



Patong Carnival Heralds Start Of Tourist Season

The Patong Carnival kicked off the hopefully high high season early this month with a parade of sorts and entertainment for three nights on Soi Bangla. The entertainment was thoroughly enjoyable as was the fact that Bangla was sealed off to traffic for the nights of the carnival.

With the heavens not spilling a drop, locals and tourists alike turned up in numbers to enjoy the festivities. It is rare for Soi Bangla to become a walking street and the idea obviously appealed to many. Would businesses in the Soi suffer if Bangla were to become a walking street? I can't see it personally as the majority of people who go there walk in anyway. The only parking is swallowed up by dusk by staff of the various establishments and tuk tuks. With the hint of

terrorism still on the air more regular usage of Soi Bangla as a walking street would seem to make sense. Several roadside businesses put out extra tables onto the road and that brought the party atmosphere outside, where for this climate, it should be.

On the final night of the carnival organisers held the Miss Andaman contest. Over thirty young ladies paraded before a packed house and I can't even tell you who won. After being jostled so much by those wanting to get a better view, I gave up and retreated to a roadside table and enjoyed a cold ale while watching another passing parade. I'm sure a worthy winner was picked, I only hope it wasn't done on the basis of she with the most balloons wins.

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