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Abducted British sisters found

Girls reunited with father after police arrest mother

INSIDE TODAY

August 30 - September 5, 2014

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■ 'PHUKET WILL BE SUPPORTING THIS SLAUGHTER'

Taiji killing connection

■ Tourism image under threat from link to Japanese dolphin massacre

By **Isaac Stone Simonelli**

PHUKET stands to suffer widespread damage to its global reputation as a tourism destination, if it allows the establishment of a dolphinarium in Chalong, said renowned dolphin trainer-turned-animal-rights activist Rick O' Barry, known for his role in the Academy-award winning documentary *The Cove*.
 "Most of the [captured] dolphins today are coming from the cove in Taiji, Japan. An extremely violent process has to take place to get them to Phuket," he told the *Gazette* in an exclusive interview this week.

"If Phuket actually imports dolphins from Taiji, it's going to be a blemish on tourism..."

Continued on Page 4



Thousands of dolphins are killed annually as hunters select dolphins for swim programs, seaquariums and dolphinariums around the world. Photo: DolphinProject.org

14-year-old girl from Myanmar raped by boss

A MAN has confessed to raping a 14-year-old undocumented migrant worker while he and his wife escorted her back to their construction site.

The man's wife allegedly helped capture the girl when she attempted to escape, and then bribed her to keep quiet with 5,000 baht and a new mobile phone.

Full Story Page 9

Patong floods force officials underground

PATONG officials have dug underground into the popular-tourist destination's drainage system in an attempt to fix the municipality's flooding issues.

An inspection revealed that the drains were clogged with sediment and trash. Combined with heavy rains, this caused the Patong Police Station and surrounding areas to become swamped with water three times in the last two weeks.

Full Story Page 4

Woman booked for B500mn fraud scheme

A PHUKET Town pub owner was arrested for conning more than 300 people into giving her a total of more than 500 million baht to "unlock a massive inheritance" from a wealthy foreign husband.

Full Story Page 3



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This Week



Business

Swash floods Phuket with all natural, organic yoghurt. **Page 29**



Property

We visit Crystal Wild, Cape Panwa's newest resort. **Page 31**



Explore

Hidden at the very heart of Phuket is an unusual shrine. **Page 33**



In focus

What can Thailand learn from Chinese press censorship? **Page 34**



Food

Avista offers some of the best views and food in Patong. **Page 36**



Sport

BISP students to train like the pro tennis champions. **Page 38**

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Abducted Brit girls returned to father

By Gazette reporters

BRITISH school children Annie and Aleena Day, abducted by their Thai mother in June while on holiday in Thailand, have been reunited with their father in Pattaya.

"I've got them. They're with me now," a tearful Robert Day told Pattaya radio station Fabulous 103FM on August 22.

Onwarat Gamlem, the 36-year-old non-custodial mother of the children, was arrested at a Bangkok apartment on August 22, Mr Day told the radio station. Originally, it was thought that Ms Onwarat was harboring the children in Phuket, which led to an island-wide search.

Ms Onwarat was wanted on a nationwide warrant for charges of child abduction after she disappeared with the two girls on June 1, the agreed date she was to return the children to Mr Day.

"They [police] said to come to Chon Buri, we've got your children here and your wife has been arrested," Mr Day said.

The exhausting ordeal of finding his missing children saw Mr Day conduct a neighborhood grid search of Sri Racha, near Pattaya, where a "ping" from Ms Onwarat's mobile phone was discovered.

He also hired signboard trucks to roam the streets with photos of the two girls and offered a reward of 100,000 baht for information leading to their safe return.

Several weeks ago, Ms Onwarat's family contacted police in an attempt to negotiate the children's return, Fabulous 103FM reported.



The two young girls have been returned safely to their father.

Mr Day agreed not to press charges against Ms Onwarat in exchange for the safe return of his daughters, but the children were not returned.

Col Supatee Boonkrong, acting superintendent of the Pattaya Police, confirmed to the *Gazette* on Monday morning that, following her arrest, Ms Onwarat was charged with child abduction.

"She was released on 200,000 baht bail," he said.

Col Supatee welcomed the good news.

"Mr Day asked the police for help, and we were able to find his daughters and return them to him.

It's good news. We are very happy for them. The children will go back to school [in the UK] on September 10," he said.

"We understand that the mother loves her daughters, but she must abide by the conditions set by the court. She cannot just take the girls away from their father."

Mr Day's family extended their heartfelt thanks for the support they received during the ordeal, including – but not exclusively to – the police in Pattaya, Jomtien and Chon Buri, the British embassy in Bangkok, the media and all Mr Day's friends and family members.

Baby injured as car crashes into store

A TOYOTA Saloon plowed into a clothing shop and injured 5-month-old girl on August 21.

Police were called to the scene on Yaowarat Road in Phuket Town where the car had slammed through the plate-glass window of the "Pumpui Apple Shop", ending up in the back of the clothing establishment.

"Somsong Teeraputjek, 54, on a motorbike, was overtaking a motorbike and sidecar when she collided with a Toyota car driving in the opposite direction," said Maj Suchat Meelumpong of the Phuket City Police.

The driver of the Toyota then lost control and careened into the clothing shop injuring the baby girl, who was rushed to Bangkok Hospital Phuket with facial injuries.

Mrs Somsong was taken to Vachira Phuket Hospital.



Two people were injured in the Phuket Town accident.

The Toyota driver, who police declined to name, suffered no serious injuries and was escorted to Phuket Town police station for further questioning.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Pub owner arrested for running B500mn scam

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

AN OWNER of the well-known H2O Pub and Restaurant in Phuket Town has been arrested for fraud in Phang Nga after cheating nearly 300 people from across Central Thailand out of more than 500 million baht.

Phang Nga City Police arrested Wilawan Na Takuathung, 39, on August 19, said Phang Nga City Police Commander Chalit Kaewyarat.

"Ms Wilawan is no longer part of the team at H2O," said an H2O staffer, who declined to be named.

However, Ms Wilawan's Facebook page still says that she works for the pub.

"The arrest follows an order from the Department of Special Investigation [DSI] to track down Ms Wilawan, who lives in Phang Nga, but works in Phuket and Phang Nga," Maj Gen Chalit Kaewyarat explained.

"The suspect claimed that she had received an enormous inheritance from her foreign husband,



Wilawan Na Takuathung will soon be handed over to the DSI for her crimes. Photo: Facebook / Kritsada Mueanhawong

but that the bank would not allow her to withdraw the money without first going through an extensive and expensive process," one victim, from Bangkok, reported to the DSI.

"She said that she did not have enough money to cover the bank fees, so she would ask people to lend her money. She promised that

they would get a cut of the inheritance once she could access it.

"I personally know of 18 people that believed her and gave her money. However, I know that there are many other cases like this all over Central Thailand."

The victim told the DSI that she had tried to back out of the deal.

"I tried to get out of the busi-



Rescue workers help Mr Methee.

Police hunt for teen gang after knife attack

POLICE are searching for a gang of Phuket teenagers who reportedly attacked a security guard at Villa Market in Cherng Talay on August 21, leaving the guard with a four-inch gash in his head.

The security guard, Methee Yaemmen, 26, told police that he had no idea who the suspects were or why they would attack him.

"I went to the restroom while I was on duty. When I came out, a gang of about six teenagers approached me," said Mr Methee.

"They jumped me and attacked me with a knife. I don't know what kind of knife it was. I just lifted my hands up to protect myself because I didn't know what else to do."

Cherng Talay Police officers and Kusoldharm Foundation rescue workers were called to the scene at about 8:45pm.

"When we arrived, we saw Mr Methee with cuts, some about four inches long, on his head and right arm," said Lt Somsak Suwisan of the Cherng Talay Police.

Mr Methee received first aid at the scene before being transferred to Thalang Hospital.

"We are checking security cameras from Villa Market, and we have asked other shops to provide CCTV footage from their cameras so we can track down the suspects," said Lt Somsak.

- Thawit Bilabdullar

Police hunt down drug kingpin after arresting three ya ice dealers

POLICE are hoping to take a local drug kingpin into custody soon after three dealers were arrested and nearly one kilogram of *ya ice* (crystal methamphetamine) was seized in two separate raids last week.

Phuket Provincial Police on August 20 arrested Wiwat Mungsuree, 30, and Eaknarong Iadkham, 34, who were found in possession of 136.54 grams of *ya ice*.

"During questioning, Mr Wiwat and Mr Eaknarong told us that they were part of a network with Thammarat Koithanasarn and Nongpanga Soipetch," said Lt Col Jarun

Bangprasert of the Phuket Provincial Police.

"They said that they stored the *ya ice* at Ms Nongpanga's house."

A team of officers arrived at Ms Nongpanga's house the next day.

"We waited outside her house until she arrived, then we presented ourselves and searched the house. We found 756.4 grams of *ya ice* in a back room," said Col Jarun.

"She confessed that [it] belonged to her."

Police are searching for Mr Thammarat and other suspects now known to be in the network.

- Athip Karndee



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

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Officials target trash-clogged drains

Mayor goes underground for Patong flood defense

By Chutharat Plerin

OFFICIALS confirmed on Tuesday that Patong's drains will be dredged after an inspection revealed they had become clogged with sediment and trash, contributing to recent flooding in the area. The move comes after Patong Police Station flooded for the third time in two weeks on Monday, following heavy monsoon rains.

The inspection of roads and of Pak Bang Canal also revealed that many of the buildings there had been extended beyond the legal limit of three meters from the canal wall.

Tuesday's inspection, which included Patong Mayor Chalerm-luck Kebsup and Navy personnel, was intended to find ways to combat the flash floods which have plagued Patong this month.

"Our short-term solution is to dredge the drains in the area. The Rural Roads Phuket Office will take care of the drains on Phang Muang Sai Kor Road, while

Patong Municipality will look after the beach road and Rat-U-Thit 200 Pi Road," said Mayor Chalerm-luck.

"The canal has already been dredged. Now it's time to dredge the drains, which have been causing problems for a long time. We will start as soon as possible."

As for the encroachment of buildings along the canal, Mayor Chalerm-luck admitted that she was not sure what could be done to fix the problem.

"By law, buildings are not allowed to be within three meters of the canal. However, I saw today that some are only centimeters away," she said.

"It is clear that many of these buildings have been built illegally, in terms of their distance from the canal. I am sure they were given permission to build, but the officers who granted it did not check back to make sure buildings were the legal distance from the canal.

"The difficulty is that the build-



Patong Mayor Chalerm-luck (4th from left) joins officials to inspect Patong's drains. Photo: Natthaphol Wittayarongrote

ings are on private land with Chanote titles. In the past, Patong Municipality has ordered some owners to tear down structures too close to the canal, but this was not enforced."

The Mayor told the *Phuket Ga-*

zette that the order to tear down sections of the encroaching buildings was issued before she became mayor, and that the deadline had run out before she took up office.

"I have no idea what to do. The encroaching buildings are com-

plete structures. How can we tear down only the parts that are too close to the canal?" she said.

An investigation would be ordered into those officers who had granted permission to build next to the canal, she explained.

Dolphin show risks tourism backlash

From page 1

...in Phuket on an international scale, because Phuket will be supporting this dolphin slaughter."

Mr O'Barry urged Phuket officials to use the same global scale of exposure to positive effect.

"If Phuket does not import captive dolphins, Phuket will be sending a positive, powerful message to the rest of the world about Phuket's respect for nature. That's something that money can't buy," he noted.

The permit to import the dolphins to the Nemo dolphinarium in Chalong has yet to be approved by the Fisheries Department. However, the application has been sent to the main office in Bangkok, confirmed Kiattikhun Charoensawan, chief of the Phuket Fisheries Office, last month.

Early reports by the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society claimed that at least one of the six dolphins tagged for the Nemo facility was caught in Japan and then shipped to Ukraine, from where it would then be imported into Thailand. Weeks later, as this issue of the *Gazette* goes to print, that allegation has yet to be refuted by the Nemo operators.

"Even if they are allowed to operate the dolphinarium, all of their paperwork must be legal," said Director of Fishery Manage-

ment Bureau Marnop Chaengkij.

"We will check where the animals are being exported from, and we won't just believe whatever is written in the application - we will do our homework."

However, Mr Marnop noted that Thailand does not have any embargo on dolphins from Ukraine

or Japan, as long as the correct documentation is provided.

The Nemo facility itself has also come under scrutiny. Mr O'Barry compared it to the Bates Motel of the classic horror movie *Psycho*. "It's a death sentence for them. I don't think they all will survive," he said.

"Today we know that captivity kills dolphins," said Mr O'Barry, who began his career in the 1960s as a dolphin captor, as well as trainer of the five dolphins in the TV show *Flipper*.

"I understand that it's going to cause damage to Phuket's tourism image," admitted Mr Marnop.

"However, this might actually bring more tourists to Phuket. There are many dolphinariums, aquariums and zoos around the world, and they are still major tourist attractions.

"Also, if we block the company from importing the dolphins without legal reasons, they can sue us for abusing our power."

Additional reporting: Chutharat Plerin

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Navy raids Koh Raet

By Athip Karndee

OFFICIALS last week warned residents on Koh Raet, off the east coast of Phuket, that their buildings will be torn down in 30 days if documentation authorizing construction could not be produced.

Pithirat Phitipak, who claimed to own the land, told Commander Pornprom Sakultem of the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command and other officials that she bought the seven-rai site in 2008.

"I bought this land from Mr Rat. I cannot remember his last name, but he lived here for more than 30 years," Ms Pithirat said. "Three families live on Koh Raet. We built homes for our families and one restaurant."

However, Pa Khlok Mayor Panya Sampaorat pointed out that no land documents had been issued for the site, where the inspection team on August 21 discovered four buildings under construction.

"With no land documents issued, nobody can own it. Individuals may have the right to use land to make a living, but no



Pithirat Phitipak, who claimed to own the land in question, was given 30 days to present legal land documents.

permanent construction work would be allowed," Mr Panya said.

Mr Panya gave Ms Pithirat 30 days to present any documentary evidence to support her claim to the land.

"In the meantime, all construction must stop and no completed building may be used for any commercial purpose," he said.

Mayor Panya had warned last month that raids would soon be

carried out on many of the small islands off the east coast of Phuket.

Among the islands yet to be targeted are the popular isles of Koh Naka and Koh Naka Yai.



The underpass flooded after heavy rainfall. Photo: Supplied

Flash flood drowns new underpass

TRAFFIC ground to a crawl at the Darasamuth underpass on Monday after a three-hour power outage rendered pumps useless and allowed heavy rain to flood the underground road.

The underpass site, located in front of the Central Festival Phuket shopping mall on the bypass road, lost power supply after a transformer blew, explained Samak Luedwonghad, director of the Phuket Highways Office.

"We lost our drainage system as soon as the power went down at about 2pm," he said. "Our three pumps stopped working, which allowed flood water to rise to about 30 centimeters."

Police were called in to direct vehicles away from the underpass.

"Trucks, vans and pick-ups were allowed to continue through the underpass, but motorbikes and sedans were directed to use alternative roads around the site," Mr Samak said.

"Safety always comes first. It is our top priority in situations like this."

The underpass re-opened to traffic at about 5pm, after power was restored and water pumped out.

"We have installed backup generators for the pumps to make sure this does not happen again," Mr Samak noted.

- Natthaphol Wittayarungrote

Con men posing as DSI officers nabbed by true DSI officers

TWO men have been arrested for posing as Department of Special Investigation (DSI) officers and extorting money from a Phuket Town massage parlor.

Wisanusan Thipayatuch, 42, and Kanapat Khongmuang, 38, were nabbed after extorting 100,000 baht in cash from the owner of Angel Massage in Phuket Town on April 24.

"The suspects, who posed as DSI officers, told the parlor's owner they had video evidence that the premises was being used for prostitution and that he would be charged if he didn't pay up," Lt Col Korrawat Panprapakorn, director of the DSI's Regional Center of Operations, Region 8, said on August 25.

"The owner agreed to the payoff, because the tricksters told him he would be prosecuted if he didn't hand over the cash," Col Korrawat added.

However, after doubting the authenticity of the "officers", the owner filed a complaint of extortion, and real DSI investigators quickly tracked down and arrested the two men at their Phuket homes.

"We believe there are two more suspects still at large who were involved in the extortion, but we are confident that they will soon be arrested. We hope the DSI's image will not be tarnished by these con men," Col Korrawat said. - Kritsada Mueanhawong



The men were taken down for posing as DSI officers and extortion.



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George Town. Photo: Jeremie Schatz

George Town, Phuket Town to be sister cities

GEORGE Town in Penang, Malaysia, and Phuket Town are set to become sister cities on September 18, as was confirmed at a meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall last week.

The Royal Thai Consul-General to Penang, Srirat Vathesatogkit, met with Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut on Tuesday to discuss the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize the relationship between the two historical towns.

"The MoU [to become sister cities] will be signed on September 18," announced Consul-General Srirat.

"As both cities have a historical relationship, this will be a great opportunity for the cities to exchange cooperation on tourism and history.

"We can also further develop the trade and tourism sectors of both cities."

Ms Srirat pointed out that Phuket had long historical parallels with Penang. Both shared links through their Sino-Portuguese buildings, rubber trees and tin mines.

"Also, Phuket officials can learn how Penang officials govern their island city," Ms Srirat said.

– Chutharat Plerin

Family Love Center opening graced by HRH Princess Srirasmi

HRH Princess Srirasmi, the Royal Consort of HRH Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn, graced the opening ceremony of the "Family Love Center" in Phuket on August 25.

The center is aimed at encouraging better family ties between generations: children, parents and grandparents.

Princess Srirasmi landed on the island at about 11am and was welcomed by Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut and high-ranking

officers. She departed from Phuket for Bangkok after the opening ceremony for the center in Rawai.

The center will be primarily managed by the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. However, several other ministries will contribute to the work, an officer at the Phuket office of the Public Relations Department confirmed to the *Gazette*.

– Chutharat Plerin



HRH Princess Srirasmi. Photo: PR Dept

Navy sets sights on Phi Phi

Party island next on cleanup list as Krabi restaurants torn down

By Woranut Pechdee

PHI Phi and Krabi are next in line for beach encroachment demolitions, the Navy has revealed.

"We have already removed beach chairs and umbrellas from Phi Phi's beaches. The next step will be the clearance of illegally-erected structures encroaching on the island's beach areas. This will begin very soon," Capt Prinyatham Poonpitagtham, Commander of the Royal Thai Marine Corps, told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"Local officials from Phi Phi National Park, the Marine Department and the District Office, will coordinate the removal of these structures. The Navy will only step in if it's really necessary," he said.

In Krabi, a number of restaurants have already been ordered to remove illegal structures encroaching on the beach.

"We are working step-by-step. Five restaurant owners encroaching on Krabi's Ao Nang Beach have been given until September 30 to demolish their illegally-built structures. They must also clean up the areas where the buildings are located," said Capt Prinyatham.

"Restaurant owners are resigned to tearing down these



Seaside structures found encroaching on the beach at Phi Phi Island could face Army tear-down orders.

properties because they know they are encroaching on public land," he said, adding that enforcement and removal of illegal structures in Krabi would be much easier than in Phuket.

"As everybody knows, tourism is a huge source of income in Phuket, which means officials have met a lot more resistance from owners of illegally-built establishments. Despite this, they

are doing a really fantastic job and most of the beaches have been reclaimed."

"Under the directive of the National Council for Peace and Order, Krabi officials have also been working to reclaim national park land in the province. Taking back this national treasure is not something we [the Navy] can do alone – we are working closely with several government departments,"

said Capt Prinyatham.

Next on the Navy's list of issues to tackle is better management and regulation of designated areas for anchoring sailboats, as well as the enforcement of zoned swimming areas, explained Capt Prinyatham.

"The tourist high-season is coming soon so we will make sure there is a plan in place to tackle these problems," he noted.

Would-be looter bungles ATM theft operation, leaves evidence behind

A WOULD-BE looter, or looters, left empty-handed after a failed attempt to break into an ATM machine and steal its cash contents in the early morning of August 22.

Police received a call at around 6am informing them that the Siam Commercial Bank (SCB) ATM in front of the mega SuperCheap complex on Thepkrasattri Road had been damaged in an attempted robbery.

"There are two ATM machines in front of the store. Someone had clearly attempted to break into one of the machines," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Superintendent Prawit Engchuan.

The security company responsible for the machine confirmed to police that the suspects had been unable to access the cash boxes inside the ATM.

"We were able to lift fingerprints at the scene and will review CCTV



Neither of the two ATMs located in front of the SuperCheap complex had CCTV cameras installed.

footage from nearby cameras in an attempt to identify the suspect or suspects," said Lt Col Prawit. Neither of the ATM machines

in front of the SuperCheap complex were installed with CCTV cameras, Col Prawit noted.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Marine Police fear drug violence among fishers

By Athip Karndee

FOUR men tested positive for methamphetamine when Phuket Marine Police conducted a spot check of fishermen on August 22 in an attempt to stomp out drug-fuelled violence on fishing boats.

"We did the drug tests to prevent drug-related violent clashes on fishing boats," Col Chatchai Sakdee of the Phuket Marine Police told the *Gazette*.

The positive test results from four of the 169 men tested on five boats have raised concerns for officials.

"We are now worried about drug use in the fishing industry. We didn't expect to find crew members who tested positive for drug use," Col Chatchai said.

"This is the first time the tests have come back positive since we started our campaign on monitoring and protecting migrant workers to prevent human trafficking in the fishing industry, all in accordance with the National Council for Peace and Order's order."

The four Myanmar nationals who tested positive were named



Officials are concerned about drug-fuelled violence after four fishermen tested positive for drug use.

as Mu Oo, 23; Min Tai, 30; Sheya, 24; and Piew 20. All were aboard a boat from Ranong.

"All four were taken to the Phuket City Police Station to face charges for using a Category 1 Drug," Col Chatchai said.

Col Chatchai explained he was not worried about the possibility of drug smuggling carried out by crew of the fishing vessels. Instead, the Marine Police's primary concern is migrant workers being

told they would be given one type of job when they entered the country and then being forced into the fishing industry.

"We will keep checking up on the boats to make sure there is no human trafficking," Col Chatchai said.

Call for fairest of them all for island pageant



Beauties at the announcement.

A CALL went out for the fairest of them all in Thailand, as organizers look to draw the Kingdom's top beauties for Miss Phuket Universe.

"This is the first time Phuket has searched for a beautiful woman to represent the island for Miss Universe Thailand 2015," said Miss Phuket Universe public relations representative Chanitsanan Theppabut.

However, the competition isn't just for Phuket residents. All Thai nationals are welcomed to walk the walk and talk the talk as they attempt to take home the top prize: 100,000 baht cash, a pearl crown, a trophy, gift vouchers with an estimated value of 300,000 baht and the opportunity to represent Phuket in Miss Universe Thailand.

"The purpose of the pageant is to promote Phuket tourism and for Miss Phuket to be a tourism ambassador for the island," Ms Chanitsanan said.

Registration will be held on February 6-12, 2015 at Central Festival Phuket. The next day, 30 candidates will be selected.

The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's nationally-broadcasted show "Phuket Today" are proud sponsors of Miss Universe Phuket.

- Woranut Pechdee

Livestock officials implore police to investigate baby elephant owner

OFFICIALS from the Phuket Livestock Office have implored police to investigate the case of a baby elephant who is being kept on a short chain outside a Chalong house.

The call follows an investigation on August 24 into the legality of a 2-year-old elephant, Tiptawee.

Pichitra Tanode, who is keeping the elephant, claims to have lost the paper proving legal transport of the animal from Ayutthaya.

"The elephant was transported several months ago, but Ms Pichitra was unable to

present the proper transportation documents. She said she had lost them," said Phuket Livestock Office Chief Weerasit Putthipairoj.

Though Ms Pichitra did not present transportation papers, she did present a *Sor Por 5*, which names the elephant's owner.

"The document names Romthong Mephan as the legal owner. Ms Pichitra claims that she rents Tiptawee from Ms Romthong," said Mr Weerasit.

"Renting an elephant from the noted owner is legal, but Ms Pichitra must update the docu-

ment so that it shows her name and the current location of the animal.

"It seems that Tiptawee is legally owned, but we believe he could have been transported without permission. It is up to the police now to follow the case," said Mr Weerasit.



Baby Tiptawee.

- Natthaphol Wittayarungrote



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British national Mark White, and his girlfriend, were evicted after failing to pay their rent.

Couple evicted, found sleeping under the stars

A HOMELESS British man and his Thai girlfriend were picked up by police early August 25 after they were discovered sleeping rough in Phuket.

Alarmed villagers called police after the couple were discovered huddled together in front of a Cherng Talay house, Sub Lt Jira Cherdchay of the Cherng Talay Police explained.

"At the house when we arrived, we found 53-year-old British national Mark White from London with his 39-year-old girlfriend," he said.

"He told us that they had been locked out of their rented accommodation by the owner because they were unable to pay their rent. They then decided to walk to Cherng Talay to look for Mr White's friend, but couldn't find him.

"It was very late, so they decided to just sleep outside for the night."

Mr White and his girlfriend were given temporary shelter at the police station.

"The Tourist Police and the British Embassy [in Bangkok] have been contacted for assistance in this matter," said Sub Lt Jira.

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*

Ebola at top of watchlist

By Chutharat Plerin

A BRITISH expat was one of four people who was being monitored by the Phuket Provincial Health Office (PPHO) for possible signs of Ebola late last week.

Health officials at Phuket International Airport this month added Ebola to their watchlist as a precaution against the deadly virus being carried to the island by visitors.

The Ebola protocol was introduced following the death toll from the virus rising to more than 1,350 in the West African countries of Nigeria, Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia.

"Even though we do not have any direct flights arriving from West Africa, this is a necessary precaution to make sure arrivals from those countries do not bring the virus here," said PPHO Chief Kajohnsak Kaewjarus.

Dr Kajohnsak pointed out that the consequences of Ebola being brought to Phuket were considerably grave considering that millions of people visit the island each year.

"If tourists contract the disease here, then it could be carried anywhere around the world when these tourists head back to their home countries," Dr Kajohnsak noted.

Health officials have been tasked with monitoring arriving passengers for symptoms of the virus, which include nausea, headaches, coughing and fever.

"Customs and Immigration officers have also been asked to alert health officials at the airport of any



Phuket International Airport health officials added Ebola to their watchlist. Photo: Gazette File

arrivals they suspect of suffering from these symptoms," Dr Kajohnsak said.

If a passenger is suspected of having contracted Ebola, the health officials at the airport are to follow the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) protocol, complete with isolation procedures and patient tracking.

The MERS protocol launched in

July last year and brought back into effect in April this year after a Malaysian man died of the disease.

So far, seven people, all visiting from Nigeria, have been put on the Phuket watchlist.

"One person has already left Thailand and two others left Phuket, so we are only checking up on four people right now," said Tassayu Dechachote, chief of Health Con-

trol at Phuket International Airport..

"None of them have shown any signs of the disease."

Those on the watchlist must present themselves to a doctor every day for 21 days before they are allowed to leave the country, Mr Tassayu confirmed to the *Gazette*.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

Broad-daylight burglars nab B150k worth of loot

BURGLARS bashed in the front door of a Phuket home and made off with about 150,000 baht of loot on August 22.

"Three people live in the house in Thalang: me, my son and my wife. Nobody was home when the thieves broke in. We had all left the house in the morning and didn't return until about 6pm," Worravit Sri-orn, 34, told police.

"There were motorbike tyre marks on the ground and the front door was broken

– I called police immediately."

Missing from the house was jewellery worth an estimated 138,000 baht; 10,000 baht cash; two watches worth about 5,000 baht each; and a mobile phone, confirmed Lt Col Sanit Nookong of the Thalang Police.

"We were able to lift fingerprints from the wallet that had the 10,000 baht stolen from it," Col Sanit said. "At this point we believe at least two people were involved in the crime."

– *Thawit Bilabdullar*



The thieves broke in while no one was home.

Health and education PPAO's top priorities

THE Phuket Provincial Administrative Organization (PPAO) has named health and education as its top priorities in its budget request for fiscal year 2015.

The PPAO Council voted to splash out on the two critical areas on August 22, when PPAO President Paiboon Upatising revealed the draft budget of 1.445 billion baht.

The PPAO is aiming to spend 407.6 million baht on community education projects and a further 456mn baht on public health projects during the coming fiscal year, to

begin on October 1, Mr Paiboon said.

Also earmarked in the budget was 234.7mn baht for religion and culture projects, and 116.4mn baht for housing and community projects.

A further 115mn baht will be spent on "general management", while 49.8mn baht will be spent on social responsibility projects and 16.7mn baht will be spent on community building projects.

A total of 44.6mn baht was slated for other ancillary projects.

– *Kritsada Mueanhawong*



The PPAO Council voted to approve 2015 budget allocations at a August 22 meeting.

Hijacking drill at Phuket International Airport after bomb scare

PHUKET International Airport held an airplane hijacking drill on Wednesday in the wake of a bomb scare on Tuesday morning.

Phuket Airport received an anonymous call on Tuesday from a caller who threatened to blow up AirAsia flight FD 3003, which departed from Don Mueang Airport at 10:55am, bound for Phuket. On board were 167 passengers and six crew.

The plane was immediately escorted to an isolated parking area when it landed,

where security officers and an explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) team checked the plane and all passengers' luggage.

"It was confirmed that no explosives were on board," said a press statement by Airports of Thailand (AoT) President Mekin Petplai.

"AoT has always prioritized security and compliance with International Civil Aviation Organization standards."

Police are now investigating the hoax.

- Chutharat Plerin



A team of security personnel prepares for the hijacking drill on Wednesday. Photo: AoT

Employer rapes 14-year-old

Pedophile's wife attempts to pay-off migrant labor victim with 5,000 baht, phone

By Chutharat Plerin

A PEDOPHILE has confessed to raping a 14-year-old undocumented Myanmar migrant worker with the help of his wife in Khao Lak, north of Phuket, confirmed the Khuk Khak Police this week.

Police declined to name the man, who was the girl's employer, until charges are pressed.

According to the girl's statement, the man, "Mr A", and his wife offered to take her to a market not far from the construction site where they worked. On the way back, he raped her, Lt Palita Kangsing of the Khuk Khak Police said.

"We returned from the market and Mr A's wife went to the old building [nobody was there] to use the toilet while we waited near the building. A few minutes later, he asked me to follow his wife, but I refused, then he dragged me in the old building and tried to rape me," the girl told police.

"His wife helped catch me, then he forcibly raped me. My face was injured while I tried to escape from them; I was raped by Mr A."

Mr A's wife then bought the 14-year-old a new mobile phone and offered to pay her 5,000 baht to not talk about what happened, said Lt Palita.

"The following day, the victim's father suspected what had happened, as the girl was quiet, looked very upset and sick. The victim's aunt comforted her and asked what happened. Finally, the victim revealed to her aunt how the couple abused her," said a statement to the *Gazette* from the Foundation for Education and Development (FED) in Phang Nga.

The foundation, which was contacted by the family, has a goal of providing a safe and productive environment for Myanmar migrant workers in Southern Thailand.

The girl wanted to press charges against the offenders, so the aunt spoke with the girl's father, and he discussed the incident with one of the migrant community leaders, said the statement.

The FED was then contacted for legal assistance.

"The foundation's staff contacted local police, who then went to the construction site to arrest the offender. The Thai police officer requested negotiations between the victim and offender."

"The offender agreed to pay 90,000 baht as compensation and to close the case," said the statement. The father agreed to the arrangement. However, the girl did not.

'Firstly, I didn't want to sue [press charges] them because they have two children and I didn't want them to have a problem. Then I decided to go back to Burma. My daughter wanted me to sue [press charges] against the couple and, at the same time, the incident would create a bad reputation for my family.'

- Father of 14-year-old rape victim



The 14-year-old demanded that charges be pressed against the couple. Photo: Supplied

"It cannot be forgiven," the girl told police.

On August 13, the father changed his mind in accordance with his daughter's wishes.

"Firstly, I didn't want to sue [press charges] against them because they have two children and I didn't want them to have a problem. Then I decided to go back to Burma [Myanmar]. My daughter wanted me to sue [press charges] the couple and, at the same time,

the incident would create a bad reputation for my family. Finally, I decided to go ahead with pressing charges against both," the victim's father reportedly told the FED staffers.

The girl then went to hospital for a medical examination to confirm that she was raped, said Lt Palita.

"We are waiting for the results of the medical examination before pressing charges," Lt Palita said.

"There were negotiations be-

tween the girl's family and the man. However, this is a criminal case and it cannot be withdrawn."

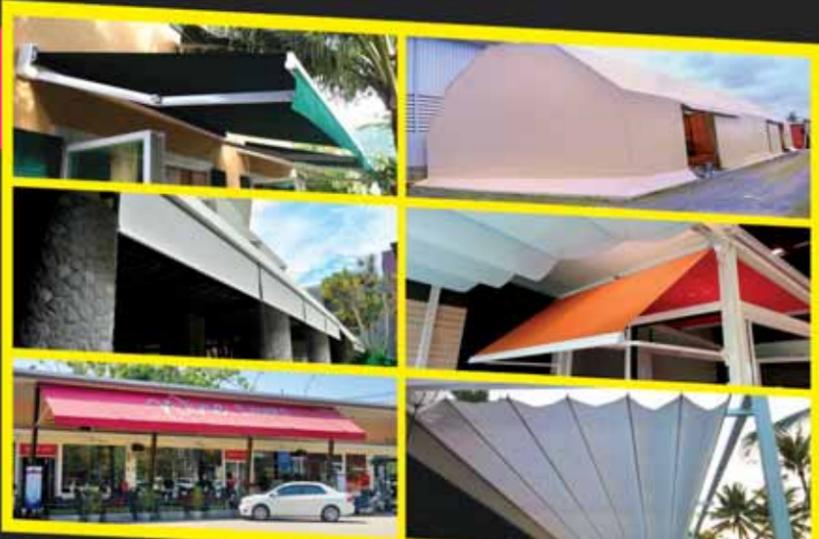
Mr A is expected to be charged for the rape of a minor under Section 279, which carries a maximum penalty of 15 year's imprisonment, a 30,000-baht fine, or both. Additionally, he could be charged for causing "grievous bodily harm to the victim", which has a maximum penalty of 20 year's imprisonment, a 40,000-baht fine, or both.



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AROUND THE
nation

AMLO seizes 3,900 rai from businessman

AGENTS from the Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) raided a number of properties covering a vast area in Nakhon Ratchasima province on August 22 which had allegedly been illegally acquired by a well-known businessman more than two decades ago.

AMLO Secretary-General Seehanat Prayoonrat said it was the office's first action against financiers who may not have encroached on public land themselves, but rather expanded through a group of farmers who had trespassed on government land, reported *The Nation*.

Mr Seehanat accused one businessman, Ammarin Yoosukdee, of illegally acquiring state-owned land covering an area of 3,900 rai over the past 22 years.

The total value of the assets seized was about 50 million baht, Mr Seehanat said.

Mr Seehanat implicated two other businessmen, Somphot Srimai and Somchai Paesoongnern, in the alleged encroachment.

The raids were conducted in Sung Noen district. About 30 trucks that had been leased to farmers were seized. It is alleged that the farmers had encroached on public land, and later handed the land to Mr Ammarin.

The AMLO chief said Mr Ammarin, Mr Somphot and Mr Somchai had to prove that they had acquired the assets legally.

A senior military commander who took part in the raid, Col Sommai Bussaba, said it was estimated that Mr Ammarin had generated around 3 billion baht in revenue from sugar cane grown on the land based on annual revenue of around 80mn baht that he had made since 1992.

Mr Ammarin reportedly spoke to agents at the scene and claimed that he lawfully owned around 1,000 rai, but admitted to benefiting from revenue supplied to him by farmers from crop harvests.

Meet the new PM

GEN Prayuth Chan-ocha, now the 29th prime minister of Thailand, promised on Monday to devote himself to his job and remain honest for the benefit of the country and its people, in order to "pay back the motherland".

"I promise to bring back happiness and peace to my compatriots, and aim to strengthen the country's stability while bringing about love and unity among different groups and sides," said the new premier.

In a brief but elaborate ceremony, held at the Army headquarters, PM Prayuth – wearing a white official uniform – paid respects in front of a large portrait of HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

"His Majesty the King has appointed me prime minister. I am extremely grateful... this is a great honor for me and my family," he said after the ceremony.

"I will work honestly and for the benefit of people and the nation."

PM Prayuth also said he would focus on creating unity among different groups in society, following years of damaging conflicts, reported *The Nation*.

The top general, who was endorsed as prime minister on Sunday but officially given the Royal command a day later, will also retain his seat as chief of the ruling National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO). On Monday, he said he was grateful to those who are willing to co-operate with



Thailand's new PM, Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, has promised to bring happiness to the nation. Photo: Reuters

the new government and the NCPO in their future work.

The new premier said he would form his Cabinet as soon as possible, most likely before the end of October.

However, NCPO spokesman Col Winthai Suvaree clarified later that he had confirmed with PM Prayuth that the new Cabinet lineup would be submitted for His Majesty's approval next month.

PM Prayuth, who is scheduled to retire as Army chief at the end of September, is the first active

military officer to take the prime minister's post since coup leader Gen Suchinda Kraprayoon in 1992.

In his speech, PM Prayuth admitted that the road ahead would not be easy for him and his administration.

"Our country has accumulated problems in several areas for a long time and those need to be sorted out," he said. "We will solve the problems as soon as possible without creating new ones in the future."

PM Prayuth also urged people

not to worry about who is appointed to the Cabinet, and said that he would press on with creating strong systems and stable security.

"I will work on economic and social issues, judiciary systems and all other issues to prepare the country for national reform and push the country to prosperity," he said.

PM Prayuth was also active on Facebook, posting comments about him formally receiving the royal command.

Surrogate mums admit to lying in court

TWO Thai surrogate mothers told police on Monday that they were instructed to lie to the courts during adoption hearings – to say that their babies were conceived during affairs with Japanese businessman Mitsutoki Shigeta, who is currently involved in an international surrogacy scandal.

The unnamed women said they testified to the courts that they could not keep the babies as they were already married, and that they wanted to give them to their father Mr Shigeta, who they believed could afford to take care of the children, reported *The Nation*.

The women have given statements to Lumpini police, whose jurisdiction covers the All IVF clinic in central Bangkok, where the impregnation of unauthorized surrogate mothers was conducted for Mr Shigeta.

The two women told police that people

close to Mr Shigeta had advised them to lie to the judges, and to say that he accidentally got them pregnant during secret affairs.

Both women named Dr Pisit Tantiwattanakul as the doctor who performed the planting of the fertilized cell.

One of the women said the court set November 12 for another hearing.

The saga has shone a light on unlawful adoptions, and the women may face perjury and contempt of court charges now that it is publicly known, because of their confessions that they gave false testimony.

Col Decha Phromsuwan, a special interrogator, said Dr Pisit may meet with police on September 20, and police are compiling statements from a total of 11 surrogate mothers allegedly involved, while awaiting statements from Mr Shigeta.



Police are collecting statements from 11 mothers who are allegedly involved in the surrogacy saga. Photo: Reuters

Police unit has delivered more than 120 babies in notorious Bangkok traffic

BANGKOK is a sprawling metropolis of more than 8 million people, legendary for its unpredictable traffic jams that can turn a breezy 20-minute commute into a grinding hour-long crawl.

Officers in a special Bangkok police unit have helped deliver 121 babies in these gridlocks since it was founded in 1993, and have escorted more than 2,600 pregnant women to hospital. The specially trained officers are only authorized to deliver a baby, if the mother feels she cannot make it to hospital in time, reported *The Nation*.

As the sun rose over Bangkok on a weekday, 23-year-old Noppamas Phinsoongnern felt she was going into labor. She told her boyfriend Phongsatorn Kamsom, 20, and the

two rushed out of their apartment, hailing a taxi to take them to hospital a few kilometers away.

As the taxi reached the main road, they found traffic at a standstill – and Noppamas started to deliver.

"I didn't know what to do," Mr Phongsatorn said. "I was panicking. I called the emergency center. They told me to calm down and that a doctor was on the way."

At that moment, veteran policeman Mana Jokoksung was directing morning rush-hour



Notorious Bangkok traffic. Photo: Roland Dobbins

traffic in another part of town when his radio crackled and a voice came over, requesting his assistance. He left his post, climbed onto his motorbike and raced toward the stranded taxi.

Officer Mana is part of a specially-trained Traffic Police Unit set up to handle precisely this type of traffic-related medical emergency.

The idea is to provide advanced medical training to police officers, who can usually reach an emergency scene the quickest. An

ambulance with paramedics often follows, but the first response by motorbike police can make all the difference.

Reaching the taxi, Officer Mana retrieved a sterilized mobile birthing kit out of his bike's top box and proceeded to bring a healthy boy into the world. It was his 56th delivery, making him by far the senior midwife of the special unit.

On average, the officers deliver one or two babies a month, they said.

"I felt relieved and secure when I saw the officer arrive," Mr Phongsatorn said.

"I was worried the baby would be in danger. But I was puzzled when he started to handle the baby. I'd never seen anything like it before."

Fighting for rights

FIRST PERSON

A COMBINATION of many horrific factors – political repression, civil war, the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, Cyclone Nargis in 2008, land confiscations and more – has forced a mass exodus of Burmese and ethnic minority tribes from their native lands in search of economic opportunities abroad.

Myanmar workers find Thailand to be the best place to migrate for reasons such as food and cultural similarities, easily accessible borders, easy money transfer to families back home, common religious beliefs and a thriving economy with numerous unskilled labor opportunities.

The hordes of Myanmar migrant workers that come to Thailand usually find employment opportunities in “3D” jobs – dirty, difficult and dangerous; the jobs Thai citizens are unwilling to fill. These jobs usually fall under the fishery, construction, mining, agricultural, tourism, entertainment and domestic service industries.

Workers in 3D jobs are often denied basic labor rights and abused physically and mentally by their employers. They are also denied minimum wages and compensation in cases of work-related injuries.

These basic human rights are abused daily, and many migrants are often too scared to seek help due to a lack of legal assistance and knowledge of the Thai legal system.

Long lasting and deeply rooted corruption and bribery among government officials, employers and human trafficking brokers, has further impeded the progress of migrant workers in obtaining basic rights, and although the Myanmar government has



Htoo Chit, 49, from Kayah, Myanmar, is the executive director and founder of the Foundation for Education and Development (FED), based in Phang Nga. FED is an NGO that works to promote and protect the rights of migrant Burmese workers. Htoo was recognized as an Ashoka Fellow in 2008 for his work to empower a new

generation of migrants by offering them a range of opportunities long denied by existing institutions.

Here, he talks about the current state of affairs for Burmese migrant workers in Thailand, how they are continuously denied basic rights and what must be done by his organization and other agencies to initiate change.

improved its awareness and support of its people working abroad, greater effort and enforcement of policy is still needed to ensure that migrant workers receive the protection and basic human rights they deserve.

More of an effort by the Thai community and government is also needed to change the living and working conditions of Myanmar migrant workers.

Burmese and Thais often share a common workplace. Yet there are still social divisions between them that aggravate misconceptions and misunderstandings, which act as a source for violent confrontations and sexual assault among the communities.

Certain government and local policies also inhibit the integration of Burmese into Thai society.

For example, in some provinces, martial law is used to control the movement of Burmese migrants. In some areas, they are given a curfew and forbidden from doing everyday things, such as driving

a motorbike.

We denounce such actions, and lobby relevant agencies, international governments and the Thai government.

Our staff members work very closely with several Burmese communities so we never lose sight of the issues that affect them on a day-to-day basis. Our staff members are predominately of Burmese origin and have come to Thailand through similar circumstances, which has enabled FED to reach the migrant population on a more personal and intimate level than a lot of bigger NGOs.

The result is a system in which Burmese migrants are empowered to lead better lives while in Thailand and are better prepared to make an impact in their home country should conditions improve to allow their return.

It is generally accepted that Myanmar's political situation has begun to make positive strides in the right direction in recent years, as the long-standing military state begins to reopen to the world after decades of reclusiveness.

However, significant change takes time. There will be setbacks and obstacles to overcome.



Dolphinariums may cater to people's love of marine animals, but is it fair for the animals to live under such conditions? Photo: David Blaikie

Dolphin welfare

WITH several advertisements boasting discounted tickets and all the hype of a new and exciting venture, the Phuket Dolphinarium is on track to open.

The community of Phuket will add a new tourist venue that will try to cater to people's love of marine animals, and to the growing tourist trade from Northern Europe and Asia.

Is this what we really want?

A documentary called *The Cove* was recently presented at the Prince of Songkla University, Phuket campus and at Central Festival Phuket. The film takes a very graphic look into the barbarism behind the killing and selling of dolphins to satisfy the fish market, and to stock the various dolphin shows around the world.

Does our community, with its sense of care, compassion and love of the wild, want to fuel the economic interests that could lead to another captive dolphin venue?

It's not surprising the new dolphinarium is surrounded by a fence so the general public cannot see the very restrictive conditions in which these highly sensitive creatures will both live and perform.

Phuket should seek, for all its people, to be part of the development of a sustainable community that supports the land and sea, as well as protecting the creatures in it. We are in a process of change

Island View

By Peter Harris

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

toward building this type of community from which we all can benefit, and in which there is a sense of pride.

Let us encourage tourism and growth. Let us invite people from around the world to see the beauty of the island. But before we rush to accept the new dolphinarium, let us be clear that it is more than just a minimal compliance to a virtually nonexistent law covering animal welfare.

Let us look at bringing together all the interests of the community. The hotels, educators, government agencies, fishermen and local community can build a long-term strategy for people to be able to see the dolphins in their natural habitat.

This means community action to develop a dolphin-watch program, and to ask our fishermen to help with sightings. This is already happening in other places. Maybe we can be a positive role model for dolphin welfare by promoting the opportunity to see this majestic sea creature enjoying life in its natural habitat.

Now, that is something our island can be all about.

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

Curious about hunting and foraging laws on the island

Is hunting legal in Phuket? If so, which animals? Do I need to get a permit? What are the regulations?

Is it legal to harvest fruit and vegetables on public land?

Hunter S Gatherer, Chalong

Tipsude Sriratana, Barrister at Law at the International Law office, Patong Beach Co., Ltd. Patong Branch, replies:

An individual has the right to hunt any animals not protected by Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act B.E. 2535 (WARP) except in non-hunting areas.

To hunt, one must ask oneself

three key questions: First, is the hunting area declared a “non-hunting area”? Second, are the animals protected under WARP? Third, am I hunting under the regulations of WARP?

The first question is straightforward because a non-hunting area is typically clear. One can notice it from a signboard on the property.

The second and third questions require some effort.

Animals protected by WARP cannot be hunted. Even if you see them on your own land, you don't have any right to hunt them.

However, animals that are not on the list of reserved wild ani-

mals, or the list of protected wild animals, normally can be hunted or possessed by an individual.

Moreover, the right to hunt or possess is assured by the Thai Civil and Commercial Code, but this right is secured under other Thai laws. In addition, the Thai Civil and Commercial Code allows an individual to hunt a wild animal on public land or in public waters, on private land or in private waters without owner opposition.

Lastly, WARP defines the term of hunting in a very broad sense. It includes the act of collecting, trapping, catching, shooting, killing and any other harming of

unowned wild animals living freely, as well as chasing, herding, calling and enticing them for the earlier mentioned purposes.

Regarding harvesting fruits and vegetables, under the National Reserved Forest Act B.E. 2507 (1964), in general, an individual does not have any right to harvest fruits and vegetables in national reserve forest. In addition, under the National Park Act B.E.2504 (1961), no person shall collect or do any matter with purport to harm flowers, plants or fruit.

However, no law prohibits a person from entering other forms of public land and harvesting.

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

Modern day overlords

THE region should applaud the bravery of the young rape victim from Myanmar in standing up for her rights and convincing her family to press charges against her attackers, even after her father initially agreed to accept a cash settlement to simply move on and “forget” the matter (page 6).

The girl’s recounting of events is a particularly disturbing tale; one that reflects the difficult realities facing the children of untold tens of thousands of undocumented migrant workers from Myanmar here in Phuket.

Not only do these workers take on the backbreaking work that most Thais will not touch in the fishing, rubber-tapping and construction industries, many have to put up with the kind of mental and physical abuse most *Gazette* readers could hardly imagine. On top of all this, many have to raise children while working as well.

King Chulalongkorn the Great abolished slavery and other forms of enforced servitude in the Kingdom with the passage of the Slave Abolition Act in 1905. The historic event has been symbolically depicted on the back side of every 100 baht banknote printed since its 100th anniversary in 2005. However, on the eve of the year 2015, when the terms of the Asean Economic Community are set to finally take force, it appears that much of the “overlord mentality” associated with slavery persists among some Thai employers.

It is understood that the vast majority of those on the island who employ workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos treat them with dignity and respect.

However, the construction-business owner’s confession to raping the 14 year old – with his own wife shockingly named as an alleged accomplice – reveals the extent to which the mistreatment of migrant workers, as well as their innocent offspring, persists today.

This case must be pursued to the fullest extent of the law – unlike so many previous cases that have been dropped due to the victims’ fears of repercussions.

Just one such case that comes to mind is that of a Phuket Town man who in 2011 posed as an officer of the law so he could allegedly rape numerous ethnic Nepali women working in Patong.

Because the victims were too afraid to testify, he was charged only with impersonating an officer of the law – still a common ploy used by thugs to take advantage of migrant workers.

Credit must also be given to the Foundation for Education and Development for its role in giving the young victim in this case a chance for real justice.



Don't let the monsoon rains get you down

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket Airport's 5.7-billion-baht expansion to be delayed until mid-2016, August 21*

Once again a major Phuket infrastructure project delayed because of rain during the rainy season. You don't even have to be a meteorologist to know that we get a lot of rain here for several months a year – every year.

So why don't project managers build that certainty into their planning?

When this project was launched, perhaps they should have said: “It'll be finished by mid-2015... unless it rains.”

Al May
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Flood fascination

Re: *Gazette online, Phuket floods strike, sink Patong Police Station again, August 25*

It fascinates me that the local government hasn't learned yet.

It happens every year! Sort the drainage system out and implement a proper rubbish collection and street-cleaning system so the drains don't get clogged up every day. It's not rocket science.

David Tuson
Facebook

You aren't fooling us

Re: *Gazette online, Scores of alleged Phuket mafia taxi drivers shuffle into court, August 18*

“We all have families to feed” is getting a bit tired now. Drive around Kamala or Kathu and look at the large, modern houses with tuk-tuks and Fortuners parked outside – these are not poor people.

They have ripped off both Thais and foreigners for years on Phuket and it's about time they paid the price for preventing an honest, reasonably priced transport system to be introduced. They deserve no sympathy at all.

Mister Ree
Gazette forum

Parking lot problems

Re: *Gazette online, Officials probe baby elephant chained in Phuket parking lot, August 22*

Seems the livestock vet has a pretty loose definition of “being treated well”. An elephant separated from his mother before the age of two and chained up in a concrete parking lot is most definitely not being treated well.

Also, if the animal was brought into Phuket legally, the authorities would have had a record of this already. It all sounds pretty fishy.

Mark Stelzner
Facebook

Time to instill fear

Re: *Gazette online, Police hunt teenagers behind Phuket knife attack, August 22*

This is what happens when you have an ineffective police force. Kids have no fear, and are generally free to roam the streets wreaking havoc, because nobody is there to stop them.

Poor policing is at the root of many problems in Phuket, and significant changes are needed.

Ed Sanders
Gazette forum

Still hope for Thailand

Re: *Gazette online, Navy leads raid on Koh Raet residents, August 22*

I couldn't be happier about what's going on. It's been a memorable three months of General Prayuth's rule. He's now PM. Where does it go from here?

This could be the best thing that ever happened in Thailand. I remain wary and hopeful.

Kamalala
Gazette forum

Deserving of respect

Re: *Gazette online, Pedophile rapes 14-year-old with wife's help north of Phuket, August 23*

Proud of the girl for stepping up. It is not an easy thing to do, but she is right. Accepting 90,000 baht as settlement still looks like putting a price on the act, and she should not be selling herself at any price!

She deserves so much respect for stepping up against the rapist, his wife and her own father.

Tinkerbelle
Gazette forum

Take a deeper look

Re: *Gazette online, A 5-month-old baby girl injured after a Toyota saloon plows into a clothing shop in Phuket, August 21*

I hope that they are also going to question the motorbike rider that caused this to happen, while overtaking on the wrong side of the road, not just charge the car driver with reckless driving as usual.

Phil Phelan
Facebook

Misappropriation

Re: *Gazette online, Fight begins for billion-baht Phuket land at Freedom Beach, August 20*

I am really disgusted by all these amazing stories about misappropriation of state forest. Everyone involved should be pursued with very severe penalties.

The public good should not and cannot be taken with impunity by private businessmen.

Richard
Gazette forum

Phuket Gazette

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WHAT'S ON in Phuket

September 6-7, 8:30am- 4:30pm. Phuket Cycling Fest 2014
Phuket Cycling Fest 2014 kicks off in Phuket Town with advanced race of 70km, intermediate race of 26km and a beginners race of 10km. The program also includes a bicycle workshop as well as a meet and great event with Thai celebrity "Wan Wan". Entrance fee of 350 baht includes a T-Shirt. For more information call 076-212213

September 12, 4-6pm "New Phuket" AMCHAM forum
Set for Friday September 12 at the Angsana Resort Laguna Phuket Ballroom the event is a must for those in the hotel, tourism, real estate and yachting sectors. The forum will be led by hospitality branding leader David Keen who is founder and CEO of Quo Global along with a panel of industry leaders.

Registration for the event organized by the Greater Phuket Chapter American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) begins at 4pm with the forum running from 4:30 to 6pm. Everyone is welcome to attend with admission for non-AMCHAM members at 100baht. Networking drinks will follow.

To sign up for the forum, visit the website amchamthailand.com or contact Cheree Tanpensuk on sheree@amchamthailand.com or on 02-2541041 ext. 212.

September 18, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club September Lunch
The September lunch will be at Bollywood, Phuket Town. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. For

more information contact Maggy Wigman on 86-594 1758, email info@piwc-phuket.com.

October 4, 7pm. Dinner and Rock Party at Bliss
Dinner and Rock party at Bliss in celebration of giving to needy kids in Phuket through the Rotary Club of Patong Beach. Opens at 7pm and closes at midnight. Tickets are 3,000 baht at the door or 2,500 baht in advance. For more information call 081-892 9207, email davidarell@yahoo.com or go to rotarypatong.org This event is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette*.

October 16, 11:30am-2pm. Phuket International Women's Club October Lunch
The October lunch will be at Divino, Cherng Talay. Early booking is recommended as seats are limited. All are welcome. Members 600 baht, guests 750 baht. Contact Maggy Wigman on 86-594 1758, email info@piwc-phuket.com

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day
Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V.

November 4, 9am-4pm. PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup
The PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". For more information contact Maggy Wigman on 86-594 1758, email info@piwcp Phuket.com or visit piwc-phuket.com
The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107), are proud to sponsor this annual charity event.

November 6. Loy Krathong
A festival traditionally performed on the full moon night of the 12th lunar month, which usually falls in November. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday

AMCHAM "New Phuket" led by David Keen



September 12, 4-6pm

November 7-8. 2014 BISP International Football Tournament
British International School Phuket (BISP) in Thailand is proud to host for the thirteenth consecutive year, the seven-a-side Football Tournament. Over 1,000 young players from all over Asia are expected at this exciting competition.
For more information email BISP Athletics Director Jeff LaMantia at jlamantia@bisphuket.ac.th
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.

November 20-22. The Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament (PIST)
Registration on November 19 from 6pm onwards at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chalong. For more info, visit: phuket-international-sportfishing-tournament.com.
This annual event, now in its 10th year, is proudly sponsored by the *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Vi-

sions channels 79 and 107).

Dec 5, 2014, His Majesty the King's Birthday
His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 87th Birthday. Also marked as Father's Day in Thailand.

Dec 10, 2014, Constitution Day
This day commemorates the signing of Thailand's permanent constitution by King Prajadhibok (Rama VII) in 1932, which marked the beginning of Thailand's transition from an Absolute Monarchy into a Constitutional Democracy.






Phuket today

Phuket Gazette

BROADCASTING PHUKET TO THE WORLD

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

Produced by PGTV, the show is designed to promote Phuket to tourists and the international community in Thailand.

LOCAL COVERAGE	NATIONAL COVERAGE	INTERNATIONAL COVERAGE
<p>Phuket Cable Coverage: All of Phuket Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10.30am, 6pm, 9pm Saturday-Sunday: 10.30am, 9pm</p> <p>Rawai Cable Coverage: Rawai, Kata, Karon Channel: 1 Monday-Friday: 10am, 1pm, 7pm, 10pm</p> <p>KDTV Coverage: Phuket's West Coast from Patong to Cherng Talay Channel: 10 Daily: 8.30am, 2.30pm</p>	<p>MCOT World</p> <p>Tuesday: 12.05pm & 7pm Wednesday: 6pm Thursday: 1pm & 8pm Friday: 9am Saturday: 1pm Sunday: 6am</p> <p>Truevisions HD Channel: 79 Truevisions SD Channel: 107 PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37 GMMZ Channel: 103</p>	<p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <p>Thaicom 5 Sat 3520H</p> <p>Tuesday: 12.05pm & 7pm Wednesday: 6pm Thursday: 1pm & 8pm Friday: 9am Saturday: 1pm Sunday: 6am</p>

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Plus 4,600 hotel rooms around the island and all international hospitals.

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PIWC awards scholarship

The Phuket International Women's Club (PIWC) recently granted scholarships to 80 students from Phuket and nearby provinces. The scholarships will provide much needed educational opportunities to students from impoverished families. Valued together at more than 2 million baht, the scholarships were granted during an event at Satee Phuket School last Wednesday. The *Phuket Gazette* and PGTV are proud sponsors of the PIWC Scholarship Program.



From left: Sue Arnulphy, PIWC treasurer; Wipa Tanmanatragul, PIWC president of scholarships; Sunthorn Polrong, director of Phuket Vocational Collaage; Carole Dux, PIWC administrator; and Jureewan Smulders, PIWC president.



The Scholarship Committee, led by Wipa Tanmanatragul (2nd from right), pose with PIWC Scholarship graduates at the annual scholarship presentation ceremony.

imPRESS coffee drip workshop at Saturdays Condo



Piyachard Trithavorn (right) hosted a workshop on the fine art of making drip coffee at Saturdays Condo's sales gallery. He is pictured with Wirachai Pranveerapaibool, CEO of The Attitude Club.

Phuket FantaSea welcomes Thai and Malaysian Army Commanders

Phuket FantaSea recently gave a warm welcome and presented souvenirs to two top-ranking Thai and Malaysian Army commanders. The guests enjoyed a dinner at the Suriyamas Seafood Buffet Restaurant and attended the "Fantasy of a Kingdom" show at the Palace of the Elephants Theater.



From left: Lt Gen Datuk Seri Zulkiple Kassim, Malaysian Army Field Commander and Lt Gen Walit Rochanapakdee, 4th Thai Army Region Commander are presented with a souvenir of their visit by Sirikun Ammaramorn, director of communications for Phuket FantaSea.

Chandon launch party at XANA Beach



Back row, from left: Tachiwa Tipmanoworn; Pornseak Pharksuwan; and Vincent Gerards. Front row, from left: Kamolux Israngkul Na Ayuthaya and Jongrak Sribunkaew.



Back row, from left: Philipp Seipelt and Vincent Gerards. Front row, from left: Kamolux Israngkul Na Ayuthaya; Albert Ocasio; and Naiyana Thongprasri.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

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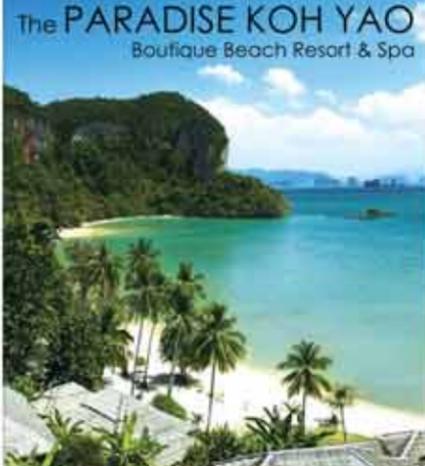
PROPERTY of the week

PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE 

See page 17

JOB of the week

The **PARADISE KOH YAO**
Boulique Beach Resort & Spa



See page 21

WHEELS & MOTOR of the week

BENZ 220E 2-DOOR

See page 24

BOAT of the week

multihull SOLUTIONS
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See page 25

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HOUSE FOR SALE



In Soi Sansabai, Patong. Call Yooyen for details on 087-895 0362 (English & Thai). Email: panyaah249@gmail.com

OCEANFRONT VILLA



Luxury brand-new villa, Fully furnished and ready to move in, 3 bedrooms 4 bathrooms with infinity 10m long swimming pool and truly beautiful sea view. Located in a small development, only 50m from the sea and 3 minutes from Ao Po Grand Marina. For sale: 19.9 million baht or long-term rent: 150,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-343 0777. Email: montha_phuket@yahoo.com

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2-bedrooms, private pool, new house in Rawai Beach area. 50,000 baht per month. Sale 6.9 million baht. Email: gm@thenetworkproperty.com

NEW CONDO IN NAI YANG!
Brand new condo in Nai Yang, top floor (8th floor), 2 mins from the airport, ocean facing, Fully furnished, gym and pool, 30 sqm, 5 minute walk to the beach, convenience stores on your door step. New shopping mall coming up across the street! Very special cash price! 2.3 million baht, foreign freehold. Please send message in English. Tel: 090-160 0603. Email: No1phuket@gmail.com

GUEST HOUSE SALE-KHAOLAK
Guest house at Khaolak Center for sale, 14 rooms with fully equipment. 3 storeys. (10x30 M)ground floor can make Restaurant and Bar, close to highway road, opposite Khaolak Laguna Resort. Near Beach. Tel: 076-485118, 081-894 1030 (English & Thai). Email: info@khaolaktravellerlodge.com. www.khaolaktravellerlodge.com

FAMILY POOL VILLA
For fun and elegant entertaining. Perfect for British School. 6 beds. Happy to show. THB18m neg. Tel: 098-515 4733(English), 084-185 4746. Email: ldwian@hotmail.com

LONE BEACH LAND FOR SALE
34 rai beachfront 300m. Please contact Ms. Janjala. Tel: 084-305 3264.

KATA BEACH FOR SALE
Best location, road frontage, 15 million baht. Business or house, 7 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms. Tel: 086-595 8512 (English & Thai). Email: nalumana2000@yahoo.com

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LAND FOR SALE - RAWAI
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HOUSE NEAR KHAOLAK
10x10 Furnished & Co Ltd Mangrove, Proton, Honda 400cc all 1mn baht. Urgent. Tel: 083-632 5721, 083-632 5732.

LAKEVIEW HOUSE
Three-bedroom lakeview house in Chalong, inside Land & House Park, Phuket. Price: 8.4 million baht. Tel: 076-219892, 089-472 5834 (English & Thai). Fax: 076-219893. Email: charupan@yahoo.com

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Spectacular seaview condo located on the 12th floor in Patong. This 127 sqm apartment comprises 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 balconies and a spacious living / dining room, has everything you need for comfortable living. Close to shops, the beach (2 minutes walk), and access to our swimming pool and other facilities. Tel: 076-341879 (English & Thai). Email: estherandi@gmail.com

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RESORT

For sale or rent in Patong, 1200sqm land, 20 rooms, pool, restaurant, Fully furnished, equipment. Contact email: guidolando2@hotmail.com

LAND FOR SALE

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

LAND - PATONG BEACH

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

NICE STUDIO APT, B 1.5 MILLION

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

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

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Magnificent penthouse in Karon with panoramic sea view apartment. Reduced by 10 million baht for quick sale, includes an additional two-bedroom apartment. Now 46 million baht. Freehold. Please call 080-124 1245. Email: kay@phuketandaman realestate.com

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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

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

LAND FOR SALE

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

LARGE SEAVIEW HOUSE AT LAYAN



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

2-BEDROOM BUNGALOW KOH KAEW

Near Intschool. Western kitchen, air con, quiet estate. 2.95 million. Tel: 087-999 6174(English). Email: gtbbkk@yahoo.com

LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE

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



- House: 1-rai area, furnished, 2 bedrooms, 2 aircons. 1.9 million baht. Please call 081-667 1637, 082-539 6433.

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

SEAVIEW LAND FOR SALE KAMALA



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

TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN FOR SALE / RENT



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

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Nai Harn, 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, Fully furnished. Urgent sale US\$199,000. No agents! For more information, please call 081-956 1077.

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

CHEAP LAND & HOUSE FOR SALE



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

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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

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LAND AND HOUSE PARK

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

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KATHU POOL VILLA
3-bed deluxe. Close BIS. Complete in every way. 100,000 bt. Tel: 087-900 8445.

HOUSE FOR RENT
2 floors, Fully furnished, 2 beds, phone, internet, TV, garden, terrace, carpark. Near Nai Harn & Rawai. 076-288021, 083-1062680. Email: susemiehl@gmail.com

APARTMENT FOR RENT PATONG
Condo pool, security, 46 square meters, Fully furnished. For more information, please call 089-728 4005 (English&Thai). Email: thamad17@yahoo.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>

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

In Chalong, 4 bedrooms with furniture and swimming pool. Call wokki. Tel: 080-144 1168. Email: max_mrp@hotmail.com

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

PATONG 1 & 2 BEDROOM UNITS
Modern kitchens, large pool, free WiFi, maid, cable, parking, gym. For more information, please call 080-052 8082 (English & Thai). Email: phvcondo@aol.com

200SQM WAREHOUSE
Near Chalong circle, modern lockup. Price: 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-082 5707.

HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG

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

CHALONG HOUSE FOR RENT
Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and 3 aircons. Tel: 087-266 7191.

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

LOVELY APARTMENTS FOR RENT
Please contact 081-539 9612, 087-633 1472. Email: chrisspalmer56@gmail.com, www.pukeyomefc2.web.fc2.com/phuketcondorent.htm

PATONG 1 BEDROOM
Patong 1-bedroom unit, seaview, quiet, security, gate, aircon, power, WiFi. 18,000 baht per month. Call Tam. Tel: 080-383 3060.

FOR RENT, RAWAI / NAI HARN

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

3-BED VILLA RENT KAMALA
Villa in Kamala, 3 bedrooms all air con, 4 baths all ensuite, bath tub in master, Fully furnished, Euro kitchen, wash machine, Internet, cable TV, large garden so dog/cat OK, abundant free water, central hot water. Facebook: house rentkamala. Price: 35,000 baht per month. Tel: 086-773 4538. Email: skgf@skgf.asia

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

KATA BUNGALOW SOI 4
Fully furnished, 1 bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, terrace, WiFi and cable TV. Price: 9,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-606 2827(English & Thai). Email: nij017@hotmail.com

CONDO FOR RENT IN TOWN
Furnished condo with aircon, TV, fridge. Gym and pool. 7,500 baht per month until September. For more information, please call 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ranong@hotmail.com

LUXURY 1 BED PATONG
100 sqm, pool, Fully furnished, WiFi. Price: 18,000 baht per month. For more information please call 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

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

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

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

BRAND NEW MODERN POOL VILLA

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

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

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

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

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

Oranee Hildebrand
176547 Exp: 27 April 15

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!

RENTALS CONSULTANT 100K+

From the success of Live Phuket, we are launching Live Samui and need a talented, driven and smart person to join the young holiday rentals team. You must speak and write almost perfect English, ideally someone who has either lived or worked in Samui. Must be a Thai National. Basic + Commission = 100,000 baht or more a month. Email: paul@livephuket.com www.livesamui.net

TELEMARKETERS FOR CHIANG MAI

Call center (outbound) in Chiang Mai looking for French or German-speaking agents for appointment setting (no sales). WP+Visa. Free room provided first month. Apply with CV and contact details. Tel: 083-420 6120 (English). Email: jobs@cmm-intl.com

OPC'S WANTED. KOH SAMUI.

OPCs wanted for Koh Samui. Good sales people. Must speak English. Good salary. Tel: 077-413598, 093-680 2498. Email: opcbigsy@yahoo.com

SENIOR FRONT OFFICE

Receptionist 20 - 24K, Seeking experienced candidate to join our busy office, to provide a high quality of service to all of our guests. Role will include: Check in / register guests, sell training packages and write receipts, book accommodation / logistics, daily customer inquiries, check names for attendance of classes, prepare daily reports for management, cash handling / receipts. Must have intermediate / advanced English-language reading, writing, speaking. Must have beginner / intermediate MS Excel, MS Word. Contact: julio@tigermuaythai.com

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

SUB-EDITOR

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

CLASSIFIEDS ADMINISTRATION 1 POSITION

Qualified candidates will be:

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

and should have:

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

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

The Phuket Gazette Co Ltd

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

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

PART-TIME TEACHERS NEEDED!!

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

CHINESE PROPERTY REP

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

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

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

COPY WRITER

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

BOAT CREW

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

LIVE-IN HOUSEKEEPER

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

HOST FOR TOUR GROUP

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

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 **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!**

Gazette Online Classifieds - 10,000 readers every day!

FILIPINO STAFF WANTED
Need lady for office work only. Please reply with CV only. Tel: 081-893 7720. Email: cc@bays horeprojects.com

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


Marketing Staff Wanted
Staff needed to join a promotions team to work in Real Estate. Thai female with good English communication skills.
Please call 089-594 6888. Email: info@arhouse.asia

The **PARADISE KOH YAO**
Boutique Beach Resort & Spa

'Island hideaway near Phuket'

The Paradise Koh Yao, a contemporary 70-room boutique resort is located on Koh Yao Noi Island, a 60-minute boat trip from Phuket.

Our eco-chic environment is complemented by our "conscious living" ethos and barefoot luxury philosophy – NOW complemented by a yoga and well-being center.

We are looking for superb leaders to join our dynamic team.

Executive Sous Chef / Host Chef (1 position)

Chef personality with guest relation skills – interaction with guests, hosting chef table and assisting executive chef in menu innovations/promotions

- 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- Fluent in English language / command of German an advantage
- Leader personality, creative with new product innovations
- Thai or Foreign National
- 25- 35 years of age

Executive Housekeeper (1 position)

Leading the HK team to cater to highest room/service standards expected by our discerned clientele—environmentally compatible operator, with concern to local community

- 3 - 5 years experience in equivalent property/position
- Good command of English language
- Leader personality, open to new product innovations (environmentally compatible)
- Thai National

Comprehensive remuneration/incentive package – We are looking for the best team leaders – Please send your resume with picture to

joeraess@theparadisekohyao.com
www.theparadisekohyao.com
www.facebook.com/Paradise.KohYao.Boutique.Beach.Resort

MK EXECUTIVES REAL ESTATE
Phuket's leading real estate agency is looking for 2 new marketing executives to work in our property booths and offices in Patong and Rawai. High salaries and commissions are given to the right candidates. Please send your resumes / cv to info@phuket-condos-homes.com Tel: 076-341045 , 081-459 0152(English). Email: andres @phuket-condos-homes.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

DIGITAL CONTENT / MEDIA ASST.
Knowledge in Graphic Design/ VDO Editing (Adobe Suite preferred) - Fluent in written and spoken English (Native-Level Preferred Thai national) - Ability to take pictures and VDO is an advantage. Please send your CV to aey @princessyachtssea.com or call 076-238060.

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

PHUKET VIDEO MAKERS
Looking for cameraman and video editor, easy terms. Please call Alex 085-212 8447 English).

THAI EXECUTIVE CHEF NEEDED
The Chakri Group of Restaurants has 6 successful restaurants throughout KL, Malaysia. We are recruiting Executive Chefs with minimum 7 years of hotel experience. Tel: (60)03-5569 2211, +60016-227 7610. Email: caleen @cha.kri.com.my www.chakri.com.my

PHUKET HOME SERVICE
New maintenance company looking for staff: woman to clean, plumber, baby-sitter, ++. Contact: info@home-phuket-service.com or call 083-105 2707 (12.00-20.00) . www.home-phuket-service.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

RESTAURANT MANAGER REQUIRED
Experienced Thai restaurant manager needed to run modern contemporary restaurant. Good organization skills and fluent in English. Salary 20,000 to 30,000 baht per month, depending experience. Tel: 076-223677, 086-509 7510 (English), 095-419 7670. Email: simon@colonial-connection.com

EVENT / PR MANAGER
Well established event taking place in Phuket every December requires a Thai or Foreign national who has exceptional English language skills, reading, writing and speaking. Must be able to meet deadlines, work on own initiative and be a team player. Tel: 076-346927, 081-979 6320(English). Email: gordon@asia-pacific-superyachts.com

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

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

CHINESE REAL ESTATE SALES
Siam Real Estate require experienced Chinese speaking sales person with good English and computer literacy. Tel: 076-288908. Send CV to jobs @siamrealestate.com or see www.siamrealestate.com

LICENSED BOAT CAPTAIN SAMUI
For wooden boat under 20 tons at Koh Samui for snorkeling day tours. Tel: 077-961911, 081-737 1984 (English & Thai), 081-396 8383 (English & Thai). Email: tks@tourkohsamui.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 **Taurus Travel**



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for a job?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at [www.PhuketGazette.Net!](http://www.PhuketGazette.Net)

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

Bar & Restaurant Equipment

GUESTHOUSE CLOSING

Many items for sale. Call or send email to receive a list, photos and prices. Tel: 085-159 7400(English). Email: dshumny@yahoo.com

RESORT

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

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

GUESTHOUSE + RESTAURANT SALE

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

UNIQUE STRETCH LIMO BUSINESS

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

MINI MART FOR SALE

Patong Beach. Well established business. Regular customers daily. Two new hotels opening soon within 50 meters. Sell with all fixtures, fittings and stock. 320,000 THB. Tel: 089-469 4105 or email hswaine@hotmail.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. Email: roy_baldman@yahoo.com

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

New 7-roomed modern hotel for rent. Fully staffed and operational in prime Karon location. 200 meters from beach, luxury rooms. Fully furnished, return customers. Call for further details 081-396 5059

2 SHOPHOUSES FOR RENT

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

CAFE/RESTAURANT: BAHT 2.95M

Fully equipped restaurant/cafe? (with owner/staff accommodation) for sale, on busy main road with customer parking. Seats 50+, all kitchen and bar/cafe? equipment included. 2.95m baht Call: +66-80-719 7390 (Thai and English), (44) 0779-612 4052 (English & Thai). Email: neilmcgregor1@sky.com

BAR & RESTAURANT

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

CHINESE PROPERTY REP

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

RESTAURANT FOR RENT

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

RAWAI RESTAURANT

For sale area 3,800sqm. Big garden & parking. Good lease, low rent. Sale 1.5MB. Tel: 089-646 7176. Email: big_redehili@yahoo.com

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Fully equipped, pizza oven, no key money, 3-year lease, Chalong. Tel: 084-845 4743. Email: attivitaphuket@yahoo.co.uk

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

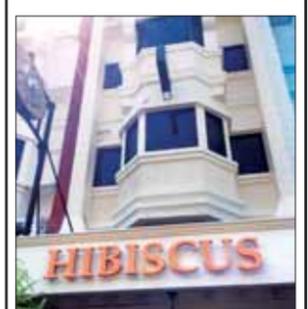
BUSINESS FOR SALE

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

A GOLDEN LOCATION

Shop for quick sale. Three floors, 4 Fully furnished apartments, a multi-purpose space for coffee shop or other. Now occupied by a coffee shop. Negotiable price 16 million. Tel: 085-784 7218. Email: khрутphuketproperty@gmail.com

KARON GUESTHOUSE



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

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

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

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: issue(s)

ONLINE OPTIONS:

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

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

TELEVISION OPTION:

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

Total cost of your classified baht

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

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

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

PROMOTION PRICE

Your Ad on **PGTV**

SAMPLE ADS

TOYOTA HILUX HERO

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

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

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

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

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

Phone Mr Reece
(02) 668-1268

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

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

General Classifieds

Business Products & Services



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)

WORLDWIDE AIR TICKETS
Our service is for domestic and international flight tickets. Open daily from 8:30am to 9pm. Delivery service. Tel: 081-537 2655, 085-571 4489.

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For sale: secondhand sea container 40ft. I can send a photo. Tel: 084-744 4648 (English). Email: vb331@hotmail.com

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UAE and Singapore for 3 days. Please call 080-697 1860. Email: sky75@list.ru

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Car, Motorbike, Health, Travel, Property Service at home, call to make appointment. Tel: 087-267 4342 (English). Email: agentsmithr@gmail.com

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Club Memberships Available

WAREE SPA BOAT LAGOON



1-year membership at 40% discount. Thai, herbal, steam. Tel: 091-823 6918 (English & Thai). Email: anongnard-1971.co.th

Personal Services Wanted

GERMAN TEACHER NEEDED
We are looking for a German teacher for a 10-year-old child from 22-28 Dec 2014 and for 1 Jan 2015 - every morning for two hours in Patong. For more information, please call (41) 079-3696 535 or contact by email: bharati.schneider@gmail.com

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MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING
Licensed US Counselor. Individual, children, couples. For more information, please call 086-271 8153 (English). Email: parwgk@aol.com

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Miscellaneous For Sale

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- Musical instrument. Jazz guitar. Price: 35,000 baht.
- Orange amplifier. Price: 40,000 baht.
- Vintage French-style bookcase. Price: 170,000 baht.
- Showcase. Price: 180,000 baht.

Please contact 081-667 1637 (Thai), Khun JP 082-539 6433 (English)

Dive Gear

CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS
Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006. For sale 140,000 baht. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total 70,000 baht. Both in working condition. Located in Chalong. For more information, please call 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280 074. Email: janne@raya divers.com

Personals

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

Golf Stuff

CALLAWAY GOLF CLUBS
Big Bertha, 3 woods, 9 irons, putter and bag, 5 years old. Please call 084-818 6045.



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Phuket Gazette

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

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Phuket Cable Co (PC) - Covers all Phuket Channel 1, with 19 shows a week
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- Dusit Thani Laguna Phuket: 254 rooms
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- 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
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NISSAN TEANA FOR SALE

Nissan Teana For Sale THB 1,350,000. Finance available. 11 months old. 2.5L. Full options. Contact owner 087-893 8747.

HONDA JAZZ 2004

130k but still looks and drives like new. 200,000 ono. Tel: 081-958 6512 (English), 081-787 8559(Thai). Email: mns wilson@gmail.com

TOYOTA COROLLA ALTIS



Year 2004 for sale, excellent condition. Price: 230,000 baht. Tel: 081-968 9322.

BENZ 220 E 2-DOOR

Year 1995 Benzine LPG, leather BBS wheel, excellent condition 660,000 baht. Tel: 087-890 8554 (English & Thai).

CHEVROLET CAPTIVA

Red SUV, 7 seats, 2007 model, 2.4i V6, Tiptronic / Automatic. Excellent Condition. One farang owner since new. 500,000 baht o.n.o. Tel: 081-837 5774. Email: slarti@onthenet.com.au

HYUNDAI EXCEL



1992 sedan, manual in fair condition, cheap car for wet season. Price: 50,000 baht + o.n.o. Tel: 091-653 9049 (English).

TOYOTA VIOS G 2009

116,000 km, 1st class insurance till May 2015, airbags, ABS, EBD, blue book. Tel: 092-079 7875. Email: bytheair@gmail.com

2011 PAJERO 4X4



Mitsubishi Pajero 2.5GT 4x4 model. Expat owned for 3 years. 60,000 kilo metres. Recent service and new turbo. Usual GT refinements, aircon front and back, electric everything. Good condition. Green book, etc. Price: 720,000 baht. Tel: 081-787 6055, 081-787 6055 (English&Thai). Email: wheelykingzoom@hotmail.com

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04 model, automatic, 115 HP, 75,000km. For more information, please call 091-040 8869.

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This car is fully loaded, including GPS. Low season special price. Long time rental @ fair price. Please call 084-847 4377 (English). Email: info@thaidreams.se

TOYOTA VIOS 1.5L, 2005

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2011 NISSAN 370Z



42,000 km, fully loaded, 7 spd auto / man, black leather int. Bose sound. 343 HP, 20" whls, beautiful car. 2.75 million baht ONO. Please call 081-438 7062. Email: timtka chuk@yahoo.com

Motorbikes

HONDA STEED 400 CC.

Excellent condition 130,000 baht. Tel: 087-890 8554 (English & Thai).

KAWASAKI Z1000 2014

Z1 2014, ABS, 142hp, VERY FAST! Must go or I will die! For full info, contact me. 525,000 baht. Tel: 091-040 3838. Email: mattysiam@gmail.com

HONDA PCX

2010, gold / brown. Excellent condition, fully serviced, only 13,000 km. Price: 50,000 baht. Tel: 082-412 1634, 089-908 7133. Email: alan.matt@hotmail.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 PRESTIGE Z



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JAZZ 12,000 BAH/MONTH



Free delivery service. Please call 081-607 8567. Email suksavat@hotmail.com, www.phuket-carrent.net

A1 CAR RENT



Fully insured. Tel: 089-831 4703. Email: a1carrent@gmail.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)

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_____ (heading)

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Feature Boat

<p>► Fairline Targa 62 GT 682,000 Euro</p>	<p>► Imago 48 295,000 Euro</p>
<p>► Sunseeker 53 Manhattan 695,000 GBP</p>	<p>► Sunseeker Manhattan 63 880,000 GBP</p> <p>BEST BUY</p>
<p>► Pershing 92 4,500,000 Euro</p> <p>PERFECT PRESENTATION & MAINTENANCE</p>	<p>► Cambria 50 \$125,000 USD</p> <p>MASSIVE PRICE REDUCTION</p>
<p>► Morgan 60 \$349,000 USD</p>	<p>► Fusion 40 320,000 Euro</p> <p>PRICE REDUCTION</p>
<p>► Luc Bouvet Custom 52 250,000 Euro</p>	

Martin Holmes Mobile: 081 891 7057 Email: martin@leemarine.com
 Marcus Overman Mobile: 081 968 1437 Email: marcus@leemarine.com
 Jim Poulsen Mobile: 081 891 3237 Email: jim@leemarine.com
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CHEAP DIVE COMPRESSORS
Bauer Mariner 250, year 2006, price baht 140,000. L&W 245 year 2002 + another L&W 245 as spare parts. Total baht 70,000. Both in working condition. Tel: 081-370 3376 (English), 081-970 7480 (Thai). Fax: 076-280074.

NORTHSHORE 46 (1987)
Well-maintained lifting keel sloop, 56hp Yanmar 4JH Diesel (2005), just reduced to 95,000 AU\$. For details contact Alan Giles. Tel 084- 842 6146. www.Boat shedphuket. com

HOBIE CAT 16
New mainsail, beach wheels, mast float, boat cover, racing harness, lifejackets. 150,000. Tel: 087-976 0066 (English). Email: peterfb999 @yahoo.co.uk

SEARAY 280 SUNDANCER
2 new engines 300hp fitted 2013, includes trailer and covers. Price: 4,250,000 baht. Tel: 081-968 3118.

NEW KARNIC 2052
Deep V Hull, Hydraulic steering, Bimini, Stereo & marine heads. Full factory warranty, special low season price 799,950 THB inc VAT. Now in stock at our Boat Lagoon Showroom. For details contact Alan Giles. Andaman Boat Sales. Tel: 084-842 6146. Email: boats@andamanboatsales.com

Quality Pre-Owned Multihulls FOR SALE

Waller 1480 (2001)
Asking AUD \$535,000
This yacht is an ideal world cruiser for a family that needs room to move and appreciates a craftsman-built yacht that has been maintained in perfect condition since the day she was launched.
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

Outremer 55 (2001)
Asking 349,000 Euro
A standard 55, extended to 57 to enjoy a longer waterline. Converted to a performance cruiser, she won Outremer Cup in 2006. In immaculate condition and ready for sale.
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

Shuttleworth 40 (2000)
Asking \$180,000 USD
A fabulous performance cruiser. Having undergone a total refit including full paint job, she is looking set up for single handed sailing or enjoying with a crew.
Lying: Phuket, Thailand.

For further information, a test sail or advice, please contact **Andrew de Bruin** at Boat Lagoon Marina, Phuket:
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M +66 (0) 8 1894 1530
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www.multihullsolutions.asia

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THE SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic Crossword

COFFEE break

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: 8. NAIYANG: *anygain* 9. FIRMAMENT: *company-meant* 13. INALL: in-a-L-L 14. ENNUI: E-N-N-U-1 15. STEALTH: *thelast* 20. CLIMBER: C-limber 17. LEAVE: *vale-E* 18. IBIZA: i-B-1-Z-a 16. REHAB: Re.-H-A.B. 22. GAVELS: gave-L-S 23. PLAMUK: *pal-muk* 25. UNCOUTH: *uhcount* 27. STAYING: *astiny* 30. PALATE: pal-ate 31. SNORER: *senor(R)* 32. ERECT: assemble 35. CARGO: car-go 36. ROOMY: room-Y 37. OUTSIZE: *ozsuite* 38. LEOPARD: *aproled* 41. READY: Re.-A.D.-Y 42. RIVER: *codriver* 43. PATHOLOGY: *hotgoplay* 44. CERAMIC: *C-acrime*

Down: 1. SALAMI: *maails* 2. SYLLABUB: *ballysub* 3. INTERROGATE: *goatterrine* 4. MINIMALLY: minim-ally 5. AMASSES: A-masses 6. IMPERIALY: imp-*ireally* 7. ANIL: an-1-L 10. PINCER: *prince* 11. ENSLAVE: (la)*seven* 12. SHRANK: Sh.-rank 19. IMMENSE: Im-M-*seem* 21. HANDLER: *hardlen* 24. STEREOTYPES: *steer-O-types* 26. OSTEOPATHY: *petoohasty* 28. ENCOURAGE: en-Co.-U-rage 29. DRAYMAN: Dr.-ay-man 30. PICKLE: relish 32. EXTERNALLY: *enterlax* 33. THEIRS: *hersit* 34. GRIDDLE: grid-D-L-E 38. INVAIN: *viainn* 40. OPAL: Op.-a-L

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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
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 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

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

1999 ROBIN 2160i

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

TECNAM P-92

- Price: 1.5 million baht
 - Registration: U-B08
 - Year of Manufacture: 2002
 - Equipment: Full standard equipment
 - Engine: Rotax 912-80HP 350hrs. Tel: 081-840 8418.

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Unique development - 124 Rai

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- Buy or hanger a plane, or
- Build or rent a hangar

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- Aircraft Sharing
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- Flying Lessons

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_____ (heading)

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All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Once in a LIFETIME offer!

Your Pilot's License for just 390,000 baht!

Book now: 0935 92 7558

Next 5 licenses ONLY! (World standard price: 700,000 baht)

World Muay Thai Council

A ceremony was held to officially bestow His Majesty the King's Royal Patronage upon the World Muaythai Council. It took place at the Sports Authority of Thailand's headquarters in Bangkok.



From left: Dr Sakchye Tapsuwan, president of the International Federation of Muay Thai Amateurs and secretary-general of the World Muay Thai Council; Stephan Fox, vice president of the World Muay Thai Council and general secretary of the International Federation of Muay Thai Amateurs; General Saiyud Kerdphol and his wife Rtn Marquise Eva Maria Degli Albizi.

Miss Phuket Universe competition announced



Competition organizers Chatnarinrat Warongkrueakao (2nd left); Narongwit Thongnet (center); and Athichaporn Suttiosot (2nd right) pose with models at a press conference.

Sunday Brunch

JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa recently launched its Sunday Japanese Brunch at the resort's Kabuki restaurant. Guests enjoyed an array of authentic Japanese dishes including sashimi, sushi and live teppanyaki stations.



From left: Dietmar Spitzer, executive chef; Suwat Impradub, Kabuki chef; and Joerg Delin, director of food and beverage for JW Marriott Phuket Resort & Spa.



From left: Kewalin Sulumjittanon, senior marketing and communications manager; Oriol Montol, general manager; and Wanprapar Suksomboon, assistant director of TAT Phuket.

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Project owner: L.H. Muang Mai Co., Ltd. Managing Director: Pitaya Tantipiyakij. Registered Capital: 900 Million Baht (Fully Paid). 88 Land and Houses Koh Kaew Phuket, Location: Thepkasatri Rd. Koh Kaew Sub-district, Amphur Muang, Phuket, Title Deed No. 2948, 104515, etc. Project Area 53.58 Rai, Financial Institution: Siam Commercial Bank Public Co., Ltd. Construction Start: March 2013 Expected Completion: 2015 applying for Operation License. After full payment is completed, transference is made within 7 days.



Words from the wise

“In wisdom gathered over time I have found that every experience is a form of exploration.” – Ansel Adams

“The very basic core of a man’s living spirit is his passion for adventure.” – Christopher McCandless

Medium

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

Hard

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

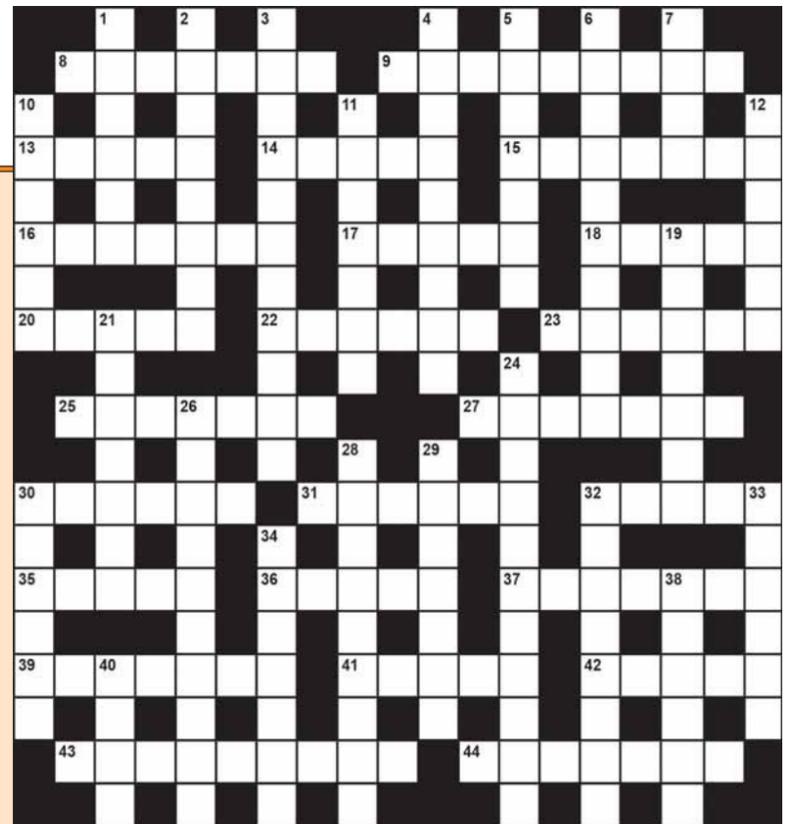
SUDOKU: Each row, column and 3x3 sub-grid must contain the number 1-9 once only. © Kevin Stone (brainbashers.com)

COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 8. Any gain moving to a Phuket beach? (7)
- 9. Company meant moving to the heavens (9)
- 13. Altogether in a large line (2,3)
- 14. Echo new nationalist, turn one to mental weariness (5)
- 15. The last arrangement in sneakiness (7)
- 16. Caught lithe one going up (7)
- 17. Set out for vale, moving East (5)
- 18. I black one Zulu article in a Spanish Isle! (5)
- 20. Note hard sailor in short course of treatment (5)
- 22. Gave Liberal small calls for attention (6)
- 23. Thai squid, pal, maybe sounds like muck (6)
- 25. Uh! Count out the boorish (7)
- 27. Remaining in a stingy disposition (7)
- 30. Friend consumed with taste (6)
- 31. Noisy sleeper disturbed Señor, right? (6)
- 32. Assemble standing (5)
- 35. Turn after vehicle to get goods (5)
- 36. Chamber unknown, but spacious (5)
- 37. Very large Oz suite arranged (7)
- 39. A pro led out an animal (7)
- 41. Set about this calendar era year (5)
- 42. Co-driver loses fish in big stream (5)
- 43. Hot, go play about and study effects of disease (9)
- 44. Almost a crime breaking pottery (7)



Down

- 1. Ma ails, upset by spicy sausage (6)
- 2. Bally sub mixed a drink of cream and wine (8)
- 3. Question cooking goat terrine? (11)
- 4. Note friend in the smallest degree (9)
- 5. Gathers together adult lower orders (7)
- 6. Rascal I really change majestically (10)
- 7. Article one left in indigo (4)
- 10. Prince arranges a military movement (6)
- 11. Take away freedom from the French in seven moves (7)
- 12. Quiet! Status got smaller (6)
- 19. I’m married, maybe seen as monstrous (7)
- 21. Hard, Len, to become an animal trainer (7)
- 24. Maybe steer round kinds of conventional images (11)
- 26. P.E. too hasty arranging for joint manipulation (10)
- 28. Egg on to enrage about company and uniform (9)
- 29. Brewers’ cart operator a Doctor? Yes, man! (7)
- 30. Relish a mess (6)
- 32. Enter lax gathering outside (8)
- 33. Hers? It maybe belongs to them! (6)
- 34. Grating daughter left, note, a cooking plate (7)
- 38. Moving via inn to no purpose (2,4)
- 40. Work a large precious stone (4)

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sept 23):

 This week’s new moon in your sign is very special – helped along by the action of the lunar tide it gives you a chance to make some positive changes. If you make a start on a goal or project from Monday, and put real effort in, it may well flourish. On another note, secrets can come to light as a relationship deepens, which could give you much food for thought.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

 Though the early part of the week may test your nerves, especially where money matters are concerned, keep plugging away and you’ll eventually pull through. Furthermore, upbeat influences can heighten your ability to keep calm in trying situations by encouraging you to meditate or relax your body. Practicing yoga or similar disciplines might help too.

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

 Though you might get plenty of advice this week, there is the sort you’ll want to acknowledge and the kind that is best ignored. Various people may offer input,

but don’t act on anything unless it truly syncs with your own high standards. Over the weekend, cut yourself some slack, don’t make complex decisions, unless they’re really necessary.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

 Monday’s new moon can be excellent for getting a goal or ambitious project off the ground and for resolving inner doubts that might be holding you back. Renewed determination will be the catalyst for making significant progress. Later in the week, flirty action may emerge when you move out of your comfort zone. The question is – will it last?

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

 What seemed like a done deal could come unstuck unless you’re willing to be, at the least, flexible or even renegotiate. However, a fresh start may be just what’s needed if a change in circumstances demands a fresh response. Should an issue leave you feeling uncertain of your next move, you might benefit from the advice of a down to earth friend on Friday.

YOUR horoscope
By Patrick Arundell

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

 The decision to alter direction concerning a key goal could be yours, if mounting frustration with a current plan encourages a change of heart. You may even feel like simplifying things if life seems too complex overall. Later, a sparkling connection to someone who really knows what they’re talking about might fuel a new friendship.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

 The new moon can bring developments in connection with a relationship, perhaps emphasizing a difference that needs sorting out. Yet, whatever the issue, don’t dwell on it to the extent that it tires you out, as an easy-going approach may mean things heal themselves. Meanwhile the weekend brings a better time to sit back and chill.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

 With a little application, an intractable problem may loosen and finally yield. And though such a key issue might seem impossible, the Virgo new moon suggests you’re at the start of a phase when things could get decidedly better. Let your determination to succeed carry you forward. Signing important documents? Proceed with caution.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

 Patience may be necessary this week, particularly if someone’s attitude stalls progress. Yet, Mercury’s link to the Mars-Saturn conjunction suggests you can have more leverage in this situation than you might think, perhaps even an advantage. Meanwhile, the weekend could bring a mix of mystery and passion, and enhance your romantic potential.

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

 New beginnings on the home front may spark fresh opportunities at work, or get you thinking about your overall life balance. If you want to improve your lot by

making your day-to-day circumstances more harmonious, this might be the time to make a start. Even if it involves one or two changes, it could well be worth it, Gemini.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

 A change of perspective might be all it takes to help you break through a difficulty you’ve been dealing with for some time. Perhaps the right information or a chance to chat with someone in the know might be the turning point you’ve been waiting for. Plus, though a desire hasn’t yet materialized, it could be a matter of timing. Do be patient.

LEO (July 24-Aug 23):

 Your base nature is creative and playful, so try not to lose touch with this as it could keep you upbeat when dealing with more serious matters. Meanwhile, Mercury’s links suggest an idea of yours may need mulling over before it’s accepted. But once it is, you can find yourself firing on all cylinders. Keep receipts though, as a purchase might need to be refunded.

Awash with Swash

By Jeremie Schatz

BASED in a small house in Nai Yang, Premchit Prateap Na Thalang has been feeding Phuket all-natural organic yogurt since 2012. Produced under her own Swash brand, Ms Premchit and her two employees manage to dole out about 3,000 cups of the healthy snack each week.

"My background is that I grew up in the jungle... in Khok Kloi [in Phang Nga]. My father marched me up into the mountain forest with him every weekend since I was five years old... He was a monk in the monastery for seven years where he learned to make traditional medicines. After each mountain trip with my father, my mother taught me how to make delicious wild foods and beauty potions. My father and mother taught me everything they knew about living with and off the natural world."

Ms Premchit was taught how to make yogurt about 15 years ago by her Australian husband's family.

"Inspired by [my husband] Norman's parents, they told me, 'You should make natural yogurt yourself, there's no need to buy it,'" she explained.

Fast forward 10 years when word got out about her homemade yogurt at her son's school in Bangkok. A little taste was all it took to whet appetites and convince her to sell it.

Shortly after, Ms Premchit broke into the commercial market when international schools, food delivery companies and hotels around Bangkok began buying her yogurt.

Following a move to Phuket in 2012, Ms Premchit got down to business, developing the Swash



Ms Premchit created her Swash brand of yoghurt in 2012 and is about to break into the Bangkok market.

brand along with a selection of all natural fruit and nut snacks.

"We launched the snacks and the yogurt at the same time in 2012 – we started in Phuket and mostly sold directly to hotels," she explained. A multitude of resorts in Phuket, including the JW Marriot, Trisara and Six Senses among others, all carried the Swash brand of yoghurt at one point.

Seeking a more consistent outlet for her products, Ms Premchit managed to put Swash on the shelves of Villa Market in Chalong and Cherng Talay, a move that immediately proved to be a success.

"In Villa, we have been the

number one selling yogurt from our first day," she said proudly.

"The customers at Villa are the right consumers for [our] products.

Ms Premchit takes advantage of the seasonal bounty of fruits and herbs that the area offers.



The people who shop at Villa are health conscious and have the budget to spend on a high-quality organic pro-biotic yoghurt."

Currently, the Swash team meets production needs by fermenting three batches per week offering a dozen natural, and often locally sourced, flavors at both Villa Market outlets in Phuket – but growth is imminent.

Due to Swash's popularity and Ms Premchit's ability to keep production consistent, coolers at Villa Market stores throughout Bangkok will be stocked with Swash yoghurt by the end of the year. The expansion will necessitate the quadrupling

of current production.

"We, here in Phuket, try and find locals producing something special. Of course, it has to be something that we are sure they can produce enough of. It has to be a certain standard," said Villa Market's business development manager, Stefan Cariola.

Although Swash – whose name is derived from the term for turbulent water that washes up onto the beach – comes in 12 flavors, Ms Premchit takes advantage of the seasonal bounty of fruits and herbs that the area offers. Available now in limited quantities is a wild velvet tamarind with the next special release to be a Marian plum and ginger medley.

"Some yogurt companies add thickeners, additives and preservatives, but our yogurt is natural and organic with no additives and minimal sugar," Ms Premchit noted.

Although Ms Premchit's childhood was spent foraging in the jungles learning the best foods and medicines nature provides, she succumbed to the allure of the city and found herself attending university in Bangkok.

Seemingly paradoxical to her relationship with nature, she spent seven years as regional manager for McDonald's. She asserts that it was an invaluable experience to learn the workings of a large company – knowledge she can now apply to the growth of her own company.

Now, she has come full circle back to Southern Thailand where she's from, and back to the natural foods she was raised on.

To get your hands on some Swash yoghurt, visit Villa Market in Chalong or Cherng Talay.

ATTA plans to plead for visa-fee waiver extension

THE Association of Thai Travel Agents (ATTA) is planning to ask Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-ocha to extend the waiver of visa fees for visitors from China and Taiwan in a move to boost arrivals.

ATTA president Sisdivachr Cheewarattanaporn said the association had initially asked Prayuth to extend the waiver on August 16, and he had agreed to stretch the waiver period by 90 days. However, Sisdivachr said he was thinking of asking for the scheme to be extended by another six or 12 months.

"In fact, ATTA had asked for the visa waiver to be extended by a year, but the junta only granted three months, which is not enough to revive the tourism industry," he added.

The 90-day extension of the visa-fee waiver for tourists from China and Taiwan is expected to attract 400,000 to 500,000 tourists per month compared to normal



Photo: Jeremie Schatz

The ATTA wants Chinese visa-fees exempt for 12 more months.

numbers of 200,000 to 300,000 per month. ATTA hopes the scheme will attract more visitors during China's National Day Golden Week holiday in October.

According to the Tourism Authority of Thailand, the Kingdom should attract some 1.5 million visitors from China in the last three months of 2014, bringing the total number of Chinese visitors this year to 4.3mn, higher than the initial target of 3.98mn. However, the revised projection is still lower than

the 4.8mn Chinese visitors last year. Budget airline Thai AirAsia has quickly responded to the scheme by introducing 13 routes to 10 destinations in China.

The airline is also planning to introduce daily flights from a provincial airport in Thailand to Guangzhou in southern China. The service is currently under approval process. Thai AirAsia aims to serve 12.6mn passengers this year, up from 10.5mn passengers last year.

– The Nation

Five Thai products earn international recognition

THE Department of Intellectual Property (DIP) revealed that five Thai products have been proposed to be registered as geographical indication (GI) products abroad and the department will organize the OTOP PLUS GI 2014 to introduce the GI concepts to Thai manufacturers in order to increase their selling opportunity.

According to the Deputy Director General of the DIP, Kullanee Issadisai, Tung Kula Rong-Hai Thai Hom Mali rice, Doi Chang, Doi Tung Coffee, Sangyod rice of Muang

Phatthalung and Isarn indigenous Thai silk Yarn, are being certified as GI products in the European Union (EU). In order to be granted GI status, the products must possess certain qualities, must be made according to traditional methods, or enjoy a certain reputation due to its geographical origin.

The DIP has organize an event to be held from August 28 – September 3 called the OTOP PLUS GI 2014 which will showcase Thai entrepreneurs and promote branding. – NNT

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The game is afoot!

IN HOPES of further capitalizing on the success of their first venue in Bangkok, Escape Hunt has opened up franchise opportunities worldwide, including the Phuket franchise, launched recently in Kathu.

Business partners Jasnam Sachatthep, Surasit Sachdev, and Navin and Dave Anandsongvit quickly realized the business' potential in Phuket and celebrated their grand opening on August 11, joining the 23 other franchises, which are already open or opening around the world, including one in Pattaya.

Spawned from the popular online and smartphone escape-games, Escape Hunt operates on the basic premise that you are

locked in a room, with only a certain amount of time to figure out the clues and get out.

Although reaching greater popularity in recent years, the real-life escape-room scenarios are not a novel concept. In 2006, Agatha Christie's crime novels inspired a group of Silicon Valley programmers to create "Original Piece" which has only been solved by 23 people.

The Phuket Escape Hunt has eight rooms sporting four different themes. Having two rooms with matched themes means that groups can go head to head, directly pitting one team's power of observation against another's. Alternatively, a single team of two to five players is given

60 minutes to beat the clock.

Although not too many details can be revealed for fear of spoiling the game, think one part Sherlock Holmes and one part Cluedo – or Clue in North America (a popular board game).

The Escape Hunt game has proved challenging, with no groups able to solve the riddles and escape in less than the 44-minute and 20-second time achieved by a certain husband and wife duo.

The owners believe that Escape Hunt will become a popular pastime in Phuket, attracting corporate and MICE (meetings, incentives, conventions and exhibitions) groups, or as substitute entertainment for



The Escape Hunt Phuket team.

sunburned beach goers.

– Jeremie Schatz

The Escape Hunt Phuket is located in Kathu at 46/42 Moo 6 Prabarami Road and is open 365 days a year from 10:30am to 7:30pm. For more information or to make a booking, visit phuket.escapehunt.com, or call 076 323861 or 082-789 9620.

Be on the lookout for dubious investments

MANY readers responded to the recent article "Retirement is all about safety first". Many could relate to the common pitfalls that expats have discovered in Thailand. While investing in a bar or restaurant is typically a losing proposition, at least the foreigner would still have a place to eat and drink.

Where things take a really ugly turn is when retirees get burned on insurance-linked investment sales products and bad investments. Last week a reader reported the latest scandal involving the LM First Mortgage Income Fund and the LM Managed Performance Fund. Investors were told their investments were secure and backed by mortgages on Australian real estate. Investors got returns that were slightly above market rates and appealed to retirees looking for a steady income in retirement.

Now LM Investment Management has collapsed. What's most alarming is the agents who sold these investments have earned their commission and moved on. Those who invested in the fund are left wondering what to do. What was pitched as a safe investment has turned into a big nightmare. One caller said that the unit-linked life assurance company (Friends Provident), which was involved in selling the fraudulent fund, is still charging him 1.5% on his original investment, which is now worth nothing.

What happened was that the sales agents for LM Investment Management were paid upfront commissions to get clients – typically 5-9% of the amount invested. There was quite a bit of incentive to tell clients whatever they needed to hear to get them to invest. And what was pitched is what investors all want to hear – steady appreciation, safety, regular payouts and so on.

As a matter of fact, no one can guarantee that. There is no guaranteed investment. The stock market goes up and down. The best an investor can do is diversify and buy quality stocks and Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs) that trade on the US New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) or Nasdaq; that are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission; and that have a long-term outlook.

One good recommendation is Vanguard. Vanguard is the world's largest fund com-



There are no guaranteed investments – the stock market goes up and down. Photo: klip game

pany, with about US\$2.4 trillion invested in the US across more than 170 different funds.

One Vanguard fund of particular note is the Vanguard REIT ETF. This fund invests in US real estate investment trusts that own office buildings, hotels and other properties.

The Vanguard REIT ETF was formed in 2004 and today has US\$44.1 billion in assets. If US\$10k were invested at inception in 2004, you would have \$23,978 today – that's an annual return of 9.29% over the past 10 years. Currently, this fund pays a dividend of 3.7%. At the time this article went to print, no Vanguard fund in the past 10 years had gone bust.

Vanguard has 123 mutual funds and 52 diversified ETFs as of August 2014. All their funds trade on the NYSE or Nasdaq and the mutual funds are open-ended regulated by the US Investment Act of 1940.

The only risk to investing in Vanguard is normal market fluctuations. Can an investment lose value? Of course it can.

Finance
By Don Freeman

Back in 2008 during the financial crisis, US\$10k invested in 2004 was down to US\$6,114.07. Had an investor ridden

the downturn and held on, the stock would be worth almost US\$24k today. That's the nature of capitalism and markets.

The key is to invest money not needed tomorrow. Investors need to have seven to 10 years to invest appropriately in the stock market. If an investor does not have this length of time to commit to an investment, then the stock market probably isn't for him.

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



Governor Maitri Inthusut hands the ITOP banner to Park Jeongha, vice governor of Jeju, South Korea.

ITOP addresses marine tourism

LEADING figures from a host of international tourism destinations dotted around the world placed sustainable marine tourism at the top of the agenda for the 18th Inter-Island Tourism Policy Forum (ITOP) at the Laguna Phuket resort complex on August 21.

Present at the meeting were representative members from Phuket, Hainan, Jeju, Okinawa, Bali, Cebu, Penang and Sri Lanka.

"The topic of this year's forum is supporting marine tourism, with a focus on marine resources management; marine travel and transportation; and rescues at sea," Phuket Governor Maitri Inthusut explained.

"The sharing of information at this level is very valuable, as we can learn from the expertise and experience of all the members. Hopefully, we can use what they have to offer to make Phuket a better, more sustainable marine tourism attraction."

Governor Maitri highlighted how members shared their differing policies and experiences for assisting tourists affected by accidents and disasters; developing better security; and improving general safety for tourists.

"Another positive development from this forum is that the delegates have agreed to explore developing routes for tourists to travel among the ITOP members' areas to promote 'inter-island tourism'," Governor Maitri said.

Deputy Director of Yantai Foreign Affairs and Overseas Chinese Affairs Office Wan Hong said that he looked forward to developing "friendship links" with ITOP members.

"We should invite local government and education officials to attend [the ITOP Forum next year]. They will understand what we are doing, and if they have any ideas, they can present them to us," Mr Wan said.

"Phuket and Penang are very similar in terms of culture, landscape, traditions and types of people," Danny Law Henry Kiang, of Penang, told the Gazette.

"We are 'sister cities', and this is a good opportunity for effecting positive changes in our thinking of how we develop our cities."

– Woranut Pechdee

A crystal clear vision

By Mark Knowles



WITH scores of big-brand, international luxury resorts vying for tourist's attention on the island, it can be easy to forget that there are plenty of home-grown hoteliers with boutique resort offerings, who are doing it just as well as the big boys. One of the newest such resorts is the Crystal Wild Resort Panwa Phuket, so named because of the white crystals that can be found embedded in rocks on the resort's site.

At just 23-years-old, the resort's General Manager Mongkolthep Khoo-aroon represents the next generation of local hoteliers, hailing from the family which owns and operates Thara Patong Beach Resort, one of the first resorts to be established in Patong more than 30 years ago. With that solid pedigree to draw on, Mr Khoo-aroon exudes confidence and sound knowledge of the hotel business as he discusses the resort.

"We wanted a modern style where people can relax their soul, relax their mind among nature – we want our guests to feel at home when they stay here," he said.

Tucked away just off Ao Yon-Khao Khad Road in Cape Panwa on 10 rai of land – which boasts some of the most breathtaking views of Chalong Bay from anywhere on the island – Crystal Wild is a world away from the hustle and bustle west coast beach towns. The short driveway is surrounded by lush green vegetation and winds its way up a hill arriving at the open air lobby, which is tastefully decorated in a modern style, with a hint of Chinese influence.

The lobby area is also home to the resort's KongKang Restaurant, which serves up a selection of authentic Thai

dishes, seafood and Western favorites to diners in a breezy open space overlooking the jungle with glimpses of the sea. The restaurant also encourages outside guests to stop by and enjoy a meal, making it the perfect place to stop for lunch or a sunset dinner if you are on a scenic drive around the cape.

Situated further up the hill is the resort's 24 luxury poolside rooms, that circle the large swimming pool – which uses copper ionization, instead of chlorine to eliminate red eyes and skin irritation. All of the rooms offer delightful views of Chalong Bay, but to really take advantage of the vista, get one of the second floor Deluxe Sea View rooms which have expansive balconies where you can sit and soak up the magnificent panorama.

The 45-square-meter rooms all feature stylish, contemporary fixtures and decorations, with a large ensuite bathroom to ensure a comfortable and relaxing stay. Instead of a balcony, the first floor rooms have a terrace with sun chairs and steps leading directly down to the pool. There is also a fully equipped fitness center, hydro therapy pool and business center for guests and the friendly hotel staff are happy to arrange tours, bike rental and any other services you may desire.

The resort had its soft opening this month, with all 24 poolside rooms available at a special promotional price of 1,900 baht per night, including breakfast. In addition to these 24 rooms, there are plans for 12 90sqm pool suites and three private pool villas, which will be completed this time next year – located even further up the hill. These suites will command some of the



The large swimming pool has views of nearby Chalong Bay. Photos: Mark Knowles



The 24 rooms are spread over six buildings – all with great views and easy pool access.

most fantastic views on the cape.

To sum it up, Crystal Wild Resort is the perfect example of a boutique resort which takes advantage of one of Phuket's most tranquil, yet stunningly beautiful locations. It provides great value for money, great

service, delicious food and wonderful views – all with a feeling of privacy and exclusiveness.

For more information visit the resort's website at: crystalwildresort.com

Bangkok rediscovers its riverfront

RIVERSIDE locations have become a hot spot for Bangkok developers with the launch of three condominium projects in different areas: Canapaya on Rama III, 333 Riverside on Pracharat Sai 1 Road, and the recently launched Magnolias Waterfront Residences on Charoennakorn Road.

The record prices set by Magnolias Waterfront Residences have proved the popularity of riverfront developments among Thai and foreign buyers alike.

There has been growing interest in Bangkok's riverside locations, and not only for residential condominiums. The trend of retail spaces emerging along the river was boosted with the conversion of old warehouses into what is now known as Asiatique The Riverfront, the hot spot for hanging out and tourist shopping. The latest launch of the multimillion-baht IconSiam project on Charoennakorn Road has affirmed the growing interest in riverfront developments.

With the natural charm and beauty of the Chao Phraya River, such locations attract buyers from different areas of Bangkok. CBRE says it has also received inquiries from foreign buyers wanting to buy residential properties along the



Bangkok's Chao Praya River. Photo: WPPilot

Chao Phraya, especially in the prime riverfront locations along Charoennakorn Road within a short distance of major five-star hotels.

In other major cities, waterfront properties in prime locations are of high value and always serve as a good investment. In addition, today's popular tourist programs include riverboat tours with tourist attractions and dinner cruises. But it seems that Bangkok does not make the best use of its riverfront.

The most prime riverside location that could be transformed into a world-class tourist spot is along Charoenkrung Road from Asiatique to the Grand Palace. This route covers major five-star hotels, luxury condominiums, shopping malls, an old town, historic buildings, major temples, Chinatown, flower and vegetable markets and the Grand Palace complex.

Opening up this area to the best use would require government support, as it would involve changing zoning and land-use regulations. This could not be done under the current city planning.

To develop a new destination, the area should be treated as a special economic zone with development planning and tax benefits. This

does not mean promoting only new developments; preserving historic buildings and the old town is even more crucial. Otherwise, land could be sold to develop high-rise buildings and Bangkok would lose the charm of the river.

Zoning and other regulations in this area should be drafted allowing appropriate land use that will serve to balance the charm and beauty of river activities, historic buildings, low-rise, low-density development and modern buildings where appropriate.

With new developments in the pipeline, we will see further transformation of the Bangkok riverfront. The question is whether the charm and beauty of the river can be preserved while still achieving economic returns for investors.

– The Nation

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India: never a dull moment



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

ADRENALINE junkies simply never tire of flirting with disaster. Take those storm-chasing fanatics you see on reality television as they lean into the wind trying to catch a glimpse of the eye of a hurricane: Just one wrong step and they're toast, along with their entire crew.

Recently, I've taken to travelling to India again after a long break. In the mid 1990s, I lived there for a year – working in hotel development – crisscrossing the subcontinent in an aging Hindustan Ambassador automobile.

As is so often the case, I'm typing this out at 35,000 feet, on a flight from New Delhi to Bangkok. It's monsoon season and we've already had a few rollercoaster-like thrills and chills. Perhaps that preflight meal at the Curry Palace wasn't such a great idea after all.

Trips to India are never dull. From the moment you arrive, the mixture of energy and chaos re-



A traditional rickshaw passes by a Philips electronics shop in Delhi. Photo: Miran Rijavec

minds you that you are far from home. Expectations when travelling to some destinations can sometimes leave you disappointed. At times when I am on the road, I feel like a storm chaser without a storm to chase – let down by good weather – but India never lets you down.

Like adrenaline junkies, those travel junkies among us can soon become immune to situations that most Westerners would consider more than dangerous. Driving in India is one example where you quickly become immune to the risks: Those leaps of faith you take as your driver speeds into the path

of an oncoming bus become matter-of-fact after the first day.

What was that Pink Floyd song – “Comfortably Numb”? I've spent the afternoon zigzagging across Gurgaon, the new commercial area of New Delhi. Wild pigs still roam the streets here in front of the skyscrapers, which

house high-tech BPO's (Business Process Outsourcing Centers).

There are of course the people: Friendly, loud, talkative, and argumentative. Or those late night meals. Again, Indian culture remains strongly intact despite the new age of the booming BRICs.

My senses are dulled from the overload of the past two days. One thing for certain is that after some tough economic twists and turns, the current business mood in India has turned decidedly optimistic.

Things are on the upswing, as a group of flight attendants in their retro uniforms start to prepare us for arrival. In a country not exactly known for efficiency, IndiGo has accomplished the impossible – an efficient service. One thing for certain, whether you love it, hate it, or are comfortably numb, there simply is no other destination to travel in quite like India.

Bill Barnett is Managing Director of C9Hoteworks. He can be contacted through: c9hotelworks.com. See more of Bill's writing on his hotel industry focused blog, *The Phuket Gazette Insider*.

Boost in demand for capital's office space

WITH a more stable and predictable political situation in recent months, business sentiment in Bangkok has improved, which will likely release pent-up demand for Bangkok office space, according to Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) Thailand.

This, coupled with tight supply, will allow office rents to rise further this year, Yupa Sathienpabayut, director of office leasing for JLL Thailand, said recently.

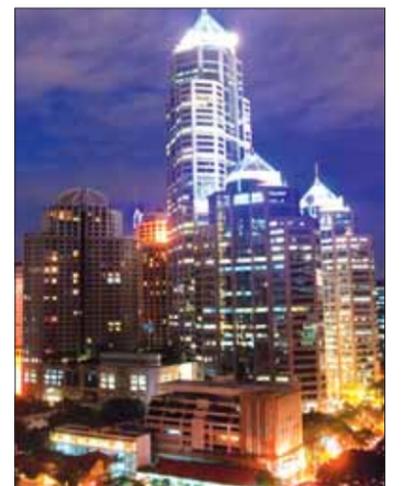
The political uncertainty seen in the first half softened business sentiment and caused some companies to postpone leasing decisions. Also, 2013 was a record year in the post-1997 crisis period for the Bangkok office market in terms of annual rental growth and annual net absorption.

The market also enjoyed extra demand from companies with expansion plans rushing to secure space in fear of rising rents and limited supply.

All of these factors contributed to slower growth in demand in the Bangkok office market in the first half of this year.

The latest Bangkok Property Market Outlook report released by the JLL's Thailand Property Intelligence Center revealed that net absorption of office space in the capital declined from 87,600 square meters recorded in the first half of last year to 60,000m2 in the first half of this year.

Despite weaker demand, average market-wide gross rents registered a 2.8 per cent increase during the first six months of this



Bangkok's vacancy rate dropped at the end of June. Photo by Mark Fischer

year, and a 17.3 per cent increase from the previous peak in 2007.

Rents in prime grade buildings in the central business areas saw a 1.2 per cent increase in the first half of this year, and a 9 per cent increase from the previous peak in 2007.

Bangkok's total office stock stands at 8.18 million square meters. The market-wide vacancy rate dropped to 9.7 per cent at the end of June, a record low level since the company began tracking office vacancy in 1995.

Prime grade buildings in the central business areas enjoyed a lower vacancy rate of 8.2 per cent.

As of the end of June, average monthly gross office rents reached 475 baht per square meters per month across Bangkok and 739 baht per square meter in prime buildings in the central business areas, representing all-time highs.

– The Nation



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Shrine at the heart of Phuket

By Maciek Klimowicz

AFTER living in Thailand for a couple of years, I pay as much attention to local Wats and shrines as I used to give to Christian churches in my home country. That is very little. They are there, part of the landscape but that is about it. However, every now and then I come by something unusual, something that grabs my attention and makes me want to dig deeper.

This happened to me a few weeks back when, during my morning bicycle ride, I came across a sign pointing to Bang Jo Shrine. I took the turn and a minute later found myself on the front yard of a small shrine, not unlike many others that Thai-

land is dotted with. A second look though, revealed this one might be different and maybe – special. It was the three, almost life-size figures of old ladies in front of the shrine that caught my eye. Old ladies holding swords and elegant purses to be precise.

With my curiosity level rising I decided to visit the shrine again, accompanied by a Thai speaker, to learn more about its history. Later, together with my Thai friend Sao, we had an informative chat with the shrine’s caretaker, a kind lady named Lee.

“Bang Jo Shrine, also called Baan Sam Ya after the three elderly ladies guarding the entrance, was founded in 2005 thanks to the generosity of the residents of this neighborhood,” Lee told us when asked about the origins of the shrine.

According to her, Baan Sam Ya lies in the exact center of Phuket making it a perfect place for all the islanders to pray for health and protection from evil. People of all creed are welcome as it’s difficult to pinpoint the shrine’s religious affiliation; a short walk around the premises reveals sculptures and pictures of different deities including Lord Buddha and a number of Hindu and Chinese gods.

At the center of the shrine sits a prominent figure of a three-faced goddess with six hands. “Her name is Praputthatham Manda – mother of the world, she is the protector of the land,” explained Lee.



Two of the ladies guarding the shrine are well known Phuket heroines. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

Each of the goddess’s hands holds a different object, and each has a different meaning. There is a moon symbolizing protection the goddess gives to Phuket at night; there is a sheaf of rice with which Praputthatham Manda feeds the world; there is a vine wreath in which the goddess traps any wrongdoers as well as a number of swords to fight of evil. “

The entrance to the room where Praputthatham Manda is guarded by the three elderly ladies that caught my attention in the first place. Apparently two of the figures represent the much respected Phuket heroines, Ya Mook and Ya Chan. “The third one is Ya Mo from Isarn. In the future we will place two more figures here, one from Northern and one from Central Thailand, making this

shrine a symbol of unity among Thais,” exclaimed Lee.

Around 100 locals visit the shrine regularly and even more – up to 1,000 – during the vegetarian festival. They come mostly to pray for health, but there is more than prayers to increase their well-being. Visitors can also try the shrine’s signature herbal beverage made from different kinds of tree bark. It’s bitter, like any good medicine should be.

Since my first visit to Baan Sam Ya I have visited the shrine a few more times on my morning bicycle rides. Each time I was welcomed with a smile; each time I had a sip of the fiercely bitter herbal tea; and each time I left feeling this place still holds many unrevealed secrets.



Praputthatham Manda protects the people of Phuket.



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Press freedom and democracy

By Patrick Mattimore

THREE years ago, when I lived in Beijing, the editors of *China Daily*, the country's largest English language newspaper, asked me to write an "expert's take" on the media. The occasion for my commentary was *China Daily's* 30th anniversary edition. At that time, I wrote a regular web column for the newspaper and also wrote commentaries for some of China's other English language newspapers and websites.

My commentary about the changes I had witnessed regarding press freedom in China was generally positive, but I cautioned that having a centrally-controlled press resulted in a less diverse media than is generally prevalent elsewhere.

Later in 2011, I submitted an article to both *China Daily* and another mainland Chinese newspaper, criticizing government censorship there, specifically regarding a "friendly" basketball game between two teams – one from China and one from Washington DC – that was decidedly unfriendly. Some American press jokingly called it "The Great Brawl of China."

The mainland newspapers refused to publish my op-ed. My commentary was subsequently published by the *South China Morning Post*, a Hong Kong newspaper that was fairly free from Beijing's dictates and offered an alternative to the government's official news sources.

The story was relatively big news in the US with one or another photo splashed across newspapers nationwide and *The New Yorker* magazine writing a special "Sporting Life" segment about the contest. The day after the game, the lead story in the *Washington Post* – complete with



My commentary about the changes I had witnessed regarding press freedom in China was generally positive, but I cautioned that having a centrally-controlled press resulted in a less diverse media than is generally prevalent elsewhere. /

a photo – was about the fight that occurred at the game.

The *Global Times*, one of the major English language newspapers in China, did not report the game or brawl and the Chinese press for the most part avoided the story. The melee was presumably buried in order to avoid embarrassment while US Vice-President Joe Biden was touring China. The Xinhua News Agency, the official press agency of the government of China, reportedly did not have an immediate account of the game, and Western media reported that Chinese government censors had removed stories about it from websites.

Much worse than the incident itself – in which no one was seriously injured – was the reinforcement of the perception that Chinese media are under the

government's thumb and that unpleasant news is accordingly sanitized.

Later that year, when I announced to the American law class that I was teaching at a university in China – that we would cover the topic of censorship of the media in our following class – several students were visibly uncomfortable. My class consisted of about half government employees (prosecutors and judges) and half folks from private companies. Before we could take up the topic of censorship, the dean of the program emailed me and the members of the class and, without inquiring as to the purpose of my lesson, specifically prohibited my broaching the subject of censorship. All to the good, the dean's action made the essential point I had hoped to raise much better than I could have.

It is no secret that certain English language websites (Facebook, YouTube and Twitter) are blocked in China, though they can be accessed with virtual private networks (VPN's). Some internet search terms will result in a user being disconnected from the internet. *The New York Times* website has been blocked since publishing unflattering stories in 2012 about large sums of money being pocketed by the family of a top Chinese official.

The rationale for having an unfettered press is that it promotes the public's right to access information. The US-based Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Code of Ethics asserts that, "...public enlightenment is the forerunner of justice and the foundation of democracy." Journalists are exhorted to ensure that "government records are open to inspection" and "be free of obligation to any interest other than the public's right to know."



Photo: US Department of State

The Chinese media is widely perceived to be under government control.

The real irony is that by prohibiting certain stories, posts, or ordering squeaky-clean versions of the news, the government in China insures that the media there will never be a first-rate player on the world stage at a time when the government is spending lavishly to promote China's global media image. It's hard to rely on media or take it too seriously when there's a perception that the media isn't being allowed to perform its watchdog function honestly.

In a recent *New York Times* opinion piece, editors of that newspaper suggested that the Chinese government's aim is to create a press that only reports officially released information ("China's Tighter Grip on the Press," July 23).

While it may be possible to temporarily put a lid on the information jar, news inevitably will get out. The tighter the government twists the lid, the more chances the jar will shatter in its face. In the

meantime, China's censors insure that the predominant news views will come courtesy of the Western media.

According to the 2014 World Press Freedom Index released by the Paris-based Reporters Without Borders, China ranked 175th in press freedom out of 180 countries and regions. In that same report, the authors decried the fact that China's model of censorship and repression was unfortunately spreading throughout Asia. Thailand's ranking, before martial law was imposed, was 130th.

If the current Thai leaders want to avoid following China's path and steer the country towards a true democracy, they should make the establishment of press freedom a top priority.

Patrick Mattimore is an author at *analyticjournalism.com* and a member of the Society of Professional Journalists. He lives in Phuket.



Photo: Moto53



Photo: JerryofWong

By prohibiting certain stories, posts, or ordering squeaky clean versions of the news, the government in China insures that the media there will never be a first-rate player on the world stage.



The sweet smell of lavender

Fields of lavender, with their striking rich purple hue, make for an almost surreal landscape as can be seen in parts of France where they are grown for use in perfume. Photo: Katherine Davis

Lavender's blue, dilly, dilly. Lavender's green When I am king, dilly dilly. You shall be queen



Gardening
By Patrick Campbell

grey-green or silvery leaves, it has unbranched flower stems which rise several inches above the foliage

and support two to three inch spikes in white, pink, lavender blue, or purple. For my money, the most delicate and exquisite shade is lavender, a floral hue matched in Thailand only by the *ruellia*, and in Europe by one variety of violet.

For my money, the most delicate and exquisite shade is lavender, a floral hue matched in Thailand only by the *ruellia*, and in Europe by one variety of violet.



Ruellia. Photo: Pinus

L. angustifolia is the hardiest, most widely planted species, and it's one of the varieties most likely to survive Phuket's hot-house environment. But there are good reasons why it is uncommon here. Lavender dislikes humidity and thrives on the cool spells provided by a Mediterranean winter. To succeed in Phuket, it would require well drained sandy or even flinty soil. Better still a raised bed. Permanently moist roots will only induce root rot. And a semi-shaded position rather than full-on sun. Of the available hybrids, "Hidcote Blue" which has deep bluish flowers is widely cultivated and the one most likely to be available in Thailand.

French Lavender (*L. dentata*), a different species, is taller with purple flowers in squat spikes and a pair of flag-like bracts at the top that resemble rabbit's ears. Another variety, probably a cross between English and French lavender, is widely sold across America and is known as *heterophylla*. It is considered to be the most tolerant of heat and moisture laden air. So despite the fact that it possesses shorter stems and a coarser perfume, it could nonetheless be worth trying here.



Lavender is one of the first plants to grow if you want to attract butterflies, bees and even birds, as well as add color, to your garden. Photo: Luc Viatour

So too Spanish lavender, a stocky form with deep maroon flowers and grey or grey-green leaves. *L. stoechas* is extremely drought resistant, has long lasting blooms and may flower again if sheared. But the same cultural requirements apply – no feeding, well drained conditions and in Thailand at least, a fair measure of luck.

If you have a question or a garden that you would like featured you can email me at: drpaccampbell@gmail.com.

Further information about this gardening series and Patrick's other work can be accessed at: patrickaccampbell.wordpress.com

Tip of the week

Leaves

UNDERSTANDING a plant's structure and the role each part plays in growth and reproduction is important for the successful gardener. Leaves carry out photosynthesis: that is, they take sunlight and combine it with carbon dioxide and water to create carbohydrates (food) and oxygen. Small openings on leaves called *stomata* also release oxygen and water vapor in a process called transpiration. During hot weather

or drought conditions, these openings become smaller or even close up, thereby limiting water loss. Thus, green-leaved plants play two crucial roles: they help to replenish the world's supply of oxygen; and they take up moisture from the soil and gradually return it, in the form of water vapor, to the atmosphere. This latter control mechanism is lost when forests are destroyed leading to flooding and landslides in mountainous regions.



Leaves. Photo: Prateek Karandikar

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Pampered at Avista

By Maciek Klimowicz

OH THE thrill of discovery! Who doesn't love it? Especially when it comes in the most unexpected of places. For me, it was just a few days ago, when I had the pleasure of experiencing it just a stone's throw away from downtown Patong, at the Avista Hideaway resort's Sizzle restaurant.

Phuket's "Sin City" isn't my cup of tea. The aesthetics, the entertainments, the crowds, I find none of it appealing and generality try to stay away. But the recent invitation to dine at Sizzle forced me to take the lengthy, though scenic, drive from my beloved Northern Phuket to the island's night life beating heart. And I'm glad it did.

Located just five minutes drive past Patong's beach road, the resort that was recently nominated for the World Luxury Award and World Travel Award, has hideaway in its name, and for a good reason. Stepping into Avista's tastefully decorated lobby is like entering a different universe. Gone is the racket and chaos of the infamous party town, what you

get is the serene atmosphere and mesmerizing views of what must be one of Phuket's most prime locations.

And it gets better. A short lift ride up from the lobby is Sizzle, where the only thing able to compete with breathtaking views of the ocean is the food on the menu, created by the 30 years experienced American chef Tim Westaway. Although he was brought up in Los Angeles, California, Tim learned the secrets of his trade in New Orleans, and it's the Louisiana flavors, with a touch of Hawaiian and Asian influences, that you should come to experience here.

"The theme of this place is turn of the century, dining under the stars steakhouse. I studied all the classic steakhouse recipes in America and Europe and brought it here," explains Tim.

The proof of the above statement landed on my plate in the form of a Cajun blackened beef rib eye steak, easily one of the best steaks I've ever tasted. It's tenderness, enveloped in a butter and herb crust, left me in awe of the Chef's skills and the culinary traditions of Southern United States.

The combination of amazing location, awe inspiring food and top class service at Sizzle makes for one of the best experiences in my Phuket foodie career



Sizzle's Cajun blackened beef rib eye steak has New Orleans' origins and flavor to die for.

And that is something I can say just about everything I tried that evening: Oysters Rockefeller, the lobster bisque with a Tom Yum twist, the cherries jubilee which were set on fire on a mobile cooking station right next to my table, even the walnut maple bread served with my meal – it all falls into the "awesome food" category.

"The food speaks for itself, all the flavors are there," says chef Tim and there's nothing I can add. Except maybe that on request, all this can be enjoyed at a special private setting with personal service and a special menu.

The combination of amazing location, awe inspiring food and top class service at Sizzle makes for one of the best experiences in my Phuket foodie career, but the evening I spent at Avista provided me with even more memories. Before I sat down to my meal, the resort's Executive Assistant Manager Nitichai Nenraksa offered me a tour of the premises while explaining what sets it apart from other world class establishments in Phuket.

"The focus is on activities" he said. "With a daily program running from eight in the morning to five in the evening and sometimes longer. Cocktail classes, aqua dance, fit-ball, yoga, a number of activities for children and of course the PGA approved golf simulator."

The activities on the above list, especially the final item, grabbed my attention. It turns out, once you arrive at Avista, there's no real need to go anywhere else, golfers included. The on-site golf simulator provides perfect conditions for practicing your swings, without the need to spend time and money on getting to a golf club. The hi-tech simulator is conveniently placed in the

vicinity of a bar, soon to be revamped in an Irish Pub style, making it easy to hit the 19th hole anytime you please.

There's even a golf membership, though it provides much more than the name suggests. The one year Avista Hideaway Virtual Golf Club membership gives unlimited access to the resort's three swimming pools and all its facilities, including the fitness center, the games room, kid's club and, naturally, the virtual golf. On top of that, membership holders get a voucher for a one night stay in the resort with champagne breakfast, two hours of Thai massage and massive discounts on food and spa treatments. One year membership costs 25,000 baht for person and 40,000 for a couple, with the first 20 members getting a complimentary a bottle of 12-year-old single malt whisky.

People travel from all around the world to discover Phuket, the famous tourist destination. But while they get pampered and spoiled, it's us, residents, who get the best part of the deal, with this unique concoction of stunning nature and world class hospitality at our doorstep. And it's places like Avista Hideaway and Sizzle restaurant that serve as reminder that the choice to stay here for good, was the right one to make.

Avista Hideaway Resort and Spa is located in 39/9 Muen Ngoen Road, Tri-trang Beach, Patong. The Sizzle restaurant is open daily from 6 to 11pm. With just 32 seats, reservations are recommended and can be made on 076-681681. Phuket residents get 10 per cent discount on food and a complimentary dessert or a cake and a bottle of Champagne for birthday celebrations when dining with four persons



Avista Hideaway is the more beautiful and serene face of Patong. Photos. Maciek Klimowicz

Donnafugata flies high at Regent Cape Panwa

THE latest wine dinner at Regent Cape Panwa paired the Sicilian wines of Donnafugata with the cooking skills of Chef Justin Baziuk, and was an evening to remember.

Sicilian summers are African hot. The island holds Europe's record for the highest temperature ever recorded, of more than 48° Celsius and is a place for the heat-loving crowds. And heat loving vines.

Big, flavorful wines of Sicily need big, flavorful dishes to match their

grandness, and that's exactly what Regent's kitchen delivered.

It begun with soft-cured Tasmanian salmon served with a glass of white wine made from Zibibbo grapes. The phrase "it melts in your mouth" is heavily overused, but there is no other way do describe what happened with the fish the moment it touched the palates of Regent's guests.

Two Nero d'Avola wines followed. The first one was served with a soup. The smoked yellow-

fin tuna vichyssoise's comfort food characteristics were further enhanced by the full-bodied red wine.

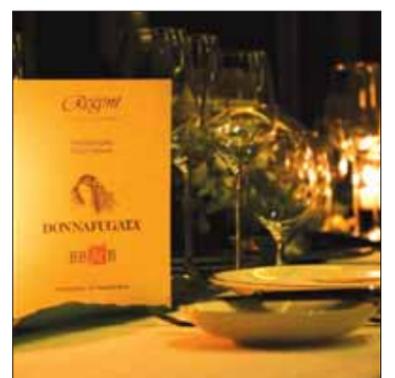
After a short break that took the form of a butterfly-pea-and-vodka sorbet, what landed on our tables was *sous vide* dorper lamb, a dish that gave Nero d'Avola a second chance to perform.

The lighter of the two dessert wines served that evening came from the Moscato di Pantelleria DOC and found its match in the refreshing citrus sorbet.

Second one, made from sun-dried Zibibbo grapes and served with a chocolate dessert, must be one of the most original sweet wines out there. Salmon pink in hue with a deep scent of dried apricots, it was simply unforgettable.

Donnafugata, "flying women" in Italian, deserves to fly high among superstar wines of Italy. Food events of the quality that Regent Cape Panwa embodies will sure help it take off in Thailand.

– Maciek Klimowicz



Donnafugata is Sicilian to the bone.

Killing reefs with bread

By Isaac Stone Simonelli

THOUSANDS of small sergeant-major fish frantically banqueting on sopping, wet slices of bread floating on the ocean surface is not an uncommon site for tourists who take boat trips from Phuket to discover the wonders of the Andaman Sea.

Everyday, hundreds of tour boats bring thousands of tourists to islands along the Andaman coast. Many of the boat operators, perhaps even the majority, feed the fish.

For many visitors, there is a thrill in watching a feeding frenzy of fish. However, there are consequences. It's the reefs that suffer and as a result, the sustainability of the businesses profiting from them.

"Feeding fish is not ecologically benign. Although the mass of fish swimming in front of your mask as you feed them is very exciting and visually stunning, it has a number of negative consequences," said environmental scientist Dr Wayne Phillips of Mahidol University.

"Each organism on the reef has a specific role to play. If you remove that organism or alter the role it plays – you upset the dynamic balance of the reef. This balance is maintained by the complex interactions within and between the



A feeding frenzy of human-fed sergeant-major fish marks a change in diet for the fish that could lead to dramatically negative results for the coral reefs that many tour agencies rely on. Photo: Alex Telford

different species on the reef."

Sliced bread is of course not an element of the reef environment or a part of a fish's natural diet.

Fish feeding on sliced bread, such as sergeant-majors, are typically grazers that eat algae. However, when presented with an easy, readily available alternative food source, they will change their normal foraging behavior to exploit the new situation.

"This means that if the fish consume the offered bread or rice, they will not consume the algae. Corals grow relatively slowly [depending on the species] and can become overgrown by the faster growing algae. Reef areas that experience heavy tourism are also likely to experience increased nutrient concentrations, which allow the algae to flourish," said Dr Phillips.

"In normal situations, the fish will

keep this enhanced algal growth in check, allowing the corals to grow and not become overgrown by algae. But if the fish are too satiated on bread or rice, they will not consume the algae, the algae will overgrow the corals and the reef will change from a coral-domi-

nated to an algae-dominated reef. Such reefs function differently from coral-dominated reefs and support fewer species. They are also generally less attractive."

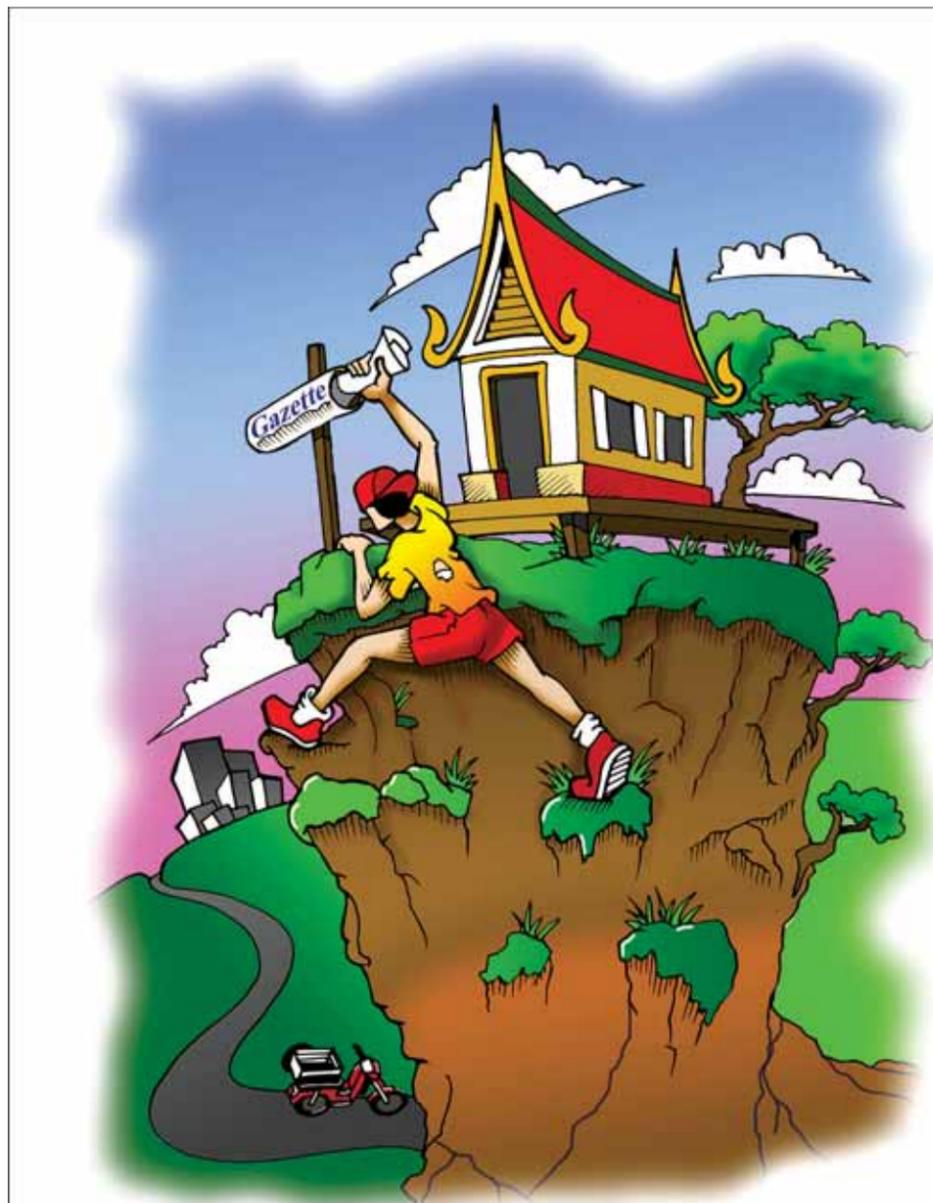
A quick Google search for day-trips to the islands accessible from Phuket, such as the Similans, Phi Phi, Coral Island, Racha Yai and Noi, reveals that one of the major selling points on the program are the multicolored coral reefs and the vast quantity of marine life that comes with the ecosystem.

Yet, the tour operators who are whisking tourists off to see the powdery white beaches, awe-inspiring karst limestone topography and stunning reefs are actively working to transform a portion of their destinations into algae-dominated reefs.

If this practice does not stop, those making a living from the natural beauty of the Andaman coast once again look to threaten the sustainability of their own livelihood through either ignorance and carelessness.



Slices of bread can do real damage.



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BISP students to train like the tennis champs

By Maciek Klimowicz

EVEN if you've never held a tennis racket and you don't follow tennis news, you probably know the name of Rafael Nadal. Ranked number one by ATP, Olympic Gold medalist in Beijing, eight-time winner of the French Open, two-time Wimbledon Champion, two-time US Open Champion... the list goes on.

But Nadal isn't the only Spaniard to conquer the world of tennis. In fact, in the last 20 years, Spanish tennis has produced a World Number One every five years including Arancha Sánchez Vicario (1995), Carlos Moya (1999) and Juan Carlos Ferrero (2003). What do all these champions have in common? They all trained using the *Registro Profesional de Tenis* (RPT) method. The same method that was just introduced at British International School Phuket (BISP).

"RPT was born 25 years ago out of the need for a standardized coaching system," said Adrian Rattenbury, a RPT coach who recently visited Phuket for the soft launch of BISP's new High-Performance Tennis Academy. The idea was to provide coaches with a consistent method of training and

the results are nothing short of stunning.

Since its introduction in Spain in 1989, RPT has certified more than 20,500 professionals in 121 countries and gathered a number of trophies, including five Davis Cups for the Spanish tennis team. What's the secret?

"It's a simple method but with lots of technical information behind it. We focus on developing four elements: a strong physical base, followed by technical ability, tactical implementation and mental strength to carry it out," explained Rattenbury.

Responsible for the implementation of RPT methodology at BISP is Lee Austrin, BISP/RPT Tennis Academy's coach who's among the most qualified professionals in the RPT ranks.

"We can see BISP becoming the heart of tennis education in Asia," he says with full confidence. "No other school in the area can deliver these methods like we can."

According to him, the RPT method, combined with BISP facilities which he says are better than he's seen anywhere else, throughout his coaching career in UK and America, is a recipe for success.

It took one year of negotiations to bring



Lee Austrin, will head up BISP's new High-Performance Tennis Academy.



BISP teachers will be rolling out the new training method to students. Photos: Maciek Klimowicz

the RPT training system to BISP's new High-Performance Tennis Academy.

"The idea is to create players from a very young age by giving the students an opportunity to develop," explained Rattenbury. "The

goal is not to win as juniors but to develop and become a winning pro," he added. And opportunity is what BISP is all about. If the next Nadal is among it's students, now he'll have the opportunity to be discovered.

Laguna gaining momentum in round 8

IN THE 8th round of the Outrigger T20 league, Laguna squared up against Thalang on August 24 at the Alan Cooke Ground (AGC). Laguna needed to secure a win to keep their playoff hopes alive after a poor start to the T20 season. Thalang were not going to be easy, with some quality players on the side.

After winning the toss, Thalang elected to bat first. Some great bowling by Iqbal Malik achieved the breakthrough from the first ball of the 2nd over when Thomatos (4) mis-timed a shot and was caught comfortably at mid-wicket. Iqbal struck again in the same over, with a caught and bowled effort to remove Gary Carrick (0).

With Thalang reeling at 6-2, An-

drew Macmillan entered the arena. Macmillan was looking in good touch as he worked the ball through the gaps in field to move on to 12 from just 10 balls, but some tight seam and swing bowling from Nadeem Yousseff skittled Macmillan's stumps in the 5th over and Laguna had removed another of the key Thalang threats.

Donovan Cowell then combined with Dupont to steady the ship and looked to be heading back to the clubhouse at the 10 over drinks break without further loss until Cowell (11) was caught on the final ball before the break with Thalang 48-4.

Laguna tightened the screws immediately after the break

which eventually lead to Thai youngster Pan (2) falling in the 14th over. Dupont (32) was clean bowled in the next over by Imran Khan and at 68-6, Thalang's hopes rested upon big-hitting Simon Wetherell. However, he only managed 11 further runs before he was bowled looking to hit the ball to mid-wicket for a boundary.

Laguna had the ascendancy and were looking to keep Thalang below 100. Martin Hill (12) showed some resistance but was deceived by a slower ball from Youseff at the end of the 19th over to be clean bowled with 94-9. Thalang eventually accumulated 96-9 from their 20 overs. Pick of the bowlers for La-

guna were Youseff, Malik, Nawez and Khan who all secured two wickets each.

With a run rate required of less than five per over, Laguna were looking to get off to a solid start. However, some tight bowling from Thalang and a lack of urgency from the Laguna openers saw them tied down until Thalang struck to remove Darren Shaw (3) with the total on 15 in 6th over.

Thalang struck again in the next over with Justin Thomatos skittling Rishi Sadara-ngani's (6) stumps. Iqbal Malik then joined opener Manish Sadarangani to take Laguna through to the 10 over drinks break without further loss with 36-2. Laguna needed to accelerate after the

break with the required run rate now at 6 per over. Iqbal did just that until their 52 run partnership ended when Sadaran-gani (21) holed out at mid-off in the 14th over with the score on 77-3. Big hitting Khan (2) didn't last long being dismissed in the same over and becoming the 3rd scalp picked up by Karn. Shah Nawez then joined Malik at the crease with only 20 runs required from six overs. Unfortunately a mix up saw Nawez (7) run out with just three runs remaining for victory. However, Malik (32 not out) guided Laguna home to victory in 17 overs. Pick of the bowlers for Thalang was Karn (3-18 from 4 overs).

- Phuket Gazette

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Next weekend sees Laguna take on Village and Thalang square up against ICC. Photo: Michael Way

United smash transfer record

By Ken Ferris

MANCHESTER United smashed the British transfer record when they signed Argentina winger Angel Di Maria from Real Madrid for 59.7 million pounds (1.9 billion baht) on Tuesday.

Di Maria has signed a five-year contract, the Premier League club announced on their website, with the fee breaking the British record of 50 million pounds Liverpool received from Chelsea for Spain striker Fernando Torres in 2011.

Di Maria said: "I am absolutely delighted to be joining Manchester United. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in Spain and there were a lot of clubs interested in me, but United is the only club that I would have left Real Madrid for."

"Louis van Gaal is a fantastic coach with a proven track record of success and I am impressed by the vision and determination everyone has to get this club back to the top – where it belongs. I now just cannot wait to get started."

Van Gaal added: "Angel is a world-class midfielder but most importantly he is a team player. There is no doubting his immense natural talent."

"He is a tremendously fast and incisive left-footed player who puts fear into the most accomplished defense. His dribbling skills and his ability to take on and beat opponents are a joy to watch. He is an excellent addition to the team."

tion to the team."

NEW ROLE

Di Maria remained crucial to Real Madrid even after the world record signing of Gareth Bale last year and thrived as an often unheralded yet crucial cog in the team that won La Decima - their long-awaited 10th European Cup title.

However the high-profile close-season signings of James Rodriguez and Toni Kroos prompted the 52-cap Argentina international to reject a new contract at the Bernabeu. A new role awaits in England where Di Maria must cope with the pressure of returning a wounded United, who have taken just one point from their opening two Premier League games, back among the elite of European football.

Media reports said he would be given the iconic number seven shirt made famous by United greats George Best, Bryan Robson, Eric Cantona, David Beckham and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Di Maria's career started out at Rosario Central with the Argentine club's renowned youth academy and moved to Benfica in 2007.

Real paid the Portuguese club 20 million pounds for his services in 2010 and the winger was a part of the team that triumphed in Europe last season.

However, the 26-year-old fell out of favor and was omitted from the squad for the Spanish



Manchester United signed Angel Di Maria from Real Madrid for 59.7 million pounds. Photo: Ivan Alvarado/Reuters

Super Cup last week.

Di Maria looked strong in pre-season after suffering a thigh injury in the World Cup quarter-finals that forced him out of the tournament.

Despite that injury he was

named on FIFA's 10-man shortlist for the player of the tournament award.

Last week Real coach Carlo Ancelotti said Di Maria had asked to leave the club. His arrival at United takes their

close-season spending to 131.7 million pounds following the earlier acquisitions of left back Luke Shaw, midfielder Ander Herrera and Argentina defender Marcos Rojo.

– Reuters

England's Lampard quits internationals

By Josh Reich

FRANK Lampard has retired from international football after winning 106 caps.

The 36-year-old was released by Chelsea in May and he signed for New York City before agreeing to move to Manchester City on a six-month loan deal.

Lampard scored 29 goals for England and captained the team in their last group match against Costa Rica at this year's World Cup in Brazil.

"I have taken the decision to retire from international football," he said in a statement.

"It has been a very tough decision for me to make which is why I have given it so much thought since the World Cup. I have always been exceptionally proud and honored to represent my country and have to say looking back I have enjoyed every minute of wearing the England shirt."

Lampard said it was time to put his family first given that he was soon to be playing in the United States.

Lampard made his international



Frank Lampard. Photo: Reuters

debut against Belgium in 1999, going on to play at three World Cups and two European Championships.

He made headlines at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa when he had a goal wrongly disallowed in a second-round clash with Germany, a match England went on to lose 4-1.

Roy Hodgson, the manager of the England national team paid tribute to Lampard, telling the Football Association website that he was a superb representative both on and off the pitch.

"To reach in excess of 100 international caps is something very few professionals achieve and he is in exalted company," Hodgson said.

"He has served the national team quite brilliantly during his 15-year international career." – Reuters

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