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Phuket Gazette



Survival guide to snorkelling

Experts blame tour guides, poor safety for tourists' deaths

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Keep calm Travel on

Martial law not to affect island or tourism industry

By **Chutharat Plerin**

THE Royal Thai Army imposing martial law nationwide this week is unlikely to have any immediate effect on Phuket or the island's lucrative tourism industry, say leading Phuket figures.

Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha invoked the Martial Law Act at 3am Tuesday, making the Thai armed forces the top authority in the country (page 10).

By noon, Phuket Governor Maitri Inthuset was en route to report to the Army base in Nakhon Sri Thammarat, where he was informed that the Royal Thai Navy Third Area Command, located on Cape Panwa, was officially in charge of the island.

"At the meeting there was a video conference with every provincial governor in the country, but there were no special...

Continued on Page 4



An Army soldier takes up his position in Bangkok after martial law is declared. Photo: Reuters

Man arrested for rape of Burmese, 24, and niece, 14

A MAN handed himself over to police after an arrest warrant in his name was secured for the rape of a 24-year-old Myanmar National and her 14-year-old niece.

The woman and her niece reported the incident to police eight days after it allegedly occurred in the jungle along Ao Yon - Khao Khad Road.

Full story on Page 3

Chalong top cop dodges extortion case, back home

CHALONG Police Superintendent Krittapas Dazintharasorn is back in charge at Chalong Police Station after being removed in April due to a national-level investigation into extortion and corruption allegations against him and his officers.

Full story on Page 9

Chief takes parting shot with Sirinath national park raid

SIRINATH National Park Chief Cheewapap Cheewatham raided seven businesses, giving them 90 days to remove their belongings from Nai Thon Beach.

Full story on Page 8

Serial sunscreen shoplifter snagged

AFTER Patong Police arrested a woman with 20 bottles of stolen sunscreen, she confessed that she had stolen batches of the lotion before to sell on to local vendors.

Full story on Page 6

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This Week



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Aussie heroes praised by drowning survivor's family. **Page 39**



Food
QSI proves school food can be high quality and taste great. **Page 40**



Sport
The new Manchester United manager is.... Find out on. **Page 47**

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Sunday



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Monday



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Tuesday



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Tourist drowns while lifeguard patrols stall

By Chutharat Plerin

PHUKET lifeguards say they expect to sign their new contract and be back patrolling the island's beaches this week.

However, the news follows the drowning death of 26-year-old Supachet Ngamsong, a visitor from Northern Thailand, last Sunday, when there were no lifesavers at any beaches in Phuket.

Mr Supachet had just finished dinner with five friends when he went into the sea alone at Karon at about 5pm, said Karon Police Deputy Superintendent Sapon Borrirak.

"He called out for help after getting into trouble in the water," Col Sapon said. "His friends tried to rescue him, but they were too late."

Lifeguards have not patrolled Phuket beaches since April 27, when their last contract ended and a budget dispute that threatened to decrease the number of lifeguards on the island's beaches prevented the signing of a new agreement.

Though the Phuket Lifeguard Club subsequently agreed to sign the new contract without the asked-for budget increase, the signing was delayed while the guards waited for new equipment. "Working with broken equip-



A lifeguard watches over tourists at Nai Harn Beach. Photo: Gazette file

ment could be dangerous for both the lifeguards and the victims," Club President Prathaiyut Chuayuan said at the time.

"We just had a meeting about the contract and when we can get back on the beach," Kata-Karon chief lifeguard Uten Singsom told the *Gazette* on Tuesday.

"We want it to be as soon as possible because the sea is starting to get rough and dangerous for swimmers."

Club President Prathaiyut reconfirmed that the terms of the contract are 22 million baht for 88 guards in 38 stations.

"We will sign the contract as soon as possible so we can go back to work," he said.

"Once we sign it, we will be ready on the beaches within three days," he added.

Additional reporting by Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Officers explain the warrant to 'Franky' (in black shirt). Photo: Patong Police

German expat 'Franky' nabbed for Austria fraud

GERMAN expat Detlef Gerhard Hewer, 49, better known as "Franky" of local dive company Eden Divers, was arrested in Phuket on Tuesday.

Mr Hewer was taken into custody on a warrant issued by a Thai court at the request of the Austrian embassy in Bangkok.

He was flown to Bangkok overnight to be handed over to the Office of the Attorney-General, which will deport him to Austria to face fraud charges," said Lt Col Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police.

Officers arrested Mr Hewer at his residence in the Phanason housing estate on Wichit Song-

kram Road in Kathu.

"We received an order issued by Region 8 Police Deputy Commander Wissanu Muangpraesri on May 2," Col Sutthichai said.

"That order was issued after the Austrian Embassy submitted a request to the Office of the Attorney-General."

The order did not include any details of the fraud charge against Mr Hewer.

There was no mention of monetary value involved or who the victim was.

"Mr Hewer accepted that he was the person named in the arrest warrant," Col Sutthichai said.

- Chutharat Plerin



It was dark and raining when the teens were struck from behind.

Teens slain in Chalong hit-and-run

POLICE are hunting for the driver who killed two teenagers in a hit-and-run in Rawai last Friday night.

Piyabut Thongngarm died at the scene. Jenista Purisawane died en route to the hospital. Both were 18.

"It was raining when we arrived, near the Rawai shell museum. It was clear they were hit from behind," said Capt Thada Sodarak of the Chalong Police.

Friends said the teenagers, who had just graduated from Mathayom 6, were dating, and returning home from the beach. Ms Jenista was to start university on Monday.

"Nobody could identify the pick-up truck, which was heading toward Chalong Circle. However, we are checking CCTV," Capt Thada said.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong

Cop denies involvement in fatal drive-by shooting in Chalong

A POLICE officer who left the Saraphan Pleng Pub in Chalong shortly before a fatal shooting early Friday morning appeared at the Chalong Police Station Saturday to declare his innocence.

The Phuket Provincial Police officer, who police have declined to name, fell under suspicion after officers questioned staff at the pub about the murder of Nuchsika Klasuek, 35, who was shot dead in front of the place.

"The officer told us that he went to the pub to meet friends after playing football. The group left at about 4am, after they had an argument with some of the waiters," said Chalong Police Deputy Superintendent Jumroon Plaidoung. "He denies shooting the woman."

Some staff told police that the single shot fired had come from a passing pick-up truck; others said that the shot came from the white Honda Civic that belongs to the officer, said Lt Col Jumroon.

CCTV images show the officer's car headed in the direction of Karon and then, minutes later, heading back toward the pub.



Ms Nuchsika was shot after exiting the pub.

"However, the images do not show whether the bullet was fired from the pick-up truck or the Honda," said Col Jumroon.

The pick-up truck driver has yet to be identified; the vehicle did not have license plates.

At the time of the shooting, Chalong Police Superintendent Krittapas Dazintharasorn said that police did not be-

lieve Ms Nuchsika was the intended target.

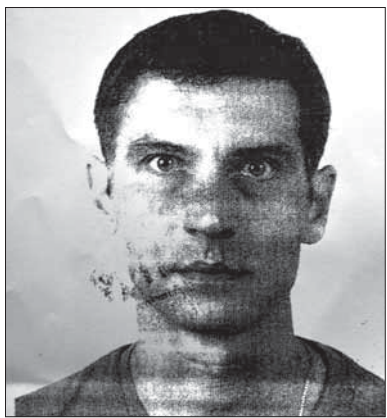
"It seems like the shooter was trying to fire into the bar," he said.

The investigation is ongoing and witnesses continue to be questioned, said Col Jumroon.

"After that, we will call in the officer again for further questioning," Col Jumroon said.

Phuket Provincial Deputy Commander Peerayuth Karajedee confirmed to the *Gazette* today that if the officer was found to be involved in the case he would be given no special treatment or assistance.

"Justice will be served," Col Peerayuth added.
 - Kritsada Mueanhawong



Alexey Slabinskiy was murdered in March. Photo: Gazette file

Murder suspects have likely fled; Interpol notified

POLICE have notified Interpol and the Russian authorities to be on the lookout for the two men wanted for the kidnapping and murder of Russian national Alexey Slabinskiy in Phuket in March.

Prime suspects Oleksandr Boychuk, 44, and Aleksandr Novichkov, 58, both Russian nationals, are now believed to have fled Thailand by boat.

"We have not been able to locate the suspects," Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arun Kaewvatee told the *Gazette*.

"Wanted notices were issued to police throughout the country, but we have had no reports of positive identification of the suspects.

"Also, there are no records of either man departing the country either through an airport or at an immigration border checkpoint.

"The only way they could have escaped is by boat."

Col Arun added that the Russian Police were notified as a precaution.

"We do not expect them to return to Russia, but we have asked the police there to keep an eye out for the pair, as they are now international fugitives," he said.

Mr Slabinskiy disappeared with his girlfriend Iana Strizheus on March 7. Shortly thereafter, the pair told relatives in Russia that they had been kidnapped and needed money.

Ms Strizheus was discovered alive, but by April 14, police had confirmed that a decapitated body found in Cherng Talay on March 29 was the remains of Mr Slabinskiy. - Chutharat Plerin

Rape suspect turns self in

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE arrested a Phuket resident on May 19 for the rape of a 24-year-old Myanmar national and her 14-year-old niece in the forest along Ao Yon - Khao Khad Road on May 8.

The man, who turned himself in, was charged with rape, rape of a person under the age of 15, and theft.

The 44-year-old suspect has denied all charges.

"The aunt and the niece explained to us that the aunt was waiting for transportation from Bus Terminal 2 to the restaurant the pair work in on the Ao Yon - Khao Khad Road, when the suspect offered to give her a ride in his car," said Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander Arayapan Pukbuakao.

"Once they arrived at the restaurant, the suspect asked to see the woman's work permit, which she was able to provide. He then spotted her niece, and demanded to see her work permit as well."



The suspect denies raping a woman and her 14-year-old daughter near Ao Yon earlier this month.

The young girl was unable to provide one, as she was in the country illegally, said Col Arayapan.

"The man forced the two women to get into his car, drove them to the forest and raped them.

Afterward he took them back to the restaurant to collect their valuables," Col Arayapan said.

The woman and her niece handed over 27,400 baht, two mobile phones and a gold ring.

Eight days later, the women filed

a complaint with police.

It wasn't until police were able to identify the suspect's car from CCTV footage in the area that they were issued an arrest warrant from the court, which led the suspect to turn himself in.

Canadian chosen as Aussie honorary consul 'designate'

CANADIAN national Michelle Hawryluk, a partner in the Phuket-based law firm Haris & Hawryluk, has been chosen by the Australian Embassy as the designate candidate for the post of Australian Honorary Consul for Phuket.



Michelle Hawryluk

Mrs Hawryluk attended Bond University in Australia and is a member of the American Bar Association, New South Wales Board of Legal

Practitioners and an active member of the Phuket International Women's Society. She speaks English and has a working command of French and Thai.

Until her official appointment, Australians in Phuket who require consular or passport assistance should continue to contact the Australian Embassy in Bangkok.

- Phuket Gazette

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Life as usual under martial law

From page 1

...orders for Phuket. Everyone is to carry on as usual," Governor Maitri confirmed.

"People in Phuket can go about their work and normal activities. Phuket is not home to any political extremists or any major political rallies. We all live together relatively peacefully, so there are no special orders for us to carry out."

Capt Petcharat Teanjan, Deputy Director of Civil Affairs Division at the Navy's Third Area Command, concurred.

"We have not been issued any special orders. All government employees, including police, are to go about their work as usual," he said.

"There will not be any navy personnel patrolling the streets. We welcome all tourists to continue with their travel plans to visit Phuket and enjoy their holiday."

Capt Petcharat pointed out that Phuket was not known for political violence.

"Even the anti-government protesters who had been set up near Provincial Hall for months have pulled down their stage and left the area," he said (page 8).



Governor Maitri

"If we do receive any orders that affect Phuket, we will make an official announcement, but at this stage I do not think any changes will be applied here."

Governor Maitri pointed out that – contrary to many reports in the media – the number of tourist arrivals to Phuket had continued to grow during the past six months of political unrest in Bangkok.

"We have direct flights landing here that allow foreigners to avoid Bangkok," he said. "Just this week, 198 planes landed each day at Phuket International Airport. That is an 11.28 per cent increase from the average during October through April."

"During the same period, there was an increase of 9.38 per cent in the number of passengers passing through Phuket Airport compared with the same period the year before."

However, Phuket Tourist Association (PTA) Vice President Sarayuth Mallam was more apprehensive in his understanding of the situation.

"We have sent out missives to hotels throughout Phuket to confirm whether or not there have been any major cancellations of bookings or people checking out in large numbers, but at this stage it is too early to tell," he told the *Gazette* on Wednesday.

Mr Sarayuth was careful not to make any predictions of how martial law might affect Phuket.

"In the worst case scenario, it might lead to civil war and major cancellations, or the whole situation might be resolved and there will be no more problems," he said.

"We have to wait and see. Somehow, Phuket might even benefit from tourists flying directly here in order to avoid Bangkok."

Additional reporting by Saran Mitratrat

Surviving

THE Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) says that about 80 per cent of visitors to Phuket plunge into the Andaman Sea with snorkelling gear to explore Thailand's treasures below the surface. At least eight of those tourists have died while snorkelling within the last 16 months. The *Gazette's* Chutharat Plerin and Saran Mitratrat dive into the issue.

SUPERVISION is essential to snorkelling safety, explains TAT Phuket Office Director Anoma Wongyai.

"It is a fun activity, but please make sure you are a capable swimmer, or under supervision of someone with water-rescue skills and first-aid certification," she warned.

The presumption, however, that a tour agency offering snorkelling services will provide a guide with the necessary rescue skills could be a fatal one.

As was discovered when 73-year-old Mike Reynolds began to drown while out on a snorkelling trip to Koh Phi Phi with his daughters and grandson last month.

"The tour operators on our boat didn't know CPR [cardiopulmonary resuscitation] and panicked whilst we were doing it," Australian Surf Life Saver Jason Gollan, who along with his daughter, saved Mr Reynolds' life, told the *Gazette* (see page 39).

"Tour boat operators need to have oxygen available on the boat should this ever happen again. This could have made Mike's condition far less critical than what it has become."

FLOATING STANDARDS

Companies providing snorkelling tours are not required to meet the same safety regulations as scuba-diving operations, confirmed Sakorn Pukham of the Phuket Marine Office.

"Snorkelling tour boats must have three items of safety equipment on board: Thai Industrial Standard [TIS] certified life jackets, fire extinguishers and an emergency water pump that is in good condition," Mr Sakorn said.

They are not required to carry medical-grade oxygen.

Despite the unique equipment needed and training necessary to snorkel safely, the Bureau of Tourism Business and Guide Registration Phuket office explained that no special documentation was required for agencies offering snorkelling tours.

"There are no requirements or laws concerning safety measures specifically for operators taking tourists out snorkelling."

Many tour agencies were

unwilling to go on the record and talk to the *Gazette* about what, if any, safety measures they had in place for their customers that went beyond the legal requirements for general tour agencies.

LIFE WEAR

Though familiar to many, the equipment used while snorkelling is foreign to others. With large numbers of mainland Chinese, Russians and many others snorkelling in Phuket waters, it isn't a surprise that for some it is their first time in the sea with a mask, snorkel and fins.

The key to being comfortable in the water is having equipment that fits, explained PADI West Coast Regional Manager Andy Auer.

"Your mask should have a good seal around your face, and be comfortable. A comfortable snorkel is also important," Mr Auer said.

"Be aware of the size of the snorkel, as the bigger it is the more dead air space it will have. Also, having a valve for easy clearing is important."

Those who aren't strong swimmers are asked to wear life jackets, explained the owner of Phuket Absolute Marine, Sathanan Chairpradit, whose boat Mr Reynolds was with at the time of the accident.

However, many of the so-called "life jackets" certified by the TIS are little more than buoyancy aids, explained another tour operator who declined to be named.

"A real life jacket, not just a buoyancy aid, will float a person who is unconscious with their face out of water. This can prevent them from drowning," he said.

"However, they are not used here in Thailand because they are expensive.

"A buoyancy aid will not save an unconscious person's life."

Other considerations for those preparing for a snorkelling trip are a form of protection from the sun and a long-sleeve rashguard to protect you from potential jellyfish stings, one dive supply shop owner said.

Mr Auer noted in a nutshell: "The more comfortable you are with the equipment, the more relaxed you will be during your snorkelling. As a result, you will see more and have more fun."

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Phuket snorkelling



About 80 per cent of tourists visiting Phuket end up exploring the surrounding waters by snorkelling. Photo: Isaac Stone Simonelli

TRAINING

Katie Severn, one of Mr Reynolds' daughters on the boat the day of his accident, explained that their group was not trained on how to use the snorkelling gear.

"They gave us the spiel. If you need a life jacket, please wear one. This is your snorkel, goggles, put them on. They didn't give instructions on how to breathe through it," she said.

Aussie lifeguard Mr Gollan confirmed Mrs Severn's recounting of the incident.

"This could have been what caused the problem with Mr Reynolds as it may have been faulty."

The owner of the snorkelling company that declined to be named confirmed that lack of training for snorkellers is typical in the region.

"Most snorkeling companies put the people from the back of the boat straight into deep water without any training," he said. "They just put them into the water and off they go."

"They give them a life jacket, but sometimes they do not fit the life jacket properly."

Unlike many tour agencies offering day trips to the region's spectacular sites in Similans National Park and Phang Nga Bay, the operator explained that his company did not conduct mass trips, but instead catered to smaller groups.

"We care about the customers, not about the money so much. We make sure that customers are 100 per cent safe," he said.

"I cannot tell you exactly how long it takes to train our customers. It depends on the customer's ability. If we have a good swimmer from Australia, then it can be done in a few minutes. If we have somebody who is not familiar with the water, it might take 20 minutes.

"A lot of cultures do not have water training at all. Therefore, before we take a booking, we need to know who we are booking and

their abilities in the water so that we adjust our supervision appropriately."

The safest way to snorkel is under the supervision of your guide, he said.

"A safety guide should be with the customer at all times. However, if the tour is in very shallow water, one guide can look after many, many people."

WHY DO PEOPLE DIE?

The number one reason people die when they are snorkelling is lack of proper oversight, said the snorkelling tour operator.

"From my 30 years of experience in the watersports business: 16 years in Australia and 14 years in Phuket, it is because nobody is watching them. It is due to a lack of care as well as a lack of knowledge and training of tour guides," he said.

"Many guides don't have the necessary skills and are sometimes distracted doing other things instead of keeping an eye on their customers."

Tour guides need to be strong swimmers, have first aid experience and know how to make a rescue in water. They must especially know what to do when someone is having difficulty breathing, he said.

Snorkelling is not the problem; it is not dangerous, the operator said.

"Anybody can have a health problem while they are in the water. They can suffer from a heart attack, asthma or a cramp. The difference is whether or not they are being supervised and whether or not the supervisors know what to do in an emergency situation."

Ms Anoma from the TAT agreed that many of the snorkelling accidents in the region were from lack of tour staff being attentive, as well as tourists ignoring staff.

"The causes of snorkelling drowning deaths can be divided into two categories: underlying

health issues and accidents," said Phuket Provincial Public Health Office (PPHO) Chief Dr Kajohnsak Kaewjarus.

"Personal health problems, such as heart disease, high blood

pressure and diabetes can make you feel weak when you are snorkelling. You could have a difficult time controlling your breathing and it could cause complications."

Do you know the basics?

THE critical factor in safe snorkelling is feeling comfortable in the water, explained PADI West Coast Regional Manager Andy Auer.

"There isn't a snorkelling course in the industry, but it is important to cover a few topics in a small brief: pressure-volume relationship; snorkelling equipment; buddy system; and interacting with the environment," he said.

One of the most important skills needed is clearing a snorkel, Mr Auer explained.

There are three methods: 1) blow through your snorkel in a short, hard burst; 2) as you ascend from a dive, keep your head in the "looking up position" and blow a little air into the snorkel; and 3) when at the surface simply take the snorkel out of your mouth and dump the water out.

"For all methods, take the first breath cautiously in case all the water isn't cleared," he said.

Snorkellers should also be aware of the environment they are in, protecting themselves from sharp corals and protecting the environment for future visitors.

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Serial sunscreen shoplifter snagged by cops in sunny Patong

A SUNSCREEN shoplifting woman was arrested with over 20 bottles of the lotion by Phuket Police on the afternoon of May 16.

Daoruang Budda, 31, was identified by police from CCTV footage at a Family Mart convenience store in Patong.

"After we got the description out, one of our officers spotted her riding a motorbike in Patong. We followed and approached her at the Sainamyen Intersection. When we asked her to stop so we could search her bag, she fled,"

Sutthichai Thianpho of the Patong Police told the *Gazette*.

Police quickly chased down Ms Daoruang and made the arrest, finding her in possession of 20 bottles of sunscreen.

"Ms Daoruang confessed that she had stolen sunscreen on more than 10 occasions. She said that she planned to resell the bottles to local market vendors, as she had done before," Lt Col Sutthichai said.

Ms Daoruang was charged with theft and using a vehicle to evade police.

— *Chutharat Plerin*



Ms Daoruang was seen in CCTV images, then arrested in Patong. Photo: Patong Police

Sea gypsies offered free land in relocation deal

By Saran Mitrarat

THE provincial government has organized 50 rai of land for the sea gypsy families living on Koh Sireh who are being sued by a private developer for allegedly squatting on private land.

"Other sea gypsy families are living in houses allegedly built on private land, but have yet to face legal action," explained Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa at a meeting with local officials and sea gypsy villagers on May 16.

At this point, five families in the Laem Tukkae sea gypsy village are being sued.

The relocation offers sea gypsies the chance to move from their current east coast village, with panoramic views of the world heritage listed Phang Nga Bay, to the banks of the Tah Jen Canal about five kilometers inland.

The 50 rai is controlled by the Royal Forestry Department, which has granted permission for the sea gypsies to live on the site.

"We had to do something just in case they lose the right to live where they are now," V/Gov Sommai said.

"Moreover, the sea gypsy community has outgrown their current site. They have to expand."

Families wanting to move must register at the Phuket office of the Ministry of Culture at Saphan Hin.

"Priority in granting land allotments will be designated case by



On inspecting the land to be offered the gypsies, V/Gov Sommai discovered it was already occupied by squatters.

case," V/Gov Sommai said.

Under the relocation offer, each sea gypsy family will be afforded a plot measuring 50 square wah (200sqm) on which they will be permitted to build one house.

During the inspection, however, V/Gov Sommai discovered houses of ethnic Thais already built illegally amid the mangroves.

Boon Suwanchatree, 69, one of

the people already living at the new site, voiced her concerns that she and her extended family would have to move to make room for the indigenous sea gypsies.

"I have been living here for more than 40 years, and in all that time we have never had problems accessing our homes or with anyone asking about us living on someone else's land," she said.

"I have a lot of family members here."

V/Gov Sommai assured Ms Boon that a happy compromise would be found.

"Don't worry, I would like to see all people living together without any problems," she said.

"After the village plan has been completed, we will start allocating the plots where families can live."

Cycling cop puts brakes on iguana, loris touts

AN OFF-DUTY police officer leaped from his bicycle and arrested two out of six men on Soi Bangla who were offering tourists photo opportunities with animals on May 19.

Lt Col Sutthichai Thianpho swooped in to make the arrest of the six men after seeing them touting four iguanas and two slow lorises. He quickly arrested Suchai Jaroenpu, 32, from Phang Nga, and Boonso Kenthao, 34, from Kathu. However, the other four touts managed to escape.

Mr Suchai was carrying a loris, and Mr Boonso an iguana.

Although owning an iguana as a pet is not illegal, Patong Police are cracking down on animal touting on Bangla Road.

Exactly a week before, police arrested another pair of men for touting iguanas on Soi Bangla.

"There will be no touts offering photos with animals on Bangla Road. We will keep arresting them until they are all gone," said Col Sutthichai.

Both Mr Suchai and Mr Boonso were charged with inflicting harm to an animal and causing a public nuisance, said Col Sutthichai.

The slow loris is a protected species, and requires a permit to own. Since Mr Suchai could not produce the permit, he was charged with possession of a protected species without a permit.

The iguana was sent to the Environmental Conservation Division at Khao Phra Thaeo Wildlife Sanctuary and the slow loris was sent to a wildlife nursery station in Phang Nga. — *Woranut Pechdee*

Consulate hunting for home

UNABLE to find a suitable property for the new Chinese Consulate in Phuket, officials from the Chinese embassy sought advice from Phuket Vice Governor Sommai Prijasilpa last week.

"We have four staff in Phuket ready to start work, but we have yet to find a suitable location for our office," said Vice Consul-General Wang Huijuan, who will head the new consular office.

Ms Wang explained that her team had inspected a prospective site inside Central Festival Phuket

the previous week.

"I think we want something more private, in or near the center of Phuket Town," she said.

"The consulate should be near the government offices [in Phuket Town]. It will have high security, occupy about 300 square meters and must be easy for people to visit.

"We must open a consulate in Phuket. The number of Chinese tourists visiting here increased to about one million people last year."

Vice Governor Sommai offered to help find a practical location.

— *Saran Mitrarat*



Col Sutthichai (center) with Mr Suchai and Mr Boonso. Photo: Patong Police

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Phuket protesters have dismantled their stage across from Phuket Provincial Hall. Photo: Gazette file

Local PDRC break camp after martial law decreed

THE long-standing anti-government protest in Phuket led by the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) broke down its stage Tuesday night out of respect for martial law which was decreed earlier that morning.

The PDRC protesters dominated Phuket Provincial Hall, forcing it to close for about four and half months before allowing it to re-open on April 8. Even after the building re-opened, protesters maintained a presence with the stage that they set up on January 13, and remained vigilant.

"We have to follow the orders of Army chief Gen Prayuth Chan-ocha, as we are now under martial law," protest co-ordinator Amnuay Kumban told the Phuket Gazette today. "Last night the military's Peace and Order Maintaining Command ordered a stop to any rallies involved with politics.

"We will go to Bangkok and participate in rallies at the big stage to give our support to PDRC Secretary-General SuthepThaugsuban."

Additionally, the Blue Sky channel, which protesters were using to follow the action on PDRC stages in Bangkok, was shut down by army order, as were other stations carrying political content.

"There is no longer anything for us to do, if we don't have live television," Mr Amnuay added.

— *Phuket Gazette*

On last raid, park chief cites seven at Nai Thon

By Saran Mitrarat

AS HIS last major act as chief of Sirinath National Park, Cheewapap Cheewatham this morning led 50 officers on raids on businesses deemed to be illegally built on national park land near Nai Thon Beach.

"Seven new shops – six on the beach, one on the beachfront road – have been built without permission from Sirinath National Park and Sakoo Municipality," Chief Cheewapap explained.

A total of 14 businesses have been granted permission to operate at the prime location on the condition that each business had no more than 12 tables and that no permanent structures were built.

Those 14 businesses have fully complied with their permits, Mr Cheewapap said.

"However, these seven new businesses have installed large buildings at the site, including toilets that connect directly to the sea. They are certainly illegal," he added.

The seven operators were identified as Madagascar Reggae Beach Club, Baan Ra Tree Restaurant, Kafe Alladin, Yellow Cafe 2 restaurant, Aqua Divers company and two other unnamed shops that are still under construction.

"The owners have 90 days to remove their belongings. After that, DNP officers will return and seize all properties found to be illegally on government land," Mr Cheewapap said.

Complaints against all seven operators will be filed with the police for further action, he added.

Joining the raid was Department of National Parks Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) Director Samak Donnapee.

"We will fight every case of encroachment to make sure we



The owners of buildings encroaching on the beach have 90 days to dismantle before their property is seized.

get all of Sirinath National Park back," Mr Samak said.

"Even if business owners claim they have title deeds for the land where their businesses are located, we know that some corrupt government officials have been involved in illegally issuing land titles in the past. All such titles are illegal."

Mr Samak said that a total of 1,755 rai of Sirinath National Park had been encroached on.

"The raids today accounted for 185 rai, and the court has already

ordered 500 rai of illegally occupied land to be vacated and returned to the park," he said.

"The remaining land under encroachment is under legal process," he explained.

Mr Cheewapap confirmed that he will present himself to the Royal Forest Department in Bangkok to start work on Thursday.

"I will oversee efforts to protect national parks throughout all of Thailand, while Director Samak will personally oversee the investigations into national park encroachment in Phuket, Phang Nga and Krabi," he said.

"But that doesn't mean I will no longer be looking into problems specifically in Phuket. Actually, I will be able to investi-

gate encroachment and illegal logging in the Nakkerd Hills and Kamala Hills."

Mr Cheewapap called on his successor, Kitiphath Tharapiban, from Mae Ping National Park in Chiang Mai, to resist the temptation of lucrative bribes in his new post.

"I refused bribes from many people who offered me huge money to illegally build on park land. I hope the next chief does the same," Chief Cheewapap said.

"To best protect Sirinath National Park, the new chief will need to have integrity, intelligence and courage to resist graft, be clever enough to know which land is legal or illegal, and be brave enough to arrest all the bad people."

'I refused bribes from many people who offered me huge money to illegally build on park land. I hope the next chief does the same.'

— **Chief Cheewapap**

Karon land sweep yields only knives, rifle

OFFICERS acting on a tip-off raided four shacks built in a protected Karon forest near Freedom Beach, south of Patong, on May 14, and discovered a rifle, marijuana and wood-cutting equipment, but no people.

"It looks like the people staying there knew we were coming and ran away," said Karon Village Chief (Kamnan) Winai Chidchiew.

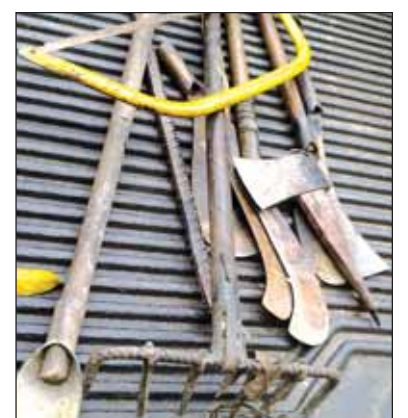
"We found eggs that had just been cooked and were still hot."

"This is the second time recently we've checked out a land encroachment complaint and

failed to find suspects," said Karon Deputy Superintendent Phiyaphat Srida.

The group of civil volunteers and officers from Muang District office and the Phuket Forest Department hiked about 30 minutes up steep slopes to reach the isolated location, where they seized a .22mm handmade rifle, an axe, a saw, five scythes, a shovel, a rake, a crowbar and 10.15 grams of marijuana.

"We will investigate the case and find the suspects," Lt Col Phiyaphat said. — *Saran Mitrarat*



Tools were found, but the suspects had fled. Photo: Supplied



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Krittapas back in Chalong

Police superintendent returns after PACC concludes extortion investigation

By Chutharat Plerin

CHALONG Police Superintendent Krittapas Dazinthasorn, who was transferred to the Thalang Police Station in early April when he and his officers came under fire for alleged extortion, returned to take up the reins in Chalong on May 1.

The charges against the Chalong police were filed after 20 dive instructors were rounded up by Chalong and Tourist Police on March 10. The divers were not charged for any criminal activity but were allegedly asked to make cash payments to officers.

When asked about the ensuing national-level investigation by the Public-sector Anti Corruption Commission (PACC), re-instated Col Krittapas confirmed that he was no longer under investigation.

Col Krittapas confirmed that the PACC had concluded its case with the recommendation that two Chalong Police officers be charged with extortion.

The PACC has refused to reveal the officers' names until

formal charges are made.

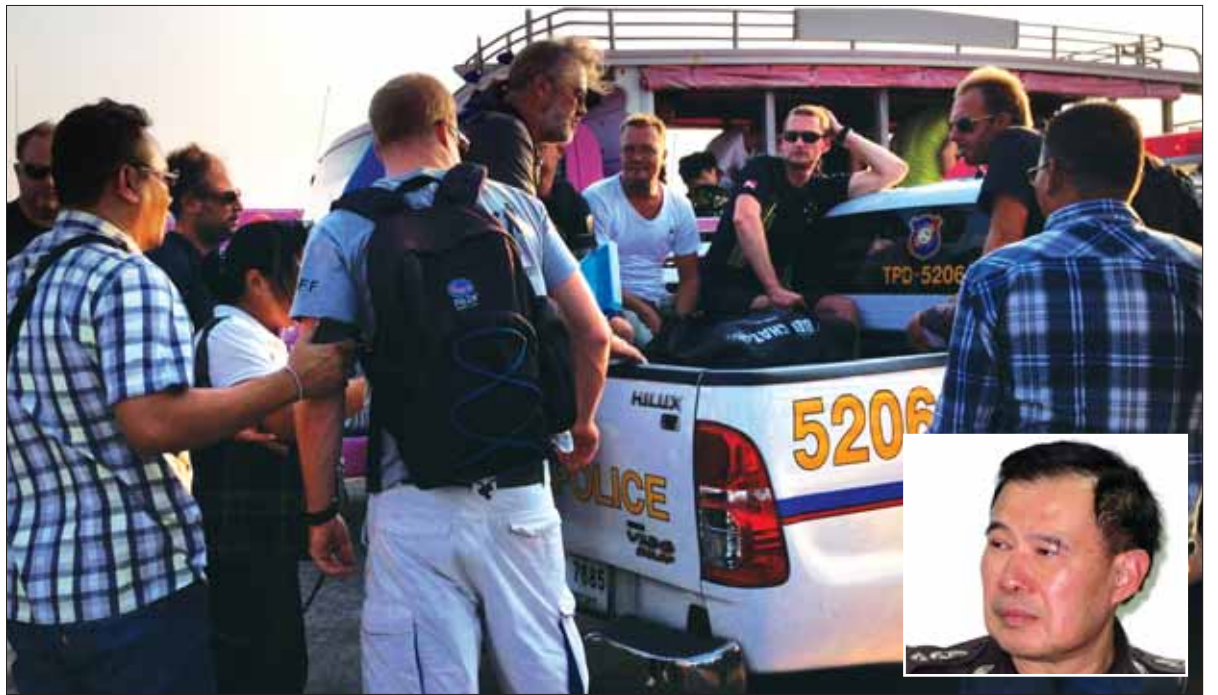
Unlike Col Sirisak Wasasiri, who replaced Col Krittapas during the investigation, Col Krittapas said that he had not instituted new measures to prevent extortion.

"My officers know I won't tolerate extortion. It's a delicate issue and can have a negative effect on Phuket's tourism image," he said.

"Still, it's difficult for me to control completely. We have about 100 officers in the Chalong Police Station. I can't keep an eye on every single one of them."

While Col Sirisak was in charge at Chalong Police Station, all officers were forced to provide daily reports of their activities, inform Col Sirisak each time they left the station on police work and provide the results of their efforts when they returned.

At the time of the of the switch, Phuket's top cop Ong-art Phiewruangnont said, "I moved Col Krittapas Dazinthasorn out of Chalong partly because of the extortion charges, but also because he has been there a long time



Graft complaints by dive instructors led to the temporary transfer of Col Krittapas (inset). Photo: Gazette file

and developed close relationships with his men, which makes it hard for him to maintain discipline."

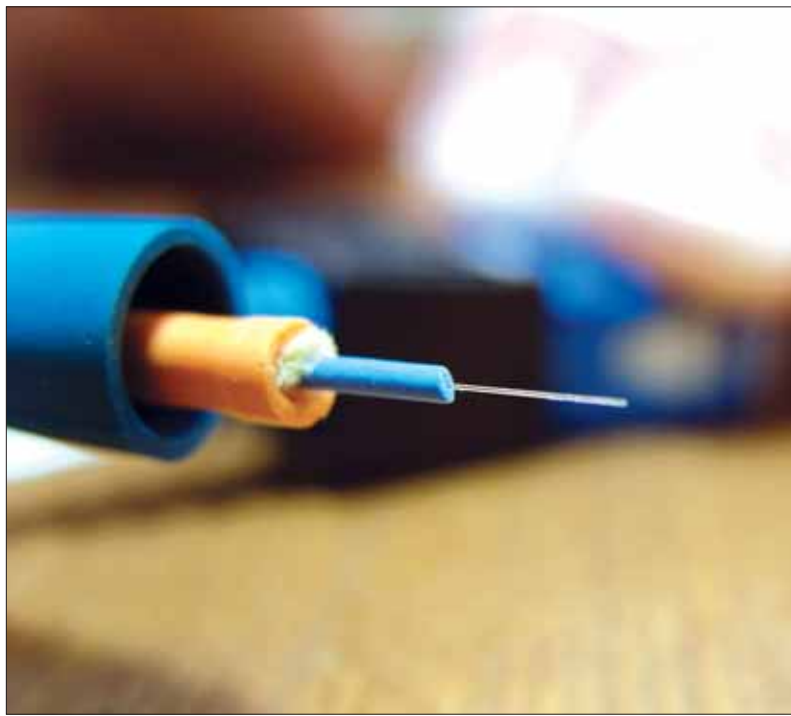
Upon his reinstatement, Maj Gen Ong-art said that since Col

Krittapas had survived the PACC investigation, there were no issues with him returning to the Chalong station.

"As for the relationship between

him and his men, that is for him to manage. I believe that if he finds any of his men being bad cops, he will control and discipline those officers," Maj Gen Ong-art said.

Internet back on but hiccups until June 5



Upgrades will make the system better, TOT says. Photo: Hhedeshian

STAFF at TOT Phuket have confirmed that a broken fiber-optic cable in Nakhon Sri Thammarat has been repaired, restoring internet access for thousands of TOT customers throughout Southern Thailand.

The cable went down at 10am on May 14, Wiraporn Kumied, a technician at TOT Phuket, told the Gazette.

"We were inundated with calls from customers in Phuket who could not connect to the internet. The worst affected were real estate companies and internet cafes," she said.

Ms Wiraporn said the TOT con-

trol center in Haad Yai confirmed that critical repairs to the cable were completed on the same day.

However, she added that some internet connections may continue to experience intermittent problems or run slowly as other minor repairs are carried out.

Meanwhile, TOT customers will continue to experience hiccups connecting to websites hosted abroad as TOT upgrades its servers.

"The upgrades are expected to be complete by June 5," Ms Wiraporn said. "But not to worry, the system will get better."

- Woranut Pechdee

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One of the villagers attacked during the raid. Photo: The Nation

Villagers block access to gold mine in Loei

AROUND 300 villagers living near a gold mine in Loei have blocked miners and staff from entering it in response to them being intimidated, robbed and assaulted by a large group of masked men last week.

The locals, through a body called the Group of Homeland Lovers, had earlier issued an open letter calling for the company managing the mine, Thung Kham Co, to have its operation licence immediately revoked, as well as its licence to sell, purchase and deliver minerals extracted from the mine. The letter was part of the long-running dispute with the mine's operator over environmental concerns.

In their letter, the group named an army lieutenant-general as the person who hired the men to raid the six villages. Villagers told police that they were attacked by about 200 men armed with sticks and machetes, and asked for the culprits to be arrested and charged with attempted murder and robbery.

The attack, led against about 30 men manning checkpoints outside the mine, left the mine open for a convoy of ore-laden trucks to leave.

Villagers returned to their posts on Monday, blocking access points to the mine, including a bridge and a network of roads, reported *The Nation*.

Staff at Thung Kham Co filed a complaint with local police over them being prevented from accessing the mine on Monday.

Provincial Police chief Sakda Wongsiriyant said that he was away on work and had assigned station officers to compile evidence. — *The Nation*



Thai Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha speaks at a news conference after the army declared martial law nationwide. Photo: Athit Perawongmetha

Martial law to keep the peace

By Apornrath Phoonphongphiphat

THAILAND'S army declared martial law on Tuesday to restore order after six months of anti-government protests that have left the country without a proper functioning government, but denied that it was staging a military coup.

The caretaker government led by supporters of self-exiled former premier Thaksin Shinawatra was still in office, military officials and the country's justice minister said, following the surprise announcement on television at 3am local time.

Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha later said the military was taking charge of public security because of violent protests that had claimed lives and caused damage. Nearly 30 people have been killed since the protests began in November last year.

"We are concerned this violence could harm the country's security in general. Then, in order to restore law and order to the country, we have declared martial law," Prayuth said.

"I'm asking all those activist groups to stop all activities and cooperate with us in seeking a

way out of this crisis."

Thailand has been stuck in political limbo since Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, Thaksin's younger sister, and nine of her ministers were dismissed on May 7 after a court found them guilty of abuse of power. An acting prime minister has since taken over.

The crisis, the latest installment of a near-decade-long power struggle between former telecoms tycoon Thaksin and his opponents, has brought the country to the brink of recession.

The military, which put down a pro-Thaksin protest movement in 2010, has staged numerous coups since Thailand became a constitutional monarchy in 1932. The last one was in 2006 to oust Thaksin, a billionaire who commands huge support among the rural poor.

Army chief Prayuth had warned last week, after three people were killed in a gun and grenade attack on anti-government protesters in Bangkok, that troops might have to be used

AROUND THE
nation

to restore order if the violence continued.

Although the caretaker government's supporters are wary of the army, given its past interventions on the side of the establishment, the acting justice minister said it welcomed the move

to keep the peace.

"It's good that the army is looking after the country's security. However, the government still has full power to run the country," Chaikasem Nitisiri told Reuters.

A crisis meeting between leaders of rival Thai political groups aimed at resolving long-running conflict ended inconclusively on Wednesday and the army has called for another meeting on Thursday, a participant said.

"The army chief asked us to go back home and think about the things we discussed in order to find a solution for the country," Puchong Nutrawong, secretary-general of the Election Commission, told Reuters, adding that the group would meet again at 2pm on Thursday. — *Reuters*

Call to create Pattani children safe zones

A CAMPAIGN is being launched to highlight the plight of children in Pattani province who have become victims of the ongoing conflict in the Deep South, Hara Shintaro, lecturer of Malay Studies at Prince of Songkhla University Pattani campus, said on Tuesday.

Citing information from Deep South Watch website, Mr Shintaro said that 37 children aged one to 18 have been killed over the past



five years, with 185 injured.

Mr Shintaro said that there's a need to designate safe zones and the deployment of soldiers in areas

including schools, universities, clinics and hospitals so the children of Pattani "can also enjoy life like other children." — *The Nation*

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Vietnam riots

Foreign-owned factories re-open with tighter security

AROUND THE region

By Li Xueying

IT IS back to business – albeit at partial strength – for many companies in Vietnam that have been hit by anti-China riots over the past two weeks.

The re-openings came as Lin Hsin-i, chairman of Formosa's Ha Tinh Steel Corporation, confirmed at a press conference in Taipei on Tuesday that there had been four fatalities in the unrest.

Another 150 people were injured in the clashes.

One Chinese worker died of heat stroke during clashes between Chinese and Vietnamese workers at Formosa's steel mill in central Vietnam on May 14. Another worker died in the hospital last weekend from injuries after being severely beaten.

Two bodies were found burnt outside the facility.

Saying the company will seek compensation from the Vietnamese government, Mr Lin estimated initial costs of the damage – from a fire set to the mill – at US\$3 million (about 97.6mn baht), including \$1.7mn in trashed computers and air-conditioning units. Private contractors also had their tools and wires stolen.

Work on the mill restarted on May 16, Formosa's assistant to Vice-President Yu Chin-chang said.



Pro-Taiwan protesters chant slogans, demanding an apology and compensation from Vietnam. Photo: Reuters

Last Saturday, 3,000 of its 4,000 workers were back at work, mainly Koreans and Vietnamese, he said. "No mainlanders have returned to work as yet. They do not want to start as they may still think the environment is not stable. This is causing delay."

Completion of its first blast furnace, slated for this month, will now be delayed by a month or two.

With deadline pressures and lost income ebbing away, scores of companies have re-opened their doors – but with heightened security in place. Formosa has installed shipping containers to reinforce its factory gates.

As of Tuesday, 80 per cent of the 326 factories – owned by Singapore, Taiwan and Hong

Kong interests – at two Vietnam-Singapore industrial parks had resumed operations, the parks' operators said.

Among Taiwanese companies, which bore the brunt of the damage, at least 16 – such as garment manufacturer Great Super Enterprise – restarted work last Friday. Taiwan's Ministry of Economic Affairs said 224 of the island's firms were affected.

On a 15,000-strong Facebook group for Taiwanese workers in Vietnam, members posted photos and updates. One wrote: "On the way home from work. The No 13 Highway in Binh Duong is peaceful and all is well."

The return to work is testament to Vietnam's appeal to manufacturers, given its relatively low

costs and skilled workers, reported Reuters.

The country has about 200 industrial parks, accounting for a third of its exports and attracting around \$110 billion in foreign direct investment.

The clashes spiralled out of control last week arising from protests against China establishing an oil rig in disputed waters in the South China Sea.

The English-language *China Daily* reported on Monday, "It is not the protests per se that are the major concern of investors and their governments. It is the inability of the Vietnamese central government and its local counterparts to bring the protests under control."

– *The Straits Times*

In brief...

Philippines pushes Asean single visa

THE Philippines is strongly pushing for the creation of a single-visa scheme across the 10 Asean member-states in order to boost the country's tourism industry.

"When you have a single visa, the tendency for tourists is to say, I'm in Thailand but my visa is good for 10 countries so I might as well go through all the 10," said Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez Jr on Tuesday.

The proposed scheme, similar to Europe's Schengen visa, will allow non-Asean nationals to enter the 10 member-states of the Asean using a single visa, thus saving them time and resources in securing such documents.

– *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

Laos Deputy PM dies in plane crash

LAOS President Choummaly Sayasone led a funeral ceremony on Monday for Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Lt Gen Douangchay Phichit and his wife Lt Col Thanda Phichit, who both died in a plane crash in Xieng Khuang province last Saturday.

The plane, a Laos Air Force Antonov AN-74TK-300, reportedly had up to 20 people on board.

– *Vientiane Times*

Raiders intercepted off the Sabah coast

MALAYSIAN security forces intercepted eight vessels from the southern Philippines which attempted to enter waters off Sabah's east coast on Tuesday.

Security personnel managed to detain one of the pumpboats with two individuals onboard as well 25 jerry cans.

– *The Star*

Man slays daughter, posts Facebook photos

MANILA Police arrested a man at dawn on Tuesday who stabbed dead his seven-year-old daughter and then posted the pictures of the dead child on Facebook

Mark Alvin Manliclic, 31, admitted to murdering Angel Mark Cathlene, although he could not explain why.

What was clear, according to police investigators, was that hours before, he had threatened to kill the girl at the height of a fight with his wife.

Chief Inspector Rodelio Marcelo, head of the Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, said Manliclic and his wife, who is based in Canada, exchanged heated messages over Facebook the night before.

"The wife was apparently unable to answer some of his messages, so the suspect eventu-



Father Mark Manliclic told police he could not recall what happened, except for seeing blood oozing from his daughter's neck.

ally got mad and said he would kill his daughter should the wife refuse to come home," he said.

The suspect even made the photo of his bloodied daughter as his profile picture on Facebook, but it was eventually deleted later in the day.

A restless Manliclic, speaking behind bars, said he tried to take his own life but was stopped by his young daughter.

– *Philippine Daily Inquirer*

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The school was set up as an educational and skill training facility for the community's children after the Tsunami affected the area in 2004. Yaowawit School currently provides assistance to up to 120 children in need of their services.

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In brief...

Leaders to wage war on Boko Haram Islamists

WEST African leaders on May 17 agreed to work together to wage "total war" on Boko Haram, saying the Nigerian Islamist group threatened all of them.

Neighbors Chad, Cameroon, Niger and Benin, and Western officials, met in Paris to make a plan enabling them for the first time to share intelligence, coordinate action and monitor borders.

Modi takes down dynasty, elected as new president

HUNDREDS of Indians thronged the streets of New Delhi on May 17 to greet Narendra Modi's march into the capital after he decimated the Nehru-Gandhi dynasty and the ruling Congress party.

Mr Modi toned down religious issues in his pitch to India's 815 million voters and won the world's biggest-ever election with promises of economic development for all.

Worst floods in a century devastate Serbian cities

SOLDIERS, police and villagers battled to protect power plants in Serbia from rising flood waters on May 18 as the death toll from the Balkan region's worst rainfall in more than a century reached 37 and thousands had been displaced.

"The situation is catastrophic," Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic told reporters.

Wildfires ravage S. California

WILDFIRES were raging in southern California on May 15, keeping thousands away from their homes after San Diego officials released evacuation advisories.

Flames swept over the parched land in nine fires across the county, as California entered the wildfire season in the midst of one of the state's worst droughts. No major injuries were reported.

Korean coast guard shut down after ferry disaster

By Jack Kim

SOUTH Korean President Park Geun-hye formally apologized on Monday for a ferry disaster last month that killed about 300 passengers, mostly school children, and said she would break up the coast guard because it had failed in its rescue mission.

Ms Park has been hit hard by an angry nationwide outcry over the government's response to South Korea's worst civilian maritime disaster in 20 years and the seemingly slow and ineffective rescue operation.

Polls show support for Ms Park has dropped by more than 20 points since the April 16 disaster.

At least 286 people were killed and 18 remain missing. Only 172 people were rescued, with the rest presumed to have drowned.

Of the passengers, 339 were children and their teachers on a field trip from a high school on the outskirts of Seoul. Ms Park fought back sobs as she remembered some of the teenagers who died trying to help each other.

She vowed reforms to improve oversight, as well as tough punishment for businesses whose negligence endangers public safety.

"A 20-year-old vessel was



South Korean President Park Geun-hye listens to family members of the drowned ferry victims. Photo: Reuters

bought and refurbished to add excessive capacity, then it was loaded with much more cargo than

allowed with a false reporting on weight, but not a single person in the position to supervise stopped any of it," Ms Park said.

She singled out structural problems within the coast guard as the main reason why there was such a high casualty toll from an acci-

dent that played out on national television as the vessel gradually sank with most of the passengers trapped inside.

"Had there been an immediate and proactive rescue operation after the accident, we would have been able to reduce the casualties," Ms Park said.

The coast guard's duties will be transferred to a national emergency safety agency to be set up and the national police will take over its investigative function, she said.

Ms Park said the coast guard had not only failed in its search

and rescue duty but that it would be unable to prevent another large-scale disaster.

"The coast guard continued to get bigger in size but did not have enough personnel and budget allocated for maritime safety, and training for rescue was very much insufficient," she said.

All 15 surviving crew members were indicted last week, including the captain and three senior crew members on homicide charges. The remaining 11 crew were indicted for negligence.

— Reuters

AROUND THE world

Gunmen rush Libyan parliament, demand its suspension

HEAVILY armed gunmen stormed Libya's parliament on May 18 demanding its suspension and claiming loyalty to a renegade army general who has vowed to purge the country of Islamist militants.

Gunfire erupted across Tripoli, where rival militias clashed in some of the worst violence in the city since the end of the 2011 war against Muammar Gaddafi.

Details of who was involved in the chaotic attack were unclear, but loyalists of retired General Khalifa Haftar said his forces and militia allies had planned the assault in a campaign to rid Libya of Islamist hardliners.

"We announce the freezing of the GNC [General National Congress]," said Colonel Mukhtar Fernana, a former military police officer, reading out a statement on al-Ahrar TV.

Mr Haftar's spokesman Mohamed al-Hejazi said Mr Fernana's group was allied to the former general.

Mr Fernana said their movement was not a coup, but said the parliament had no legitimacy and should hand over power to a 60-member body that was recently elected to rewrite Libya's constitution.

It was not immediately clear how much backing Mr Haftar's men had within Libya's nascent regular armed forces and the country's brigades of former rebels or whether the parliament was fully under government control after the attack.

The attackers kidnapped about 10 employees from the GNC, an official said. At least two people were killed and another 55 wounded, officials said.

— Reuters



Smoke rising from the Libyan parliament building on May 18. Photo: Reuters

Turkish mine disaster town on lockdown as death toll rises to above 300

TURKISH police put the mining town of Soma on virtual lockdown on May 17, setting up checkpoints and detaining dozens of people to enforce a ban on protests as rescue efforts following the country's worst industrial disaster ended.

The last two bodies of workers thought still to have been left in the mine were carried out four days after a fire sent deadly carbon monoxide through it. That brought the death toll to 301, Energy Minister Taner Yildiz said.

Hundreds of riot police patrolled the streets while others checked identity cards at three checkpoints on the approach road to Soma, a Reuters witness said. The local

governor banned protests in response to clashes a day earlier between police and several thousand demonstrators.

A total of 36 people were arrested and taken to a sports center in the town where they chanted, "the pressure cannot intimidate us", the agency said. The number of detentions could not immediately be confirmed.

The May 13 disaster has triggered pro-



A woman mourns a lost miner. Photo: Reuters

tests across Turkey, aimed at mine owners accused of ignoring safety for profit, and at Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan's government, seen as too close to industry bosses and insensitive in its response.

Mr Erdogan has presided over a decade of rapid economic growth but worker safety standards have failed to keep pace, leaving Turkey with one of the world's worst industrial accident records. The plant

manager denied any negligence at the mine which was inspected by state officials every six months.

The mining company managers held a news conference on May 16 at which they said an unexplained build-up of heat was thought to have led part of the mine to collapse, fanning a blaze which spread rapidly more than 2 kilometers under the surface.

The ruling AK Party said the formerly state-run mine at Soma, 480km southwest of Istanbul, had been inspected 11 times over the past five years. It denied any suggestion of loopholes in mining safety regulations.

— Reuters

Fostering local attitude

Phuket developer seeks to promote the revitalization of local business



The Attitude Club's Saturdays Condo Project in Rawai. Photo: Supplied

By Maciek Klimowicz

PHUKET has seen many property developers go bust, some rise and fall and even fewer, rise, grow and keep growing. Attitude Club is a great example of the latter. Present on the island for 15 years, the company has undergone some major changes throughout its history, but always moving in one and only direction – forward.

“When we started Attitude Club we had very limited funds, maybe enough to buy two high-end desktop computers,” says Wirachai Pranveerapaibool, the company’s CEO, when he spoke to me in his spacious office located in Attitude’s headquarters, just off the Bypass road – a modern building with great views of the green hills on the horizon.

“The time line of Attitude Club’s operations can be divided into three periods,” continues Wirachai. “We started as architects and interior designers and this is something we still do today. Somewhere around 2004 we got involved in real estate. We decided to invest some of the profits from our design business into a small piece of land. We built two private pool villas in Nai Harn, one of the first private pool villas available for sale on the island.”

“We kept expanding and today we have over 300 pool villas. Some of the villa owners that we work with asked us to help manage their properties when they are away from Phuket. This is when we got into the property management business. We decided to do it in the rental-pool style, which in turn led us to the hotel business.”

This courage to explore new sectors of the industry and diversify has helped Attitude Club expand, even in difficult times. However, even though they try their hand in different niches, they have carried some core values with them throughout the company’s evolution.

“At this moment, our core activity is property and in the past five years we’ve realized that the hotel business is the most profitable in Phuket. Yet design is in our DNA,

and we strongly believe in high quality design. It all works together,” explains Wirachai.

It seems that Attitude Club has a way of noticing opportunities and exploiting them. And even when dealing in the competitive markets of property and hospitality, they try to find new angles to look at things and serve the needs of customers which have been neglected by other companies.

“We’re not like other real estate companies. Our idea is to develop our hospitality business and with everything we do, we keep tourism in mind. We see other companies focused on real estate or focused on the hotel business, but our idea is to mix these two together, and add some great design,” says Wirachai.

“A good example is our Saturdays Condo project. It might look like a condominium, but after it is completed it will be more of a serviced apartment. There will be a restaurant, a spa. It’s aimed at customers who come to Phuket for a couple of months.”

This idea was born after conducting in-depth market research. Attitude Club realized that Phuket doesn’t offer much space for short term expats, “with a budget of 30,000-40,000 baht you won’t find a good quality apartment for a short-term rental and neither can you afford to stay at the hotel which charges at daily rate. In Bangkok, there are a lot of serviced apartments directed at these kind of customers, but not in Phuket,” says Wirachai, as he describes the reasons behind Attitude Club’s approach to the island’s real estate market.

Talking about attitude, I ask him what keeps him motivated to come to work everyday, thinking that at this stage of the company’s development, it cannot be just money.

“Now my goal is different than when we started the business,” he tells me. “I could quit right now and have enough assets to retire and live a comfortable life. But there are still challenges out there, there are things that makes me want to go to work.”

“I have a new goal. On our new



Phuket property developer and Attitude Club CEO Wirachai Pranveerapaibool. Photo: Supplied

t-shirts we printed the slogan “local expert” and this is what I focus on. We are a local business and we’ve seen this place grow very fast, but the sad thing is that local business is dead. Their adaptation was not fast enough. This is why, while we expand, we want to help other local businesses by sharing our knowledge.”

“We do more than using local produce in our hotels. We meet the local businessmen, we share our expertise and teach them what we know about business in Phuket. One example is the coffee we use in our Foto Hotel. Not Illy, not some European brand, but our local coffee. But we don’t just use it, we helped the producer with packaging, with branding, with business strategy. And today they have become very popular and many other hotels want them to supply their product.”

As we continue to talk about the intense flavor of Phuket’s coffee, local eateries hidden in the narrow streets of Phuket Town (a beautifully designed map showing the best local food in Phuket Town will soon be available in Attitude Club’s Blue Monkey Hostel) I realize, that this passion for the island, the enthusiastic attitude towards the authentic, local things is exactly what the island needs. The only way for us to grow, is to grow together.

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<div style="border: 1px solid gray; border-radius: 5px; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"> <p>5 Banyan Tree Residences THB 37.5 M</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-bedroom Pool Villa • Fully furnished • Sanctuary Club membership • Attractive rental return </div>	

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Living the upside down life



Property Watch

By Bill Barnett

THERE'S a pop song about the world being better when it's upside down. For those of us living and working in Thailand, it's increasingly hard to recall when we weren't dancing on the ceiling. Sideways apparently is not an option.

Two of Phuket's economic drivers – tourism and real estate – continue to purr, though you have to question for how long can we continue to be sand-diving with our collective heads stuck in the beach? Still all remains well in a dysfunctional, catatonic, sort of Hello Kitty land. Perhaps we need to throw in a little Tim Burton to stir things up?

For months now, the final battle or ultimate showdown has loomed in Bangkok not dissimilar to a bad, well, a

very, very bad haircut. We wait, we watch, and we listen as the politicians head to the very edge, time and time again, all Thelma and Louise like. Strangely, the edge has a magnetic force field, which mystically keeps pushing back at the very last minute.

Is the force with us? Whenever I speak to Thais or expats, there is a total fog and a distinct lack of clarity; but what is loud and clear is the only weariness, anger and partisan-thinking came to work today. Travelling abroad is worse, as anyone from the Kingdom is immediately cast in the supporting role as an expert on Thai political machinations. If they only knew, most of us have a hard enough time here in Phuket finding matching flip flops, much less determining the future of a dinged up, wheezing democratic time warp.

Yes, life goes on, the sun comes up and the rain pours down. Uncertainty has simply become a way of life, or a karma tagline. I'm starting to suspect the force is not with us, but then again, it's not exactly against us either. In my house, when the kids want to watch an endless lineup of their favorite cartoons, they hide the remote control from me. It's annoying being helpless in the face of an onslaught of *Tom & Jerry*. It's pretty much the same feeling I have had sitting on the end of my seat for the past six months.

Adults love to be in control, be it the battery-operated joystick for the wondrous world of channel-surfing. Or equally, in the all grown up game of business. Total control is the aim, not the weightless world of outer space, where gravity has taken a holiday and it's every man



Uncertain situation in Bangkok keeps the rest of the country on the edge of their seats. Photo: Reuters

or woman for themselves.

True, Thailand is not the worst political stage on the planet. This decade has somehow catapulted us to the days of future past. Roll back to the 1960s, where as a kid, the chaotic times framed my worldview. Clearly passive-aggressive types may find themselves on a razor's edge with all this uncertainty. My wishful-thinking reaction is to become more Zen-like, take it one day at a time, and search for the attainment of true patience.

Despite my best efforts, I remain a very impatient person, as anyone who has ever come within three feet of my overbearing moody

toe-tapping self will testify. Guilty? Yes. Reformation, well we can all try, but at the end of the day, we

Yes, life goes on, the sun comes up and the rain pours down. Uncertainty has simply become a way of life, or a karma tagline. /

are who we are, and the Beatles said is best in *Let It Be*.

As I stamp my fingers on the keyboard, my mind turns to next

week, or even tomorrow. Will the edge be breached by the time this sees the light of day in hard copy? Thereby rendering it, one for the bin. Or will confusion reign, as it has for more weeks than I'd even like to recall?

In the entertainment world the *X Files* asked if the truth was out there. Somewhere. From where I sit at the moment, this question rules the day throughout the land, and all of us here in paradise island have to contend with the answer that will come.

Bill Barnett is the Managing Director of C9Hotelworks and can be contacted through: c9hotelworks.com



Life in Thailand is frustrating if you like to be in control. Photo: Muband

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In brief...

Four Seasons brands private jet

HOTEL brands are now moving skyward with the latest news that vaunted hospitality luxury brand Four Seasons has launched a private jet.

The Boeing 757 is able to accommodate 52 passengers and a 24 day world tour is priced at US\$119,000.

With nine destinations covered, the cost includes hotel, airfare,

meals, transfers and excursions.

Certainly one for the bucket list and yes the aircraft does have the Four Seasons name on it.

– thephuketinsider.com

3rdHome group widens market

PREMIUM exchange provider 3rdHome has tapped into hotel branded residences to expand their offerings.

The most recent deal is a re-

ciprocal arrangement with the Ritz-Carlton Destination Club.

Other branded offerings include Trump Tower in New York and Auberge Resorts.

3rdHome offers a vertical rating system for upscale and luxury properties based on key market valuations.

– thephuketinsider.com

Dusit opens new hotel in Patong

DUSIT Hotels & Resorts launched their Dusit D2 brand in Patong

The 392 room property is a conversion of the Destination Resort. Familiar Phuket face Kelly

Lewis who was at the Indigo Pearl previously, is on board as General Manager. In the past the hotel has been flagged as a Courtyard by Marriott and origi-

nally was the Tropicana.

This is the second go for Dusit's D2 in Patong, as back in 2011 they operated the B-Lay Tong.

– thephuketinsider.com

Amari aims to double its revenue

By Somluck Srimalee

AMARI Estate Co, a property arm of Ital-Thai Group, is targeting both local and foreign buyers with two residential projects worth at least 4 billion baht to be developed from 2015-16 in Phuket and Phang Nga's Kho Lak.

"We may launch both projects or maybe only one, depending on the market and the economy at that time," Chief Executive Officer Yuthachai Charanachitta said recently.

Over the next three years, the company plans to introduce one or two projects annually.

Amari Residences Phuket – worth 2.3 billion baht – premiered last year. The project is under construction and is expected to be completed by year-end and sold out next year, so the company will start studying the following two projects.

The company has succeeded in selling 60 per cent of the first phase, worth 300 million baht, of Amari Residences Phuket. It also aims to boost its sales this year and sell out the project next year by appointing Knight Frank Chartered (Thailand) Co as its project consultant and sales agent for this project.

Phanom Kanjanathiemthao, managing director of the Thai Knight Frank unit, said

it planned to take the project on an overseas roadshow to Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Beijing, China.

The main customer target is investors who want to buy a vacation home and also want an investment income, because this project is being developed under the new concept of "hotel-branded residence".

Amari has revamped all procedures and service standards with assistance from Onyx Hospitality, which has been in the hotel and housing management business for more than 20 years. Buyers will be guaranteed a return on investment of 6 per cent for the first three years, then will receive a share of the profit from operating the business.

Buyers of the third and fourth phases can choose to occupy their unit or put it in the hotel pool.

"After beginning to introduce the project to customers abroad and getting positive feedback from the market, we believe that the project will sell out next year," Phanom said.

Yuthachai said the company aimed to increase its revenue to between 1 bn baht and 1.5 bn baht next year, while this year it aims for only 300 million baht from its condominium project in Hua Hin. The Phuket units will start to be transferred to customers next year.

-The Nation



Amari has succeeded in selling 60 per cent of the first phase, worth 300 million baht, of Amari Residences Phuket which is currently under construction. Photo: Supplied

Phuket.net wins Asia Pacific Property Award

LOCAL company Phuket.Net Real Estate is pleased to announce that it is among the winners of a 5-star Award at the prestigious Asia Pacific Property Award held at the Shangri-la Hotel in Kuala Lumpur on May 9.

Founded in 2007 as a residential brokerage firm specializing in holiday and investment properties, Phuket.net Real Estate is one of the island's leading independent agents with a portfolio of Phuket property and extensive Phuket rental listings.

Phuket.net was competing against a number of real estate agents and property consultants to receive the award for Best Real Estate Agency Website Asia Pacific. As a regional winner, the company will also be flying the flag for the Asia Pacific at the International Property Awards to be held in Dubai later this year.

"I am very proud of our hard working team at Phuket.Net Real Estate" said Phuket.net Managing Director Alex Lotz, "They continue to grow our site and services making it user-friendly, informative and efficient. To be recognized by International Property Awards for our efforts is extremely rewarding."

The Asia Pacific Property Awards are part of the long established International Property Awards. The award winners' logo is recognized as a symbol of excellence throughout the global industry.

"Attaining one of these coveted awards is indisputable evidence that Phuket.net is capable of outperforming some exceedingly



Portal will represent Asia Pacific in Dubai, at International Property Awards to be held later this year.

strong contenders within the highly competitive Asia Pacific property arena," added Mr Lotz.

The Asia Pacific region has an enviable record of achievement at the international level, having scooped an unbeaten total of 18 World's Best Awards in 2013.

Stuart Shield, President of the International Property Awards said, "We will all now wait to see if Asia Pacific can not only retain the title of best performing region in the world in the International Property Awards, but also beat its own record for yet another successive year.

"Each region is highly competitive with levels of excellence within the property industry rising annually, this makes the competition hugely exciting as it heads towards the final conclusion in December," he added.

The awards' judging panel consists of approximately 70 professionals, including: Lord Caithness; Lord Best; Lord Courtown; Fiona Nixon, chairman of the Australian Institute of Architects; Patrick Grove, co-founder of IPGA Ltd; and Peter Bolton King, residential professional group director at RICS.

- The Nation

For further information on the International Property Awards winners visit: international-propertyevents.com

Phuket property market in a hole

THE property market in Phuket has witnessed a decline, with many domestic and foreign buyers delaying their purchase decision.

The island's residential inventory was more than 7,000 units as of April 30, according to research by the Phuket Real Estate Association (PREA).

Association president Thanusak Pundget said that up to 60 per cent of the inventory waiting to be sold was in projects developed by property firms from Bangkok that had been expanding their investment in Phuket since 2012, while the remainder was accounted for by Phuket-

based developers. Some 3,000 of the 7,000 units are in residential projects launched last year, with the remainder in projects launched in 2014.

The roughly 7,000 units will take more than one year to sell out, now that demand has fallen.

Jones Lang LaSalle Managing Director Suphin Mechuchep said residential demand in Phuket has declined because buyers had postponed their decisions to buy in the current climate.

They are concerned about the political turmoil, which has in turn impacted the economy, Mechuchep said. - The Nation

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On the run

RECENT reports quoting Thai Immigration officials as saying that “visa runs” were a thing of the past have generated a great deal of interest and debate in Thailand’s expat community.

Yet this crackdown is little more than the latest in a long series of tweaks to Immigration policy that is unlikely to have any real impact on foreigners staying in the country legally.

The clampdown, set to take effect in August, will simply limit the number of times foreigners will be allowed to enter the Kingdom on visa exemptions. The change was triggered in large part as a way to prevent foreigners – particularly those from South Korea, Vietnam and Russia – from exploiting lax Immigration policies designed to stimulate tourism.

The reason for the policy change is as simple as it is rational: to ensure that foreigners who work in Thailand do so legally.

This is a good thing. Not just because it upholds the laws of the land, but because it supports those foreigners who take the trouble to establish legal businesses here, in part by ensuring that they are not undercut by illegal businesses.

Another method of ensuring that Immigration laws are obeyed, and one which has not been proposed, is for Immigration to improve the communication of its rules and policies. This applies to communication between Bangkok and provincial officials as well as between officials and the media, to ensure that accurate information is passed on to those affected.

Such clarity should also include a clear statement of fees for various services – in multiple languages – on the Foreign Ministry website and in each Immigration office.

It would also be helpful if the Tourism Authority of Thailand did their part and published information to prevent legitimate tourists from being frightened off by the recent headlines. In a country so reliant on tourism, crackdowns connected to it could do long-lasting damage.

But for better or worse, “visa running” will likely remain with us for a long time.

On the plus side, these enforced journeys have resulted in new friendships, remarkable tales of mischief and adventure, and even served as a quarterly break from the routines we become entrenched in.

On the negative side, the trips have cost companies untold thousands of hours of lost manpower and productivity and forced people onto Thailand’s notoriously dangerous roads, sometimes with tragic or even fatal results.

Thailand’s dependence on tourism, coupled with long-standing regulations that make it difficult for some expats to obtain year-long permits-to-stay or residency status, virtually ensure that there will continue to be sufficient numbers of foreigners needing to do out-and-in trips to guarantee the survival of a visa run industry that has endured for decades – even as scores of governments have come and gone.



Take care while lifeguards are away

Re: Gazette online, Tourist drowns, first victim of lifeguardless Phuket beaches, May 19

Was there a red flag up? In the off season in Europe you won't find a lifeguard anywhere. It's always sad, but personal responsibility must be a factor. Rough seas, low season, no lifeguard: You take your chances.

Owen O Connell
Facebook

Stay the right way

Re: Gazette online, Tourist visa runs are not dead: Immigration boss, May 16

There is a law, and there is a way to legally stay here if you want to. There is also the problem that many use the wrong visa to stay in Thailand.

Get the right visa and that's all, folks. If you insist on using the wrong method to prolong your stay in Thailand, don't be so upset and denounce Thais and Thailand. You yourself are to blame if any misfortune comes your way.

Budda Sabaiboon
Facebook

Follow Malaysia for airport fingerprinting

Re: Gazette online, Fingerprint scans to debut at Immigration to catch known criminals, May 15

“Immigration queues will get longer, but this needs to be done,” said Immigration Commissioner Pharnu Kerdlarpphon.

I have flown to KL several times since they implemented fingerprint scanners, and they are able to process large numbers of people in a short period of time.

Why? They eliminated “landing cards” and have no facial scanning. Thailand should follow their lead.

Me
Gazette forum

Letters to the Editor

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

Farewell and thanks, Chief Cheewapap

Re: Gazette online, Chief departs Phuket with park encroachment raids, May 20

What a shame this guy has found it too difficult to remain in Phuket. We must all say thank you for being so honest and wish you well in your new post.

Moyra Elliot
Facebook

He said so himself

Re: Gazette online, Chalong top cop back at work in home station, May 19

By his own admission, “I can not keep an eye on all my men.” So why place him back in the same position at the same location to let it happen again? Dysfunction at it's best.

Phil Phelan
Facebook

TAT not in touch

Re: Gazette online, Thailand's Southern beaches remain the country's most popular destinations, May 15

The TAT acts like everything is wonderful at the beach, in spite of the fact that they are trash-strewn messes with white soft sand peppered with cigarette butts.

Combine that with filthy black-water klongs and regular sewage discharges throughout the country, and the picture of Thailand's beaches starts to pale.

TAT needs to read the tourist comments on Trip Advisor.

Trashy Beaches
Gazette forum

Killing after hours

Re: Gazette online, Cop denies pulling trigger in Phuket drive-by shooting, May 19

What is the legal closing time for local pubs?

Even if the officer had nothing to do with the shooting, he aided in the violation of the law, and as such should be demoted, suspended or transferred to someplace where late night pub-crawling is frowned upon – such as Yala.

Al May
Gazette forum

Cops saving animals

Re: Gazette online, Exercising off-duty cop nabs two animal touts in Phuket, May 19

Good, I hate the exploitation of animals for monetary gain – they are not a commodity. I only hope someone has confiscated the eagles at Karon viewpoint.

To the police – good work.
Katya De Franca
Facebook

Leaders know little

Re: Gazette online, Phuket officials vote to halt dredging of marina canal, May 17

This shows how little local authorities know about what they vote on. First they approve and now they say no.

Horst
Gazette forum

Drivers, not the road

Re: Gazette online, Phuket Tourist Police in fender bender on slippery road, May 15

I have driven here for 15 years and have never suddenly “lost control” of my car, no matter how much it rains.

Christian
Gazette forum

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Asking for honest, reliable customers

FIRST PERSON



Arnut Lowlarng, 39, is a native of Patong and the new President of the Patong Bike and Car Rent Association. He has a vocational certificate in construction from Phuket Technical College and has been renting vehicles in Patong for over 22 years.

Here, he talks about what kind of tourists he'd like to see in Phuket and the issues faced by rental operators.

IT'S easy to see that the tourists who come to Phuket nowadays have a lot less buying power than those who came 15 years ago. I'd say 10 times less.

Budget airlines, hotels, apartments and so forth have made travel affordable for a lot more people. I have nothing against tourists who are not rich, but I have a big problem with those who are cheaters and who don't respect the property they rent from me.

Making Thailand more affordable has increased the number of undesirable tourists that we get. For example, customers in my friend's restaurant ordered 6,000 baht of food and ran away without paying for it. A guy who rented a motorcycle from me got drunk and burned rubber on my bike – you know, accelerating while you hold the brakes, to make a lot of noise and smoke. He even made a video clip of himself doing it! That's not good for my bike, and if it's damaged, it costs me time and money to get it repaired.

If you ask me what we want most from the government, it would be more customers and also higher quality customers. That means no criminals too. Immigration and embassies should conduct careful criminal checks on people coming to Thailand.

Our country's selling point is a good environment and culture, but people who come here to commit crimes destroy our image. Just one example is ATM skimmer gangs.

But it's not just tourists that should be good quality. Rental operators have to do their part to

provide good and reliable business, we know that. We've gotten a lot of flak recently because we keep tourists' passports when we rent out vehicles to them.

There are a couple of things to keep in mind. First, the tourist always has a choice. They can leave a deposit equal to the value of the bike, or they can leave their passports. That deposit amounts to about 35,000 baht for the average bike, so it's not surprising that they prefer to leave their passports.

We understand the responsibility of holding passports and we take great care to return them to their rightful owners.

We made a mistake once, and though it cost us a lot of money, we did what we had to to correct it. We had given the wrong passport to a customer who left Phuket and went to Pattaya. Then the real owner of the passport came in, and told us he had a flight leaving the next day. One of our staff flew to Pattaya to bring the passport back in time for our customer.

We are participating in the LINE app program, and send passport

photos of everyone who rents from us to the police. I think it's a good idea, but I'm not sure about long-term benefits; we only started two months ago.

I heard that some people blame us when tourists who rent vehicles have accidents. We tell our customer to wear helmets and advise them about road safety. In the future, I'd like to give renters a more complete picture of traffic laws.

We do check licenses and most of all, make sure our renters can drive. One time I rented a car to someone, then cancelled the rental as the guy was driving away because I could see he didn't know what he was doing.

The bottom line is, we don't want our renters to have accidents. We don't want them to get hurt, of course, and we don't want to lose money because our property is damaged and can't be rented out.

The thing I want most from my customers is respect for my property. We are providing them with a service – a vehicle to use, not a toy to have fun with. Please don't damage it.



Green in Phuket is just another word for wet. Photo: Lion Hirth

Where the low went

Island View

By Alex Stone

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

THE sacred oxen have spoken – the rainy season is upon us – and it will be a year of abundant water and food. The year will also be abundant in Russians, Chinese and Middle Easterners – the financial saviors of Phuket's low season.

Down here on the island, far from the rice-reliant agriculture industry, the Royal Ploughing Ceremony is more of a novelty than a significant marking of the start of the planting season. In Phuket, the only thing that seems to change now is that you have to pack a poncho every time you get on the motorbike.

The days are gone when the island emptied out for the southwest monsoon season. Now, the traffic congestion will continue; tour boats will keep speeding dozens of eager Chinese tourists out to Phi Phi; and hotel occupation, though not what it is at Christmas, will be acceptable.

The Russians, Chinese, and Middle Easterners keep profits up during the rainy season, which is still woefully being branded as the "green season" by the Thailand Authority of Tourism (TAT).

Though the TAT probably hasn't made a dent with its attempt to re-brand the rainy season as the green season, their advertising does bring to light one of the reasons that our dear island, and its permanent residents, no longer get a breath of fresh air between the onslaught of tourists: the contin-

ued development of markets outside of Europe.

Though the Middle Eastern, Russian and Asian tourists take the brunt of badmouthing by expats and locals alike, they are what is keeping the industry above the waterline during the rainy season.

The old-timers who are still here no doubt long for the time when the island did empty out. A time when the sea was cleaner, the beaches had fewer chairs and probably the grass was greener. (I believe such places are opening up just off the coast of Myanmar.) However, for those looking to get rich in Phuket, or at least keep their business in the black, these new markets are a blessing.

The truth behind the tiresome joke of the best way to get a million dollars in Phuket is to start with 10 million may be on the cusp of no longer being accurate.

With tourists continuing to flood in, rainy season or not, and Phuket preparing for the Asean Economic Community with a bazillion infrastructure projects, as well as the 20 billion baht BluPearl complex, perhaps the island will become a place for people to cash in on ideas – rain or shine.

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

Who can prove how much money I have?

As part of my one-year retirement visa application, I am required to submit proof of income. The British Government no longer allows British honorary consuls to do this in Thailand.

Is it possible for me to get this from any EU Honorary Consul in Phuket, or do I need to get it from the UK Embassy in Bangkok?

Roy Beattie
Phuket

Lt Col Napat Nusen, Phuket Immigration Officer, replies:

British nationals must request proof of income from the British Embassy in Bangkok.

Immigration will not accept proof of income for British nationals issued by another country's consul or embassy. It must come from the British Embassy.

Parking in Ao Por could create a disaster in an emergency

LAST week, the road in front of the main Ao Por pier was blocked by 19 big tour buses that were loading and unloading hundreds of tourists. I had a sick person in my car and was trying to get him to the hospital. It took us 20 minutes to get past the blockage.

No designated bus parking and tourists all over mean the road is totally blocked. Residents living at the end of the street have only one

way in and out.

In addition, the footpaths all the way to the end of the road are blocked with illegal new structures, so we cannot even ride a motorbike out. In an emergency, such as a tsunami, we will all be trapped.

In the last year Ao Por pier has become a major tourist pick-up point; this is an accident waiting to happen. A dedicated bus car park is needed as well as proper management of the road. Could the appropriate authorities comment?

Worried
Ao Por

Panya Sampaorat, Mayor of Pa Khlok, replies:

We have never received a complaint from residents or tourists

about the traffic. I did not know that the buses were parking on the road.

In the past, I have ordered my staff to warn bus drivers against parking on the beachfront road, as it is not allowed.

I want to solve this problem. If drivers park on the road, I will fine them 500 baht and bar them from coming into Ao Por in the future.

If you have a problem with the buses again, please report it to me at 081-7376596

Kwanhatai Panompai, assistant revenue officer of Pa Khlok Municipality, replies:

There are two parking lots in Ao Por; one is owned by a private company and one is reserved for minibuses belonging to Pa Khlok Municipality.

The buses and vans on the beachfront road are taking tourists to the Ao Por Pier.

The drivers park there because the tourists don't like to walk.

There are shops on the sidewalks because when the municipality cleaned up and beautified the area, we compromised with local residents and allowed them to continue using the area.



Lined up 19 in a row, these create a safety hazard. Photo: Leslie Porterfield

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

Submit your issue at

www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers

**YOUR
Phuket**

Albatross Lufthansa City Center opens new office at Boat Avenue



From left: Mr Dirk Grossmann, Lufthansa country manager for Thailand, Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos, with Robert de Graaff, general manager of Albatross Lufthansa City Center, Busaba Chanpichaikosol, managing director Albatross Lufthansa City Center, and Boon Yongsakul, deputy managing director of Phuket Boat Lagoon Co Ltd, at the opening, two weeks ago, of the company's new facilities at Boat Avenue in Cherng Talay.

The Bay Presta Grand Opening



From left: Supachai Jirasiemkul, Director of Bay Presta; Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupapana; and Bay Presta Advisor Jirasak Lorlohakarn at the grand opening celebration.

Phuket pilots tour control tower



Members of the Phuket Flying Club were treated to a tour of the control tower at Phuket International Airport by Prayoon Miangho, manager of the Regional Air Traffic Control Center (middle row, second from right). During the tour, Phuket Airpark Owner Robert Suchard Raksangob (middle row, right) and Phuket Airpark Manager Pat James (middle row, third from left) exchanged flight path maps and discussed air traffic safety with control tower staff.

Kids Club opens in Patong

The Kids Club by St James Properties, the biggest indoor playground in Phuket, held its soft opening on May 14 at the Promenade Mall in Patong. Kids had fun running wild in the colorful padded playground, at a creative baking workshop hosted by Joob Joob, and at a magic show by Koko the Clown.



Esa Huovila, managing director of St James Properties.



Anthony Reynolds, owner of designer cupcake bakery Joob Joob, helps a child decorate her cupcake.

The Phuket Gazette's weekly

ISLAND TRADER

Phuket's **LARGEST CLASSIFIEDS** Marketplace – in Print and Online*

May 24 - 30, 2014 | PhuketGazette.Net

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

PROPERTY of the week



JOB of the week



EDUCATION of the week



BOAT & MARINE of the week



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

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

Properties For Sale

LUXURY APARTMENT KATA BEACH SPECIAL SALE!

1 bedroom, 60sqm, includes furniture, in the center of Kata, sea level, close to shops, in a charming property with pool, sauna, parking etc. Market price (4.1 million baht). Now 2.6 million baht. Please call 081-788 8280 or email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

2-STOREY RESIDENCE

Well situated 2-floor townhouse with 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large lounge, kitchen and carport on 104sqm land. Well maintained and ready for immediate occupancy in a safe residential estate. Priced to sell at 2.95 million baht. Tel: 081-970 3526 (English), 081-676 2629 (English & Thai). Email: petersoffshore@hotmail.com

LAND PLOTS 3.1 MILLION BAHT



2 plots, each 1,100sqm in a development with underground electricity and security for sale. Conveniently located, only 10 mins from airport, PIA International School, Nai Yang Beach, Ao Po Marina and shopping center. Ready to build, 3.1 million baht per plot. Tel: 081-343 0777.

KARON SEAVIEW LAND

300m to beach, yellow zone, for 7-storey condo, 25 million baht. Tel: 081-415 4555 (English). Email: mail1950@free.net.de

NICE HOUSE CHALONG

400sqm, furnished, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. European kitchen, 4 aircons, swimming pool. Sale: 4.9 million baht. Tel: 082-809 2873 (English & Thai).

LAND FOR SALE LOCH PALM

6+ rai overlooking Loch Palm golf course with stunning mountain views for sale. Tel: 089-839 8255. Email: info@lantaestate.net

ONE SALE - 3 LUXURY APTS. KATA BEACH

1) 2 really big bedrooms, big kitchen and living room, 135sqm.
2) 1 bedroom, 60 sqm.
3) 1 bedroom, 58sqm.
Total of 253sqm in the center of Kata, sea level, close to shops, in a charming property with pool, sauna, parking etc. Total market price (18.4 million baht). Now 13.4 million baht. Please call 081-788 8280 or email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

LAND NEXT TO LOCH PALM

Land on main road next to Loch Palm golf course. Ready to build, Chanote, perfect for commercial or residential development. Tel: 081-956 3166. Email: voute.a@gmail.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.

LAND IN SOI SALIGA RAWAI

850sqm land for sale in this popular upmarket Soi. Close to international primary school. Full Chanote and house registration, electricity and water supply. Price: 5.5 million baht. Tel: 081-833 7836. Email: silomdon@gmail.com

MAI KHAO LAND FOR SALE

7 rai, 17 million baht. For more information, please call 081-892 7082.

PROPERTY AND MOTOR INSURANCE

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- Personal Accident and Travel
- Motor insurance

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

www.lambertbrothers.co.th

LAND FOR SALE



Khok Kloy. 8.5 rai land, Chanote title. 2km from Sarasin Bridge. 1km from Beach. Road access and power supply. Recently measured by government. Only 850,000 baht per rai. Please contact Paew: 089-972 5378. Tin: 089-288 4537 (English&Thai).

KARON BEACH CONDO

Oceanfront, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 167sqm, one minute walk to beach. 14.5 million baht. Lease with option? Rent? Please call 090-008 503, +10-40 6728 1124. Email: rtj1111@yahoo.com

BARGAIN 3-BEDROOM SEAVIEW CONDO

3-bedroom seaview, 164 sqm, foreign freehold, condo for sale in Panwa. Only 6 million baht! Tel: 090-165 8266. Email: nuno@phuketrentalproperties.com

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.

3-BED DUPLEX HOUSE 2.39MB

Great value, 3-bed duplex house near Laguna. Open plan kitchen, living and dining room. Tel: 087-193 7825 (English & Thai). Email: jasmeeek666@hotmail.com

BEAUTIFULLY FURNISHED CONDO

Attractively furnished, fully equipped, 4th floor, 37sqm, 1-bed condo in the Royal Place. Tel: 081-828 0615 (English & Thai). Email: dom23781@msn.com

Khao Yai Property for Sale / Rent

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

ZCAPE 1-BEDROOM CONDO LAGUNA

Brand-new, semi-furnished, two 1-bedroom condos (27.7 sqm & 29.41sqm), adjacent units on 6th floor in Zcape development, ready now. Near Laguna, Boat Avenue and beaches. Thai or foreign ownership ok. Both priced at under 2 million baht. Tel: 085-235 1532 (English & Thai). Email: thanasak.nk@gmail.com

RAWAI 4-BEDROOM POOL VILLA

715sqm house and 1 bungalow. 4 bedrooms, 330sqm, fully furnished, 12m salt water pool. 12.9 million baht. (Nous Parlons Francais). For more information, please call 080-885 0442 (English), 080-912 8853 (Thai). Email: gerard.saintaubin@gmail.com

2 PLOTS OF LAND FOR SALE BAN KOH RAED, PHANG NGA PROVINCE



1). 121 rai with Certificate of Utilization (N.S.3K), seaview and can see Sarasin Bridge. 1 million baht per rai.
2). 8.5 rai with Certificate of Utilization (N.S.3K), next to the pier of Raed Island. 7 million baht per rai.
The Certificate of Utilization can be changed to land title deed upon request. Tel: 089-471 0202 (Thai), 089-646 3533 (English)

Baan Yamu Residences

Condominium available for sale

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

PRIVATE POOL VILLA BANG TAO

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

POOL VILLA NAI HARN 6.4 MB

Amazing value for money! 2-bedroom pool villa with garden in secured estate, Nai Harn. 6.4 million baht. Must see. No agents. Tel: 093-579 8503 (English).

SEAVIEW CONDO RAWAI



6.5 million baht, freehold, 120sqm, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Tel: 090-408 3800. Email: adrian_troy@yahoo.com

UK HOUSE PROPERTY SWAP

Permanent exchange offered of very spacious extended detached 4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, garage, 3 reception rooms, etc. mortgage free, situated in UK, to swap for suitable property in good secure location in Phuket. Will also consider apartments. Please call 080-046 2845. Email: Lynne.Morze.langan@yahoo.co.uk

LUXURY VILLA

Just 3 minutes from BIS, 900sqm land, 350sqm building, 3 bedrooms + maid room, 4 bathrooms, studio, 14x4m swimming pool, fish ponds. 15 million baht. Contact Alex. Please call 089-651 3250.

AO PO SEAVIEW LAND

1.5 rai. Constructed access road. Chanote. 300m from Grand Marina. 10 million baht. Please call 082-277 5971.

500,000 BAHT KAMALA LEASEHOLD

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

UNDER MARKET PRICE

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

GRAND BOAT PLAZA



Single house, 3 bedrooms, 51sq wah, for sale in Samkong. Near BIS and Central Festival. Price: 5 million baht. Tel: 086-908 2819.

Properties For Rent

HOUSE IN KATHU

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, aircon, WiFi, kitchen. Located in Sabay Village, Kathu. 16,000 baht per month. For more information, please contact as follows: Tel: 089-203 9270 (English & Thai), 089-185 5318. Email: mathurot28@gmail.com

HOUSE FOR RENT

Fully furnished, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 aircons. 30,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-266 7191.



CONDO AT ROYAL PLACE



Phuket city, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus. 45sqm, 3 Fi 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). PIs contact 086-4769812. Email: annanoi@hotmail.com

RAWAI BEACH CONDO

One bedroom, great views, 8,500 baht per month. Tel: 086-057 7714.

MASSIVE APARTMENT

Patong. Big pool, WiFi, kitchen, 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 70 92. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

WALK TO KATA BEACH

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

KATA HILL SINGLE HOUSE

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

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

KATA HILL BUNGALOW

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

HOUSE FOR RENT / SALE THALANG



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

PATONG TOWER BEAUTIFUL CONDO



Beautiful Patong Tower beach condo with stunning 280-degree panoramic views of the ocean, town and mountains. Large outdoor patio and wrap-around balcony. Completely renovated, internet and washing machine. Available now. Email: patongtowerrental@yahoo.com, www.PatongTowerRental.com

PATONG NICE APARTMENT

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

RAWAI 1 BEDROOM

Luxury designed condo, close to shops and sea. 14,000 baht per month. Tel: 087-620 8420.

1-BED BUNGALOW

Quiet location, Rawai, aircon, WiFi, kitchen, fully furnished. 9,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-271 7092. Email: bricothailand@hotmail.com

3-BEDROOM HOUSE FOR RENT

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

SURIN BEACH

1-2 bedroom(s). 300m to beach. Fully furnished. Direct pool access. Please call 081-835 0158 (English). Email: jgstryker@gmail.com

FULLY FURNISHED HOUSE

3 bedrooms, 400sqm, free WiFi and cable TV. 25,000 baht per month. Tel: 081-892 4311. http://palaigreen.weebly.com

B.L. APARTMENT

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

TOWNHOUSE PHUKET TOWN FOR RENT / SALE



In Supalai City Hill Estate, very quiet, safe, convenient. 3 years old, 2 storeys, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, WiFi, decorated, shady garden, well-maintained by original owner. For sale: 2.8 million baht ono. Or long-term rent: 10,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 089-874 0061. Email: ste phenfein@gmail.com

NAI HARN HOUSE 2KM BEACH

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

NEW COZY POOL VILLA



Bang Tao close to Tesco Lotus and beaches, 2 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, maid's room, private pool, furnished, aircon, parking, small garden, long term: 45,000 baht per month. For more information, please call 081-737 1687.

SPACIOUS 2-BED POOL VILLA

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

NEW CONDO FOR RENT



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

LUXURY APARTMENT @ PATONG

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

HOUSE FOR RENT

Long term, Boat Lagoon, 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, fully furnished. Contact Fon. For more information, please call 084-629 32 44. Email: fon-daki@hotmail.com

APARTMENT AT KATHU FOR RENT

The Green Golf Residence offers 48-168sqm studios and 1 to 3-bedroom apartments located in the Phuket Country Club. Evergreen fairway views and natural lake views. Fully furnished, WiFi. Tel: 076-319338, 085-068 9794 (English & Thai). Email: m_monpriya@hotmail.com

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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

PROPERTY SALES MANAGER

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

LOOKING FOR MANAGER AT WAKE PARK

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

PROPERTY MARKETING MANAGER

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

ENGLISH-SPEAKING GUIDES

Phi Phi Island. We are looking for 2 English-speaking guides for our overnight boat tour which leaves from Phi Phi Don. The job is to entertain and keep our customers safe. If you look after our customers well, we will look after you. Contact Siripan. Tel: 087-382 9163.

BANDS NEEDED

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

SWEDISH STAFF WANTED

Swedish speaking, 20-30 years old. Send CV and photo to naturejob13@gmail.com

GUEST SERVICES

At Escape Hunt Phuket, Kathu, 5 days per week. Tel: 082-7899620. Apply and inquire to phuket@escapehunt.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

RESORT STAFF WANTED

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

THAI STAFFS WANTED

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

YOGA TEACHER WANTED

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

BUILDING MANAGER @BANGTAO

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

SOCIAL MEDIA TO HELP DOGS!

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

JUNIOR ACCOUNTANT NEEDED

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

PERSONAL ASSISTANT WANTED

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

Employment Wanted

PART TIME ONLY

I am looking for part time job, I can cook, clean, take care of baby, and can live in. Contact Taew. Tel: 099-231 8713.

AD SALES REPRESENTATIVE

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

OFFICE ASSISTANT

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

FEMALE STAFF FOR TAO MASSAGE

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

Authorized Agents for Classified Advertising:

CHALONG

- ▶ Julapan Stationery (Chaofa East Rd)
- ▶ KL Mart (Patak Rd, Chalong Circle)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Fisherman's Way Business Center, Chaofa East Rd)

Tel: 076-282254
Tel: 076-280400
Tel: 076-282403

PATONG

- NEW Andy's Real Estate Agency (Opp. Savoey Seafood)
- ▶ Taurus Travel (Aroonsom Plaza)
- ▶ Khun Woody's Sandwich Shoppe (Aroonsom Plaza)

Tel: 076-341644
Tel: 076-344521-2
Tel: 076-290468

PHUKET CITY

- ▶ Earth Language Training Centre School (Phang Nga Rd)
- ▶ Sin & Lee (Thalang Rd)
- ▶ iTree complete printing service (Tesco Lotus Phuket Town) bank zone

Tel: 076-232398
Tel: 076-258369
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!**

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

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

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

RECEPTIONIST WANTED
For small guesthouse near the beach in Patong. Good salary and benefits. Some spoken and written English and computer skills preferred. Contact John. Tel: 092-069 7408. Email: jmiles@iinet.net.au

Phuket Gazette

The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

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

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

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

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

TEACHERS WANTED
Chalermprakit School is looking for native English speakers. A bachelor's degree and TEFL are required. Tel: 085-781 9162. Send your CV to swpk_mlp@yahoo.com, please contact Clark.

EARN 30,000-120,000 BAHT/MONTH
Cruise ship staff needed. Work 3-7 month shift. All expenses paid. Must speak English. Tel: 093-728 1003 (English). Send resume / photo to jobs@sea staffing.com

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

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

ANDAMAN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.
Developer • Property Management • Architectural • Interior Design
• located at The Plaza Surin, Phuket is looking for qualified, energetic people to fill these positions:

M & E project engineering

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Electrical Engineering
- Age between 35-45 years
- At least 5 years' experience in construction of Hotel, Real estate development
- Positive attitude, self-motivated, strong leadership, proactive interpersonal & communication skills, well organized & able to deal with contractors
- Computer literacy in software relevant to the position

Interested candidates, please send full resume, expected salary & enclose a recent photo by fax or e-mail to **Andaman Property Development Co., Ltd.:**

The Plaza Surin 5/50 Moo 3, Cherng Talay, Thalang, Phuket 83110
Tel: +66-(0)76-271241 | Fax: +66-(0)76-271242 | Email: hr@paradisep Phuket.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Live in Chalong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Julapan Stationery**

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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Live in Patong?
Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at **Taurus Travel**

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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Looking for a JOB?
Looking for a better candidate?
Find more Recruitment Classifieds at **WWW.PhuketGazette.Net!**

Business Opportunities

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

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

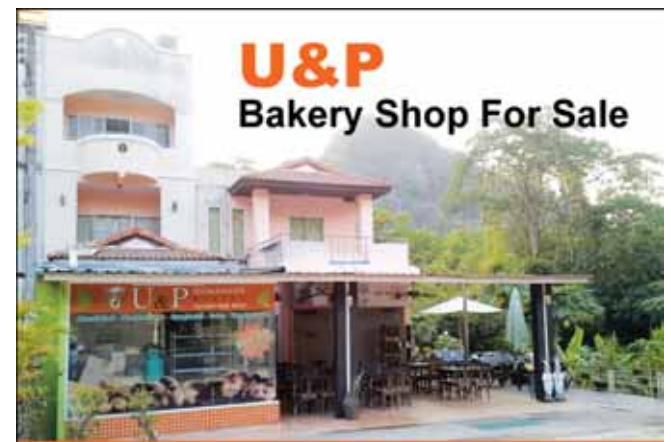
Bar, commercial kitchen and restaurant. 2 storeys, 3 bathrooms, 2 bedrooms, 2 decks, includes furniture. In good location. For sale: 580,000 baht. Rent only 20,000 baht per month. Tel: 085-348 51 37 (Thai), 081-086 3812 (English). Email: matthew.wilson@xtra.co.nz

INVESTMENT PROPERTIES FOR SALE

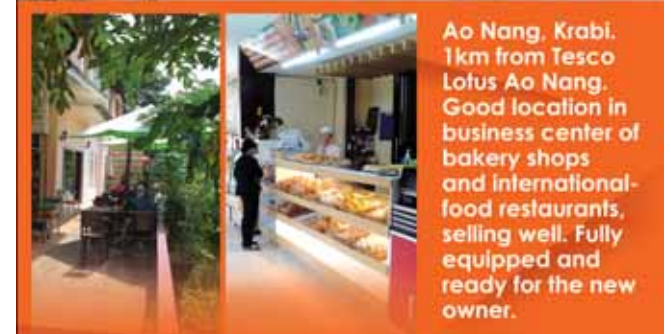
35 million baht. 2 managed buildings in Samut Prakan, comprised of 91 self-contained units, generate a net income p.a. of 1.5 million baht. Under 10-minute walk from construction of new BTS. Tel: 086-088 0755.

PROPERTY SALES MANAGER

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



U&P Bakery Shop For Sale



Ao Nang, Krabi. 1km from Tesco Lotus Ao Nang. Good location in business center of bakery shops and international food restaurants, selling well. Fully equipped and ready for the new owner.

Contact Lan. Tel: 082-412 2773 Eng. 093-697 0792 Thai.

RESTAURANT FOR SALE, KAMALA

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

4-STORY APARTMENT FOR SALE

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

BAR & RESTAURANT BANG TAO BEACH

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

INCREDIBLE PROJECT INVESTMENT

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

UNIQUE STRETCH LIMO BUSINESS

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

COMMERCIAL BUILDING

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

GUESTHOUSE FOR SALE / RENT

Rawai. Too much to list. Please call 081-808 18 04. Email: ttpitstop@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. Please contact by email: roy_baldman@yahoo.com

BAR FOR SALE PATONG

US\$50,000. Rent: US\$4,000 /month negotiable, 4 floors, 360sqm, include furnished apartment. For more information, please call 087-881 7600. Email: cocodiorster@gmail.com

NEW BOUTIQUE HOTEL PATONG

Modern boutique hotel, 16 rooms in middle of Patong. Pool, fitness restaurant, chanote. 35 million baht. For more information, please contact by email: patongboutiquehotelsale@gmail.com

Phuket Gazette

CLASSIFIED AD ORDER FORM

STANDARD AD (Text only): 140 baht/line

OPTIONS (NEWSPAPER ONLY - NOT WEB):

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

NUMBER OF INSERTIONS: issue(s)

ONLINE OPTIONS:

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

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

TELEVISION OPTION:

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

Total cost of your classified baht

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

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

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

PROMOTION PRICE

Your Ad on **PGTV**

SAMPLE ADS

TOYOTA HILUX HERO

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

Standard: 840 baht (incl VAT)

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

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

I will move to Phuket soon. Three yrs teaching in Bangkok. Phone Mr Reece (02) 668-1268

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Line 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)

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

Club Memberships Available

PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB MEMBERSHIP
For sale: 500,000 baht. Tel: 098-039 9127 (English). Email: normanlynch@mac.com

Personal Services

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

MASSAGE THERAPY AT YOUR PLACE
Thai traditional massage: 500 baht per hour. Aromatherapy massage: 1,000 baht per hour. Open daily 9am-10pm. Tel: 092-464 84 71.

INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING
US licensed counselor. Children-Adults-Families. Phuket mental health counseling. Tel: 086-271 8153 (English). Email: parwgk@aol.com

LEGAL SERVICES
Contract drafting, counseling, civil & criminal action, court interpreter. Tel: 089-873 6533. Email: info@suwat chana-law-office.com

Lost & Found

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

Pets

ADOPT A DOG from Doggie Heaven

Visit **DOGGIE HEAVEN** & meet our gorgeous rescued dogs. All our dogs are socialized in a home environment & ready for loving families.

Contact Sherin
Ph 084-877 3566
www.doggieheaven.net
sherin.peace@gmail.com



Personal Services Wanted

NANNY WANTED



I am looking for a full time Thai nanny for Angela - 3 years old. Must love kids. Flexibility important as it can be 15 hours one week and 40 hours another week. Full monthly salary, regardless of the hours spent. Must have a driver's license and speak English. Angela is in school from 8am-3pm. Working hours: after 3pm on week days and weekend work can appear. Please respond by email: torben@buskjensen.dk

Education



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



Miscellaneous For Sale

SOLD SECOND HAND



- 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)

Personals

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

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



Hot deal!
Classified Ads on TV

Phuket today
Phuket Gazette

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

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

Catch the show at these times

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

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

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

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

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

Saloon Cars

2012 HONDA BRIO 1.2
Manual. 21,000km, fully serviced, no accidents. 340,000 baht ono. Tel: 089-526 5620 (English), 081-367 1391 (Thai). Email: elizabeth.lee@pia.ac.th

PEUGEOT 205
Wonderful car, 1994, fine engine, no accidents, aircon, electrical windows, 5-door, 99,000 baht. Tel: 089-741 8531 (English). Email: rai.truss@icloud.com

NISSAN TEANA FOR SALE



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

PROTON NEO AUTO



1.6L, 2-door, sport black, gray leather, new 17-inch alloy, 67,000km. 1 lady owner, drives well, Price: 285,000 baht. For more information, please call 093-683 3805.

2007 TOYOTA YARIS "E"
53,000km, automatic, dual airbags, ABS, second foreign owner. Fully serviced with first-class insurance until December 2014. No accidents record. 390,000 baht. Available end of June or negotiable. Tel: 080-886 3266 (English). Email: 8verse@gmail.com

MITUBISHI PAJERO SPORT 2010
GT 3.2 diesel, 4WD, 70,000 km, 750,000 baht. Tel: 084-841 3511 (English). Email: marcsmorin@me.com

CAMRY 2.0G
82,000km. Black. New paint. First-class insurance. 675,000 baht. Tel: 081-895 4480.

METALLIC SILVER TOYOTA FORTUNER



For sale: 750,000 baht, 3.0L diesel, 102,500km, 2007, excellent condition, no accidents. Tel: 093-580 6778.

Pick-ups

ISUZU D-MAX PRESTIGE Z



Year 2012, 60,000km. Price: 850,000 baht. Tel: 088-753 7491 (English). Email: rus.zapestate@mail.ru

ISUZU D-MAX SUPER TITANIUM



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

2011 TOYOTA CHAMP



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

Others

NEW EXCAVATOR



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

MOTORBIKES FOR SALE / RENT

Buy with easy payments, much cheaper than long-term rental and you own the bike at the end. No deposit. Please call or visit; choice of 50 bikes. Tel: 081-084 6527, 085-880 1697.

HONDA ST 1300 CC PERFECT

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

CHEAP BIKES FOR SALE

Yamaha Mio125 / Fino: 24,000 baht (2012). Honda Click 125i: 33,000 baht (2013) etc. Tel: 085-788 4557 (Thai), 081-998 5583 (English). Email: win-za-za@hotmail.com

HARLEY-DAVIDSON

2000. Fat Boy, very low mileage, many extras, too many to list. Many one-of-a-kind parts, powder coated black. Tel: 087-820 9577.

Rentals

CARS FOR RENT



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

15 MOTORBIKES FROM 11,000 BAH

3-7 years old. Prices from 11,000 to 15,000 baht. Serviced and with Green books. Near Phuket Fantasea. Tel: 088-885 0525. Email: pierre@husiphuket.se

HONDA CLICK 2,000 BAH / MONTH

Honda Air Blade: 2,000 baht monthly. Call today. Tel: 087-279 5110.

A1 CAR RENT



Accommodation service included, fully insured. Tel: 089-831 4703. Email: a1carrent@gmail.com

MOTORBIKES FOR RENT

Click 125i: 3,500 baht per month, CBR 250R: 8,500 baht per month, PCX: 5,500 baht per month. Tel: 081-978 1558. Email: keng.na.ra.nong@hotmail.com

LUXURY CAR

PORSCHE 911(996) Cabriolet



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

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

Wheels & Motors



Please use this form to write your classified advertisement.

_____ (heading)

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

All advertising must be paid for in advance.

Live in Karon?

Place your **GAZETTE CLASSIFIEDS** at Euro style tailors



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

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

The Gazette Online is always on top in Google!

Yachting Freedom Since 1984



Reduced



Reduced



Yachting Freedom begins with a call to our team:

Sergio Loiacono
+66 (0) 86 277 3360
sergio.l@simpsonmarine.com

Максим Волков
+66 (0) 84 745 9900
maksim.volkov@simpsonmarine.com

Adam Blackmore
+66 (0) 81 892 8919
adam.blackmore@simpsonmarine.com

Nicole van de Wall
+66 (0) 93 140 5088
nicole.vandewall@simpsonmarine.com

50FT BERTRAM SPORTFISHER

1989 Bertram 50S convertible. Price: 7 million baht. Tel: 087-834 5293. Email: sfiori@hotmail.com

SMALL BOAT & TRAILER

Strong fiber over plywood dinghy. 16ft. Newer 5hp Suzuki. Steel trailer with lights. 35,000 baht. Tel: 074-442170, 089-466 1120 (English & Thai). Email: pygmyspermwhale@yahoo.com

NEW 2014 BAY ELEMENT / 60HP

Mercury 60hp, 4 stroke, sport package. Price: 779,000 baht, with warranty. Tel: 081-754 7599 (English & Thai), 081-110 9223. Fax: 034-426403. Email: csutivas@gmail.com www.mfjetski.com

FIBERGLAS ONE ENGINE BOAT

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

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BAYLINER 190

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SOLUTION TO THIS WEEK'S

Cryptic crossword



Abbreviations: UPPER CASE (if used as part of anagram, in brackets).

Normal spelling: lower case.

Anagrams: *italic* (indicated in clue by words 'out', 'possibly', 'strangely', 'wild', or similar).

Letters left out: underlined.

Across: 9. SIMPLETON: *peltsimon* 10. EARLIEST: *tearlies* 12. UGLY: *hugely* 13. REMOTE: *metear* 14. FESTIVE: *fiveset* 15. MARTYRDOM: *tomarrymd* 17. AGREEMENT: *greatmen(E)* 18. UKELELE: UK-el-E-le 20. BLENNY: b-L-enny 21. SCAR: *arcs* 24. WANDERER: *warned(Re)* 26. CREDESCENCE: *decree(NC)* 28. REEF: *free* 29.: YAHBAA: *ayahab* 31. PREFACE: *facerep* 34. PREVALENCE: *prev-a-L-ent* 36. RELATIVES: *relative-S* 38. INSTANT: *prompt* 39. LOCATE: L-*coat-E* 40. AOPO: a-O-Op(rev) 41. REFASTEN: *saferent* 42. COLUMNIST: *slimcount* Down: 1. ESQUIMAU: *quasiemu* 2. AMPLER: *real(MP)* 3. ATTENDEE: *teendate* 4. INFORM: *notify about* 5. VENERATE: *evenrate* 6. PREFERENCE: p-refer-ence 7. MINISTER: *minjster* 8. ASPIRE: *praise* 11. DEBTORS: *tedrobs* 16. YIELDS: *gives way* 19. EVADE: *ev-AD-e* 20. BAR: A.B.(up)-R 22. Co.-Co.-a 23. RECENT: Re.-cent 25. REALSTATE: *stealtree* 26. C-1-a 27. CRYPTIC: C-*tipcry* 30. BATTILING: B-a-TT-L-*gin* 31. POLITELY: *ployilet* 32. EASYOUTS: *asyouset* 33. CARAVAN: *acar-van* 35. EASIER: Ea.-*rise* 36. RECOCK: R.E.-bird 37. VIOLIN: V-1-O-L-in

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Built: 1976

Registration: HS-AWS
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N479GE – USA
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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
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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

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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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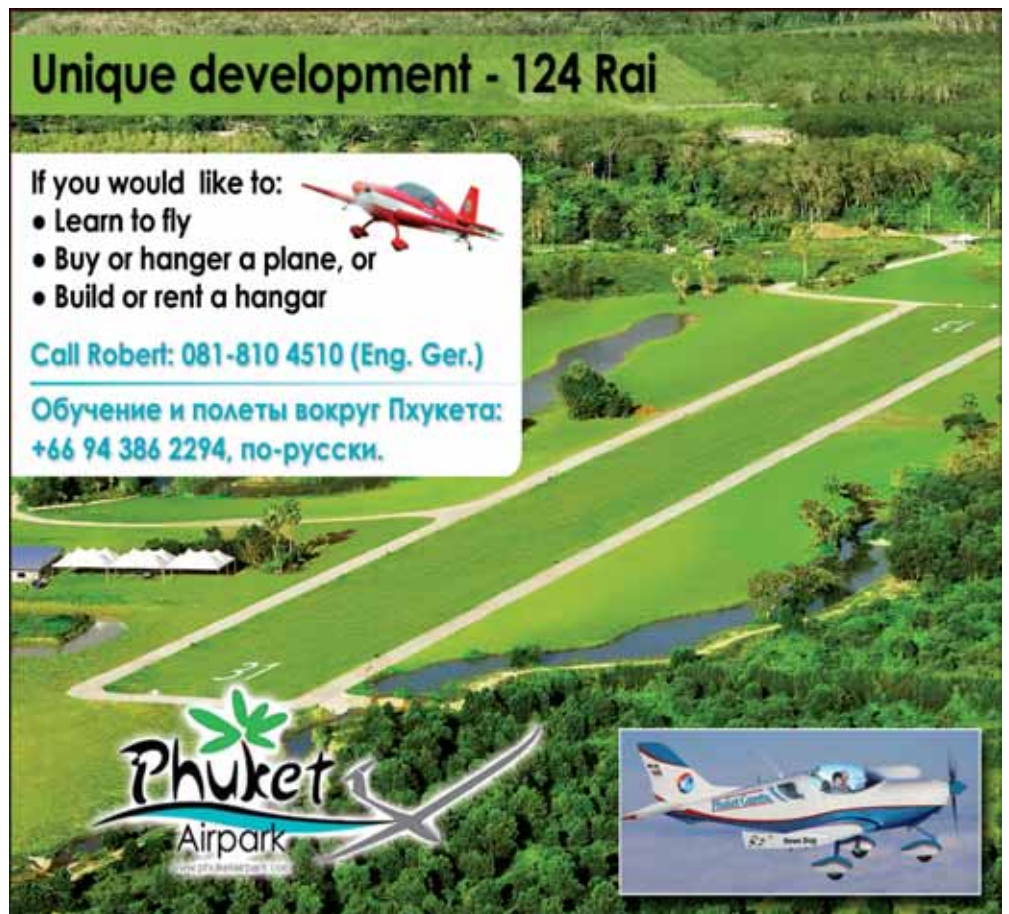
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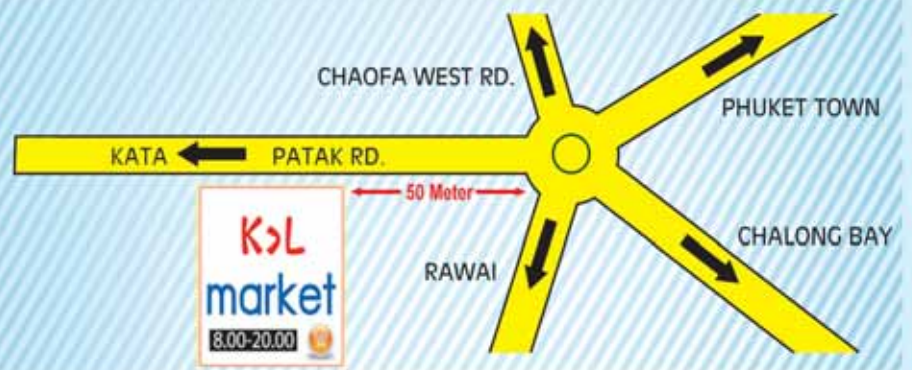
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A splash of style at D2



From left: Chanin Donovanik, managing director and chief executive officer of Dusit International; Senator Pol Gen Pichit Kuandachakupt; Gary Murray, chief executive officer of Destination Resorts Co Ltd at the grand opening of Dusit D2 in Patong.



Guests at the D2 party enjoyed delicious hors d' oeuvres, drinks and a lively dance performance.

Phuket real estate brokers unite




From left: Phuket Real Estate Broker Association board members Neunghathai Buatree, registrar; Phatainat Chaidej, secretary; Thamrong Tantiwiratkul, President; and Napraproud Wiwatwongwana, treasurer.

The Beach Group Phuket



Karn Prachumpan (center), owner of The Beach Group Phuket, at the opening of the Kata Beach Condotel.

Experience the respected traditional Baba wedding ceremony among admirable places and Phuket celebrities






Phuket BaBa Wedding 6th


The Thai Peranakan Association
21-22 June 2014


16:30 pm.
Procession of Bride and Groom through old Phuket Town.

19:00 pm.
Wedding Reception Dinner at the Blue Elephant Restaurant.







www.phuketbaba.com

Steamy hot and super clean

By Maciek Klimowicz

EVEN in the tropics, a steamy hot bath after a long day is one of life's greatest pleasures. Now, thanks to Prosteam, you can give one to your car.

Prosteam is new and unique in a number of ways. It uses steam instead of water and chemicals, it's designed to take care of both the inside and outside of your car, and it's delivered to your doorstep.

"Prosteam is a steam car wash system, pioneering this kind of service in Phuket," says Naphapa Kaewpraphan, Prosteam's Brand Manager in Phuket. "Our concept is premium

service at your door," she adds.

Prosteam staff will wash your precious ride at your place using their own sources of both water and electricity. The washing process is divided into four stages. "First we wash the car outside with our steam system, second we vacuum the car inside, after that we disinfect the interior with steam at a heat level adjusted to this kind of process. Finally we apply a coating to the exterior," explains Kaewpraphan.

But it's not just the convenience that you pay for but also the quality. "With our system you will forget about scratches and blemished that often come with washing, because we don't use

sponges or any chemicals. All stains are removed easily with steam and heat, all we need to do after steaming is to wipe out the vapor," says the BM.

"It takes 15 minutes to disinfect the interior of the car. On the outside it's left shinier than ever because the temperature stimulates the pigment in the paint coating," she adds.

Prosteam cleaning packages start at 280 baht and go up depending on the size of the car. The service has been available in Phuket since March and handles up to 10 cars a day.

For more information go to [facebook.com/prosteam.thailand](https://www.facebook.com/prosteam.thailand)



Prosteam Phuket staff take care of ten and only ten cars a day, to keep the quality of service high. Photos: Supplied.



Prosteam uses their own sources of water and electricity.

It's not all cherry pie for women expats



Finance

By Don Freeman

WHILE there is a stereotype about expats usually being single men (e.g. older unmarried males who then marry much younger local spouses) or married couples where the husband (as the primary breadwinner) has been deployed abroad by his employer, women of all ages and marital status are increasingly choosing the expat life. Depending on whether or not you are a single or a married expat woman who is still working or retired, you will need to consider or be aware of the following special situations or issues and how they can impact you as an expat woman: divorce or separation and estate planning

Divorce or separation for expat women

While there are no statistics available about how many expat couples get divorced or separate while abroad, there is both strong anecdotal and statistical evidence to suggest expat divorce is on the rise. The *Telegraph* recently reported that in 2011, 445 expatriate couples living in Dubai ended their marriages there, while a *Sunday Times* article detailed some horror stories about expat women who have gone through messy

divorces in Singapore.

Moreover, expat divorces are very tricky due to potential inter-jurisdictional issues and it's often the male expat spouse who has the upper hand – especially if the expat woman is living in a foreign country on some sort of dependent pass which can often be canceled very quickly by an estranged husband or his employer.

With that in mind, and unless your spouse has citizenship that differs from yours, or if you and/or your spouse own some kind of business or have significant assets in a foreign country, it makes the most sense to file for divorce in your home country and be subject to your own laws (which probably will tend to favor a non-working spouse, and often wives, if you are from a Western country). However, be aware that if you file for divorce in your home country, any type of financial or child custody judgment could be difficult to enforce in a foreign jurisdiction, as not all countries allow legal or financial judgments from another country to be carried out on their soil.

The best way for an expat woman to protect herself and ensure a fair share of any communal assets, along with alimony or child support payments, would be to make sure there is some sort of prenuptial agreement in place before going abroad. Just be aware that if

someone files for divorce outside of the country where the pre-nuptial was signed, any terms in the agreement that conflict with a host country's laws (e.g. Muslim countries like the UAE where there are strict Sharia laws or laws related to morals) may not be legally binding or enforceable.

In other words, you will need to seek out the advice of an experienced divorce attorney, who specializes in international family law and has handled expat divorce cases, should irreconcilable differences develop in your marriage.

Estate planning basics for expat women

Estate planning can be a sensitive topic because it deals with death. But if you are a married woman thinking of retiring abroad with your husband, it's important to remember that (statistically speaking) you will outlive the average man by several years. In fact, a 65-year old woman should expect to live until her mid-eighties and many can also expect to live well into their nineties – usually without their husband.

And even if you are a single expat woman with no dependents and a relatively small estate, you should have the following basic estate planning items in place:

Will: A legal document that will direct the distribution of your es-

tate as well as name legal guardians for any minor children, wills can still be contested and must go through probate. However, you will at least ensure some bare legal protections and have a say in what happens with your estate.

Living trust: A legal arrangement made during your lifetime for the purposes of managing assets, living trusts will avoid probate and can shield the assets in them from estate taxes. Moreover, you will retain complete control over the trust, whose terms can be kept confidential.

Durable power of attorney: Should you become incapacitated, a durable power of attorney will give a legal representative of your choosing the right to make financial decisions on your behalf.

Health care proxy: Should you become incapacitated, a health care proxy will give a legal representative of your choosing the right to make health care decisions on your behalf.

If you are a retired expat woman who is single, the last two items will tend to be your most important considerations or priorities because without them, the closest living blood relative will generally be chosen by legal authorities to make decisions on

your behalf. This means you will need to ensure that something written is in place and that all of the necessary documents are easily accessible to relevant parties in an emergency situation to ensure that your wishes are carried out in the event you become incapacitated.

And while most of your liquid and financial assets will likely be in the country where you have citizenship, be sure to check the laws of the country you are expatriated in, especially if you own property or a business or maintain large local bank accounts there. More than likely, estate and probate laws are going to be different and you will need to check with a local attorney to see whether any of the above mentioned estate planning items that you may already have in place is actually enforceable outside of your home country and where you currently reside.

Don Freeman is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket and Chiang Mai, 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.

Ayling outlines vision for RPM

By Mark Knowles

MICHAEL Ayling, the recently appointed managing director/general manager at Royal Phuket Marina, has revealed to the *Phuket Gazette* his plans to grow the marina into a premier destination resort on the island.

Mr Ayling brings with him a wealth of experience in the management and development of integrated resorts through his positions as finance director, and then managing director, of Laguna Resorts & Hotels, for a total of 12 years.

Mr Ayling said the diversifying tourism market in Phuket, its strong medical infrastructure and the recent announcement of The Mall Group's 20-billion-baht shopping complex in nearby Kathu have created a perfect storm of tourism from which RPM stands to reap the rewards.

"The location is great. I think it's becoming better and better as the island evolves. The market mix in Phuket is moving away from pure beach-seeking and sun-seeking tourists; they are looking for more and we can of-

fer that," said Mr Ayling.

"With Central Festival expanding, the announcement of the 20bn-baht shopping development, the new underpass and even Kathu developing as an entertainment hub – we are perfectly located for all of it. All those things combine to create a market for another destination resort."

While it is still the early days in his new role, Mr Ayling said he and Royal Phuket Marina Chairman Gulu Lalvani have been in discussion for some time and shared the same vision of making the marina a destination resort with a range of retail, property and hotel offerings to capture a large share of Phuket's tourism market.

"We both firmly believe we are in the right location and at the right time to take Royal Phuket Marina and make it 'the' destination in Phuket," said Mr Lalvani.

"All the ingredients are there, so it's an exciting time to come on board," added Mr Ayling.

Mr Ayling described his initial plans for broadening the range of tourists that come to RPM as it

moves toward his goal of becoming an integrated destination resort.

"We're aiming at the higher end of the mass market... To create a destination resort, obviously you need to appeal to a wide range of customers, so we won't be targeting just one type of customer," he said.

"There is a family market, a conference market, a honeymoon market – we want to provide different offerings for different people so they complement each other rather than competing head-on."

Among this mix of offerings, Mr Ayling hinted that there would be an expansion in RPM's retail and food-and-beverage (F&B) outlets, several resorts, as well as the possibility of a retirement community development.

"It's really along the lines of having a number of resorts – yet to be defined at this point – property developments and basically having different offerings for the different market mixes that come to Phuket," he explained.

"I think there is a really good opportunity for retirement com-



Michael Ayling, was recently appointed managing director/general manager at Royal Phuket Marina. Photo: Mark Knowles

munities as well. Again, we are perfectly positioned because we have two big international hospitals down the road, which is important to the international retirement community.

"We've also been looking to make strategic alliances, to look at our strategy for retail, our F&B strategy, and also create more marketing awareness," he added.

"So we are crafting our master plan and looking at some

additional facilities which will complement the hotel and property developments."

With little more than a week in his new role, the specifics of Mr Ayling's vision for developing RPM as a world-class destination resort are still being developed, but one thing is clear – his extensive experience in the field will give Royal Phuket Marina a considerable competitive edge.

Baht weakens following declaration of martial law

THE Bank of Thailand will not intervene in the market despite the baht's fluctuation following the declaration of martial law on Tuesday. Spokeswoman Roong Mallikamas said the country's banks and the financial markets were operating normally, although there had been some panic in the currency and stock markets on the morning when martial law was declared.

"Some investors may have been panicked at the start of the market on May 20, but after the situation was assessed and the news digested, their concerns lessened," she said.

The baht dropped to 32.76 per US dollar on May 20, weakening

0.95 per cent from 32.45 the previous day.

Roong said reduced concern among investors over the political crisis was expected to result in a rapid correction in the currency and bond markets, while the overall impact of martial law on the economy remained to be seen.

Meanwhile, the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) said the declaration of martial law would only have an impact on the economy in the short term, and it urged the military to provide clarification for foreigners so that they had a better understanding of the situation.

The MPC said current monetary policy was adequate for the eco-

nomie situation, and that it would not intervene in any way since the policy interest rate was still able to simulate the economy.

Political instability is still playing the main role as the true adversary of the economy, the panel added.

MPC member Siri Kamcharoendee said the declaration of martial law should bring about some positive changes in the political situation, provided it could put an end to protests from all sides.

"I truly hope martial law can rapidly bring back the rule of law and peace to the country. In the beginning, foreign investors might look at us in a negative way, but this will only be short term because

if we can provide some understanding and the need for the law, we can really benefit from it greatly since the country and economy can finally move forward," he said.

Amonthep Chawla, head of CIMB Thai Bank's research office, said that while it was too early to predict the outcome for the economy, there should be a short-term impact in terms on foreign tourists' confidence.

The depreciation trend of the baht is expected to rebound shortly, in line with the region, although the unit's movement is affected more by external factors, he said.

The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) also experienced some fluctuation on Tuesday, with the

main index falling 22 points in morning trading, before recovering to a drop of 15.94 points and closing on 1,394.69 points. Trading value was 43.25 billion baht. Foreign investors recorded net sales worth 8.33bn baht.

Brokerages KT-Zmico Securities and Globex Securities commented that the SET fall was only a short-term phenomenon, since there was hope of some clarity in the political situation in the next two weeks.

They believe the falling index was largely due to concerns among some foreign investors, who downsized their investment portfolio in the belief that they could not invest in a country under martial law.

–*The Nation*

SilkAir entices shoppers to Singapore

SILKAIR will be launching its "Great Singapore Sale" airfare promotion for travellers visiting Singapore. Customers departing from Thailand, can purchase round-trip fares to Singapore from as low 7,410 baht for travel out of Phuket and 9,060 baht for travel out of Chiang Mai.

The discounted ticket prices also include 30kg of free check-in baggage allowance for economy class and complimentary inflight meals.

They will also contribute to points on the airlines KrisFlyer fre-

quent flyer program.

As a further incentive to its customers, the airline has organized discount offers with selected retailers in Singapore, to redeem the discounts customers will need to present their boarding pass when making a purchase within 30 days of their flight.

Participating merchants include dining outlets, hotels, retail shops, tourist attractions and transport companies. The "Great Singapore Sale" is the biggest sale of the year in Singapore, with locals and visitors alike

seeking out the best deals from merchants island-wide.

This year, the sale will be held from May 30 to July 27.

The exclusive "Great Singapore Sale" airfares are available for purchase through the SilkAir website or via SilkAir appointed travel agents.

It runs from May 13 to June 20, with travel period between May 30 and September 30.

– *Phuket Gazette*

Further information on the promotion is available at: silkair.com.

Traditions come alive

EVERY wedding day is something special, but now, thanks to the Thai Peranakan Association, you can make yours even more unique by having a traditional Baba wedding ceremony right here in Phuket.

The two-day wedding festival is held each year to honor and ensure the continuance of Baba Pernankan ("Straits Chinese") traditions on the island.

This unique event will give the attending couples a rare opportunity to experience the colorful, traditional Baba wedding ceremony which features beautiful silk costumes and age-old Baba ceremonies.

The association has prepared a special wedding package for couples willing to tie the knot in this unusual and memorable way. It all starts one day before the wedding, with the couples checking in at the Sukko Spa, a charming resort in Phuket Town. After registering with the Thai Peranakan Association, the bride and groom will depart for the Chalong Temple for blessings.

Phuket Baba believe that a married couple's family will prosper if they receive blessings from two

highly venerable monks, Luang Pho Chaem and Luang Pho Chuang.

The visit to the temple will be followed by a romantic sunset cruise. During the cruise, the couples will be briefed about the next day's schedule and learn more about Baba wedding elements such as the tea ceremony, the procession and the evening reception dinner.

On June 22, the wedding day preparations will begin after breakfast with hair, makeup and suit fitting sessions. After a lunch break, the brides will depart for Hongyok's House, ceremonially used as the Bride's home, and the Grooms will depart for the Blue Elephant Restaurant at the Phra Pitak Chinpracha Mansion, a historic, 105-year-old landmark.

What will follow is a set of traditional rites and rituals including the Pang-tae or "tea offering" ceremony, one of the most significant events in a Baba Wedding, which includes very formal introductions of the bride and groom and shows respect to their families.

After a group photo session of brides and grooms in front of Hongyok's House, the procession will continue through old Phuket

Town along Thepkrasattri Road, Talang Road and Krabi Road to the Phuket Thaihua Museum for a short historical photo session.

The wedding reception dinner will take place at the Blue Elephant Restaurant, where the guests will enjoy some of the unique delicacies of Phuket Baba cuisine.

The night will end when the couple will be taken for their Honeymoon at one of Phuket's many beautiful resorts.

This unique experience costs 39,900 baht per couple. The price includes the wedding ceremony, one night at the Sukko Spa & Resort and two nights at a nearby beach hotel, transportation during the wedding ceremony, traditional wedding attire and suit with accessories, souvenirs, photos of the couple and their family and special activities arranged by the associations. Not to mention a lifetime of vivid and fond memories.

The Thai Peranakan Association with the support of the City of Phuket, the Tourism Authority of Thailand - Phuket Chapter, the Phuket Tourism Association, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, the Old Phuket Foundation and Phuket's Culture Preservation Network will host the 2014 Phuket Baba Wedding from June 21 to 23. - *Phuket Gazette*

Applications for the package have to be submitted before May 31 at the Thai Peranakan Association office. For more information call tel 081 691 1955.

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



A colorful procession will travel through Phuket Town on the wedding day.



Baba wedding provides countless photo opportunities. Photos: Gazette file



The price of the package includes traditional outfits, among other things.

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>Rawal Cable Coverage: Rawal, 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> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table> <p>Truevisions HD Channel: 79 Truevisions SD Channel: 107 PSI TRUE TV Channel: 37 GMMZ Channel: 103</p>	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am	<p>Broadcast to China, the Philippines, Southeast Asia, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Turkey, UAE, and many other countries around Asia and beyond.</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr><td>Thaicom 5 Sat</td><td>3520H</td></tr> <tr><td>Tuesday:</td><td>12.05pm & 7pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Wednesday:</td><td>6pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Thursday:</td><td>1pm & 8pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Friday:</td><td>9am</td></tr> <tr><td>Saturday:</td><td>1pm</td></tr> <tr><td>Sunday:</td><td>6am</td></tr> </table>	Thaicom 5 Sat	3520H	Tuesday:	12.05pm & 7pm	Wednesday:	6pm	Thursday:	1pm & 8pm	Friday:	9am	Saturday:	1pm	Sunday:	6am
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**WHAT'S ON
in Phuket**

May 27- 29, 6.30-10.30pm. Tuesday Special International Buffet and Thursday special Andaman Seafood BBQ Buffet
Laguna Cafe presents a sumptuous buffet dinner. Tantalize your taste buds with an array of food inspirations from Asian to Western delicacies. 890++ baht per person or 50% off for children aged from 6-12 years. Casuarina Beach Restaurant and Pub invites for a BBQ on the beach buffet dinner. A variety of grilled seafood, meats, Asian cold & hot dishes accompanied with a selection of salads, appetizers. Be sure to save some room for desserts 1,420++ baht per person (food only) or 710++ baht per child, aged from 6-12 years old (food + free flow of soft drinks). For more information contact Food and Beverage Departmenton 76 326999, email dtlpfb@dusit.com or go to dusit.com/dusitthani/lagunaphuket/dining-en.html

May 31, 5-10pm. Neon Night Run

The Neon Night Run is a unique, fun running party! With race distances for both young and old, plus great music and colorful bright lights. Fun for the whole family with BBQ, stalls, kids entertainment, face painting, prizes for best neon costumes, glow sticks, etc. Schools compete to win the new Thanyapura Cup. Entry fee for individual runners/walkers is 300 baht. Everyone welcome. Register now at thanyapura.com/event.

June 7, 9am-midday. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs

A family musical held at Phuket Town's Simon Star Theater. A wonderful experience for children, parents and grandparents! A great visual treat with dances, music and pictures to be taken with your favorite character.

Call 091-326 0276 for more information and ticket bookings or email indiafilmworks@gmail.com.

This event is sponsored by PGTV and the *Phuket Gazette*.

June 12 to July 13. FIFA World Cup in Brazil

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

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

The Thai Peranakan Association with the support of the City of Phuket, the Tourism Authority of Thailand - Phuket Chapter, the Phuket Tourism Association, the Phuket Chamber of Commerce, the Old Phuket Foundation and Phuket's Culture Preservation Network present the 2014 Phuket

Baba Wedding, a chance for couple to tie the knot in an extravagant, memorable way, celebrating the traditions of Phuket Baba community. The wedding package costs 39,900 baht per couple and includes the wedding ceremony, one night at the Sukko Spa & Resort and two nights at a nearby beach hotel, transportation during the wedding ceremony, traditional wedding attire and suit with accessories, souvenirs, photos of the couple and their family and special activities arranged by the associations. Applications for the package have to be submitted before May 31 at the Thai Peranakan Association office. For more information call tel 081 691 1955.

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

June 28 to July 27. Ramadan
Muslims worldwide, or roughly a quarter of the planet's population, observe Ramadan as the 9th month of their calendar, a time for fasting during the day hours and feasting at night.

July 11. Asarnha Bucha Day
This full-moon day of the 8th lunar month (traditional Thai calendar) commemorates the Buddha's first sermon to his first five disciples after attaining Enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago. Evening candlelit processions are staged at all Thai Buddhist temples.

July 12. Buddhist Lent
This day of a full moon marks the start of the Buddhist Lent, or rains retreat - the three-month annual retreat observed by Theravada practitioners. It is the traditional time for Thai males to ordain as monks, informally observed as the start of the rainy season, when the south-westerly monsoon is in full force.

July 16-20, 10am-11:30pm, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek
Four days of world-class yacht racing in Phuket, combined with four nights of beachside parties at the five-star Cape Panwa Hotel. If it's time you got out on the water, then come sailing and join one of the crews, or sign up as crew on one of the Classics. Experience sailing on the East Coast of Phuket.

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

August 12. Her Majesty The Queen's Birthday
HM Queen Sirikit Kitiyakara's 82nd Birthday, celebrated as Mother's Day in Thailand. Her Majesty's birthday is a public holiday.

October 23. Chulalongkorn Memorial Day
Chulalongkorn Day commemorates the reign of Rama V, who is best remembered for abolishing slavery in Thailand.



Andaman Seafood BBQ Buffet
Casuarina Beach Restaurant and Pub
Thursday, May 29

November 4, 09am-4pm. PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup
The PIWC presents The Melbourne Cup, "The Race That Stops a Nation". Formore informatin visit piwcphuket.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 Festival
One of the most beautiful festivals in Thailand. It is traditionally performed on the full moon night of the 12th lunar month, which usually falls in November. A krathong is a banana-leaf cup containing flowers, a candle and incense sticks which will be floated away in a canal or river. The idea is to worship the River Goddess and at the same time to float away any bad luck. Loy Krathong is not a public holiday in the Kingdom.

November 19-22. Phuket International Sportfishing Tournament
Registration is on the evening of November 19 from 6pm onwards, at the Tamarind Bar & Grill in Chalong. The weigh station will be at the Tamarind on all three fishing days, November 20-22. The final evening and prize giving party will also be held at the Tamarind. In an effort to showcase individual team skills, the rules of the tournament (PIST) this year have been designed to allow teams to fish the event as they would while fun fishing.
This annual event, now in its 15th year, is proudly sponsored by the *Gazette* and PGTV's 'Phuket Today' show, the island's only nationally broadcast television program (aired daily on True Visions channels 79 and 107). For more information send an email to uweschitte@yahoo.com

Dec 5. His Majesty the King's Birthday
His Majesty the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's 87th Birthday.

Oh no, not another superhero movie!

By Alexander Maycock

A LONG time ago in a movie review far, far away I made an off-hand crack about time travel being the last hackneyed hurrah of a dying franchise. Somewhere near the end of this review I am going to eat those words, so stay tuned.

But first, let me address a modest moan being bandied around about the seemingly endless barrage

of superhero movies that have blistered the screens of Phuket in the last few months: Sorry, but there is simply nothing that can be done about it.

This is what the big boys just off Sunset Boulevard call their summer season, and summer means salad: light on calories, heavy on dressing, lots of color and, if we're lucky, the odd bit of pasta to get our teeth into.

That it is the start of the rainy season here and summer has barely sprouted in the US has nothing to do with it. When have little things like seasons and the immutable laws of nature ever bothered the production houses of La-La Land – gravity, for instance, is less of a theory and more of an abstract concept among the superhero movie makers.

So enjoy the blockbusters while you can, because for the most part – and I honestly cannot believe I'm saying this – they are the best cinema experiences you'll get in Phuket for the next few months.

Here's why: with *Spidey 2* finally winding down and *Godzilla* having pretty much bombed in the

Pearl's movie palaces, SF has decided that the best way to fill their seats (or at least fill their screens) is with a bunch of last year's cast offs.

First up is *Haunt*, a story of awkward teen lust in a seriously freaked out haunted mansion. Good acting from the teens cannot save this relatively mundane shock and gore fest. It's a constant surprise to me that the Hollywood families who move into these death traps have never heard of the term "due diligence".

Second, we have *Enemy*, a psychological thriller in the vein of *The Number 23*, but two steps weirder. If you are a Jake Gyllenhaal fan, then you'll love this and, even if you're not, you'll be impressed with how well he holds together this loopy story.

It's won a few film fest plaudits because films like this often do, but Roger Moore made this movie back in the seventies (*The Man Who Haunted Himself*) and didn't need a giant spider to make it work either.

Yes, for several reasons too complicated to explain here, *Enemy* features a giant spider. But that isn't reason enough to give it a miss. Nor are the ghosts of *Haunt* wholly unwatchable. What is wrong is that these movies were both released almost a year ago and both

are available on video or through other media outlets (nudge nudge).

In the last review, I opined that *Oculus* had not yet made it to Phuket, despite SF's promise of a May 8 release. It turns out that this canny little horror flick is also as old as *Enemy*, but has yet to receive full international cinema or video releases, meaning no watchable copies (wink wink) are yet available. Based on SF's timeframe, and if we're lucky, *Oculus* might make it to Phuket before Christmas.

There is actually one movie playing this week that is not a blockbuster and was even released this year, and that's the disappointingly mediocre *13 Sins*. There's a very good reason why it managed to make it to the screens so speedily: it's a remake of the 2006 Thai movie *13 Beloved*.

13 Sins fits into that unfortunate category of being a foreign film good enough for Hollywood to remake, but not remake well. Such is the fate of many great Thai movies. The story retreaded in *13 Sins*, by the way, is based on a popular comic book series, which is a fairly terrible segue to this week's review.

X-Men: Days of Future Past is based on one of the best storylines in the X-Men comic books. Director Bryan Singer has been smart enough to "re-distribute" some of the main roles in the comic series to the higher paid actors, so it's Hugh Jackman's Wolverine who gets to travel through time, not, as was the case in the comic, Kitty Pryde.

! The best thing about *Days of Future Past*?

If Wolverine does succeed in wiping out the dystopian future he came from, then none of the first three X-Men movies will ever have been made!

! So enjoy the blockbusters while you can, because for the most part – and I honestly cannot believe I'm saying this – they are the best cinema experiences you'll get in Phuket for the next few months!



TOMORROW'S NEW YESTERDAY: Having successfully mucked up this timeline, Wolverine sets out to screw up a completely different one.

At the behest of Patrick Stewart's Professor X, Wolverine has to go back to the future... (no wait, that was a different movie)... in fact he has his 2023 body to fix all the continuity errors created by the six previous movies to stop giant robots built by Stan Lee destroying Hollywood... or something like that.

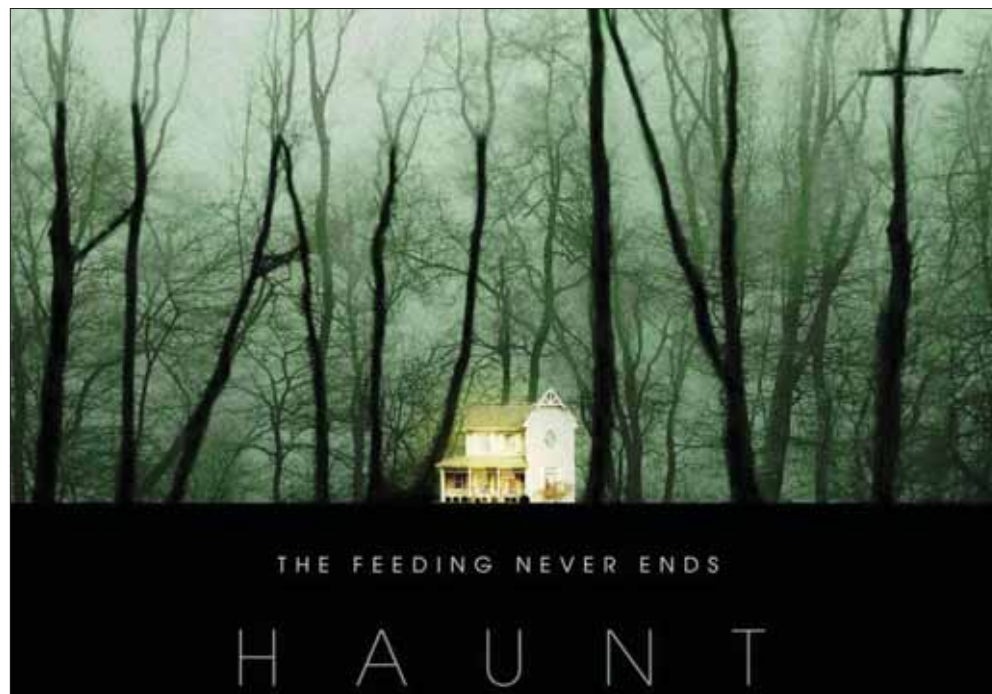
Anyway, the whole silly story really isn't that important when you have such mega talents as Ian McKellen, Patrick Stewart, James McAvoy, Michael Fassbender and Peter Dinklage chewing up the green screen with gusto, and even Jackman, Halle Berry, Anna Paquin and Ellen Page get to show off their acting chops.

Bryan Singer's had a bit of a hit and miss time of it over the years, but he is always on the ball when dealing with big ensemble casts of Shakespearean stature.

And the best thing about *Days of Future Past*? If Wolverine does succeed in wiping out the dystopian future he came from then none of the first three X-Men movies will ever have been made!

If this were the *Spider-Man* franchise that would mean we could expect a bland pile of re-boots to follow, but with Singer in the hot seat and the sequel already titled *X-Men: Apocalypse* expect all hell to break loose in 2016.

Words duly consumed.



MEDIOCRE MOVIE MAYHEM: A trio of oldies and not-very-goodies are showing, to ensure that you choose the right superhero movie when buying your tickets at the box office this week.

Win the fight against time

IN THEIR fight against the destructive force of time, some women go for the most brutal, extreme weapons. Armed with scalpels and Botox they challenge wrinkles and saggy skin. Luckily, reinforcements are here – with the help of Ultherapy time can be tamed.

So put the knives and needles away! Ulthera is here. This non-invasive, surgery-free facelift

technology was introduced in Phuket by the Romrawin Clinic. It's director, dermatologist Dr Thanisorn Thamlikitkul explains.

"Ultherapy is a surgery-free facelift solution that utilizes intensive ultrasound waves to target the SMAS layer of the skin."

The SMAS layer is the foundation of the skin. This is the layer that is targeted by plastic surgeons during facelift procedure. In

Ultherapy we use ultrasounds to heat up the skin and cause it contract and generate new collagen. The SMAS layer is tightened, causing the skin to visibly tighten as well," explained Dr Thanisorn

Does it hurt? Just a little. Certainly less than surgery. And what's even better, no time is needed for the skin to heal, some results are visible right after the procedure, though they continue to progress over following three months, until the full effect can be seen.

The results of the procedure can remain visible up to two years, depending on the patient's lifestyle. All of this makes Ulthera the therapy of choice for many women aged 35-60 years who are not keen to take the risks of undergoing surgery and don't have time for lengthy recuperation periods.

Ulthera is currently the only FDA-approved technology for a non-invasive neck, eyebrow and under-chin lifts, but as effective as it is, it is not meant to replace surgical facelift and it can not offer the same, dramatic effects. It is worth keeping in mind, however, that surgical intervention is the final step in skin care and there is a lot you can do before you land on the surgeon's table.

Except for time, your biggest enemy in the fight for youth-ful skin is the sun, "The most important element of skin care is protection against sun damage," says Dr Thanisorn, "UV rays weaken the skin's natural collagen supply and collagen is what keeps the skin youthful and healthy.

"Diet is also crucial. Healthy and nutritious food containing vitamin A, C, E and B complex, as well as minerals such as copper, zinc and selenium help stimulate collagen production," advised Thanisorn.

Add a reasonable amount of exercise and you have a chance to keep not only the surgeon but all the doctors away.

- *Phuket Gazette*



Dr Thanisorn names good diet and sun protection as the best skin care precautions. Photos: Supplied.

For more information contact Romrawin Clinic at Central Festival 076-307098 or Romrawin Clinic Jungceylon Patong Beach on 076-600148.



Results of Ultherapy are best visible 3 months after the therapy.



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FREE PARKING



Tuesday 27th May

PHUKETIAN STYLE

- All you can eat
- Beer & Cocktail Promotion



Friday 30th May

TEPPANYAKI & SUSHI

- All you can eat
- Beer & Wine Promotion



Tuesday 3rd June

STEAK NIGHT

- All you can eat Salad Bar
- Wine Promotion



Friday 6th June

OODLES OF NOODLES

- All you can eat
- Wine Promotion

Revisiting the 'rhodies'



The Indian rhododendron disappeared without a trace from the Thai market. Photo: Jkadavoor



Gardening

By Patrick Campbell

LAST week we left the topic of rhododendrons unfinished. Like our universe, they are an ever-expanding phenomenon. About 800 species and more than 10,000 named varieties are listed in the international register – of which several thousand are currently being cultivated worldwide. As Ken Banks, who initiated this particular debate, points out, they have long been admired by intrepid explorers to distant lands. Sadly, rhododendrons are less celebrated in Thailand, since they are mainly temperate shrubs.

So, where do we begin? The Indian rhododendron was my starting point, a plant which suddenly appeared in local nurseries a year or two ago. It is not a paid-up member of the *ericaceae* genus (to which all heathers, “rhodies” and azaleas belong), but a separate type – *melastoma melabathricum*. Oddly, this shrub went rapidly from being a market favorite to disappearing without a trace in most garden centers, a fact I attribute to the difficulty of growing it in Phuket’s hot, humid conditions.

Certainly my potted specimen found life here intolerable.

But all is not lost. Admittedly, though we are never going to see the 35-foot specimens (probably *macrophyllum*) Ken recalls growing wild among the towering pines in Washington State, we can attempt something on a smaller scale. Most Westerners know rhododendrons as big, leathery-leaved shrubs with rounded clusters of stunning pink, white, red or purple blossoms. However, there are dwarfs a few inches high as well as monsters, and a color range among the hybrids that includes, scarlet, yellow and even near blue.

First, let’s get the basics right. All “rhodies” require rich, acidic soil that is both water-retentive and fast draining. If plants turn yellow or wilt, they are probably suffering from root rot. They tend to do well in hilly terrain because the topsoil drains quickly. If you are planning a garden introduction, it is a good idea to raise the soil level by a foot or more.

Rhododendrons and azaleas are

surface rooters and need more air in their root zone than almost any other plants, so putting them in a raised bed with plenty of organic matter will give them the conditions they need. A mix of top soil, sand and compost is ideal. They will also benefit from a regular top-dressing of mulch and the application of an acid-based fertilizer.

Next, consider how to lessen the impact of local conditions.

Though most species can stand full sun in cool-summer areas, too much tropical sunshine will inevitably cause leaf centers to bleach or burn. Some varieties will cope better with life in Thailand, but filtered shade is a necessity. Finally, if you are fortunate enough to establish

some rhododendrons in your garden, tip-pinch some of the growing shoots to encourage a bushy habit.

But, which varieties should you select if you can track any down at all? Nurseries here do not carry much, if anything, in the way of stock. If you are going to cultivate your own rhododendrons, you will

There are dwarfs a few inches high as well as monsters, and a color range among the hybrids that includes scarlet, yellow and even near blue



Phuket will sadly never see the impressive 35-foot-tall rhododendron, as it is a fan of more temperate climates. Photo: Zau

need to do a bit of research in order to find out which varieties come from hot climes.

So here goes. *R. falconeri* is a possibility if only because it is one of the finest varieties, an evergreen plant with long lasting, tight clusters of large creamy flowers. It would be a gamble here since it originates from Northern India, but it can tolerate tropical conditions provided it has some shade and moist roots. *R. burmanicum*, a Myanmar native, bears greenish yellow blooms as does *R. carnem*, which hails from the same region. Both have lustrous green foliage.

However, more likely to succeed here are the *vireya* species from Malaysia and Indonesia. *R. brookeanum (gracile)*, which grows to about six feet, has rich, golden yellow or orange, funnel-shaped, lemon scented flowers.

R. jasminiflorum has white flowers, sometimes flushed with pink. Apparently, they carry the scent of daffodils. *R. javanicum*, used frequently in the breeding of hybrids, is a white flowering native to Java and Sumatra. *R. maddenii* is a hardy species that often grows epiphytically among rocks, and is easily propagated from cuttings.

Take your pick – if you can find potted specimens. If not, try cuttings or even seed gathered on your travels. And by the way, I haven’t even touched on hybrids.

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

Tip of the week

Sizing things up

WHEN creating a garden, thought needs to be given to the selection of shrubs and small trees. On the one hand, vigorous plants provide quick cover, and create patches of shade or dappled sunlight. On the other hand, you don’t want specimens that will quickly outgrow their surroundings and dominate everything else.

Plants grow at vastly different rates: a papaya or banana tree will mature in a year or so; small shrubs such as *euphorbias*, *adeniums*, dwarf *tabernaemontanas* and *ixoras* will develop more slowly. A rule of thumb is that the bigger the mature specimen, the more rapidly it is likely to grow.

Although palms generally do not possess massive root systems, yellow



Coconut palms do not allow understory plants to thrive. Photo: Sarangib

cane, Bismarck or traveller palms will give short shrift to other shrubs planted too close to them. And pruning isn’t always an option. Palms that do allow understory plants to thrive include foxtail and coconut palms.

Dog of the week

Puppies

ARE you thinking of getting a new puppy for the family? If so, look no further! These two little female pups recently lost their mother and have been left without anyone to take care of them. So, if you think you could provide a loving home for one or both of these cute-as-a-button puppies, please call the Doggie Heaven rescue center on 084 877-3566.

Doggie Heaven rescues dogs who are injured, ill or neglected and gives them what they need to recover. Once they have recovered, the Doggie Heaven team does the best they can to find a loving home for them. If you want to adopt a dog, contact Doggie Heaven and see if they have one that you might fall in love with.



These two sisters need new homes.

Life savers

Media connects victim's family with Aussie heros

By Mauri Grant

TWO Australian heroes have revealed themselves to the media almost a month after they saved the life of a Canadian tourist on a day-trip to Phi Phi Island.

When Mike Reynolds, 73, suffered a drowning-induced heart attack, it was Sophie Gollan, 18, and her father Jason who performed the cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) that kept him alive until he could reach Phi Phi Hospital.

In the chaos that ensued, Mr Reynolds' family did not have a chance to properly thank the Gollans.

When they started searching for the pair days later, they were limited by the scant details they were able to remember.

Then the Reynolds told their tale to the *Gazette*, the story quickly found its way into the *Sunday Telegraph* in Sydney, Australia.

The newspaper published the Reynolds family's call for the life

savers to step forward so they could be properly thanked for saving their beloved father and husband.

Sophie got word of the article and quickly texted her father, who

Sunday Telegraph describing how the British Columbia family were trying to find them to thank them," the newspaper reported.

After three weeks of long days and nights at the hospital, the

Reynolds were finally able to talk to the Gollans and express their deep appreciation.

"To have spoken with [Mr Reynolds' wife Dora] was amazing," Mr Gollan told the *Gazette*. "Her words of thanks and gratitude were warm and meant so much to us."

The Reynolds family and their extended family and friends have been amazing with their comments and



Sophie Gollan and her father Jason saved Mike Reynolds' life with CPR during a snorkelling trip near Phi Phi Island. Photo: Jason Gollan



To have spoken with [Mr Reynolds' wife Dora – pictured above] was amazing. Her words of thanks and gratitude were warm and meant so much to us

was dumbfounded.

"When I got a text message Sunday morning, saying, 'page 27', I had to read the article four times – I couldn't believe it," Mr Gollan later told the *Daily Telegraph*.

"The pair had no idea their efforts ultimately saved Mr Reynolds' life until... they saw the

thanks, and we feel as part of their family in some connected way."

The new friendship made between the two families hailing from opposite hemispheres was a "whirlwind" experience.

"To have a loved one go through such an ordeal will stay with them forever, and Sophie and I

are so glad we could offer them a little bit of hope," said Mr Gollan.

Memories of that day in the water will stay with the Gollans as well. It was a day Mr Gollan described as "nothing short of chaotic".

He and Sophie "did what needed to be done at the time," Mr Gollan said. "Mike was in real trouble."

Until that day Sophie had never performed CPR in a real emergency and never under such tremendous pressure.

"Her training kicked in from the moment we commenced. As a Life Saver I am extremely happy that

her years of training showed that day, but as her father I am so very proud of her," he said.

Mr Reynolds was saved by two strangers who, without hesitation, answered the call of duty; and on May 15, after nearly a month in the ICU, he was able to leave Phuket with his medical team and fly home to Canada.

"As Mike is now [home] and his next journey of recovery commences, all of us wish him and his beautiful family the very best, and we know that their love will pull them through the times ahead," Mr Gollan said.



Mike Reynolds nearly lost his life to a drowning-induced heart attack on a snorkelling trip off Phi Phi. Photo: Isaac Simonelli

JUST LIKE HOME...

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School food for thought

By Mark Knowles

With the help of celebrities such as English chef Jamie Oliver and US first lady Michelle Obama, there is an ever increasing focus on providing healthy school meals to children in order to combat the childhood obesity and diabetes epidemics that are sweeping some Western countries.

QSI International School Phuket recently scored a coup for its students in this regard when it managed to entice Chef Tammasak "Noi" Chootong, owner of the popular Suay restaurant in Phuket Town, to prepare lunches for the school's students and staff.

Having trained in Germany and worked at a Michelin starred restaurant and the Queen Elisabeth II cruise liner, Chef Noi returned to Thailand several years ago to join JW Marriott and then Banyan Tree, during which time he garnered several awards for his skills in the kitchen.

But it was at his own restaurant Suay (which means beautiful in Thai) where he stumbled upon the unusual opportunity to roll up his sleeves and cook for the kids at QSI.

"One of the [QSI student's] parents went to the restaurant and spoke to him, and it all started from there," says Sarah Foster-Gross, a teacher at QSI.

Now, Chef Noi takes time out of his busy schedule to craft tasty

and nutritious meals for as many as 120 kids every school day. It's a world away from the pressure-cooker environment of a 5-star kitchen, but Chef Noi still employs many of the techniques and styles of cooking he has learned over the years to bring variety and flavor to his school lunches.

And it appears to be working, "Yummy!" is the unanimous response I got when I asked the dozen or so primary students who were the first to sit down for their meals when I visited the school.

When asked how cooking for the kids compared to working in a 5-star restaurant, Chef Noi replies, "Well it's great because you don't have to worry much about the presentation... as long as it tastes good, it's fresh and has good-quality ingredients, that's all we need."

Each month Chef Noi prepares a menu to send to parents so they can decide how many meals they want their children to have at school. This month's menu featured an eclectic range of dishes from Italy, Germany, Thailand, Japan and England – all of which reflect Chef Noi's culinary influences, as well as the diversity of the international student's backgrounds.

Dishes such as penne with pesto and seafood, chicken yakitori with fried rice and tofu salad, somtum with fried chicken and sticky rice, and chicken schnitzel with potato and cucumber salad give you an idea of the variety of cuisines on offer.

The school lunches are available to students for just 80 baht, and all of that money is used on ingredients, as the kitchen is not run for a profit. All the meals also include fresh seasonal fruit and a probiotic drinking yogurt to make them even healthier.

"We use all the budget, usually when you see kids' food, it's very cheap, maybe 15 or 20 baht, but we use high quality ingredients and we don't make any profit off the cost, so all the money goes into the meal," says Chef Noi.

Chef Noi said his menu creations have been a hit with both students and teachers alike.

"The teachers said that before they didn't eat at the school but went out, or took their own lunch. Now they eat here."

"5-star cooking for 80 baht isn't bad!" agrees Ms Foster-Gross.

Unsurprisingly, as ever, some kids remain a little reluctant to eat their vegetables, but Chef Noi says he hopes with the variety of vegetables and salads on his menu that kids will eventually learn to enjoy them.

"Some people tell me, 'kids won't eat vegetables' but I try to incorporate everything into each meal, so I add salad and vegetables and let the kids decide if they want to eat them. Even if they don't eat it, I try again, and gradually they will taste it, and hopefully start to like it."

Naturally, with so many young



'Yummy' recently became the most popular adjective among QSI students.

mouths to feed from various nationalities, religions and cultures, special meals have to be prepared to suit the various different needs of students, but with his long experience in the business, Chef Noi takes it all in his stride.

"We have some kids that eat halal food, we have some kids who are vegetarian, and some who are gluten intolerant, or if they have allergies they are taken into account as well."

Patrick Buckley, the school's director said it was a great win

for the school to be able to recruit such a talented chef to prepare lunches for the students and that it contributed to the school overall approach to give their students the very best in all aspects of their educational experience.

"Our school has always nourished students' development with our highly qualified teachers, accredited instruction and variety of activities; it is great we can now offer a lunch that is just as nourishing and of high quality," said Mr Buckley.



Chef Noi brings his 5-star hotel experience to the school canteen.



The best ingredients and great variety of dishes is the new standard for the QSI menu. Photos: Mark Knowles

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The word on bikes



Blazing Saddles

By Baz Daniel

SINCE the bicycle first rode onto the human stage almost 200 years ago, this strange two-wheeled contraption has engendered an inordinate amount of wit and repartee. Bicycling Baz takes us on a tour through some of the most memorable moments of pedaling persiflage.

VEHICLES for human transport that have two wheels and require balancing by the rider date back to the early 19th century. The first means of transport making use of two wheels arranged consecutively, and thus the archetype of today's bicycle, was apparently the German *draisine* dating back to 1817. There are several unverified claims for the invention of bicycle-like machines, the earliest coming from a disputed sketch said to be from 1493 and attributed to Gian Giacomo Caprotti, a pupil of Leonardo da Vinci no less.

The first verifiable claim for a practically used bicycle however, belongs to German Baron Karl von Drais, a civil servant to the Grand

Duke of Baden in Germany. Drais invented his *Laufmaschine* (German for "running machine") in 1817 and patented the design in 1818. It was the first commercially successful two-wheeled, steerable, human-propelled machine, commonly called a velocipede, and nicknamed a hobby-horse or dandy horse.

The Drais velocipede provided the basis for further developments, which inspired a French metalworker around 1863 to add rotary cranks and pedals to the front-wheel hub to create the first pedal-operated "bicycle" as we would recognize it today.

Whatever the gestation of the bicycle, it has inspired great minds to wax lyrical about it through the ages.

Writer and futurologist HG Wells said, "When I see an adult on a bicycle, I do not despair for the future of the human race."

He followed this up in his wonderfully evocative novel about the 1890s British cycling craze titled *Wheels of Chance* with, "After your first day of cycling, one dream is inevitable. A memory of motion lingers in the muscles of your legs, and round and round they seem to go. You ride through

'Life is like riding a bicycle... in order to keep your balance, you must keep moving.'

— Albert Einstein



The *laufmaschine* designed by German Baron Karl von Drais; pedals and crank came later. Photo: Gun Powder Ma

Dreamland on wonderful dream bicycles that change and grow."

Finally Wells leaves us in no doubt about his love affair with bicycles when he opines, "Cycle tracks will abound in Utopia."

Not to be outdone, big-bearded Ernest Hemingway – possibly more associated with rampaging bulls and big game fishing boats – waded in with, "It is by riding a bicycle that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them. Thus you remember them as they actually are, while in a motor car you have no such

accurate remembrance of country you have driven through as you gain by riding a bicycle."

It was no less a genius than he of the violin and loony hair, Albert Einstein, who quipped to his son Eduard, "Life is like riding a bicycle... in order to keep your balance, you must keep moving," although stories that Einstein originated the Theory of Relativity while out cycling are probably apocryphal.

Speaking of efficiency, English

novelist and feminist Angela Carter said, "The bicycle is the product of pure reason applied to motion. Geometry at the service of man!

Voltaire himself might have invented the bicycle, since it contributes so much to man's welfare and nothing at all to his bane. Beneficial to the health, it emits no harmful fumes and permits only the most decorous speeds."

And in *The Quotable Cyclist*, Bill Strickland says, "The bicycle is the most efficient machine ever created, converting calories into gas, a bicycle gets the equivalent of three thousand miles per gallon."

Of course bicycles aren't just a form of transport; they have huge mental benefits as well.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle said, "When the spirits are low, when the day appears dark, when work becomes monotonous, when hope hardly seems worth having, just mount a bicycle and go out for a spin down the road, without thought of anything but the ride you are taking."

And Turkish playwright Mehmet Murat Ildan puts it beautifully in two short quotes: "Every time you miss your childhood, ride on a bicycle!" and "There is beauty in silence and there is silence in beauty and you can find both in a bicycle!"

Clearly, bicycles inspire our emotions and bring forth something akin to love in many enthusiasts. In our local island context allow me to paraphrase Mark Twain by saying, "Get a bicycle in Phuket... you won't regret it... if you live."

For cycling in Phuket is a bit like juggling cobras. At first glance you can't imagine why anyone would want to do such a dangerous thing and yet then when you see it done, it looks like a pretty neat trick.

Happy Peddling!



'There is beauty in silence and silence in beauty and you can find both in a bicycle!' – Mehmet Murat Ildan Photo: Fred Hsu



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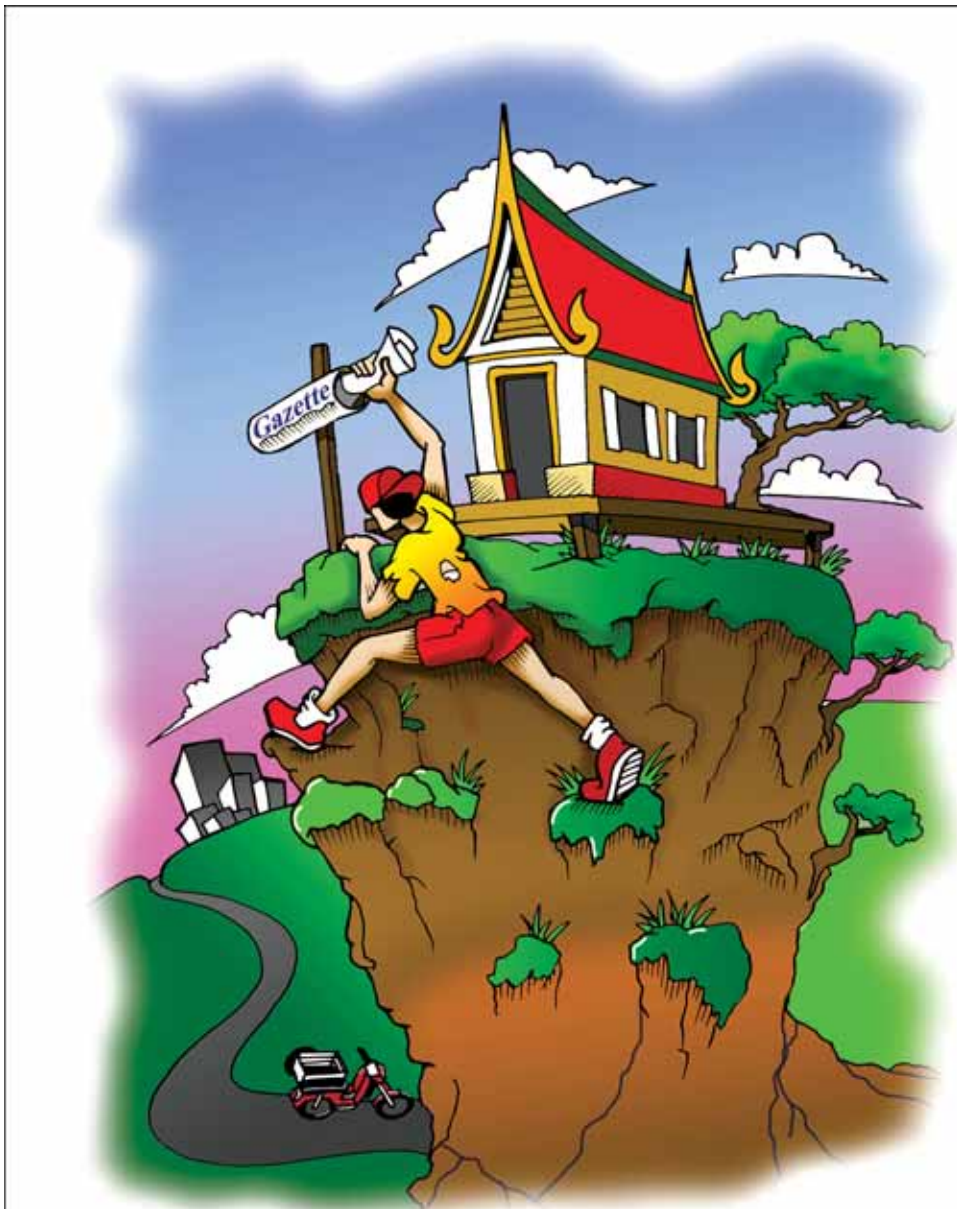
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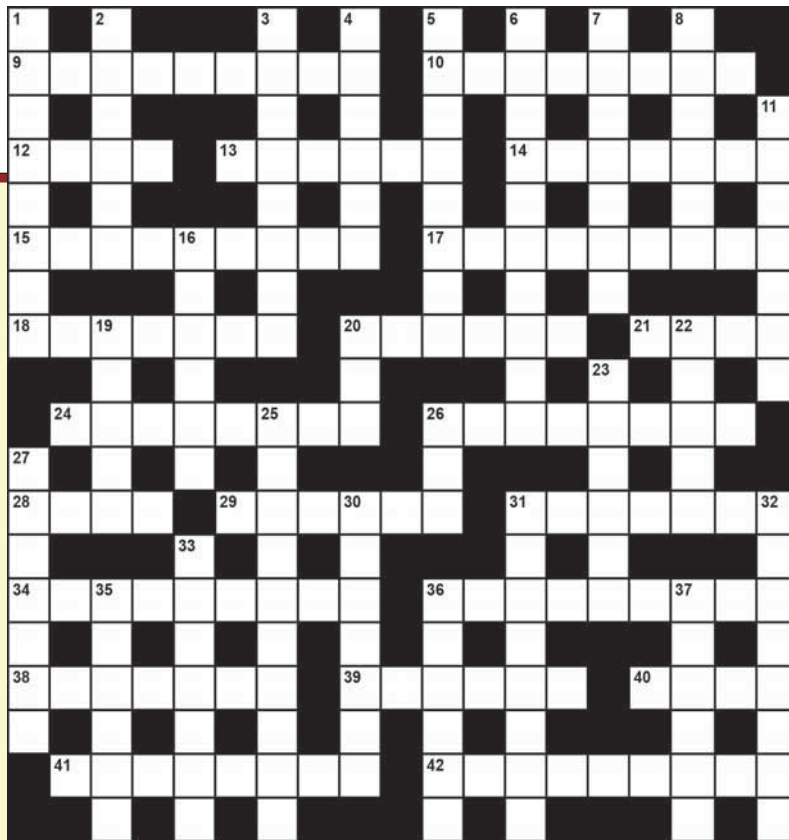
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COFFEE break

Cryptic Crossword

Across

- 9. Pelt Simon, could be a fool (9)
- 10. At the first opportunity tear lies apart (8)
- 12. Ill-favored hugely. Not he! (4)
- 13. Meteor moved far away (6)
- 14. Joyous five set about (7)
- 15. Suffering in the cause, fixed to marry M.D. (9)
- 17. Strangely, great men out East make an accord (9)
- 18. In the United Kingdom, the Spanish echo the French sort of guitar (7)
- 20. Benny left in a little fish (6)
- 21. Mark arcs carefully (4)
- 24. Warned about, in re. globetrotter (8)
- 26. Belief in different decree about North Carolina (8)
- 28. Free arrangement of ridge of submerged rock (4)
- 29. Ay, Ahab abused amphetamine in Thailand (6)
- 31. Face rep arranging introduction (7)
- 34. Common to prevent a Liberal getting in (9)
- 36. Family having reference to son (9)
- 38. Prompt trice (7)
- 39. Left coat out; note, find (6)
- 40. In a circle, work back to a Phuket bay (4)
- 41. Fix again safe rent perhaps (8)
- 42. Slim Count could be a newspaper writer (9)



Down

- 1. Quasi-emu old occupant of Arctic America! (8)
- 2. Real M.P. could be more than adequate (6)
- 3. One who is present for teen date perhaps (8)
- 4. Notify about being in good condition (6)
- 5. Even crazy rate respect (8)
- 6. First choice to refer in pence (10)
- 7. Minister I moved out of big church (7)
- 8. Hope to praise wildly (6)
- 11. Ted robs upset borrowers (7)
- 16. Gives way and produces (6)
- 19. Avoid nowadays first lady being out (5)
- 20. Sailor turns up on river, in pub! (3)
- 22. Company twice gets a hot drink (5)
- 23. Up to date concerning small coin (6)
- 25. Craftily steal a tree from landed property (4,6)
- 26. US spying organization caught one article (3)
- 27. Caught tip, cry about abstruse sort of puzzle (7)
- 30. Bravo! A teetotaler left mixed gin - struggling! (8)
- 31. Ploy I let expand civilly (8)
- 32. As you set out to find screw extractors (8)
- 33. A car moved foremost division to a mobile home (7)
- 35. Each rise arranged more effortlessly (6)
- 36. Royal Engineers bird to set pistol ready to fire again (6)
- 37. Fiddle against one round left in (6)

Words from the wise:

“Men are not prisoners of fate, but only prisoners of their own minds.” – *Franklin D Roosevelt*

“I’d rather be a lightning rod than a seismograph.” – *Ken Kesey*

Medium

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

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

Hard

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

GEMINI (May 22-June 21):

The stars suggest that some Geminis may be about to give up too quickly where a financial situation is concerned. There are hints that it will be possible to reclaim money unfairly lost, but this will not be a quick fix. Those with a birthday during the coming week are forecast to catch up with long lost friends during the year ahead; rekindled romance could follow on from this.

CANCER (June 22-July 23):

Joining forces with a colleague can enhance chances of making more money in your spare time. The stars suggest that groundwork done this week should help June to be a profitable month. Some moonlighting will help Cancerians to make dreams of a summer holiday to come true. In the realm of romance, home is where the heart is. A romantic partner appreciates spending some quality time together this weekend.

LEO (July 24-Aug 22):

Positive days lie ahead and good fortune is highlighted for those born under the sign of Leo during the last week of May. The only negative side could be that people are hard

to pin down. If you need to make serious agreements, it would be wise to confirm appointments. Where affairs of the heart are concerned, trying to turn a casual affair with a water sign into a committed relationship will not work.

VIRGO (Aug 23-Sept 23):

Money matters are highlighted this week. Being thrifty is advisable as the stars suggest that end of the month expenses will be higher than usual. This is likely to be a payment you have forgotten is due – checking personal administration will prevent this coming as a shock. Affairs of the heart are well starred, with Virgoans who are single enjoying mutual attraction with a fire sign this weekend.

LIBRA (Sept 24-Oct 23):

Peace of mind is predicted for Librans who have been struggling with a work related dilemma. Closure of this situation will leave you free to focus on plans for June, which could include a last minute getaway at the start of the month. There are hints that a family member’s invitation can be enough to inspire you to start packing a bag. Hopes of romance with a fire sign may be dashed this weekend.

YOUR horoscope

By Isla Star

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22):

Your imagination is liable to be in overdrive this week. Scorpios are advised to keep a wide berth from the gossip grapevine as misleading information could cause unnecessary stress. Regarding work or business, the stars suggest that an earth sign’s eagerness could cause you to become part of a new venture before you are ready. In the personal zone, you could be grateful for the opportunity to help those less fortunate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21):

A favorable cosmic climate benefits work matters for those born under the sign of Sagittarius during the final week of May. There are strong indications that you have an advantage where possible promotion is concerned. Now is the time to use contacts who can pull strings on your behalf. In the personal zone, helping out another fire sign can become more complicated than you are led to believe.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20):

The stars indicate that Capricorns can be influenced by a way of thinking that is quite different to their usual approach. This may be the result of interaction with someone who has become successful recently and your working life is forecast to become more pleasurable and lucrative. It should be possible to rekindle plans for an intimate getaway that were put on hold, which will please your romantic partner.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19):

Your energy becomes more balanced during the last week of May and this will be an auspicious time for Aquarians to have conversations that they have been avoiding. A fire sign appears ready to reach agreement about a financial situation that has been weighing on your mind and another air sign should be open to suggestions for renegotiating a business agreement. Special days for romance are Sunday and Monday.

PISCES (Feb 20-Mar 20):

Many Pisceans will feel inspired to make changes to their domestic environments during the days ahead. Another water sign’s advice can help you save money and a fire sign’s creativity helps you

see worthwhile ways of improving your home. In the realm of romance, allowing an air sign to have the final word allows peace to prevail this weekend. Most fortunate days for finances are Wednesday and Thursday.

ARIES (Mar 21-Apr 20):

Tricky family issues – possibly connected with money – are highlighted for those born under the sign of Aries during the last week of May. If an unpaid debt is involved, setting a definite deadline is recommended. Where romance is concerned, the stars advise choosing your words carefully when pointing out the obvious to an earth sign partner. Those who are single see that an earth sign is keen to get close.

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 21):

Other people may seem difficult to please at the start of the week; Taureans are advised not to try too hard to be in everyone’s good books. Where work is concerned, paying too much attention to detail may prevent progress. Taking some distance from responsibilities should enable you to see the big picture better. Romance with an air sign is mellow, but a relationship with a water sign is affected by money problems.

Phuket Raceweek on greener waters

ASIA'S award-winning regatta, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek, has become the first regatta in Southeast Asia to be bestowed the official title of a "Clean Regatta", as approved by Sailors for the Sea.

Phuket Raceweek, to be held this year off Cape Panwa from July 16-20, showcases the island's natural surrounds, the health of which are inherently linked to the success and long-term sustainability of Phuket's marine leisure tourism industry.

According to the World Shipping Council, the top 20 importers and exporters of containerized cargo in 2009 and 2010 included 10 countries from Asia, with Thailand ranked sixth for exports and 14th for imports.

As the oceans get busier, garbage in the sea and damage to marine ecosystems continues, which is an issue the organizers of Phuket Raceweek are addressing.

"Sailing is considered to be a clean and green sport, and on the whole it is," said Byron Jones, managing director of regatta organizers Media Business Services (MBS).

"As residents of Phuket and organizers of an annual sailing event here, the team at Phuket Raceweek are aware of the importance of the

sea to Phuket's tourism and sailing industries, and we aim to ensure the marine environment is left in a better state for future generations."

The Clean Regattas program is a global certification system that encourages regatta organizers and yacht clubs to run environmentally responsible events. Its main initiative is to reduce marine debris and preserve coastal land and waters.

Regattas in more than 13 countries have been certified, but Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek is the first in Southeast Asia to be granted certification.

"The Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek is committed to serving as a model for responsible sailing," said Tyson Bottenus, program coordinator of Sailors for the Sea.

"We are thrilled to support their efforts to educate participants on environmental protection. Working with the event, Sailors for the Sea will help to formalize their conservation efforts and help promote responsible environmental behaviors among organizers and regatta participants."

The Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) also recognizes the importance of environmentally-conscious tourism, having identified

eco-tourism as one of its niche markets in a strategy to grow niche tourism and not solely rely on "tourism by numbers".

The TAT's Seven Greens program, which provides a conceptual framework and establishes practical guidelines for carefully balancing tourism promotion and a healthy, sustainable environment.

As a result, Phuket Raceweek are introducing the following Clean Regattas Best Practices at the 2014 regatta:

- **Water Only Wash Downs (Graywater Reduction):** Participants will be asked to use "water only" when washing down their boats during the course of the regatta. This reduces run-off of phosphates and nitrates commonly found in cleaning products.

- **Oil Spill Prevention:** Motorized vessels shall carry and use at least one bilge sponge and one fueling spill pad.

- **Trash Free Regatta:** Overboard discharge of trash and littering at shore facilities will be prevented and strongly discouraged.



White sand fronts the Cape Panwa Hotel, home of the Phuket Raceweek regatta, certified a Clean Regatta by Sailors for the Sea. Photo: Supplied.

- **Recycling:** Recycling services at shore facilities will be available for participants to deposit separated recyclable materials such as bottles, cans, paper and other materials.

- **Water Bottle Reduction:** Water stations and/or reusable water bottles will be provided to reduce single-use disposable water bottles.

- **Promote the Use of Non-Toxic Cleaning Products:** Organizers will include and implement a list of environmentally-friendly cleaning products that can be used throughout the event.

"This is just the first step and we are excited to lead the way in Southeast Asia and introduce the Clean Regattas program to our event," said Mr Jones.

"We are keen to help preserve the

coastal area of Phuket and with our certification to the Clean Regattas program this is now part of the event's DNA. Working together with the event's participants we will ensure the program's success."

Voted "Asian Regatta of the Year" at the 2011 Asia Boating Awards, Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket

Raceweek continues to deliver excellence, and with the Clean Regattas program certification continues its tradition of innovation and leadership, he said.

The 2014 Cape Panwa Hotel Phuket Raceweek is set to welcome boats and crews from around the world for four days of world-class yacht racing off Phuket's southeast coast from July 16-20.

- *Phuket Gazette*

For more information about the event, visit phuketraceweek.com.

Laguna crush ICC in semi-final

DESPITE the torrential rain overnight, the Alan Cooke Ground (ACG) stood up to the test and was in perfect condition for the JLL league semi-final encounter between Laguna and ICC. Laguna, only defeated once this season, probably went into the match as favorites, but ICC with their all-round talent can topple any team on their day. The toss was potentially going to play a big part, as the radar showed there was still plenty of rain about, and this could benefit the team batting second if the match was shortened due to rain. ICC, upon winning the toss, elected to field because of the threat of rain.

Ultimately, the rain stayed away, and Laguna posted a solid total of 228-5 from their 35 overs. However, in reply, ICC could only manage 122 before being bowled out from a strong performance in the field by Laguna.

Laguna got off to a steady start but lost Sriram Kalisam (10) when he was trapped lbw in the 7th over with the score on 22. Damian Clowes (11) was looking in good form until he was found out of his ground while attempting a quick single. A 91 run partnership be-

tween Manish Sadarangani (48) and Sameer Khan (82) laid the foundation for the innings with Khan hitting three huge sixes out of the ground. Sadarangani eventually fell in the 25th over after skying a ball high in the air with the score on 133-3. Stuart Reading (11) then joined Khan looking to boost the run rate, but was caught at deep long-on. Shoeib Mushtaq (21 not out) then put on a 55 run partnership with Khan and was eventually dismissed after a swashbuckling innings at the beginning of the final over. However, Pir Sami (17 not out) took it to the ICC bowlers smashing 17 runs off the final balls of the innings to boost the Laguna total to 228-5. Pick of the bowlers were Ravi Naik (2 for 34) and Paresh Borkar (1 for 33).

After the lunch break, ICC embarked on their campaign to chase down the sizeable target. However, some agile fielding by Shoeib Mushtaq and a direct hit saw Vicky Mehra (3) run out while attempting a quick single in the 3rd over. Some tight bowling by Laguna's Nadeem Youseff

frustrated Shah Ullah (6) and he was caught at fly slip attempting to push the run rate along in the 8th over. Captain Anand Chand (8), then also fell victim to another run out by Mushtaq while attempting a second run and at 33-3, ICC were in trouble.

However, they still had the big hitting Ali Khan (20) at the crease who could turn their fortunes around. He hit a massive six out of the ground from Mushtaq's first over. However, continued tight bowling by Youseff saw him capture the scalp of Khan in an almost identical dismissal of Ullah. With 48-4 on the scoreboard just prior to the

1st drinks session, ICC would now require divine intervention to have any chance of winning. Ravi Naik (20), Abdul Saleam (18) and D Vaiganker (17) provided some resistance to push the score along to 100-7, but Sriram Kalisam made short work of the ICC tail bagging 4 wickets for just 16 runs to bowl out ICC for 122 in the 28.2 overs. Pick of the bowlers were Kalisam (four for 16), Nadeem Youseff (two for 16) and Shoeib Mushtaq (two for 19).

Laguna will now meet Thalang in the JLL league cup final in what is expected to be an exciting

match with Laguna looking to seek revenge against Thalang in their only defeat of the season, while Thalang will be out to prove they are worthy points champions with strong and consistent cricket displayed throughout the season.

In an action packed finals weekend, the PCG will be hosting a quiz night on the Friday evening (starting at 7pm), while the final will commence at 10am on Sunday and will also feature great prizes in a silent fund-raising auction and a bouncy castle to keep the kids entertained.

- *Phuket Gazette*



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SPORTathlon

Samui Regatta showdown

Asia's best skippers and yachts to compete at this year's Samui Regatta

By Chris Husted

THE Samui Regatta, which gets underway this weekend, heralds a big gun showdown between Foxy Lady VI and Red Kite II for the right to be crowned champions in the Asia Yachting Grand Prix (AYGP) 2014.

Foxy Lady is unbeaten this year and hot on a six-regatta streak after winning the IRC2 class at Top of the Gulf earlier this month. But skipper Bill Bremner not only needs to win the class at Samui, the last fixture on the Asia Yachting circuit this year, but also pick up the bonus points for wins in eight races.

Having dominated their class in Hong Kong for the past few years, newcomer Red Kite II, an Archambault 35 helmed by Anthony Root, made the decision last year to race the Southeast Asian events.

Winning their class at the 2013 Phuket King's Cup and placing second-in-class at the 2014 Royal Langkawi International Regatta, they have made their intentions clear.

Although Red Kite has a handy lead in the AYGP series, the *Gazette* has been told that helmsman Root is taking no chances. He reportedly will be boarding a plane for Thailand immediately after attending his daughter's university graduation in the United States on May 25 so he can join the racing.

Other big boats to contest the top-flight class at Samui include Peter Ahern's Oi! from Australia, fresh from winning IRC1 at the Top of the Gulf, as well as Geoff Hill's 72ft Antipodes and Neil Pryde's 52ft Hi Fi, both from Australia, and Frank Pong's Custom 75 Jelik and Sam Chan's TP52 Freefire, both from Hong Kong.

Joining the race fleet will be Ben Copely's Swan CS42 Katsu and the Malaysian Navy will race two entries: one crew aboard the modified DK46 Uruanus and the other on the racing-pedigree TP52 Ulumulu.

Ray Roberts and his renowned Evolution Racing crew, however, will not be competing this year due to injury.

The 30-strong fleet already confirmed to race in the regatta is set to deliver some top quality competition and likely to decide who will be crowned AYGP champions for

2013/14, said Race Director Simon James.

"The quality of the entries is looking exceptional, not only in the racing and top IRC fleets but also amongst the cruisers and charter boats," he said.

"Last year there was some very close racing on-the-water often with just seconds separating boats on corrected time, and looking at the boats and crew this year I would expect the competition to be just as close and in some cases, even more so."

All eyes will be on the start line, where aggressive tactics are common when the stakes are high, and tight racing on the track.

New to the Samui Regatta, but with the familiar face of Michael Spies on board, is the Corby 36 Jessandra II (ex Rockall III, ex Rosie). Skipped by Roland Dane, principal of Red Bull Racing Australia, the team won the Audi Australian IRC Championship in 2012 and remained unbeaten in competition.

After resting the boat last season, in January this year they finished second overall to Black Jack 2 (ex Telefonica V70) in the Surf to City and have now shipped to Asia to compete on the Asian circuit.

A strong showing from local boats and charter crews in the cruising/charter classes include Moon Shadow, Freewind (2013 class winner), Sunsail Anchali and Sailquest Paprika II, to name a few.

Among them will be Patinyakorn "Ging" Buranrom, who last year became the first-ever Thai entry in the Transpacific (Transpac) Yacht Race, will be racing in the IRC Cruiser class on board Sansiri.

"We're pleased to see new boats coming to Samui and the Regatta. For some it may be their first time to Samui Island. We've been working closely with the local government and relevant agencies; the Island is ready and the Regatta is ready to welcome all participants," Mr James said.

Multihulls cancelled

A late development was the cancellation of the multihull class, Mr James confirmed on Tuesday.

"It is sad to see this, especially as Peter



Competition is expected to be even fiercer than last year. Photo: Supplied

Wilcox had sailed his fast catamaran Mojo around Singapore to compete in the Top of the Gulf and the Samui regattas," he said.

Mojo finished in style in the Ocean Multihulls class at the Top of the Gulf Regatta, with a win on the final day, enjoying the strong breeze to sail to a six-second victory on corrected time over Kirati Assakul's Sonic, whose second place in the race was enough to claim second overall by a single point over fellow Thai multihull sailor Radab Kanjanavanit.

Support

With the Samui Marathon and the Jazz Festival cancelled this year, Mr James lauded the support from the local government.

"The Provincial Governor and the Province of Surat Thani have given their full support," he said.

Other key government offices supporting the regatta included the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Surat Thani office, the Municipality of Koh Samui, the Sport Organization of Thailand (SAT) and the Tourism

Authority of Thailand, Mr James noted.

Key support since the regatta's inception has been from venue host Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui.

"For the 13th consecutive year, this leading lifestyle and sporting event has attracted competitive and social sailors from around the world. It has become one of Asia's most glamorous sailing events and Samui's main event for the year," said Martin Heiniger, Area General Manager Samui.

"Centara Grand Beach Resort Samui is synonymous with the regatta, having been its home base since the first event in 2002, and we're proud to be part of it.

"We hope you will enjoy your stay here in Koh Samui and here at Centara. I trust that you will have a stimulating week of competition and that you will enjoy the many attractions that Koh Samui has to offer."

For full racing schedule and more details on the fleet, parties and scuttlebutt, visit SamuiRegatta.com, www.facebook.com/SamuiRegatta or follow twitter.com/samuiregatta

Five years not enough for Asian Games

By Preechachan Wiriyappong

A FINAL decision on a country that will replace Vietnam as hosts of the 2019 Asian Games will be made in September and that being the case, the question is whether Thailand, which has hosted many Games when others had thrown their hands up, will throw its hat into the ring.

Vietnam laid out comprehensive plans to host the Games in June 2011 and won the bid in November 2012. The quadrennial sporting showcase is expected to attract over 12,000 athletes from 45 countries and territories in 35 sports.

Things turned sour when Vietnam backed out last month, claiming economic downturn and lack of experience in hosting such

a mega-event as the two main reasons for developing cold feet.

Malaysia and Indonesia have expressed their willingness to step in as a replacement, but, according to sources, Rita Subowo, chairman of the National Sports Committee of Indonesia, appeared to distance his country from the bid. Malaysia's Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said they are not interested.

Last Tuesday, the Indian Olympic Association, which lost the bid to host this year's Asian Games to Incheon in 2007, expressed its strong desire to stage the 2019 edition. However, it has to bank on the new central government that will be set up this month-end to approve the plan.



Games logo. Photo: Olympic Council of Asia

The final decision to pick the hosts will be made on September 20 during the Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea between September 19 to October 4.

Some have wondered why

Thailand, which has magnanimously hosted more Asian Games than any other country, did not raise their hands.

In fact, the Kingdom has already ruled itself out because of the shortage of time to prepare for the Games. General Yuthasak Sasiprapha, president of the Olympic Committee of Thailand, was very clear in saying that five years is too short for any country, let alone Thailand.

Hosting the Games means investing in infrastructure, people's skills and branding. One top priority is the safety of athletes and officials.

It's clear that Thailand is suffering from general slowdown in economic activity and hosting the

Games would mean more public debt and racking up more deficit figures in the national budget. Add to it, the political instability that is making things worse in the country. The capital Bangkok is often paralyzed by a large number of protesters from all walks of life. Safety in such a situation is unreliable.

Therefore, hosting the 2019 Games is too risky for Thailand. We may need more than five years to construct stadiums and facilities at a huge cost. Getting sponsorship, during these uncertain times, is a challenging task even for the best of marketing honchos.

So the best option for the Kingdom is to pass on the chance.

— *The Nation*

Van Gaal to lead Man Utd

By Martyn Herman

MANCHESTER United returned to a tried and trusted trophy winner after an ill-fated adventure with David Moyes when announcing that Dutchman Louis van Gaal had been handed the job of reviving the club's fortunes on Monday.

The 62-year-old, who has master-minded league titles at some of Europe's biggest clubs including Barcelona and Bayern Munich, and won the Champions League with Ajax Amsterdam, will begin the re-building job at Old Trafford once he has finished national duties at the World Cup.

Ryan Giggs, United's record appearance holder, will work alongside him after his four-game stint in charge following the sacking last month of Moyes, who was given the chance on the back of a long and worthy, but success-starved, 11-year stint in charge of Everton.

"In Louis van Gaal, we have secured the services of one of the outstanding managers in the game today, United Executive Vice-Chairman Ed Woodward said in a statement that announced the Dutchman had signed a three-year contract and would start work after leading the Netherlands at the World Cup finals which start next month.

"Everyone is very excited about this new phase in the club's history. His track record of success in winning leagues and cups across Europe throughout his career makes him the perfect choice for us."

Van Gaal, who has already been working behind the scenes with United officials regarding potential transfers, is likely to take charge for the first time when United play LA Galaxy in a friendly in Pasadena, California, on July 23-10 days after the World Cup final.

"It was always a wish for me to work in the Premier League. To work as a manager for Manchester United, the biggest club in the world, makes me very proud," said Van Gaal, United's first manager from beyond the British Isles.

"This club has big ambitions; I too have

big ambitions. Together I'm sure we will make history."

Safe hands

A year on from the bold decision to replace English football's most successful manager Alex Ferguson with fellow Scot Moyes – mainly on Ferguson's recommendation – the club's owners, stung by the financial impact of failure to qualify for the Champions League, have played it safe.

In Van Gaal they have recruited a manager who will command huge respect in the dressing room and in the transfer market and whose methods have stood the test of time.

He will need all his vast experience too as United attempt to repair the damage done by the 10-month Moyes era, which resulted in a seventh-placed finish in the Premier League.

The magnitude of the Old Trafford job appeared beyond Moyes but Van Gaal has sat comfortably – and certainly confidently – in some of the most pressurized hot-seats in world football despite occasional glitches and fall-outs.

His first task will be rebuilding the club's defense, which will be without Rio Ferdinand and Nemanja Vidic next season, and recruiting more pace and flair to a side that labored last season, particularly at home.

Reviving striker Robin van Persie will also be key after the Dutchman suffered a disappointing campaign compared to his barnstorming impact the previous year when his goals fired United to a 20th English title.

United fans will be reassured by Van Gaal's past feats.

He was responsible for nurturing great players such as Frank Rijkaard, Clarence Seedorf and Edgar Davids at Ajax who he memorably led to Champions League glory in 1995.

At Barcelona he won two La Liga titles in three seasons during his first spell from 1997-2000 while at Bayern Munich in 2010 he became the first Dutch coach to win the Bundesliga, unleashing rising German



The Netherlands coach and new MU manager Louis van Gaal during a news conference in Hoenderloo May 13, 2014. Photo: Michael Kooren/REUTERS

talents such as Thomas Mueller and Bastian Schweinsteiger and signing compatriot Arjen Robben.

Under Moyes, United's 2012-2013 title-winning squad chronically under-performed, suffering an abysmal home record and humiliating thrashings by Man City and Liverpool.

The Scot's body language was defeatist at times and there was a suspicion that some of the club's senior players were less than impressed with his style of play.

Van Gaal, used to handling the egos of high-profile internationals, will have little time for dissenters.

Influential Giggs

While Moyes made the mistake of ditching Ferguson's backroom staff in his first days

in charge, Van Gaal's acclimatization at Old Trafford will be aided by the fact that Giggs, a hugely influential figure at the club, will be his right-hand man having announced on Monday that his playing days are over having made 963 appearances in a glittering 23-year career.

"Louis is a world-class coach and I know I will learn a lot about coaching from being able to observe and contribute at such close quarters," Giggs said.

"Manchester United has been a huge part of my life and I'm delighted to be able to continue that relationship in such a key role."

Van Gaal will also bring Dutch goalkeeping coach Frans Hoek and scouting specialist Marcel Bout to the club as assistant coaches. **- Reuters**

Cole leaves the Blues

By Nick Mulvenney

FORMER England defender Ashley Cole has tweeted that his eight-year spell at Stamford Bridge is almost certainly over and he will not be playing for Chelsea next season.

Cole, who called time on his 107-cap England career earlier this month after being offered a standby spot in Roy Hodgson's squad for the World Cup, will be out of contract next month.

"I am weighing up my options for playing next season with my agent and sadly it does not look like Chelsea will be one of them," the 33-year-old posted.

"Thank u Chelsea FC for making my 8 years there a pleasure to work all the staff and players, we've been through a lot, good and bad.

"And now I'll be looking for another journey in my life hope it can be like my others full of fun and of course WIN something."

Although a divisive figure in England because of some of his off-field antics and pronouncements, Cole was considered one of the best left backs in the world at his peak.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has said he would like to keep Cole for next season even though he preferred Spaniard Cesar Azpilicueta in his defence for much of the recently concluded campaign.

Cole joined Chelsea from Arsenal in 2006 and has won one Premier League title, four FA Cups, as well as the 2012 Champions League with the west London club. **- Reuters**

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