

Phuket Gazette

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‘WE EXPECT THEM NOT TO EVER COMMIT ANY CRIMES AGAIN’

FRESH START

Royal pardon grants Phuket prison inmates early release into society

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE FIRST batch of prisoners was released from Phuket Prison on Christmas Day, following the announcement on December 11 of a Royal pardon to release 30,000 prisoners nationwide to commemorate the start of the reign of King Rama X.

Phuket Prison Commander Somkit Kammang presided over the event as a crowd of relatives stood outside the prison walls, waiting to welcome 147 of the 1,590 inmates who qualified for the first round of release in Phuket.

“These prisoners, of which 21 were women, were known for their good behavior during their imprisonment and had already completed one-third of their full sentences,” confirmed Mr Somkit.

“Most of them were incarcerated for sexual offenses, drug-related crimes and property damage.

“About 80 per cent of the prisoners set to be released were charged with drug-related crimes. We have set up workshops so they can be educated on how to live better lives and integrate themselves as skillful, contributing members of society. We expect them not to ever commit crimes again.”

According to a *Royal Gazette* statement, early release was granted to the convicted persons who were under detention, doing public service as punishment, had been released on probation, had less than a year of jail term to serve or had served not less than one-third of their jail term, who were blind or seriously sick, as well as females serving a jail term for the first time who had already completed more than half of the jail term.

The Royal pardon was also granted to prisoners over 60 years old and had served not less than five years or at least one-third of the jail term, as well those under 20 years who had done more than half of the total jail term or had less than two years to serve.



Emotional family members and relatives of the released prisoners gathered outside, unable to hold their own as they saw loved ones walking free. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Convictions of those sentenced to death would be commuted to life imprisonment, the *Royal Gazette* said.

“Death sentences will be commuted to life imprisonment,” the statement read.

“This is the first opportunity since His Majesty’s ascension to show his mercy,” the statement added. “This will provide a chance for these individuals to behave as good citizens.”

Corrections Department Director-General Kobkiat Kasiwiat said that each prison had set up a committee – including

a provincial governor, a judge and a public prosecutor – to consider releasing well-behaved inmates under the Royal pardon. Convicted rape-murder offenders, drug traffickers and people jailed for public fraud were ineligible.

“After inmates are released, relevant agencies will check on them to prevent re-offending,” he added.

Mr Kobkiat also said that people in jail for violating Article 112 of the Criminal...

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Mayor, RTN in beach bed tug of war

The Royal Thai Navy stepped in to overrule the Patong Mayor’s decision regarding raised sand-beds at Patong Beach, declaring them illegal. The Mayor had previously ruled that the beds were legal within 10 per cent zones.

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BUSINESS



Video, 360 degree images and smart graphics lead the way in e-commerce and content marketing.

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PROPERTY



Banyan Tree launches exclusive Angsana Beachfront residences near Bang Tao Beach.

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Second edition of the Thailand Yachting Forum highlights important industry requirements.

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LOCAL NEWS

Briefly

Police hunt for Wichit bike burner

POLICE are hunting a for man who ran away after setting fire to a motorbike near Surakul Stadium in Wichit on the morning of December 22.

"The suspect, named only as Kwan, lives near the area. According to witnesses, he drove the bike out of his house about 10:30am, set it on fire and then ran off," confirmed Maj Narong Muangkhuang of Wichit Police.

Rescue workers rushed to the scene and managed to douse the flames in 10 minutes. The motorbike, however, was completely destroyed.

"Luckily, there was no other damage caused. We have yet to learn the motive behind his act. We searched his house, but he has not been back there," said Maj Narong. "We hope to find him soon and call him in for an explanation."

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Chicken eating snake nabbed in Krabi

SNAKE catchers on December 21 bagged a six-meter-long python outside a house in Krabi, where more than 45 chickens have gone missing this month.

Home owner Suwat Maijan, 55, who has a chicken coop in his yard, called in the snake catchers when he spotted the 20-kilogram reptile slithering away from the coop, leaving a trail of dead chickens behind.

"I had about 50 chickens in the coop but every couple of nights a few of them would disappear. I put up a net around the place, but that didn't work very well, and now I only have five chickens left," Mr Suwat lamented.

The snake catchers took two hours to snare and bag the python, before releasing it in the wild, far away from the house, and Mr Suwat's five remaining chickens.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Tsunami remembrance ceremonies held in Phuket



About 200 locals, tourists and provincial dignitaries gathered at Patong Beach on the evening of December 26 to hold a candle-lit remembrance ceremony in front of Loma Park on the 12th anniversary of the deadly tsunami that struck the island on the morning of December 26, 2004. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Marine Police fuel up tourists' stranded boat

PHANG Nga Marine Police rescued a tourist yacht that ran out of fuel in the middle of the sea on December 24.

Officials received a call for help from Thomas Karl, captain of *SY Dolinghoo*, who reported the coordinates.

"It took us about an hour to reach the location, which was about 8 miles west of Koh Ra. There were also two tourists and two crew members on board, all of whom were very glad to receive our help," said Phang Nga Marine Police Chief Chaiyapol Yaiying.

"During the long holiday, we will keep an even closer eye on marine activities. So, if you need any assistance, feel free to reach out at 1196," he added.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Patong Police station overrun by snakes

FOUR snakes, including a king cobra, a cobra and a radiated rat snake, invaded Patong Police

Station three times during the week of December 22, causing the officers there to panic and send for rescue workers.

"The snakes might have come into the building during the floods, but although the floods are gone, the animals remained hiding inside," said Patong Police Superintendent Chaiwat Auikam, who has issued orders to renovate the building in order to prevent such incidents from happening again.

The snakes were discovered in a small building next to the main police station, which houses a drug fighting unit, offices and a small cafeteria for officers.

Police have been clearing out their belongings to check for more snakes that might be lurking in dark places.

"This is extremely dangerous, not only for officers, but also for visitors who come into the station. I have ordered that the building be demolished and renovated, as it is very old and needs repairs. We will feel much safer when that is done. Otherwise, officers will work in constant fear of more snakes," he added.

Patong's finest are keeping a close eye on the offending reptiles, but have not yet pressed any charges, pending further investigations.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Ya bah dealer arrested on a whim in Phuket

A DRUG dealer was arrested with about 2,000 ya bah (methamphetamine) pills at Phuket Bus Terminal 2 on Thepkra-sattri Rd on the evening of December 24.

Sarawuth Koraneesak, 23, had bought the pills in Bangkok for delivery to a customer in Phuket. He was waiting for the customer to come and collect them when he was arrested.

The pills were estimated to be worth about 400,000 baht.

"Our officers were just doing their usual patrol duty, but they noticed Mr Sarawuth behaving suspiciously, so they asked to search him. They found him in possession of nine plastic bags filled with the illicit pills," said Lt Col Chatchai Choonu of Phuket City Police.

Mr Sarawuth named the customer only as 'Boy' but there was no sign of him after the suspect's arrest. "He said that it was his first time doing this," Col Chatchai added.

Mr Sarawuth was charged with possession of a Category 1 drug with intent to sell and was taken to Phuket City Police Station for further processing.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

14-year-old dead after bike chase at Saphan

ONE 14-year-old died and another was injured as a chase to recover a stolen motorbike ended with a car collision at Saphan Hin on December 27.

Lt Col Chaleaw Thaihoo of Phuket City Police as well as a rescue team arrived at the Bang Yai Canal intersection about 9:40pm.

The motorbike was originally stolen from a house behind Rajabhat University on December 26. The owner, named as Kanoot Dumcher, 19, filed a report to the police, asking them to check CCTV footage.

"Mr Kanoot and his friend were riding around all day trying to find the stolen motorbike themselves," said Col Chaleaw. When they spotted it, a chase ensued and the fleeing perpetrators were hit by a car that was turning left. The turn signal of the car was on, but the driver is under investigation regardless."

"When we arrived, a heavily-damaged motorbike was lying nearby two unconscious 14-year-old boys. One received a head injury while the other had labored breathing. After CPR was administered, both minors were rushed to Vachira Phuket Hospital, where one of them was declared dead."

The colonel told *Gazette* that the motorbike had allegedly been borrowed from the original thief. The minors' names are being withheld by the *Gazette*, while the car driver's name has been withheld by police.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

Missing man's body found

A MAN'S dead body was found in Wichit on the afternoon of December 27. Police believe it to be a murder, as they saw signs of the body being dragged.

Police and rescue workers arrived at the scene after receiving reports about 2:30pm.

"Wanlop Choojit's body was rotting. We couldn't immediately check whether or not he had any wounds on his body," said Lt Patcharee Wongboon of Wichit Police.

Rescue workers believe that Mr Wanlop had been dead for at least seven days.

Three hour traffic jam caused by spilled load



Police suspect the driver lost control as he took the sharp bend in wet conditions. Photo: Winai Sarot

By Winai Sarot

TAH CHAT CHAI Police suspect the driver of an articulated truck that spilled its load of plywood sheets all over the road on the night of December 26, bringing traffic to a standstill, lost control of his vehicle when he took a sharp bend at high speed in wet conditions.

The Phuket-bound 18-wheeler spilled its entire load on the notoriously dangerous

curve, a short distance from the Tah Chat Chai Police checkpoint in north Phuket at about 7:20pm, according to Tah Chat Chai Police Lt Sarit Buthnhongsang.

The 37-year-old driver, named as Sanon Nijjaroon, was slightly injured. However, his passenger, Suwannee Jiamwijit, 42, suffered an injured left hand and broken right leg, the colonel told the *Gazette* the next morning.

A Phang Nga rescue team,

which happened to be tailing the truck, rushed the driver and passenger to Thalang Hospital before police arrived at the crash scene.

The spillage blocked the entire road, holding up traffic heading into Phuket for about three hours.

“It appears that the driver lost control of the truck on the slippery road. However, we have yet to confirm the exact cause of the accident,” Col Sarit admitted.

Microsoft Thailand aims to use IT to end human trafficking



The aim of the project is to educate a target a sample group of 1,200 students, who will then be able to share their new-found skills and knowledge with others they meet on a daily basis. Photo: Phuket PR

MICROSOFT Thailand recently organized a project to educate youth about computers and Information Technology to equip them with the knowledge and tools to fight human trafficking.

The project was chaired by Phuket Vice Governor Teera Anantaseriwidhya, at Prince of Songkla University’s Phuket Campus.

The campaign is being held at seven campuses throughout the country, including, in addition to Phuket, Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, Payao, Yala, Pattani and Narathiwat.

The aim is to educate 1,200 students – part of a target sample group – in these seven

provinces to share their knowledge with others.

“I am quite concerned about youth in isolated rural areas as they are vulnerable and at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking. These kinds of projects are essential to alleviate the situation,” said V/Gov Teera.

“Providing computer and IT knowledge to students is a step in the right direction. When students learn these skills, they can broaden their knowledge and have a lot more information at their fingertips – not only about human trafficking, but other areas as well,” he added.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*

Rush to Samkong’s field of gold



A visitor poses among the golden sunhemp. Photo: Gazette file

A FIELD of sunhemp in full bloom near the Samkong junction has become a popular at-

traction for locals and tourists, who have been stopping off to pose for pictures.

Land owner Piyaporn Udomsap allows free access to the public, saying he grows the flowers to maintain the land’s quality and aesthetic beauty.

He started growing the flowers three months ago. The flowers have already been in full bloom for a week and expected to last for a few weeks.

“I am simply following the teachings of King Rama IX. I grow them to improve the land quality. After the flowers die, they turn into fertilizer, and then I prepare the land to grow others,” said Mr Piyaporn.

“People are free to enjoy the beauty of the flowers. I just want to see people smile,” he added.

– *Kongleaphy Keam*



Royal Navy overrules Patong Mayor

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

THE ROYAL Thai Navy stepped in to overrule the Patong Mayor's decision regarding beach mats laid out on raised beds of sand at Patong Beach, and declared that they are, in fact, 'illegal'.

Rear Adm Pisai Sukawin, deputy commander of the RTN Third Area Command, handed down the verdict at a meeting on the afternoon of December 23, saying that regardless of the beds being in the 10 per cent zone, they will no longer be allowed on the beach.

"Some vendors have been setting up mats outside of the 10 per cent zones, and in order to avoid these problems in future, we believe it best to remove them entirely," said R/Adm Pisai.

Other officials in attendance at the meeting included Phuket Vice Governor Snith Sriwihok as well as officers from the army, police and local beach management 'authorities'.

The issue started after pictures of beds built solely of sand (with beach mats for tourists atop them) went viral on social media, with thousands of people



Navy officials said that it would be better to remove the sand-beds entirely to prevent future problems. Bottom right: Patong Mayor's decision was overruled by the Royal Thai Navy. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

sharing and celebrating the ingenuity of 'uneducated local villagers' who were making a mockery of the rules against 'beach loungers' (a.k.a. 'sand

beds') on Phuket's beaches.

Patong Mayor Chalermkluck Kebsup addressed the complaints by declaring the sand beds to be legal, saying that as

long as the vendors offering the beds were operating inside the designated 10 per cent zones, they, along with their mats, would be allowed.

Mayor Chalermkluck clarified the issue at the meeting, saying that they were only set up to deal with tourist demand and that current beach management rules did not meet the vendors' needs.

"These raised mats are convenient for tourists visiting the beach, especially older ones who like to be more comfortable. However, I agree that they detract from the beauty of the area, especially at night," said Mayor Chalermkluck.

"We can get rid of the sand beds, but I feel it would be beneficial to allow regular beach loungers inside the 10 per cent zone. They could be stashed away at night to maintain the aesthetic beauty of the area. This would be the best compromise as both tourists and vendors will get what they want," she added.

However, the meeting ended without any conclusion regarding her suggestion.

"For now, no more sand-beds are allowed. However, we will take the mayor's suggestion about beach loungers into consideration," said R/Adm Pisai.

Families reunited after early release granted to Phuket prison inmates



Family members wait outside prison walls. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

Continued from Page 1

...Code relating to *lese majeste*, who were categorized as 'general offence' inmates, had their jail terms reduced.

Former MP Chuwit Kamolvisit will be among the first batch of inmates released, according to Mr Kobkiat.

While the 55-year-old massage parlor tycoon-turned-politician qualified for release, another high-profile inmate, Chalermchai 'Major Teung' Matchaklam, a former Army officer jailed for the murder of then-Yasothon Governor Preena

Lipattanaphan in 2001, did not qualify because he has been cited for poor behavior.

According to the Department of Corrections, Ministry of Justice, Royal pardon may be either in the form of an unconditional release, a commutation or reduction of punishment. This depends on the discretion of His Majesty the King as stated in Section 221 and 225 of the Constitution (B.E. 2540) and Section 259 to 267 of Division 7: Pardon, Commutation and Reduction of Punishment in the Criminal Procedure Code Amendment

Act (No. 23), B.E. 2548.

A collective Royal pardon is granted on special ground on auspicious national events; for example, on the occasion of the Long-Reign celebration and the Golden Jubilee.

His Majesty may also grant individual Royal pardons at his own discretion. Any convicted prisoner or a concerned person wishing to petition His Majesty the King praying for pardon may do so by submitting such petition through official channels. Whether or not the pardon is granted shall be subject to the King's discretion based on the recommendation submitted by the Minister of Justice.

The petition may be submitted by the convicted prisoners themselves, or concerned persons (including parents, offspring and spouse) may also file the petition on his or her behalf. Additionally, a diplomatic representative may file a petition on behalf of a foreign prisoner.

Additional reporting by *The Nation*.

Red-back saved from drowning



A RED-BACKED sea eagle was saved by Kotchaporn Pitakwong from drowning at Sireh Pier, Ratsada. Ms Kotchaporn took it to a Kusoldharm Foundation office nearby, who called in Phongchart Churhomthe, the head of Nature and Wildlife Education Center Khao Phra Thaeo. "It's wings are injured at the moment, so we will help it recover and set it off into the wild," he confirmed. Photo: Winai Sarot

Teen dead after truck collision



The small car became wedged under the truck's cab in the high-speed collision. Photo: Winai Sarot

A TEENAGE driver was killed in a collision with an 18-wheel truck in north Phuket on the morning of December 23.

The accident occurred about 11:30am at the Sala Deng-Muddokkhao junction – which turns into Nai Yang Beach.

“We received a report that a Daihatsu Mira had crashed into an 18-wheeler truck on north-bound Thepkrasattri Road. The front side of the car was seriously damaged and wedged under the truck's cab,” said

Capt Chatree Chuwichian of Thalang Police.

“The driver, Suwan Soithong, 18, was still inside and had critical injuries to his head, neck, face and back. Rescue workers spent 10 minutes separating the two vehicles and getting the driver out of the car.”

Mr Suwan was rushed to Thalang Hospital, where he was later pronounced dead.

Police questioned the truck driver, Chalit Khuankert, 32, who sustained minor injuries in

the collision.

“Mr Chalit told us he was driving on Thepkrasattri Road and had just turned left at the junction, when Mr Suwan turned onto the same road at a very high speed. Mr Suwan then lost control of his car, crossed over into the adjoining lane and crashed into his truck,” said Capt Chatree.

Mr Chalit was initially charged with reckless driving causing death.

– Winai Sarot

Security beefed up



Holiday season calls for increased vigilance. Photo: Kritsada Mueanhawong

ABOUT 280 Phuket police officers and volunteers gathered outside Phuket Provincial Police Station on December 22 in light of the New Year holidays.

“Security measures will be heightened up until January 15, to instill confidence in both locals and tourists who visit Phuket during this period,” said Region 8 Deputy Police Commander Chalit Thinthanee.

Additional officers and volunteers chosen to carry out special duties were assigned from police stations throughout Phuket, as well as army, civil defence personnel and other volunteers.

“We have passed on the message to all security forces to get rid of crime in any shape or form as much as possible, especially during the holiday period. As it is a long holiday,

people are travelling around a lot more than usual. Bigger crowds pose a much higher crime risk and also create traffic issues, so we have to be extra vigilant,” said Gen Chalit.

“We have chalked out security measures in collaboration with the Tourist Police, Immigration Police, Phuket International Airport, Region 8 Police, Marine Police, Highway Police, and many others.

The measures focus on targeting risky areas, where we are setting up checkpoints in order to keep a better lookout,” he added.

Additionally, Patong Police Station got its own security boost focused on fighting drug-related crimes, especially on Bangla Road.

– Kritsada Mueanhawong

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Krabi businesses join locals to protest against coal plant plan

By Kritsada Mueanhawong

REPRESENTATIVES from 11 private and government sector organizations met in Krabi on December 22 to reiterate their stance against the construction of a coal-fired power plant, which they say will adversely impact the quality of life for locals and cause billions of baht in tourism losses.

Officials from the Krabi Chamber of Commerce, Krabi Tourism Council of Thailand (TCT), and Krabi Tourism Association were among those present at the meeting.

“This is totally against the government’s own initiative of ‘Krabi Go Clean’. Since the coal plant project was first tabled by the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand (EGAT), opinion has been divided about it. However, most of the private sector organizations in Krabi are against it. We don’t mind a power plant, just not a coal plant that will ruin the environment and drive away tourists,” said Amarit Siripornjuthakun, head of the Krabi TCT.

The location of the plant is reportedly part of the wetlands protected under the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands, and was marked out as a protected zone in 2001, *The*



Locals have vehemently opposed the proposed power plant since plans were announced. Photo: Gazette file

Nation reported.

“If the coal plant becomes a reality, it will affect tourism for sure. Tourists come to Krabi to breathe fresh air and see unspoiled natural beauty – not to breathe in black smoke and ruin their health. EGAT said they will help those who live within a five-kilometer radius, but what about the rest of us?” Mr Amarit demanded.

Plengyos Sakonkittiwat, head of the Krabi Chamber of Commerce, said that Krabi locals earn more than 80 billion baht from tourism, and about 40 billion baht from agriculture every year.

“Both our main revenue-

earning professions will be badly impacted and billions of baht will be lost. We are collecting signatures to submit a petition to the government to halt this project and build something else that does not affect the environment,” said Mr Plengyos.

The plant has drawn much resistance from locals and environmental activists over the years.

In March 2014, Greenpeace members staged a dramatic protest by hanging from the cliffs of Railay Bay in Krabi.

Others, including the Koh Lanta Tourism Association, local residents and even local

fishermen, have joined in the fight by showing up in the hundreds at public hearings, with some even protesting that the meetings were ‘set-ups’ and that locals were not being heard.

Despite attempts from EGAT to push the project forward, Prime Minister Gen Prayuth Chan-o-cha ordered the hotly-debated project to be put on hold until a joint committee could ensure that all steps of the pre-construction process had been legally carried out.

In March this year, the project’s Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report was rejected amid pressure from the ‘Protect Krabi Network’.

Dead coral seized at sanctuary



Some were stuck to the walls of the building. Photo: Winai Sarot

ABOUT 37 kilograms of dead coral was seized at a meditation center in Koh Yao Noi on December 21.

The raid at the Mooktawan Meditation Sanctuary was conducted by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) Region 6, after Phang Nga Governor Pakkapong Tawiphat alerted them.

“The coral was being used to decorate the premises,” said DMCR official Suchat Rattanaruengsri. “The Wildlife Preservation and Protection Act BE 2535 (1992), sections 19 and 47 state this is punishable by a maximum of 4 years in prison, a 40,000 baht fine, or both.”

Officers seized some of the coral and transported it to Koh Yao Police Station. However, some pieces still need to be removed.

The owner of the meditation center, whose name is being withheld, is being questioned by police.

– Winai Sarot

Nepalese tourists hurt in bus flip

FIFTEEN Nepalese tourists were injured when their chartered bus lost control in heavy rain and crashed into a tree in Surat Thani’s Tha Chana District early in the morning on December 21.

Five of them were in critical condition following the crash.

Police officers and rescue workers from Tha Chana rushed to the accident scene on the southbound lane of Asia Highway 41 in Tambon Prasong about 6am.

It is believed the bus left Bangkok in the evening on December 20, bound for Krabi Province. Initial investigations into the crash revealed that heavy rain in the area had caused the road surface to become slippery.

– *The Nation*



Emergency responders carry an injured passenger from the overturned bus, which slid off the wet road after heavy rain. Photo: The Nation

Phang Nga remembers 2004 tsunami losses

LOCALS in Ban Nam Khem, Phang Nga who survived the devastation of the tsunami 12 years ago are still struggling to develop a community that has a safe and sustainable future.

December 26 marked the 12th anniversary of the Boxing Day Tsunami that ravaged the Andaman coast.

Ban Nam Khem in Takua Pa District suffered the worst losses with the village wiped out by the gigantic wave. Ban Nam Khem had the highest death toll in the country, with about 1,300 people killed.

Tsunami Victim Network co-ordinator of Ban Nam Khem, Montri Kongkrichak, said his home town has almost

fully recovered.

“Everyone here lost someone or something in the tsunami disaster. The wave totally destroyed our community, but due to the wave, we are building our community again and this time we are growing stronger,” Mr Montri said.

He said the clearest local initiative was the disaster preparation plan, drawn up by local people, to forge common procedures in the event of emergencies or another disaster. The evacuation routes, safe areas and volunteers were set up with agreement of local people and emergency drills practised regularly.

– *The Nation*

Exports predicted to grow in 2017

THE Thai National Shippers Council predicts that exports next year will grow by 12 per cent partly because of higher oil prices, while Thai shippers adjust to changing circumstances.

Nopporn Thepsithar, chairman of the council, said the higher oil prices would boost economic growth of many countries and result in more exports of oil by-products from Thailand.

However, some concerning factors remain, including fragile global economic growth and continued uncertainty on the growth of consumer purchasing power. There could also be rising non-tariff and trade barriers imposed by many countries, particularly developed nations such as the US.

Tensions rise: Myanmar and Bangladesh

FOUR Bangladeshi fishermen were injured when Myanmar's navy allegedly opened fire on them while they were fishing along the countries' troubled border in the Bay of Bengal, an official said.

A group of 14 fishermen, four of whom have been hospitalized with bullet wounds, told coastguard officials that a Myanmar navy ship had entered Bangladeshi waters and opened fire on their trawler on December 27.

"They said the navy ship started firing on them without any warning," coastguard officer Saiful Absar told AFP by phone from southern Saint Martin's Island, which is close to where the alleged incident took place.

"Four fishermen were injured. They had bullet wounds all over their hands and feet," he said, adding they had been taken to a hospital in the coastal district of Cox's Bazar.

The coast guard is investigating whether the Myanmar Navy had intruded into Bangladesh's territorial waters, he added.

The incident comes as tensions along Bangladesh's southeastern border with Myanmar's Rakhine state run high, after Myanmar's military launched a massive crackdown on Rohingya Muslims back in October.



Thai Smile Airways to use Suvarnabhumi to expand

THAI SMILE AIRWAYS has coordinated with Thai Airways International to use Suvarnabhumi Airport as its base to penetrate India, expand to China and serve Asean markets with all flights connecting with THAI, said Woranate Laprabang, acting chief executive officer of Thai Smile Airways.

Thai Smile will remain at Don Mueang International Airport until January 15 before moving all flight operations to Suvarnabhumi.

After switching to Suvarnabhumi, Thai Smile will increase daily flights to Phuket to seven, and to Khon Kaen to eight, among other changes.

Thai Smile will inaugurate flights to Zhengzhou in China's Henan province on January 27 and to Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia on March 1.

MRT Missing link to be resolved in BKK

PRIME Minister Gen Prayuth Chan-o-cha has invoked his absolute powers under Article 44 of the interim charter to resolve the 'missing link' between the MRT Blue Line and MRT Purple Line in northwestern Bangkok.

The order was acknowledged by the National Council



for Peace and Order (NCPO)'s meeting on December 27 prior to a Cabinet meeting.

NCPO chief Prayuth ordered the Blue Line operator Bangkok Expressway and Metro Plc (BEM) to operate a one-kilome-

ter link between the Blue Line's Bang Sue station and the Purple Line's Tao Poon station, said NCPO Spokesperson Colonel Winthai Suvaree.

In the current system, authorities provide free shuttle rides to commuters, which has cost about 147 million baht.

The Mass Rapid Transit Authority (MRTA) planned to open services bridging missing link in September of next year, according to MRTA chairman General Yordyuth Boonyatikarn.

He said the MRTA would speed up negotiations with BEM to expedite the project.

Mr Yordyuth said BEM's role as operator of the one-kilometer link would benefit commuters because the company already operated both the Purple and Blue lines.

He said the MRTA expected the project to take about six months for construction and two months for testing after the Cabinet approved the contract.

"If it's done as planned, the service could be opened in August or September next year," said Mr Yordyuth.

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Phuket Gazette

Drawing lines in the sand

THE Royal Thai Navy (RTN) was perhaps correct in ruling controversial 'sand-beds' at Patong Beach illegal, but the issue once again means that customer satisfaction takes a back-seat at Phuket's most popular strand.

The sand-beds certainly made an impressive debut. Images of the seaside constructions went viral on social media, prompting cheers at how 'uneducated locals' had seemingly managed to outwit the military-imposed regulations ordered from up high that now apply at all island beaches.

The beds were first allowed by Patong Mayor Chalermluck Kepsup, but what initially appeared to be good high-season news for 'innovative locals', was quickly squelched when the RTN shot down her decision that use of the beds within the controversial '10 per cent zones' could continue.

Mayor Kepsup demonstrated some political savvy by focusing not on the considerable financial issues involved, but on the needs and expectations of visiting beach tourists.

Foreign tourists, especially Europeans and other seasonal refugees from chilly northern climes, are quite reasonably put off by the current beach-bed situation.

Many escape the polar vortex by flying half-way around the globe to reach our shores. The last thing they want or expect from their destination of choice is to be burnt to a crisp. Why can't we give them what they want when all they ask for is something as simple as shade and a comfortable place to relax?

The real issues are, of course, financial. The former mayors of more than one west-coast local administration organization were found guilty of illegally divvying up the beaches, which are enshrined in the law as public lands, not municipal assets.

The current government has correctly made beach usage rights in Phuket a high priority issue, but doing so was more a reflection of how out-of-control the situation had become than a matter of legal precedent.

Now, it seems, the situation has shifted back in the opposite direction.

Sadly there seems to be little hope that a sustainable and fair solution can be reached before the end of the high season arrives.



Human race needs to slow down

Re: Keep It Green: Reefers, rogues and regulations, Dec 28

Until the human race slows its accelerating growth and hence demand for food and land, it is simply going to get worse.

Just read on the BBC website that the beautiful cheetah now is on the severely endangered list.

Population control would be a good place to start conservation – all races and religions without exception.

*James H Miller
Facebook*

Offender's licence should be revoked

Re: Traffic held up for three hours after truck spills plywood load, Dec 27

"It appears that the driver lost control of the truck on the slippery road. However, we have yet to confirm the exact cause of the accident," Col Sarit admitted.

Allow me to help, Colonel. He was driving too fast and should have his licence revoked, if he has one.

*Chas
Gazette forum*

Some people think they own the roads

Re: Island View: Unchecked road rage in Phuket, Dec 27

Every year at high season we get what I call idiots from all over the world who think they

Letters to the Editor

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

own the road.

They do things over here with impunity, and when you try to tell them it's not right you get a mouthful of abuse.

Last year I was hit from behind when a fool tried to pass me on the inside when there was no room.

Two days later, the same thing was going to happen and when I shook my head to say 'no'. All I got was spat on and abused.

*Bazza
Gazette forum*

Fly for visa runs if you value your life

Re: Opinion: Risking life and limb for visa runs, Dec 26

"If you want to stay alive, then fly."

If visa runners fly, it will put these companies out of business.

You could also choose to take a boat trip. Anything but these crazy visa run companies.

By far the best way is to have an immigration office in all the major towns.

If you turn up there every 3 months for the stamp with your work permit and pay 1,000 baht, it will keep you safe and

legal, and at the same time keep the money in Thailand. Simple.

*Simon
Gazette forum*

Caterpillar all the structures built on stolen land

Re: Phuket officials demolish illegal man-made plantations, Dec 24

Good. They should check all other areas in Phuket too, like Laem Prom Thep where lots of houses are built in the national park.

Everybody knows it is a National Park and that it's forbidden to build there.

The Authorities should just do it like in Spain – caterpillar away all structures on the stolen land.

*Moskito
Gazette forum*

Everyone pursuing selfish agendas

Re: Royal Thai Navy declares sand-beds 'illegal', Dec 24

One man's 'ingenious uneducated villager' is another man's 'beach parasite'.

Meantime the authorities continue to contradict each other allowing people of every educational level to continue pursuing their own selfish agendas.

*CaptainJack
Gazette forum*

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It's a new dawn

By Tulsathit Taptim

THIS is a period when love, compassion and forgiveness rule and little else matters.

It can all be a bit strange since this season of giving is absolutely man-made, meaning that human beings' best qualities prevail for a few days merely because they want them to. In other words, there is no divine hand guiding our goodness (albeit fleeting) to one another at the moment.

Although it marks the start of the earth's new orbit around the sun, New Year's Day can be any day. People in different parts of the world have historically considered various days to be the starting point of the orbit.

January 1 is merely the most successful among several candidates for the global start line.

Even in the days when each country marked the New Year independently, the celebrations had the same noble characteristics.

People only did good things. Some wouldn't lie or curse, others shared, helped the needy and made merit. Everyone smiled with sincerity.

These great qualities, activities and attitudes used to be spread throughout the year, as nations had different ideas on the starting point of the earth's journey around the sun. When January 1 was universally agreed upon, many traditional New Year's celebrations were maintained, though minus the vigor of ancient times.

Simply put, most of us now cram our good deeds into a short space of time around January 1. Of course, this is not to claim that bad deeds dominate for the rest of the year. This is to suggest that



The festive season should be a time for partying whereas sharing and compassion shouldn't just be seasonal. Photo: Leandro Neumann Ciuffo

there are things we could be doing all year long, not just at New Year. In other words, the festive season should be a time for drinking, partying and gift-giving whereas the sharing and compassion shouldn't be just seasonal.

We see glimpses of who we can be during the New Year. So, the challenge is to remain the person we are during the festive period for as long as possible. Some say people 'wear masks' during the New Year, only to return to who they really are as the year gets old.

Come to think of it, why are New Year's resolutions necessary? It's understandable that people need a starting point in order to 'get set', so committing oneself to certain behavior at the year's beginning makes sense. But since all New Year's resolutions are for positive changes, why can't they be made any time? Why do some people wait until January 1 to say to themselves, "I'm going to spend more time with my family this year"?

New Year is the time to celebrate the only thing that is truly new – us. This is an old world and its new orbit starts aging immediately after it begins. What is constantly and genuinely 'new' is each and every one of us. Every second places us at a 'new' location in the universe, which means nobody can really be the same person as they were years, months or even seconds earlier. This is a fact, even though we may like to argue that nothing has changed about ourselves over the past year.

We are continuously the newest cosmic alchemy, so to speak. The question, therefore, is what we should do with that special status when the new year arrives – we can choose to extend the 'nice' streak a bit longer and make the rather abstract annual celebrations really count.

Maybe this explains that curious longing many of us experience three or four weeks into the new year. Perhaps we don't miss the partying and fun as much as we do the real qualities of ourselves and of others.

Time to speak up

Island View

By Zohaib Sikander

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

SINCE my busy work schedule doesn't allow much time to travel, when an old friend from college who I hadn't seen for over ten years decided to visit, I took the opportunity to do just that.

We took a ferry to Phi Phi, which was conveniently booked via a website along with arrangements for a chartered van to pick us up from my house.

As soon as we boarded the ferry, we were surprised to see the 'leather couches' we had been assigned while everyone else was sitting on 'normal' seats. A movie was playing on TV screens throughout the ferry and we decided this was a good decision after all.

When we stepped onto Phi Phi, however, things changed for the worse. I had paid 500 baht one-way, but as soon as I stepped onto the pier, I walked into a human traffic jam. Attendants at the dock were collecting a 'fee' from everyone stepping off the ferry. Having worked here for two years now, I know a thing or two about being forced to pay up for non-existent services and I was not going to pay for this one.

Most of the tourists, unfortunately drunk out of their minds from partying it up before the ferry ride and during it, didn't bother asking what the money was for, and paid up. When my turn came, I curtly asked why I needed to pay 30 baht to enter the island.

The attendant felt that no explanation was needed, and

asked me again for 30 baht or I wouldn't be allowed on Phi Phi.

More and more tourists kept piling up behind me, waiting for their turn to pass, but I didn't pay any heed to it.

The attendant looked visibly angry and a little surprised at my persistence, but I held my ground. I told him that I wasn't going to pay him and if he wasn't going to let me enter, he was going to have to buy my ticket back to Phuket for me. We glared at each other for a few more seconds and he told my friend and I to go through with an angry gesture.

My friend, who lives in South Carolina and was visiting Asia for the first time in her life, was obviously confused by what was happening.

I explained to her that in 'the land of smiles', there would always be people trying to shyster money out of you, so just be wary of what you owe and what you don't.

This little victory at Tonsai Pier, as much as it makes me look like a miser to the reader, is one of many that we 'farangs' have to strive to work toward every single day. Just last month, I was shocked at having to pay 300 baht to enter a national park, while Thai people had to pay just 30 baht.

It's important for us to stop throwing away our money just to not have to explain things in broken Thai. If more people start standing up to the extra 'charges' foreigners have to pay to do anything in Thailand, maybe Thai people will realize that although we appreciate their beautiful country and unmatched hospitality, if we pay taxes and work really hard here, then we demand to be treated in a just manner.

Words from the Wise

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been."

– Rainer Maria Rilke

"I've achieved what every artist wants, which is that some of their work will outlive them."

– George Michael

"I was street smart, but unfortunately the street was Rodeo Drive."

– Carrie Fisher

Thai idioms and their meanings

JUST like any other language, the Thai language has many proverbs and sayings, which often have interesting, and sometimes rather baffling, translations in English.

One often used phrase is *rum mai dee tod pee tod glong*, which literally translates into 'those who can't dance blame it on the flute and the drum'. This is the Thai equivalent of the commonly-used English phrase 'A bad workman blames his tools'.

Another interesting proverb is *meaw mai yoo noo ra reng*,



"A bad workman blames his tools". Photo: torange.biz

which is pretty close to its English equivalent, and translates

as 'when the cat's away, the mice play.'

Stocks are hot, bonds are not



Finance

By Don Freeman

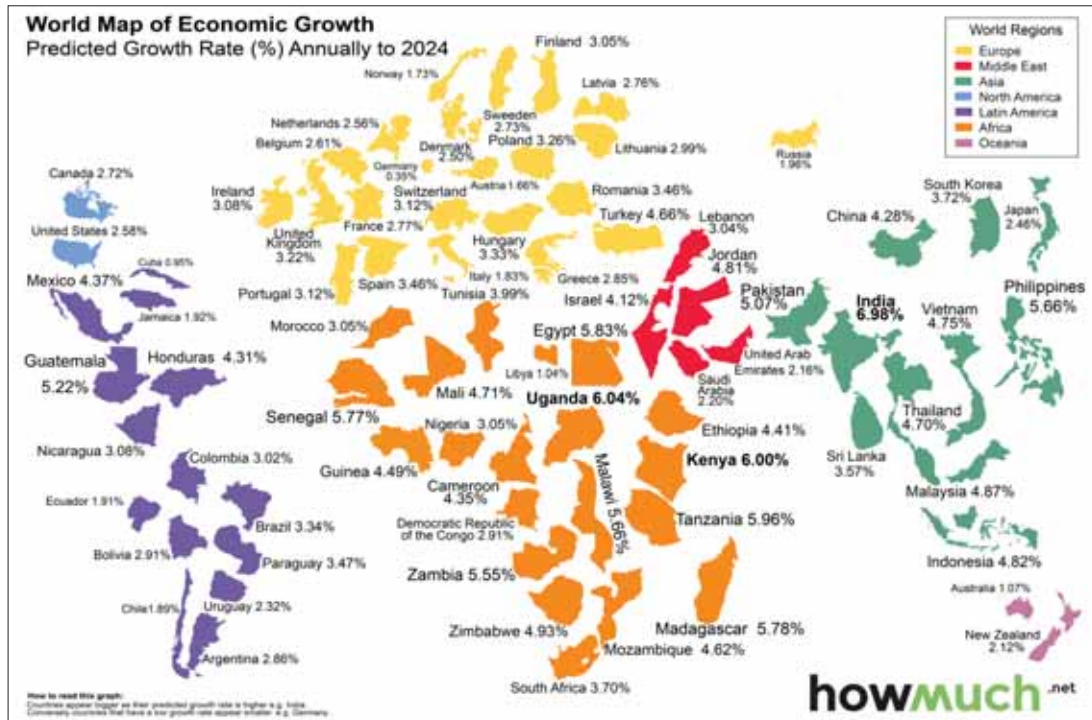
THE post election weeks have seen many leadership stocks take off, with the overall breadth of the market uptrend being impressive.

The market is being led higher by both small and mid cap stocks, plus sectors like energy, materials, industrial, technology and the economically sensitive Dow Transports – all positive signs for even higher stock prices in the months ahead.

Keep in mind that many of these stocks and their sectors were already starting to look strong or poised for lift off prior to the election, but the largely unexpected Trump win with a Republican controlled congress ignited a catalyst to start a strong uptrend.

And while there is still uncertainty over what Trump will do when he assumes office and he continues to have many critics on both the left and the right, the market seems to like what Republican control of government means for business.

Let me quickly point out that I don't pay much attention to politics and that I am politically agnostic. I also don't follow economists or political pundits as their predictions are useless when it comes to what will happen in the stock market. What I do



World map of economic growth with predicted growth rates up to 2024. Image: howmuch.net

follow is the price action of leadership stocks along with the price action of the major US and global indexes which may or may not be an accurate reflection of what the market thinks of economics and politics.

All four major US indexes made new highs after the US election and this confirms the follow through price action after Brexit. The last time this happened was on December 31, 1999.

Unfortunately, that date has a negative connotation as many will remember it occurred near the end of an 18-year bull run. What many investors fail to re-

alize is that the exact same index price action actually happened a total of 47 times during the 1990s, with the first instance occurring on December 31, 1991 when the S&P 500 closed at 417.28.

In fact, the S&P eventually gained approximately 252 per cent from the first 1991 signal to that fateful signal in late 1999.

Investors should also think about the market like this: growth stocks have generally struggled for the entire new millennium. First we had the Dot.com bubble burst around 2000, then the global financial

crisis occurred in 2008 and then we had a small cap bear market for two years. These events have led many investors – especially retired ones – to avoid risk by plowing their money into bonds, that are perceived as being safer than stocks.

My technical charts have kept my clients and I out of bonds and now it looks like we could have a bond market top after 20+ years.

The problem faced by today's bond holders is that most have never experienced a sustained rising-rate environment and they are largely unprepared for what happens to

long term bonds should interest rates eventually go back up to the 3-5 per cent range.

Moreover, the high yield bonds that many investors have piled into have only been around since the 1980s and have never really experienced a sustained rising rate environment.

And while interest rates have historically risen in a slow but methodical matter, news and information flows much more quickly these days and there could always be surprises. After all, predicting interest rate movements over the past 5-10 years has seen nearly every expert's prediction turn out wrong – much like their predictions about the US elections and Brexit.

However, bonds are the wrong investment strategy right now, because growth stocks are just starting another bull market and investors should be focused on investing for growth, not safety.

Not sure how to navigate today's market uncertainty?

Don Freeman, BSME is president of Freeman Capital Management, a Registered Investment Advisor with the US Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), based in Phuket. He has over 15 years experience working with expatriates, specializing in portfolio management, US tax preparation, financial planning and UK pension transfers. Don can be reached at 089-970 5795 or email: freeman.capital@gmail.com.

TV5 plans more revenue

THE ROYAL THAI Army Radio and Television Station aims to see an increase of at least 15 per cent in revenue to 700 million baht next year after revamping its programming to target more specific groups of viewers such as seniors and young people.

Fresh TV shows will be added including local news, variety and travel programs,

sitcoms and dramas, and live sports, which will make up about 40 per cent of total airtime next year.

By the end of next year, digital media services should contribute 10 per cent of its revenue.

This year's revenue at the station is expected to stagnate at 600 million baht.

– *The Nation*

Digital banking forces closures

THE RISING use of mobile and digital banking and a consequent decline in visits to physical bank branches will continue to drive a transformation of the Thai banking system in 2017.

The number of branches operated by the country's 11 listed commercial banks as of November 30 had dropped to 6,697 from 6,758 in 2015 and 6,732 in 2014, according to Bank of Thailand data.

Reporting branch closures this year were: Siam Commercial (SCB); Kasikornbank; Thanachart Bank (TBank) and CIMB Thai Bank (CIMBT).

As of the third quarter, the number of mobile-banking users reached 19.37 million, up from 13.92 million in 2015 and 6.23 million users in 2014.

As of the third quarter there had been 395 million mobile-

banking transactions, against 248 million for the whole of 2015.

Phanporn Kongyingyong, first executive vice president of SCB, said branch banking was not dead, but the bank believed that even in the branches some transactions should be serviced by machines. Therefore, it is essential that there are enough automated teller machines (ATMs) and cash deposit machines (CDMs) for customers' needs in the digital era.

Employees at branches eventually will be transformed into financial advisers, she said.

Anuwat Luengtaweekul, chief financial officer at TBank, said its branches would become more electronic.

TBank will train branch employees to handle complex services as the transactional banking that used to dominate their

duties will increasingly be done electronically instead, he said.

CIMBT senior executive vice president Adisorn Sermchaiwong said the bank had to scaled down the number of its physical branches as more banking services became digitized.

On average, CIMBT's customers visit a branch only once a month, so the physical branches should now provide financial advisory – rather than transactional – services.

KBank too is seeing more mobile-banking transactions, but this has not resulted in a decline in the number of transactions at its branches. The bank will improve the electronic facilities at its branches, said its president, Kattiya Indaravijaya.

– *The Nation*

CAT projects B3bn earnings from 4G

CAT TELECOM projects revenue of 3 billion baht from its mobile telecommunications business next year, mainly driven by its recently launched fourth-generation wireless broadband service.

CAT's mobile-phone business earns money from two channels: its own "My" brand 3G service and its share of the revenue earned by its five mobile virtual network operator partners (MVNO).

My recently launched a 4G service through a partnership with True Corp. This made the state agency the fourth 4G service provider in the country.

Viroj Tocharoenvanith, CAT's senior executive vice president for wireless business, said that of total forecast revenue in the new year, 2.6 billion baht would be generated by My 3G and 4G services, up from 1.6 billion baht this year. The remaining 400 million baht will be contributed by MVNO partners, up from 160 million baht this year.

CAT's My brand targets a total of 2 million subscribers next year, 2 per cent of the overall market, up from 1.7 million users or a 1.7 per cent market share this year.

My currently posts average monthly revenue per prepaid

user of 80 baht, while its post-paid service brings in 420 baht a month. Of its total subscriber base, 90 per cent are prepaid users.

Viroj said CAT aimed for its 4G service to boost its average revenue per user to 480 baht a month for post-paid service and 100 baht for prepaid.

"We have positioned My as a price-competitive mobile-phone service. We believe we can compete with other operators," Viroj said.

In addition, CAT will tap the corporate segment by offering them bundled packages of air-time and subsidized mobile devices.

Next year CAT will spend 280 million baht on My marketing campaigns and another 100 million baht on handset promotional packages, aiming to have at least 2 million subscribers by the end of 2017. This year CAT's marketing budget was only 100 million baht.

The state agency says it has more than 100,000 channels where customers can top up prepaid accounts, including 7-Eleven convenience stores, Boon Term prepaid refill booths and online services.

CAT is expected to acquire two more MVNO partners soon.

— *The Nation*

Social media revenue set to rise in the new year



Business Buzz
Simon Wetherell

ANOTHER year gone and the social media scene has seen a lot of changes with new platforms such as Periscope and Snapchat rising in popularity – and Twitter continues its slide.

Video, 360 degree images and smart graphics will likely continue leading the way in content marketing and branding, appealing to our need for instant gratification and shorter attention spans.

Also live feed platforms and instant content will be even more popular as marketers understand it better.

However, I believe there will be more focus on niche marketing.

Instead of blanket marketing to a large audience, companies should focus on their specific target market. Understanding this will be key. Social media has, up until now, made marketing a lot easier for the masses but it is getting more competitive and this will ensure success if done correctly.

There is also going to be a lot more policing of content, particularly by the likes of Google and Facebook. We are already hear-



Expect to see a lot more eCommerce 'shops' pop up on Facebook.

ing commentary from Facebook about fixing fake content on their site after the US election outcome, and Google will no doubt further select what content will make our inboxes, all supposedly in the name of quality control, however I don't think they can ever be more accurate than our own decisions. So Big Brother censorship will be on the rise.

I am sure these platforms will also become more insular. Popular content will be more likely shared if it stays within the platform and third-party sites will be given less exposure. An example of this is Facebook's lead generation marketing, which generates leads without requiring people to be sent to outside websites to capture their data.

I expect to see a lot more eCommerce 'shops' pop up on Facebook. They will become more successful and raise huge revenues while increasing their marketing appeal for businesses to get on board. However, that

might not be so great for the consumers.

Finally, I believe we will see more people using software and strategies with the goal of making posts and content go viral. This will become a common content marketing goal, and those who are successful will have a fantastic year ahead.

So expect to see more offers that invite you to like, comment and share, tag friends with the aim of driving high levels of targeted traffic.

And if you have a business I recommend you read up about these strategies and get out ahead of the rest.

Wishing everyone a very happy and successful 2017!

Simon Wetherell is a registered migration agent and lawyer. He resides in Thailand and has offices in Phuket and Bangkok. For more information, visit AustralianVisaPhuket.com, call 095-085 3355 or email swc.asia@gmail.com.

Benz, TAAP seal new deal

GERMAN LUXURY car maker Mercedes-Benz has overturned the possibility of building its own assembly plant in Thailand after extending its contract for 12 years with local partner Thonburi Automotive Assembly Plant (TAAP).

The deal will see the TAAP factory in Samut Prakarn churning out close to 10,000 Mercedes-Benz cars and sport utility vehicles per year, after having produced more than 100,000 vehicles since local production began in 1979.

"This year, we are on track to reach a new production record, with about 9,000 vehicles produced here at the Bangkok plant," Andreas Lettner, CEO of Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing (Thailand), said during a press event at TAAP grounds on December 20.

"We highly prioritize efforts to strengthen our global competitiveness and we are continuously expanding our

capacities according to the Thai market. Over the years, we have gained a strong and trustworthy partnership with TAAP. That's why we decided to extend this successful cooperation into the future."

Mr Lettner said the global production network of Mercedes-Benz Cars includes facilities where vehicles are produced in various extension levels for markets such as Thailand, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam.

"In Thailand, Mercedes-Benz Manufacturing has been in partnership with TAAP since 1979. Over the years, this partnership has involved strong cooperation and support through the continuous expansion of production lines to fully cover Mercedes-Benz's compact car, dream car, sedan and SUV categories," he added.

— *The Nation*



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Happy birthday Illuzion

Illuzion discotheque celebrated its second anniversary on December 14 with a party at the Patong dance club, headlined by Australian DJ duo Olivia and Miriam Nervo, who rank among the world's top-100 beat masters.



From Left: DJ Olivia Nervo and DJ Miriam Nervo.

Jungceylon holds Christmas concert honoring late King

Jungceylon shopping mall in Patong put on a free 'Wonderful Christmas Concert' on December 25, starring Thai singing sensations Jennifer Kim, and rising stars from 'The Voice Thailand' Plengprapan Gingthong ("Guitar") and Samuch Niumsa-ard ("Nook"), who performed compositions written by the country's late monarch HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej.



From Left: Samuch Niumsa-ard (Nook); Plengprapan Gingthong (Guitar); Jennifer Kim, receive a bouquet from Phuket Governor Chokchai Dejamornthan.

Catch Beach Club reopens at Bang Tao Beach

Twinpalms' Catch Beach Club re-opened at Bang Tao Beach on December 24 with a white party attended by more than 1,500 guests.



Twinpalms Phuket Group Executive Manager Somjai Tungkoo (front center) with VIP party guests.



Partygoers dressed in white for the beach club's re-opening party.

Events in Paradise

Amari Phuket welcomes Swiss Society members

Pierre-Andre Pelletier, Amari Phuket Vice President and Area General Manager, South Thailand, welcomed members of the Swiss Society Board and VIP guest from Switzerland, Lysandre C Seraidaris – son of Cleon Seraidaris. The senior Mr Seraidaris was a polymath and private tutor of two Thai monarchs: His Majesties King Rama VIII and Rama IX, when the monarchs resided in Switzerland. Mr Seraidaris attended the annual Swiss Society Phuket Christmas Dinner at Rim Talay Restaurant, Amari Phuket on December 27.



From Left: Arnaud Foucard-Perrin; Vice President and Area General Manager, South Thailand, Pierre-Andre Pelletier; Swiss Society Phuket Committee members Brigitte Lehmann; Lysandre C. Seraidaris, President Andrea Kotas; Secretary Peter Gisin; Treasurer Paul Richle; and Vice President Jurg Schwendener.

Limelight hosts wildlife preservation exposition

Limelight Avenue launched a wildlife preservation exposition at the shopping center in Phuket Town in collaboration with the Khaopartaew Wildlife and Nature Education Center on December 26. The event runs until January 8, 2017.



Phuket City Deputy Mayor Kawee Tansukatanon (left) and head of the Khaopartaew Wildlife and Nature Education Center Pongchart Chouehom with feathered friends.



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Planning last Royal rites



In the weeks since the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, thousands of people have flocked to Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall to pay their last respects. Photo: Andy Marchand

Looking Back

By Anand Singh

IN THAILAND, royal funerals are solemn affairs that take months to plan. When a monarch or a high-ranking member of the royal family passes away, their body is taken to the Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall, which is part of the Grand Palace complex. There the body lies in state whilst craftsmen work to build the royal funeral pyre, an intricately crafted structure, which could take up to nine months to complete.

In the weeks since the passing of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, thousands of people have flocked to Dusit Maha Prasat Throne Hall to pay their last respects. The throne hall, built by King Rama I in 1790, has served as the final throne room for many deceased royals of the Chakri Dynasty.

Inside the throne hall lies the royal urn; a large gold plated octagonal structure perched high atop a multi-tiered pedestal. The royal urn is 95cm high. Flaring at the top, the diameter at the top of the urn is 65cm while the bottom is 46cm. In the past, the deceased royal was placed inside the urn in a sitting or standing position.

The bottom of the urn is lined with metal grille in order to make it strong enough to support the weight of the body. The urn is propped on a wooden pedestal, with a concave feature to collect bodily fluids that might drip from the decomposing body. These are dried on a hot pan with fragrant herbs and cremated along with the body when the time comes.

In the past, Royal funerals were usually held in the dry sea-

son. Cremation usually takes place at Sanam Luang, the royal ground situated outside the Grand Palace. Royal members who passed away during the rainy season would therefore have to wait for the dry season before they could be cremated.

In the days before formalin, the body would rapidly decompose in the hot, humid climate. To keep the remains in a neat state, it was usually stripped of its flesh before cremation. Any remaining flesh would be carefully removed from the bones, and then boiled with fragrant herbs. The flesh was then dried and stored for cremation later.

The last flesh stripping ritual to take place was during Queen Savang Vadhana's funeral. Queen Savang was the queen consort of King Rama V and grandmother of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Since then, formalin has been used to preserve the bodies of royals while they awaited cremation.

The royal urn has played an important part in every royal funeral. A monarch's urn, referred to as 'Phra-Boroma-Kot', is made of fine wood and covered in gold, with a crown top.

King Rama I commissioned the first royal urn of the Chakri Dynasty in the year 1808. He ordered the gold stripped from an older urn to be used in preparation for a newly constructed urn that would be used to carry his own body when he passed away. However not long after it was completed, the King's fifth daughter passed away. King Rama I, in his grief asked for her body to be laid in state in his royal urn. This marked a precedent where the monarch would sometimes grant a deceased member of the royal family the use of the royal urn.

In the reign of King Rama V, a new royal urn was commissioned in the year 1900. Initially it was built to temporarily serve royal funerals while the existing urn was being refurbished. However this royal urn would go on to serve in several royal funerals, housing the royal remains of Queen Rambai Barni, the queen consort of King Rama VII, Princess Bejaratana, the only child of King Rama VI. It is also currently being used ceremonially at King Bhumibol's funeral.

It is said that in the year 1984, when Princess Srinagarindra, the Princess Mother attended the funeral of Queen Rambai Barni, she saw how the queen's body was seemingly forced into the comparatively small urn. Seemingly distressed, the princess mother reportedly said, "When I die, please do not do this to me. I will not be comfortable."

When the princess mother passed away in the year 1995, King Bhumibol honored her wish and did not use the royal urn for his mother's body. The urn was displayed ceremonially. Her body however was laid in a coffin behind a screen in the throne hall.

Since then, the practice of housing a royal's remains in the royal urn has been done away with, with the exception of Princess Bejaratana, who wished for her funeral to be carried out according to the ancient traditions of Thai royals.

Currently King Bhumibol's body is placed in a coffin at the Grand Palace, which is hidden behind a screen. Mourners will see the royal urn, perched atop the wooden pedestal. The king's body will lie in state until the cremation ceremony takes place.

New fusion by the lake at Tré



Drawing inspiration from some of the most distinguished restaurants in Europe, Tré restaurant boasts pristine views of Banyan Tree Phuket's signature double pool villas. Photo: Banyan Tree Phuket / Tré

OVERLOOKING the lake and signature double pool villas at Banyan Tree Phuket, the newly reinvented Tré restaurant offers diners an intimate dining experience with a serene vista accompanied by a new, carefully designed menu of international cuisine along side a premium Western menu.

Fusing freshly-sourced ingredients with slow-cooking methods, the al fresco dining experience on the wooden veranda draws inspiration from some of the most distinguished restaurants in Europe and brings together the expertise of Banyan Tree Phuket's Executive Chef Alfonso de la Dehesa and Executive Sous Chef Kreaton Cutajar, who has a distinguished background in the kitchens of various Michelin Star restaurants.

The new selection of dishes are prepared with modern cooking techniques and presented in unique displays of contemporary culinary art, while keeping intact the traditional Thai touch.

Notable additions to the menu include entrées such as Wagyu striploin steak, Scottish langoustines with Madagascar peppered sweet breads, and foie gras with pear purée.

Surf and turf main courses include poached veal tenderloin, risotto with truffles and homemade duck ham, as well as smoked halibut and wild striped bass infused with herb butter.



Japanese seaweed broth Ichiban Dashi served Tré style

The desserts are equally delectable with contemporary twists on the traditional, such as the rich, wholesome rum banana flambé, or the chocolate soufflé with caramel and authentic vanilla ice cream.

Another stylish dimension added to the gastronomic experience is the Martini trolley. Enjoy the concoctions shaken or stirred.

– Phuket Gazette



DISCOVER AMARI PHUKET'S MAGICAL FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS

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New Year's Eve under the Stars

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Price: **5,500 THB++** Venue: Rim Talay Time: 19:30

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Celebrate New Year's Eve with a premier selection of a five-course Italian Gastronomic set dinner while enjoying the spectacular beachfront scenery.

Price: **4,900 THB++** Venue: La Gritta Time: 19:30

Remark: All prices are per person, excluding beverages, and are subject to a 10% service charge and 7% VAT. Children under 12 years of age will receive a 50% discount.

Reservations: **+66 (0) 7634 0106-14** or reservations.phuket@amari.com

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Try out some healthy holiday recipes



Excuse Buster

By Craig Burton

I HOPE you have had a great festive season and those with children are enjoying their time with them during the holidays.

I thought I would offer some healthy, tasty and easily made alternatives to the standard treats that will keep both kids and grownups happy.

You'll notice that the recipe is full of good fats such as coconut milk, butter/ghee, and nut flour.

Good fats, (including saturated ones like coconut milk) are critical to young bodies; bringing strength to cells, supporting good nerve development and making hormones, among many other functions.

They also make us feel full, unlike refined white sugar that not only damages cells when consumed in excess, but also makes us feel hungry soon afterwards.

FRUIT FLAVORED COCONUT MILK POPSICLES

You will need popsicle molds for this, which are easily available at most department stores (including Villa and Tesco) and don't cost too much.

One tray makes a set of four standard popsicles.



Yes, there really is such a thing as healthy chocolate cake. Photo: Dolly Madison's Designs

Ingredients:

100ml fruit pulp (store bought or prepared yourself).

It is also possible to use fruit juice as a substitute for the fruit pulp.

Cut open a passion fruit, strain the juice and remove seeds. You can also use banana, mango and berries instead of passion fruit.

250ml of Coconut milk
Add a teaspoon of xylitol, raw honey or coconut flower sugar.

Directions:

Mix the ingredients in a blender or in a jar and shake.

Pour the mixture into the molds and freeze overnight.

FAT FUDGE

Ingredients:

250g of butter or ghee (unsalted, slowly cooked in a slow cooker to make ghee).

Leave out or slowly heat to make the liquid.

1-2 Mashed Bananas (Add ex-

tra raw honey if needed, but the banana makes it sweet)

50g of Nut butter (hazelnut, cashewnut or peanut butter).

50ml coconut milk

Directions:

Mix all ingredients in a blender.

Pour the ingredients onto a thin baking tray lined with baking paper. Make it flat and put it in the freezer for several hours. Then remove the trays and cut the fudge into small

squares. Store in boxes in the freezer.

CHOCOLATE CAKE

Ingredients:

230g of butter (unsalted)

25g of dark chocolate

2 tablespoons of raw, unsweetened chocolate powder

150g of almond meal

50g of rice flour

2 eggs

50g of xylitol, raw honey, coconut sugar – I mix in stevia leaf and xylitol

Directions:

Melt butter in pan and mix in chocolate and chocolate powder – gently heat all ingredients but do not burn.

In a bowl mix remaining ingredients and add chocolate butter from pan (after slightly cooling).

Pour dough mixture into a cake tin (with baking paper layer) and bake for 20 -25 minutes at 160 degrees Celsius.

As an alternative you could mix in berries, banana, or sliced apple to mixture.

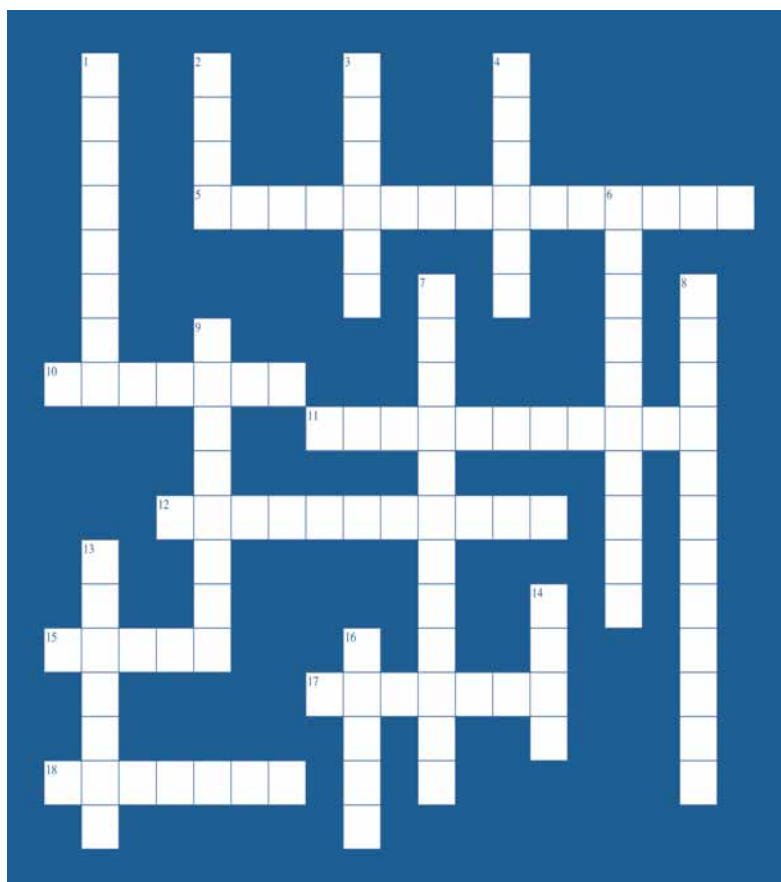
Can be enjoyed warm with fresh whipped cream or cut into small pieces, freeze and enjoy cold.

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.

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Gazette Crossword

Test your local knowledge and word power

Across

- 05. Ya bah
- 10. 2004 disaster
- 11. Patong Mayor
- 12. To treat too leniently
- 15. Two dozen sheets of paper
- 17. A tax on salt
- 18. Isle of Man capital

Down

- 01. Steven Spielberg movie about multiplying monsters
- 02. George Michael band
- 03. Westerner
- 04. Eve
- 06. Control
- 07. No good, underhanded dealing
- 08. Style of 1950s shoe with a long pointed toe
- 09. To hug and kiss
- 13. To exasperate
- 14. Christmas
- 16. _____ New Year!

Solution on opposite page.

Yachting forum needs more exposure



WE'VE HAD one regatta, two superyacht rendezvous and a yacht show in the last few weeks in Phuket, and squeezed in between all of that was the little-talked-about Thailand Yachting Forum.

Held one day before the Thailand Yacht Show, the second edition of the Forum was this year hosted by Phuket Boat Lagoon.

Following the pleasantries, Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT) Deputy Governor for International Marketing Juthaporn Rerngronasa kicked-off the forum. With the audience made up primarily of local industry players, a presentation about the Andaman Sea's marine tourism potential was perhaps preaching to the converted. Nevertheless it was great to see the TAT getting involved.

Ms Juthaporn was followed by Jiraporn Jantasiri from the Marine Department. There was much fanfare last year prior to the inaugural Thailand Yacht Show (and Thailand Yachting Forum) about the Superyacht Charter Licence, and at this year's forum, many were waiting to hear about progress. A few sticking points such as having to pay VAT on the value of the yacht, and the need for a friendly approach from immigration to international crew are still 'in process'.

Another way to put it: little has changed. However, that would be too simplistic and indeed unfair. That the relevant



Vincent Tabuteau: "Half the world doesn't know we are here". Photo: Phil Blake

authorities are aware of the problem and indeed acknowledge the problems, is progress.

An unnamed consultancy is apparently looking into all of this and has been reviewing what other countries do and will, in due course, present their findings and suggestions.

The second half of Ms Juthaporn's presentation was a great deal more interesting. The Marine Department is claiming to make 'Thailand the Marina Hub of ASEAN'. As if Thailand doesn't have enough hubs, this is one I am actually interested in seeing come to fruition, and despite the hyperbole (and there is plenty), the Marine Department have identified eight potential marina sites around the country.

Previously there was talk of 11 or 12 marina sites, but few details were shared. Now, the Marine Department has come out with full details on these eight locations. Two are in

Phuket, two in Phang Nga, two in Samui, one in Chonburi and one in Traad.

Of the two in Phuket, one is Kung Bay Marina (just north of Ao Po Grand Marina) – a privately owned site in the final stages of gaining all relevant permissions.

Talking with one of the investors, the marina and in-water facilities will be completed approximately 12 months after all permissions have been approved. The second marina in Phuket is the Asian Marina in Phuket Town. The site is already developed as a dockyard, but there is potential to develop it into a fully-fledged marina.

In Phang Nga the first site is in Taimuang District and has been named Aqua Star Marina. Ban Banchan in Takua Tung District is the second site identified and is only 37km from Phuket International Airport.

Two sites have been identi-

fied on Koh Samui: Mai Gan Cape in the North of the island, and according to the Marine Department, marinas can be built on either side of the cape. Thongtanode Bay is the second site and is located in the south of the island. In Chonburi – home to Ocean Marina which is Southeast Asia's largest – Laem Thien Port has been identified as an ideal site for a marina and is situated in the Sattahip Naval Base.

The last marina site identified is in Traad Province – the most eastern part of Thailand, adjacent to the Cambodia border – is at Baan Laem-Sork and is suitable for an inland marina.

Three speakers from the Thailand Marine Business Association (TMBA) then took turns on the podium. First up was Vincent Tabuteau of Asia Marine, talking about 'Yachting in the Andaman Sea', followed by Ron Patston of Gulf Charters in Pattaya who

spoke in detail about Pattaya and the Gulf of Thailand, the region's potential and it's current earnings. Mr Patston also pointed out the need for Thailand to be promoted as a whole (well done Ron, let's hope the powers-that-be take note).

The final speaker from the TMBA was its Chairman, Matthew Na Nagara, who is also General Manager at Port Takola Yacht Marina & Boatyard in Krabi, and who spoke about 'Marina Infrastructure in Thailand'.

The last speaker on the cards was a late change; Trenton Gay, CEO of Gold Coast City Marina & Shipyard, who gave an interesting view from Australia. He highlighted some of the lessons Phuket can learn if it wishes to attract more superyachts. "The owner decides where the boat goes, but the crew decide where they stay," he said.

The Thailand Yachting Forum has great potential. It needs to be better promoted. If more people in the industry locally and from farther afield are aware of it, they will attend in greater numbers.

A platform like this is needed and I look forward to attending a bigger and better edition in 2017.

Duncan Worthington is a long time Phuket resident and through Infinity Communications (www.infinity-comms.com) consults to leading consumer brands, hospitality and marine clients in Thailand. In his 'spare time' he runs the marine portal www.MarineScene.asia. #OnDeckPhuket

George Michael: pop icon who caught the spirit of the 1980s

SINGER-SONGWRITER George Michael died aged 53 on December 26. The teenage heartthrob turned superstar in the 1980s in Britain with smooth vocals that belied a personal life shadowed by drug problems and heartbreak.

As one half of boy band Wham! and then as a solo artist, he created some of the biggest hits of the 1980s including 'Careless Whisper' and 'Faith', selling over 100 million records in a career spanning nearly four decades.

In recent years, he was rarely seen in public, hitting the headlines more often for a series of



George Michael performing during the closing ceremony of the London 2012 Olympic Games in the Olympic Stadium in east London. Photo: AFP Photo / Ben Stansall

bizarre accidents – some linked to drugs – than for his music.

He met Andrew Ridgeley at high school and the pair went on to form Wham! in 1981.

With their good looks, perma-tans, highlighted hair and hedonistic image, the duo captured the go-getting spirit of the age and fast became one of Britain's biggest pop acts with hits like 'Club Tropicana' and 'Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go'.

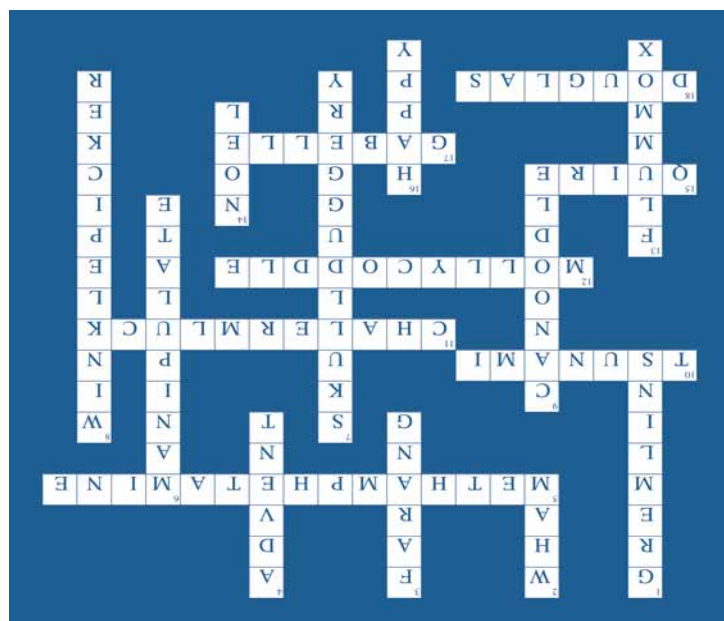
Their fame spread globally and in 1985, Wham! became the first Western band to play a concert in China.

They split the following year after four British number one singles and Michael embarked on a solo career, targeting a more adult audience.

– The Nation

Crossword Solution

Turn the page upside down to read the answers.



Angsana launches beachfront branded freehold residences



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The exclusive Angsana Beachfront Residences have been designed by the Banyan Tree's award-winning team of architects and designers to create living environments that make the most of the panoramic views and sea breezes.

Advertorial

THE Banyan Tree Group has launched a new dimension in resort style living with its first branded condominiums in Thailand under the Angsana brand.

Aimed at catering to foreign buyers seeking high-quality freehold properties by the sea, the two and three-bedroom residences – each with a private swimming pool and expansive patio – are one of the last remaining ‘absolute beachfront’ investment opportunities available in the Bang Tao area on Phuket’s west coast – favored for its superior grade of beaches.

Located within the grounds of the Laguna Phuket resort, the condominiums, which will be managed by Angsana Phuket Resort, are just a few meters from Bang Tao Beach, providing residents with unobstructed front-facing views of the Andaman Sea.

The modern tropical apartments, which are designed in a unique Thai architectural style surrounded by tropical gardens, are low-density arrangements of only two apartments per floor to ensure total seclusion and privacy in

the expansive internal and external living areas.

Secure parking for residents and their guests is also part of the package.

Head of Banyan Tree Group Property Stuart Reading said the exclusive apartments have been designed by the Banyan Tree's award-winning team of architects and designers to create living environments that make the most of the panoramic views and sea breezes.

“The residences have a distinctive flair, right down to the finest finishing touches of interior design and prestige fittings and accessories,” said Mr Reading, adding that early investors can choose from a variety of spacious two or three-bedroom configurations and tailor the properties to fit their specific requirements.

“Discerning investors in Angsana Beachfront Residences will appreciate the value of high-potential returns made possible by being located within the Laguna Phuket neighborhood – on the doorstep of Asia’s premier luxury resort destination.”

Accompanying ownership of a Beachfront Residence, Angsana brings an additional world of luxury. This encom-



The two and three-bedroom residences – each with a private swimming pool and expansive patio – are one of the last remaining ‘absolute beachfront’ investment opportunities available in the Bangtao area.

passes privileged access to the Sanctuary Club, a global network with more than 40 resorts and hotels, in excess of 60 spas and 80 retail galleries.

This array of exclusive offers and privileges includes membership of the championship Laguna Phuket Golf Club, voted ‘Thailand’s Best’ in the 2015 World Golf Awards.

“This is a unique area, where modern shopping centers, art galleries, international schools and world-class hospitals are side by side with the heritage of Phuket Old Town and the vibrant

nightlife of Patong. With a wide array of sophisticated restaurants and bars all connected by transport facilities, Laguna Phuket boasts all the qualities that attract the world’s most selective travelers,” said Mr Reading.

Owners will also have peace of mind with Angsana’s dedicated management of their condominium providing resort-style hospitality services and amenities, including a villa host to take care of cleaning, gardening, pool servicing and all ongoing grounds and villa mainte-

nance.

Angsana’s management team are also on hand to help owners profit from renting out their condominium on a short- or long-term basis.

Interested investors can visit the fully-appointed Show Unit on site to explore the investment potential of the luxury lifestyles afforded by these exclusive properties.

For further information or to arrange an exclusive inspection, contact Laguna Property. Tel: 076-362333. Email: info@lagunaproperty.com

New airport planned for Phang Nga

A TRANSPORTATION mega-project north of Phuket under development by Bangkok Airways has been tentatively named the Phang Nga-Andaman International Airport.

In what is being envisaged as either a public-private-sector partnership or a solely private investment, tourism-industry sources have confirmed that Bangkok Airways is in talks with Phang Nga province for a large-scale land lease for the facility, with the environmental impact assessment already in the works.

The proposal has been submitted to the Forest Department.

The location of the proposed airport is Moo 4, Baan Tha Dindaeng, Lam Kaeng sub-district in Phang Nga's Thai Muang district. It sits on a site of about 2,000 rai (320 hectares).

Tentative plans for the runway are for 3,000 meters, which would be longer than that of Samui's airport. Details on the cost and facilities of the airport have not been unveiled.

Last year, passenger arrivals at Phuket International Airport exceeded 6.4 million, while



Bangkok Airways is in talks with Phang Nga for a large-scale land lease for the project. Photo: Aero Icarus

nearby Krabi Airport passed the 1.8-million level.

Bill Barnett, Phuket-based managing director of C9 Hotelworks Co, said the post-tsunami decade had set a mainstream stage for a destination success story.

"What a difference a decade

makes. The Thai resort market of Phang Nga is expected to achieve 1 million hotel guests in 2016.

"Roll back the clock to 2005 in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami the year before, and [fewer] than 300,000 hotel guest arrivals materialized," he

said.

According to C9 Hotelworks' market research, the four-year growth period from 2010-2014 laid the foundation to break the cycle of the destination's notorious seasonality into one with year-around appeal.

This is expected to become

even more pronounced in the years to come as the rising Chinese, Australian and regional Asian source markets add to the traditional legacy winter snowbird arrivals and grow the destination.

Mr Barnett said that the number of hotels in the pipeline were increasing.

Overseas investors and international brands are fueling the momentum of a defined move north of Khao Lak into Bangsak and beyond, seeing a series of large upscale properties coming online.

It is expected that the new airport will relieve pressure on Phuket's aviation gateway and serve as a tourism hub for Phang Nga, and as a long-term catalyst for sustainable growth.

Nearby Khao Lak counts 104 registered tourism establishments with 7,822 rooms and is seeing a considerable influx of international hotels in the pipeline.

Bangkok Airways boasts a strong track record successfully managing and marketing a similar facility on the resort island of Samui.

- *Phuket Gazette*






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Located in Boat Lagoon, 3 bedrooms. Tel: 097-230 5717.

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Property with an initial value of 50 million baht. Tel: 061-065 8917 (English), 062-416 8365 (English & Thai). Email: adelm@50lemons.com, http://50lemons.com

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Luxury 3-storey, swimming pool, walled garden house. Standing in a very nice position between Rawai and Nai Harn area, all in a 5-minute drive to the nice beach. Optional to be 5 bedrooms and bathrooms with a separate maid's room. Large outside living area with 740sqm of land. For sale at 12 million baht. Tel: 095-061 2868, 081-397 1835. Email: l.dewis@hotmail.com

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Fully furnished in Maneekram Village no. 68/126 Soi Maneekram 15. Asking price at 8.5 million baht. 3 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 5 aircons, 2-car parking, CCTV, small garden. All movable wood furniture is teak. Land is 298sqm. House is 380sqm. Transfer and taxes are shared at 50:50. Tel: 062-775 6999.

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PROPERTY FOR RENT

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Very large ensuite room with balcony, utilities and kitchen available, at sensible long-term rate in Patong. 10 minutes to beach and to Jungceylon. Only 5,000 baht plus electricity monthly. Also weekly. Negotiable rates. Tel: 081-082 2897 (English & Thai). Email: reservations@stayphuket.info

LUXURY 1-BED CONDO

1 bedroom, 2 bathrooms, condo in central Patong. 500m to beach, 1km to Bangla. Quiet. Please call 091-874 9505. Email: yesgeoff@gmail.com

BUILDING FOR SALE / RENT

Brand new, 19 apartments, 2 shops. Ideal for hotel / spa / medical clinic. Good location, located in Patong. Tel: 094-887 0869 (English), 088-012 1425 (English & Thai). Email: nuchylistings@gmail.com

BEACH HOUSES CHALONG

Sea views, pool, furnished, 2 & 3 bedroom houses from 12,000 baht, Wifi, cable TV. included. Tel: 089-470 6104. www.houserentalsphuket.com

40 METERS OF BEACHFRONT LAND FOR LEASE

2,400sqm land at Chalong Bay. Tel: 081-826 9390.

HOLIDAY HOMES & VILLA RENTALS

HOUSE WITH POOL 14,000 BAHT / MONTH

Furnished, aircon, kitchen, free cable TV & internet, swimming pool, green area. Located at Welcome Inn Villa Rawai. Tel: 089-475 1200 (English & Thai). Email: info@welcomeinnvilla.com, http://welcomeinnvilla.com

NAI YANG HOUSE FOR RENT

Quiet, modern, furnished 2 and 4 bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms. Kitchen, aircon, internet, TV. 700m from Nai Yang Beach. Starts at 15,000 baht/month (long term). Tel: 081-837 5774 (English), 092-431 5962 (English & Thai). Email: info@adrinflatables.com

LUXURY VILLAS FOR SALE



Property with an initial value of 50 million baht. Tel: 061-065 8917 (English), 062-416 8365 (English & Thai). Email: adelm@50lemons.com, http://50lemons.com

KATHU FLAT

100sqm, furnished, secure, convenient location, good area for exercise. Tel: 086-664 5575 (English). Email: hkmsn@yahoo.com

CONDO FOR RENT NEAR CENTRAL



Centrio Condo, fully furnished, ready to move in, 5th floor. Near Central Festival. 13,000 baht / month. 6-month contract. Line ID: enimguru. Tel: 086-800 4131 (English & Thai). Email: nimdee@hotmail.com, www.thecentrio.com/en/

STUDIO ROOM FOR RENT

Please contact 086-4769612 email: annanoi1@hotmail.com

Royal Place condo, Phuket City, bypass road, opposite Tesco Lotus, 37 Sqm, 2 fl. Studio room, fully furnished.

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Contact : 081 8941820

KATHU HOUSE FOR RENT



3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully furnished, 3 aircons. For more information, please call 087-266 7191.

HOUSE FOR RENT 10MIN TO AIRPORT



2 bedrooms, living room, big sala, garage, aircon, fast internet. 20,000 baht/month. For more information, please call 081-719 7015. Email: jyfieviet@gmail.com

6TH FLOOR FURNISHED CONDO FOR RENT



Long-term rent. Great location, fully furnished 2-bedroom/2-bathroom condo with kitchen next to new Duty-Free Mall, overlooking lake. 100m swimming pool, gym, internet, 2 cable TVs, 3 aircons, washing machine, parking. Security. Close to all shopping malls. 25,000 baht/month. Located in Kathu. Please call 081-893 9127 (English), 087-886 7895 (Thai). Email: duncaneclipse@yahoo.co.uk

LONG-TERM RENT (MINIMUM 1 YEAR)



In small friendly atmosphere building close to the markets & shops in Kata Beach center with indoor pool, sauna, elevator. **1)** 65sqm apartment, completely furnished, first floor, close to the pool. 24,000 baht/month. **2)** 60sqm apartment, third floor, new luxury furnishing (never used). 24,000 baht/month. **3)** Fourth floor 60sqm apartment also new furnishing. 26,000 baht/month. Tel: 081-788 8280. Email: maurice.phuket@gmail.com

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The Phuket Gazette seeks to fill the following position:

ACCOUNTANT

- ▶ Thai nationals, aged 22 years up
- ▶ Bachelor's degree in Accounting
- ▶ Some fluency in spoken and written English

Good salary for the right candidate.
Qualified candidates are invited to send a CV by email to Anna@phuketgazette.net

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Tel: 076-615244 Ext. 102 Fax: 076-615240

PROPERTY SALES & ADMIN
Siam Real Estate requires a Thai person with good English language skills to assist with rental sales, admin & taking listings. Must drive, be computer literate and have experience in property. Rawai. Tel: 076-383646. Send CV to jobs@siamrealestate.com

SCUBA TRAVEL AGENT
Email: ebay@rock-star.asia, please see details in weblink: <https://magazine.diviac.com/job-vacancy-online-travel-agent/>

LAWYER WANTED URGENTLY!
Prefer Thai female, 22-35 years old. Bachelor's degree in law or equivalent, new graduate is welcome. Fair English skills. Located in Patong. Tel: 076-344 180, 093-686 8525. Email: admin1patong@ilo-phuket.com

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT
Required at weddings & events company in Cherng Talay. Must have experience in events and work under pressure. Good organizational skills, hard working, good administration skills. Tel: 089-973 2159. Email: meesak@phuketweddingevents.com



Position: Chief Engineer

- Follows company preventative maintenance procedures and guidelines for guestrooms, equipment, public space, and building envelop, etc.
- Maintains engineering related check book accounting procedures to ensure department operates within budgeted guidelines while maintaining required stock of supplies and materials
- Assures that basic mechanical and/or electrical equipment, machinery and/or circuitry of the property are kept in good working order
- A complete understanding of all building related systems -- Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing, Life Safety, IT, etc
- Any other duties assigned by Management

Position: Sales Representative

- Listening to customer requirements and presenting appropriately to make a sale
- Cold calling to arrange meetings with potential customers
- Responding to incoming email and phone inquiries
- Negotiating the terms of an agreement and closing sales
- Gathering market and customer information
- Negotiating on price, costs, delivery and specifications with buyers and managers
- Creating detailed proposal documents, often as part of a formal bidding process which is largely dictated by the prospective customer
- Coordinate and follow up sales with agents
- Prepare artwork for advertising in social network marketing and media

Position: Executive Assistant General Manager

The Executive Assistant Manager assists the General Manager and the Hotel Manager. He/she provides both Managers with information of all the departments. An Executive Assistant Manager is responsible for keeping a perfect coordination between all departments and controlling their operation with regards to the company's standards, revenues and controlling costs and the highest comfort and satisfaction for guests.

Responsibilities include the following:

- Manage schedules, answer and respond to phones, set up meetings and general office support for the General Manager and other team members as identified
- Coordinate travel arrangements, expense reports and department invoice processing
- Coordinate department-wide events, meetings, off-site venues, and training programs
- File, track and organize department documents and contracts
- Handle privileged and confidential information appropriately
- Ad the view projects will be assigned as necessary
- Maintain and order office supplies
- Monitoring and supervisor of all operations in all department

Qualifications:

- 2-5 years administrative experience required preferably in a hotel environment.
- Must be fully versed in Microsoft Office applications including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint
- Ability to work in a complex, fast paced environment with changing priorities
- Prioritization and multi-tasking against time lines
- Excellent written and verbal communications skills are required
- Team player and highly collaborative
- Demonstrate high levels of trust and confidentiality
- Sales and PR experience is required.

Contact Person: Tukta
Email: info@theviewphuket.com | Mobile: 083-691 4028

GENERAL CLASSIFIEDS

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

SOI TIGER BAR FOR SALE
Turnkey with all equipment, 4th row. 8-month lease. For rent: 50,000 baht/month. Price negotiable for quick sale. For more information, please call 086-943 6574 (English & Thai). Email: fstailslide@hotmail.com

CLUB MEMBERSHIP AVAILABLE

PCC PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB
Lifetime family membership. 440,000 baht. Price includes transfer fee. Located in Kathu. Tel: 076-319956, 088-760 5252 (English), 096-842 7514 (English & Thai). Email: jimbeckett41@hotmail.com

BULLETINS

Alcoholics Anonymous

If you want to drink that is your business
If you want to stop that is ours

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Patong, Phuket Town, Chalong, Surin, Karon

081-895 4763
084-307 7408
Email: phuketaa@yahoo.com
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PHUKET COUNTRY CLUB
Lifetime family membership 440,000 baht includes transfer fee. Tel: 091-034 0495 (English), 082-805 3403 (English & Thai). Email: mikecahill1806@gmail.com

BLUE CANYON MEMBERSHIP
Lifetime membership for sale 690,000 baht plus transfer fee. Tel: 087-887 9506. Email: onobu.yukio@gmail.com



Marketing Coordinator Wanted
Real estate company is looking for marketing coordinator.

- Excellent English
- Male/female, Thai national
- Driving licence

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850,000 USD



Monte Carlo Yachts 70 (2015)
2,750,000 EUR



Malibu Wakesetter 24MXZ
Salt Water Edition (2015) - POA



Ferretti Yachts 720 (2012)
POA



Falcon 106 (2002)
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20M BERTH RENTAL AT R.P.M

Private owner offers 20m E dock berth for long term rental at the Royal Phuket Marina. Berth will accommodate yachts of up to 20m and significant discounts are available for a long term agreement. Contact for further information. Tel: +44-786-658 8395 (English). Email: james@shayler.co

SESSA 20 MOTORBOAT FOR SALE

20 foot walk-around motorboat, 2007, includes trailer, 140hp 2-stroke Mercury engine, 9.8hp Tohatsu spare engine, toilet, cushions, fenders, ropes, etc. 740,000 baht. Thalang. For more information, please call 090-153 1833 (English). Email: jhorr2000@yahoo.de

WHEELS & MOTORS

MAZDA 3 FOR SALE

Perfect condition. Please call 092-261 4287.

MITSUBISHI PAJERO FOR SALE

Pajero Sport Diesel, 4WD, automatic, top model, October 2014, 64,000km, 1 owner, no accidents, 7 seats, navigation system, etc. 890,000 baht. Located in Thalang. Tel: 090-153 1833 (English). Email: jhorr2000@yahoo.de

BICYCLES

ZIPP CARBON RACE WHEELS

404 tubular, perfect condition. Asking price: 41,000 baht (new 110,000). No box. Tel: 084-625 5090.

GIANT OCR RACE BIKE

Brand new junior 24" wheels, 8-14 years. Asking price: 14,000 baht (new price: 24,000 baht). Tel: 084-625 5090.

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Phuket Gazette

*“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language,
and next year’s words await another voice.”*

– T S Elliot

Best Wishes and Happy New Year 2017

To all our readers from **Team Phuket Gazette**



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