



Phuket Gazette

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Headlines
 Inside Story
 Samui News
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 Sports
 Travel
 Opinion
 Letters To The
 Editor
 Good Living
 People
 Property
 Features

Issue of:

February 28
 February 21
 February 14



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GAZETTE ONLINE

Sports: February 7 - 13, 2004

Out of the fridge and into the sun



Escaping subzero conditions back home, 25 top young swimmers from Sweden and Norway recently spent two weeks in intensive training using Dulwich College's Olympic-sized swimming pool.

Thorbjorn Holmberg, coach of the Oslo-based Norwegian Top Athletes Center and Gymnasium (NTACG) said, "Thailand provides excellent weather at this time of year, a welcome contrast to the icy conditions back home. The 50-meter pool at the college is perfect for us."

The NTACG swimmers, aged 16-18, trained five hours a day in addition to doing 3½ hours of

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Fri 20-Feb-04

▼ [Queer News](#)

➤ [Chicken fallout](#)

Mon 16-Feb-04

➤ [Cursed by spirits](#)

Mon 16-Feb-04



schoolwork via the Internet.

The goal for each of the youngsters is to make the Norwegian national Team and – they hope – the next Olympics.

Joining them were members of the Tureberg Swim Team, a 30-year-old club from Stockholm with nearly 800 members.

Sixteen of its most promising swimmers, aged 15 to 20, attended the team's first training camp in Thailand to prepare for the Swedish Youth Championships and other national competitions.

Tureberg coach Bengt Svensson was equally impressed with the camp, saying that the fine weather and excellent facilities were a real motivation for his squad during their gruelling training regimen.

Doubt over Under-19 Women's World Cup

PHUKET TOWN: Phuket's bid to host qualifying rounds of the FIFA Under-19 Women's World Soccer Championship in November is in doubt because of the cost of improving Surakul Stadium.

A meeting on January 28 of the leaders of the organizations involved failed to come up with a solution to a budget shortfall of 38 million baht.

The President of the Phuket Provincial Administration Organization (*OrBorJor*), Dr Prasit Koeysiripong, said that the *OrBorJor* wondered whether Surakul should be overhauled or whether it would be better to build a new stadium.

The cost estimate for the upgrading demanded by the organizers of the competition is 50 million baht but, Dr Prasit said, "We can provide only 12 million baht."

For Surakul to qualify as a venue for the competition, the team changing rooms must be rebuilt, a new pitch must be laid, entrances must be improved, and new lighting and sound

Instant death
Mon 16-Feb-04





systems must be installed.

Pushing for the upgrade to go ahead, Eam Thavornvongwong, president of the Phuket Soccer Association, said the tournament would provide an economic boost for Phuket.

“We are working on rebuilding Surakul, which will take six months to finish [February to September]. This is a very important chance to show we have the capacity to host a world-class tournament,” K. Eam said.

He suggested it might be possible to seek contributions from hotel owners to meet the budget shortfall.

Contributing hotels could be recompensed through advertisements that would be seen on TV and in newspapers around the world, he said.

Vice-Governor Winai Buapradit, who chaired the meeting, took a more cautious line. He said that Phuket should not risk its reputation by rushing and making promises that it couldn't keep.

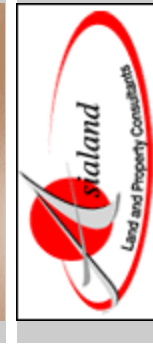
“If [the representatives of the contest organizers] come back and find that what they requested hasn't been done, Phuket will be rejected,” he pointed out.

He said it might be wiser to look into the future and focus on building a new stadium in Phuket, in the meantime letting the 2004 Women's Under-19 World Cup go to a venue in Thailand that already has appropriate facilities.

Participants agreed that another meeting would be held, at a date yet to be decided, at which a decision would be made on whether Phuket should withdraw its bid to be one of the hosts of the 2004 competition.

By *Nonthawat Disayabutra*

Phuket juniors swim into second





Pinjida Dilokpat, 11, racked up a personal tally that included seven gold and three silver medals.

PHUKET TOWN: The Phuket Town municipal team came second in a two-day swimming meet that attracted 480 junior athletes from 14 southern provinces to the Saphan Hin Pool on January 31 and February 1.

Local swimmers Pinjida Dilokpat, 11, and Wansida Chamason, 7, were among 20 prize-winners.

In the Under 8s, Phuket-born Wansida took five gold medals, three silver medals, and two bronze medals.

Pinjida, in the Under 12s, took seven golds and three silvers.

Nakhon Sri Thammarat turned in the top performance in the 202-event swim meet to beat Phuket, with Songkhla coming third.

Narongleark Dilokpat, Vice President of Phuket Swimming Club, said, “The kids from Nakhon Sri Thammarat were very strong and well-trained. They deserved to win those medals and to be champions this year.

“Next year we’ll see them again, with better-trained kids.”

By Nonthawat Disayabutra

Big cricket, rugby contests for Phuket

PHUKET: Local sports fans are in for a double treat over the next few months, with two international sporting fixtures to be held on the island.

The new event – long overdue on the island – is the First Phuket Invitational Cricket Sixes, scheduled for April 1 to 3.

A joint effort between the Asian Cricket Sixes Tour and the Green Man Pub, the competition promises plenty of excitement as “Sixes” is a faster game than traditional 11-a-side cricket.

Sixes matches, by contrast, are limited by the number of runs that may be scored, although most other laws of cricket are followed.

In Sixes, a batsman must retire at 30 runs. However, he may complete all runs possible off the final shot that takes him to or past the 30.

In other words, if he is on 29, then hits a boundary for four more, the full score of 33 will be recorded. If he is able to run additional runs past 30 off the last ball, those too will also count.

The friendly tournament will be played at the Karon Municipal Stadium while the serious business of socialising will take place at the Green Man.

The full list of teams and invited players has yet to be announced but former Essex County Cricket Club skipper Paul “Pablo” Prichard has been confirmed as a player.

He will also play in a Sixes tournament at the Chiang Mai Gymkhana Club immediately after the Phuket tournament.

Meanwhile, May 29 and 30 have been set as the dates for the Sixth Phuket Rugby 10s, also to be played at the Karon Municipal Stadium.

Up to 24 teams will take part in the event, hosted by the Phuket Vagabonds RFC. The winning team will take the Clive Williamson Memorial Trophy. The Phuket 10s has in the past attracted teams from Asia, Australia and as far away as Britain.

Readers interested in the Sixes tourney should contact Douglas Hedley at dhedley.padm@bigpond.com, or the Green Man at Tel: 076-281445-51. Rugby fans should contact the Phuket Vagabonds RFC at phuketvagabondsrfc@yahoo.co.uk

Laguna golf gets into full swing

CHERNG TALAY: Frank Serio and Hong Shen won the low gross in flight A and Rebecca and Mario Martinelli took out the low gross in flight B of the Laguna Phuket Golf Club weekly challenge.

Played every Wednesday, the friendly competition, in which combined handicaps are used, has Flight A for pairs with handicaps of 45 and under and Flight B for handicaps of 46 and over.

January 28 Results: Flight A, Low Gross: Frank Serio and Hong Shen. Low Net: Beverly Ng and Kim Ng.

Flight B, Low Gross: Mario and Rebecca Martinelli. Low Net: Monika and Siegfried Klein.

Long Drive, 2nd Hole (women): Parichart Cathy; Long Drive, 5th Hole (men): Richard Patrice. Closest-to-pin, 3rd Hole: Jayes Lockhart, Straight Drive, 4th hole: Monika Klein.

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