

DISCOVER PATTAYA

THE SAUNA BAR A new Oasis in Pratumnak



COMPLIMENTARY COPY



THE SAUNA BAR A new Oasis in Pratumnak

The Sauna Bar is an Oasis in Pratumnak with a great atmosphere and plenty to do. Located at the top of Soi 6, it's a fun place to bring your family or friends and really has something for everyone.

If you are Vegan, Vegetarian, or simply health-conscious you will be delighted with the range of smoothies and cold-pressed juices. Strawberry, Banana, Avocado, Gogi berries, and Protein shakes are all available.

The Restaurant and Bar are open from 9.30 am until 8.30 pm with a great variety of Western and Thai food.

Then if you are a meat-eater, there's a delicious Barbecue every Friday starting at 12.00 pm which is always well attended and provides a fabulous place to meet up and make new friends.

Try an ice-cold beer or one of our wonderful cocktails as you watch the sun go down and the lights come up.





**Join and save money with a weekly rate of 1000 THB,
Monthly 3000 THB, or the best value of all just 9999 THB for the year.**



To Sweat out those Toxins, you can use the exercise bikes, try the Steam Room, Sauna, or Hot Pool followed by a plunge in the Cold Pool to cool down and then a relaxing massage.

Look out for Daily Promotions
Good Music- Good Food – Good Times

You will Walk in and Float out

**Sauna and Pool Open 9am-10pm
For more information
Call +66 (0) 61 876 7773
THE SAUNA BAR**



DISCOVER PATTAYA

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This Month in Discover Pattaya

Party season seems to have started in earnest after last month's property networking and awards events. The PILC's Masquerade Ball at the sumptuously decorated Royal Cliff Ball Room began the season in style. We were delighted to promote and attend this event and for those who still question whether there is any money in Pattaya without the tourists I have to tell you that it was Sold Out! It seems you can't keep a good ex-pat community down, and with additional support from Thai attendees some joining for the first time, it was a really heart-warming event that raised a great deal of money for local charities.

This month the Rotary Club will have their own Musical Dinner event for "COVID Aid" which promises to be another memorable evening. Also with a timely reminder from Edenko that we should stock up on our decorations, tickets are also on sale for the annual Rotary Club Eastern Seaboard Christmas Party. Following fast on the heel of Loy Krathong, this month's Indian Diwali festival inspires two food reviews at Alibaba and The Maharani. Also, we take a look at the truly international line up at the ever-popular Sunday brunch session in the Jazz Pit.

Finally, can I just say that whilst this dreadful pandemic keeps families apart, I believe more than ever we need to find places to relax unwind and forget our troubles. Certainly, our cover story this month The Sauna Bar provides such a haven with something for everyone. Even if you are celebrating World Vegan Month this month - The Sauna Bar will be able to cater to your needs and for us all, it's somewhere to just chill, relax, and enjoy!

Gloria

gloria@pattayatrader.com



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We will give you the best possible deals and help your business grow

TRADING TO DISCOVERING



Thank you again for your kind comments about Discover Pattaya. Many people have told me how much they now prefer the 100% colour and simplified format - especially our Thai customers who weren't that impressed by the old "flip the book" idea.

Pattaya Trader is still trading on Facebook and now seems more popular than ever as a means to buy and sell. We have new member requests daily - but remember this is a community service no spammers, please!

Discover Pattaya magazine is increasingly being read online and it downloads very easily onto a mobile phone so that it really can be enjoyed while you're out on the go. Try it via the website link pattayatrader.com where you can also catch up on any of the previous editions or earlier articles that you may have missed.

Another change at the start of the year via our collaboration with 96fm was the move from Sophon channel to TMN Cable TV (otherwise known as Tipmanee). I know that more and more of you are watching via this channel simply because of the comments I get when out and about. There's no getting away from the Barry and Gloria review of the magazine, as excerpts are also aired on 96fm radio.

We are also very grateful to the LED screen companies who have been screening our video daily on their big screens at Mike's Mall shopping centre, Theprasit and Thappraya road junction and at Magna Carta by the Third Road junction.

Like everyone trying hard to make it work during this strange and somewhat terrible year, we are constantly aiming to think outside the box. For those who think we are just a printed magazine please see that when you advertise with us there is so much more in terms of TV, Radio, LED screen, and Digital Marketing coverage.

To our loyal long term followers and readership who like me will always love the feel of an actual glossy magazine to have on the coffee table or to take down to the pool. Please message us on Facebook or send an email to pattayatrader@pattayatrader.com if there is something you have discovered in Pattaya that you would like us to write about. Don't forget that can now be written about in either English or in Thai.

The Ex-pat, Business, and Local Residents have really been helping the struggling businesses of Pattaya. We also thank our visitors from Bangkok and elsewhere across the Nation for choosing to visit Pattaya and hope that the International tourists will also make an appearance soon.

Good luck everybody!



Mitr Chaibancha - The Greatest Thai Movie Star



Last month we wrote an article for those of you curious about the shrine on Jomtien 2nd Road. We explained that it is dedicated to a Thai Movie Star Mitr Chaibancha who tragically fell to his death at this exact spot. He was undertaking a difficult film stunt hanging from a rope ladder suspended by helicopter when he lost his hold and fell. For the full story, you can still read this article online (in English and Thai) at pattayatrader.com. It was 50 years ago last month that this terrible accident happened and the event was commemorated by the Thai Film Archive on a special Mitr Chaibancha day which we were delighted to attend.

The Thai Film Archive is in itself an extremely fascinating place, having moved to a brand new building in Bangkok just over a year ago. An important centre for all lovers of classic Thai movies it provides a home to an energetic team of friends and self-confessed movie buffs who all enjoy the old films made by the Thai industry. They are passionate about restoring and bringing faded old films back to their former glory.

When we visited the centre there were many members of the Mitr Chaibancha fan club in attendance. 50 years on he is still an incredibly popular and famous figure not only because of his tall physique and good looks but also because of his gentle and unassuming ways which made him a popular hero of the people. Many of his films were shot on 16 mm and their colour had faded with the original accompanying soundtrack lost. Therefore bits of the film have been found sometimes in different locations and painstakingly spliced together and restored.

Examples of this were shown in the movie theatre, where not only had the original film been worked on with the faded colours touched up, but the sound had been overdubbed. This is a fascinating process as, without the aid of a script and only an idea of the storyline, the dubbing actor literally has to lip-sync by watching the movement of the actor's lips on the screen. We were treated to a live demonstration of this and then it was time for the audience to ask questions. An actress who had appeared in the clip shown to us when she was just a young child was interviewed and even more exciting for the fans Mitr Chaibancha's one and only son made a rare appearance and also took some questions from the cinema audience.

One of these was:

"How did it feel to have a famous movie star as a Dad?"
To which he replied that he had a very fond memory of his father coming to collect him from school one day and causing a great deal of excitement by his presence. Regrettably, this only happened once because the school's headmaster pleaded with him not to do it again explaining that "The school doesn't have enough parking spaces to cope!"

As we left the cinema we laid a rose on the commemorative paving stone and were grateful for the enthusiastic and extremely kind welcome shown to us by everyone happy with the interest we had shown in truly the greatest ever Thai Movie Star.



งานรำลึกถึงการจากไปของพระเอกผู้ยิ่งใหญ่ตลอดกาล....

มิตร ชัยบัญชา ที่หอภาพยนตร์ องค์การมหาชน



ในฉบับก่อน เราได้พูดถึงสิ่งที่หลายๆท่านสงสัยเกี่ยวกับศาลไม้ที่ตั้งอยู่ริมถนนจอมเทียนสาย 2 ผังตรงข้ามโรงแรมจอมเทียนปาล์มบีช อันเป็นสถานที่ซึ่ง มิตร ชัยบัญชา ได้จากไปในขณะที่ถ่ายทำภาพยนตร์เรื่อง อินทรีทอง จากสุดท้าย ในฉากนั้น มิตร ชัยบัญชา ได้ตัดสินใจรับเป็น สตันท์เสียเอง โดยโหนบันไดลิงจากเฮลิคอปเตอร์ด้วยมือเปล่าซึ่งทำให้เขาได้รับบาดเจ็บจนต้องหยุดถ่ายไว้ ด้วยลมแรงประกอบกับการบิดของเชือกบันไดจนเชือกบาดข้อมือและน้ำหนัก 80 กิโลของเขาก็กินกำลังที่จะรับน้ำหนักตัวได้ ทำให้เขาต้องหลุดมือจากการโหนบันไดลิงและตกลงมาอย่างน่าสะพรึงกลัวในขณะที่กำลังถ่ายทำฉากที่กำลังบันทึกภาพ ต่อมา

ได้ถูกตัดให้เป็นภาพนิ่งพร้อมคำบรรยายการประสบอุบัติเหตุเสียชีวิตระหว่างการถ่ายทำในครั้งนั้นเมื่อภาพยนตร์ออกฉายสู่สายตาสาธารณชน เรื่องราวทั้งหมดได้กล่าวไว้แล้วในฉบับเดือนตุลาคม ซึ่งท่านจะหาอ่านได้จาก pattayatrader.com ทั้งภาษาไทยและอังกฤษ เป็นเวลา 50 ปีมาแล้ว ที่เกิดเหตุการณ์แห่งความวิปโยคและสูญเสียครั้งใหญ่ของวงการภาพยนตร์ไทย หอภาพยนตร์ องค์การมหาชน จึงได้จัดงานรำลึกครบรอบการจากไปของ มิตร ชัยบัญชา เป็นประจำทุกปี โดยในปีนี้เป็นปีที่ 50 ซึ่งพวกเราที่มีความตั้งใจเป็นอย่างยิ่ง ที่ได้ไปร่วมงานที่หอภาพยนตร์ อันเป็นสถานที่ซึ่งมีเสน่ห์ชวนหลงใหลอย่างยิ่ง งานนี้ได้จัดขึ้น ณ โรงภาพยนตร์ศาลาเฉลิมมา บนอาคารสรรพศาสตร์ศุภกิจที่เพิ่งสร้างใหม่เสร็จหมาดๆ ความสำคัญของสถานที่แห่งนี้คือ เป็นศูนย์รวมของผู้รักภาพยนตร์ไทยคลาสสิก ซึ่งทีมงานอนุรักษ์ภาพยนตร์เหล่านี้ได้อุทิศทั้งแรงกายและแรงใจสืบเสาะค้นหาฟิล์มภาพยนตร์ในยุคโน้น มาฟื้นฟูบูรณะและถ่ายทอดลงไฟล์ภาพยนตร์ดิจิทัลเพื่อออกฉายให้แฟนหนังไทยในยุคนี้ได้หวนระลึกถึง วันเวลาเก่าๆที่ภาพยนตร์เหล่านั้นยังอยู่ในยุคแห่งความรุ่งเรืองของอุตสาหกรรมภาพยนตร์ไทยในอดีต เมื่อพวกเราได้เข้าชมงาน ได้พบเห็นเหล่าบรรดาแฟนคลับของมิตร ชัยบัญชา จำนวนมากที่ชื่นชมในความหล่อเหลาและบุคลิกที่แสนประทับใจมีรูปลักษณ์ในหนัง 16 ม.ม.ยุคเก่าในเวลาอันใกล้โพ้น ซึ่งต้องใช้วิธีพากย์ลงเสียงโดยรี บทพากย์ ที่ทีมงานต้องใช้วิธีอ่านปากแกะคำพูดและเดาเรื่องจากภาพ ภาพจากฟิล์มเก่าที่นำมาบูรณะก็ต้องใช้เทคนิคแต่งสี เพื่อเรียกชีวิตชีวาหนังในยุคโน้นให้กลับมา จากการสัมภาษณ์ดารานักแสดงกับมิตรในยุคโน้นซึ่งยังเป็นดาราเด็กเล็กก็ยังมีความรู้สึกผูกพันลึกๆกับมิตรซึ่งมีความอบอุ่นเป็นพื้น จนรู้สึกว่าเขาเป็นพ่อคนหนึ่ง บุตรชายคนเดียวของมิตร ก็ยังผูกพันกับพ่ออย่างมาก แม้วันจะได้พบกันในช่วงสั้นๆ แม้แต่การไปรับลูกที่โรงเรียนก็ทำได้เพียงครั้งเดียว เพราะผู้ใหญ่ของโรงเรียนได้ขอร้องไม่ให้มารับอีก เพราะแฟนหนังมิตรมาห้อมล้อมจนโรงเรียนไม่มีที่จอดรถให้ผู้ปกครองคนอื่นๆ และนี่เป็นเพียงเศษเสี้ยวเล็กๆที่พวกเราได้รับทราบถึงตำนาน มิตร ชัยบัญชา พระเอกผู้ยิ่งใหญ่ตลอดกาล.....



by Rick Click



Coming Soon to The Small Screen



The Mandalorian Season 2

If the trailer is anything to go by and knowing how good season one was the Star Wars fans are in for a treat. Disney hasn't been shy with the budget and it's quite amazing to see the production value and special effects we now have for a TV show.

We will learn more about baby Yoda and the planet he comes from and the mysterious Darksaber wielded by Giancarlo Esposito who is cleaning up lately playing the bad guy in so many shows.



The Crown Season 4

Olivia Colman returns to continue her role as Queen Elizabeth II in the series that details her life and reign. Along with an all-star cast including Helena Bonham Carter, Charles Dance, Gillian Anderson, and Tobias Menzies as the Duke of Edinburgh.

Season four is set during the Thatcher era and introduces Lady Diana Spencer along with Prince William and Harry. It will cover the royal wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana along with the 1983 tour of New Zealand and the break-in at Buckingham Palace.



His Dark Materials Season 2

The BBC's adaption of the novel series by Philip Pullman picks up right after the events of season one with most of the original cast returning. Andrew Scott from Sherlock and Fleabag will join the cast playing Colonel John Parry.

Season 2 adapts *The Subtle Knife* or second book from the trilogy and like season one there could be some surprising changes to the original narrative.

A successful season three could see an adaption of *The Amber Spyglass* and completion of the trilogy.



by Rick Click

Coming Soon to The Big Screen

For those of you hoping to see the latest James Bond film "No Time To Die" this has now been further delayed until 2 April 2021 because of the pandemic - Ed



Run

Sarah Paulson Diane Sherman Kiera Allen Chloe Sherman Pat Healy Carter Heintz Sara Sohn

Chloe a disabled teenager is raised in isolation by her controlling mother discovers some sinister secrets about her mom.



Freaky

Vince Vaughn. Kathryn Newton. Celeste O'Connor.

A high school student becomes the target of a serial killer called the Butcher, his magic dagger causes her to swap bodies with him.



Soul

Soul

Jamie Foxx, Tina Fey, Ahmir Khalib Thompson, Phylicia Rashad. Daveed Diggs.

A school music teacher gets a chance to perform jazz onstage but has an accident that separates his soul from his body. Latest Disney Pixar release.



Ammonite

Kate Winslet, Saoirse Ronan, Fiona Shaw, Gemma Jones, James McArdle, Alec Secăreanu, Claire Rushbrook.

Romantic drama film inspired by the life of British paleontologist Mary Anning and her romance with Charlotte Murchison.



Deepwater

Ben Affleck, Ana de Armas. Rachel Blanchard, Tracy Letts, Lil Rel Howery, Finn Wittrock, Dash Mihok.

An estranged married couple play deadly mind games against each other that results in those around them dying.



Ghosts of War.

Brenton Thwaites, Theo Rossi, Skylar Astin, Kyle Gallner, Alan Ritchson, Billy Zane.

Five American World War 2 soldiers experience inexplicable events at a French castle formerly held by Nazi high command.



LED Light
Glass Tree

299
BAHT



LED Light
House

499
BAHT



Noel neon
240v.

199
BAHT



Garland
35 light

69
BAHT



199
BAHT



39
BAHT

Garland
electric 20 light



LED Star
Top Tree

129
BAHT

Christmas
Tree 45 cm

Garland electric
200 LED color

99
BAHT



Flower
Basket

79
BAHT



LED
Candle x3

249
BAHT



Animated
Santa on Sled

359
BAHT



Santa

199
BAHT



Candle holder
luenipue

69
BAHT



Animated
Pewche
Penguin

399
BAHT



Animated
Pewche
Bell

399
BAHT

359
BAHT



Animated
Santa Clause 40 cm



Animated
Santa Clause 30 cm

299
BAHT



Green Christmas Tree H120 cm



White Christmas Tree H180 cm



Top Star

49
BAHT



Hanging Ornament Assorted

49
BAHT



Fiber Christmas Tree H90 cm

890
BAHT



Ball x16

129
BAHT



Ball x 41 pcs Silver/Red/Gold

299
BAHT



Star x 8 pcs

59
BAHT



Wood Ornament

199
BAHT



Pine Cone White/Gold

299
259
BAHT



159
BAHT



Lady Santa

129
BAHT



Santa Claus

129
BAHT



Underone Lady

99
BAHT



Costume Santa

259
BAHT



Many Choice of Scinitellant Garland

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ROYAL VARUNA YACHT CLUB
THAILAND'S PREMIER SAILING COMMUNITY

Get Away From it all with the Joy of Sailing.

During COVID when social distancing, self-isolating, and mask-wearing have become part of the rather unnatural way we live our lives now What a thrill it is to get away from it all by heading to the sea to take part in one of the oldest sports. The sport that forces you to appreciate your surroundings immersing you in them to be as one with nature.



A common misconception about sailing is that it's wet, uncomfortable, and dangerous. Certainly, if you look at the photos in this article that show people of all ages at hair-raising angles you might think it appears far from relaxing. But there are all types of sailors and sailing can be for anyone.

Day-sailing for example is simply about sailing out into the ocean for the sheer pleasure that drives us toward the water. Hearing the wind, the water, the rigging, the slapping of water on hulls, and nothing else. Feeling the breeze on your face as the wind presses into the sails creating the motion of sailing along the water. Having time to watch the ripples of the wake as a big boat passes by. Looking back at the shoreline and up at the sun, and the clouds, everything we usually cannot take the time to appreciate in our daily lives. Surely this is the very essence of relaxation to be taken outside our usual comfort zone and forced to realise how small we are compared to the vast ocean - it might also be called a spiritual experience.



However, there is plenty to get right before you can experience this zen like state. Firstly before you even set off from dry land you must ensure that you are properly attired. Footwear that has a good grip is of course essential. Also, make sure to have sunglasses and sunscreen - not a namby-pamby factor either, but serious sunblock. When you sail with Royal Varuna they will of course make sure that you have a proper life jacket.

However, you may want to consider headgear to stop the wind lashing your hair around your face and ideally waterproof clothing with long sleeves and dark colours as it can get dirty on a boat.



Always take proper instruction and be accompanied by a proficient teacher. They will teach you about health and safety when on a boat and the basic skills which will help you become a competent sailor. You have to be able to tell which way the wind is blowing and be able to steer accurately. This is done by the use of the tiller that moves the rudder and angles the boat so that it is perpendicular to the wind.

Then angle the mainsail so it fills with wind, and learn to recognize when it is properly trimmed that is to say when you use the line (never say rope) to control the fluttering of the to get the boat sailing in a straight line. Then once you have everything as it should be it goes quiet and instead of the flapping of the sail all you can hear is the hull as it moves through the water and the breeze as it pushes past you. No wonder people get hooked on the experience.



Once you are a confident sailor and again there are courses at The Royal Varuna Club to help you gain in proficiency, you may long for a faster experience. The thrill as you experience the adrenaline rush of racing, as you try to go faster than the other boat - there's nothing like it! please contact

sailcoach@varuna.org or reception@varuna.org Or telephone +66 38 250 116

LEARNING THAI WITH KAREN



Many of you already know Karen from her visa services and because she teaches English to Thai children.

We have asked for her help now with our new feature Learning Thai with Karen.

For the last 3 months, we have been looking at numbers and colours. If you missed them you can still have a look on our website at the Back Issues magazines on pattayatrader.com.

Now we have some days of the week for you to learn. Why not give them a try? There will be more to learn in next month's edition.

KAREN SERVICES

VISA AND PROPERTY

TEL: +66 87 941 3986

Thepprasit Road Soi 7

Learn Thai with Karen 4

Days of the week

One-Ah-tit	วันอาทิตย์	Sunday
One-jun	วันจันทร์	Monday
One-Ang-khan	วันอังคาร	Tuesday
One-put	วันพุธ	Wednesday
One-pa-rue-had		
-sa-bo – dee	วันพฤหัสบดี	Thursday
One-Suk	วันศุกร์	Friday
One – seaw	วันเสาร์	Saturday

Communication:

One	วัน	Day
Prueng-nee	พรุ่งนี้	Tomorrow
Muah –one-nee	เมื่อวานนี้	Yesterday

One-nee-one-jun

Today is Monday

Prueng-nee-pen-one-put

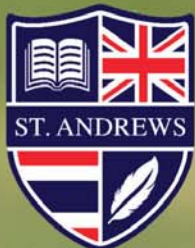
Tomorrow is Wednesday

Muah-wan-nee-one suk

Yesterday was Friday.

The best of
international learning
in the heart of the
Eastern Seaboard

Visit our campus today
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St. Andrews
International School
Green Valley

COGNITA

An inspiring world of education



GAME RELEASES

With Microsoft purchasing Zenimax media for \$7.5 Billion, sales booming and new generation consoles, gaming is one industry that's doing ok at the moment



Assassin's Creed Valhalla

Set in 873 AD this open-world action-adventure game shows us an alternate history of the Viking invasion of Britain. You can choose to play as either Eivor or Magnus Bruun and can customize the look of either. Combat features brutal dual wielding and stunning along with the usual Assassin abilities. These allow for a more stealthy approach with blending into environments, playing dead, or using your hidden blades. This time out you have a raven companion instead of the usual Eagle which gives you the ability of Odin sight. With this, you can scout out nearby areas before engaging in combat.



Cyberpunk 2077

After their success with the open-world Witcher 3 CD Projekt red are applying their skills to converting the cyberpunk dystopian tabletop role-playing game. It all takes place inside Night City which has six regions. With a large installation size of 70GB, it's going to be big. You can play either in first or third person with your character a mercenary known simply as V. The RPG options let you develop hacking, combat, or tech skills. You can do this by allotting skill points you gain from either the main or side quests. The PS5 and Xbox series X/S versions are scheduled for 2021 which is a wait for the new owners.



Call of Duty: Black Ops Cold War

Set during the early '80s during the Cold War the main campaign follows CIA officer Russell Adler who pursues a potential Soviet spy who's out to subvert the US. Inspired by true events this is a direct sequel to Call of Duty: Black Ops.

The campaign will have several different possible endings depending on your choices so there's some replay value here to find the others, which is good as it's only around five hours to complete. Multiplayer has the returning game modes along with several new ones, with maps for the traditional 6 vs 6 and larger ones from 12 against 12.



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A Wealth of Talent to be found playing at the Jazz Pit Sunday Brunch Sessions With Resident Guitarist Thomas



Matthew Kelly

Usually seen playing harmonica during the brunch sessions Matthew is actually a guitarist, drummer and a singer. He had his own band "Kingfish" in the States and has also played with the Grateful Dead, B.B. King, Bobby "Blue" Bland and John Lee Hooker!



Miles

Originally from Philadelphia, Miles is already well known around Pattaya singing his soulful blues at venues such as Bernie's Bar and Sandbar By The Sea



Zhainara

Zhainara came to Pattaya from Kazakhstan 4 years ago and now is a regular at the Sunday sessions. Her favourite songs to sing at the Jazz Pit are Girl from Ipanema and Lullaby of Birdland.



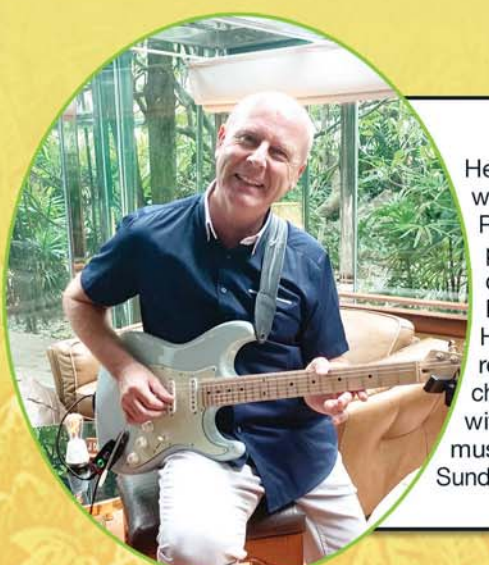
Ron Cole

Born in New York, Ron came from a musical family, deciding on guitar because both his Dad and Brother were already drummers. He has played in many jazz and blues festivals on the East Coast and after first visiting in 2002 has made Thailand his home.



Clare-Marie

Not only a chanteuse, she also pens her own compositions handing the talented musicians notes on how to accompany her. Her songs sung in French are great favourites with the Sunday brunch crowd.



Helmut

Helmut Shatner is well known around Pattaya mostly for playing contemporary classics, notably Dire Straits songs. However he has really enjoyed the change of style playing with the talented jazz musicians at the Sunday jamming session.



Jason

Multi-talented Jason can play many instruments as well as being a really engaging singer. Already well known in and around Pattaya, he is a regular performer at venues such as 'The Classroom' and 'Empire Club'



Yoshi

Yoshi is the Sunday line up's talented Japanese Trumpet player. He first met Thomas in Sriracha when he was playing there with his band. Yoshi has now become a very welcome addition to Sunday brunch line up



Slap Baxter

Anyone who has heard Chris Stefanetti slap his bass understands why he has earned the moniker Slap Baxter. He has played on NBC's Saturday Night live and the San Francisco Blues Festival plus alongside many musicians of note including Dave Fields, Bobby Hutcherson and Rodney Franklin.



Thomas

Thomas Reimer is the Jazz Pit's Resident guitarist. He has played alongside George Benson and on a Global Guitar CD with other greats including Al Di Meola, Scott Henderson and Mike Stern. As the leader of the band if you have a request please ask Thomas he has a repertoire of over 1400 songs.

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DIWALI THE FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

Last month saw Loy krathong which as per every festival of 2020 has by necessity become a much more subdued affair. Even before COVID, we saw a reduction in the spectacle of this prettiest of Thai festivals. I remember years ago you would see many Thai ladies looking quite charming in their traditional Thai costume and hundreds of people rushing to the beaches to join in by setting fire to their lanterns and releasing them into the sky. Now with the banning of these in areas such as Bangkok and Pattaya the festival has become a far more sedate affair. Most people prefer to celebrate quietly with their children making their krathongs from decorated banana leaves that can be floated out over the nearest available stretch of water - even just a swimming pool - to symbolise the letting go of all one's hatred and anger.

This month sees the celebration of Diwali (pronounced Divali) a festival of lights that takes place across India and all around the world. It can actually run for 5 days but the main event is on the 3rd day, the new moon day known as Amavasya which this year falls on November 14th.

Diwali is mostly known as a Hindu festival that marks the return of Lord Rama, who was the seventh incarnation of Vishnu, from a fourteen-year exile. However, it is actually celebrated by people of many faiths to mark several different historical events or stories. Common to all being the same symbolic message, of the victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. In India, you can see streets and temples decorated at this time with spectacular light displays and colourful garlands. In their homes, people light small oil lamps called diyas. It is believed that deceased relatives come back to visit their families on Earth during this festival with the lights being a way to guide the spirits home. Also, you will hear the sound of firecrackers exploding as the noise is said to drive away evil spirits.

If you want to celebrate Diwali in Pattaya in style we heartily recommend going to either of our very favourite restaurants Alibaba and Maharani. - Enjoy!



Alibaba



What you notice as you first ascend the stairs of the Alibaba restaurant on Pattaya Klang just by beach road, is how wonderfully they have themed their restaurant. It really is tremendous fun with bejeweled pots and vases leading you into the multi-coloured restaurant resplendent with waiters in costume. They are also wonderfully attentive, warning you to be careful of a hot plate - or a hot dish if too spicy! Guiding you with your choices and helping with recommendations.

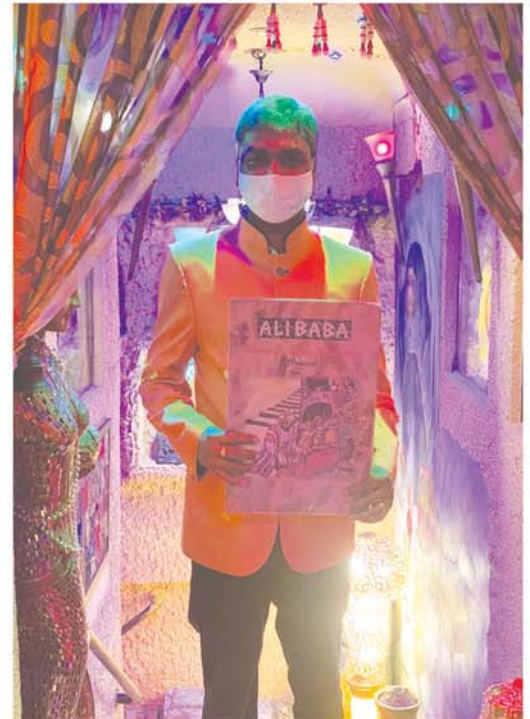
Before your selection, you are served with complimentary poppadoms, pickled red onions, yogurt, and chutney dips. Then accompanying your starters a colourful salad. We went with one of my absolute favorites Prawn Puri. I love this starter because the tasty sauce that coats the prawns sinks into the bread underneath so it can then continue to be a tasty accompaniment for the following courses.

Next was Murgh Malai Kebab "an Alibaba must try". It comes from a region in the north of India that was invaded by the Mughals. They were a regal race of Muslims who brought exotic spices with them which then influenced the cuisine in this area.

A truly aromatic dish it consists of sizzling pieces of succulent chicken in delicate herbs and exotic spices. With the curries, I usually try not to fill up with rice but the pulao rice at Alibaba is fabulous.

This accompanied Lamb Sagwala a spinach-based curry. The lamb in this dish was for me a little too fatty, but the Chicken Vindaloo did not disappoint. Certainly not for the faint-hearted if you can take spicy curries then treat yourself to this one - a wonderful way of unblocking the sinuses and throat! In contrast, the Prawn Malia Curry was a light, coconut flavoured, creamy curry. We accompanied this with garlic nan bread and Bhindi Masala: okra in an extremely tasty sauce.

If you don't usually have dessert think again for the kulfi is delicious and great for cleansing the palate after your meal. Also, don't be frightened of requesting a doggy bag - portions are larger than you think and many a diner has had to admit defeat with eyes bigger than their stomachs. The elegant manager at Alibabas has seen it all before he won't be surprised when you ask for a take-away!





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Maharani restaurant The Queen in residence at The Royal Cliff Hotel.



By Gloria Jones

I am rather embarrassed to admit that after nearly a decade of living in Pattaya and several visits to The Royal Cliff Hotel I have never visited their Indian restaurant The Maharani. A friend recommended it to me by saying that it is not just the best Indian restaurant in Pattaya but in his opinion the best Indian restaurant in Thailand - and this comes from someone who has eaten his fair share of curries!

I was therefore very excited to enjoy a meal at this absolutely beautiful restaurant with its breathtaking view of the Gulf of Thailand.

It's a far cry from some of the Indian restaurants I frequented in the UK back in my youth. No flock wallpaper or gaudy pictures here, no the decor in this restaurant is delicately shaded in pastel hues with Indian inspired arches and of course that view!

Interestingly, at night the soft golden lighting gives an altogether different vibe but you can rest assured that the ambiance will be charming at whatever time you choose to dine.

The chef and his talented Indian kitchen team create dishes that hail from all over India using authentic herbs and spices to ensure that every mouthful is a real treat. For me, the consistency of curry is a real concern.

I cannot abide curries that are thin and watery or where the meat is in short supply - no chicken and all gravy - if you know what I mean. You won't need to be concerned about either here at Maharani.

The curries are sufficiently robust with wonderfully rounded flavours. Lamb rogan josh was my particular favourite with succulent, aromatic lamb completely marinated in spices then steeped in a creamy, sauce.





All my favourite accompaniments were also on hand; the small pink pickled onions were excellently crunchy and the mango chutney was thankfully as robust as the curries then there was, of course, the wonderfully cool, green chutney as a welcome accompaniment to the rice and naan bread.

In the absolute spirit of the meal, we drank sweet lassis. Then even though I had rather overindulged in one of my favourite dishes, the rather too generous portion of Dal Makhani I still found room to share some Gulab Jamun.

For those of you who have not yet tried this beloved, traditional Indian dessert I urge you to do so especially at the Maharani where they are expert in this confectionery. The dessert consists of soft, berry sized milk-solids balls that are quickly fried and then served in a delicious accompanying syrup of rose water and cardamom.

The Maharani please try this absolute Queen of Restaurants!

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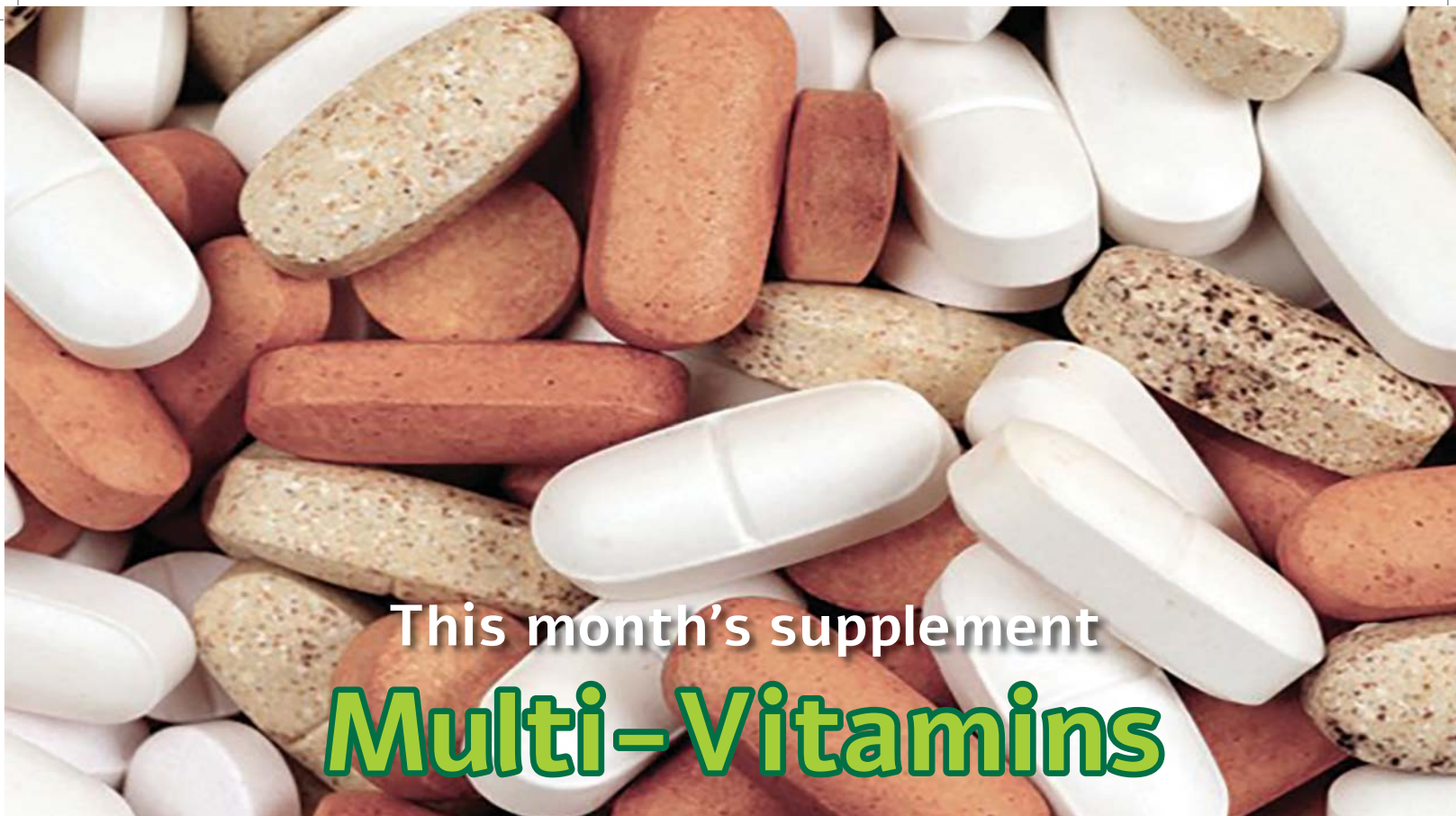
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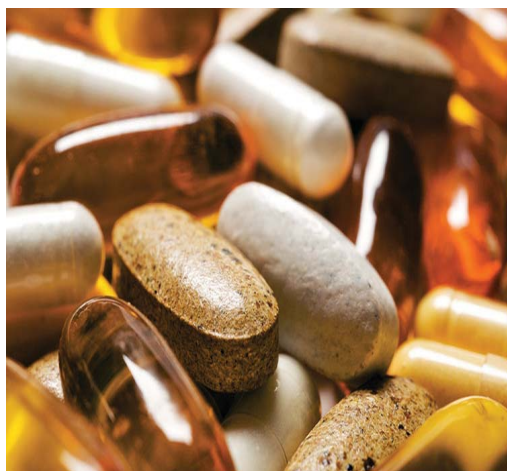
This month's supplement **Multi-Vitamins**

Here in Thailand, there are many vitamin and food supplements available to purchase but not all are created equal. Some can be made with lower quality ingredients or include binders and fillers. Also with cheaper multivitamin tablets the more expensive nutrients may be left out or won't be supplied with sufficient levels of say the B-vitamins and core minerals. Therefore it is best to opt for well-known international brands such as Blackmore or Centrum and of course check the expiration date.

It is also important to only take the prescribed amount, i.e. one tablet per day with breakfast. This is because consuming your vitamin tablet at mealtimes will aid the digestive process to help absorb nutrients from your food whilst also optimizing the absorption of the vitamins and minerals. Taking your tablet at mealtimes will also prevent the nausea that some people experience when swallowing supplements

Overdoing it can actually do more harm than good. This is because while there are vitamins such as Vitamin C or B which dissolve in water and can naturally be excreted from the body there are also those that do not. Vitamins A D E and K are fat-soluble and may be stored in the body's tissue, leading to toxicity

Adverse symptoms of taking too many vitamin supplements can include headaches, constipation, blurred vision, and dry skin. Over time it may also lead to more serious, complications such as liver and kidney problems, nerve damage. Even interfering with the body's ability to clot blood, which can be harmful to those on blood-thinning medication



As we have stated with our previous supplement articles, (to read these go to pattayatrader.com) the best way to supply your body with the vitamins and supplements it needs is by consuming them from a balanced, healthy diet. However, with today's hurried lifestyle and love of fast foods how many of us can really say that we are covering all the essential food groups and necessary vitamins with what we eat?

At this time of CO-VID and in general, with the flu season approaching you need Vitamin D for the immunity system and zinc to help diminish the penetration of viruses into the body. Minerals are also important and often forgotten. For example, Magnesium can prevent cramps and heart flutters and Calcium is also necessary as we age to maintain bone strength.

One of the best ways to see if you're getting enough vitamins and nutrients is to get a blood test. You might also wish to consider giving your system a boost with a Vitamin drip but this should of course only be done under a doctor's supervision. Keep a regular check on your health and the levels in your body as these can of course alter over time.

You may even decide to really combat your aging by taking the fight to a cellular level? NAD therapy is the latest breakthrough in anti-aging. It stands for Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide derived from Vitamin B which is one of the most important molecules in the body. It promotes cell regeneration and is a crucial compound for DNA repair and the maintenance of healthy cells.

Regretfully we lose this with age, levels dropping to about 50% in middle age, and even as low as 10% by the time we are in our 80s. The decline in NAD causes a lowering of energy levels, weight gain, heart conditions, and other age-related issues even affecting the brain by neurodegeneration and memory loss.

The discovery of the importance of NAD has been hailed as "Potentially one of the greatest advances in medical science since the invention of penicillin" (Dr. Phillip Milgram Scripps Memorial Hospital).



A treatment is now available from infiNADi cited by Dr. David Sinclair PH.D. Professor in the Department of Genetics at Harvard Medical School as the "Fountain of youth molecule". You can find out more about it through specialist reputable doctors such as our own Dr. Olivier right here in Pattaya if you really want to see the very best way to harness the power of vitamins!



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10 GENIUS HACKS TO MAKE FOOD LAST LONGER

A trip to the grocery store is not everyone's favorite task, especially when one has a tight schedule to deal with. That is why shopping in bulk is a more welcome hack to such people. However, this can also prove not helpful if you have to throw away spoilt food just a few days after purchasing it. Besides, throwing away food is frustrating and costly.

If such a scenario resonates with you, have you taken a moment to assess how you are storing your food? You see, how long food stays fresh has a lot to do with how it is stored. There are many simple ways to store food for it to last longer. We have chosen 5 genius hacks in this regard to get you started.

1. Maintain your refrigerator

This one goes without saying. If your food in the fridge is going bad faster than it should, there is probably a problem with the functioning of the refrigerator. You must keep tabs with how your refrigerator is functioning so that you are in the know when something goes amiss.

Check whether it is maintaining the right temperature or if there is ice buildup in the freezer. Other signs of a faulty fridge would be condensation, hot motor, unfamiliar noise, or water on the floor. If you notice such signs, your fridge could be needing a replacement of a few parts.

2. Display your soft herbs like flowers

Herbs such as oregano, coriander, basil, and parsley don't last long wrapped in plastic bags which is how most of us store them. That is a sure recipe to have them get slimy and wilt much faster even when in the refrigerator. Rather than going through all the hustle of wrapping them, just fill a glass with water and place them there.

Place the glass in an open area such as on the windowsill or kitchen counter. Don't forget to change the water regularly so they stay fresh for longer. Besides, if you insist on storing them on your refrigerator, consider wrapping them with other alternatives to single-use plastic, and in turn, keep your food fresh, and reduce the use of plastic.

3. Place an apple in a bag of potatoes

We all love potatoes when they are fresh and firm for those favorite mashed dishes. It turns out that to make them maintain the firmness for longer and to prevent them from sprouting, all you need is to place an apple in the bag of potatoes. The ethylene gas produced by the apple is good at ensuring that the potatoes remain fresh for longer. However, this gas doesn't do the trick with other foods such as fruits and veggies. Be sure to keep them wrapped in a plastic bag in the fridge and never in the fruit bowl.



4. Wash berries in vinegar

Berries are quite expensive, so you can imagine how much money you would be throwing away if they go bad in just a few days. Additionally, they tend to go bad much quickly, which is why you should really use this hack to prolong their shelf life.

Mix 1 cup vinegar with 4 cups of water and use the mixture to clean the berries. You will need to double the measuring if you have a large number of berries to wash. Be careful with the mixture so that you don't affect the taste of the berries. After you are done, place them on a towel and allow them to air dry. Place them in a storage container and the refrigerator when they are completely dry.

5. Let the avocado ripen before refrigeration

Who doesn't love avocados in their salads or a sandwich? That is why it can be frustrating to be met with a rock-hard fruit, or much worse, spoilt when you are salivating for a scrumptious meal of avocado.



Don't put the fruit in the fridge when it hasn't ripened. Allow them to ripen first and then put them in there to slow down the process. When you cut the fruit, preserve the remaining part by squeezing a little lemon juice on it.

Making your food last longer will not only save you money but will also greatly reduce your carbon footprint. Be sure to use our suggestions to prevent wastage that finds its way into landfills.

6. Line Your Salad Drawer with Paper Towels

Veggies produce moisture as they chill. When this moisture is left to accumulate, it can speed up the wilting of your fresh foods. So the most effective way to keep this moisture from building up and to keep your fresh foods fresher for longer is to cover your crisper with several sheets of kitchen rolls. On top of absorbing the condensation generated by the veggies, paper towels also help your fridge stay cleaner.

7. Keep Tomatoes out of the Fridge

Tomatoes are versatile fruits that add juicy texture to almost everything, from salads to ketchup, soups, curry, and rice. But if you want your tomatoes to retain their flavor longer, don't refrigerate them. Instead, place them on a counter where they can ripen to their maximum potential. Other veggies that you should keep out of the fridge include onions and potatoes – keep them in a cool dark place away from the sun's reach.



8. Keep Your Bananas Together

How do you keep your bananas fresh for long? Do you package them into everyday portions immediately you get home from the store? Or do you leave them together as a bunch? The topic of banana storage continues to trigger heated debates across many forums and different social media platforms. But food experts recommend storing bananas together as a bunch as the most effective way to keep them fresh. Also, it's best to use a banana hanger as hanging your bananas avoids bruising and lowers the likelihood of oxygen getting into the banana flesh, which will speed up the ripening process.

9. Put Mushrooms in a Porous Paper Bag

Mushrooms can stay fresh for up to 7 days if you store them correctly. Put unwashed mushrooms in a porous paper bag and tie it up at the top. Then place the bag in your fridge's main compartment. The paper bag will keep the mushrooms from getting moist or moldy by absorbing excess moisture. Don't place mushrooms close to foods with intense aromas and flavors because they'll soak them up like a sponge. If you want to keep mushrooms in good condition for over a week, you can cook them first and then freeze them.

10. Keep Onions Fresh for Longer

If you have an old pair of tights lying around, you can use it to keep your onions fresh for longer. Insert them one by one, tie between each bulb, and store them in a cool, dry, and dark place. That way, you'll prevent them from absorbing moisture. You'll also keep them from sprouting or rotting faster. If you can't find a pair of tights, a netted bag, open basket, or even a mesh bag will be a great alternative. Making your food last longer will not only save you money but will also greatly reduce your carbon footprint. Try our tips to become a champion in preventing wastage that finds its way into the landfills.





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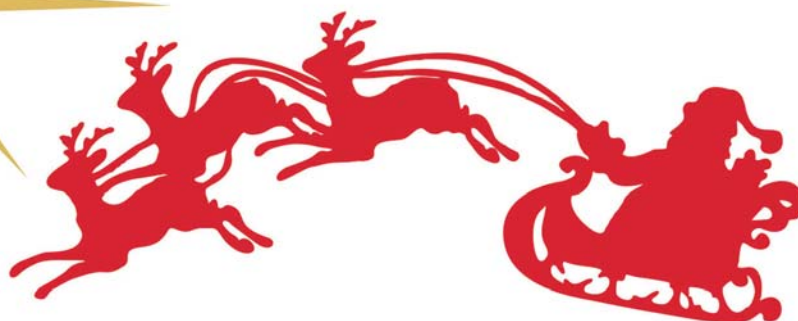
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Coffee – One of life's essential pleasures

By The Coffee Detective



To some, it is an essential to be consumed within minutes of waking, to others it's a ritual at a particular part of the day to be enjoyed and savoured. Whatever your choice, coffee is a large part of our lives with coffee consumption growing worldwide at 17% and a staggering 2.25 billion cups being consumed daily.

Asia Pacific is showing the largest growth with a growing consumer base coupled with local supply. Just 20 years ago, coffee addicts in Thailand basically had a choice of Kafee Boran or instant coffee but today there are reputedly more than 8,000 coffee shops now operating and a per-person consumption of 300 cups per year worth THB.36 billion and rising. The premium coffee segment is expected to double in size within 5 years while the mass market will grow 2-3 times.

Whilst big chains have jumped in to capitalise on this fast-growing market (with many new players poised to join them) competition is fierce, forcing smaller brands and individual shops to specialise as high-end coffee shops. 'High-end' does not necessarily result in boutique venues with high prices as we are seeing multi-level expansion throughout Thailand. Pattaya and especially Jomtien is particularly well provided by a range of innovative coffee shops and we will be reviewing our favourites shortly.

Harvesting coffee cherries in Chiang May

Before we start on these individual reports let's first talk about coffee! There are many essential factors necessary to create a good cup of coffee; first the choice and origin of the coffee beans, the grinder, the water, the coffee machine, and of course the skill of the barista. All these factors come into play to produce a coffee to be savoured.

From a traditional coffee machine, there are nine, primary espresso-based drinks. These are Espresso, Ristretto, Lungo, Macchiato, Cappuccino, Café Latte, Flat White, Americano, and Cortado. Drinking coffee is now creating trends with a vast variety of supplementary additions including different kinds of milk and syrups. Thailand has its own peculiarities with a vast range of iced coffees further complementing the choice.



Espresso Coffee machine in action

In coffee circles tasting and describing coffee is as advanced and often as 'inventive' as tasting wine. In my tastings I look for 5 key points; Sweetness (natural taste from the beans), Acidity (does the coffee present a crispness or juiciness or excessive acidity), Mouthfeel, Balance, and general flavour. In addition, I look for temperature (coffee can also be too hot) and for filter/grind remnants. Each cup of coffee should be a celebration of life and nature!

The Coffee Detective will be coming to an area near you sometime soon. If you would like him to sample your coffee write to us at pattayatrader@pattayatrader.com and tell us where you are.....Ed

กาแฟ – ปัจจัยความสุขที่สำคัญส่วนหนึ่งของชีวิต

โดยนักค้นหากาแฟ



สำหรับบางคนเป็นสิ่งจำเป็นที่จะต้องบริโภคกาแฟภายในเวลาไม่กี่นาทียหลังจากตื่นนอน สำหรับคนอื่น ๆ มันเป็นส่วนหนึ่งของวิถีชีวิตที่จะได้รับความเพลิดเพลินและสัมผัสรสชาติของกาแฟในวันนั้นๆ ไม่ว่าคุณ จะเลือกแบบใด การบริโภคกาแฟก็ได้เป็นส่วนสำคัญในชีวิต ซึ่งทุกวันนี้กาแฟได้เติบโตขยายตัวไปทั่วโลกถึง 17% และมีการบริโภค 2.25 พันล้านถ้วยต่อวัน ในเอเชียแปซิฟิกนั้นมีการเติบโตที่ใหญ่ที่สุดด้วยฐานผู้บริโภคที่เพิ่มขึ้นควบคู่ไปกับจัดหาเพิ่มให้กับท้องถิ่น ในท้องถิ่น เมื่อ 20 ปีที่แล้วผู้ติดกาแฟในประเทศไทยโดยทั่วไปมีทางเลือกแค่กาแฟโบราณหรือกาแฟ

สำเร็จรูป แต่ปัจจุบันมีร้านกาแฟที่มีชื่อเสียงมากกว่า 8,000 ร้านและมีการบริโภค 300 ถ้วยต่อคนต่อหนึ่งปี รวมมูลค่า 36 พันล้านบาทและทวีคูณเพิ่มอีกมาก กลุ่มกาแฟพรีเมียมคาดว่าจะมีจำนวนเพิ่มขึ้นเป็น 2 เท่าภายใน 5 ปีในขณะที่ตลาดจำนวนมากขยายเติบโต 2-3 เท่าตัว ในขณะที่เครือข่ายรายใหญ่ได้กระโดดเข้ามาเพื่อใช้ประโยชน์จากตลาดที่เติบโตอย่างรวดเร็ว (มีคนใหม่ๆมากมายพร้อมที่จะเข้าร่วมในเครือข่ายนี้) จึงมีการแข่งขันที่สูงมากสำหรับยี่ห้อที่ยังไม่เป็นที่รู้จักมากและร้านค้าที่เป็นร้านปลีกย่อยต่างๆ ดังนั้นยี่ห้อที่ยังไม่เป็นที่รู้จักมากและร้านค้าปลีกย่อยแต่ละแห่งจึงถูกบีบให้เขาต้องศึกษาเป็นพิเศษ เพื่อปรับตัวให้มีความรู้และเป็นผู้เชี่ยวชาญในเรื่องของกาแฟและร้านที่มีระดับ การมีระดับนี้ ไม่จำเป็นจะต้องทำให้ร้านหรู หาดูราคาแพงและขายแพง เราสามารถเห็นร้านเหล่านี้ได้จากการขยายตัวหลายระดับทั่วประเทศไทย ทัวฟัทยา และโดยเฉพาะจอมเทียน ในส่วนของร้านกาแฟที่จอมเทียนนั้นมีร้านที่มีความสร้างสรรค์มากมายและเราจะรื้อรายการโปรดของเราในอีกไม่ช้านี้

การเก็บเกี่ยวกาแฟเชอร์รี่ที่เชียงใหม่

ก่อนที่จะเริ่มรายงานแต่ละรายแต่ละเจ้า ให้เรามาพูดคุยเรื่องของกาแฟกันก่อน! การผลิตกาแฟที่ดีมีปัจจัยสำคัญหลายประการที่จำเป็นอย่างยิ่งอันดับแรกคือตัวเลือกและที่มาของเมล็ดกาแฟ เครื่องบด น้ำ เครื่องชงกาแฟและแน่นอนว่ามีมือของผู้ชงกาแฟ ปัจจัยทั้งหมดเหล่านี้เข้ามามีบทบาทในการผลิตกาแฟให้ได้สัมผัสรสชาติของกาแฟที่ดี



จากเครื่องชงกาแฟแบบดั้งเดิมจะมีเครื่องดัดที่ใช้เอสเปรสโซหลักๆเก้าชนิด ได้แก่ เอสเปรสโซ ริสตretto โต ลังโก แมคเซียโต คาปูชิโน กาแฟลาเต้ แฟลตไวท์ อเมริกาโน และคอร์ธาดอ(Espresso, Ristretto, Lungo, Macchiato, Cappuccino, Café Latte, Flat White, Americano และ Cortado)

การดื่มกาแฟกำลังสร้างเทรนด์ด้วยการเพิ่มของเสริมมากมาย รวมถึงนมและน้ำเชื่อมชนิดต่างๆ ประเทศไทยมีลักษณะเฉพาะของตัวเองโดยมีกาแฟเย็นหลากหลายชนิดที่ช่วยเสริมทางเลือกให้กับผู้ดื่ม



ในแวดวงกาแฟการชิมกาแฟและการอธิบายกาแฟนั้นมีความก้าวหน้ามากและมักจะ"มีความสร้างสรรค์" เช่นเดียวกับการชิมไวน์ ในการชิมของฉันทันตมองหาประเด็นสำคัญ 5 ประการหลักๆ คือ ความหวาน (รสชาติธรรมชาติจากถั่ว) ความเป็นกรด

(กาแฟมีความกรอบหรือชุ่มฉ่ำหรือมีความเป็นกรดมากเกินไป) ความรู้สึกของปากเวลาชิม ความสมดุลและรสชาติทั่วไป นอกจากนี้ฉันมองหาอุณหภูมิ (กาแฟร้อนเกินไป) และหาเศษการกรอง / เศษการบด กาแฟแต่ละแก้วควรเป็นการเฉลิมฉลองชีวิตที่เป็นอย่างธรรมชาติ!

นักสืบกาแฟจะมาถึงพื้นที่ใกล้ๆคุณในเร็ว ๆ นี้ หากต้องการให้เขาลิ้มลองกาแฟของคุณเขียนถึงเราที่ pattayatrade@pattayatrade.com และบอกเราว่าคุณอยู่ที่ไหน..... จากคุณเอ็ด

Japan to reopen for Olympics spectators, but under strict rules

By Kristin Mariano

Japan is under immense pressure figuring out how to carry out the rescheduled Olympics next year.



Japan was at the final stages of its preparation for the Games early this year when the health crisis happened that restricted people from travelling and gathering in groups.

During my travel to Japan late last year, I visited the Olympic Stadium designed by Kengo Kuma. Moreover, every trade fair I went to, Japan advertised the highly-anticipated Tokyo Olympics.

As countries navigate their way in what we dub as the “new normal,” we look for ways to carry out travel and events while preventing the spread of infection. Last Friday, Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga convened with cabinet officials to come up with a plan to accommodate the overseas arrivals for the Summer Games.

“Effective measures need to be taken in areas such as preventing outbreaks among tourists and those involved in the games, responding to local authorities, testing methods and maintaining our health system,” Suga said.

The national government, Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Olympic Organizing Committee agreed that athletes and spectators would be exempted from the existing entry ban in Japan. Athletes must submit negative test results and submit written itineraries as eligibility requirements.

Preventing clusters of infection is paramount in conducting the Olympic Games. The task force is expected to announce its concrete plans about border exemptions as well as medical response. Athletes are already limited to the Olympic villages, tournament venues and practice areas. As a rule, you are not allowed to use public transport.



Preliminary rules for Olympic viewers



Approximately 15,000 athletes are expected to take part in the Olympic Games and this number is expected to rise up to 70,000 or 80,000 if we include the spectators.

In order to protect Japan's residents from a possible second wave of infection, suggestions have been made on how to manage the influx of tourists. Restricted travel during the duration of their stay is one of the suggestions to control the spread of the disease.

According to Nikkei Asian Review, ticket holders could face a ban on visiting certain districts.

Tourists will also be subjected to coronavirus testing upon arrival. Test stations will be opened in all international airports in order to increase the daily testing capacity and accommodate the influx of Olympic observers.

The government is reportedly considering getting visitors to sign forms stating that they will follow instructions from the authorities during their stay prior to their departure from their respective countries. Any malicious activity could lead to deportation under immigration law.

However, final health and safety protocols will be made in spring next year, which will depend on the overall health situation. Let's just hope that an effective vaccine will be developed in time for the Games.

By Steve Wade



CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

With the domestic football competitions in full swing, the Champions League has kicked off too, and at time of writing the first round of matches has been completed. Two more are scheduled for this month and what is generally considered the greatest club football competition in the world will be well underway.

In the first round, amongst the bigger clubs, the results were mixed. Real Madrid suffered a shock 2-3 defeat at home against Shakhtar Donetsk and PSG, last year's beaten finalists, suffered what must be considered a shock defeat nowadays, getting beaten 1-2 at home by Manchester United.

Both Liverpool and Manchester City made good starts, Liverpool going to Ajax and getting a 0-1 victory and City beating Porto 3-1 at Maine Road. Barcelona trounced Ferencvaros 5-1 at home and Bayern Munich looked particularly good beating the normally defensively sound Atletico Madrid 4-0.

Novembers two rounds take place on the 4th and 5th and the 25th and 26th of the month. The timing is not great for the expats living here as most of the matches kick off at 3 am our time but this won't stop many of the fans I know from watching!

FORMULA ONE

The Formula One circus moves on to Turkey on the 13th through to the 15th and then Bahrain from the 27th until the 29th. As in many years past, both the drivers and constructor's championships are foregone conclusions with both Lewis Hamilton and Mercedes miles clear in both categories. Formula one fans take their racing seriously though and I'm sure that won't stop them tuning in for the next two heats.



MASTERS

Being a golf fan myself and a follower of the game for many years how strange to say that November sees the US Masters being played from the 12th until the 15th of the month. Normally played in April, by general consent the Masters is most golf fans favourite event of the season. This has a lot to do with being played year on year at the same venue, the beautiful Augusta National in Georgia, an advantage that no other Major has. The field will be as strong as ever this year, with all the top-ranked players in the world taking part. In spite of having to burn the midnight oil to do so, this is a must watch for any serious golf fan and like the players, for us older fans it's like going back to an old friend. As in other sports, the absence of the crowd will be a loss but the excitement and tension generated will be just as strong.



The Premier League doesn't have its normal look to it so far this year, with Everton at the top and Aston Villa, having escaped relegation by a point last season, sitting in second having won their first four games. The League cracks on through the month with full match programmes on the 7th, 21st and 28th of the month. Go along to your local sports bar for more details or catch the weekly postings in the Trader.

That's about it for this month. It's a difficult time in our city at the moment and watching your sporting choice in one of our local bars, if you can, would be much appreciated by our community business owners. Good luck.



SPORTING HEROES: RICKY HATTON

By Steve Wade

A name that is familiar to millions of boxing fans around the world who can also be seen here on his occasional visits to Pattaya is Ricky Hatton. A great favourite amongst fight fans, Hatton was a world class fighter who is ranked the best British light-welterweight of all time and one of the best ever worldwide.

Hatton won the British light-welterweight title in 2000 and the WBU the following year, which he defended a record fifteen times up until 2004. He reached the height of his career in 2005 by beating Kostya Tszyu for the IBF, Ring and lineal titles and followed that up in the same year by defeating Carlos Muassa for the WBA title, thereby uniting all the belts and becoming the undisputed light-welterweight champion of the world. Hatton was given very little chance against Tszyu, who was considered one of the best fighters in the world at that time and when he never came out for the start of the twelfth round, Hatton was catapulted into the big time.

Hatton moved up a weight to welterweight the following year and had a hard fight against Luis Collazo to win the WBA version of the championship and secure his first title in another weight class. This turned out to be one of the toughest fights in his career with some judges saying that Collazo did enough to win but Hatton got the decision mainly because of a first round knockdown. The Collazo fight was his only match in 2006 and the following year he moved back down to light welterweight to fight Juan Urango in January. The fight was mainly taken to set up a match with Jose Luis Castillo, a widely anticipated match up. Hatton won a unanimous points decision and the Castillo fight was on.

The fight was in June of that year and Hatton won in the fourth round by getting his opponent counted out with what many have described as the perfect body punch. That was the first time Castillo had ever been stopped.



Ricky-Hatton meets up with Frank Bruno in Pattaya

Hatton then signed up for a welterweight fight with Floyd Mayweather, undefeated and regarded by some as one of the best boxers of all time. The fight took place in December 2007 and Hatton was stopped in the tenth round after his corner threw in the towel. He was well behind on all the scorecards at the time.

Hatton then returned to light welterweight in 2008 and had two victorious appearances over Juan Lazcado and Paulie Malignaggi, putting up excellent performances in both. He then signed up for a match against Manny Pacquiao, who alongside Mayweather was another legend of the ring that Hatton fought against.

The fight took place in May 2009 and Hatton was beaten in the second after being knocked down three times. Probably unknowingly past his best by then, it was the last meaningful fight of his career.

Ricky Hatton was a great boxer, make no mistake. He took the best around on and never took a backward step. One of the best fighters the UK has ever produced, he is a highly respected figure in the boxing world, and rightly so. Looking back on his

record to research this article emphasizes that even more. An occasional visitor to Pattaya, Ricky is still a popular figure amongst boxing fans and public alike and always has time for people. If you see him over here again, (or anybody else at the moment!) stop and say hello.

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Karting Update

Local Karting back up to Speed

A look into kart racing in Pattaya by Andrew Seymour

As we all know, over the past few months since Pattaya “re-opened” many businesses and activities have remained closed due to lack of tourists visiting the area. Motor racing, and strangely enough in particular, go-kart racing, is bucking that trend and experiencing a boom. Perhaps some of this could be attributed to the recent success of Alex Albon, driving for Formula 1’s Red Bull Racing and whose face can be seen on billboards throughout Thailand promoting various brands.

Kart racing however, has always been very popular in Thailand and back in the day, there were many small tracks dotted around the country where regular race events would take place. Currently Bira Circuit, located a few kilometers outside Pattaya, seems to be the home of Thailand's kart racing where the majority of the racing takes place.

The circuit is named after King Birabongse Bhanudej, an accomplished and respected race driver and the first Thai to compete in Formula 1. He also raced in the European Championships and Lem Mans 24 hour endurance races pre and post WW2.

Since Bira Circuit was re-opened after the government enforced closure, there has been a hive of activity every weekend. Events that were postponed during the first half of 2020 have now been running back to back races in order to catch up with the various championship schedules. On those rare weekends where there is no official race, many drivers can be seen practicing and getting as many laps in as possible before race day.

The events held range from the intensely contested Rok Cup Thailand, Rotax Max Challenge and the IAME Series to the Kart Association of Thailand Open series as well as the well supported and fun Superkart Thailand Series. Drivers range in age from 8 to 12 years old competing in the Cadet class and 12 to 15 year olds competing in the Junior Class. The grids are also full for Senior racers over 16 years and the Masters are well represented by those “young at heart” who continue to show their experience and will to win.

Although many of the participating teams and drivers are from Bangkok and other areas throughout Thailand, you would be surprised as to how many call Pattaya home.

Over the coming months we will be highlighting those local racers who are up there with the best in the country and showing they are certainly in the mix both nationally and, in the future, internationally. We will meet the young up and coming drivers and find out how they plan to follow in the footsteps of their racing heroes as well as update their results, the trials and tribulations that go to make up the adrenaline fueled sport of karting.



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Happy Birthday, better late than never!

By Derek Franklin



Our birthday comes around just once a year. We may celebrate each year, but there are birthdays that mean more to us, when we celebrate with a bit more enthusiasm than usual. In the west we celebrate the coming of age, when we reach 18 and 21. The big Four-Oh is also a major birthday and most will celebrate reaching half a century.

But there are many here in Thailand, including children, who do not celebrate their birthday each year. It is nothing to do with tradition or religion, more to do with poverty.

Many parents in Pattaya are struggling to earn enough money to buy food to each day, and to send their child to school. Celebrating a birthday comes near the bottom on their list of priorities.

At the Father Ray Children's Village, on the evening of Saturday 10th October, the first birthday party of the year took place. Parties usually take place every one or two months, but due to the Covid-19 regulations all events were cancelled.



105 children, born between January and October, received birthday presents. For a few children, they were celebrating for the very first time; imagine reaching the age of thirteen, becoming a teenager, almost an adult, and have never celebrated the day you were born. No one has ever wished you Happy Birthday, you have never blown out the candles on a cake and you have never had anyone sing Happy Birthday to you.

It was a great evening, full of food, fun, dancing and the opening of presents. For the first timers it will be an evening they will never forget.



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PAUL JACKSON

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CROSS WORD NOVEMBER 2020

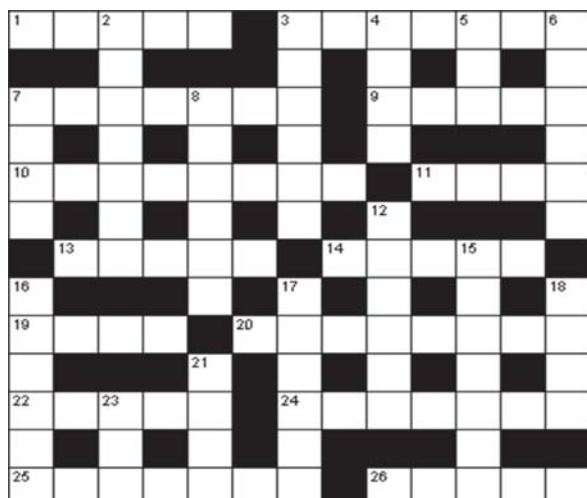


Across

7. Caprine animal (4)
8. Five-toed pachyderm (8)
9. Slender gull with forked tail (4)
10. Small brown bird (4)
11. African flightless bird (7)
13. Wading bird (5)
16. Supernatural woodland creature (5)
17. Small songbirds (7)
19. Large edible fish (4)
21. Rodents (4)
23. Egg-laying mammal (8)
24. Type of whale (4)

Down

1. Emblem of peace (4)
2. Venomous aquatic creature (8)
3. Showy fowl (7)
4. African equine (5)
5. Breed of dog with bushy tail (4)
6. Graceful ruminant (8)
12. Aquatic birds (8)
14. Edible snail (8)
15. Female wild feline (7)
18. Large aquatic rodent (5)
20. Colony insects (4)
22. Small parasite (4)

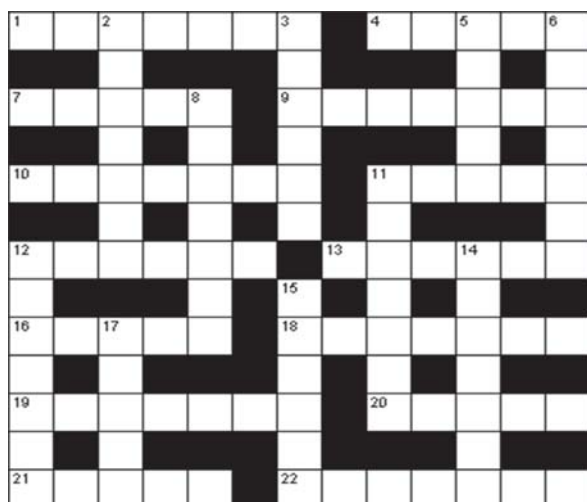


ACROSS

1. Beverage made from apple juice (5)
3. Chewy candy (7)
7. Rice dish (7)
9. Sweetener (5)
10. Drink before a meal (8)
11. Made from flour, sugar and eggs (4)
13. The home of pizza (5)
14. Broth (5)
19. Green acidic fruit (4)
20. Slender pasta tubes (8)
22. Joint of meat (5)
24. Water container (7)
25. Flask for keeping drinks hot or cold (7)
26. Dough made from flour and water (5)

DOWN

2. Sweet (7)
3. Biscuit (6)
4. Slice of sweet raised bread (4)
5. Drinking vessel (3)
6. Food store (6)
7. Gather in the crops (4)
8. Sponge cake soaked in wine (6)
12. Filtrate (6)
15. Essential kitchen devices (7)
16. Dry red wine (6)
17. Carrot genus (6)
18. Knockout drink, Mickey ___ (4)
21. Plant stalk (4)
23. Fermented beverage (3)



ACROSS

1. Bucharest is the capital (7)
4. Resort in the Canadian Rockies (5)
7. Jordan's capital (5)
9. Largest city in Texas (7)
10. Island in the Persian Gulf (7)
11. Mediterranean island (5)
12. Capital of the Bahamas (6)
13. This lake sounds serene (6)
16. Asian country (5)
18. Capital of Cyprus (7)
19. Home of Disney World (7)
20. Australian town, ___ Springs (5)
21. Sea between Ireland and England (5)
22. Tirana is the capital (7)

DOWN

2. Largest city of Tennessee (7)
3. Piraeus is this city's major port (6)
5. Region of South Africa and Brazilian port (5)
6. Helsinki is the capital (7)
8. Tourist attraction ___ Falls (7)
11. Strait between Indonesia and Malaysia (7)
12. Capital of Kenya (7)
14. World's largest inland sea (7)
15. Bordered on the east by Zambia and on the west by the Atlantic Ocean (6)
17. City in 16 across (5)

SOLUTIONS ARE ON PAGE 45

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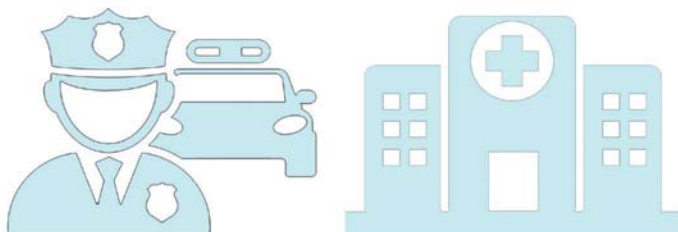
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IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS



POLICE

Emergency Hotline: 191
 Pattaya Police Station: Soi 9 Pattaya
 Phone: 038 420- 802, 038-420 805 0-3842-9325
 Banglamung Police Station, (Sukhumvit Highway)
 Phone: 038 221 800, 038 221 331
 Tourist Police: Phratamnak Road
 Emergency Hotline: 1155
 Phone 03841 4669, 03842 5937,

AMBULANCE AND HOSPITALS

General emergency number 191 can be used or 1669
 Pattaya International Hospital
 PhoneTel: 038 428 374-5. Tel: 038-427 575
 Bangkok Hospital Pattaya
 PhoneTel: 038-259-999. 0-3825-9911
 Pattaya Memorial Hospital
 PhoneTel: 038 488 777. 038-429 422

FIRE

Emergency Phone: 199
 Fire Brigade Pattaya
 PhoneTel: 038-425-943,
 Fire Brigade Naklua
 PhoneTel: 038-221-000,

SEA RESCUE

Marine Police
 Phone. 038-423 666
 Sea Rescue
 Phone 038-488 134

ELECTRICITY

Electricity Pattaya
 Phone 0-3842-6463, 0-3842-8502
 Electricity Banglamung
 Phone 0-3822-1007

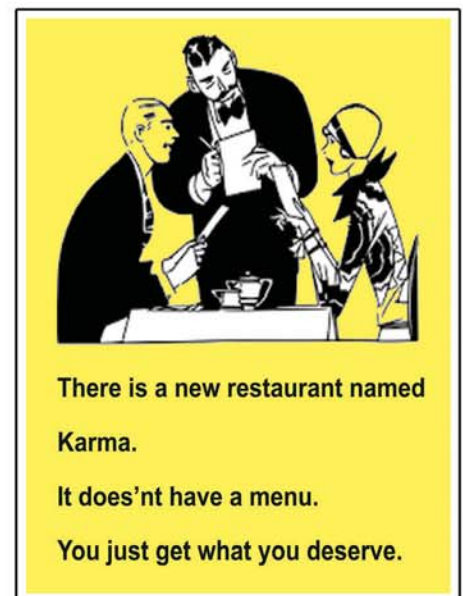
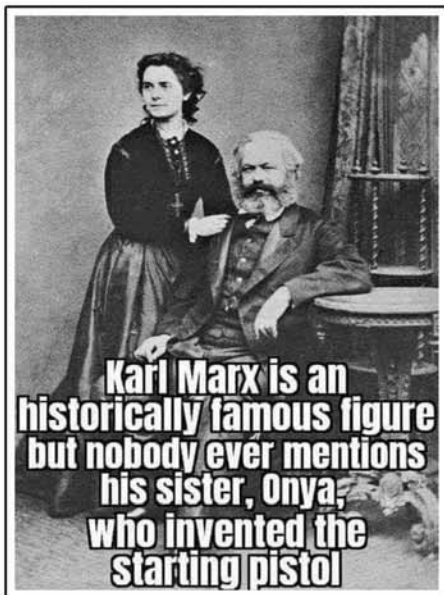
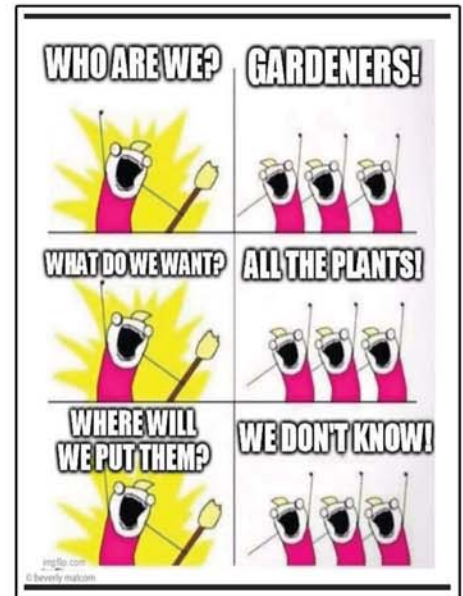
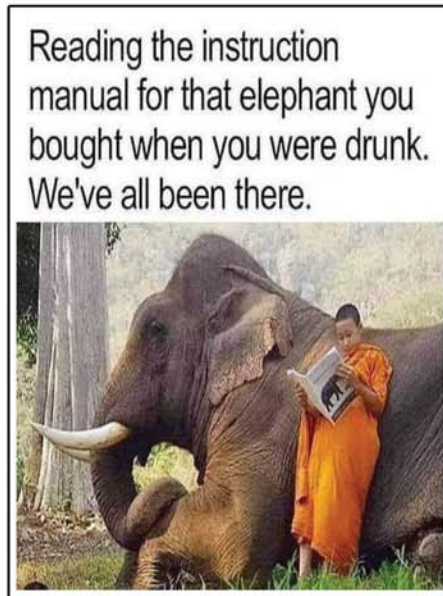
WATER

Water Works Banglamung
 Phone 0-3822-1463
 Water Works Pattaya
 Phone 0-3822-2462/5

WASTE DISPOSAL

Garbage Collection
 Phone 0-3842-9494

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SOLUTIONS

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By Rick Click

Tec.Living



Every month new gadgets arrive on the scene to hopefully make your life easier, more productive or just more fun. As an old friend of mine once said buying a new TV can be good for the soul. This month lets look at some practical tec to improve the quality of your life.



Xbox Series X and Series S.

It's been seven years since the original release of the PS4 and Xbox 1 back in November 2013. So this month's tec.living will compare both consoles so you can decide which one to go for. Xbox or PlayStation which one to get? Fanboys have debated for years about which is the best. However, as time moves on the dividing line grows thinner. In terms of grunt, the Xbox is slightly ahead but this doesn't mean developers will have tapped the potential of either yet.

This generation they share similar features both have a digital only budget version available, these don't have a media drive. Both use Solid State drives for faster loading times. Games have to be installed onto the drive to get this benefit so unless you have lots of discs or want the higher resolution the budget option may be the way to go.

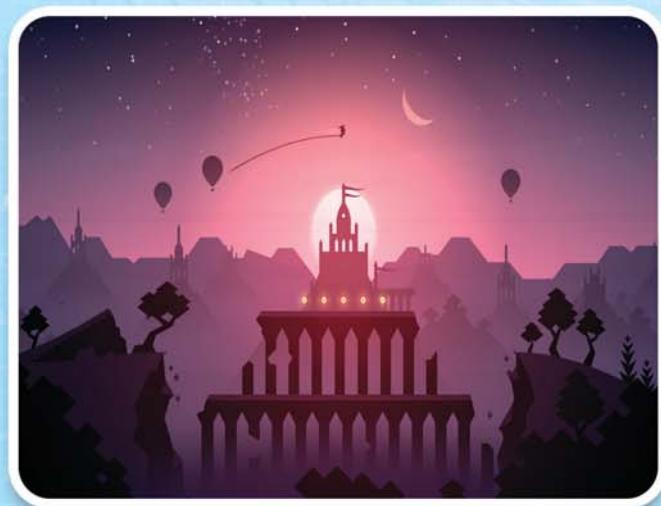


PlayStation 5.

Not many people have 8K TVs at the moment but if you plan on having one in the next few years you might want to future proof your gaming. Both GPU's have Ray tracing capabilities, this more advanced form of lighting will make games look even more realistic. Both are backward compatible with the previous generation of consoles. Xbox has stated that every game will work however some PlayStation games still need work.

If VR is your thing then you'll want a PlayStation not sure about any Xbox future plans at the moment. A new PSVR headset will be on the way for an even better VR experience.

At the end of the day, it will come down to the game exclusives each one has and what back catalogue of games you may have. The price point of \$500 is the same, but the PlayStation digital is \$400 and the Xbox series S comes in at \$300, a great entry price.



App of the month.

Alto's Odyssey (Free)

Just to keep in with the gaming theme this month our app of the month is a free mobile game with some limited advertising. Slide down endless sand dunes in this sequel to Alto's Adventure a mobile classic. This time instead of snow-covered slopes you perform your stunts and challenges within a vibrant and beautiful desert. The music and tranquil dreamy quality remind me of "Journey". To progress, you need to complete a set of challenges that let you upgrade your skills.

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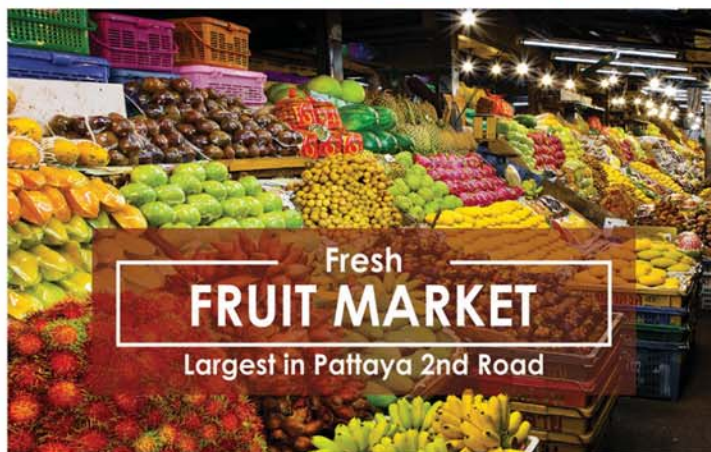
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ถนนทุกสาย มุ่งสู่พัทยา.....



กลุ่มที่ปรึกษาธุรกิจจอสั่งหาริมทรัพย์ชั้นนำ ต่างลงความเห็นว่าเมื่อวิกฤตการณ์ COVID-19 ผ่านไปแล้ว พัทยาจะกลับมามีชีวิตชีวาเหมือนเดิมหลังจากการเปิดประเทศ นักท่องเที่ยวจากต่างประเทศจะกลับมา EEC จะยกระดับทำให้เกิดการพัฒนาเศรษฐกิจภาคตะวันออกในอนาคต ระยะนี้จึงเป็นช่วงเวลาแห่งการสร้างและพัฒนาสาธารณูปโภคขั้นพื้นฐานและสิ่งอำนวยความสะดวก (infrastructure) เพื่อรองรับการเติบโตของตลาดการท่องเที่ยวหลังวิกฤต COVID-19 เชื่อว่าตลาดที่อยู่อาศัยจะเติบโต จากความต้องการบ้านหลังที่ 2 ที่มีความสะดวกสบาย ซึ่งตลาดได้มองพัทยาเป็นทางเลือก

แรก ในเวลานั้น พัทยาจะได้ประโยชน์จากแผนพัฒนาเศรษฐกิจภาคตะวันออก (EEC) ซึ่งมีการสร้างระบบคมนาคมเชื่อมต่อระหว่างท่าอากาศยานหลักทั้ง 3 แห่ง ได้แก่ ทางด่วนมอเตอร์เวย์ และ รถไฟความเร็วสูง พัทยาจึงมีโครงการสร้างระบบสาธารณูปโภคไว้เชื่อมต่อ อาทิเช่นการปรับปรุงและพัฒนาชายหาดพัทยาและจอมเทียน การวางท่อระบายน้ำทั่วพัทยาเพื่อป้องกันน้ำท่วม การวางท่อร้อยสายไฟฟ้าใต้ดิน โดยเฉพาะอย่างยิ่ง โครงการรถไฟฟ้าโมโนเรลไร้คนขับเพื่อเชื่อมการเดินทางจากสถานีรถไฟความเร็วสูงเข้าสู่เมืองพัทยา

จังหวัดชลบุรีมีชายหาดที่สวยงาม 2 แห่ง คือ บางแสน และ พัทยา ทำให้มีสถิติการเข้าพักของนักท่องเที่ยวกว่า 14,000 ห้อง ของโรงแรมในชลบุรีและพัทยาในรอบปีที่ผ่านมา และ 80% ของตัวเลขดังกล่าวเป็นนักท่องเที่ยวที่ไปพัทยาร้อยละตาม ท่ามกลางข่าวดีในระยะสั้น เมืองพัทยายังต้องการนักท่องเที่ยวจากต่างประเทศในจำนวนเท่าที่จะมากได้และเพียงพอที่จะสนองตอบแผนความเป็นไปได้ทางการท่องเที่ยวพัทยา ซึ่งไม่ใช่ในขณะนี้ แต่อาจเป็นปลายปีนี้ หรือ ข้ามไปถึงปี 2564



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By Magna Carta Law Office

NOTARIZATION OF DOCUMENTS

Notarization or notarial act is the official fraud-deterrent process of examining, certifying and record keeping performed by a Notary Public or Notarial Services Attorney that solidifies the important document as trustworthy. It is an assurance by a duly appointed and unbiased Notary Public that a document is authentic, that its signature is genuine, and that its signer acted without coercion or intimidation.

It is a requirement of many countries that personal or commercial documents originating from or signed in another country to be notarized before they can be officially used or before they can be legally recognized. A notary certifies that the person signing the document is who they claim to be and that they signed the document in front of a Notarial Services Attorney. Once notarized, a document will have much more legal credibility. Certain affidavits, real estate deeds and other documents may not be legally binding unless they are duly notarized.

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A Notarial Services Attorney may execute the following functions:

- Verification of signature, documents
- Certifying True Copy of documents

- Attestation of ID such as Passport / Driver's License
- Authentication of Title Deeds
- Testimony and Oath and affirmation (Affidavit)
- Attestation of Address
- Confirmation of Birth Certificate
- Certification of Translations
- Power of Attorney
- Witnessing contracts and other related documents

To get your document notarized, be sure to bring an unsigned document as you will be required to sign them in front of the Notarial Services Attorney. You will be asked to present your original proof of identification with photo and signature such as Passport or other government issued ID. Your document shall be signed and marked with a stamp or seal to indicate that the signature is legitimate and it wasn't somebody else pretending as you. Be sure to check that the document has been marked with a seal or stamp. The notation must correctly identify the date and place of Notarization, the full name, title, Certificate validity date and License Number of the Notarial Services Attorney.

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YOUR FIRST CHOICE FOR THE BEST PROPERTY DEALS

Pattaya's Rebranding and Repositioning – Part 2

For those who missed part one in last month's magazine you can still read this online by going to our website pattayatrader.com BACK ISSUES page Discover September Magazine....Ed

It seems as though the CO-VID 19 pandemic has exacerbated what might well have been the writing on the wall for "old-style Pattaya". Once a sleepy little fishing village in the 1960s, it grew into "Sin City" due to its popularity with thousands of American GIs showing up from Vietnam for some R&R.

This led to the creation of one of the largest red-light districts in the world with Pattaya continuing to be a popular destination for single men and many a divorcee.

The virus soon put paid to gogo clubs and bar complexes many having been forced to close due to lack of business. Those that made little or no profit from sales of beers alone were already suffering from a disappointing 2019 when the strong baht resulted in less available spend for visitors and ex-pats on a budget.

Heading towards the end of 2020 with no end to the virus yet in sight, it very much seems that "old-style Pattaya" will never return - but what you might ask will replace it? Optimists who see the city's resilience and ability to adapt to market pressure think it will become a new location for family tourism.

Some developers are willing to invest in this idea with exciting new projects. For example, Marriott International, Inc. has signed agreements with Asset World Corporation (AWC) to build JW Marriott The Pattaya Beach Resort & Spa and the Pattaya Marriott Marquis Hotel. Both of these projects are aiming for a more sophisticated tourist with the hope that the hotels will form in their own words: 'Absolute Center of Pattaya - The Place To Be'.

Wallapa Traisorat, the CEO and President of AWC said "We are confident in the long-term positive outlook of Thai tourism and the opportunity of the Thai tourism industry to expand its tourist base to the wellness and long-stay segments as well as to attract discerning and sophisticated travelers from around the world."

August 2020 saw the signing of agreements to introduce yet further global brand hotels. Also hoping to attract a new wave of international business and leisure travelers they wish to raise the bar with attractions such as Aquatique The Beachfront Pattaya. This is set to be the "Ultimate All-in-one Seaside destination" right on Pattaya's beachfront.

It will incorporate a hotel, shopping mall, theme park, and an underground aquarium. Hailed to be the first mixed-use destination concept of its kind in Pattaya, the developers are hoping it will aid the "new Pattaya" in becoming a premier lifestyle and tourism hub.

Further activity in September 2020 saw the approval of the proposal for a 2.9 billion baht mega-development at the Cape Bali Hai area of Pattaya with a public hearing.

"Modern family home close to Regent's and Rugby International School for rent or sale! Our Ref: PC7027"



"Rare 4 bedrooms condominium for rent in Movenpick residence, Na Jomtien. Our Ref: PC8073"



Pattaya's Deputy mayor Ronnakit Ekasingh chaired the meeting which was attended by around 300 representatives from both government agencies and the private sector. Mr. Ronnakit was reported as saying that this pier development would help support the local tourism industry and protect people's livelihoods in line with the government's Eastern Economic Corridor plans. These plans include the link with U-tapao international airport via a high-speed train line and the new commercial seaport.

The Bali Hai area proposal also includes a terminal for cruise ships at the tip of the cape, a two-story administration building, and a recreation area covering about 15-rai. This will then allow for the waterfront to be expanded and additional structures such as a second boat pier, department store, skywalk, and passenger terminal to be built for the planned light electric train. Nearby Walking street would also benefit from a new 38,000-square-metre commercial area planned to provide new tourist attractions. All these proposals will now have to be forwarded to the cabinet for their approval.

Another Pattaya project awaiting cabinet approval is the construction of a monorail line through the city area. Pong-tawee Lertpanyawit, who is in charge of the feasibility study, said that work could begin in 2023 with the 9-kilometer-long line operational by 2027. A recent opinion poll found that 80% of the city's residents favoured this idea in preference to those for a tram or underground train.

The planned monorail would ease congestion in the city and link with the high-speed train line being built between Don Mueang and U-tapao airports. Construction is estimated at 26 billion baht, with the route terminating at Bali Hai pier. However, on September 5th, Pattaya News reported that the CP Group (Charoen Pokphand) had suggested the main Pattaya Monorail station be moved from Pattaya City to Huay Yai.

In answer to this Pattaya's Mayor Sonthaya Khunpluem said that it would not affect the project as a whole as in theory it would allow for even easier connections with its relocation nearer the expressway line 7, Section 7 of Banglamung district.

If restrictions of tourists coming into Thailand persist the best piece of infrastructure for Pattaya's rebranding and repositioning will be the high-speed train line. A massive new rail hub in Bangkok's Bang Sue area is set to open sometime in 2021 replacing the 103-year-old Hualamphong Station. This could then additionally serve passengers using HSR once completed.

Residents of Bangkok and Pattaya would then enjoy a 45-minute Bullet train commute. This in turn would mean that there would be increased visits by Bangkokians to Pattaya enjoying the area's beachside facilities and the new lifestyle and tourist attractions planned for the city. Also, as with many other congested city centres the easy time difference for traveling between Bangkok and Pattaya might mean that it would be quicker to travel from home in Pattaya to an office in Bangkok rather than live on the outskirts of the city and traverse one side to the other by car. It could also allow people to work remotely part of the week, simply going into Bangkok as and when required to visit the office or hold meetings there.



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Thailand proposes a new visa for condo purchases

By Cheyenne Hollis

Thailand proposes a new condo investment visa although details remain limited

The Center for Economic Situation Administration (CESA) announced a proposal that would see foreigners purchasing a condominium unit priced at THB 8 million and above be eligible to receive a Smart Visa. Also a second proposal laying out improvements to the Thailand Elite visa program linked to real estate investment was put forth.

No decision is imminent on either proposal with several more departments needing to approve them before they go into effect. That being said,

The Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, which reports directly to Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha's office, is expected to move quickly on this.

For property investors, transparency regarding the visa application process will be extremely important. The current Thailand condominium investment visa states that anyone who purchases THB10 million in new condominium units can receive a visa that can be renewed annually.

However, the process has been plagued with issues since being launched in 2014 due to a lack of information. Property buyers aren't sure where and how to apply for this visa and immigration offices haven't been briefed on the requirements.

Additionally, very little has been done in the way of promoting the program with many property buyers seemingly unaware that this option exists.

How will the new condo investment visa be any different?

Apart from lowering the threshold from THB10 million to THB8 million, it remains to be seen just how the proposed Thailand condominium investment visa will be any different from what's already on the books. If anything, it may actually be slightly less appealing than what is currently available.

That is because the THB10 million investment visa isn't limited to simply condominiums. There are three asset classes overseas investors can place money into. These three investments are:

- Condo units in a new-build development
- Thai government or Thai state-enterprise bonds
- A deposit into a Thai bank account

With Thailand eager to bring in overseas investment quickly, there really isn't a need to launch another new visa program with a solid, albeit relatively unknown, one on the books. It would be more prudent for the Thailand Board of Investment to take ownership of the current visa program which has already been approved by the government.

From there, they could streamline how it works, make the application process transparent, and roll it out. Should the goal be to stimulate real estate investment exclusively, the BOI can adjust the thresholds accordingly. Regardless of if Thailand launches a new condo investment visa or simply improves the existing one, it is important the country gets this right. There is significant demand from overseas buyers who want a property in Thailand attached to a visa at the moment. A condo investment visa could significantly benefit the country at a time of need and help Thailand take its first steps towards economic recovery.

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Thailand gets first international visitors in over 7 months



In order to attract a larger number of international travellers, Thailand has eased more rules, starting from 21 October. The country has further eased coronavirus restrictions and plans to shorten the quarantine period to encourage foreign tourists. The country welcomed its first vacationers since a ban in April aimed at halting the spread on 20 October.

Southeast Asia's second-largest economy, which is driven by the tourism sector, suffered its worst contraction in over two decades in the second quarter as the sector was badly hit due to the pandemic.

Relaxed rules will make it easier for people on yachts and the foreign crew of ships to enter the country but with strict adherence to health measures, coronavirus task force spokesman, Taweessin Wisanuyothin, said. The government is considering shortening the mandatory quarantine period for new arrivals from the current two weeks, he added. Some health officials have suggested that could be reduced to 10 days.

On 20 October, 39 visitors from Shanghai arrived in Bangkok, the first foreign tourists since April. The country could see just 6.7 million arrivals this year, the government revealed, less than a fifth of a record 39.8 million in 2019.

The visitors who arrived at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport are pioneers in the 'Special Tourist Visa' programme devised by Thai authorities to restore step by step a sector of the economy that is driven by tourism.

The government banned commercial flights in April to keep COVID-19 at bay, and new cases have mostly been Thais returning home on repatriation flights. The country has reported just over 3,700 infections. Despite the moves to entice tourists, the government has given no clear timeframe for when regular commercial flights and tourist arrivals will resume.

Under the programme approved by the Thai Cabinet in September, foreign tourists who commit to a stay of at least 30 days are issued 90-day visas that can be renewed twice. After arriving, they must stay in government-approved quarantine at a hotel or hospital for 14 days and prove they have long-term accommodations. They must have special insurance policies, undergo pre-departure testing for the virus and download an official coronavirus-tracking application for use during their stay.



Do you know about the Health Insurance requirements for Long Stay Visa Applicants in Thailand?

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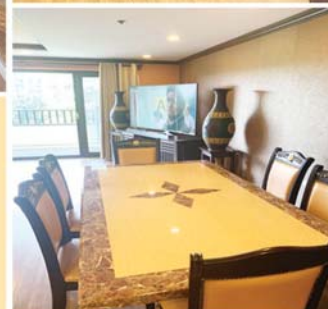
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Pattaya People Radio on 96FM and online via the free downloadable Pattaya People app (check out DOWNLOAD instructions on the TV page) has not stopped providing a wonderful addition to each treasured day and still provides happy, positive, life enhancement with it's 'Sunshine Hits On 96' motif.

Also, new to Pattaya People Media Group is the addition of Thailand's first 'Bollywood' style station on 90.75fm.

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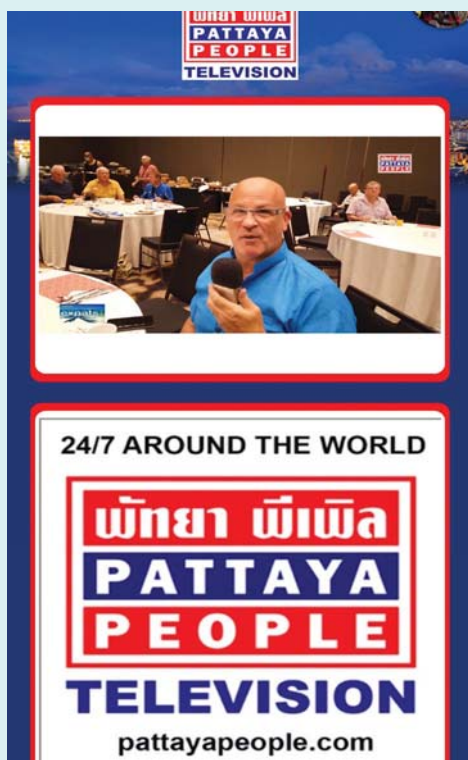
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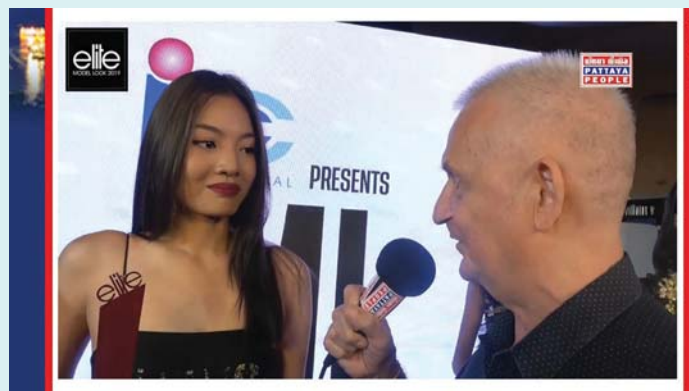
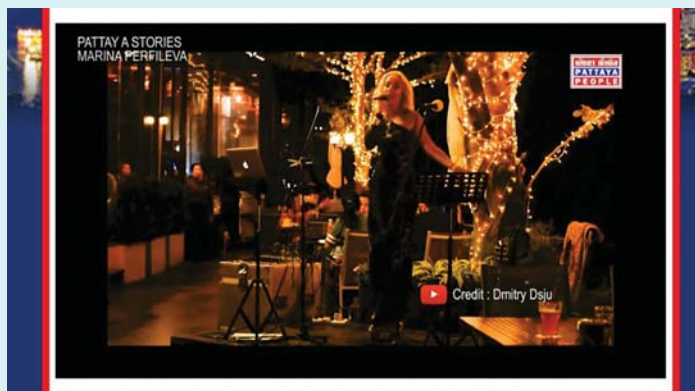
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Coming up in November is a continuing focus on up to date immigration news from Key Visa with the latest rules and regulations, plus features with interesting guests interviews and chats.

Also check out Barry and 'Discover Pattaya' editor Gloria Jones with their monthly comments and chat about the latest goings on around town, plus many interesting local celebrity interviews and interesting features.

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Understanding foreign ownership of houses and villas in Thailand from a legal perspective



By Cheyenne Hollis

Foreign ownership of houses and villas in Thailand is tricky, especially from a legal point of view. The easiest solution is to acquire this type of property via a leasehold arrangement, but the terms of these don't sit well with many buyers. There are other options available, including purchasing it via a Thai registered company.

However, neither method is as clear as buying a condominium unit where freehold ownership is permitted. From the legal aspect, foreign ownership of houses and villas in Thailand requires patience and a deep understanding of the law.

"The purchase of houses or villas in Thailand is not straightforward for foreign buyers. The ownership of land in Thailand is restricted to Thai citizens and Thai-owned companies. Obviously, this rule can present significant challenges to foreign purchasers who are looking to buy houses or villas that are situated on such land," Khun Sirichot Chaiyachot, Attorney at Law at Siam Legal, explains. "There are various legal methods available for purchasers who would like to buy a house or villa, but I would strongly recommend that buyers consult with a lawyer who is familiar with the relevant law and can ensure that they are in full compliance."

Foreign ownership of houses and villas in Thailand with a Thai registered company

Foreigners can purchase a home in Thailand via a Thai registered company. International buyers wanting to own a house or villa outright can purchase it via a Thai registered company. On the surface, the arrangement comes with favorable terms, but Khun Sirichot warns potential buyers that this type of ownership structure comes with wide-ranging challenges.

"I do not generally advise my clients to hold the ownership of land and a house/villa through a Thai limited company, unless they are certain they will have full control over the property either directly or indirectly," Khun Sirichot states. "This means that he or she is the director of the company who can solely sign and bind all activities of the company and hold or control shares in the company that provides the majority of the voting rights. In addition, such a company should be healthy; conduct regular, ongoing business; and not be at risk of insolvency."

That last line, in particular, is one foreign buyers need to take note of. Maintaining a Thai registered company has significant time and financial costs that cannot be avoided. If the business holding the property becomes inactive and is delisted by the Business Department, selling or transferring it becomes a massive headache.

"In the event that the director(s) of the company has abandoned the company, died, disappeared or has not submitted the annual income/balance sheet, the buyer will need to ask the seller to take all necessary actions to activate the company including, but not limited to, changing the structure and/or submitting the balance sheets for the previous year(s) up to date, prior to taking any further steps," Khun Sirichot details.

Ultimately, purchasing a house or villa in Thailand through a Thai-registered company should be avoided unless the business is active, has secure finances and the buyer is in full control of the organization.

The pros and cons of leasehold villa or house ownership in Thailand



Thailand leasehold law does not cover issues like guaranteed buy-back clauses

Foreign ownership of houses and villas in Thailand via a leasehold agreement is common, although not without some legal challenges. That being said, it is generally seen as a more secure form of ownership than buying a property through a Thai registered company.

"At the very least, the buyer will be entitled to use, occupy, and enjoy the property for up to 30 years. The lessee may also be entitled to sublease, or assign the leasehold right to a third party(s), or leave as an estate to the successor(s) of the buyer if the lessor or landlord provides express consent in writing in the lease agreement," Khun Sirichot points out.

In theory, leases can be extended for up to 60 years after the expiration of the original 30-year agreement. Some developers selling houses and villas in Thailand to international buyers will even promote this despite the fact lease extensions are by no means guaranteed.

"Common lease extension terms, often seen in lease agreements (e.g. 30 + 30 + 30 years) are, in my view, likely unenforceable," Khun Sirichot reports. "In the event that the lessor/landlord does NOT voluntarily honor any clause regarding the renewal of the lease upon the expiration of the first lease term, the lessee will have no choice but to attempt to exercise his or her right in court. However, I cannot guarantee that the judgment of the court at that point in time will be in favor of the lessee."

Another growing trend in leasehold properties is the inclusion of guaranteed buyback clauses where the developer agrees to pay the buyer a set amount upon the end of the leasehold term. This may sound great, but may not be legally binding, according to Khun Sirichot.

"If the buyer enters into a lease agreement, the ownership of the property is not going to transfer into the buyer's name. In fact, upon the expiration of the lease term, the buyer will have to vacate and return the property to the seller. A guaranteed buyback clause can happen only if the seller keeps the promise upon the expiration of the lease term," Khun Sirichot says. "It could be more accurately described as a 'gentleman's agreement' rather than a legally binding agreement. If the guaranteed buyback clause is in a purchase agreement, it may be deemed as 'Kai Fark' or sale with a right of redemption."

Is legal help a necessity?

Foreign ownership of houses and villas in Thailand almost certainly requires having some sort of legal help. Trying to navigate the process on your own is extremely difficult and may see you enter into an unfavorable agreement.

"When buying property in Thailand it is important to have a professional in your corner. Someone who knows the local market, the language, the country, and its particular practices and legal system. A reputable local law firm is ideal for this and I recommend buyers take the time to sit down and talk with such a professional before they even consider buying property in Thailand," Khun Sirichot concludes. "A professional can expertly guide buyers through the entire process and ensure that the proper steps to complete a successful purchase are followed."

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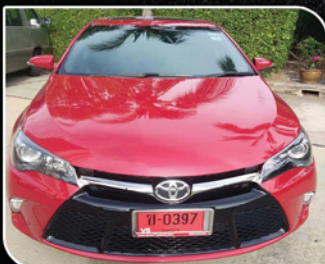
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