



A PLACE TO CALL THEIR OWN >> XP, 12B

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INSIGHTFUL, IN TREND, INDEPENDENT
THE NATION



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2 dead, 14 hurt in shooting near Florida club

AT LEAST two people were killed and 14 others injured when a shooting broke out early yesterday in the parking lot of a Florida nightclub that was hosting a party for young teenagers.

The shooting came six weeks after a gunman killed 49 people at a gay club in the state, the worst massacre on US soil since 9/11.

Officers have detained one "person of interest" and two other individuals for questioning over the latest shooting, which happened at Club Blum Fort Myers.

Witnesses described people scattering when gunfire broke out shortly after midnight, ducking and running in a nearby apartment building, with children as young as 13 reportedly among the injured.

"It was a young teen event. There were kids. The kid I was holding in my lap, he was 14 years old that got shot," Tarian Noubaidi, a neighbor, told ABC News. "And then there was a little girl who also got shot and she was 13." - AFP, Miami

Police seek charter arrests

"OLD POWER CLIQUE" LINKED TO SUSPECTS; WARRANTS TO BE SOUGHT OVER DRAFT "DISTORTIONS"

THE NATION

POLICE WILL seek arrest warrants for at least five people suspected of involvement in the production and distribution of "distorted" draft constitution content in Chiang Mai.

Deputy national police chief Pol General Srivara Rangsiyabramanakul yesterday said the Provincial Police Region 5, which covers the northern provinces, has discovered an unnamed "old political clique" has been active ahead of the August 7 referendum on the draft constitution.

"They [police] have collected evidence to seek court permission to issue arrest warrants for five people," he said.

Srivara was speaking at a press conference at the Provincial Police Region 1 headquarters on Vibhavadi Rangsit Road in Bangkok, where he met with senior police officers to discuss preparations for the national vote.

Chiang Mai police chief Pol Major-General Montri Sombmanont said police know the identities of the five suspects and are gathering evidence to support their request for arrest warrants.

"We believe there are at least five people in the initial batch," he said, adding that police have forensic evidence to back their accusation against the suspects.

"The initial evidence links some well-known local politicians and a famous family [to alleged wrongdoing]," the Chiang Mai police chief said, without elaborating.

On Saturday, hundreds of police and military officers conducted searches of 10 locations in Chiang Mai, including the Chang Phuak municipal office and a company owned by the family of Chiang Mai's Provincial Administrative Organisation chief executive Boonlert Buranupokorn.

A number of letters with allegedly distorted content of the draft charter were found at the company and the municipal office. Police also confiscated clothes that looked similar to those worn by a man seen on security camera footage putting copies of the letter in postal boxes in the northern city.

Another search was conducted yesterday at the same municipal office in Chiang Mai and police confiscated a computer and a motorcycle suspected of being used in the alleged wrongdoing. They also found evidence linked to the letters, police said.

Chiang Mai Governor Pavin Channprasart said a fact-finding committee had been set up to investigate a suspected link between the letters and local administrators.



Media representatives observe the printing and transport of ballot papers to be used in the August 7 referendum at a well-guarded printing house in Samut Prakan's Phra Padaeng district, in a trip organised by the Election Commission yesterday. About 54.6 million ballot papers are due to be printed by Thursday.

However, he added that a further investigation is needed to determine whether Boonlert is involved in the matter. The governor said Boonlert has been on leave since July 11 and left the country last Wednesday.

"There is no evidence yet to link him to any wrongdoing," he added.

An estimated 100,000 police officers will be deployed to ensure the referendum is carried out smoothly, Royal Thai Police deputy spokesman Pol Major-General Piyapan Pingmuang said.

He added that National Police Chief Pol General Chakthip Chaidinda has instructed police across the country to step up security and urged the Election Commission to deploy more officials to prevent illegal activities at provincial and district levels.

Meanwhile, police are investigating seven cases related to the destruction of lists of eligible referendum voters in Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Khon Kaen, Satun, Supan Buri, Rayong and Phichit, Piyapan said, adding that most of the cases were caused by accidents or human error.

At least four cases involved children and none are linked to politics, he said.

Election Commission deputy secretary-general Thanin Sripradit said vandalism of eligible voter lists was not uncommon during the run-up to any vote and ongoing cases have not been linked to political motivations.

"It happens all the time, either naturally or deliberately."

In some cases, ballots have been blown away by the wind or soaked by rain. Other times, kids are being kids and play around with the lists resulting in damage," Thanin said. "But now it's just that the situation is intense with the voters' and vote no campaigns. So, everyone is a little too cautious."

Police are investigating the cases following procedures regardless of the age of violators, he said.

Chakthip said that a new list of 396 eligible voters had been posted at Had Moon Krabue Temple in Tambon Yan Yao in Phichit's Muang district, after the previous list displayed in the temple hall was destroyed by more than 10 monks.

Phichit Election Office director Prayoon Chakpattarakul said the Phichit Provincial Election Commission put the 19-page eligible voter list on board following the incident.

Countdown to the REFERENDUM

YES NO

Countdown to the REFERENDUM

Countdown to the REFERENDUM

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Former Philippine president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has declared herself a victim of political persecution, after her release following about four years in detention over a corruption case. >> 4A

Asean treads gently around South China Sea dispute as Beijing watches on

SUPALAK GANJANAKHUNDEE THE NATION VIETNAME

MEMBERS of Asean satisfied nobody yesterday - but saved face for all - when foreign ministers adopted a joint communique without mentioning the recent verdict of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) on the South China Sea, sources said.

But Asean retained its concern in the communique over land reclamation and escalation of activities in the contentious waterway, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tension and undermined peace, security and stability in the region.

Following long talks under pressure from Beijing and claimants in the South China Sea, Laos - the current chair of Asean - insisted on a joint communique to maintain Asean centrality, without jeopardising relations with Beijing.

Initially, the Philippines and Vietnam insisted that the regional group welcome the PCA judgement against China. But Cambodia, which has connections with Beijing, demanded that the group not mention the arbitration case in the communique after the annual ministerial meeting.

This followed a problem in 2012, when Phnom Penh held the Asean chair, failed to have the annual communique altered due to a similar dispute on wording over the South China Sea.

Singapore, the current coordinator between Asean and China, proposed a solution in taking a problematic clause out of the South China Sea context, a diplomatic source said.

Instead, it appeared in the second paragraph of the adopted communique yesterday that "We (Asean foreign ministers) reaffirm our shared commitment to maintaining and promoting peace, security and stability in the region, as well as to the peaceful resolution of disputes, including full respect for legal and diplomatic processes, without resorting to the threat or use of force, in accordance with the universally recognised principles of international law, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Members of Asean and China have been at loggerheads over the territorial disputes in the South China Sea for years. Tension was raised as China began land reclamation on natural features and built facilities that can be used for military purposes.

The Philippines took the case to the PCA in The Hague in 2013 and the court ruled on July 12 that China had no historic right to claim areas from the Philippines.

While Beijing rejected the verdict, Manila and other claimants wanted all parties to the UNCLOS - notably China - to comply with and use the ruling as a legal base line for negotiation.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi who was in Vietnam for a series of meetings with his Asean colleagues, met bilaterally with many ministers from the group, including Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai.

Don said the South China Sea was a dominant topic of discussion as his Chinese counterpart did not want the conflict to undermine other cooperation with Asean.

Wang Yi said China would continue with the "dual-track", which means disputes should be resolved peacefully through negotiation between the parties directly concerned, and China and Asean countries should work together to maintain peace and stability in the sea.

Temperature around the parties should be lowered and all parties should come back to the right track, he told a press conference after a meeting with Asean colleagues yesterday.

Meanwhile, another joint statement issued after the ministerial meeting between Asean and China yesterday said both sides reaffirmed their commitment to freedom of navigation in and over-flight above the South China Sea.

Don said both sides agreed to an early conclusion to the code of conduct for practice in the contentious sea. A source said Beijing wanted to have it by late this year.

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THE NATION Tuesday, July 26, 2016 nationmultimedia.com/life

ALTERNATIVE CINEMA SHOWS OFF ITS RICH AND FULFILLING DIVERSITY WITH THE OPENING NEXT MONTH OF THE NEW BANGKOK SCREENING ROOM

PARINYAPORN PAJEE
THE NATION

THAILAND'S INDEPENDENT or art film directors have long faced problems in finding a cinema to show their works. The two major multiplex chains are, perhaps understandably, much more interested in screening mainstream Thai and Hollywood releases that will draw in maximum revenue and when they do agree to screen an indie, it's usually in just one of their theatres, and with only one screening a day.

There are of course exceptions, with Lido and Housein Bangkok regularly giving space to alternative movies but they too have to think of the bottom line and so the films enjoy only a very modest run.

That is all about to change with the opening next month of The Bangkok Screening Room, a 50-seat cinema that will serve not just as a screening hub for alternative films but also as a venue for film lovers to meet.

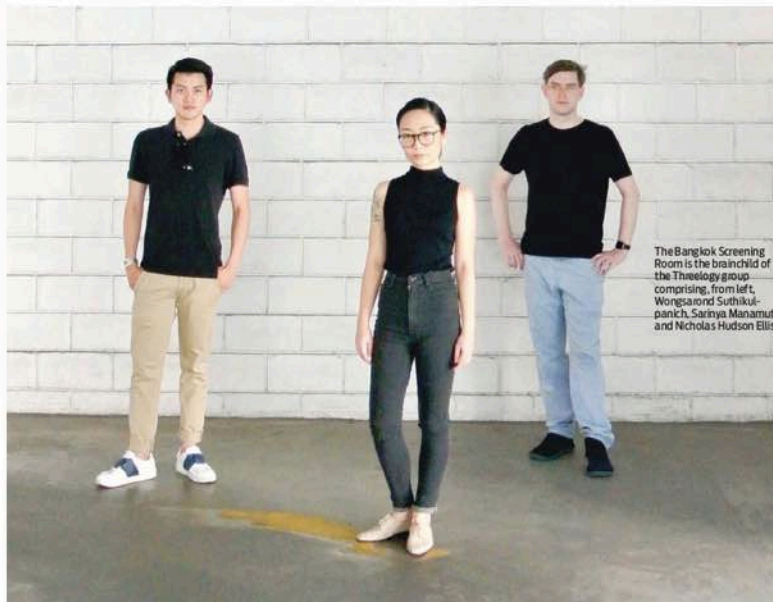
The Bangkok Screening Room is the brainchild of the Threeology group comprising Sarinya Manamuti, Nicholas Hudson-Ellis and Wongsarond Suthikulpanich, who two years ago organised the Open Reel Rooftop Festival, a four-day, four-theme orgy of film that presented carefully curated international classics, short films, local video art, and independent films from emerging Thai directors on the roof of W District in Phraekong. The festival was a success and the feedback, admittedly from a mainly expat audience, was so enthusiastic that Sarinya came up with the idea for a more permanent project.

"We visit Thailand every year and every time we come, we visit museums and art galleries and go to see a movie. But the only cinemas we can find are at shopping malls. There are no stand-alone cinemas like when I lived here 30 years ago," says Sarinya, who during her years in Australia, has worked for Sydney's Museum of Contemporary Art, the Australian Centre for the Moving Image, and Museum Victoria in Melbourne.

"We also couldn't help but notice the lack of variety of the films shown in Thailand. The feedback from our rooftop festival confirmed that there is a need for an alternative theatre and so when we went back to Australia, we wound up our affairs and decided to move to Bangkok. It's a new thing for Nicholas but we want to do it full time. We need attention," says Sarinya.

After their return, the three organised a second pop up cinema during last year's Wonderfruit Festival while Sarinya's childhood friend Wongsarond, an interior designer by training, scouted for a location for their permanent cinema, finally finding it in Soi Sala Daeng 1.

As with so many startups, they turned to crowdfunding site Indiegogo.com and while the contributions fell far short of their target,



The Bangkok Screening Room is the brainchild of the Threeology group comprising, from left, Wongsarond Suthikulpanich, Sarinya Manamuti, and Nicholas Hudson Ellis.

A place to call THEIR OWN



The BKKSr will open with the North Korean comedy "Comrade Kim Goes Flying", left, and follow up with independent and classic films like the original "Godzilla", far left, and "The Third Man", below left.

they decided to go ahead.

Hudson-Ellis, who worked with the Australian Ballet, is enjoying the challenge. "Often the only place talented filmmakers can share their work is by going overseas and joining the film festival circuit. Young filmmakers generally only manage to show their film at film school or perhaps to their friends and have to make a submission to overseas film festivals to show their work a big screen. We think it's important to share film with the local communities and the BKKSr is the place to do it," he says.

"We are well aware that this is a new concept for Thailand and that the BKKSr is a niche market, so we have done a lot of research to make sure that we approach the project in the right way and make sure that people aware of the cinema," Sarinya adds.

The Bangkok Screening Room has just 20 seats and is far more than an upgraded home theatre. Located on the second floor of a building opposite the U Chu Liang Building in Soi Sala Daeng 1 off Rama IV Road, the space is being fully renovated and once finished will be installed with the same

ON THE SCREEN

- Tickets cost ฿300. Discounts for special promotions and packages will be announced and updated at their website.
- Visit www.bkksr.com or Facebook/bangkokscreeningroom.

level of equipment as a standard cinema. That includes a high-end 4K digital projector and professional surround sound.

The cinema itself is almost finished. Sarinya explains, but they need to wait for the entire building to be completed before they organise the grand opening. Right now that's scheduled for late August but a soft opening will take place before.

"We can't set the date right now but we will be running updates on our website and Facebook wall as soon as we are ready," says Wongsarond.

The screening programme has been set, says Wongsarond, who is also overseeing the renovations. "We already have a movie programme that will run for about two months and we will evaluate the timeslot after getting feedback."

The ticket price of ฿300 is higher than that in a multiplex cinema because the receipts will be split 50-50 with the filmmakers. The show time period will be managed fairly and in accordance with the agreement between the BKKSr and the directors.

"Obviously we know that the ticket sales are not going to cover the running costs so we also have a lounge area where people can come and meet each other to exchange and connect," says Sarinya.

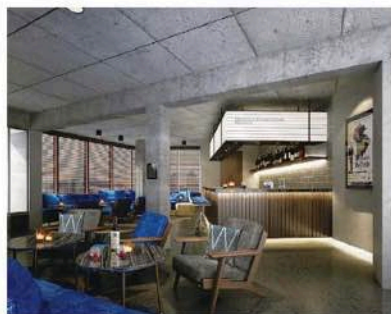
Hudson-Ellis adds that they also provide a bar and a lounge with soft drinks where people can hold special events - "Talks, meetings, parties or product launches," he says.

And rather than running commercials during the pre-screening period, they have chosen to forgo the benefits and instead give the time to emerging filmmakers to show their shorts.

The cinema will open with an interesting film from North Korea "Comrade Kim Goes Flying" The joint North Korean, UK and Belgium production, which was shot in the country and stars North Korean actors, is a feel-good story about a North Korean coal miner who dreams of becoming a trapeze artist. She is crushed by the arrogant trapeze star Pak Jang Phil who believes miners belong underground and not in the air. Nicholas Bessner, Anja Duedemans and Gwang Hun Kim direct.

Also scheduled to screen is the US documentary "Hot Sugar's Cold World" by Adam Bhala Lough, which depicts the life of a modern-day Mozart, Nick Koenig (Hot Sugar) as he creates one-of-a-kind music made entirely out of sounds from the world around him. When he breaks up with his Net idol girlfriend, (rapper Kitty), he flies to Paris where he grew up, to move on with his life, while hunting for increasingly unique and exotic sounds to sample and turn into beats.

The BKKSr is also bringing back the Thai Palme d'Or winner "Uncle Boonmee Who Can Recall His Past Lives" by Apichatpong Weerasethakul along with two classics - "The Third Man", the 1949 British film noir directed by Carol Reed and starring Orson Welles, and the original "Godzilla" or "Gojira" in Japanese, which was made in 1954.



A 3D rendition of the inside of the BKKSr cinema, right, and the lounge, above.