

# Phuket Gazette

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'WE'VE HAD IT WITH THEIR DISOBEDIENCE AND MUST FOLLOW THE LAW'

## BROKEN PROMISES

■ Mayor puts her foot down to remove stubborn vendors on Patong Beach

By Chutharat Plerin

PATONG Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup on November 1 dug her heels in against alleged public land encroachment by Patong Beach food vendors.

A three-hour meeting at Phuket Provincial Hall between Patong Municipality officials, Phuket Provincial officers and beach vendors ended without any definite conclusion, which Mayor Chalermluck attributed to the fact that beach vendors 'never made good on their promises'.

"I am sick of chasing these vendors around. It has been more than two years since the National Council for Peace and Order (NCPO) ordered the beach clearance campaign in 2014. We have been very patient and helpful toward the vendors. However, we've had it with their disobedience, and must do our job, which is to follow the law. Meanwhile, we will try our best to reach a compromise," said Mayor Chalermluck after the meeting chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Teera Anantaseriwidhya.

"It is not true that we are picking on the vendors. We are just trying to do our job and strike the best balance between following the law and taking care of people under our jurisdiction. I am sure that all the vendors know what is going on. We have designated a place for them to sell food, but they have been complaining that it is not a prime location, because tourists do not come to that area. Therefore they set up shop on the beach, which is totally against the law and not what we signed a contract for," she explained.

"How many times have you broken your promises in the past? What's illegal is illegal, and you must accept our decision," she said to the vendors during the meeting.



The vendors have been setting up their stalls and furniture on the beach, which is in violation of the beach management rules. Photo: Chutharat Plerin

The meeting came about after a group of 30 vendors filed a complaint with the Damrongdhama Center (Ombudsman's Office) against Patong Municipality on October 27, after being given a cancellation notice of their rental contracts.

The vendors, who currently occupy food stalls at the Loma Building, located at Loma Park on Patong beachfront, asked the governor to intervene in the municipality's plans to build a conference hall in the area where they operate their business.

Led by Suriya Sinsoke, the group handed a letter of complaint to Phuket Provincial Chief Administrative Officer (Palad) Tamrongwat Kongkaew, who accepted the letter on behalf of Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan.

"Back in 1996, we were temporarily moved off the area for construction and renovation of food stalls and beachfront scenery. Once the construction was completed, however, we moved back to our usual area of

business and continued to operate as usual for 20 years," said Ms Suriya.

She added that in 2013, Patong Municipality informed all business owners that their rental contracts would gradually be cancelled and that the area would be reclaimed by the municipality. The current notice gives them 15 days to clear out.

Mayor Chalermluck said that the vendors had been using the public beachfront area to conduct their businesses and some of them had several months of outstanding rent payments.

"Some of the vendors have been setting up their stalls and furniture on the beach, which is in violation of the beach management rules. In order to keep things orderly, we asked them to move to the space inside the Loma Building that the municipality has provided," said Mayor Chalermluck.

Continued on Page 3

### Two arrested for murder of tuk-tuk club leader

A FATHER and son were arrested on October 28 for their suspected involvement in hiring a gunman to murder the president of the Patong Tuk Tuk Drivers' Club.

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### BUSINESS



Second Tranlee auction fails to generate much public interest.

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A look at the growing interest in integrated death service providers.

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### LIFE & STYLE



Obesity may be about more than just calorie consumption.

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## LOCAL NEWS

# Briefly

## Suspicious bag panics Koh Kaew residents

AN UNKNOWN foreigner caused a stir among Koh Kaew residents on October 30, when he dropped off a suitcase outside a SuperCheap store and promptly left.

Wattana Thinkoh, the village headman (Phu Yai Baan), was alerted of the incident about 10am.

"I reported the case to my superior, Muang District Chief Supoj Chanakij. Phuket City Police officers were also called in to investigate," said Mr Wattana.

Police officers opened the suitcase, only to find an empty black bag inside.

"What caused suspicion was the way the man was behaving. He dropped off the case, waved to everyone and suddenly walked away. People panicked because they misunderstood his actions to mean something sinister," he added.

So far, there are no leads on the identity of the foreigner and why he dropped off the suitcase.

– Winai Sarot

## Firefighters battle power pole blazes

TWO power poles on the island caught fire in two separate incidents on October 27 and October 28, leaving locals in the dark for several hours in some areas.

"We received reports of an electricity pole on fire in Srisoonthorn, Thalang, on Thepkrasattri Road southbound, at about 8:30pm," Amnart Sujjit, a firefighter for Srisoonthorn Municipality, told the *Gazette*.

Locals gathered at the scene, afraid that the fire would spread to nearby houses. However, firefighters managed to douse the flames in about 20 minutes.

"The Phuket Provincial Electricity Authority (PEA) had to cut off power in order to investigate the cause and repair

# Fire guts Phuket house



A fire gutted a house in Phuket Town on the morning of October 31, which left the owner, Suthi Angsithakun with about 200,000 baht worth of damages. Firefighters took over 20 minutes to put out the blaze before it spread to nearby houses. The cause of the fire was still unknown at press time. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

any damages," said Mr Amnart. "While power has been restored to the area, some households are still facing issues with TV, cable and internet connectivity."

A second power pole caught fire at 4:15am in Baan Bangla, Pa Khlok. A local man named Daeng Sawangarundej reported the incident.

Pa Khlok Municipality firefighters managed to get the flames under control in about 20 minutes.

Details of how either of the fires started have yet to surface, but no injuries were reported in either incident.

– Winai Sarot

## Russians crash into backhoe

THREE Russians were injured when the car they were in smashed into a backhoe parked on the Manik-Cherng Talay Road in Srisoonthorn on the morning of October 31.

"The foreigners, named Vitaliy Savenko, 49, Natalia Eremikhina, 23 and Pavel Martynov, 23, were heading toward the Heroines' Monument about 5:30am. They

came across a road construction site where the backhoe was parked, and could not brake in time to avoid a collision," Lt Sunan Petnhu of the Thalang Police told the *Gazette*.

"There were speed signs alerting them to slow down, but because it was quite dark, they didn't see the warning until it was too late," Lt Sunan added.

All three were taken to Thalang Hospital, where they were reported to be 'conscious'.

A few hours before the Russians hit the backhoe, two women were injured in a similar fashion when their motorcycle collided with it.

"At this stage, we have yet to press charges against anyone. However, we are still investigating to see who is responsible for this," Lt Sunan added.

– Winai Sarot

## Brit arrested for stealing from tuk tuk

A BRITISH tourist was arrested and charged with theft

on October 26 after he was captured in Patong, for stealing a tuk-tuk driver's wallet and other possessions from inside the taxi's cab while it was parked in Karon two weeks ago.

After reporting the theft to Karon police, the tuk-tuk driver, Tawatchai Namwong, posted a warning about the pilfering farang on social media.

The post read: 'A foreigner in a white car drove up and parked behind my tuk-tuk while I stepped into a Family Mart outlet in Karon. I had not locked my vehicle.'

"The man opened the driver's side door and stole my ATM card, driving licence and other documents. Please be very careful and lock your car door every time in order to protect your belongings."

"He is a 27-year-old British tourist, named Aaron Walter, and had been staying at the Karon Princess Hotel. He had checked out of the hotel on the same day as the theft," confirmed Karon Police captain Weerayut Thansirisukhaworakul.

"He had rented a white Honda Jazz from a car rental place in Patong," added capt Weerayut.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

## Phuket's Top Cop leads Police parade

A POSSE of police officers paraded down the island's party soi on the night of October 23 in an effort to boost tourist confidence.

The 150-strong group was led down Bangla Road by Phuket Provincial Police Commander Teerapol Thipjaroen to scan the area for any suspicious activities.

"The high season is just around the corner," said Gen Teerapol. "Christmas and New Year celebrations may attract criminals to our island and we want people to know that we are prepared."

The parades lasted till October 27.

"We are patrolling the area to boost crime prevention efforts and ensure the safety of locals, expats and tourists," added Col Chaiwat Auikam of Patong Police.

– Sukawin Tanthavanich

## Electrocuted man found dead in home

A MAN was found dead with an electric wire wrapped around his wrist on October 31 in Thalang. Police believe he died from a self-inflicted shock.

"We received reports at 2:40am that Channarong Sinka was found in his one-storey house on a street off Thepkrasattri Road," said Thalang Police Lt Sunan Petnhu.

"We found him lying face-down on the floor in a pool of blood, with an electric wire wrapped around his right wrist, stuck to his arm with adhesive tape. Relatives discovered him with the wire still plugged in to an electrical socket, which they then unplugged."

Investigators said the man appeared to have been dead for about four hours before he was found. They found no signs of a struggle and nothing had been stolen from the house.

"Mr Channarong's relatives told us that he had been stressed about a court case," added Lt Sunan.

"Although it appears that he intentionally electrocuted himself, we will investigate further before writing off the case." The body was taken to Thalang Hospital for examination.

– Winai Sarot

# No choice left Implicated boat captain summoned for shootout

From Page 1

...he added that the municipality also made efforts to clean up the building and provide running water and electricity so they wouldn't have to set up their stalls outside.

"Although they agreed to stay off the public area, many of them still set up shop there. We even had Navy officials talk to them several times, but they continue to sell items outside the building. So we had no choice but to cancel their contracts and give them notice," said Mayor Chalerm-luck.

She added that since a budget had already been approved for renovation of the building and that the vendors do not utilize the building anyway, the municipality has decided to use the money to build a conference hall.

"We were not given any advance notice or the chance to attend a public hearing on the matter. This decision will affect the livelihood of all the vendors and staff, which totals more than a hundred people and their families," said Ms Suriya.

The vendors are now requesting that the governor make an urgent decision about whether the contract cancellation is fair and also to check if the conference hall construction is following all legal processes.

They also requested that the governor ask the municipality to reconsider the cancellation, or to designate new areas for them in the proposed building-improvement master plan.

Additionally, if the project is to go ahead, they want the municipality to provide a temporary site for them to set up their stalls while construction of the meeting hall is ongoing.

Ms Suriya and a few representatives of the local vendors pleaded with Mayor Chalerm-luck during the meeting to allow them to sell food in the building and promised they would follow the law.

"We beg you to allow us to earn a living. We are willing to coordinate with the municipality," said Ms Suriya.

One of the vendors, Wannee Kesakomon, 57, shed tears in the room, asking Mayor Chalerm-luck to change her mind.

"We have been working there for decades. This is our only means of living and we have mouths to feed. Please have some sympathy," said Ms Wannee.

Vice Governor Teera tried to convince the mayor to allow the locals to continue to sell food in the building. However, Mayor Chalerm-luck declined, saying she does not believe the vendors will follow the rules as per her past experience.

"Who will guarantee they will not break the rules again?" she asked. "We are going around in circles. There will be no change or conclusion from this meeting. I will talk to the Patong Municipality council and see what the next step will be."

She also added that the municipality sometimes turned a blind eye in order to enable vendors to earn a living, but the vendors never seemed to have enough of it. She said that she could not allow this to carry on, as officials are punishable for dereliction of duty under Section 157.

V/Gov Teera said he understood both parties' concerns, but could not deviate from the law. "The municipality has to do their job based on the law. They can try to help locals, but only if the law allows. It is what it is – if we cannot come to a conclusion at this stage, the issue may go to court for the judges to decide," he said.

Mayor Chalerm-luck did not commit to a date when she would update the locals about feedback from the municipality.

"They have all known ahead of time that this would happen. The first group's contracts ended on March 31, the second group's on October 31 and only Ms Suriya's contract ends on December 31. The March 31 group begged us to extend their contract, so we agreed to let them be until October 31, since our new project had yet to be started at the time," explained Mayor Chalerm-luck.

"Now they have turned around and filed a complaint against us. It does not make any sense. We have rules, and they must be followed. That is it," she noted.

"This is not a decision I am handing down on my own. The new building has passed all the required processes by law and we have already set aside a budget for it. The vendors did not even want to sell food in the building to begin with, so now we will utilize it for the public's benefit. We expect to turn it into a meeting room, which won't work if vendors are allowed to sell food there," said Mayor Chalerm-luck.

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE are on a double man-hunt for suspects who shot a fellow boat crew member in Koh Sirey on the night of October 27.

The 34-year-old victim, named Suchat Hetthong, escaped after getting shot in the right foot about 7:15pm near Koh Sirey Bridge.

"Mr Suchat told us that five men, including the captain of another boat, showed up at his house and a fight ensued," said Phuket City Police Superintendent Komol Osiri.

"Soon after, two more men arrived on a motorbike and shot Mr Suchat with a pistol. He sustained injuries, but managed to escape. The perpetrators, as well the five other men, also fled the scene, leaving a Honda



Mr Suchat escaped after being shot in the foot. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

motorbike behind."

Police arrived at the scene to collect evidence and check CCTV footage.

"During our investigation, we gathered that Mr Suchat and the men work at the same company. Earlier in the day, he had

a heated argument with crew members of another speedboat, which may have instigated the altercation," said Col Komol.

The captain was summoned to the station for questioning and to help find the two men involved.

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# Thai man nearly drowns after ignoring red flags



First aid was administered on the victim before he was taken to Patong Hospital for treatment. Photo: Navy 3

By Kongleaphy Keam

A THAI tourist nearly drowned on October 26 after he ignored red flag warnings and went swimming at Kata Beach.

About 4pm, 27-year-old Athithan Kanjanawattanakun

reportedly disappeared into the water. Lifeguards and Royal Thai Navy search and rescue personnel managed to recover him while he was still conscious.

Mr Athithan received first aid at the scene and was then sent to Patong Hospital for fur-

ther treatment. Bystanders said that Mr Athithan may have been caught up in a rip current.

Representatives from the rescue team told the *Gazette* that at least three other Thai tourists were saved from drowning the same day.

# Tagged and bagged: 2 murder suspects arrested, 4 on the run



Police arrived to see Mr Sakol's tuk-tuk riddled with bullets. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

POLICE on October 28 arrested and charged a man and his son suspected of hiring a gunman to kill the president of the Patong Tuk Tuk Drivers' Club on October 25.

The suspects, 38-year-old Wattana Nawakaew and his son 17-year-old son 'Tong', have both been charged with gang-related crimes, including gang murder, possession of illegal firearms and ammunition, illegally carrying firearms in public, and hiring a gunman. They were both arrested at a rental house in Phuket Town.

"Sakol Srisompoch, the victim, was on his way home after work when the incident occurred. There were four wounds on his left arm, one in his back and another in his chest. There were also several bullet holes in the window and windshield of his tuk-tuk," said Capt Wattanathorn Bamroongthin of Kathu Police on the night of the murder.

"Mr Wattana denied the charges. However, the son reportedly revealed that his father and the victim, Mr Sakol, had had prevailing problems over the tuk-tuk business for quite some time," said Kathu Police Deputy Superintendent Ampholwat Saengruang.

Col Ampholwatt added that a total of six suspects were involved in Mr Sakol's murder.

"We have issued arrest warrants for four other suspects believed to have been involved in the shooting, including the gunman, a driver and others involved in the planning of the execution. They may have left Phuket," said the colonel.

Police have also gathered evidence two motorcycles and helmets believed to have been used by the suspects.

Mr Sakol had been actively involved in leading protests by tuk-tuk drivers for about three years. In June 2013, a protest by about 100 tuk-tuk drivers won the drivers a crackdown on illegal taxis, which the tuk-tuk clan said were stealing their jobs.

After staging a convoy from Kathu, the protesters parked their tuk-tuks, across the street from Provincial Hall in Phuket Town. Mr Sakol identified the source of the tuk-tuk drivers' woes as pickup trucks illegally modified to carry passengers in the back.

"They are stealing our passengers in Patong, Kata and Karon. Almost all of them work only at nighttime," he said.

The Phuket Vice Governor at that time, Sommai Prijasilpa, received the complaint.

Attached to the complaint was a list of names of allegedly illegal taxi drivers in Patong that the tuk-tuk drivers wanted arrested, to make it easier for officials to take action against them.

At a quickly assembled meeting that followed soon after, the Phuket Provincial Police Deputy Commander at that time, Peerayuth Karachedi, vowed to launch a campaign targeting illegal taxi drivers in Phuket.

"I will order police in every area to crack down on and arrest illegal taxi drivers," he said.

- Kritsada Mueanhawong and Saran Mitrarat

# French national, unidentified man killed in late night crash

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A FRENCH national and an unidentified man were killed in a collision between two motorbikes in Patong in the early hours of October 30. A third man, a Myanmar national, is in Intensive Care Unit (ICU) after the smash.

All three victims were taken to Patong Hospital, where two of them were pronounced dead. The French national, named Arnaud Sacha Leclere, 33, worked as the director at Pink Paradise Phuket on Bangla Road, Patong.

An early morning Facebook post by 'Pink Paradise Phuket' notified the public of his demise. "Today we have lost our Director, our Brother, our Best Friend. R.I.P Arnaud we will always love you," the post read.

The crash occurred in front of the Fong Beer pub on Phra Metta Road about 2:40am.

"Three people were injured and unconscious when we arrived at the scene," said Maj Pathapee Srichai of Patong



The three were injured and unconscious when police arrived at the scene. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Police. "Two motorcycles, that were apparently being driven in opposite directions, also lay smashed up on the road."

"The sole survivor of the in-

cident has been identified as 23-year-old Win Soe Tai, who we believe to be from Myanmar," confirmed Maj Pathapee.

"He was transferred to the

ICU in Vachira Phuket Hospital. We are waiting for him to regain consciousness so we can question him about the incident."

## Pork shop razed in fire

POLICE are probing the cause of a fire which broke out at a two-storey restaurant named Moo Krob Khun Yai (Grandmother's Crispy Pork) on the night of November 1. The second floor was ablaze when emergency services arrived. They took more than an hour to extinguish the fire as falling roof tiles hampered their efforts. No injuries were reported.

Police estimated cost of the damage to be in the region of 400,000 baht.

Investigators questioned 46-year-old Luechai Tiangyoo, who lives at the shophouse with his family.

"He had gone out to buy fresh supplies of pork when the fire started. He said he had checked the house before leaving and made sure that there were no candles or incense left burning. However, his neighbor called him to inform him of the fire soon after he left," said Police chief Santi Prakobpran, who added that police suspected a short circuit sparked the fire.

- Chris P Bacon

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# Rains and floods cripple south

By Chutharat Plerin and Kraitsada Mueanhawong

EMERGENCY staff were ordered to remain alert after continuous rain battered the island on the night of October 28, lasting well into the next morning and flooding large areas in Patong and Phuket Town, among others.

"I have ordered local administrative officials to stand by for any emergencies and also be on the lookout for residents who might need help," Governor Chokchai Dejamorthan told the *Gazette*.

Officials from the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation (DDPM) and other rescue personnel helped drain out rainwater from areas that were affected by flash floods that followed the rains.

"I request the public to be prepared and remain on high alert as well," Gov Chokchai added. "Emergency staff is present to help out in any adverse situation that might occur due to prevailing storms."

Vice Governor Teera Anantaseriwidhya, Phuket City Mayor Somjai Suwansupana and DDPM Phuket chief Udornporn Karn inspected the flooding at Saensuk Canal in Phuket City.

"We sent out staff to drain



Patong residents rode their bikes through the floods, while Krabi residents were supplied boats. Photo: Beniji Patongsub and Kraitsada Mueanhawong

water from flooded areas," said V/Gov Teera. "They have been at it since 2am today. However, we have to come up with a long-term solution in case we get more heavy rains."

Mayor Somjai added that the water level in the Bang Yai canal was very high. "We discussed future long-term solutions for draining water from Bang Yai to Saensuk with V/Gov Teera."

"Large amounts of waste was blocking the river flow, which is why we urge residents to avoid throwing trash into the sea. It may be convenient for

you, but it puts residents near the canal in a bad situation."

At about 4am, Patong officials scrambled to help tourists get to safety by using boats and 4x4 vehicles.

"We ran the water pump early this morning to drain out the flooded water, and as soon as its level decreased we cleaned up all the trash that had washed up," said Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kebsup.

A similar situation panned out in Krabi after about 50 people were affected by floods on the weekend starting Octo-

ber 22.

On October 24, Klonghin OrBorTor President Sila Saiyid inspected an area where 20 houses had been flooded at Baan Tung Kor and upto 400-500 rai of palm and rubber plantations.

"We have temporarily provided boats for locals to commute in. However, our long-term plan is to dig a canal," said Mr Sila.

"More than a hundred meters of road lay submerged in the area. We have installed warning signs for drivers of small vehicles," confirmed

Thalerngsak Phuwayanpong from the DDPM in Krabi.

Mr Thalerngsak added that residents in all eight districts of Krabi Province have been issued warnings in addition to one regarding Phanom Bencha mountain for landslides, flash floods and fallen trees.

Back in September, villagers of Ao Luek District were hit with floods that submerged more than 300 meters of roads in the area. DDPM officers at the time handed out boats to locals and promised to build a dam as a long-term solution.

## Sexual predator behind bars

THE Thai man who sexually assaulted 23-year-old American tourist Hannah Michel Gavios on September 1, resulting in her falling down a 45-meter cliff at Railay Bay in Krabi, has been sentenced to five years in jail.

Ms Gavios was temporarily paralyzed after falling down the crevice at night while attempting to flee the advances of Krabi native Apai Ruangwong, 28, who later admitted to the attempted assault when police questioned him. He was also the one who notified the authorities for help, but not until the next day, after reportedly molesting Ms Gavios while she lay at the foot of the cliff in agony and unable to move from a fractured spine.

Hannah Michel Gavios, 23, returned home to the US after being treated at Bangkok Hospital Phuket.

"Mr Apai was convicted at



Rescuers bring down Ms Gavios from a cliff. Photo: Kraitsada Mueanhawong

Krabi Provincial Court on October 17 for committing sexual assault as well as 'assault causing serious injury' and was sentenced to a five-year prison term. He did not make an appeal," Ao Nang Police Lt Winai Poonsawat told the *Gazette*.

Such charges carry a mandatory 10-year jail term but the sentence was halved because Mr Apai admitted to the crime,

said Col Winai.

The US Embassy has been informed of the judge's ruling so they can pass on the news to Ms Gavios.

We haven't heard anything about Ms Gavios' condition since her return to the US but we hope she is better and that news of the court's decision offers some closure, said Col Winai.

- Kongleaphy Keam

## Mining industry expansion could deepen conflicts

THE plan to expand the mining industry into deep South provinces may deepen the conflict between local people and authorities and intensify the insurgency, activists warned.

Two weeks ago, the Primary Industries and Mines Department announced it would cooperate with the Internal Security Operations Command 4 to develop the mining industry and related industries in Pattani, Yala, Narathiwat, and parts of Songkhla to make use of resources, create jobs and boost local economies.

However, this plan has been strongly opposed by local activists. Mustarsheeden Waba, coordinator of the Southernmost People's Network of Community Rights and Environment Safeguards for Peace, said authorities did not ask locals for consent and people still do not have any information about the plan.

"We're concerned that the mining operation in the deep South will have environmental impacts on the people, as we have seen the examples from other areas in the country, but what we worry the most about with this plan is it is solely driven by the authorities and there is entirely no attempt to get public consent," he said.

"The fact that the move is openly supported to exploit the natural resources is very concerning, because if people suffer from impact of mining, the authorities will be blamed and it will only fuel the already severe Southern insurgency."

The Internal Security Operations Command 4 will be responsible for tackling the problems that may affect the mining operation, facilitating the mining operators, and providing security to the businesses.

- The Nation

## Wat Phra Kaew reopens its doors

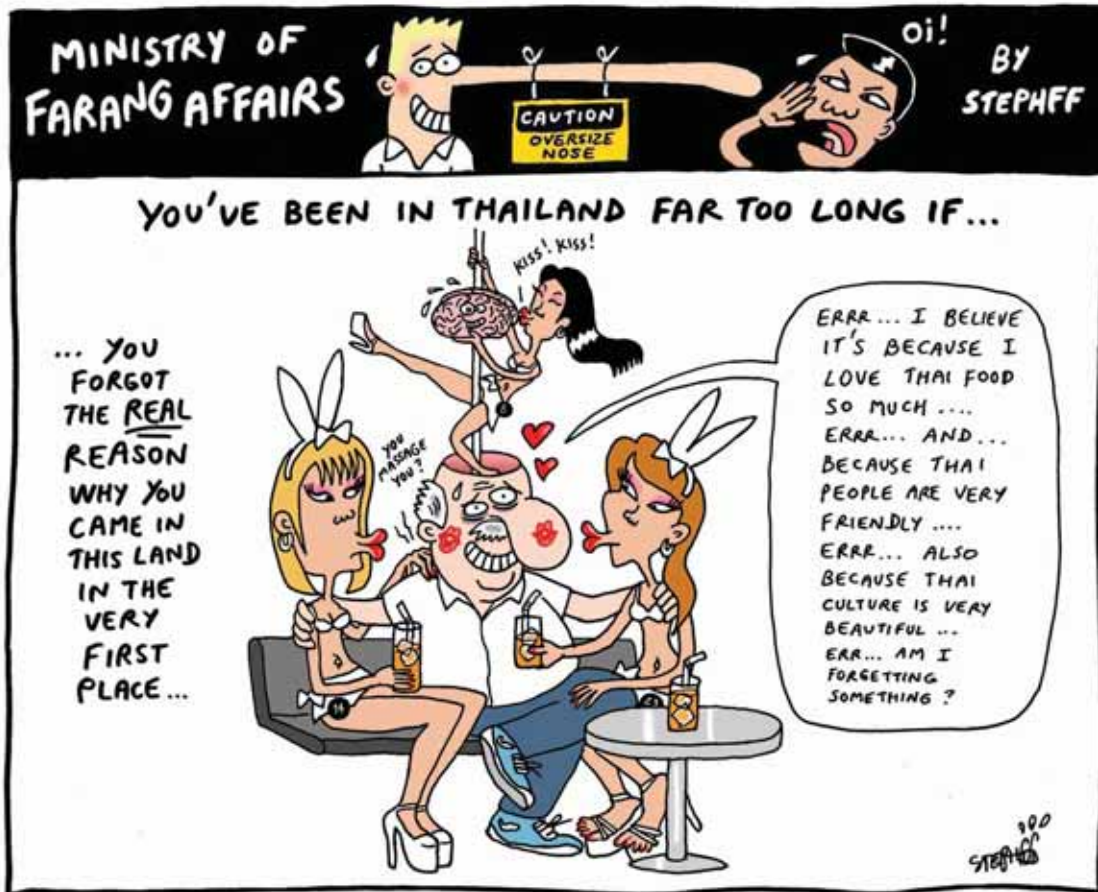
WHEN Wat Phra Kaew – Temple of the Emerald Buddha – reopened its doors to tourists for the first time in weeks on November 1, most foreign visitors showed respect for Thai culture and an understanding of the mourning period for HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Tourists appeared sombre compared to their usual behavior in the Palace grounds. Very few foreigners were seen taking selfies or engaging in casual banter.

The Temple of the Emerald Buddha, a famous landmark in Bangkok adjacent to the Grand Palace, where the late King's body rests, had been off limits to tourists since October 14.

Tourists who came to the Temple saw huge crowds of mourners wearing black, queuing to pay their respects to the late King inside the Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall at the Palace.

The lines of tourists and mourners were separate as they entered the Grand Palace from different gates. Wisetchaisri Gate has been set aside for tourists from 8am to 4pm, while



mourners enter the palace via Manee Nopparat Gate during the day and are only allowed to enter via the Wisetchaisri Gate between 4pm and 9pm.

Pornchai Sea-lee, a tour guide leading a group of Chinese tourists at the temple, said he had informed his group

### NATIONAL NEWS Briefly

about appropriate attire and the code of conduct for tourists

during the mourning period when visiting such royal attractions.

The Ministry of Tourism and Sports assured tourists the same day that they could conveniently visit the Temple despite the big crowds of mourners in the adjacent area.

## Key days to be marked after HM's demise

THE GOVERNMENT is now looking ahead to facilitate preparations for merit-making ceremonies, as larger crowds are expected to mark the 50th and 100th days after HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej's passing.

Huge crowds of mourners have surrounded the Grand Palace since then, where his body is resting, to show their undying love and respect for him.

"Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-o-cha has instructed the joint safety operation center to prepare pro-active plans to facilitate everything related to the major merit-making ceremonies," First Army Area deputy commander and the center's deputy chief Maj-General Pongsawat Pannajit said on October 31. "We also have to plan for the construction of the royal crematorium."

Gen Prayuth inspected the operations of the center around the Grand Palace and Sanam Luang, the adjacent field. This center was established in the wake of the King's demise. At present, the Grand Palace has opened its Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall to members of the public.

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## Phuket Gazette

# Every cloud has a silver lining

THE flooding that inundated many parts of the island late last week [see news pages] is an indication that massive capital investment in various flood-prevention schemes is a remedy that has to contend with land-use planning and construction oversights that have characterized Phuket's often erratic 'development' over the years.

One of the worst-hit areas was Patong, where scores of businesses and residences were affected and access to vital public service facilities, including Patong Hospital and Patong Police headquarters, was once again restricted.

Earlier this year, authorities assured local residents that the measures of a two-year, 420-million-baht flood prevention project would put an end to the municipality's chronic flooding woes. However, viral video clips of motorists desperately trying to flee the floodwaters indicate that expectations of a flood-free Patong should never override simple common sense for those planning a trip 'over the hill' during the monsoon season.

Admittedly, the flood-prevention project was only started earlier this year and is not expected to be completed until 2018, so there is still much room for improvement.

One idea floated recently was a system of high-tech sensors to be installed under the 'Smart City' project, that could provide timely warnings to the public in the event of imminent flooding. Such technology can indeed go a long way to predict downstream flash-flooding in large catchment areas, such as the 160,000-km Chao Phraya Drainage Basin in central and northern Thailand. But that is hardly the case in Patong, where the tiny catchment area covers only about 10km and heavy downpours can cause flooding in a matter of minutes.

On a more positive note, the end of Phuket's long monsoon season is drawing to a close, and before long, our shores will be teeming with foreign tourists seeking an exotic escape from harsh winter conditions in the Northern Hemisphere.

As in years past, politicians and bureaucrats will turn their attention to the high season for tourism, dwindling water supplies and other more immediate concerns.

Check back to this space in about a year to see what progress has been made in the flood prevention effort...



## Need to stop filling in the klongs

*Re: Incessant rains cripple Phuket overnight, Oct 29*

Can I make a suggestion for a 'long term solution'? Stop filling in the klongs.

The klong that was north of the police station and ran up to Phrabaramee Rd, and also was once evident opposite Phuket Hospital, is no longer there. Instead, tall buildings are being built where it once was. Where is the water expected to go?

*Chob  
Gazette forum*

### Very sad, but all too common in Phuket

*Re: Girl, 11, ripped from father's arms in deadly surf, Oct 26*

So sad but so common. Cheap tours and untrained staff in a dangerous place. To save a few baht they risk their own and their families' lives.

*Simon Lomas  
Facebook*

### Fierce battle over meager resources

*Re: Speedboat shooters on the loose, Oct 28*

Russian and Chinese tourists don't spend too much money with local people, and those Thais running local businesses or working for tour companies do not have enough cash flow to pay daily expenses and are on the edge of bankruptcy.

So, any conflict or argument between Thais and/or foreign-

## Letters to the Editor

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

ers may spark the violence of packs of dogs fighting to protect their meagre interests.

*Asterix  
Gazette forum*

### Just ask vendors to file tax returns

*Re: Gov asked to intervene in vendor, municipality conflict, Oct 28*

Just request the stall holders' tax file records for the last 10 years and permits to operate. I doubt anything will be heard from them after that.

*slickmelb  
Gazette forum*

### Graphic images have little impact

*Re: Opinion: Battling carnage on the roads, Oct 30*

Unfortunately, the assumption that you can scare safety into people has been found to have little effect – the more graphic the image, the more people are disconnected from it.

It's the same as trying to enforce safety on a system; there is growing evidence around the world that it will fail.

The best approach that is gaining international support is through better rider and driver

defensive interactive training.  
*Thai Safe Rider  
Gazette forum*

### People too quick to jump to conclusions

*Re: Island View: Learn to check ourselves, Nov 1*

I concur – we know which online forum is being discussed although we won't name it.

There certainly seem to be a lot of twisted individuals there – armchair detectives with an opinion on everything but very little substance on the whole.

They are very quick to jump to conclusions based on their perceived 'facts' based purely on nationality. They really need to get a life.

*Mister Ree  
Gazette forum*

### Sad loss of a young man's life

*Re: Pink Paradise bar director killed in bike crash, Oct 31*

RIP Arnaud, my friend. Good man gone too soon. Leaving behind a loving wife and son. Such a shame.

*James Webster  
Facebook*

This is someone's brother, husband and father. Yet, we see such tragic accidents on a daily basis in Phuket.

Too long has the blame game gone on, but to no effect.

*Sarah Connor  
Facebook*

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# Violence never works



**Governor's Letter**  
By Dr Chokchai Dejamornthan

IN TERMS of tourism, I believe Phuket people are going in a better direction. I can see that we have improved our services and developed a more welcoming attitude towards tourists. However, as we saw recently, there have been some violent altercations between tourists and Thai people.

As regards Thai people causing trouble, I have asked the police to keep a close eye on such incidents. Anyone who instigates or is involved in violence must face the appropriate punishment. Anything that is against the law must be dealt with justly. I especially want to crack down on mafia activities. We have worked very hard to improve the reputation of Phuket by getting rid of illegal taxis and solving beach management issues.

In the recent incident, it was reported that one of the Thai people was hospitalized. I want to discourage such incidents from both parties. As soon as I came to hear of this, I talked to the concerned consulate to make sure that we all work together on the issue. Moreover, I asked them to make sure that any speech or statement they make is not biased against Phuket. They cannot always blame it on Thais, we must be fair to everyone. The image of Phuket gets tarnished if we are unnecessarily blamed for all such incidents.

There are both good tourists and bad ones. What we must do is make sure that we work together and form partnerships. I have spoken to several of the consuls in Phuket, who are just as keen to do so. The Aus-



Phuket Governor Dr Chokchai Dejamornthan is the island's 47th governor. Originally from Chachoengsao, he holds a doctorate in philosophy from the Christian University of Thailand, a master's in Social Development from the National Institute of

Development Administration, and a bachelor's degree in Law from Thammasat University.

Here, he talks about conflicts between Thais and foreign tourists and how to resolve them.

lian consul, for instance, is very professional and helpful. If any such incidents occur in the future, we have both promised to talk directly to each other before releasing any statements. We have made a similar arrangement with the Chinese consul as well. I intend to have this discussion with other consuls as soon as possible.

We have also approached the Ministry of Tourism and Sports Phuket Office (MOTS) and the Authority of Tourism Phuket Office to collaborate with us on a process of screening tourists in the future.

As far as the zero baht tours are concerned, we have already started cracking down on them. I believe that in the future, we will have a lot more quality tourists coming to the island. I can see that our tourist numbers are increasing. However, at this stage, we are not focusing on the number of tourists, but rather on the quality.

The most important thing is that our nation is now in a mourning period, and I wish to see Thai people keeping calm. I want to maintain peace at all

times. We are doing public relation activities to encourage local people to be good hosts and encouraging people to approach the authorities instead of taking matters in their own hands.

I understand that sometimes people act out of anger, but once you have lost your temper and done something to cause harm to others, you will be arrested and have to face the consequences.

During the previous few weeks, I have read through a lot of projects which are slated to start on the island. For instance, we have finished drawing up plans for the Tah Chat Chai checkpoint and I am now working on securing the budget for it. We will release more information on this later, but I expect to sign the contract in December.

Another thing we have to work on is land encroachment and smart city project. I want to expedite the project to have free WiFi throughout the island. These are not new projects; they have already been tabled and discussed. However, I want to make sure that I actually make things happen during my time here on the island.

# Hunting for a house



It took over 200 kilometers of riding around in the rain and a lot of planning to find the perfect house. Photo: John Phelan

## Island View

By Zohaib Sikander

I'VE been living the good life at a posh little condo in Kathu for a couple of years now. I've changed at least four apartments but all in the same complex, because I liked the idea of having a pool and gym I can use daily.

However, I've come to realize that I may be paying too much money for too tiny a space. Thus began my house hunting expedition a few months ago.

For a start, I joined numerous groups and pages on Facebook dedicated to available rentals in Phuket. I started checking classified adverts in the *Phuket Gazette* newspaper and asking my colleagues for advice on where I could find a house that matched my specifications.

After researching on my own and taking advice from friends and colleagues, I journeyed through the suburbs of Kathu, Cherng Talay, Pa Khlok, Rassada and even as far as Mai Khao, taking pictures of 'for rent' signs outside houses and made an extensive list to plow through during the weekend.

Soon, my apartment sounded

like a call center as home owners and real estate agents started getting back to me.

As expected, some were too pricey for my budget, whereas others had a range of issues, such as poorly designed bathrooms, seepage issues or maintenance.

Just when I'd given up hope, I discovered a surprisingly affordable two-storey, two-bedroom, three-bathroom house with a big kitchen, a bar area and a closed off sala located in a quaint little neighborhood in Rassada. I rang the bell, surveyed this beauty and slept on it for a night. The next day, after making a few arrangements with the landlord, paid a month's deposit and signed the papers for my move in ten days' time.

Some might say I got lucky, but the fact is it took me over 200 kilometers of riding around (at times in the rain) and a lot of planning to pull all this off.

So for those of you who are looking into making a move, my advice is to look 'long and hard', and not succumb to the pressures of working a full time job while doing it. Phuket has plenty of accommodation options and the right one is out there.

## Words from the Wise

**"Learning never exhausts the mind."**

– Leonardo da Vinci

**"Society exists only as a mental concept; in the real world there are only individuals."**

– Oscar Wilde

**"I am prepared to meet my maker. Whether my maker is prepared for the great ordeal of meeting me is another matter."**

– Winston Churchill

## Issues & Answers

### What is the ideal 'dry' time to visit?

I AM based in Singapore, but planning a trip to Phuket this month. Where can I get official weather updates and announcements for Phuket and surrounding regions?

I would like to visit neighboring islands as well, such as Racha and Koh Yao. However, I am worried about rain ruining our holiday and therefore want to plan my trip during a relatively dry period.

Can someone give any

helpful suggestions?

Sandra Yi  
Singapore

**DDPM Phuket chief Udomporn Karn replies:**

Thank you for your query. From November onward, it is the dry season, but there might be some climate variability.

You can check official weather updates on the Thai Meteorological Department's website at [www.tmd.go.th/en/](http://www.tmd.go.th/en/). The website has details for Phuket as well as all of Thailand.

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

Submit your issue at:  
[www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers](http://www.PhuketGazette.net/IssuesAnswers)

# Watching elections and electronics



OCTOBER is known for volatility and a stock market pullback just before the US election could still happen.

However, over the past several weeks, I have been seeing defensive stocks weaken and growth stocks start to strengthen. There has also been some movement back into IPOs which could be signs of a speculative bull market forming.

Aside from the overall market and sector index action, I am watching the following leadership stocks as they are looking strong and could continue to move higher.

Alphabet Inc (NASDAQ: GOOGL; GOOG) began consolidating sideways in August and still managed to hit an all time high in September. Apple Inc (NASDAQ: AAPL) is still off of its 2015 highs, but shares have clawed much of the way back up to those levels from May 2016 lows. In fact, GOOG/GOOGL's technical charts look similar to the September to October 2015 period when shares ultimately moved higher while AAPL's 2016 technical chart looks similar to the 2012 to early 2013 technical chart just before shares also began shooting higher.

In early October, large cap travel reservations stock Priceline Group Inc (NASDAQ:



Large cap mobile communications stock T-Mobile US (NASDAQ: TMUS) hit an all time high late in the summer before pulling back a bit to consolidate. Photo: Mtaylor848

PCLN) hit an all time high at the US\$1,500 level before pulling back. The stock has a history of hitting new highs and then pulling back before hitting new higher highs. So shares and the price action remain healthy by historical norms. Some of my clients held shares of Priceline from 2007 to 2014 for a 1000 per cent gain.

Large cap mobile communications stock T-Mobile US (NASDAQ: TMUS) has a chart similar to PCLN as it also hit an all time high late in the summer before pulling back a bit to consolidate. A look at a longer term technical chart shows this

is a normal pattern for the stock as shares did the same thing back in 2014 and 2015.

Chinese e-commerce behemoth Alibaba Group Holding Ltd (NYSE: BABA) has surged in recent months (from US\$80 to just below US\$110) to reach its nearly all time trading high while sector or market indices have not made similar moves.

Given such a large move over a short period of time, I would not be surprised if shares pulled back a bit to shake out profit takers or buyers with a weaker risk tolerance and then consolidate out sideways for the

next several months.

Mid cap medical device stock ABIOMED, Inc (NASDAQ: ABMD) saw shares begin to take off in late 2014, more than double in 2015 before consolidating and breaking out higher this summer. The technical chart once again shows signs that shares are taking a rest and as with PCLN and TMUS, this appears to be a perfectly normal pattern for the stock.

Mid cap EMS stock Flex Ltd (NASDAQ: FLEX), formerly known as Flextronics International, is trading at highs not seen in more than a decade.

Shares had formed a consolidation pattern after the financial crisis and then flirted with pre-2008 highs last year before finally breaking into a sustained higher level near the end of last summer as more buyers stepped in.

If the whole market were to begin to unravel, we would start to see the above leadership stocks start to break down – something that doesn't appear to be happening right now. Until then, they need to be given room to grow higher.

Once again, October has a well deserved historical reputation for stock market volatility. I will get more defensive (as in raising cash) if several of these stocks were to reverse their uptrend and break below their September and Brexit lows. Until the price action shows that occurring, we need to remain positioned in stocks regardless of all the bad news or any worries over the presidential elections, terrorist attacks, threatening hurricanes and Fed action or inaction.

*Don Freeman, President of Freeman Capital Management, is a fee-only Phuket-based registered investment advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) with over 15 years experience providing personal financial planning and wealth management advice with an emphasis on investing in low-cost ETFs to both working and retired expatriates.*

## Feed incentives reinstated

THE BOARD of Investment will reinstate incentives for feed-meal producers and manufacturers of feed-meal compounds after suspending them in 2014, while also relaxing rules for aviation clusters.

After a BOI meeting chaired by Prime Minister Gen Prayuth Chan o-cha on October 31, secretary-general Hirunya Suchinai said the panel agreed to promote Thailand as a hub

of feed-meal production and a research and innovation center of the industry in Asean.

The decision was made after the board noted that Thailand has raw materials to supply to this industry and can support the industry from upstream to downstream.

According to the BOI, exports of feed meal have increased by about 10 per cent a year.

– *The Nation*

## EV industry accelerates

A SENIOR BOARD of Investment official reaffirmed on October 31 the government's intention to develop an electric-vehicle (EV) industry in Thailand, though Prime Minister Gen Prayuth Chan-o-cha on October 30 asked involved authorities to move forward cautiously to protect the existing automobile industry.

Board of Investment (BOI) deputy secretary-general Ajarin Pattanapanchai told a seminar that it was a government mandate that the EV industry be developed, although most automakers oppose the plan as they fear that EVs would destroy the existing industry.

Mr Ajarin said Gen Prayuth raised the issue at the BOI directors' meeting, saying the car-makers' concerns should be considered. But she said that it

was likely that EV production would be minimal during the initial stage and would not affect the established industry.

She raised the example of the United States, where after six years of production, there are still only 250,000 EVs on the road, amid annual auto sales of 14 million to 15 million.

"However, I believe in the 'disruption' theory. EV technologies should reach a breakthrough very soon, similar to photovoltaic technology. "This policy will certainly not be a flop. There are already many people preparing to invest," she said.

Mr Ajarin said BOI-promoted EV investors would be allowed to import Completely Built Units (CBUs) in limited volumes to test the market, with no import duty for two years, while they are

building their factories.

After the start-up of local EV plants, they will be able to import essential parts with no import tax and in the following two years, they will have to start producing at least one of five essential parts in the country. The five parts are batteries, battery management systems, traction motors, drive control units and air-conditioning systems.

Mitsubishi Electric is currently the only producer and exporter of air-conditioners for EVs in Thailand.

On-board chargers are another core EV technology, but BOI decided not to include them in the list of essential parts, since there is already a producer in the country, Delta Electronics (Thailand), Mr Ajarin said.

– *The Nation*

# Social media pitfalls



terial and even commit crimes – ranging from simple defamation to elaborate computer crimes. It then gets spread very quickly by others, often unaware of what they are doing.

Also, as we are based in Thailand and covered by the laws of the Kingdom, people need to be very aware of the Computer Crimes act, defamation laws and also section 112 of the Criminal Code. These laws cover computer crimes and have far reaching consequences that we should all be aware of when posting content.

The second thing we need to understand is that our actions in viewing

THIS month we are going to cover a range of topics that have been topical recently, and a timely reminder of what is important locally.

I am going to show my age as a Generation Xer. Growing up, compared to now, things are a little bit different.

Whenever we had to do a study assignment, we used to go to a library. Yes, a real building that housed credible resources such as *Encyclopedia Britannica* and *Work Book* encyclopedias, where we gathered our research and prepared factual research papers.

News groups used to be responsible and reputable organizations. They would fact check sources and content.

Now though, with the advent of the Internet, anyone with a keyboard can put any content on the internet they want, no matter how far fetched, biased, fictional or slanderous. And there are so many so called media outlets that have popped up over night which often push a certain cause or target a specific issue. Two things come from this.

First, we have a corporate and social responsibility to be appropriate with the posting of our content. I use the ‘grandmother rule’. Would it be something I would be happy for my grandmother to read, God bless her soul. If it doesn’t pass the test, it won’t get posted. Also it should be factually correct.

However, too many people are using the internet to post propaganda, run scams, just post completely incorrect ma-

material have consequences. So sharing or liking a post or comment not only influences our contacts into thinking that it may be legitimate, but also has legal consequences. This has been seen recently in some high profile media cases.

Too many times I see people sharing content that is questionable and claiming it to be credible or even factual. Another common one is people sharing content for which they believe they will be awarded with cars, free plane tickets and so on, and it seems common sense is abandoned.

Another current example is all of the political commentary, videos and ‘facts’ that are being posted around the US elections.

This is a clear example of unverified content being posted as fact, shared by sympathetic believers, and become fact by default.

So my advice, especially for business owners, is to post responsibly and think about what image you are trying to be branded as, and remembered for. And as individuals, think about what you are commenting and sharing on.

Most of all, remember your actions have consequences.

*Simon Wetherell is a Social Media expert, trainer and lawyer. He now resides in Phuket where he trains businesses and individuals on how to profit from the Social Media industry. For more information go to [PhuketOnlineMarketing.com](http://PhuketOnlineMarketing.com) or call on 095-085 3355.*

# Low turnout for second Tranlee asset auction



Only 12 items were sold in the second round of auctions of Tranlee Travel Co assets on November 1. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

A SECOND round of auctioning off of assets seized from the now defunct Tranlee Travel Co at the Phuket Municipality office attracted little interest from potential buyers on November 1.

Back in September, more than 150 assets confiscated from the travel company by Anti-Money Laundering Office (AMLO) fetched 102,742,000 baht over three days of auctions after the company was found to

be operating illegally and subsequently shut down.

The latest auction, which was due to be held November 1-4, saw 39 remaining items go under the hammer. Only 12 of those items were sold off – raising just over 15 million baht, prompting the organizers to cancel the remaining three days of secondary auctions.

The remaining assets sold included six speedboats priced between 220,000 and 2.4 million baht, collectively worth 8.48 million baht. Five of the

boats were left over from the first round of auctioning after bidders failed to make the payments. Six buses fetched 7.1 million baht in total.

AMLO representative Wittiya Nititham told the *Gazette* that the low turnout on November 1 caused the committee to cancel the auction scheduled for November.

“The committee will decide over the next couple of months whether to hold another auction. If there is no more interest, then the assets will be handed over to the government,” he said.

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# Phuket King's Cup Regatta receives strong support

Phuket King's Cup Regatta Under Royal Patronage, this year holds its 30th anniversary from December 3-10, in partnership with the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau (TCEB) for the second consecutive year. The partnership honors a significant milestone in the successful history of competitive sailing and sports tourism in Thailand. The strong support from TCEB helps to grow the reputation of the Regatta and promote Phuket as the MICE hub of ASEAN, in line with the government's policy to make the province a 'World Sports Paradise'. Through these efforts, Phuket will continue to bolster its strengths in attracting notable sporting events such as golf, tennis and beach volleyball.



From Left: Veteran sailor and Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee member Radab Kanjanavanit; President of Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee Kevin Whitcraft; Director - Domestic MICE - Department of TCEB, Puripan Bunnag; and Santi Kanchanabandhu of Phuket King's Cup Regatta Organizing Committee mark the continuing partnership between TCEB and the Phuket King's Cup Regatta.

# Laguna Phuket Triathlon named by SPIA Asia as 'Best Amateur Sports Event of the Year in Thailand'



Suratwadee Phetriang (left), PR & Marketing Communications Manager and Prapa Hammin, Director of sales-MICE & Corporate events received the award.

Laguna Phuket Triathlon has been awarded this year's 'Best Amateur Sports Event' at the 2016 Sports Industry Awards & Conference (SPIA Asia). The Laguna Phuket Triathlon organizers picked up the bronze award at SPIA conference in Bangkok on October 4. Winners in the same category were the Bangkok Marathon, awarded Gold, and the Top of the Gulf Regatta (Silver). SPIA Asia 2016 saw an expansion of both the sports conference and Awards Gala formats to now include 17 Asian countries across 19 distinct categories, both professional and community focused.



The winners of the 161 shortlisted sporting event entries representing 17 Asian countries this year.

**Events in Paradise**

**Swiss Education Group visits**

Representatives of the world leader in hospitality management education, the Swiss Education Group, visited the *Phuket Gazette* office on October 17. The Bangkok-based group was in Phuket to promote educational institutions and opportunities in Switzerland.



From left to right: Kittipong Supunviboon; General Manager of The Phuket Gazette Natthira Susangrat; and Managing Director of Swiss Education Group Pichai Tayayouth.

**Navy marks 15<sup>th</sup> day of mourning**

The Royal Thai Navy of the Andaman Region held a ceremony on October 28 to mark the 15th day of mourning following the death of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Present at the ceremony were officers from naval commands in Phang Nga, Phuket, Krabi and Satun provinces.



Admiral Suraphol Kuptapan of the Royal Thai Navy Andaman Region Command presided over the ceremony.

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# Putting the fun back in Sunday

By Chutharat Plerin

THOSE who enjoy Sunday brunch will be happy to know that Xana Beach Club relaunched its 'Sunday Fun Brunch' last month.

The brunch is set in a scenic location overlooking Bang Tao Bay, making it ideal for spending a relaxed Sunday afternoon with family and friends.

It features the largest number of live stations in Phuket, including a salad station where you can enjoy making your own caesar salad with freshly-grilled cajun chicken and green tea salmon.

There is also a pasta station, as well as a scallop and seafood extravaganza on ice which includes steamed rock lobster, Alaskan king crab, tiger prawns and rainbow trout, among others.

After the meal (or before, if it takes your fancy) guests can indulge their sweet tooth with a selection of desserts and fresh fruits.

This weekly affair features an international selection of cuisine, including food from Thailand, Italy, Japan, Australia, India, France and USA.

Xana offers a 50 per cent discount for children aged 6-12, with complimentary dining for all kids under the age of 6. Young ones are also free to enjoy the club's kids' corner, build sandcastles on the beach or take a swim in the pool.

The 'Sunday Fun Brunch' also offers a free flow of cocktails, wine and beer. Guests can participate in beach volleyball and billiards available on site,



The brunch features an international selection of cuisine including food from Thailand, Italy, Japan, Australia, India, France and USA. Photos: Chutharat Plerin/Xana Beach Club

or they can sit back and soak in the views.

The Sunday Fun Brunch is hosted by Angsana Laguna Phuket aboard a dedicated party boat at Canal Village in

Laguna Phuket from midday to 3:30pm. Prices start from 1,650++ baht for the buffet only and 2,450++ baht for buffet and free flow of house wine, beer and signature cocktails.

Reservations are recommended. For more information or table inquiries, visit [xanabeachclub.com](http://xanabeachclub.com). Email [info@xanabeachclub.com](mailto:info@xanabeachclub.com) or call 076 358-500 Ext Xana Beach Club.

## Green curry recipe

The beauty of green curry is that it can be as mild or as spicy as you like and you can use meat, fish or just vegetables as the main ingredients. The green curry paste can be found at most fresh markets.

### Ingredients

400 grams meat  
1 tbsp cooking oil  
3 tbsp green curry paste  
2 1/2 cups coconut milk  
2 kaffir lime leaves, torn  
5-10 small eggplants, quartered  
2-3 fresh red spur chilies sliced diagonally  
1/4 cup sweet basil leaves  
1 1/2 tbsp fish sauce  
1 1/2 tsp palm sugar

### Preparation

Slice the meat into thin pieces, about about 1/3" (3 cm) thick.

Saute the green curry paste in oil over medium heat in a wok or saute pan until fragrant, reduce the heat, gradually add 1 1/2 cups of the coconut milk a little at a time, stir until a film of green oil surfaces.

Add the meat and kaffir lime leaves, continue cooking for three minutes until fragrant and the meat is cooked through.

Transfer to a large pot, place over medium heat and cook until boiling.

Add the remaining coconut milk, season with palm sugar and fish sauce.

When the mixture returns to a boil add the eggplants.

Cook until the eggplants are done, sprinkle sweet basil leaves and red chilies over, then turn off the heat.

Arrange on a serving dish and garnish with sweet basil leaves and red chilies before serving.

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## Mourning prohibition to be lifted

THE MOURNING prohibition on nightlife, festivals, shows and TV soap operas will be lifted on November 14.

The government will not impose any limits on entertainment activities and festivals after the initial 30-day period for mourning the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, but event and concert organizers should be considerate given the mourning mood of the public, authorities said.

More than a million people have flocked to the Grand Palace where his body is lying at rest to show their love and respect for the monarch.

Colonel Taksada Sangkhachan, assistant government spokeswoman, said on Novem-

ber 1 that the government had resolved to allow the entertainment industry to resume activities because it was one of the drivers of the economy.

The Loy Krathong Festival, Christmas, New Year and Chinese New Year are all impending nationwide celebrations.

If the ban continued, celebrations would be significantly affected, as would the Thai Red Cross fair, the Phi Ta Khon ghost festival as well as multiple concerts, parties, contests and sporting events.

After the weekly Cabinet meeting, Col Taksada said PM's Office Minister Suwaphan Tanyuwardhana, who had been assigned to the issue, had met with agencies on

October 30 and agreed that entertainment could return to normal on November 14.

National flags will no longer fly at half mast on the same day.

Organizers should ensure that their events complied with laws, regulations, local culture and advice from provincial governors, authorities said.

TV stations could begin normal programming but should also emphasize content that educated the public about the country's development, she added.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said the government would ask for the cooperation of TV stations to limit boisterous and rude jokes.

— The Nation

# Always there for his own people

## Looking Back

By Anand Singh

LAST month, on October 13, 2016, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej passed away. As the royal procession brought his body from Siriraj Hospital to Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall in the Grand Palace, a surreal gloom blanketed the city of Bangkok as hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets to pay their respects. The most vibrant city in Southeast Asia came to a halt. It seemed like the very heart of Thailand had stopped beating.

Thailand's beloved monarch had reigned for an unprecedented 70 years. Not many Thais remember what it was like when he was not king. King Bhumibol came to the throne in June of 1946, after his elder brother, King Ananda Mahidol suddenly died from a gunshot wound. Just hours after the tragic incident took place, Prince Bhumibol was declared King. He was only 18 years old.

The King's mother insisted, however, that her son must go back to Switzerland to finish his higher education before he could return to assume his official duties.

On August 19, after mourning his brother's death, the King was due to go back to Switzerland. That morning, he visited the Grand Palace to pay respect to his brother's urn and to the Emerald Buddha.

After that he was escorted to his car and the motorcade left the Grand Palace.



His Majesty visiting the Rawai sea gypsy community in 1959. Photo: Rawai Municipality

"Throughout the entire journey, the streets were lined with thousands of people who were there to see their King," His Majesty would later recall.

"The motorcade had to move very slowly. Once we were near Benjamabophit Temple, the motorcade was able to speed up a bit. Amid the sound of the people shouting 'Long Live the King', I heard someone yell from the crowd, 'Nai Luang, do not abandon the people'. I wanted to tell them, 'If the people will not abandon me, how can I abandon the people'?"

His Majesty took this promise to heart from the very first day that he ascended the throne. Since then, he worked tirelessly for the benefit of his people. He visited Thailand's poorest communities in the most remote parts of the country. Throughout his reign he has initiated thousands

of royal projects aimed at bettering the lives of the poorest Thais.

Lieutenant Dilok Siriwalop was one of the people who followed the King on several of his trips to the provinces. He fondly remembers his experiences serving the people alongside the king.

On one occasion, His Majesty was due to visit Phukhao Thong sub district in Narathiwat Province. Unfortunately the bridge that the royal motorcade was supposed to cross on the way to Phukhao Thong had been washed away due to heavy rainfall and flooding.

"The King's guards told him that it was no longer possible to cross the river to Phukhao Thong," Lt Dilok remembered, "and recommended that he return to his palace."

"But His Majesty asked his aide to radio back and ask

whether people were waiting for him. That was about 10 am. Officials at Phukhao Thong radioed back and said the people had been waiting to see their King. Most of them had arrived at dawn," Lt Dilok said.

"Then we must go," was His Majesty's reply. His Majesty even said anyone who was afraid could go back, but he would make the journey.

"The King's vehicle was half submerged in water as the motorcade made its way through. But we made it to the other side," Lt Dilok recalled.

He is just one among thousands of people who could tell later generations about their late King and how devoted he was to his people. For King Bhumibol, his people came first and he would do anything he could to alleviate their poverty and suffering.

Throughout his reign, His Majesty visited some of the most remote and rural places in Thailand. Some of these places were so difficult to access that even government officials were reluctant to go for fear of danger. And when a senior government official is scheduled to visit one of these remote sites, the visit would surely be cancelled if it rains or the weather turns foul. But for His Majesty there was no such concept.

Sawat Wattanakorn, Director General of Irrigation and a member of the King's Privy Council recalled that more often than not, he travelled with little regard for the weather and his convoy was often ordered to travel down roads and trails that were not on the official itinerary. If the King's security team told him that it was not possible to travel for fear of his personal safety, the King would simply reply, "I can go".

"Many times HRH Princess Sirindhorn followed His Majesty. Often she would have to pull the leeches off his feet. The hardship did not bother the King," Mr Sawat recalled.

"One night, I was given the honor of dining with His Majesty at his table, after a long day of trekking and visiting the people in their villages in the Northeast. What he said still rings in my ears till this day. 'The reason they are poor and have to live in these inhospitable places, is not because they want to, but because they have no other choice. I want to help them today so that in future they will be able to help themselves.'"

## Man in wheelchair pays homage to HM

A WHEELCHAIR bound Phuket man with one leg is trekking his way to the Grand Palace in Bangkok to pay his last respects to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej.

Photos of the 48-year-old devotee, named Supakorn Juipub, were shared on Facebook on October 28 by a user named Jantima Kraithong.

The photos showed Mr Supakorn sitting in a homemade wheelchair, sporting a Thai flag and wearing a 'number 9' cap to honor the memory of the late Monarch, Rama IX.

Several Facebook users expressed their admiration of him,



Mr Supakorn poses for a picture enroute. Photo: Winai Sarot

saying that he was a fighter who never gave up on life.

Mr Supakorn, also known as 'Brother Pong', runs a television repair shop near the Naka night market.

- Winai Sarot

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# Enjoying the good life in Phuket



Ahhhh! At last it's Sunday and Phuketians can kick back, relax a little and start to enjoy all the glorious things that living in a tropical paradise is supposed to offer.

The trouble is that in these febrile times of traffic hassles, construction, road works and economic and environmental decline, many Phuketians find themselves increasingly stressed and time-starved. Sundays offer a welcome respite from all this and of course indulging in one of Phuket's fabulous Sunday brunches is a great way to relax and savor what tropical living should to be all about.

We are fortunate in having abundant choice on our island when it comes to spending lazy Sundays "doing brunch", as this indulgence is now at the forefront of Phuket's social groundswell.

Reeking of lazy decadence, Phuket brunches often feature an endless array of world-class food, hot tropical breezes, stunning views and cool music, all washed asunder by copious draughts of naughty libations.

To add to these pleasures of the tummy, there's nothing more enjoyable for local Lycra Louts than a good morning bike



Sunday is for enjoying all the glorious things that living in a tropical paradise has to offer. Photo: Baz Daniel

ride to build that most fundamental ingredient of any enjoyable meal...a rampaging appetite.

My personal favorite brunching spot is the beautiful Sails pool-side restaurant within the sumptuous verdant grounds of the Phuket Hilton Arcadia Resort and Spa, overlooking Karon Beach in the island's south-west. This brunch offers fabulous fresh and healthy cuisine – ideal for

the hungry cyclist looking for nutritious sustenance to replenish tired legs, without inflating his spare tyre.

Fresh seafood, sushi, sashimi and a range of delicious salads and cooked dishes make your mouth water. Not content with that, the wide range of desserts and (my favorite) the cheese selection, make the careful planning of your brunch essential.

The meal itself is served in the comeliest setting, close by one of the resort's five aquamarine swimming pools, with live jazz, kiddies' face-painting, balloon sculpting and magic, plus a relaxed lazy all-afternoon vibe that soothes the frazzled brow and tempts one to linger through to sundowners.

But first you must get there! I am fortunate in that one of the island's last relatively un-

developed cycling corridors links the lovely Nai Harn lagoon with the road leading to Karon Beach upon which the Hilton Arcadia imperiously sits in all its glorious splendour.

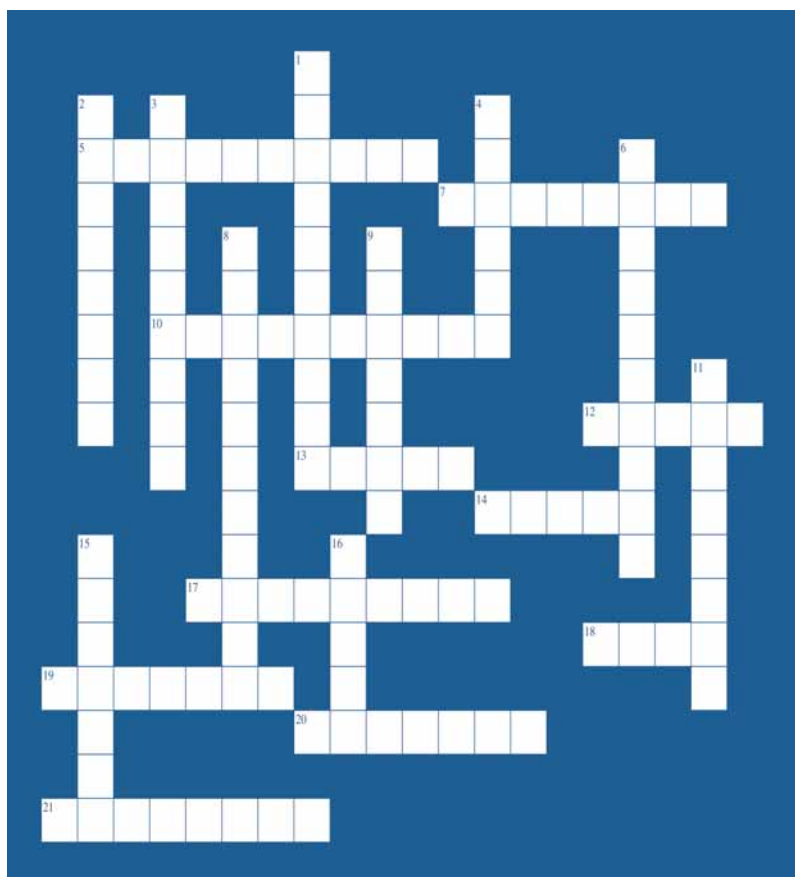
I usually start the ride in Chalong and head down to Nai Harn lagoon, which on Sunday mornings is reasonably quiet and populated mainly by other cyclists, joggers and dog-walkers.

After a couple of laps of the lagoon, I cycle north through Nai Harn village taking the left fork at the T-junction, then heading over the hills to Kata Beach.

This back road is steep and challenging and not for the faint of heart. But the rewards in terms of quiet, tree-lined riding with sensational views form the hillside summit at Karon Viewpoint are well worth the effort.

Here you can pause and look north to Kata Noi, Kata, Karon and Patong Beaches sparkling in the morning sunshine and pick out your destination at the Hilton.

What's more, from that vantage you can luxuriate in the knowledge that it's all downhill from there until you have that first welcome glass of Prosecco clasped in your sweating hand. And from there, your only real problem will be getting home.



## Gazette Crossword

Test your local knowledge and word power

### Across

- 05. Military rank
- 07. Set free
- 10. Powerful opponent
- 12. Criminal deception
- 13. Bend forward
- 14. Japanese comics
- 17. Sport event with strawberries and cream
- 18. Illusion
- 19. Side
- 20. Woman of the sea
- 21. Belts of radiation

### Down

- 01. Chinese philosopher
- 02. Swim badly
- 03. Bad dive
- 04. Unoriginal phrase
- 06. \_\_\_\_\_ Candidate (political thriller novel)
- 08. Julie Andrews character
- 09. Apparition
- 11. Clark Kent
- 15. Famous American singer
- 16. Ball

Solution on opposite page.



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# A round peg in a square hole

## The cause of obesity may be more than just calorie consumption

**Excuse Buster**  
By Craig Burton

‘THE CAUSE of obesity is eating too many calories and not exercising enough’. That’s still the current theory and what I was taught 20 years ago.

It was the focus of my work with clients until I began to look beyond the physics and delve into other factors.

These included the role of hormones such as thyroid, insulin, leptin and cortisol, along with nutrient deficiencies, toxins and other imbalances that I believe play a major role in our metabolism and body fat storage. This is particularly true over a longer time period.

I basically went from seeing fat loss as only an energy equation to fat loss as a side-effect of achieving better health.

So why was I (and most dietitians, nutritionists, sports scientists, personal trainers and the like) taught to just focus on calories for weight loss? Why did ‘eat less – move more’ become the dominant fat loss theory?

About the end of the 1800’s, doctors devised a simple concept, based on the First Law of Thermodynamics.

“The First Law says that the internal energy of a system has to be equal to the work that is being done on the system, plus or minus the heat



Traditional belief suggests that the cause of obesity is eating too many calories. Photo: Petr Kratochvil

that flows in or out of the system and any other work that is done on the system,” said Saibal Mitra, a professor of physics at Missouri State University.

If we apply this to humans, on the surface it makes sense. Logically speaking, by following the energy we could assume if more energy went in and was used (from metabolic processes including exercise), our bodies would store the excess energy as fat.

But how do we measure the heat inflow and outflow? This is where it gets very interesting.

Inflow heat is measured by calories – which is a unit of heat. The way the energy content of a food is determined by burning it in a device called a ‘bomb calorimeter’ and measuring the amount of heat it gives off. One gram of carbohydrate, burnt in this way gives an energy value of about four calories, or more correctly kilocalories (kcal) with protein also assigned four (after rounding), while fat gives way to about nine calories.

But could one calorie have a mechanical advantage over another?

What if our bodies did not burn foods in the same way that they are burned in a bomb calorimeter. For example, protein takes the most energy to digest (some estimates suggest that 20 to 30 per cent of total calories in protein go toward digesting it).

So if you eat 100 calories from protein, your body uses somewhere between 20-30 of those calories to digest and absorb the protein, leaving you with a remaining total of 70-80 calories.

What if not all my food is used to provide energy? The primary function of dietary

proteins, after their initial breakdown product to amino acids, is for body cell manufacture and repair.

How much is needed? ‘Rough estimates suggest’ (those words again – as it’s different for each person) one gram per kilogram of lean body weight. Even eating this amount of lean chicken would provide some 465 calories.

So if these calories are not used to supply energy, should they be a part of the energy formula? Fats also serve many functions aside from energy including being used to make parts of the cell, nerves and hormones.

A take home many might now make after reading these 2 strong reasons for having protein in the diet is to now only eat protein – but guess what?

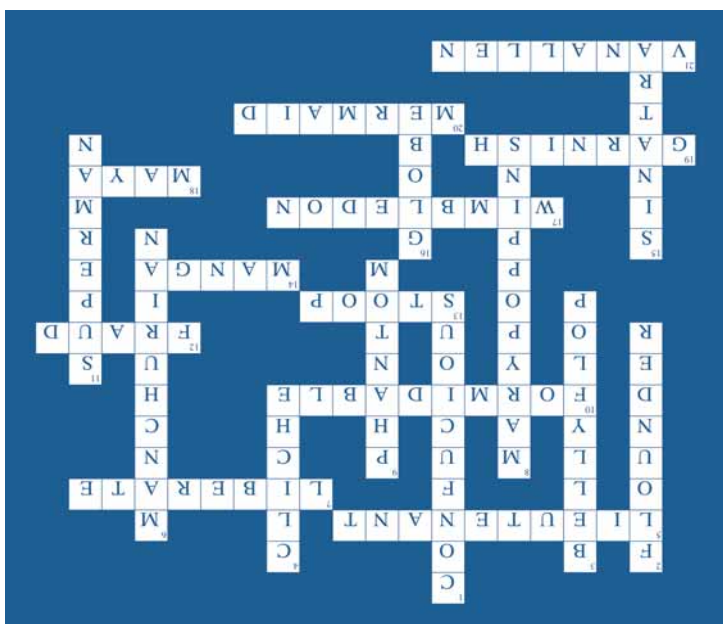
That could set you up for some serious health problems. But by following the ‘eat less – move more’ theory to the extreme – why not just starve yourself and train intensely. This clearly doesn’t turn out well for health either.

In my upcoming column, we’ll look at how to incorporate these aspects into a formula based on individual needs.

*Craig Burton is a Certified Sports Nutritionist (CISSN) with a Bachelor of Science degree (Sports Science) and a National Academy of Sports Medicine (PES) certification.*

## Crossword Solution

Turn the page upside down to read the answers.



# Burial plots become prime real estate



Across the Land

By Amy Koh

THE CURRENT world population is 7.3 billion, but it is expected to hit 8.5 billion by the year 2030 and 9.7 billion by 2050, according to a new United Nations DESA report, 'World Population Prospects: The 2015 Revision'.

Asia Pacific is also now home to half of the world's population of elderly persons, defined as people aged 60 years or older.

With an aging society weighing down its future, Asia is looking at more elderly people dying with lesser and lesser space available to bury the dead. Combining cultural, traditional beliefs for dealing with the departed, city planners and private companies are seeking modern ways to bury the departed with efficiency and respect.

Integrated death service providers are all the rage now, offering a wide range of services from funeral consultation and planning to transportation, embalming, cosmetology, cremation, funeral services, burial plots, ash burial plots, tomb design, landscaping, site maintenance and so on.



A growing world population means burial spaces are becoming hot real estate. Photo: Calvary Cemetery, Queens, New York by Plowboylifestyle

In Japan, locker style columbarium are known as 'nikotsudo'. The Ruriden Byakurengedo columbarium has modern wall to wall Buddha statues representing 2,000 digitized burial plots and guests can visit their deceased loved ones using an electronic ID card.

The Arlington National Cemetery in the US has begun implementing a digital, geo-

spatial technology to improve operations and provide a better experience for families and friends of the departed, whether visiting the departed in person or online, making it one of the most high-tech cemeteries in the world.

Hong Kong investors are looking to turning a cruise ship into the world's first seaborne columbarium. Hong Kong, known for its scarcity

of space even for the living, has been seeking innovative ideas to deal with the critical storage of 'urn' spaces. It is expected that 48,000 urn spaces will be created to store the cremated remains of the deceased.

Usually when we plan to invest in real estate products or investments for our future, retirement or children, we think of purchasing a brick

and mortar, physical structure or building we could live in, rent out or sell for capital gains. We hardly think of 'investing' in a burial plot or urn space for when we die.

Unbelievably, waiting lists for burial plots and urn spaces in Japan and Hong Kong are longer than waiting lists for purchasing a brand new condominium. Some private investors purchase burial plots or urn spaces and seek to sell them later at a profit. Similar to real estate, investment into burial plots or urn spaces follows the same principles: location is key.

Innovative death service providers have created 'burial plots or urn spaces packages' for individuals, couples and families, who even after death wish to remain together as a couple or family. Such packages can be paid in full, monthly payments or even in installments during the lifetime prior to death. This usually provides assurance to the deceased that their families and loved ones do not experience any financial strain during this sad time.

Amy Koh is the sales manager of Engel & Voelkers Phuket. To contact Amy or for more information, visit [engelvoelkers.com/en/phuket](http://engelvoelkers.com/en/phuket)

## New Phuket resort among three new Movenpick projects for Thailand

Movenpick Hotels & Resorts partners with real estate developer Nusasiri Plc

THE Swiss hotel management company, Movenpick Hotels & Resorts, has signed an agreement with leading real estate developer Nusasiri Plc to manage three properties in Thailand.

The three properties will be: Movenpick Residences Ekkamai, Bangkok and Movenpick Resort Khao Yai, both scheduled to open in Q4 2016, and Movenpick Resort Mai Khao Phuket which will open in Q4 2017.

The announcement raises Movenpick Hotels & Resorts' total number of hotels and residences in Thailand to seven, as the country's thriving tourism sector continues to drive the global management firm's portfolio in Asia.

"We are thrilled to sign an agreement with such a distinguished developer and to increase our properties under Movenpick management in Thailand," said Andrew Langdon, Movenpick Hotels & Resorts Senior Vice President Asia.

"This is our second property in Bangkok and the debut of our exclusive serviced apartment brand, Movenpick Residences. It's our third resort in Phuket, while in Khao Yai we are delighted to be opening up the first truly internationally managed resort in this well known domestic destination. We are very much looking forward to bringing our upscale brand and Swiss-inspired hospitality standards to all these

destinations."

Movenpick Residences Ekkamai is the first property under the exclusive Movenpick serviced apartment brand.

Movenpick Residences Ekkamai will consist of 160 residences – serviced apartments of one, two and three bedrooms – featuring an all-day dining restaurant, lobby lounge and rooftop lounge and bar. Other facilities include a meeting space, swimming pool and fitness centre.

Extensive modern resort facilities will be available to guests in a beautiful beachfront setting at Movenpick Resort Mai Khao Phuket

Movenpick Resort Mai Khao Phuket will comprise some 220 rooms and feature a

unique F&B proposition including an interactive all-day dining restaurant and an eclectic beach club. Meeting facilities, a kids club, three swimming pools, a fitness centre and signature spa complete the offering.

Stunning European heritage-inspired exterior design will add a rich sense of grandeur at Movenpick Resort Khao Yai

Movenpick Resort Khao Yai will feature 114 rooms comprising hotel suites and two, three and four bedroom villas, with a core selection of facilities set within a landmark European-inspired clubhouse encompassing an all-day dining restaurant, lobby bar, café, meeting space, swimming pool, fitness center and spa.

Movenpick Hotels & Resorts currently has eight hotels in operation in Asia, four of which are in Thailand, its largest market in the region. The Movenpick Hotel Sukhumvit 15 Bangkok and the 260-room Movenpick Siam Hotel Pattaya are the latest additions to the group's burgeoning portfolio in the region.

Movenpick Resort & Spa Boracay will open this year, followed by Movenpick Resort & Spa Jimbaran Bali in early 2017. The Swiss-hotel management company is focused on accelerated regional growth, with the company vision to manage over 30 hotels in Asia by 2020.

– Phuket Gazette

# Renovation begins on old terminal



An artist's impression of the revamped airport. The final stage of renovations began on November 1 and is expected to be completed within 330 days. Image: AoT

By **Sukawin Tanthavanich**

WORK began on November 1 to revamp the domestic terminal at Phuket International Air-

port following the opening of the new international terminal on September 16.

Airport Director Monrudee Gettuphan said the renovation

is expected to take 330 days. When complete, the former domestic terminal will be reopened as a commercial zone designed to fit in with the new

international terminal.

The work is to be done in two phases, explained the director: levels one through three in the old domestic terminal on the south

side and then the three levels in the old international terminal.

Ms Monrudee said signs have been installed to direct visitors while work is underway.






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### POOL VILLA RAWAI



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Internships at wedding & event company in Cherng Talay. Must be willing to learn and take an active role in event management and operations. Hard working, good communication skills & computer literate. Tel: 089-973 2159 (English & Thai), 099-316 7023 (English). Email: meesak@phuketweddingevents.com

**OPERATIONS ASSISTANT**  
Required at weddings & events company in Cherng Talay. Must have experience in events and able to work under pressure. Good organizational skills, hard working and good administration skills. Tel: 089-973 2159 (English & Thai), 099-316 7023. Email: meesak@phuketweddingsevents.com

**LUXURY VILLA STAFF WANTED**  
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**PERSONAL ASSISTANT**  
Personal Assistant / Administrator at weddings & events company in Cherng Talay. Must have strong organizational skills & work well under pressure. Able to handle all administration & reporting with good computer skills. Experience in hospitality industry preferred. Must be proficient in English and a good communicator. Thai national required. Tel: 089-973 2159 (English & Thai), 099-316 7023. Email: meesak@phuketweddingevents.com

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

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**Phuket Gazette**

# Building her own empire

By Zohaib Sikander

BORN and bred in Phuket, Sriya Yongsakul is a well-known boating personality on the island. Hailing from the family that runs Phuket Boat Lagoon, Ms Sriya is a businesswoman, mother and sports enthusiast.

After spending her childhood in Phuket, she left for Bangkok to earn a bachelor's degree in accounting at Chulalongkorn University, and then to England to obtain her master's in management. Rather than choosing to work abroad, she opted to return to her homeland.

"I was lucky to have been brought up in a working family as I saw how everything was built from scratch. We have good relationships with our teams and the public recognizes us as a humble, local family from Phuket. We stick to the principles of humility and peace and make sure to never involve ourselves in anyone else's business or politics," says Ms Sriya.

"I worked in Bangkok for a couple of years, and then came

back to Phuket to help out in the family business. Since then, I worked on various projects before finally starting my own in Krabi."

Her latest brainchild is 'The Cleat Condominium' at Krabi Boat Lagoon. She hopes that this project – which she credits equally to her husband, and father Kanit Yongsakul (founder of Phuket Boat Lagoon) – will bring the Krabi community closer together.

"The condominium project is an expansion within the marina, in addition to a hotel that we own there," she says. "Our vision is to bring more and more people to visit Krabi and help them mingle with other visitors and locals alike."

Using the Phuket Boat Lagoon as a successful business model and recreating it in Krabi, Ms Sriya is ever appreciative of the raw natural beauty of Krabi. Being a businesswoman and entrepreneur, she has set her sights on international visitors from not only Phuket and Bangkok, but Singapore, Hong Kong and other international destinations.

"The tourists who come to Krabi want something different. Phuket is getting overcrowded day by day, whereas Krabi is a smaller and more relaxed destination where people can have their own peace of mind. It's surrounded by natural beauty and is a perfect place to retreat back to nature and breathe fresh air," she says. "It has an international airport that visitors can directly fly to."

Ms Sriya's efforts have been reaping rewards already, as one of her Krabi developments was recently awarded the 'Best Residential Development Award for Phang Nga/Krabi' at the 2016 Thailand Property Awards.

"We are proud to receive this prestigious award because it's the first one ever given to any project in Krabi. In the past years there were no other outstanding property projects in Krabi and we are proud to say we are one of the very first to come up with a proper development there," she says.

Through her projects, Ms Sriya also helps to promote the

local culture and tradition of the region surrounding the marina.

"A short distance from Krabi is a small island where locals make hand woven products, grow organic rice and so on. So if any of the guests staying at our marina want to do a cultural tour, we arrange for them to take a longtail trip to explore the surroundings. Most of our workers are lo-

cals who stay close to the marina. When we have our business up and running, it benefits them as well, as they can earn a better living by working with us," she adds.



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