and help generate more tax revenue.

Indian river bathers swept away after dam water released

INDIAN rescuers were searching on Monday for 20 students and a professor swept away by waters released from a dam while the group was bathing in the Beas river in Himachal Pradesh.

Rescuers found four bodies but officials say prospects of finding survivors are bleak after the students were swept away on June 8.

Taliban-led airport assault kills dozens

TALIBAN militants disguised as security stormed into Pakistan's busiest airport on June 8, triggering an all-night battle in which at least 27 people were killed.

The attack deals a heavy blow to Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's efforts to attract foreign investors to revive economic growth, and raises questions about security at Pakistan's main installations, reported Reuters.

China will set sail for US-hosted navy drills

AROUND THE world

By Ben Blanchard

CHINA on Monday confirmed that it will participate for the first time in a major United States-hosted naval drill this month, sending four ships, including a destroyer and frigate, even as military distrust persists between the two countries.

Beijing's agreement to join the drills comes at a moment of heightened tension in the disputed East and South China Seas, and growing unease in the US over China's rapid military buildup and its cyber capabilities.

The Rim of the Pacific exercise, known as RIMPAC, is billed as the world's largest international maritime exercise, with 22 nations and more than 40 ships and submarines participating the last time it was held off Hawaii in 2012.

Not all the participants are treaty allies with the US, and last year's participants included Russia and India.

China, however, has never par-



A Chinese navy sailor guides a helicopter landing on Chinese destroyer Harbin. Photo: Reuters

icipated in the event, though it sent observers to RIMPAC in 1998, the Pentagon says. US officials said in March that China had accepted the invitation to attend this year.

The official People's Liberation Army Daily, quoting a navy spokesman, said it would be the first time the Chinese navy would be participating in the joint exercises organized by the US navy.

Besides the two warships, a supply ship, a hospital ship and

two helicopters will also be part of the Chinese delegation, the newspaper added.

The exercises the Chinese navy will join run the gamut from cannon firing, maritime security actions, and maritime warship exercises to military medicine exchanges, humanitarian aid and disaster reduction, besides diving drills, it said.

A medical forum will also be held for the Chinese and the US

sides, with visits to each other's ships, the paper added.

The drills are due to be held in mid-June in the waters near the US Pacific island of Guam.

Last week China's Defence Ministry slammed the Pentagon for a report estimating that China's true military spending exceeded US\$145 billion last year and warning that China was stepping up its military modernization program. — Reuters

Ukraine sees 'understanding' with Russia on peace deal

UKRAINE said on Monday it had reached a "mutual understanding" with Moscow on parts of a plan proposed by President Petro Poroshenko for ending violence in the east of the country.

Kiev gave no details and Russia did not comment directly but two days of talks, following a brief encounter in France last week that broke the ice between Mr Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin, have given momentum to peace moves.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in a statement released in Berlin that there was "some faint light at the end of the tunnel" in the Ukraine conflict for the first time in months.

The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry said in a brief statement in Kiev that Russian and Ukrainian representatives had met three times on

Sunday and Monday to discuss Mr Poroshenko's plan to end an insurrection by pro-Russian separatists in the east.

"As a result of the work, the sides reached a mutual understanding on key stages of the implementation of the plan and on a list of priorities which will contribute to a de-escalation of the situation in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine," it said.

The talks are being mediated by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Vienna-based security and human rights watchdog, but almost no details of Mr Poroshenko's plan or the talks have been made public.

It was not even clear who took part in Monday's meetings, although the Ukrainian leader was present at the talks and said that the violence must end this week. — Reuters



New Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko holds up the presidential seal during his inauguration ceremony. Photo: Reuters

Trial begins for South Korean ferry crew

FIFTEEN crew of a South Korean ferry that sank in April, killing more than 300 people, mostly children, went on trial on Tuesday on charges ranging from negligence to homicide, with shouts of "murderer" heard as the captain entered the court.

Captain Lee Joon-seok, 68, and three senior crew were charged with homicide, facing a maximum sentence of death. Two were charged with fleeing and abandoning ship, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison. Nine were charged with



Distraught family members yell out to sea in May. Photo: Reuters

The *Sewol*, overloaded and travelling too fast on a turn, sank off the southwestern coast of South Korea on April 16.

The 15 crew members have been in detention since they were charged in May. — Reuters

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Prime deals on eight Sansiri developments

PROPERTY Gazette

By Mark Knowles

SANSIRI, one of the largest real estate developers in Thailand, recently launched the "It's Prime Time" promotional event in Phuket, offering a "Time for Best Units" promotion across all eight of the company's completed developments on the island.

Buyers will have to move quickly to get a bargain though, as the discount offers are only available until the end of June.

Mr Suriya Wannabuit, executive vice president of the project management and marketing departments for Sansiri PLC said, "We know what buyers and investors are looking for and we always aim to present interesting offers to our target customers."

"Sansiri's developments are located in prime locations on Phuket and have unique designs with high quality finishing. At our 'It's Prime Time' event, we can guarantee that this is the first and only time that customers will find the best units, best packages, best prices, and best investment, on offer from Sansiri."



There are some great deals on fully furnished units from Sansiri.

Mr Suriya told the *Gazette* that the promotion was part of an attempt to boost sales in the face of a rise in booking cancellations due to the uncertain political situation in Thailand.

"We have a lot of people who had a booking, but have cancelled due to the political situation and the financial situation – that's why now we have [more] stock on hand," he said.

Mr Suriya said that most of the cancellations were from local buyers, and that Sansiri continues to pursue the increasing foreign real estate investment market, particularly buyers from Russia and China.

He went on to say that despite

many developers offering promotions to help increase sales during the political uncertainty, he doubted that this would have a large effect on the overall market.

"In general, [these] campaigns and events cannot help the [real estate market] situation, but for me, I'm confident in my promotion because I have selected the best products, the best locations, and the best views.

"You can see that many developers are now offering discounts on not-good products with not-good locations at a cheap price. I'm offering the best location, the best view, the best offer – [it is] not cheap, not a liquidation," he said.



Mr Suriya Wannabuit, executive vice president of the project management and marketing departments for Sansiri PLC. Photos: Supplied

Sansiri is also offering the "It's Prime Time" promotion in Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Hua Hin. Some of the premier units on offer in Phuket, include: a corner house at Burasiri Koh Kaew; a furnished house, located near the clubhouse at Habitia Koh Kaew; a townhouse with large private garden at Habittown Koh Kaew; a unit with the best swimming pool view at dcondo Creek; and units with the best views at dcondo Kathu-Patong and dcondo Mine.

There are also some moderately priced, fully-furnished unit packages on offer, including: furnished units with the best views at dcondo Kathu-Patong available at 1.39 million baht and furnished

units with the best views at dcondo Mine, starting at 1.69 million baht.

Some of the lowest priced units in the promotion include: units at dcondo Kathu available at 900,000 baht and units at dcondo Kathu-Patong available at 1.39 million baht. Units at dcondo Kathu and dcondo Creek are available with rental agreements in place, offering an immediate rental return for investors. In addition, a special cash reward of up to 50,000 baht is available on referrals at the event.

For more information about the "It's Prime Time" promotion call 1685 or visit sansiri.com.



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A day without tourists



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

RAINY season often brings a shroud of darkness over the island, when strong showers can even make it difficult to see anything further than the mere short span across the road from my office. Imagine pulling a hoodie over your head on a sunny day and dropping suddenly into the netherworld of dimly lit shadows.

These green season weather changes seem to bring out the dark side of Phuket's citizens. All too often around the traps, in distant tones, or else plying the internet chatter, comes the rabid talk about the utter worthlessness of our current crop of tourists. Just hash tag #in cheap, #stampeding groups, #emerging markets and you'll

soon get the vibe. It's nasty, petty and viewed through a tunnel so long and deep that there is seemingly no escape out the other end.

My mind often flashes back to the art house movie with an ethnic twinge – *A Day Without Mexicans*, which chronicles a mysterious happening which results in all the Latinos disappearing one day from a California town. It's a funny, profound and a somewhat sad tale of myopia gone over

the edge.

What would happen here in Phuket if suddenly all of the tourists disappeared? The strange thing, after all, is that the people who do the loudest complaining or constantly voice their grumbling discontent are mostly expatriate residents. I can't reconcile their rationale, given that these same folks must have arrived at one point as tourists who eventually just decided to take a permanent island vacation.

The strange thing, after all, is that the people who do the loudest complaining or constantly voice their grumbling discontent are mostly expatriate residents. I can't reconcile their rationale, given that these same folks must have arrived at one point as tourists who eventually just decided to take a permanent island vacation.

I'm still a relative newcomer, having landed here a bit after the millennium, but I can still recall the days before Central Festival appeared, when traversing the island was a fast and simple task. Over more than a decade, Phuket's prosperity has seen the rapid rise of an urban resort island in the throes of what could be summed up as growing pains.

Today, the bountiful offering includes quality medical institutions, international schools that can be counted on both hands, marinas, malls, restaurants, housing estates and attractions. You can connect to flights around the world directly whether you are headed down under, to Europe, the Middle East or throughout Asia.

Where we once lived in the land of little or no choice, today the options are varied. Sure, as quan-



DESERTED: What would happen if all of Phuket's tourists suddenly disappeared? Photo: ADwarf

tity came, one of the knock-on effects was a quality offering. You no longer have to travel to Bangkok or Singapore to shop or find those objects of desire. The world has come to Phuket.

How did this all happen? Tourism has provided jobs, income, and opportunity not only for Thais, but also for a growing number of expatriates. Where better to raise a family or start a business and still be able to live in one of the finest tropical island's on earth?

And yet the voices of discontent arise. Popular themes go from nostalgic musings wondering why can't Phuket be the way it used to? Or else, how come the new stream of travellers aren't well behaved like those from a bygone era? For me,

nostalgia is an old man's game best undertaken from a bar stool. Remembering is good, but living in the present is an even better adventure.

Bashing tourists harkens back to those who oppose immigration. What fuels these illogical thoughts are the human spirit's dark sides of racism, intolerance and closed mindedness. The world is a big place, with more and more people arriving every day – face it, our journey today is one without maps to a place we've never been before.

Yes, my patience has been tested by those who complain about traffic or crowded beaches. Do you really think Villa Market, where you happily ply around the aisles, would be here unless the property market had not been spun

out of the tourism sector?

To sum it up, I'm not adverse to those around me voicing their opinions or complaints, but please, just keep a balanced, mindful view of how we got to where we are, and appreciate those tourists who bring their hard-earned currency to spend here in Phuket. As to what the future may bring, Edward T McMahon voiced it very well when he said, "Growth is inevitable and desirable, but destruction of community character is not. The question is not whether your part of the world is going to change. The question is how?"

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9 Hotelworks. He can be contacted through c9hotelworks.com



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Condo oversupply in Hua Hin

THE residential market in the Hua Hin area is showing signs of oversupply after both local and Bangkok-based developers expanded their condominium investment over the past five years.

According to a survey by Collier International (Thailand), condominium inventory supply in the general Hua Hin area will be 16,000 units next year. This would take 18 months to sell out even if there were no new residential projects launched in the location.

The survey shows some 8,800 units are expected to be completed this year, with nearly 5,000 units in the Cha-am area and about 1,880 in the Hua Hin coastal area. The remainder are split equally between the Hua Hin inland and Pranburi areas.

Many condominium projects cannot be completed by the expected date, due to a lack of construction workers, the research said. The research also shows that many listed developers are focus-

ing more on the condominium market outside Bangkok, with Cha-am and Hua Hin among their target locations.

LPN Development, for example, has already occupied land plots in the Hua Hin area, while another big-name developer is also looking to launch new projects in the area. The average take-up rate at the end of 2013 was about 73%, around 5% higher than in the previous six months. This was due to the high take-up rate at some new condominium projects launched during the year, especially by listed developers.

Some other condo developers have also launched new marketing campaigns and set up their sales booths in popular shopping malls in Bangkok in order to attract new clients.

The average take-up rate in the Hua Hin inland area was highest at around 85%, because some new condominium projects from listed developers were launched in the first half of 2013. In the past

year they have had high take-up rates, and some projects have sold out, said Collier.

Most buyers in the Cha-am, Hua Hin and Pranburi areas are Thai, especially in condominiums and housing development projects, while some foreign retirees own or rent condominiums or houses in the general area.

The average take-up rate of all property types in these three locations last year was roughly 72%, with 68% for landed development projects and 73% for condos.

The average price of condominium and landed development projects is still similar to the previous year. Following the oversupply of condo units in Hua Hin, LPN Development has delayed the launch of three new projects, comprising 2,040 units worth 3.13 billion baht, this year.

"We have to wait and see the demand in the market," said managing director Opas Sripayak.

– *The Nation*

Hotels surviving political turmoil

THE number of international tourist arrivals to Phuket grew by 6.9% year-over-year (YOY) to 962,953 arrivals in the first quarter of 2014. An increase in direct international flights to Phuket have helped insulate it from any negative impact from the ongoing political turmoil in Bangkok, according to CBRE.

The average occupancy of upscale hotels (with rates over 2,000 baht per night) was over 80% in the first quarter of 2014. Hotels in Phuket were also able to increase the overall daily rate by 3.3% YOY, but this was mainly due to the baht's depreciation in value against major currencies.

CBRE forecasts that total Phuket hotel supply will increase by 4,000 keys over the next three years, a 25% increase in current supply. CBRE has also observed fewer new construction starts of hotels in Phuket, which may indicate that the rate of new supply will decrease over the next three years.

Despite the political problems, there is a possibility that visitor arrivals to Phuket may increase at a faster rate than new hotel supply, which means that there is a possibility of a rise in room rates.

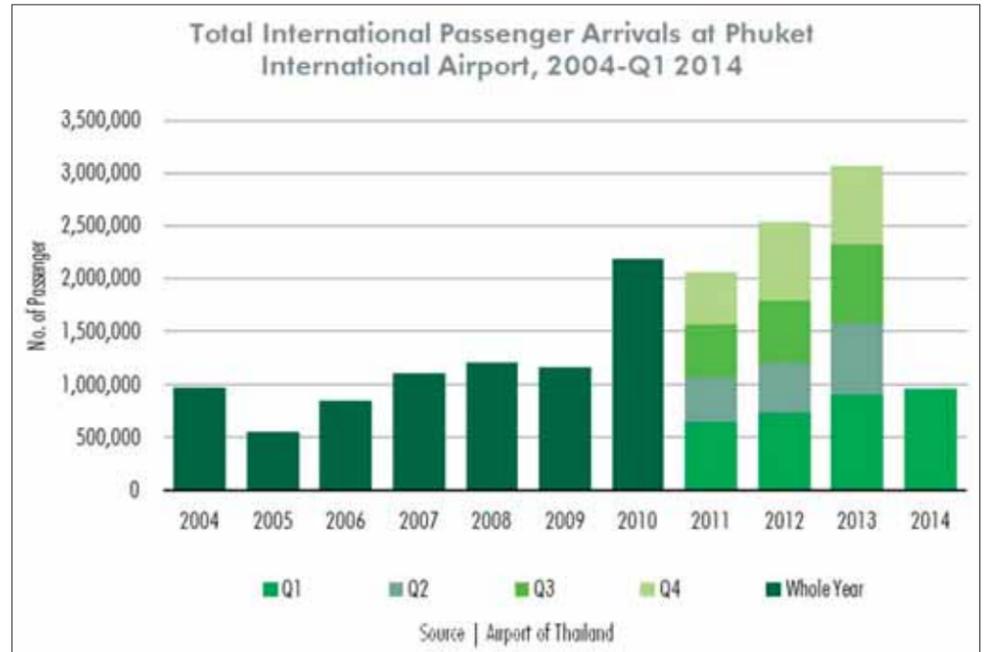
China and Russia were the largest feeder markets with 225,949 and 228,691 arrivals

to Phuket International Airport, respectively. There was a 1.6% YOY decline in Chinese arrivals, a market that had been growing at 90% per year, while Russian arrivals grew by 20.4% YOY this quarter. These two key markets constitute about 50% of the total. The other key feeder markets, including Sweden, Korea and Australia, only account for about 5% each. The data shows the sensitivity of Asian feeder markets to political unrest in Thailand and the lack of concern from Russian tourists regarding the same.

Phuket is, however, becoming more dependent on Chinese and Russian arrivals whereas in the past there was a greater spread of key feeder markets. The risk is that there could either be an event that prevents people from these markets from travelling, such as an economic downturn, or that their attitude to Thailand as a destination suddenly changes.

Although the Phuket hotel market is surviving, not every grade of hotel is prospering. Hotels are classified into four grades based on achieved room rate: luxury, first-class, mid-range and economy.

REVPAR (revenue per available room) is the combination of room rate and occupancy,



Tourism in Phuket is off to a strong start in Q1 of 2014. Graphic: Supplied

and is a measure commonly used to analyze performance. First-class hotels with rates between 4,000 to 10,000 baht per night had the best REVPAR. The positive aspect of this result is that it shows Phuket is not a zero dollar tour destination with tourists being pushed into the cheapest hotels and tour operators hoping to gain revenue from commissions on shopping and entertainment.

CBRE believes that Phuket will remain one of Asia's leading tourist destinations. The airport is being expanded which will reduce capacity problems. The dependence on a limited number of feeder markets increases risk,

but there is still potential for growth. There were about 100 million outbound Chinese tourists last year and only 4.7mn of them came to Thailand.

The challenge for hotel owners is that if a property becomes dominated by one nationality, it tends to drive other nationalities away, so the potential growth from key feeder markets needs to be handled carefully. The best revenue will come from quality, not quantity. Therefore, tourism policy makers, hotel developers and operators need to focus on long-term profitability for the Phuket hotel market. *- Phuket Gazette*

New fee structure to help condo market

A REVISED taxation and fee structure in the property sector would boost the residential market in the second half of the year, the Thai Condominium Association's new president said in an interview with *The Nation* early this week.

Prasert Taedullayatatit said the association had submitted such a proposal to the Thai Chamber of Commerce as part of a road map to drive property market growth in the latter half of the year, after the market dropped 28% during the first four months in terms of project launches and up to 30% in terms of presales.

The condominium segment faced the hardest time in the residential sector, with new project launches in greater Bangkok declining 37% in the first quarter compared with the final quarter of last year.

Townhouse launches, meanwhile, fell 18% in the first quarter compared with the same period last year, while detached-housing launches fell by just 2% in the final quarter of 2013.

Mr Prasert said the main proposals for revising the tax structure in the property sector were bringing the transfer fee - currently 2% of residential value - down to zero, and lowering the 1-per-cent mortgage fee to the same level.

Such a move would reduce transaction costs for home-buyers and boost residential demand, he said.

The association also continues to lobby against the special business tax of 3.3%, which is a burden on property firms, he added.

"If transfer and mortgage fees were cut, this would help home-buyers reduce their financial costs when purchasing a property, while the government continues to impose the special business tax as sale values rise," he said.

The association chief also said the property market in the first five months of the year had continued to slow down, as home-buyers delayed their purchasing decision and property firms deferred project launches during the first quarter.

Concerns about dropping value

Most home-buyers are concerned that their future earnings may decline due to the country's slow economic growth. This has caused many of them, and potential condominium buyers in particular, to delay having completed units transferred to them, he explained.

This impacts more directly on the condominium sector than it does on townhouses and detached housing, as condo units are often bought as second homes.

At present, when developers launch condominium projects, presales in the first month account for only 38% of project value. This is well below the level of 50-60% in the same period last year.

- The Nation



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Taxis, the route forward

IT MAY have taken military action, but the long-overdue purge against some of the island's most notorious transport syndicates is, hands down, the best news the island has had in decades.

If ever there were a good riddance, this is it. The potential benefits to the island – if the results of this unprecedented drive can be consolidated, maintained and perhaps even extended – are innumerable, transcending any kind of economic accounting.

For long-suffering resort owners and other legitimate tourism business operators, the feeling must be like that of the Munchkins after learning the Wicked Witch of The East was dead in the classic 1939 film *The Wizard of Oz*.

But as the main character of that film quickly learns, the road ahead is fraught with mystery.

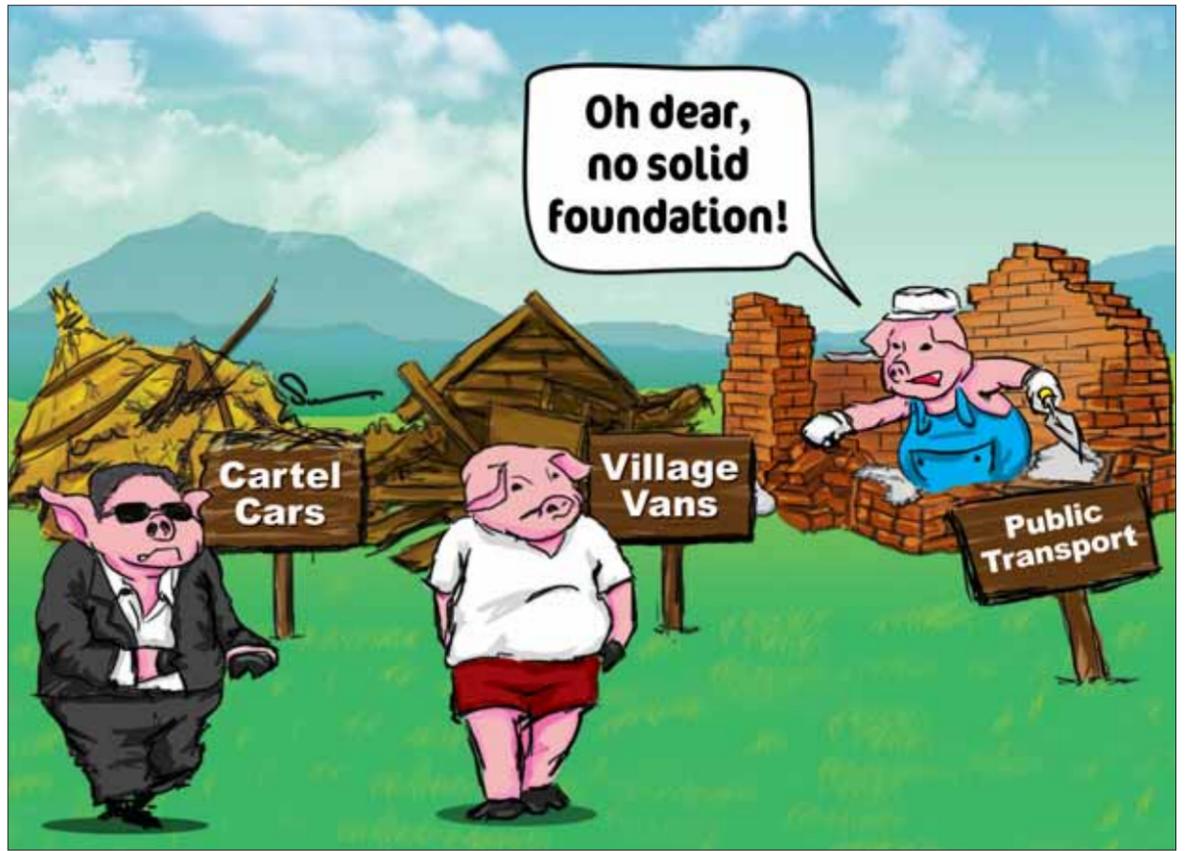
History clearly shows us that a few arrests and the mere physical removal of some illegal taxi stands in key locations will do little if the self-entitled and thuggish “mafia mentality” is allowed to persist.

Just look at what happened after the 2004 tsunami, when scores of tuk-tuks and taxis were damaged or destroyed, their stands swept away. Not long after the initial shock and the emergency clean up and grieving periods had passed, there was for a period an unexpected collective feeling that public transport in Phuket could make a new start.

But that never happened; in fact the situation at street level got worse, as the forces of greed and corruption quickly resurfaced and restored the status quo, turning Phuket's public transport situation into an international laughing stock and the cause of interminable disputes, incidents of violence and even outright murder.

The key now is to prosecute those responsible in a fair and transparent way, but reject bail requests to prevent the guilty from regrouping and resuming their illegal activities. This will render a precious window of time during which an overhaul in our public transport sector can be put in place and consolidated.

Key objectives must include a dramatic expansion in the number of legitimate metered taxis, along with the proviso that they collect fares anywhere on the island; the establishment of simple songthrew routes in key locations where the mafia never allowed them to run before – in a circle around Patong and from Patong to Karon and Kata, for example. A major overhaul is also needed at Phuket International Airport, where a group of service-minded professionals prepared to pick up fares anywhere on the island, at any time – without fear of reprisal – must be installed.



Taxi ranks sundered; joy and what next

Re: *Gazette online, Destruction of Patong taxi booths underway, June 6*

Let's give change the benefit of the doubt. This is more progress than I have seen in seven years here. And it is not just one symbolic gesture, there is a concerted effort going on. This is much better than any of us could have hoped for or expected.

James Bond
Gazette forum

Bring on the buses!

Re: *Gazette online, Destruction of Patong taxi booths underway, June 6*

Now might be a good time for someone to start a bus service between Karon and Patong.

Butler
Gazette forum

Airport taxis next

Re: *Gazette online, Jubilant honorary consuls, hotel staff offer thanks for war on taxi mafia, June 9*

Let's hope General Panya also plans to clean the illegal taxis out of the parking area at Phuket International Airport so that genuine travellers and those people who pick up and drop off passengers can find somewhere to park their cars.

Traveler
Gazette forum

Gotta make it stick

Re: *Gazette online, Destruction of Patong taxi booths underway, June 6*

A taxi shack in Rawai was torn down yesterday and today it is already back up with half a dozen taxis waiting for customers. Nothing will change if there is not consistent enforcement.

Andrew Campbell
Facebook

Letters to the Editor

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

Beach Club bane

Re: *Gazette online, Beach club blues, June 8*

No more beach clubs. We have beautiful sand and warm seawater so why do we need a swimming pool and noisy overpriced beach clubs? What happened to sitting on the beach enjoying a cheap beer or local coconut swimming in the sea and relaxing in nature? Isn't that what people come to the tropics for?

Owen O Connell
Facebook

Honest people still

Re: *Gazette online, Grateful German student gets bag of cash back, June 7*

It's nice to get a positive story about a Phuket taxi driver for a change. Karma will come around.

Johnny Murray
Facebook

Trash bins please

Re: *Gazette online, Teach environmental awareness when they're young: Phuket Governor, June 5*

Great initiative! But let's start closer to home with garbage cans in the markets. After all, you can teach the children not to litter, but no point in even trying without a place to throw it away.

Make a place where people can bring their leftover building materials to stop the dumping of it all over the island.

And please think again before promoting the use of bicycles. Phuket is too dangerous for bikes.

Joe
Gazette forum

Bar owners unite

Re: *Gazette online, Video Report: Thailand's coup given credit for taxi cartel crackdown in Phuket, June 5*

The dive industry banded together and got some positive action against corruption, and now the general's influence has shown it's face against the tuk-tuks, taxis, etc.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to see local bar owners banding together to stop the police coming around for their monthly tea money? Set up video cameras or something and catch them at it! All in the interests of keeping beer prices down, of course.

Ga
Gazette forum

Re-discuss abortion

Re: *Gazette online, Illegal roaming abortion clinic shut down in Phuket, June 5*

I personally think that the abortion laws in Thailand are a cause of many other problems and should be reviewed.

"...items used for the abortion: a syringe, needles, chicken feathers, a dildo and drugs." Really? That is a great reason why the laws should be reviewed.

Tinkerbelle
Gazette forum

Brazilians? Really?

Re: *Gazette online, South American saviors, June 6*

With all the lovely beaches in South America I cannot see why masses of South American tourists are going to come thousands of expensive miles by plane to Thailand – it is a long way.

However, Thailand needs tourists so I guess keep trying, but could the money and effort be better spent?

Alfadiamond
Gazette forum

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Clearing beaches and saving forest

FIRST PERSON

IF I had my way, I'd clear the beach of every vendor in one fell swoop. People who set up businesses or chairs on the sand are essentially privatizing the beach, and it belongs to the public.

Unfortunately, I can't do that, so I'll do the next best thing: I won't allow any new businesses to stake out space on the sand, and I'll look for alternative land near the beach and try to move the current shops there. This is something that I have to do in concert with the municipality and the Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization.

Trash is another problem. My philosophy is that nothing will happen if no one starts, so I'll be the first to pick rubbish up from the beach and in the park. After that, I'll ask my staff to help, then I expect local people will pitch in too.

I also would like to see hotels in the area keep in mind beach and park cleaning as a corporate social responsibility project. Everyone benefits from a lovely recreational setting, including their guests.

Another part of my job is protecting the forest here. I've learned through personal experience one of the best ways to make people feel passionate about trees.



Kitiphath Taraphiban, 53, a native of Bangkok, is the new Chief of Sirinath National Park. He has a bachelor's degree in Forest Management from Kasetsart University, and before coming to Phuket, served as chief of Mae Ping National Park in Chiang Mai for one year.

Here, he talks about his plans to clean, protect and upgrade the beach, forest and facilities of Sirinath National Park.

When I was working up north, I got so upset about how much forest was being destroyed that I bought a plot of land with my own money and planted trees on it. I probably planted 1,000 trees there, and if even one died, I felt bad.

When I was working up north, I got so upset about how much forest was being destroyed that I bought a plot of land with my own money and planted trees on it.

That's what happens when you plant a tree – you develop feelings for it.

If every Thai person were to plant just one tree, it would go a long way toward keeping our forests safe from encroachment and illegal logging.

We need to value forests for the sources of life that they are – homes to animals, sources of water, oxygen-generators and flood preventers.

The third thing I intend to do is improve the facilities at Sirinath Park.

To start with, we need better signage. I want one sign to be a huge map of the park. And we need clear direction indicators and a sign on every building to tell people what it is. I want to make the information center more tourist-friendly and accessible.

Finally, we need to be able to close the park gates at 10pm for safety reasons. Right now we can't because there's a residential area behind the park that relies on the park road for access. We need to build a new road for them first. Once that's done we'll be able to control access and regulate who comes in and when.

All of these projects are in addition to my top priority in Phuket, which is preventing and correcting encroachment in the national park. But they are each important in their own way. By keeping the forest and beach beautiful, we not only preserve something of great value for those who come after us, but we protect our own jobs in the tourism sector.



Only the squeegee pro knows what to do next. Photo: Mauri Grant

Rainy season motto

LET me set the scene for you: it is Sunday afternoon and a sizable rainstorm has just swooped in and killed the power at Central Festival. The only sources of light are provided by the gray sky and the fluorescent glow emanating from laptop screens, tablets and smartphones. I am sitting in front of my Mac at a table in the back corner of Starbucks and my friend is sitting next to me, hunched over her slightly bigger Mac furiously typing up a university exam with a swiftly approaching due date. I thought about getting another coffee, but the monsoon has forced inside a crowd of shoppers looking for a hit of caffeine to pass the time.

When I walk outside to assess the situation, I sense a dystopian dreariness in the air as people confused and disoriented by the sudden power outage stand under cover with arms crossed, barely protected from the rain, and stare out at the sky. No one seems to know what to do.

Staffers are standing at their store entrances, chatting quietly and seeming pleased to have a quick break as temporarily blinded shoppers wander out of the pitch-black stores toward the light.

The worst of the storm passed after about 20 minutes. Right on cue, mall staff wielding squeegees emerged – ready for battle. Puddles of water are pushed to and fro and a few unsuspecting walkers get splashed as they pass by.

Island View

By Mauri Grant

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

Squeegee soldiers on the second level force water over the edge of the landing, creating a sort of man-made waterfall as they go along.

The chaotic situation outside eventually settles down, so I make my way back into the still-dark Starbucks. I had been secretly hoping while I wasted time watching the water wars that the line of customers inside would die down, but it had stayed long, so I bypassed coffee yet again and sat back down at my corner table.

I was just starting to think that we were in for a long haul blackout when the lights clicked back on and the air con started blasting again. Everyone in Starbucks cheered and breathed a collective sigh of relief.

My fellow coffee addicts and I got back into a well-lit groove as the storm – which had just entered Act 2 after a short intermission – raged on outside.

There really isn't much you can do when a storm hits except ride it out. Power outages are bound to happen and inconvenient situations are highly likely. To all those people who aren't sure what to do in such cases, keep in mind that people-watching opportunities are excellent.

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

Light up Kathu hills

To avoid dangerous traffic on the bypass road and Thepkrasattri Road, I drive home from Koh Kaew every day on Kathu-Nakok Road, which passes the British International School.

But this road is also dangerous, especially for motorcyclists, because of increased traffic to and from the airport and because it has a lot of curves and is very dark at night.

There are street lights already installed along the road, but they are not turned on. Is there any plan to turn them on?

Concerned commuter
Kathu

Some of the streetlamps along that road are not working due to an electrical supply problem, and we apologize for that.

Kathu Municipality officers are aware of the problem and are now fixing it, and we are told they will finish the repairs as soon as possible.

We intend to install more lights along the road, but the soonest we can apply for funds to do that is 2016.

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

Protect yourself at the used car lot

I am thinking of selling my car to a secondhand dealer, but I have some liability concerns.

When I sell my car to another individual, we both sign the transfer of ownership document at the same time and our signatures prove that the purchase transaction has taken place.

However, when I sell to a secondhand dealer, I sign the transfer document, but the dealer does not. Although the dealer has bought the car from me, the signature spot on the transfer document remains blank until a customer buys the car.

What happens if my car is stolen from the lot and used in a crime? I'm worried that I would be held responsible for the crime since my name is the only one on the transfer document.

Jaturong Kaewkasi, Phuket Land Transport Office (PLTO) Officer, replies:

You can protect yourself against liability in such a case. In addition to signing the transfer document, make sure that you and the dealer both sign a purchase contract, called *sanya seuh khai* in Thai. This will state the amount of the purchase and the date, and will be signed by you, the dealer and witnesses. This proves that you have sold the car to the dealer.

Dealers can sign the transfer form

themselves, but prefer not to. By signing it, they become owners of the car, thereby increasing the number of previous owners the car has had – which is not a plus in the used car business.



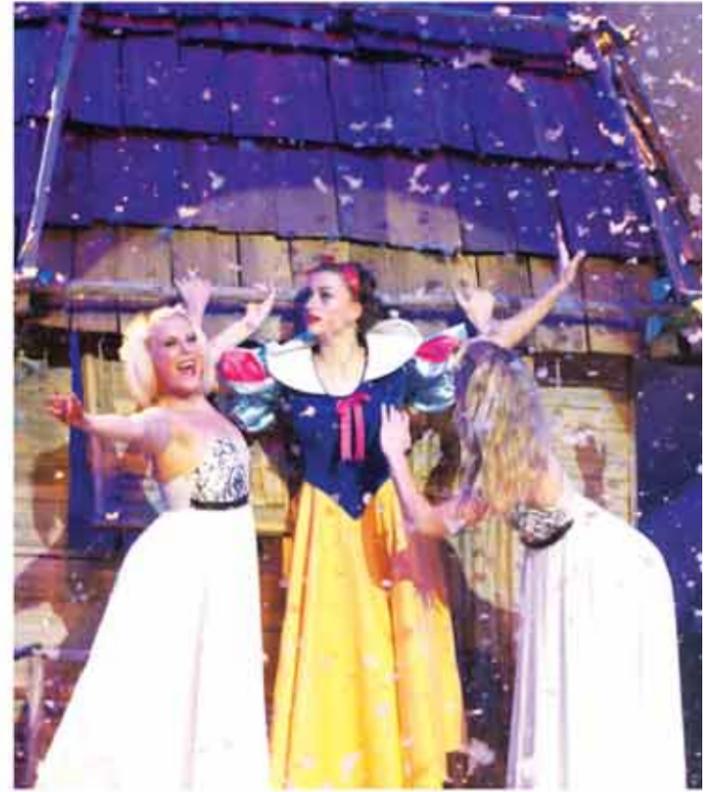
Making sure you're not liable if the car you're selling is used in a crime. Photo: Mike/Flickr

Teeraporn Jirattanakorn, Director of the Department of Rural Roads Phuket office, replies:

YOUR Phuket

Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

Hundreds of families turned out for the two performances of 'Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs' at Simon Star Theater last weekend. This Gazette Headline event, presented by Jagota in partnership with Events International, featured dozens of songs and plenty of audience interaction. The kids had a great time booing and cheering for the characters and many came dressed in their very own snow white costumes.



Michael's big 40

Michael Trocherie, the owner of Wine Connection, celebrated his 40th birthday with his wife Mrs Sirirat Trocherie and friends by throwing a big party at Catch Beach Club.



Michael and his friends got into the French theme with an assortment of berets and handlebar mustaches.



Guests donned a variety of costumes with a distinct French theme to celebrate Michael's birthday.



Michael Trocherie ushered in the big 40 with his wife Sirirat.

Chamber of Secrets grand opening



From Left: Santi Pawai, director of Phuket Provincial Office of Tourism and Sport and Alex Hu, owner of Chamber of Secrets.

Gazette

CUP BRAZIL

-13 July

Thailand local time.



Group C

- Colombia
- Greece
- Ivory Coast
- Japan

Group D

- Uruguay
- Costa Rica
- England
- Italy

Group C



Colombia	Greece	June 14 11 pm
Ivory Coast	Japan	June 15 2 am
Colombia	Ivory Coast	June 19 11 am
Japan	Greece	June 20 5 am
Japan	Colombia	June 25 3 am
Greece	Ivory Coast	June 25 3 am

Group D



Uruguay	Costa Rica	June 15 5 am
England	Italy	June 15 7 am
Uruguay	England	June 20 2 am
Italy	Costa Rica	June 20 11 pm
Italy	Uruguay	June 24 11 pm
Costa Rica	England	June 24 11 pm



Group G



Germany	Portugal	June 16 11 pm
Ghana	USA	June 16 5 am
Germany	Ghana	June 17 2 am
USA	Portugal	June 18 5 am
USA	Germany	June 23 3 am
Portugal	Ghana	June 23 3 am

Group H



Belgium	Algeria	June 17 11 pm
Russia	South Korea	June 18 5 am
South Korea	Algeria	June 22 11 pm
Belgium	Russia	June 23 5 am
South Korea	Belgium	June 27 3 am
Algeria	Russia	June 27 3 am

Group G

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- Portugal
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Group H

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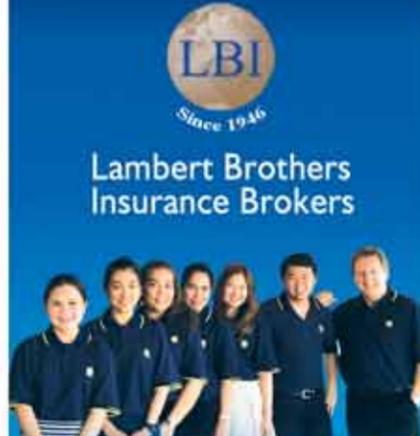
PROPERTY of the week



Baan Yamu Residences

See page 21

BUSINESS SERVICES of the week



LBI
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See page 27

BOAT & MARINE of the week



LEE MARINE
International Marine Brokerage

See page 29

WHEELS & MOTORS of the week

FORTUNER 3.0L 4WD

See page 28

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Teak wood house, 2 bedrooms/bathrooms and 16-unit resort for quick sale. 45 million baht. Rent: 120,000 baht per month. Set in nice area of Moo Bee, Pak Chong, Nakhon Ratchasima, which is 10 degrees cooler than Phuket, 10 minutes from Thanarat Road, about 100m from the riverside. Chanote title 3-3-66 rai. Pleasant place to live and visit. Tel: 086-088 0755.

BUILDING BANGLA - PATONG

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

APARTMENT FOR SALE IN BOAT LAGOON

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

LUXURY POOL VILLA



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

TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN FOR SALE / RENT



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

AO PO SEAVIEW LAND

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

URGENT LAND FOR SALE

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

NEW SEAVIEW FREEHOLD CONDO

Brand-new freehold condos from 2.3 million baht, includes furniture, plus seaview condos, 3.5 million baht. Tel: 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandamanrealestate.com

PRIVATE POOL VILLA BANG TAO

Private 1-bedroom pool villa for sale in top condition with a large roof top sala. Only 800m to the Beach. Price: 9.5 million baht. Please call 081-606 5604 (English & Thai). Email: info@phuketserenityvillas.com, www.phuketserenityvillas.com/saledetails.php?nom=RB001

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.

Baan Yamu Residences

Condominium available for sale

PHUKET'S EXCLUSIVE RESIDENTIAL HIDEAWAY

- Award-winning design
- Luxurious lifestyle facilities
- Secure residential and investment opportunity

Please contact: 091-034 9909 or 089-729 8126
E-mail: info@baanyamu.com
Tel: 076-310507

LAND & HOUSES 88 NEW



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

500,000 BAHT KAMALA LEASEHOLD

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

30 RAI IN TOWN

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

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.

3-BEDROOMS 2-BATHROOMS IN COMPOUND

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

UNDER MARKET PRICE

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

CHEAP LAND SALE

Close to Phuket Airport. 4 rai, Chanote title. 3.8 million baht per rai. Tel: 081-868 7676. Email: phuketann@gmail.com

LAND SALES

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

BANG TAO HOUSE

For sale. 2 bedrooms, fully furnished, 350sqm land, Chanote. Tel: 093-713 2278.

URGENT SALE!

DCondo Kathu, 7th floor, good view. Only 1.2 million baht. Email: dcondosale@gmail.com

VILLA WITH POOL

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

PATONG FREEHOLD

2-bedrooms, 2-bathrooms, 100sqm. Tel: 081-612 4187. Email: nicolaas5@yahoo.com

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO

Attractively furnished, fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom 23781@msn.com

Properties For Rent

CONDO FOR RENT

Rawai, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, full amenities, pool, WiFi, great location. Short and long-term available: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-8957908. Email: rungtiwap@asianwind.biz

ORCHID KATHU HEIGHTS

Serviced apartment, studio. 1/2 bedroom(s), 1/2 bathroom(s), rooftop, pool, free WiFi. Tel: 076-203208, 081-892 0038. www.orchidkathuheights-phuket.com

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT



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

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

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

NEW CONDO FOR RENT



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

DELUXE BEACHFRONT CONDOS

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

ART@PATONG 1-BEDROOM



Fully furnished, full kitchen, aircon, 24/7 security, overlooks pool, quiet, 5-minute walk to Jungceylon, long term 25,000 baht per month. Email: marklouisw@hotmail.com

POOL VILLA FOR RENT

Bang Tao area. 1,2 bedrooms, fully furnished, from 20,000 baht. For more information, please call 093-713 2278.

KATA HILL SINGLE HOUSE

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, kitchen, 3BB, cable TV. For rent: 16,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-606 2827 (English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-8924311. <http://palai-green.weebly.com>

NAI HARN HOUSE 2KM BEACH

2-bedroom house for rent with aircon. Quiet Soi, walk to the beach. American owned. For more information, please call +1 048 0286 3866 (English), +1 062 3217 8117 (English & Thai). Email: kkareth@gmail.com

WALK TO KATA BEACH

Custom 2-bedroom, 3-bathroom house, just 500m to the beach, furnished. 25,000 baht per month; 20,000 baht for long term. For more information, please call 081-472 1010 (English & Thai). Email: kahunadan@hotmail.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT PATONG

Condo pool, security, 46 sq.m. Fully furnished. Tel: 089-728 4005 (English & Thai). Email: thamad17@yahoo.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

KATA HILL BUNGALOW

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

1-BEDROOM BUNGALOW RAWAI

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

RENT OR SALE

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

3-BEDROOM HOUSE KATHU

Panason Park View. Air con, partly furnished, 20,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 089-724 0706 (English & Thai). Email: alastairpeskett@yahoo.co.uk

1, 2, 3 BEDROOM VILLAS WITH POOL

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

1-BEDROOM CONDOMINIUM



Fully furnished, close to Rawai Beach. Yearly rate: 29,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-979 0090. Email: reallifeproperty@gmail.com

7,000 BAHT PER MONTH

1-bedroom house, furnished, WiFi + cable TV, quiet area. For more information, please call 081-892 4311, <http://panwagreen.weebly.com>

HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG



Fully furnished, 5 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Tel: 094-595 2451, 094-595 1444. Email: rightherephuket@gmail.com

PATONG NICE APARTMENT

Mid-Patong, very nice large furnished, 1 bedroom, kitchen, light and airy apartment. Tel: 086-276 7608.

SPACIOUS 2-BED POOL VILLA

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



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



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

HOUSE FOR RENT NEAR BIS

Architect-designed house. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, big land and garden. Furnished, aircon, kitchen. Long term at 22,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-803 1560 (English & Thai). Email: noipatnoi@gmail.com

LUXURY APARTMENT @ PATONG

Fully furnished, daily and monthly. For more information, please call 081-892 5983 (English & Thai), 081-894 4730 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-292149. Email: nanaivillaphuket@gmail.com, www.nanaivilla.com

Let us take your ad to the top of Google with a 20% discount!

Phuket Gazette Ad Power Card

The discount card for Classifieds at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace

500 baht • Good for 1 year

Your key to fast-track placement and easy payment for ads at Thailand's LARGEST classifieds marketplace. Hundreds of new ads every week! Like to have one?

Mail: AdPower@PhuketGazette.Net

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

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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

SALES PERSON

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

EUROPEAN CHEFS

We are hiring Sous Chef and Executive Chef. We want both full-time. Good salary and work permit for the right candidate. Tel: 081-905 8353. Email: hr.bangtao@oceanresortgroup.net

SALES ASSISTANT WANTED

Native English speaker to work as telephone sales assistant. Basic salary + apartment + commissions! Contact us now for more details. Tel: 081-270 9772. Email: liam@phuketfit.com

SALES / OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

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

LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

Aged 25 years or older, permanent resident of Phuket, Russian speaking with excellent knowledge of English and preferably Thai. Official papers (no benefits, work permit), salary starts from 30,000 baht. Tel: 089-870 2796. Please send CV to opaopa543@mail.ru

RESORT STAFF WANTED

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Siam Real Estate requires a Thai office assistant with English and computer skills, based in Rawai. Must be organised and have good communication skills. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to dew@siamrealestate.com

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

FINANCE MANAGER

ISS Facility Services require a qualified accountant to manage finances of four SouthernThail branches. Preferred applicants are Thai, have a minimum of 3 years experience in accounting / financial reporting, and have a very good understanding of Excel and accounting software principles. Occasional domestic travel will be required for training and auditing. Tel: 081-958 6879. Email: scott.d@th.issworld.com

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

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

HOUSEKEEPER NEEDED

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

PROPERTY SALES MANAGER

We are now looking for an experienced Sales Manager to operate our office in our condominium development. You will handle all agencies on the island and make sure our project reaches its goals and targets in selling our available units. Multilingual is a plus and experience in the Phuket property market is a must. Terms and conditions will be negotiated. Please contact us via info@phuket-condos-homes.com

BANDS NEEDED

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

HANDYMEN

Needed for house and boat work. Location is Boat Lagoon, Phuket. Please contact me with a brief description of your skills and your phone number. Email: boatcrewwanted@gmail.com

PHP PROGRAMMER

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

THAI STAFFS WANTED

To work in a hotel: 1) Front Reception, full time. 2) Cook, part time only. 3) Groundkeeper, daily cleaning of pool, garden and walkways. Tel: 076-345251, 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

PROPERTY MARKETING MANAGER

Phuket's leading real estate agency is now recruiting a Marketing Manager (foreign national) to oversee our marketing venues and operations. You will be coordinating the marketing staff in terms of schedules, motivation and making sure the production is at its peak. You need to have major experience in Marketing and know your way around Phuket. Tel: 076-341045, 081-459 0152 (English). Please send your CV with recent picture to info@phuket-condos-homes.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

REPORTER

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

Good salary for the right candidate.

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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

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

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

SALES MANAGER

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

Employment Wanted

CHILDCARE

I am experienced in childcare if you need someone to watch your child after school or on weekends. Contact Taew. Tel: 099-231 8713 (Thai).

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG	
▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)	Tel: 076-282254
▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)	Tel: 076-280400
▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)	Tel: 076-282403
PATONG	
NEW ▶ Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoey Seafood)	Tel: 076-341644
▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)	Tel: 076-344521-2
▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)	Tel: 076-290468
PHUKET CITY	
▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)	Tel: 076-232398
▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)	Tel: 076-258369
▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone	Tel: 076-255425
CHERNG TALAY	
▶ Chaba Supermarket (at the Laguna gateway)	Tel: 076-325586
RAWAI	
▶ The Network property office (Saiyuan Rd)	Tel: 076-388144
KARON	
▶ EuroStyle Tailors (Luang Por Chuan Rd)	Tel: 076-396911

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!

GUEST SERVICES

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

FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANAGER

New 4-star hotel in Malaysia looking for young and energetic expat to run the food and beverage department. Previous experience in similar position not required but this position requires a strong kitchen background. Email: Nazri@ancasenet.com

RUSSIAN SALES REP. WANTED

Russian lady sales needed for real estate. Highest commission in Phuket. Located on Patong Beach, Phuket. Tel: 081-968 5963 (English). Email: c@bayshoreprojects.com

THAI RECEPTIONIST NEEDED

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

YACHT STEWARDESS

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

BUILDING MANAGER @BANGTAO

Bachelor's degree, excellent in both written and spoken English, strong analytical and problem-solving skills. Tel: 076-238299. Email: Thomrath.Anantaworapoth@ap.jll.com

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

FEMALE STAFF FOR TAO MASSAGE

Tao massage therapy center, previous experience in massage preferred or training for happy caring people. Tel: 094-652 2029. Contact Dave. Email: kay.dave47@gmail.com

IT PROFESSIONAL WANTED

Must be familiar with N / W, Windows, Mac OS, Google Glass, Oculus Rift VR, and passionate about new inventions. Tel: 083-779 1139. Email: dylanishappy@gmail.com

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

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

HTML, CSS WEB DEVELOPER

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

MARKETING FOR PROPERTY

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

SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP DOGS!

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

Well established property agency is looking for an Office Assistant. Very good computer knowledge and Microsoft Office is a must. Very good knowledge of English in writing and speaking is essential! Basic accounting knowledge and good communication skills are required. Must be able to work independently and start work almost immediately. Thai national only. Please reply with CV and recent photo. Tel: 087-882 2856 (English). Email: luc@phuket-tropical-realestate.com

N.E.S TEACHERS WANTED

F/ T Teacher: Female <40yrs. Degree + TEFL / CELTA. Essential P / T Teacher: M / F <40yrs. TEFL Req'd. Both pos's: exp pref. Must be great with children. Please apply to: The Head Teacher, ECC, Phuket. Tel: 076-307 5079, 091-647 5465. Email: giles@ecc.ac.th

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

REAL ESTATE STAFF WANTED

We are looking for staff to work with us in the progressing and increasing branches at Rawai and Patong.

1. Secretary / Receptionist: Thai female.

2. Sales / Rental Manager: Thai or foreign national, male or female.

Both positions require: Good personality and outgoing communication skills, enthusiasm, fluent written and spoken English, good basic computer skills, own car is an advantage for Sales / Rental Manager position, good salary and commission! Tel: 076-388801. Please send resume and recent photo to contact@harvest-property.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITORS

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

RAW FOOD CHEF WANTED

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

PR & MARKETING

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

SWEDISH STAFF

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

NEED A MAID

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

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

Live in Town?

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



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

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

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

Live in Patong?

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



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

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

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

Looking for a JOB?

Looking for a better candidate?

Find more Recruitment Classifieds at WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!

Business Opportunities

BUSINESS FOR SALE
Looking for a business? Since 2005, Business Brokers in Phuket have been finding the best opportunities and prices. Please call 081-278 7117 (English). Email: unicolli@gmail.com www.phuket-island-property.com

BAR FOR SALE PATONG
US\$50,000. Rent: US\$4,000 /month negotiable, 4 floors, 360sqm, include furnished apartment. For more information, please call 087-881 7600.

4-STOREY APARTMENT FOR SALE
Comes with 16 rooms and full renter. Near Robinson Department Store. Sale by owner. Tel: 087-270 9093 (English & Thai). Email: sec@phuketawnings.com

BAR/RESTAURANT
Reduced by 150,000 baht, must sell. Bar, commercial kitchen and restaurant. 2 storeys, 3 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 decks, includes most furniture. In good location. Price: 430,000 baht. Rent only 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-348 5137 (Thai), 081-086 3812 (English). Email: matthew.wilson@xtra.co.nz

SUPER LOW COST FRANCHISE
Best business for your Thai partner. Rapidly expanding franchise operating in 40 countries. Proven system. Fast return. Email: david.m@faramond.com

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

RESTAURANT FOR SALE, KAMALA
Restaurant and bar for sale, clean and big place with 140sqm house. Sale: 1.4 million baht. Cheap rent: only 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 080-537 6125.

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE / RENT
Rawai. Too much to list. Tel: 081-808 1804. Email: ttpit stop@hotmail.com

10MB MORTGAGE WANTED
Will pay 6% interest annually, interest only quarterly in advance, 50% of property value. Email: gordon_asia@hotmail.com

KARON GUESTHOUSE



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

BAR & RESTAURANT BANG TAO BEACH

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

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

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

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

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 (English & Thai). Email: wojdkowbengt@hotmail.com

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES FOR SALE
35 million baht. 2 managed buildings in Samut Prakan, comprised of 91 self-contained units, generate a net income p.a. of 1.5 million baht. Under 10-minute walk from construction of new BTS. Tel: 086-088 0755.

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

RESORT FOR SALE



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

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

Google AA Phuket

5 LUXURY APTS. PATONG



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

Phuket Gazette

PROMOTION PRICE Your Ad on PGTV

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

Tick here:

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: **issue(s)**

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**

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

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

Business Products & Services



Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers
 "Professional Insurance Broker finds growing niche in Phuket market"

Lambert Brothers recently doubled the size of its office space in Boat Lagoon to house its expanding workforce. After its establishment in 2008 Lambert Brothers has become the preferred insurance adviser to many corporations, hotels, condominiums and construction projects on the island.

Mike Haynes, an insurance professional with over 40 years of international experience noted, "Phuket is a sophisticated location with many professionals making it their home and often their preferred center for doing business. They need sensible and straight-forward advice on how to manage risk and how to obtain the best possible protection at a reasonable price. We are here to advise, to guide and to propose the most advantageous solutions to our clients. We have an excellent team dedicated to client service and we have access to all the best insurers worldwide."

"Phuket has for many years relied upon agents to provide insurance but the role of a broker is much wider and allows comparisons and alternatives."

Contact: Paew, Ton, Tux or Jane
 Phuket Boat Lagoon: info@lambertbrothers.co.th Tel: +66 (0) 76 273385.
www.lambertbrothers.co.th

AUSTRALIAN TAX & ACCOUNTING
 Australian Taxation & accounting services for Australian expatriates in Thailand & abroad. Please contact Anabel. Tel: +61 404 006 236. Email: anabeld1@me.com or anabeldasilva@dasilva-accounting.com For further details, please see our website at www.dasilva-accounting.com

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS
 Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8.30am to 9pm. Delivery service. Please call 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

VISA SERVICES
 UAE and Singapore for 3 days. For more information, please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru



Accepting children 3 months old - 4 years old. 7am-7pm.

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

CALL NOW:
 081-868 7676 (English).
 080-525 3135 (Thai)

40FT SEA CONTAINER
 For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Please contact Rob for more information. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com

MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE
 Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Call for reservations. Open daily 9am-10pm. Tel: 092-464 8471.

Lost & Found

STOLEN HUBLLOT WATCH REWARD
 During a house burglary in the Surin Beach area around April 22, a Hublot bracelet watch in pink gold was stolen. Reward of 100,000 baht will be paid to anyone who can advise on the watch's return. Tel: 083-280 9100 (English), 087-290 1019 (Thai). Email: johanhultner@hotmail.com

Pets



ADOPT A DOG from Doggie Heaven
 Visit DOGGIE HEAVEN & meet our gorgeous rescued dogs. All our dogs are socialized in a home environment & ready for loving families.
 Contact Sherin Ph 084-877 3566
www.doggieheaven.net
 sherin.peace@gmail.com

Education



Oak Meadow International School
 From 1 - 16 Years Old
 Providing quality, affordable primary education
076 521 550
www.oakmeadowphuket.com

LOTUS INTERNATIONAL NURSERY
 Accepting children 1-6 years old, open daily 7.30am-6pm. Tel: 098-713 2177 (English & Thai), 085-478 5469 (English & Thai). Email: darren@healthvisionasia.com

Golf Stuff

BLUE CANYON GOLF CLUB
 Family membership. Maintenance paid through 2014. Price: 750,000 baht, including transfer fee. Contact Mike, as above. Tel: 091-224 1773 (English). Email: smolar@hotmail.com

Club Memberships Available

LOCH PALM MEMBERSHIP
 Lifetime family membership available. 500,000 baht, including transfer fee. Tel: 081-979 7047 (English & Thai). Email: petemorrow@hotmail.com

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB
 Lifetime family membership 480,000 baht. Tel: 087-469 3151 (English), 081-895 2165 (Thai). Email: william sanig@yahoo.co.uk

Personals

JOIN RAWAI BACKGAMMON CLUB
 For free. Tel: 081-370 9661.

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



Hot deal!

Classified Ads on TV

Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

Your Classified Ad will appear on the Phuket Today show, broadcast on 3 cable networks and running 24 hours a day via in-house TV in over 4,000 hotel rooms around the island.

Cable TV coverage – broadcast 68 times a week throughout Phuket.

Catch the show at these times

Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week
 Mon to Fri: 10.30am, 6.00pm, 9.00pm
 Sat & Sun: 10.30am, 9.00pm.

Rawai Cable - Rawai and Chalong, Kata, Karon. Channel 1, with 28 shows a week
 Mon to Sun: 10.00am, 1.00pm, 7.00pm, and 10.00pm

KDTV (Kamala Cable TV) - Covers Patong, Kamala, Surin, Bangtao. Channel 4, with 21 shows a week
 Mon to Sun: 7.00am, 11.30am, 11.00pm

- Now available in 4,222 premium hotel rooms around the island, all day every day.**
- Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket: 254 rooms
 - Le Meridien Phuket Beach Resort: 470 rooms
 - Kata Beach Resort & Spa: 275 rooms
 - Outrigger Laguna Phuket Resort & Villas: 77 rooms
 - Centara Grand Beach Resort Phuket: 262 rooms
 - Millennium Resort: 418 rooms
 - Holiday Inn Resort & Spa: 405 rooms
 - Movenpick Resort & Spa Karon Beach: 364 rooms
 - Karon Beach Resort & Spa: 80 rooms
 - Andara Beach Resort & Spa: 62 rooms
 - Amari Coral Beach: 197 rooms
 - Hilton Phuket Arcadia Resort & Spa: 664 rooms
 - Destination Patong: 390 rooms
 - Serenity Terraces Resort: 68 rooms
 - Dewa Naiyang Phuket: 96 rooms
 - Regent Phuket Cape Panwa: 210 rooms

More Info? Please call 076-273555. Email: Kookai@phuketgazette.net or Diao@phuketgazette.net
 On line: www.phuketgazette.net/tv | www.youtube.com/PGTVPhuket

Saloon Cars

2002 VOLK SWAGEN PASSAT

Benzine and LPG, automatic, aircon, leather, blue book. Only 175,000 baht. For more information, please call 087-9834815 (English), 085-4414440 (Thai). Email: gregorfan@ton@gmail.com

FORTUNER 3.0L 4WD

2008 black, only 47,000km, 1 farang owner, toyota serviced, never crashed. Price: 750,000 baht. For more information, please call 087-4693151 (English), 081-8952165 (English & Thai). Email: william sanig@yahoo.co.uk

IMMACULATE HONDA JAZZ

2012 Honda Hybrid Jazz. Full warranty & extended battery warranty. Pre-insurance until October. Only 27,000km. 525,000 baht. Tel: 088-4913857, 088-753 6897 (Thai). Email: mdrannan@freshgardenfarms.com

NISSAN TEANA FOR SALE



1.35 million baht, finance available, 11 months old, 2.5L, full options. Please call 087-893 8747.

CAMRY 2.0G

82,000km. Black. New paint. First-class insurance. Price: 675,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-8954480.

PEUGEOT 205

Wonderful car, 1994, fine engine, no accidents, aircon, electrical windows, 5-door, price: 99,000 baht. For more information, please call 089-741 8531 (English).

2012 HONDA BRIO 1.2

Manual. 21,000km, fully serviced, no accidents. 340,000 baht ono. Tel: 089-526 5620 (English), 081-367 1391 (Thai). Email: elizabeth.lee@pia.ac.th

HONDA CITY

Top of the range, leather seats. 1st registered: November 2009. Only 69,000 km. 390,000 baht. Excellent condition. Tel: 076-275057, 086-8890314. Email: kevin_hellon@hotmail.com

2007 TOYOTA YARIS "E"

53,000km, automatic, dual airbags, ABS, second foreign owner. Fully serviced with first-class insurance until December 2014. No accidents record. 390,000 baht. Available end of June or negotiable. Tel: 080-886 3266 (English). Email: 8verse@gmail.com

Pick-ups

ISUZU D-MAX CAB 4



4WD, 2008, automatic, 105,000km, 4 new tyres. Price: 460,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-894 6968.

ISUZU D-MAX SUPER TITANIUM



2011. Full options, 4-door, very good condition, 3L, iTec VGS turbo, hydraulic truck bed cover, 22-inch rims / tyres, front and rear cameras, GPS, SAT navigator. Asking price: 700,000 baht. Tel: 090-972 2015.

Motorbikes

2007 BMW F800S

798cc with Green book, tax and insurance paid until March 2015. 61,xxxkm. Price: 250,000 baht. For more information, please call 081-187 1417 (English). Email: jasmedia@gmail.com

2009 KAWASAKI KSR

Modified engine, suspension, and exhaust. Good condition. Fast, reliable bike. 42,000 baht ono. For more information, please call 086-280 4848 (English & Thai). Email: webreply2013@gmail.com

HONDA FORZA



As new, 11,000km. For sale: 125,000 baht. Personal use, never rented. Please call 084-054 8122.

HONDA ST 1300 CC PERFECT

The ultimate sport tourer, fast and luxurious, as new, great price. Tel: 086-950 7788 (English). Email: simon@kingsimon.com Web: http://tinyurl.com/HONDA-ST-1300-FOR-SALE

Rentals

HONDA CITY 11,000 / MONTH



Cars, minibus, SUV for short or long-term rent and delivery service. Tel: 081-607 8567. Email: suksavat@hotmail.com Web: www.phuket-carrent.net

HONDA CLICK 2,000 BAHT / MONTH
Honda Air Blade: 2,000 baht monthly. Call today. For more information, please call 087-279 5110.

Others

2011 TOYOTA CHAMP



37,000km. Toyota Hilux Vigo Champ, 2.5L diesel, manual trans, space cab, CD/DVD/USB players. For sale: 410,000 baht or best offer. Tel: 081-827 5574.

NEW EXCAVATOR



Kubota UIS-3, runs only 48hr with standard 40cm bucket and rubber belt. Extras: 20cm bucket and steel belt. Tel: 089-588 4550.

CARS FOR RENT



Short or long-term rent with first-class insurance. Delivery service. Please call 086-690 0626 or send email to bcarrent@hotmail.com

LUXURY CAR

PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet

Year 2000 with hardtop, metallic silver, AAS serviced, 36,000km, very nice.
Price: 4.59 million baht.

Contact **Khun Lerd**
Tel: 087-263 6706
(Proton Showroom)

Wheels & Motors

Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

_____ (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.

Live in Karon?

Place your GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS at Euro style tailors

Simply write out your ad, pay and leave it with **Khun Anand: 076-396911 081-536 5550**

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!

THAILAND'S LEADING BROKERAGE & NEW YACHT DEALERSHIP

LEE MARINE

International Marine Brokerage

SINCE 1997

Please visit our website for more used power & sail listings:
www.leemarine.com

Feature Boat

▶ Azimut 47 499,000 Euro	▶ Tiago 100 1,200,000 Euro
▶ Sea Ray Sundancer \$410,000 USD	▶ Sunseeker Portofino 53 499,000 GBP
▶ Morgan 60 \$399,000 USD	▶ Jeanneau Sun Odyssey 409 215,000 Euro
▶ Jeanneau 52.2 \$279,000 USD	▶ X-372 \$79,000 USD
▶ Jeanneau 52.2 \$279,000 USD	▶ S&S 48 \$69,000 USD

Martin Holmes Mobile: 081 891 7057 Email: martin@leemarine.com
 Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com
 Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com
 Mark Heath Mobile: 081 787 9408 Email: mark@leemarine.com

leemarine.com

SELLING YOUR BOAT?

Just around the corner, now is the right time to get her listed. Boatshedphuket.com are always looking for new listings, big or small, power or sail, to meet the demand for quality boats. Contact Alan Giles. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: alangiles@boatshedphuket.com

BOAT INSURANCE

LBI

Lambert Brothers Insurance Brokers

- Boat insurance quotations from different insurers
- Competitive rates
- Comprehensive coverage
- All other types of insurance provided

Contact Khun Paew, Ton, Tux or Jane at our office
Phuket Boat Lagoon
paew@lambertbrothers.co.th
Tel: + 66 76 273 385

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

FIBERGLASS ONE ENGINE BOAT

Speedboat for sale. Made in 2012, engine 115hp overhauled in 2013, excellent condition. Price: 350,000 baht. Tel: 087-897 0076 (English). Email : kp@ppc.cz

A STEAL FOR A QUICK SALE



SALE NEW 2013 KAW ULTRA300X

Only 519,000 baht (from 580,000 baht). Last unit! Better hurry! Tel: 081-754 7599 (English & Thai) , 081-110 9223 (English & Thai) Fax: 034-426403. Email: csutivas@gmail.com www.mfjet ski.com

HARD TO FIND TEAK BOAT



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

FOR SALE: HOBIE BRAVO 12'

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

BAYLINER 190

115hp Mercury 4-stroke. 15hp auxiliary 4-stroke, new 300W stereo, GPS, trailer, Thai registered, 2009, price: 590,000 baht. Tel: 084-584 6795 (English). Email: hanspaessler@me.com

FAST FOLDING TRIMARAN

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

CATAMARAN FOR SALE

Built 2013, marine plywood, fiberglass, 41 feet, ideal for charter, 5.2 million baht only. Tel: 080-692 8468 (English & Thai). Email: joe_anusara@yahoo.com

SALE BY OWNER

Due to low usage - 2007 Gulf Craft 33/F W/A, 2x225 Suzuki (300 hours), aircon, generator, jack plates, RIB dinghy, many extras. 6.1 million baht. Tel: 089-873 3713 (English). Email: erwin.a.hardy@gmail.com

13-METER CRUISER

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

NEW ALESSANDRO MARCHI

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

42FT BERTRAM SPORT FISHER

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

HOBIE CAT 17

Catamaran for sale: Hobie 17 with wings, road trailer, beach trailer. Tel: 086-773 4538 (English). Email: skgf@skgf.asia

PACE 40FT SPORTFISHER



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

CAPELLI RIB FOR SALE

Capelli RIB, 8m. 250hp Yamaha 4-stroke outboard motor with 361 hours. Garmin GPS with Blue chart for Southeast Asia. 860,000 baht. Tel: 076-348134, 084-6264969 (English) Fax: 076-348134. Email: neef@wana doo.fr

50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER

1989 Bertram 505 Convertible. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 087-834 5293. Email: sfiori@hotmail.com

VOLVO PENTA 380HP



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

HYPALON DINGY 3.3M



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

SEARAY 280 SUNDANCER

2 new engines 300hp fitted 2013, includes trailer and covers. Price: 4,250,000 baht. Tel: 081-968 3118. Email: info@procarpentering.com

SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

COFFEE break

Cryptic crossword

Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).
Normal spelling: lower case.
Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).
Letters left out: underlined.

Across: 9. DIRECTOR: *creditor* 10. LEA: *ale* 11. CANSAN: can-can 12. SPARTA: *aspart* 13. POSTAGE: *spot*-Ag-E 14. IRAN: *rain* 15. DISREGARDS: Di's-regards 17. WETLANDS: *lastwend* 18. STOCKED: *sockted* 19. FRAU: *afur* 21. FINGER: *fringe* 24. COUNTERPRODUCTIVE: against-product-I've 27. CARTEL: *clear*(T) 29. DIRE: *ride* 30. ASSISTS: ass-1st-S 33. CHOLERIC: Ch.-O-L-Eric 35. BADPLAYERS: *sparedbyal* 36. TRAM: tram[rev] 37. NAIYANG: *anygain* 38. REDRAW: *reward* 40. ASPIRE: *pairs*-E 41. NOD: don[rev] 42. OVERFULL: over-full

Down: 1. SIMPLISTIC: *itssimclip* 2. FEAR: *fare* 3. STRANGLE: *strange*(L) 4. PREPARE: *repaper* 5. FATALWOUNDS: *lawfoundat* 6. SCIENTIFIC: *sincefit*-C 7. ANGINA: *gainan* 8. SABAIDEE: *asibade*-E 10. LISTS: lists 16. RECOUNT: re-count 20. RARER: rarer 22. NOISILY: *onlyis*(1) 23. PREDICTIONS: P.R.-*sectionid* 25. TOLERANCES: tolerance-S 26. EXTERNALLY: E-*nextrally* 28. APHORISM: *shimapro* 31. SALARIED: *realsaid* 32. ADAGIOS: A.D.-*asigo* 34. LIMPID: limp-I'd 35. BRAND: b-R-and 39. DAFT: D-aft

Looking for a boat?

See more classified ads at www.phuketgazette.net

Private Aircraft and Flight Services in Phuket

Rockwell Commander 114 HS-AWS



Built: 1976

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



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

Specs:

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

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

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

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

HAVE A PASSION FOR AVIATION?

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

AIRPLAY ALTIS MICROLIGHT

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1999 ROBIN 2160i

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Phuket

FIFA WORLD

12 JUNE

*Match schedule is in

Group A

- Brazil
- Croatia
- Cameroon
- Mexico

Group B

- Spain
- Netherlands
- Chile
- Australia

Group A

Brazil	Croatia	June 13 3 am
Mexico	Cameroon	June 13 11 pm
Brazil	Mexico	June 18 2 am
Cameroon	Croatia	June 19 5 am
Brazil	Cameroon	June 24 3 am
Croatia	Mexico	June 24 3 am

Group B

Spain	Netherlands	June 14 2 am
Chile	Australia	June 14 11 pm
Australia	Netherlands	June 18 11 pm
Spain	Chile	June 19 5 am
Australia	Spain	June 23 11 pm
Netherlands	Chile	June 23 11 pm



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Group E

- Switzerland
- Ecuador
- France
- Honduras

Group F

- Argentina
- Bosnia
- Iran
- Nigeria

Group E

Switzerland	Ecuador	June 15 11 pm
France	Honduras	June 16 2 am
Switzerland	France	June 21 2 am
Honduras	Ecuador	June 21 5 am
Honduras	Switzerland	June 26 3 am
Ecuador	France	June 26 3 am

Group F

Argentina	Bosnia	June 16 5 am
Iran	Nigeria	June 17 2 am
Argentina	Iran	June 21 11 pm
Nigeria	Bosnia	June 22 5 am
Nigeria	Argentina	June 25 11 pm
Bosnia	Iran	June 25 11 pm

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La Boucherie grand opening



From Left: Co-owner Claude de Crissey; Phuket Vice Governor Dr Sommai Preechasin; and Co-owner Igor Protasov officially opened the new La Boucherie restaurant in Chalong.

Phuket Green Award



From left: Rinapat Puwanutchotchai, director of human resources at Amari Phuket, Patong Beach, was presented with a Green Award by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthasut.

Thailand Ultimate Chef Challenge 2014

Sittichai Tanakomcharoen (center), general manager of SLEEP WITH ME HOTEL in Patong celebrated the success of the kitchen team, who recently won a trophy and six medals at the Thailand Ultimate Chef Challenge, held during THAIFEX 2014. The team competed in six catering and cooking categories and showed-off their skills in the kitchen to judges from several domestic and international cooking institutes.



Miss Thailand World 2014



Miss Thailand World 2014 competitors recently toured various parts of Phang Nga province, and took a visit to Yaowawit School, where they cooked traditional Thai dishes with the students.

Two Chefs Filipino fiesta



From left: Two Chefs' team members Amm, Krister, Yana and Billy.



Many Filipino expats joined in the party to celebrate Philippines Independence Day.

World Cup live broadcasts threatened

By Watchiranont Thongtep

ALL 22 million households in the country might face a blackout of the 64 live matches of the World Cup football tournament if the Supreme Administrative Court today rules in favor of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC), RS said during the hearing in the court yesterday.

Supan Sueharn, a lawyer for RS, argued that RS International Broadcasting and Sport Management, the holder of the broadcasting rights for the quadrennial football tournament, had got an approval from the sport's governing body, FIFA, to broadcast only 22 live matches via free-TV Channel 7.

In addition, the company had already prepared its business plan to broadcast all 64 live matches via its pay-TV service on "World Cup" channel, which will be broadcast via RS' Sunbox, PSI HD box and the TrueVisions platform. The company has also secured big title sponsors for the broadcast of the tournament.

Supan argued that if the court ordered the company to broadcast all 64 live matches via free TV, the company would face difficulties in terms of its business and might also breach its contract with FIFA. Meanwhile, the company must seek more airtime

slots on other free TV channels for screening the remaining live matches, which would mean new investments.

"Faced with these difficulties, the company might decide not to broadcast all live matches of the World Cup, which kicks off Friday, to prevent further damage to its business," Supan added.

However, Natee Sukonrat, chairman of the NBTC's broadcasting committee, insisted in his testimony that all Thais must have a chance to watch all matches of the World Cup Final live, like they used to in the past.

Natee pointed out that since 1970, all Thais had enjoyed watching live broadcast of all matches of the World Cup. Even during the 2010 World Cup, whose broadcast rights were also held by RS, 22 million households were able to watch live matches via free TV.

A judge at the court suggested that national interest should come first. Therefore, all Thais should be able to watch all 64 live matches of the World Cup final.

However, today the Supreme Administrative Court, which consists of five judges, will rule in the case after the NBTC appealed against the lower court's ruling suspending the NBTC's "must have" rule in the case of the 2014 World Cup matches.



Viewers in Thailand may not be able to see all 64 matches on free TV. Photo: Shutterstock.com

The Central Administrative Court did not shoot down the "must-have" rule altogether, but said it could not be applied retroactively against RS' plan to allow the telecast of only 22 of the 64 World Cup matches on free TV, as RS International Broadcasting and Sport Management had secured the sole broadcast rights before the rule took effect. RS secured the World Cup broad-

casting rights on September 12, 2005, while the "must have" rule took effect in January last year.

Last April, RS petitioned the Central Administrative Court to issue an injunction against the rule on the grounds that RS International had secured the World Cup broadcasting rights for Thailand before the rule was enforced.
- *The Nation*

Managing your risks in the bond market

Finance

By David Mayes

THERE is a lot of risk in the bond markets, with interest rates still remaining at record low levels in the developed world. Keep in mind that the price of a bond is inversely related to interest rates. This means that as interest rates rise the value of bonds in the marketplace goes down. Thus, a portfolio of bonds stands to lose money when interest rates eventually rise. It is important to understand that not all bond funds or portfolios stand to lose similar amounts. Understanding how interest rates change can help you manage the risk in your portfolio from holding bonds.

I have written before about duration, or the sensitivity of a bond or bond portfolio to a parallel shift in the yield curve of 1%. However, in real life the yield curve usually twists or butterflies. What this means in plain English is that when interest rates rise, they do not go up equally across all time

frames. If you were to loan a buddy some cash for one year, this is a lot less risky than loaning him the same money for twenty years. Thus the "yield curve" is simply the market rates of interest for lending or borrowing over different time frames. Normally the curve is upward sloping, meaning people need a higher rate of return to compensate them for the increased risk of loaning for something like twenty years, as opposed to one year.

If I haven't lost you yet, the important part comes next. When Yellen and her gang of central bankers eventually raise interest rates, the market rates will not all increase equally across the entire yield curve. What is likely to happen is short term rates may increase by something like 50 basis points (0.5%), while 30-year rates in the market could increase many percentage points in reaction. This is what is known as a "twist" in the yield curve. You may remember that the Federal Reserve called a part of their stimulus program "operation

twist", and this was because they were trying to bring down long term rates (short term rates were already rock bottom) by buying long-maturity treasury bonds.

Since the Fed has been buying long-term bonds at an astonishing rate, this has held the prices of these bonds up and rates down. Once they stop and long-term bonds no longer have a steady buyer to keep the prices up, they will likely begin to fall. This will cause big institutional money managers to do something, and what they usually do to be defensive in the bond market is move down the yield curve to the shorter durations. Keep in mind pension funds have regulatory requirements that severely tie their hands in terms of what they are able to do (for example exiting the bond market as whole is not really an option). Thus, a massive "twist" is very likely when rates do begin to rise.

You don't need to know the complicated formulas for key rate durations to protect your bond portfolio, understanding the above concept is enough. If you have



A bond is an instrument of indebtedness of the bond issuer to the holders.

bond funds with longer term holdings it is wise to adjust your allocation out of them and into the short duration bond funds. Keep in mind these are the funds not earning much of anything at the moment, but when institutional money needs a safe place to run to, this is where it flees. In any major market adjustment the best place to be is wherever the capital is flowing towards. The pendulum has already begun to swing

back away from riskier assets and towards safer ones. Make sure your bond holdings are prepared.

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



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No late openings in Patong for World Cup

THE key representative for Patong's nightlife industry today confirmed that bars in Patong have not requested extended trading hours so that tourists could enjoy World Cup matches live on television.

"We haven't considered asking for extended trading hours as we don't think the extra hours are worth it," said Weerawit Krueasombut, President of the Patong Entertainment Business Association.

"We think that the tourists who enjoy the nightlife in Patong will not take the World Cup too seri-



Bars in Patong have not requested late trading hours during the World Cup. Photo: Woranut Pechdee

ously," he said.

"Most of them love to have fun, hanging around, drinking in bars. We are happy to be open for our regular trading hours."

Mr Weerawit pointed out that

the extended hours would require staff to work longer hours.

The regular kickoff times for the FIFA World Cup in Brazil, which gets underway at 3am in Phuket on Thursday, are set at 11pm, 2am and 5am Phuket time.

"We are not confident entertainment venues benefit from staying open all the extra hours required so that people can watch the matches," Mr Weerawit.

However, the nightlife boss noted that avid football fans visiting the island could still watch the early-morning matches in the comfort of their hotels.
- *Phuket Gazette*

Man in charge of change

By Maciek Klimowicz

IT takes one look at Phillipp Graf von Hardenberg's resume to understand why he was appointed the new President and CEO of Phuket's Thanyapura. Hailing from Germany, Mr Graf von Hardenberg wears many hats: business coach, entrepreneur, financier, educator, hotelier and if that is not enough – fund-raiser and philanthropist. He has turned around the fortunes of the first International School in Berlin, established a self-funding school that generates jobs for the underprivileged children of Phang Nga, set up Steven Spielberg's Shoah Foundation in Germany and played a leadership role in cementing Ritz-Carlton Hotels as a global five-star luxury brand.

"In my past I have run hotels, I've run companies, I've brought a company public to stock market, I've been a chairman in a number of schools. I have also done a fair amount of charity. And I think it's the mixture of all these experiences that I can put to work here," he explains.

Mr Graf von Hardenberg is a founder of the public welfare Yaowawit School, an institution with close ties to Thanyapura's Phuket International Academy. It was during one of the meetings with Thanyapura Founder Klaus Hebben that the idea of him

taking over leadership of the complex came to life. Knowing Mr von Hardenberg's background, it is not hard to understand why he got the job, but why did he decide to take it?

"When I came to Thanyapura I immediately fell in love with this place. The facilities are great, the school, the sport facilities. Whoever I meet is always amazed with what we have here," he says. "But I think it is kind of sad that not enough people know about Thanyapura and not enough people use it."

"My goal is to put the vision of 'body mind and soul' to work. And for that you need a really good structure, good organization and the right people. And we do have a lot of great people here, though some need more training," he explains.

"We want to make sure Thanyapura is a single unit – it's not a school, a medical center and a sports center – it's all in one," he adds.

It sounds like quite a challenge and Mr Graf von Hardenberg has wasted no time and flung himself into his work – starting with information gathering.

"I'm reaching out to the Thanyapura community and asking their opinion. I include dishwashers, housekeepers, trainers to learn what are our strengths

and weaknesses. We ask parents of children in our school. We made a huge survey to learn more about ourselves," he explains.

The new CEO has already come up with a few conclusions. One of them is realizing that there's a gap between what Thanyapura is, and how it presents itself to the world.

"The message we were sending out wasn't very clear and sometimes a bit arrogant. It sounded like we are just for the elite. We're not. We want to cater to anyone who wants to take care of their body, mind and soul. If you want top-notch meditation classes, you can have them, you want to learn how to swim, you can do it, you want to be better at tennis, you're welcome."

Mr Graf von Hardenberg believes that what Thanyapura needs is not more and better facilities, but a change of spirit. And he promises to deliver it soon.

"I think that before we weren't service minded enough. Nobody said to our guests 'thank you for being here'. So this is where the change will be most viable – in the attitude of our staff. It's not about building the next tennis court, spending more money – we have done quite a lot of that. It's about the attitude and it will come from us, from the leadership. We will empower our people."



President and CEO of Thanyapura Phillipp Graf von Hardenberg. Photo: Supplied

Travel industry pleads to NCPO

THE tourism sector is pressing the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) to solve some urgent problems that are making things even worse for a crucial industry that has been hit hard for months.

The Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT) is also putting forward some short-term measures to prop up the industry.

"Apart from lifting night-time curfews in tourist areas, the military government still needs to solve many other problems. These include reducing illegal businesses such as [unlicensed] taxis in Phuket, Chinese-language tourist guides who are reportedly damaging local guides' [business], and overcharging for electricity on Samui Island," said Pornthip Hirunkate, vice president of the TCT.

Since the military seized power last

month, travel associations, especially in the provinces, have approached the NCPO directly for help instead of the TCT, as they believe they will get a quicker response from the junta.

The TCT, however, is compiling a list of problems and will soon pass them to the NCPO. It will also advise the regime to run a series of short-term recovery plans such as providing funding to help retired people travel, encouraging government officials to hold meetings



The TCT is asking the junta to help solve issues in tourist areas such as illegal taxis. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

and conference in the provinces, and reducing exploitation of tourists.

Meanwhile, the junta should launch a hotel-discount campaign very soon to boost domestic travel. The campaign would be funded by the 840-million-baht grant announced last week to revive tourism.

"Tourism has dropped significantly since the military coup last month. But we still have hopes of being a world-famous destination," Pornthip said.

According to statistics, Thailand earned 1.3 trillion baht in revenue from foreign tourists last year, ranking seventh in global tourism income – ahead of all Asean and after only China, up from ninth in 2012. There were 26.5 million international visitors last year, 10th globally.

According to the NCPO, three more major tourist destinations – Khao Yai, Koh Chang and Koh Phangan – have had the curfew lifted. Places previously exempted are Phuket, Koh Samui, Pattaya, Hua Hin, Cha-am and Hat Yai.

The Tourism Authority of Thailand is projecting international visitor arrivals in 2014 at 25.6 million, a slight drop from last year. However, visitor expenditure is expected to rise 2.18 per cent to 1.23 trillion baht.

– The Nation

South American saviors

PHUKET: Tourism officials are seeking to tap into the Brazilian travel market to help Thai tourism reach its revenue goal for the year despite the coup.

Some 21 Brazilian travel agents recently concluded a tour of Phuket and the surrounding area and said they felt completely safe and did not fear the political situation after they arrived, said Anoma Wongyai, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Phuket Office Director.

"This trip was organized so that

the agents could create exciting tour packages for their customers," said Ms Anoma.

"Travel should continue as usual in Thailand," she added.

The agents, from travel company Queensberry Co, Ltd, inspected tourist attractions in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi from May 23-31.

Ms Anoma was on hand to host the agency representatives when they arrived on the island on May 28.

"We treated the tour guides to

dinner at Thanoon Seafood Restaurant, just over the bridge in Phang Nga, after they arrived. They left for Phi Phi Island on May 29 and then visited Phang Nga Bay on May 30. They ended their journey through the Andaman provinces with a tour of Phuket City on May 31," she said.

After showing around the Brazilian visitors, Ms Anoma is optimistic that the South American country could send a large number of tourists to Thailand.

– Saran Mitrarat

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A deserving destination

By Jeremie Schatz

MALAYSIA'S bustling capital is certainly not a secret travel get-away, especially for expats residing in Phuket. The city once served as a major visa run destination, but Kuala Lumpur (KL) may have dropped off the radar for many people when the Thai embassy there ceased issuing one-year visas. Nowadays, for many Phuket locals, KL is most often referenced when talking about a connecting flight.

Approaching the city by air, it is immediately obvious that palm oil is the country's dominant agricultural endeavor. Endless hills and plains of the stout dark-green trees sprawl to the horizon in every direction. Malaysia was the world's leading producer of palm oil until 2006 when Indonesia took the lead. Still, in 2006, Malaysia yielded nearly 19 million tons of crude palm oil from more than 31 million rai (19,000 square miles) of land. This is possible with thanks in part to the 2,000 to 2,500 millimeters of rainfall received annually.

With the all of tropical Malaysia located between two and seven degrees north of the equator, the moist heat is palpable and as a result, outdoor activities at midday are best avoided.

KL, as well as the rest of the country, is predominantly Islamic, but many other religions are practiced. Islamic culture is woven densely into the fabric of the city, which is immediately apparent by the unmistakable outlines of mosques silhouetted on the skyline.

When not closed during times of prayer, many of these sacred places of worship leave their gates open for visitors to explore. Serving as the primary mosque of Putrajaya, the Putra Mosque is a striking structure with nine pink domes, neighboring the prime minister's office, with sweeping views of the city and Putrajaya lake. The enormous building can accommodate 15,000 worshippers and also boasts one of the tallest minarets in the region at 116 meters. The cavernous halls feature detailed carvings, stained glass windows and intricately painted domes.

In the heart of the city is Merdeka Square, a sprawling open-space with lovely fountains,

surrounded by the clashing architecture from KL's distant past and its current trends. Living walls (foliage grown on a vertical surface) surround the square and romantic horse drawn buggy rides are available. Late in the day, the square becomes lively and bustles with locals.

Bordering Merdeka Square is the Kuala Lumpur City Gallery which certainly warrants a visit. Entry to the gallery is free and



The bazaar offers a wide selection of goods which are surprisingly high in quality and showcase exquisite craftsmanship.

features an informative journey through KL's history, including Malaysia's independence from the British. A gallery and exhibition are in the back which displays work from local artists. Don't miss the 185 square meter wooden model of the city which has an impressive light show leading a virtual tour of the city.

The road heading east from Merdeka Square and the KL City Gallery leads to the Klang River where the view north from the bridge gives a peek of the Masjid Jamek Mosque at the confluence of the Klang and Gombak rivers.

Continue over the bridge and to the east another block and prepare to wander aimlessly around the Pasar Seni, also referred to as Central Market. The market is a treasure chest of quality hand-crafts, textiles, local art and much more, all of which reflect the

traditions of the local Malay as well as those from the many ethnic tribal groups of Malaysian Borneo. The bazaar offers a wide selection of goods which are surprisingly high in quality and showcase exquisite craftsmanship.

Only an amateur traveller would not weigh in heavily on the importance of the culinary experience when visiting a foreign land. When visiting exotic cities, it is best to "live to eat" rather than "eat to live". Food should always be a destination in and of itself and not just a stop along the way. The diverse cultures that have melted together in KL over the centuries have contributed greatly to the country's many and varied regional cuisines.

For instance, the quintessential national dish *nasi lemak* – rice cooked in coconut milk with ginger, anise and cinnamon served with fried anchovies, poached eggs, sambal gravy, cucumber and a thick beef *rendang* curry – is a single plate of food with an unbelievably rich spectrum of flavors.

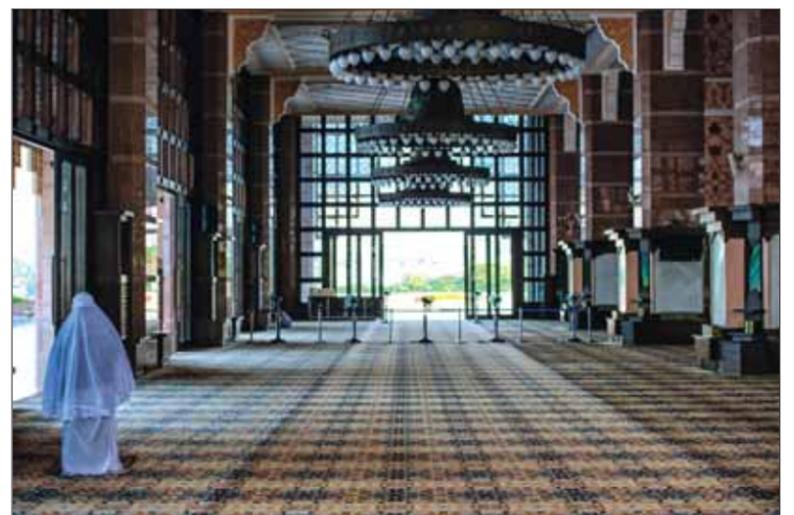
Roti canai is another signature dish found on breakfast tables across the city. *Roti*, which can be described as the Muslim version of a crepe, is pounded flat and skillfully flung into the air until thin and then finds itself being fried to perfection on a grill. It is most often seen served with chicken curries and mild lentils. The culinarily-curious will revel in delight at the variety of Chinese, Indian and other Malay delicacies.

What's been described thus far barely scratches the surface of what KL has to offer. There are a plethora of bazaars, walking streets, food lined boulevards, nightclubs as well as historical and impressive modern architecture such as the twin Petronas Towers to explore. Just outside of the city can be found the Sepang International Circuit where Formula 1 and MotoGP races are often held, the Batu Caves, bird-watching tours and a host of volunteer tourism opportunities.

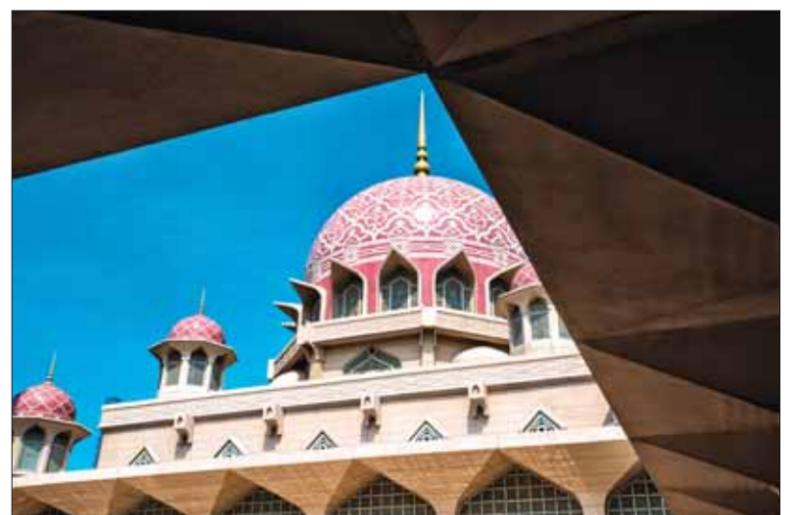
Don't write off KL as just another big, over-populated Asian city. The rich diversity, compelling history, friendly people, delicious cuisine and collection of accessible activities make KL worthy of being the destination.



The iconic 452-meter-tall Petronas Towers. Photos: Jeremie Schatz



The ornate interior of the Putra Mosque can accommodate 15,000 people.



The pink granite domes of the Putra Mosque completed in 1999.



Merdeka Square with the KL skyline.



The KL City Gallery tells the history of the city.

**WHAT'S ON
in Phuket**

June 14, 6:30-10pm. Special Wine Dinner at Wine Lovers
Wine Lovers Phuket invites you to a special wine dinner on Saturday, June 14. A six-course menu paired with Prosecco and four different wines for only 1,500 baht. Come and enjoy a nice and fresh atmosphere at Wine Lovers. Limited space available. For reservations call 076 384663 or email info@wineloversphuket.com. For more information go to wineloversphuket.com

June 15, 12-3pm. Sunday Brunch @ Two Chefs Kamala
Every Sunday, you're invited for a Sunday Brunch at our Two Chefs Kamala branch. A large buffet with international favorites, fresh salads, American comfort food, Mexican classics, breads and desserts from Two Chefs bakery and much more. Happy hours in the bar: San Miguel beer "buy 2, get 1 free", Sangria at 95 baht per glass. There will be live easy listening music during the brunch, with members from the Two Chefs house band. Price: 495 baht; kids at 295 baht (under 3 years free). Free usage of the Peach Blossom spa pool in connection with Two Chefs.

June 20, 6-11:30pm. Midsummer Celebration @ Two Chefs Kata
Celebrate Midsummer's Eve at Two Chefs in Kata Center with a large buffet with lots of Scandinavian specialties such as our own smoked salmon, pickled herrings, liver pate, pastries from the Two Chefs bakery, and much more at only 795 baht per person. Of course our famous house band will be there to entertain you until the late hours. For more information call 076 330065 or email katacenter@twochefs.com



June 21-23, Baba Wedding Festival in Phuket Town.

The Thai Peranakan Association with the support of the City of Phuket, the Tourism Authority of Thailand - Phuket Chapter, the Phuket Tourism Association, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, the Old Phuket Foundation and Phuket's Culture Preservation Network present the 2014 Phuket Baba Wedding, a chance for couples to tie the knot in an extravagant, memorable way, celebrating the traditions of the Phuket Baba community.

The wedding package costs 39,900 baht per couple and includes the wedding ceremony, one night at the Sukko Spa & Resort and two nights at a nearby beach hotel, transportation during the wedding ceremony, traditional wedding attire

and suit with accessories, souvenirs, photos of the couple and their family and special activities arranged by the associations. Applications for the package have to be submitted before May 31 at the Thai Peranakan Association office. For more information call 081-691 1955.

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

July 4, 6:00-11:30pm. 4th of July @ Two Chefs Kata Center

Celebrate the 4th of July with a large buffet with American classics: BBQ pork ribs, pulled pork sandwiches, cajun chicken drum sticks, wagyu beef burgers, beef chili, tacos,

chicken fajitas, fire cracker grilled salmon, bacon and cheddar potato skins, hot dogs, ceasar salad, coleslaw, cherry pie, Cup cakes, chocolate brownies and much more. All this for only 695 baht. Children under 12 years: 350 baht (under 3: free). Two chefs house band will entertain you this evening with an all-night American classics set list. It will surely last long into the night. Come for the food and stay for the fun. For more information call 076 330065 or email katacenter@twochefs.com

July 12. Buddhist Lent

This day of a full moon marks the start of the Buddhist Lent, or rains retreat - the three-month annual retreat observed by Theravada practitioners. It is the traditional time for

Thai males to ordain as monks, informally observed as the start of the rainy season, when the south-westerly monsoon is in full force.

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

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

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

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Photo: Vyacheslav Argenberg

Blots on the landscape



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

I RECENTLY flew from Bangkok to Phuket. Soaring high above this city of 12 million souls, a sprawling conurbation of concrete buildings, bisected by modern expressways and criss-crossed by venerable canal systems, we headed out toward the Gulf of Thailand where the black waters of the Chao Phraya river discharge into the blue sea. Blue only until you looked down to where the estuary met the ocean.

There, in a huge arc, was an insidious, brown-black stain spewing far out into the bay.

Less dramatic but nonetheless evident as we headed south was the human impact on the shoreline – sparse colonies of mangrove a stark reminder that most of this natural and richly bio-diverse barrier twixt sea and land had gone, a victim of human encroachment at the ocean's edge and a continuing problem on Phuket's eastern littoral. And while here the sea was not stained the color of deep ocher, there was a tell-tale band

of brown, polluted water bordering these coastal communities.

Only where there was no evidence of human habitation was the seat its cerulean best: no discharge of wastewater, no irrigation systems leaching waterborne chemicals into the ocean and causing eutrophication and worse. People equals pollution.

As we moved south past Hua Hin, the landscape greened perceptibly – for this is an area of heavy rainfall – with hills clad in evergreen trees, looking for all the world at 35,000 feet like florets of broccoli. Only one disturbing note: in places, the uplands had been gouged by quarrying, leaving bare red scars on the lush woodland.

Flying directly south, we passed Koh Samui and its smaller companion Koh Pha Ngan, both

shrouded in cotton-wool, cumulus clouds, crossed the mainland and began our descent over Ao Phang Nga. This spectacular bay is surely one of the natural wonders of the world: forty or more

verdant islands, many of them limestone karsts with precipitous cliffs miraculously topped by trees, dotted randomly in the translucent ocean.

In the shallow waters nearby were areas where the pristine sea revealed the presence of coral colonies, while the beaches and coves were fringed by trees, the last remaining outposts of primary mangrove

swamp in the whole of Thailand. Touchdown took us past floating villages and oyster farms, rectangular shrimp ponds and rows of casuarinas.

On terra firma and driving south, I noticed how the sugar palms, which had long since replaced the flowering crape myrtles and millingtonias, still dominated the median strip. But past Thalang, many of these palmyras were struggling: brown, sere fronds and stout, knobbly trunks with only a defiant sprout of leaves at the top

of the tree. Some, presumably already dead, had been removed. One could only conjecture that here, faced with much denser traffic and a hostile atmosphere, they had been unable to contend with the unremittingly high levels of exhaust fumes. How much more

pleasant to drive past a section of motorway where avenues of crape myrtles, cork trees and alstonias were still very much in evidence, graceful reminders of an older and more eco-friendly vision.

In the roadside fields were rubber plantations. Since the tree's introduction to Thailand in 1899, most of Phuket's cultivated land has been gradually given over to *hevea brasiliensis* and the production of latex.

Although the groves of young rubber trees still had pineapples beneath their branches, another "outsider" cash crop was discernible beside the motorway: a huge plantation of oil palm saplings (*elaeis*). Rubber trees came originally from the Amazon rainforest, oil palms from Africa. It just shows how suited the Phuket cli-

mate is to so many non-indigenous plants.

Both a blessing and a potential curse, cash crops represent, for this environmentalist at least, the lesser of two evils. While they encourage little bio-diversity, at least they look better than concrete

monuments to Mammon, and help to reduce both the carbon footprint and improve air quality.

Regrettably, the signs suggest – both from above and at ground level – that we are taking one step forward and two steps back in the battle to preserve our bit of the planet and its natural heritage. But we must be vigilant, we must continue to encourage every small initiative that benefits the

cause of Mother Nature. Both our seas and our landscapes are constantly being put at risk.

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

Both a blessing and a potential curse, cash crops represent, for this environmentalist at least, the lesser of two evils



Photo: asano



Photo: Gangulybiswarup

How much more pleasant to drive past a section of motorway where avenues of crape myrtles, cork trees and alstonias were still very much in evidence, graceful reminders of an older and more eco-friendly vision

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Tip of the week

A top spice

GINGER is easy to grow and grows wild in Southeast Asia. Though many of us may think of it as a tough, fibrous and semi-dried root, in Thailand, where it is known as *khiang*, it is usually harvested when the rhizomes are young, with several inches of its pink to green stem still attached to the juicy, yellow root.

A member of the *zingiber* family, ginger is rich in volatile oils that give the root its unique flavor. It can be pickled in vinegar or candied in sugar. This use it as a fresh ingredient in many savory dishes, sliced into thin strips, or grated or pounded to help release its unique flavor. An attractive plant with long, reed-like stems that grows vigorously to four or five feet, *zingiber officinale* has small white or pink flowers and dark green leaves. It does best in moist and partially shaded conditions.



This dilapidated root packs a punch. Photo: heymrleej

Japanese with a dash of Thai

By Maciek Klimowicz

THE world loves Thai food. But nobody loves Thai food more than, well, Thai people. Days in Thailand revolve around meals and snacks, local food seems to be the number one topic of conversation and even Western dishes often get a tangy and spicy local twist. Kyoto restaurant in Phuket Town is no different – it might be called a Japanese restaurant, but each dish is served with a hefty amount of “Thainess” – and to a delicious effect.

Entering Kyoto, do not expect the minimalistic, subdued interiors characteristic for Japanese design. Kyoto is cozy, big enough not to feel tight, but small enough to keep the ambiance friendly and personal. Wooden chairs, tables and eager waitresses waiting to take your order. Sounds familiar? In fact, the feel of Kyoto is more of a local Thai eatery than of a dining spot in, well – Kyoto, or any other Japanese city

for that matter.

“Our menu is not like in other Japanese restaurants,” says Khun Pum, co-owner owner of Kyoto. “Our chef is Thai with lots of experience in Japanese cuisine and he created a menu combining the styles of both cuisines,” she explains. It takes just a short look at the menu to understand what this mix is all about. The salmon is served Thai style, sprinkled with lime juice and chili, lobster is dipped in *tom yum* sauce and the occasional twist, like sushi with bits of *foie gras* inside, leaves no space for boredom.

So far so good, but Khun Pum has an ace up her sleeve. Being an employee of a prominent supplier of fresh food in Phuket, she has access to the best of produce and knows her salmon from her saba. The dishes on the menu might have a local twist to them, but the ingredient’s they are made of are the best of the best and freshest of the fresh. Take for

example the *hoba miso yaki* set – here even the magnolia leaf on which tender pieces of beef are grilled at your table, is imported straight from Japan. There are more such relishes at Kyoto.

But what feels best about Kyoto, is the atmosphere. It’s no place to sit in silence while giving full attention to the piece of raw fish wrapped around a ball of rice staring at you from your plate. Kyoto is all about having fun and relaxing. Pop a few beers, munch on some *hotatega*, *maguro* and *ebi* and enjoy yourself.

And don’t forget to bring some friends. After all, one of the most important ingredients of Thai cuisine is one that makes any dish of any culinary tradition way better – it’s called good company.

Kyoto Restaurant is located in 367/1 Moo 6 Yaowarad Rd. T. Taladyai. Open from 5 to 10pm. For more information call 093-963 6642 or email kyotophuket@yahoo.com



Khun Pum knows good produce and where to get it. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



Surprises on the menu don't end with foie gras in sushi. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



The leaf comes from Japan, the flavors have a distinct Thai character. Photo: Maciek Klimowicz



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One of Phuket's modern restaurants, serving quality authentic cuisine emphasizing only the best of Asian traditional food service with a smile and located in a prime area, 3 spices is ultimately the best choice for a boisterous night out. Opening hours : 11.00 am – 12 Midnight

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Chamber of Secrets

Moving walls, puzzles, sacred tombs – escape if you can

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

IN THAT magic moment between when the sun has set on Patong Beach and the nightlife hasn't kicked off, there now exists the embodiment of a childhood fantasy: a world of hidden tombs, moving walls, lasers and code cracking.

Chamber of Secrets, Phuket's first real-life escape game, has opened its doors, but the light only shines a short way into the catacomb.

"It's exactly like you are watching a movie. But we put you in it, and make you the star," says Alex Hu, who is spearheading the project.

"We want to bring the most exciting thing in China to Thailand, and from Phuket, which is an international tourist destination, introduce it to the world."

Chamber of Secrets operates 20 attractions in China, and has recently opened one in San Francisco.

"It became famous in mainland China and Hong Kong about two or three years ago," Alex says, clearly thrilled to be bringing the game to Phuket.

The idea behind the attraction comes from escape-the-room games created as freeware browser games and for flash platforms. The simple first-person games leave the player isolated in a room with a single goal – get out.

Alex admits that before joining Chamber of Secrets he played the escape games online. However, they are nothing compared to the real thing, he says.

"When you are in the room, you feel the time passing; you can really touch things. When you play online, you just hold a mouse and click. You don't feel like you are there, in the story, in the environment.

"[Online], you don't need to control the time, you can do whatever you want... you can get up and get a drink of coffee if you like."

Coffee, or any other beverage of choice, however, is not an option in the real-life adventure, at least not until you escape.

Unlike the flash games, (thankfully) Chamber of Secrets doesn't lock you away without at least one friend.

The smallest room, Mermaid of Songkhla, is designed for a group of two to six people, while the larger chambers, King Naresuan's Tomb and Temple of Ganesha, are built for four to 10 people.

A security camera on the wall of each sub-room is there to keep an eye on you, and gives you a chance to signal for help if your team really gets stumped – escaping isn't so easy.

"In each sub-room you have different types of puzzles; usually the most difficult puzzle is in the last room. This way, all the customers can experience the whole game. We want people to make it to the final room," Alex says.

The key to developing the puzzles is not making them difficult or easy, but creating them to fit into the story line of the room.

"It has to be related, people need to feel like the puzzle is meant to be there."

And if you and the rest of your



Alex Hu use to play escape-the-room games online, now he creates them in real life.

team become flummoxed?

"We have a security guard watching you 24 hours," Alex says comfortingly (We can only pray that nobody is stuck that long sorting out what artifact alignment gets the walls moving).

For most groups, it takes an hour or two to escape.

The themed rooms, composed of several sub-rooms, are designed to contain aspects of Thai culture, history, lore and myth... the kind of environment Indiana Jones would most certainly feel

at home in.

"We built it as an attraction. We did some research on famous Thai stories and myths, and based the rooms on them. We made the stories part of the game, as we would like people to learn some things about Thai culture too," Alex explains.

The rooms have already been modified to improve authenticity.

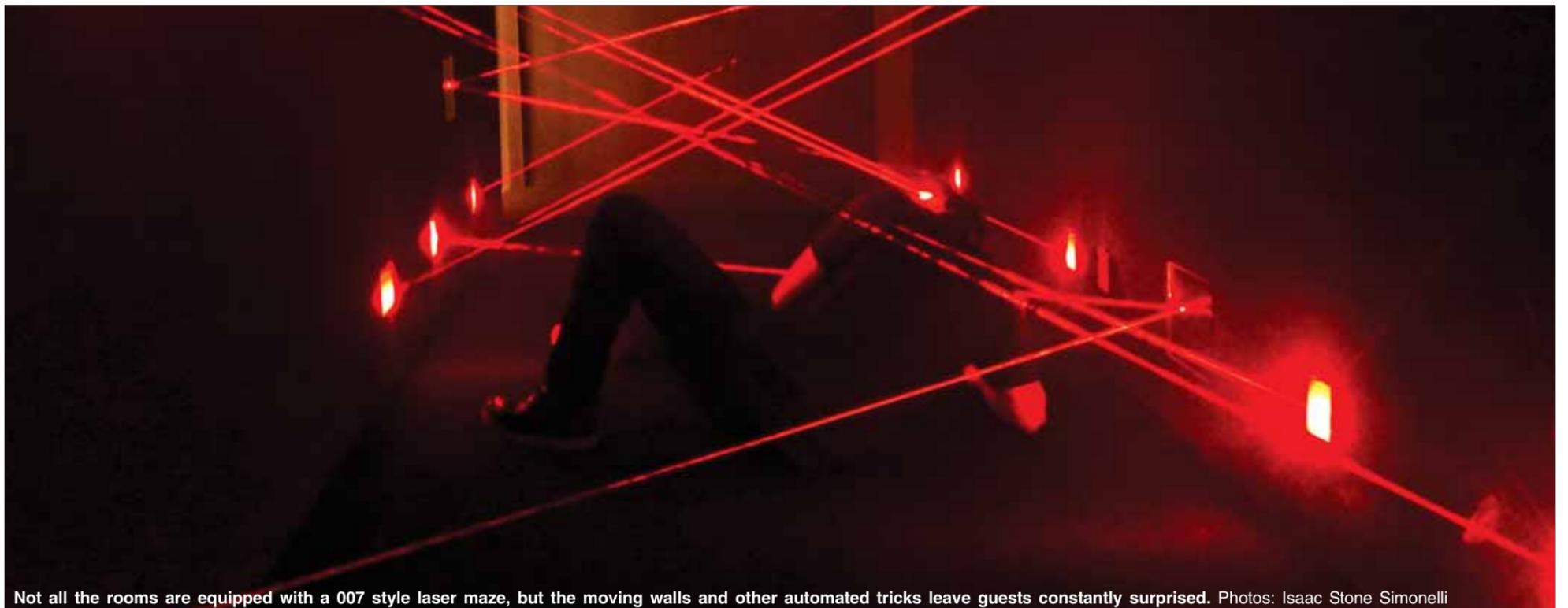
Since the first trial runs, the Temple of Ganesha has acquired many order-made statues, and had script found in actual temples re-

created on the walls.

"You really feel like you are in a temple, that's what we are looking for."

The inclement weather of the Green Season is the perfect time to unlock the doors of our childhood dreams and march into the Chamber of Secrets – only to be locked away again.

"This game is for kids, kids between five and 99 years old," Alex says with a delighted smile, as the back wall of the chamber begins to retreat...



Not all the rooms are equipped with a 007 style laser maze, but the moving walls and other automated tricks leave guests constantly surprised. Photos: Isaac Stone Simonelli

Clean house, clean conscience

By Jeremie Schatz

PHUKET Town's first co-working initiative –The SEA Co-working Space and Marine Cafe – hosted a make-your-own home cleaner workshop at their space on Phang Nga Road on June 5.

Led by Green Fins Project Coordinator and environmental health advocate Petchrung "Aey" Sukpong, the workshop covered the process of producing an all natural, all purpose and inexpensive cleaning solution.

The procedure is surprisingly simple and enables anyone to create a vast stockpile of the cleaner in a short amount of time with minimal effort and money. The solution can then be used to clean dishes, counters, floors, bathrooms, laundry and has a variety of marine applications.

The cleaner utilizes the natural benefits of effective microorganisms (EM) which consists of a proprietary blend of beneficial microbes such as yeast, lactobacillus and phototrophic bacteria.

The process of creating the natural cleaner begins with the use of EM to react with and break down food waste – especially fruit by-products such as pineapple rind and orange and lime peels. Aey says that she sources the leftover

fruit waste from shops that sell juices and smoothies. In a large container, the fruit waste is mixed with clean water, brown sugar and the EM which can be purchased through Best Care International (BCI) Thailand. The mixture is then covered and left for 1-1.5 months to allow the EM to react with the sugars in the fruit. When a white layer of what looks like mold forms on top of the mixture, it is ready to be used. EM has a variety of applications including fertilizer and soil conditioner.

The other main ingredient needed to create the cleaner is a product called Texapon N-70 which is derived from natural fatty alcohols found in coconut or palm oil. Texapon N-70 is the commercial name with which it will be labeled and it can be found at the Super Cheap across from the new bus station.

Once the EM have worked their magic and the fruit matter has been strained out, it's time to gather up the ingredients that will formulate the final product. To make about 10 liters of the cleaner, it will require 10 liters of the EM solution, one kilogram of Texapon N-70 and one kilogram of salt.

In a 12-15 liter container, the Texapon N-70 and the salt are mixed together, stirring slowly by



Petchrung Sukpong (right) adds salt to a fresh batch of homemade cleaner. Photos: Jeremie Schatz

hand in one direction. The EM solution is then added slowly as the mixture is continuously being stirred. Once all 10 liters of the EM solution have been added, stirring must continue until all of the granules of salt have been dissolved which should take 10-20 minutes depending on the tem-

perature of the other ingredients.

Once the salt has been dissolved, the mixture should be covered and left overnight to settle at which point it can be bottled and is ready for use.

To further simplify the process of making the do-it-yourself cleaner, Aey says she will be mak-

ing the EM product as well as the Texapon N-70 available for purchase at the SEA Co-working Space next month.

For more information on the SEA Co-working space, visit: [facebook.com/theseacoworkingspace](https://www.facebook.com/theseacoworkingspace) or greenfins-thailand.org

DIY multi-purpose cleaner

What you need:

- 10 liters of effective micro-organism (EM) solution (about 10 baht)
- 1 kilogram of Texapon N-70 (about 80 baht)
- 1 kilogram of salt (about 18 baht)
- 12-15 liter widemouth mixing container
- Mixing spoon
- Storage containers

Step 1: Mix one part fruit left-overs with two parts clean water and EM product (check ratios on packaging) Cover and let sit for 1-1.5 months until white layer forms on top.

Step 2: Strain EM solution and let settle.

Step 3: In 12-15 liter container, add Texapon N-70 and salt stirring slowly by hand.

Step 4: Slowly add EM solution while continuing to stir. Carefully stir to keep foaming to a minimum.

Step 5: Stir for 10-20 minutes or until the salt is completely dissolved.

Step 6: Cover and let settle overnight. Transfer to smaller container if necessary and it's ready to use.



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Farewell to an original 'Grumpy Old Man'

THE Phuket expat community suffered another tragic loss to its ranks this week with the death of John Devenport, an avid classic car enthusiast and founding member of Phuket's Grumpy Old Men Society (GOMS).



Miss You."

Mr Devenport, with more than 40 years of rally experience, was a driving force behind what became the annual Phuket Invitational Car Rally and was involved in many other charitable events spearheaded by GOMS.

Mr Devenport's passing was announced to his Facebook friends in a post yesterday which read, "to all his Facebook friends we regret that John Devenport (JD) passed away peacefully on 4th June in the UK. We know he had very many dear friends all over the world, but especially so in Phuket, where he had many happy times. Love you,

Mr Devenport is known to have friends all around the world, many of whom have posted warm, loving messages of condolence on his Facebook page.

Funeral arrangements and plans to hold celebrations of life had not been made at the time this newspaper went to print.

- Phuket Gazette



Photos: Supplied

John Devenport was an avid classic car enthusiast and the driving force behind the Phuket Invitational Car Rally.

Memorial service for Graham Doven announced

LONG-term Phuket expat Graham Doven, who passed away in Bangkok earlier this week, will be honored with a ceremony on June 15 to scatter his ashes in Phang Nga Bay.

The ceremony on the bay, where floating wreaths will be laid upon the water, will be followed by a memorial lunch at BB's Restaurant at Tinlay Place in Cherng Talay starting at 2pm.

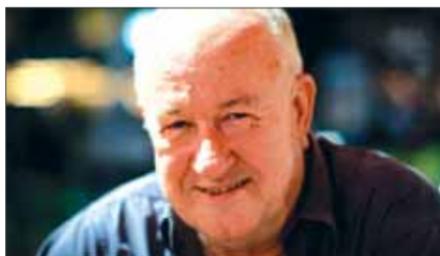
"All are welcome. This is a farewell wake for our dear friend

Graham, a celebration of all the wonderful days and eves that we have spent enjoying his wry humor," said close friend Henry Kaye.

"Michael Beattie, one of Graham's closest friends, is flying in from Brisbane, Australia, to join the ceremony.

"If mates would like to crack a few jokes or sing a ballad, this will be encouraged."

Friends of Mr Doven are compiling a memorial of anecdotes,



RIP Graham Doven. Photo: Supplied

messages and photos to be sent to Graham's daughter, Christie, and his brothers Robert and Tim.

Contributions are welcome, and can be emailed to Stjohn@me.com.

Services for Mr Doven will be held at Wat Thippawas in Bangkok this weekend.

The temple, which is located at Soi 53, Chalong Krung, Lamphatew, in the Latkrabang district, is about 10km from Suvarnabhumi Airport.

Prayers will be held at the temple starting at 7pm on Saturday, followed by prayers at midday

on Sunday. The final prayers will begin at 2pm Sunday and the cremation ceremony will be at 4:08pm.

Graham succumbed to a long illness at Mission Hospital in Bangkok on Tuesday.

He had a long and celebrated career in event organizing, marketing and promotion in Australia before moving to Phuket, where he became one of the key figures who helped forge Phuket into the international property destination it is today. - Phuket Gazette



Phuket today

Phuket Gazette




The Phuket Today team would like to thank all our partner hotels and businesses for continuing to broadcast our show every day in over 4,000 rooms around the island. Your support is very much appreciated and we hope to be able to support you also during the "interesting" months ahead.

If you would like to join the PGTV Partner Program or have a story you would like to tell the world, please call Kristi on 080 690 2564

Crowning glory of a great novelist

Books

By James Eckardt

ONCE a decade, Donna Tartt produces a hefty, great novel. At age 28, she published *The Secret History*, a murder mystery centered on a clique of young classical scholars at Bennington. A decade later, she returned to her Mississippi childhood for *The Little Friend*. And now she has just won the Pulitzer Prize for her third and best novel, *The Goldfinch* (Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 771pp, 2013).

The title refers to a small masterpiece by Dutch painter Carel Fabritius, student of Rembrandt, teacher of Vermeer. In 1654, when he was just 32, the huge explosion of a gunpowder arsenal in Delft would not only take his life, but destroy almost all of his work. A rare survivor, "The Goldfinch", painted on wood, the size of A4 paper, shows a bird held captive by a chain at its foot. It is a great favorite of the mother of 13-year-old Theo Docker, a half-Irish, half-Cherokee beauty from Kansas who worked as a catalog

model in New York before getting her art history degree from Columbia. Her husband, a failed actor turned alcoholic, has abandoned her and she lives with their only son in an apartment on Sutton Place, facing the East River, where she struggles on her salary at an advertising company.

The novel opens as Theo, writing in an Amsterdam hotel room 14 years later, recalls the last day of her life. On their way to his private school on the West Side, mother and son are caught in a rainstorm and duck for shelter into the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Theo takes notice of an elfin girl – bright red hair, golden brown eyes – accompanied by an elderly misshapen little man. That's when a terrorist bomb rips through the museum.

When Theo returns to consciousness, "The Goldfinch" in its busted frame lies on the floor next to him. Dying nearby, the little old man exhorts him to save the painting and entrusts him with a ring to deliver to his partner at an antique furniture store in Greenwich Village.

In the aftermath of the bomb-

ing, Theo learns that the elfin red-headed girl, Pippa, the old man's niece, is badly injured. Theo's mother is dead. Plunged into devastating grief, Theo now dates his life into *Before and After*. This is all told by Theo in the first 50-page chapter.

So complex is the story of his next 14 years, so compelling and intricate and surprising the plot, that it would be criminal to reveal any more of it. Suffice it to say that the action moves from New York to Las Vegas, back to New York and on to Amsterdam. In high school Theo Docker finds the great friend of his life, Boris, a sly Russian rogue with an Australian accent, overly fond of liquor, drugs and shoplifting. Boris is Huck Finn to Theo's Tom Sawyer, the Artful Dodger to his Oliver Twist. The pair will be accomplices in the novel's last desperate caper involving "The Goldfinch".

Through the years, Theo has kept the painting, worth many millions, as a talisman of his mother. Here he describes the joy of taking the painting out of hiding:



Tartt's skills are on par with Tolstoy's and Dickens. Photo: Jan Arkesteijn

"Quickly I slid it out, and almost immediately its glow enveloped me, something almost musical, an internal sweetness that was inexplicable beyond a deep, blood-rocking harmony of rightness, the way your heart beat slow and sure when you were with a person you felt safe with and loved. A power, a shine came off it, a freshness like the morning light in my old bedroom in New York which was serene yet exhilarating, a light that rendered everything more sharpened and lovely than it actually

was because it was part of the past and irretrievable . . ."

So rich are her descriptions, so vivid her characters, so sweeping and majestic the scope of her novel, that Donna Tartt can only be compared to the 19th century giants Tolstoy and Dickens. At the end, when Theo experiences his dark night of the soul in an Amsterdam hotel room and emerges transcendent and redeemed, the reader shares his triumph. There is no higher order of fiction.

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Words from the wise

“A wise man can learn more from a foolish question than a fool can learn from a wise answer.”
– Bruce Lee

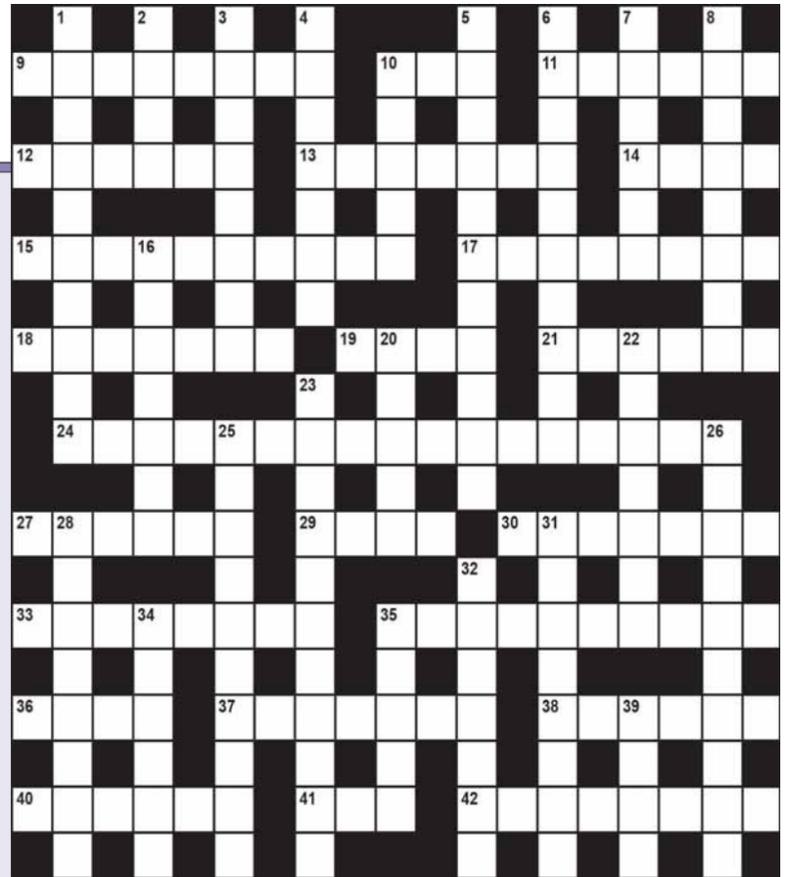
“Beauty awakens the soul to act.”
– Dante Alighieri

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 9. Creditor could be a board member (8)
- 10. Brew ale in the meadow (3)
- 11. Twice is able for a dance (6)
- 12. Rebuilt part as city state in ancient Greece (6)
- 13. Carefully tops silver, note amount charged for mail (7)
- 14. Stormy rain in a Western Asian country (4)
- 15. Takes no notice of little Diana's best wishes (10)
- 17. Last, wend out to the marshes (8)
- 18. Sock Ted maybe kept for sale (7)
- 19. A fur tailored for a German woman (4)
- 21. Feel fringe moving (6)
- 24. Against manufactured article I have tending to defeat its purpose (17)
- 27. Manufacturers union could be clear, about time (6)
- 29. Awful bad ride (4)
- 30. Helps idiot first, son (7)
- 33. Church circle left Eric bad tempered (8)
- 35. Poor performers possibly spared by AI (10)
- 36. Public transport back in market (4)
- 37. Any gain unusual in a Phuket beach (7)
- 38. Sketch again as a possible reward (6)
- 40. Hope in pairs out East (6)
- 41. Gesture of agreement to returning professor (3)
- 42. Finished occupied, too crowded (8)



Down

- 1. Over easy to undo its SIM clip (10)
- 2. Be wary of unusual fare (4)
- 3. Throttle is strange around fifty! (8)
- 4. Get ready to repaper carefully (7)
- 5. Laws found at variance for injuries that kill (5,6)
- 6. Strange, since I fit, almost, the methodical system (10)
- 7. Gain an adjustment for a heart spasm (6)
- 8. “How are you?” in Thai, as I bade, clumsily, out East (8)
- 10. Leans over tables (5)
- 16. Tell number again (7)
- 20. Less likely not so well cooked (5)
- 22. Only is disturbed around one with much noise (7)
- 23. Forecasts from Public Relations section I'd arranged (11)
- 25. Forbearance small for permissible engineering limits (10)
- 26. Note, next rally arranged outside (10)
- 28. Saying ‘Sh! I’m a pro.’ is out of order! (8)
- 31. Could be real, said to be paid periodically (8)
- 32. Slow movements nowadays as I go out (7)
- 34. Flexible, I'd be clear (6)
- 35. Make band about right (5)
- 39. Daughter towards the stern, stupid (4)

Hard

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

Medium

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

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

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

Arguments can leave a sour taste around the middle of June. Geminis are advised to allow others to voice their opinions without getting caught up in too much discussion. A fire sign friend is certainly someone who needs to have the last word. Those with a birthday during the week ahead are should find their savings expanding satisfactorily in the coming year. The number four can bring good fortune this weekend.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Having more power is one thing, but knowing how to use it sensibly will be another matter. The stars suggest that Cancerians can get far ahead during the second half of June, but it will be necessary to make the right moves early on. Where personal relationships are concerned, there are hints that an earth sign is relying on you to make them happy. Your lucky number this week is seven.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

You could feel as though others are enjoying more success at the moment, but the stars suggest that change is in the air. Leos looking for reasons to be cheerful will be pleased by events this week – you

may even receive more than one offer of more rewarding work. Reunions could prompt ideas of relocation for those not entirely content in their current living situation. The number nine is special this week.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Your opinions count more than usual this week. Virgoans are forecast to find that others seek them out for advice and this gives your self-confidence a boost. However, in the world of work, it would be wise to consider carefully before speaking. An air sign colleague with a career related problem is likely to catch you off guard and you may regret saying too much. Number four may open a lucky door this week.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

An unsettled astral atmosphere is forecast to spark frustration, with technology forecast to let some Librans down. The stars recommend waiting until the second half of June before buying new equipment; in the meantime, more research will help you make sensible decisions when shopping for expensive items. Another air sign's hasty romantic commitment can be worrying, but silence is golden for now. The number six stands out this week.

YOUR horoscope
By Isla Star

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Your mood should be lifted by simple gestures from others at the start of the week. After strong focus on problems with finances during the first half of June, Scorpios will now have reason to reflect on what really matters in life. Altering some priorities is predicted to open up possibilities for a more fulfilling social life, with romance also positively affected. Number one can attract luck this week.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

The stars suggest that someone you've known casually for a while is about to become more important in your life. If this is connected with work or business, an air sign is likely to be the person who holds the key to progress. On a personal level, those single and seeking can get closer to an earth sign, with promise of romance. The number seven seems important for Sagittarians this week.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

Knowledge gained around the middle of the month will set your mind at rest. Capricorns who have been unable to solve a puzzle in the world of work receive guidance from a trusted source. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, the stars advise more effort to keep the love light burning in a relationship with a fire sign. Number five is linked with good luck this week.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

A wake up call at work can be seen as a warning not to put trust in people you don't know well. The stars suggest that this will probably involve another air sign and taking distance from this person is the only option. In the realm of romance, those recently committed may see the need to make clearer financial agreements. Aquarians' lucky number this week is eight.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Your zest for life increases during the second half of June, with more focus on pleasure in the social zone. Achievements in the world of work should be worthy of celebration and there

is a strong party atmosphere around you this weekend. Those looking for love are forecast to find they are on the same wavelength with an earth sign. Pisceans' special number this week is two.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

This is an auspicious time for lost items to come to light. Those born under the sign of Aries who had given up on finding something important are forecast to be pleasantly surprised. The stars suggest that it's time to address a health issue you have been conveniently ignoring, and this can be done with support from a close friend. The number three stands out for Arians this week.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

The stars are ready to support those born under the sign of Taurus who need to do more networking. Your tendency to go it alone is not be the best approach to expanding work interests at the moment. Another earth sign is poised to make introductions that can help you increase your earning power and a water sign has innovative ideas to share. Your lucky number this week is three.

Phuket embraces MMA

By Maciek Klimowicz

THE choice of Seduction Beach Club and Disco, one of Bangla's most popular clubs, as the venue of Phuket's inaugural Full Metal Dojo MMA event proves that the organizers had a lot of confidence in their success. And rightly so.

At first impression, it seemed that only a few Thais were among the crowd of 500 or so MMA fans at the event, but the cheer the ring announcer and organizer of the event, Jon Nutt, received when he switched from English to Thai proved otherwise.

This element of creating an event for both Thai fans and for foreigners was present throughout the evening. "We're bringing MMA to Thailand, we're bringing Thais to MMA," kept repeating Nutt, and to prove his point he began the event with a daring performance of *Sansoen Phra Barami*, the Thai Royal Anthem.

However, as good as it was, it wasn't the music – including Nutt's interpretation of Metallica's *Enter Sandman* and a Thai hip-hop freestyle to the tune of Eminem's *Lose Yourself* – that brought the audience to Seduction, it was the MMA – arguably the world's fastest growing sport and a discipline that is said to be illegal in Thailand... at least in theory.

The Sports Authority of Thailand banned MMA competitions in 2012, citing the "brutality of the sport" as the reason for their decision.

"Organizing MMA here could mislead the public into believing that Muay Thai is brutal," said SAT Deputy Governor Sakol Wannapong in a statement. "Organizing an MMA event here would hurt the

image of Muay Thai. If you want to do this kind of business, you should do it in another country."

Since then, MMA promoters and their lawyers have side-stepped the ruling by organizing MMA events across the country under the clear legal standpoint that there is no law banning the sport in the Kingdom.

DARE Fight Sports, MMA's biggest promoter in Thailand, announced last year that the SAT had lifted the ban on MMA – a fact confirmed this week by Santi Pawai, director of the Phuket Office of Tourism and Sports.

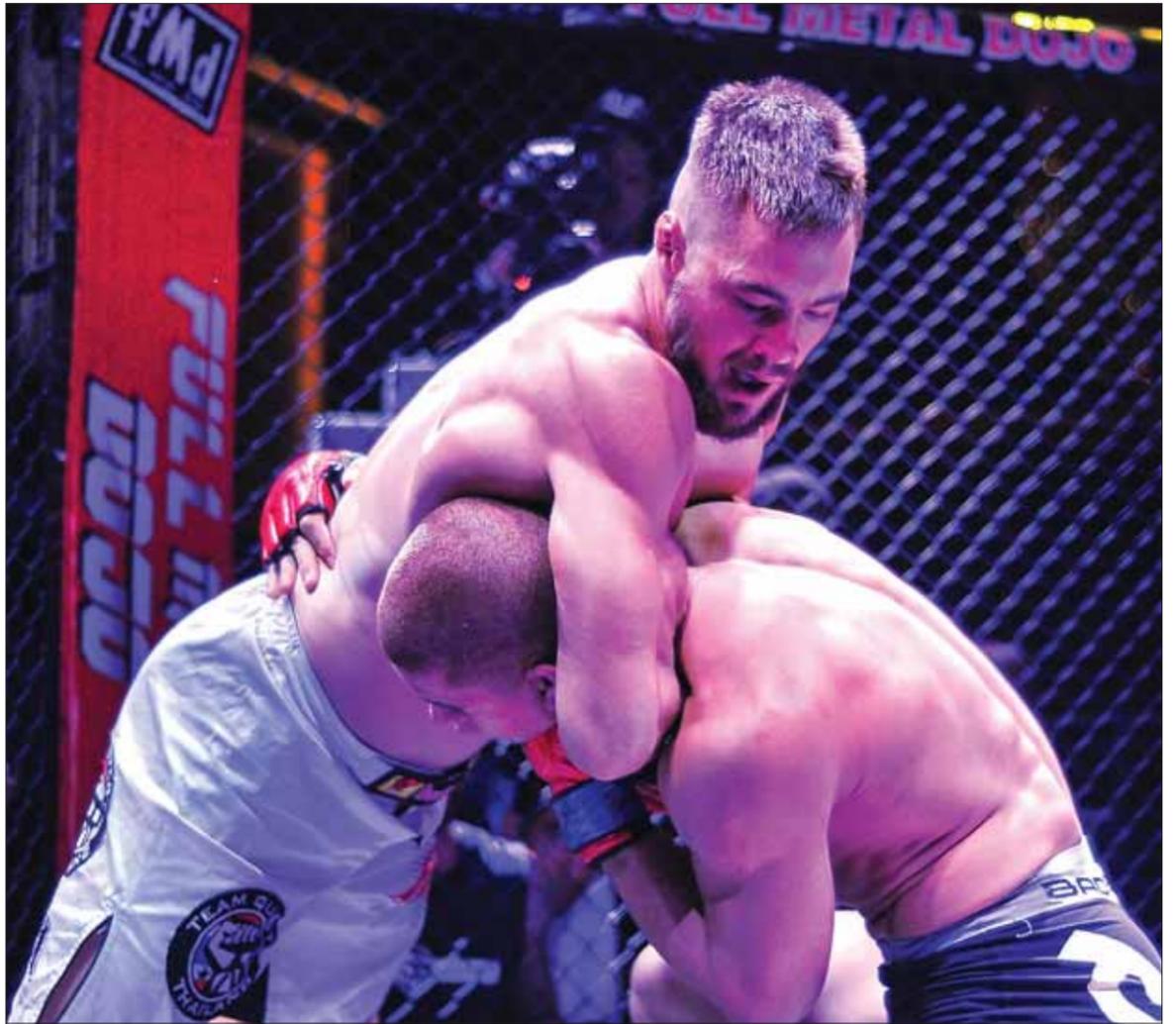
"MMA is not illegal. Organizers of this kind of event must ask permission from the local authority... If they get permission, I do not think it will be a problem," he explained.

"I do not think MMA takes away [from] Muay Thai. Muay Thai is unique. It cannot be taken away [from]."

Legally in the clear, Full Metal Dojo saw eight fights with fighters from Thailand, Cambodia, the United States, Canada and Finland, five technical knockouts (TKOs), one referee stoppage and two submissions.

The Hooter's girls tasked with announcing subsequent rounds were not called into action often, as most of the duels finished within the first round, such as with the first fight, between Dylan "The Muscle" Fussel and Nanthon Chantharamani, with the former claiming the victory by TKO in under a minute.

The only fight to reach the second round was between Ratcharat Yimprai Sakset and Nun "Poe Saksit" Sophea. Despite the event's relaxed rules



The highlight of the evening was the fight between Glenn Sparv and Michael Dubois. Photo: Supplied

Poe Saksit managed to foul three times and the referees had to stop the fight and award the victory to his opponent.

Emotions peaked during the final bout in which Finland's Glenn Sparv defied Michael Dubois, who agreed to enter the cage just one day before the event and managed to lose six kilograms to make the weigh-in.

By entering the cage at such short notice, Dubois proved his fighting spirit and showcased his skills during the spar, coming close to claiming a first round KO with a destructive kick to Sparv's face, not to mention a number of textbook Judo throws.

However, it was Sparv who claimed victory when the referee stopped the fight after Sparv

landed a series of knee kicks on Dubois' head.

If you missed Phuket's first MMA bout, do not despair. Many of the Full Metal Dojo fighters will attend the August rematch event, for which a venue has yet to be announced – and according to Jon Nutt, there is more to come, with plans for one MMA event every six weeks in the works.



For many fighters Full Metal Dojo was the first chance to showcase their skills in the cage. Photo: Supplied

SPORTS TV SCHEDULE		
June 14		
Fox Sport	00:00	US Open Golf Championship 2014
Fox Sport	06:00	US Open Golf Championship 2014
Star Sports	17:30	MotoGP World Championship 2014 QF
June 15		
ASN	07:00	Nascar Camping World Truck Series 2014
Fox Sport	00:00	US Open Golf Championship 2014
Fox Sport	06:30	US Open Golf Championship 2014
Fox Sport	07:30	UFC PRELIMS
Star Sports	07:30	Petronas Fim Asia Road Racing Championship 2014
Star Sports	13:00	Petronas Fim Asia Road Racing Championship 2014
Star Sports	13:00	Moto GP World Championship 2014 Main Race
June 16		
Fox Sport	00:00	US Open Golf Championship 2014
Fox Sport	06:00	US Open Golf Championship 2014
June 17		
Fox Sport	09:00	MLB 2014
June 18		
Fox Sport	06:00	MLB 2014

Young sailors to represent Thailand

By Leslie Porterfield

THREE young sailors who grew up in a local orphanage are preparing to be the first to represent Thailand in a world class sailing event in Wales in August.

Ekkapot Kaenkaew and Theerapong Tokratoak, both 17, and Kartoon Jundet, 12, are members of the Phuket Youth Sailing Club (PYSC), which has been invited to send competitors to the International Topper Class World Championships.

The Topper, a 3.4m centerboard dinghy, is widely used for racing and learning how to sail.

The two older boys have been sailing for six years, and Kartoon for four, said Katy Gooch, who with her husband, Paul Firmin, owns the Topper Sail Phuket sailing school in Ao Yon which sponsors the PYSC.

The trio will compete first in the Topper Nationals in Wales from August 3 to 7.

The sailors have been offered free coaching before the events. "It will be an international group, and they can impart the experience they gain to the other sailors here when they come back, and enrich our team," Ms Gooch explained.

The boys have competed in multiple Optimist Nationals in Thailand and all three

travelled to the Double Star Cup International Regatta in Qingdao, China in 2012. Each has won the topper event in his age group during Phuket Youth Week, and Ekkapot was the Optimist Class Winner at the 2011 Phuket King's Cup Regatta and the Topper Class Winner at the same event the following year.

They were introduced to sailing in the PYSC, where up to 15 children from Phuket Sunshine Village (PSV) train once a week, and every day during school holidays, Ms Gooch said.

PSV was founded after the 2004 tsunami, and provides a safe and secure home for children who are either orphaned or not able to live with their parents.

Ekkapot and Theerapong are now studying Tourism at Phuket Technical College, and Ekkapot is fulfilling his work experience requirements by teaching at the PYSC.

Though Ms Gooch hopes to be able to take all three sailors to the event, funding is tight.

The International Topper Class Association has provided some sponsorship, and the Phuket sailors will be given sailboats at the event to use for no fee, but travel, accommodation and gear costs still need to be raised.

Local companies are invited to sponsor



Kartoon Jundet was the Topper Class Junior Winner at Phuket Youth Week 2013. Photo: Supplied

a Topper boat in Phuket to support the sailors, Ms Gooch said. "We'll put their logo on the boat, and their donations will go to pay for travel costs."

Anyone wishing to help send the youths to Wales is invited to contact Ms Gooch at:

katy@toppersailphuket.com or at 085 215 9185.

For more information about the International Topper Class World Championships, visit: topper2014.com

Thanyapura men sweep Japan

THANYAPURA'S Triathlon training group swept the podium at the 70.3 Ironman Japan in Tokoname last Sunday – with Chris "Macca" McCormack, Fredrik Croneborg and Michael Murphy taking first, second and third place honors after a spectacular breakaway from the rest of the field and a gripping sprint finish.

Two-times Ironman world champ McCormack is the Executive Chairman of Thanyapura Phuket, while Sweden's Croneborg lives in Phuket and trains regularly at Thanyapura. Australian Murphy is Macca's training partner.

All three athletes have been hard at work with Thanyapura's triathlon training group in recent months, and the Tokoname result cements Thanyapura's reputation as the home of the best triathlon



McCormack, Croneborg and Murphy at the finishing line in Tokoname. Photo: Supplied

training in Asia.

Croneborg was the first of the "Thanyapura Three" in the swim stage and the second man out of the water, a minute after Japan's Kuniaki Takahama and six seconds ahead of McCormack and Frenchman Jose Jeuland.

But the bike stage sorted out the pack and the 70.3 Japan turned into a three-man race as

Murphy, Croneborg and Macca racked up almost a four minute lead on the nearest rivals.

In the final stages of the run, Macca and Croneborg pulled ahead of Murphy - and then battled out the last 400 metres in a dueling sprint that saw Macca cross the line just two seconds ahead, with a time of 04:02:41 to Croneborg's 04:02:43.

Murphy came in just under 30 seconds later, at 04:03:12, and more than two-and-a-half minutes ahead of the first of the pack.

The Tokoname race was Macca's second win in less than two weeks: in late May he won both the Sprint and Olympic Distance titles at the Bintan triathlon in Indonesia. – *Phuket Gazette*

Asia Superyacht Rendezvous 2014



Asia Superyacht Rendezvous will be held from December 16 to 18.

EACH year, from December 16 to 18, the shores of Phuket welcome Superyachts, their owners, captains and VIP guests to the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous – an exclusive gathering of sail and motor boats of over 100 feet in length.

Last year's event welcomed 11 Superyachts to Phuket. Six beautiful sailing yachts were in attendance along with five glorious motor yachts. Highlights of the social program included a welcome cocktail party on board a 50-plus meter sailing yacht, a model boat building contest, a treasure hunt and a gala dinner on the final evening to draw the event to a close.

Guests of the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous enjoy the best Thai hospitality in the 5-star setting of Kata Rocks. Phuket is continuously playing host to more and more yachts each year. The

region as a whole is seeing a massive growth in the number of Superyachts and many more are calling Asia home.

Feadship Royal Dutch Shipyards, the principal sponsor of the Asia Superyacht Rendezvous and International Media Sponsor, Boat International Media, who provides global coverage, have been supporting the event for its full 13 years and they have both pledged their continued support for 2014 and beyond. From December 16 – 18, all eyes are on Kata Bay for what promises to be another exceptional Rendezvous.

For more information go to: asia-superyacht-rendezvous.com
The Phuket Gazette and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program are proud to sponsor this event.

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FIFA in festive mood

By Mike Collett

FIFA president Sepp Blatter made no reference to the various crises surrounding world soccer's governing body when he opened the annual FIFA Congress on Tuesday with a short welcoming speech to delegates from 209 countries.

The 78-year-old Swiss made no mention of the allegations and investigation into corruption surrounding the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cups or his own plans regarding standing for a fifth term as president next year.

Instead, he called on delegates to "enjoy themselves" during the short opening session which featured Brazilian musical acts and a series of awards to various personalities.

In the past Blatter's opening remarks at the albeit "party" session of Congress have contained

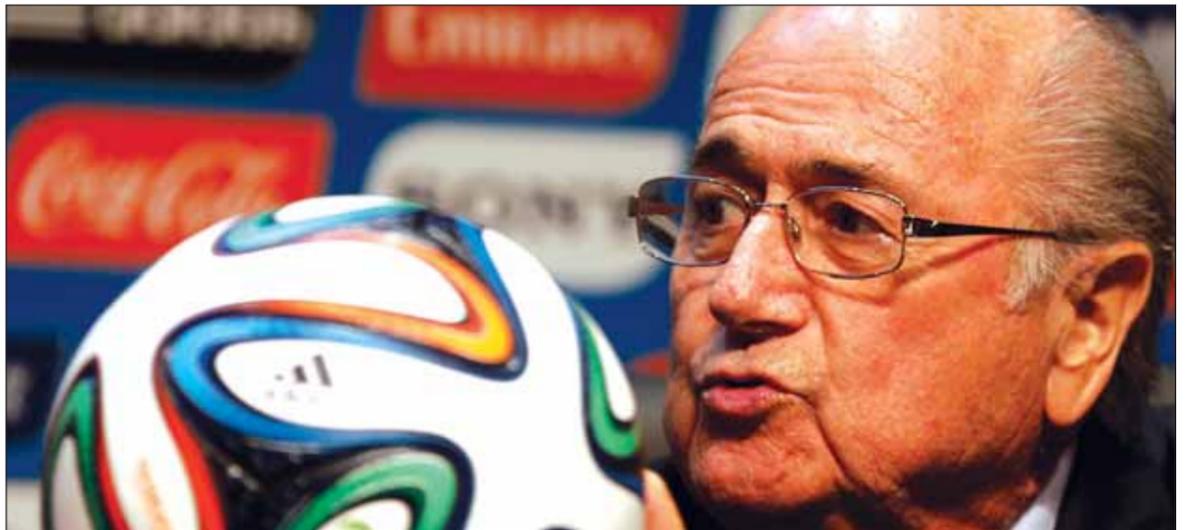
some references to current issues, but he made no mention of them on Tuesday.

Blatter will have a totally different approach when the serious business gets underway on Wednesday and he makes his annual address to delegates and when Michael Garcia, the New York attorney investigating the corruption allegations surrounding the awarding of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup finals to Russia and Qatar, also addresses delegates.

Blatter said FIFA was pleased to be hosting the World Cup in Brazil for the first time since 1950.

"We are in festive mood," he said despite delegates from UEFA, Europe's governing soccer body, calling earlier on Tuesday for him not to seek another term when his mandate ends next year.

He said that more than 400 million fans around the world are expected to watch the 64 World



President Blatter made no mention of the corruption allegations surrounding FIFA. Photo: Paulo Whitake/Reuters

Cup matches on TV over the next month and that everyone was looking forward to a "great World Cup played in a spirit of fair play."

He added, "A spirit of fair play shall prevail. Thousands and thou-

sands of fans from around the world are coming to Brazil, testimony to this fiesta.

"It is the World Cup for the world. Brazil will send emotions that we need in this perturbed

world and during the 32 days of the World Cup it is our wish that all belligerent activities should stop, connecting people and constructing bridges."

- Reuters

Embrace the physical

By Ben Hammond

AS TECHNOLOGY grows more and more every year, more advanced training methods are developed along with access to more data to monitor progress.

Triathlon training has everything from power meters to GPS watches to underwater metronomes for athletes to control their tempo while swimming, and the list goes on.

Using this ever-growing pool of data can be great for training and development. However, all too often do athletes become overrun by the numbers and have the data dictate everything they do.

Sometimes an athlete needs to head out for a training session and just embrace the process of exercising in its purest form.

Having the ability to train by feel is a fantastic skill to have. It enables athletes to understand and become more in tune with their bodies and to react much more efficiently to different scenarios.

If training is completely run by the numbers, then athletes become robots, programmed to do nothing but adjust their body based on a number - and they lose the ability to anticipate how a race or training session may play out.

So next time you head out for a training session, try leaving the electronics at home. Just head out the door and listen to your body and enjoy the freedom that exercise can bring.

Triathlon tips by Thanyapura's Bike Doctor Ben Hammond. Contact Ben at triathlon@thanyapura.com.

Corrupt Russian banned

By Martyn Herman

RUSSIAN player Andrey Kumantsov was banned for life on Tuesday after being found guilty of multiple violations of tennis's rules on betting and match-fixing.

Kumantsov, 27, was found guilty of 12 charges under the anti-corruption program after an investigation by the London-based Tennis Integrity Unit, an organisation initiated by the grand slam tournaments, the ATP and the WTA.

No details of the exact nature of his offenses were given.

"The lifetime ban applies with immediate effect and means that Mr Kumantsov is not eligible to participate in or attend any tournament or competition organized or sanctioned by the governing bodies of professional tennis," a statement from the Tennis Integrity Unit said.

Kumantsov, who reached a career high ranking of 261 in 2010, committed the offences between 2010 and 2013.

- Reuters

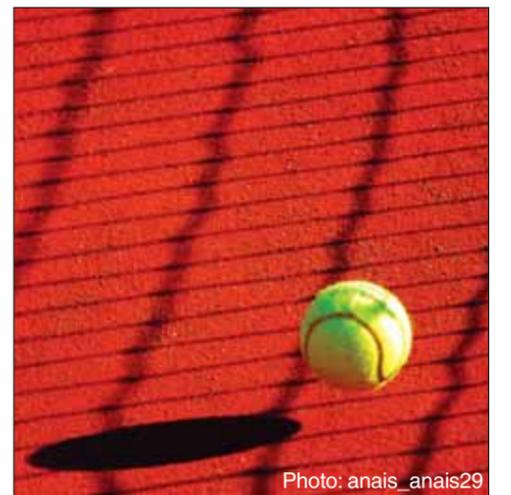


Photo: anais_anais29

Playing dirty got Kumantsov banned.

NEXT FIXTURES

AYUTTHAYA

PHUKET FC

JUN 15

Pranakhon Sri Ayuttaya Provincial Sports Stadium

4 pm

FUTSAL THAILAND PREMIER LEAGUE 2014

Next Fixture

Ayutthaya City

Jun 15 | 4pm @ Ayutthaya Witzayalai School

Samut Sakhon

Jun 18 | 7pm @ Saphan Hin Gymnasium

Ayutthaya City

Jun 21 | 4pm @ Pumi Anon Gymnasium, Bangkok

*dates subject to change

YAMAHA LEAGUE ONE TABLE

PL	TEAM	P	PTS
1	Nakhon Rachasima	15	34
2	Bangkok FC	15	29
3	Royal Navy	15	27
4	Angthong FC	15	26
5	Phuket FC	15	25
6	Saraburi FC	15	24
7	Chiangmai FC	15	23
8	BBCU	15	23
9	TTM Customs	15	22
10	Phitsanulok FC	15	22
11	Krabi FC	15	20
12	Pattaya Utd	15	19
13	Ayutthaya FC	15	17
14	Roi Et Utd	15	15
15	Trat FC	15	15
16	NakhonPathom	15	15
17	Khon Kaen FC	15	7
18	Sri Racha FC	15	2

*Last Update: 11/06/2014

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