



# Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of the **Boudicca** of Fred Olsen Lines.

If you have pictures or postcards of your ship, please send them in to us for future Newsletters.

I was in Nepal in June, visiting BGOS to meet its Directors, Managers and Staff and to tour some of the areas devastated by the earthquakes. I am most grateful to BGOS for their arrangements and hospitality, and for giving me the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the situation.

It was impressive to see BGOS working so well. The fact that the employment of all our crew and the functioning of our business has been saved and smoothly so is a tribute to what BGOS has achieved, and I am most grateful. I send a big shyabash to all the BGOS pariwar!

## PROMOTION

We are delighted to announce the promotion of Mr Suraj Gurung to Assistant Manager GIMS. We offer Suraj our warm congratulations for a well deserved promotion after many years of dedicated work. Well done!

## SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 778 men and 158 women on ships, a total of 936 crew and staff under management.

## We Welcome

### Star Cruises

Dipendra Gurung  
Suman Shrestha  
Laxman Pariyar

### Universal Ship Management

Sher Bahadur Gurung  
Yam Bahadur Malla  
Raju Gurung



## GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 32 Hong Kong Clients and have 100 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found 0 Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

# World Security

## Economics

Greece has now defaulted on a repayment to the International Monetary Fund and its cash supplies are running out. Banks in Greece remain closed at time of writing, and a referendum is planned which, in the event of a 'No' vote, will probably mean Greece leaving the Euro and restoring the drachma. The economic and political repercussions in Europe if this occurs remain unforeseeable.

## Nuclear

There is no news this month about Iran or North Korea's nuclear programmes.

## Europe

Fighting continues in a sporadic way in the eastern regions of Ukraine. ISIS terrorists attacked European targets in Tunisia (killing 38 tourists on a beach at Port El Kantaoui, just north of Sousse), in Kuwait (where an attack on a Shia mosque killed 27) and in France (where a manager was beheaded at work near Lyon; the terrorist then went on to attempt to attack a chemical factory but was apprehended). European navies have continued to rescue thousands of African illegal immigrants attempting to cross the Mediterranean, but have argued about what to do with those they rescue.



An injured man is helped after the mosque blast in Kuwait City.

## The Arab World

The forces of the Islamic State (ISIS) continue to hold sway over a large area of Syria and Iraq, in both of which government forces have proved incapable of fighting them. Only the Kurds and the Shia militia in Iraq have shown themselves able to take on the extremist Sunni Muslim fighters of ISIS. The air attacks mounted by US, some Arab state and other air forces have so far not proved effective. The civil war in Syria continues with the forces of the Assad regime losing ground steadily to rebels, and with Jordan and Israel threatening to establish buffer zones in Syria along their frontiers to keep out extremist Syrian rebels. Saudi Arabia and some Gulf state forces continue to attacked Shia Muslim Houthi forces in Yemen; Houthi troops have recently attacked Aden. Libya remains in a state of civil war and has become the major source of illegal immigration across the Mediterranean.



The wreckage of a Syrian government fighter jet that crashed in Deraa.

## Afghanistan and Pakistan

There is little news this month. Both countries remain subject to extremist Muslim terrorism and large parts of Afghanistan are in the control of the Taleban.

## Palestine

There has been little news this month.

## Asia

There has been no major news regarding Chinese construction of island bases in the South China Sea around the Spratly Islands, or of tensions over disputed islands in the Sea of Japan. China's insurgency problem in the Muslim areas of far-western Xinjiang province have worsened. The Black Flag Movement, an ISIS-linked group, has rekindled Muslim



Chinese paramilitary police on patrol after a previous attack in Xinjiang, the Uighur region of China.

## Thailand and Malaysia

The problem of Muslim Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh and Myanmar continues. Many remain in unseaworthy vessels at sea, victims of extortion and abuses by people traffickers. The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.

## The Malacca Straits

There are increasing reports of small scale piracy in the Malacca Straits and nearby areas of the South China Sea. This is currently directed at smaller cargo ships and involves the theft of cargo or items from the ships seized, but has also involved the hijacking and renaming of tankers in order to sell their fuel at nearby ports.

## Somalia

There are no new reports of piracy at present. Fighting continues in the country between the government and its foreign allies and Islamic militant al-Shabaab fighters.

## Africa

Nigerian, Chad and Cameroon forces have continued their campaigns against Islamic militants Boko Haram. The security situations in Burkino Faso, the Central African Republic, Mali and South Sudan remain disturbed.

## The Americas

There is little news of a security note this month. America and Cuba have re-opened embassies in each other's country, but the US Congress embargo of Cuba continues.

## Myanmar

Parliament re-confirmed that Aung Sang Suu Kyi would not be allowed to stand for President in the next election, due in November, because she had a foreign husband and children.

## India

There is little news of a security note this month.



Piracy and encroachment issues in the South China Sea are likely to lead an extension of the maritime security blanket already provided on a cooperative basis by ASEAN states in the Strait of Malacca.



Nepalese police officers conduct a self-defence training session for women and children at a shelter for earthquake victims in Kathmandu.

## Nepal News

### Nepal earthquake survivors get self-defence classes after sexual assaults

**7 Jun** - Police in Nepal have started self-defence lessons for women and girls in camps for people displaced by massive earthquakes earlier this year after concerns about a number of sexual assaults and an increase in reports of sexual harassment.

More than 8,700 people died in the two major quakes that hit Nepal on April 25 and May 12, destroying nearly half a million houses and leaving thousands camping out in the open.

"While visiting different camps in Kathmandu, we realised the need for such training so that women can protect themselves," said Tara Thapa, deputy superintendent of police in Nepal. "Women and children are more vulnerable to sexual violence in this situation. The culprits are looking to take benefits of the situation."

The courses started last week.

"We are teaching them several techniques, including how to kick and punch, as well as various locks. There are some lessons of judo and karate, too," Thapa said. "Even a weak woman can fight against a strong man. This will help them to save themselves."

Bipana Tamang, 24, was one of dozens

of women who had gathered at the Boudhanath monastery in Kathmandu for training. From Nuwakot district near Kathmandu, she has been living outside since the earthquake and runs a small restaurant.

"I have faced many cases of harassment while dealing with the customers. These techniques will help me to tackle such problems," she said. "This is the third day and I have learnt how to punch and to kick. Now, I am confident I can fight to save myself."

Narayan Singh Khadka, a Kathmandu metropolitan police spokesman, said the initiative had been launched after several cases of harassment and "drunk people entering camps".

"We are receiving overwhelming response from the people" he said.

The police in Nepal are planning to expand the sessions to several other camps in Kathmandu.

Widespread unemployment, poverty and the impact of a 10-year Maoist insurgency have made Nepali women and children vulnerable to trafficking networks, and campaigners say that the recent disaster has increased the threat.

Police and security agencies have increased vigilance against trafficking in quake-hit areas and along the Nepal-

India border.

In an effort to prevent the trafficking of children, the government recently imposed a three-month ban on adoption and made it mandatory for travelling youngsters to carry permission letters if they are not accompanied by parents.

Authorities in India last month rescued more than 20 children from a human trafficking network targeting families who lost their livelihoods in the earthquakes.

The children's parents, from poor villages in northern India, had been working as migrant labourers in Nepal and were laid off after the earthquake. As they crossed into India at the Raxaul border post, they were convinced to allow their children, between the ages of eight and 14, to travel with the traffickers, who promised to give them well-paid jobs in comfortable conditions.

The children were in fact being taken to a bag-manufacturing factory in Mumbai. Four traffickers were detained by the police.

The government of the poor south Asian state has struggled to cope with the magnitude of the disaster. Some analysts estimate rebuilding could cost the country between \$10bn to \$15bn (£6.5bn-£9.8bn), almost half its annual GDP, with further costs coming from an

economic slowdown as a result of the tragedy.

There are already fears that the tourist industry, a major employer, will be hit hard.

Trekking and mountaineering is a huge revenue earner for the impoverished country, home to eight of the world's 14 peaks over 8,000 metres, with Everest alone attracting hundreds of climbers during the April-May spring season, when weather conditions are ideal for ascents.

Hundreds of climbers had to abandon their attempts when an avalanche triggered by the earthquake struck Everest base camp, killing 18 people and marking a second year with virtually no summits after the deaths of 16 Nepalese guides in 2014 led to a shutdown of the world's highest peak.

The climbers may be allowed to use their climbing permits, which could cost up to £16,000, next year, an official said last week.

Many aid agencies remain frustrated by bureaucratic and logistic bottlenecks which have slowed delivery of assistance

to the most needy.

### **Nepal landslide triggered by rainfall kills 15 people and leaves dozens missing**

**11 Jun** - A landslide triggered by heavy rainfall has buried at least 15 people and left dozens missing in six villages in Nepal's mountainous north-east, officials have said.

The landslide hit on Thursday in Taplejung district, a remote area about 310 miles (500km) east of the capital, Kathmandu, said government administrator Surendra Bhattarai.

The nearest town is at least five hours away on foot when the weather is good, but getting to the site was taking much longer because of rain and fog that prevented a rescue helicopter from landing, said home affairs ministry official Laxmi Dhakal in Kathmandu.

There are no government offices or police stations in the area.

Landslides are common in mountainous Nepal during the monsoon season, from June to September.

The Himalayan nation is still recovering from earthquakes in April and May

that killed more than 8,700 people and caused massive damage, with many of the roads cut off by landslides.

Meanwhile, the government announced on Thursday that it would hire international experts to study trekking routes in the mountains of Nepal to see if they are safe for hikers to return.

Nineteen people were killed and scores injured in an avalanche at Mount Everest base camp triggered by the 25 April quake. Trails around the Langtang valley in northern Nepal were destroyed and an entire village buried by a landslide and avalanche set off by the earthquake.

Tens of thousands of tourists come to Nepal every year to trek on the foothills of the Himalayan peaks.

### **Doctors call for hepatitis E vaccine in Nepal to save hundreds of women**

**18 Jun** - A group of eminent doctors have called for urgent measures to introduce a vaccine against hepatitis E infection into Nepal, where they say the lives of hundreds of women are at risk.

The virus, which spreads in contaminated water, is common in Nepal, but experts said a deadly outbreak is likely when the



The site of the landslide in Taplejung, Nepal. There are no government offices or police stations in the area.

monsoon rains begin in July. Thousands of people are living in makeshift camps with limited or no access to clean water following the earthquakes.

Harry Dalton, a consultant gastroenterologist at the Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS trust, the lead author of a letter published in the Lancet medical journal, said: "This strain of hepatitis has a poor outcome in pregnant women, and our calculations suggest that if an outbreak occurs, more than 500 pregnant Nepali women will die."

Among pregnant women, hepatitis E has a mortality rate of 25%, the doctors said. They wrote: "Earthquake-affected areas are faced with a 'perfect storm' of risk factors: large displaced populations with limited access to clean drinking water, a lack of sanitary facilities, the approaching monsoon, an overburdened healthcare infrastructure, large amounts of circulating HEV and an at-risk population who mostly lack protective antibodies. The experts, including Jeremy Farrar, the head of the Wellcome Trust, and Peter Piot, the director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said the risk is high and imminent.

There is a vaccine, but it is only licensed for use in China. The doctors are calling for its speedy introduction into Nepal. The World Health Organisation has said its use should not be precluded in specific situations, such as safeguarding high-risk pregnant women, despite the need for more data on its safety and efficacy.

The doctors want surveillance and testing in Nepal to identify cases and for the Nepalese government to request the vaccine and build up a stockpile.

### **Over \$3 billion for Nepal**

**25 Jun** - International Community has pledged more than US\$ 3 billion for Nepal's reconstruction at a conference in Kathmandu on Thursday.

In the opening ceremony of International Conference on Nepal's Reconstruction, five countries, India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj pledged US\$ one billion, one fourth of which would be provided as a grant and the remaining would be given as a concessional loan.

"We expect that these amounts will significantly help the quickest possible recovery and reconstruction efforts of the Government and people of Nepal," said Swaraj before returning to India.

She added, "We also hope that early implementation of important projects such as Pancheshwar, Arun III and Upper Karnali Hydropower Projects and Nijgarh Airport and Kathmandu-Nijgarh Fast Track Road Projects will create new avenues for people's livelihood, enhance Government's revenue and contribute towards speedy post quake recovery and rehabilitation."

China pledged US\$ 460 million, followed by Japan (US\$260 million), US (US\$130 million), European Union (US\$ 112 million) and Norway (US\$ 13 million). World Bank and Asian Development Bank have pledged US\$ 500 million and US\$600 million respectively.

Ministers from Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Bhutan also pledged their support but did not speak about the figures.

In the ongoing business session that followed the inaugural ceremony, more countries are pledging their support.

Nepal needs at least US\$ six billion to rebuild public and individual houses, agriculture, health, education and tourism sectors damaged by the 25 April earthquake.



The Nepalese prime minister Sushil Koirala greets donors at the international conference on the country's reconstruction in Kathmandu.



12-year-old boy Siu Yau-wai (Front) and his grandmother Chow Siu-shuen (Back), arrive the immigration department office in Kowloon Bay. Siu lived in Hong Kong for nine years without documentation.

## Hong Kong News

### Hidden boy goes back to mainland voluntarily

**5 Jun** - A mainland boy who hid in Hong Kong for nine years - sparking protests by activists - has accepted voluntary repatriation.

Twelve-year-old Siu Yau-wai, with his grandmother Chow Siu-shuen, 67, went to the Immigration Department in Kowloon Bay yesterday to say the boy was willing to return to the mainland.

He was then taken to the Shenzhen border in an immigration vehicle. But no family members were seen when Chow and her grandson arrived at Lo Wu about 8pm.

When asked if they made the decision due to public pressure, the emotional grandmother said: "The world is so big, but there is nowhere for him to call home."

Chow said she regretted seeking help from lawmaker Chan Yuen-han last month and told reporters: "Please leave us in peace. We are already suffering."

Although Yau-wai has left the SAR, it is understood he has the option to apply for a one-way permit to Hong Kong.

Although permits are usually to reunite parents and their children, mainland authorities have the power to use their

own discretion.

An Immigration Department spokesman quoted Chow as saying Yau-wai's family members will look after him. His identity as a mainland resident has been confirmed and he was returning to the mainland "where he will start a new life, according to his will."

Nevertheless, the department will continue its investigation on Chow, who was arrested for aiding and abetting a person to breach conditions of stay. "In ordinary situations, anyone who does not have the right of abode will be repatriated," the spokesman said.

"Family members should not hide children in Hong Kong as they go against the law and deprive children of opportunities to be educated, making a big impact on them both physically and mentally. Such action is not tolerated by society."

At a press conference organized by lawmaker Chan last month, it was revealed that Yau-wai had stayed with his grandmother in Hong Kong for nine years without legal documents after being abandoned by his mainland parents.

Yau-wai was granted a so-called "walk-free permit," or recognisance form, to

allow him to stay temporarily pending investigation.

It sparked an outcry from localism activists, who protested at the Immigration Department, Chan's office and Confucian Tai Shing Primary School in Wong Tai Sin, which expressed an interest in admitting Yau-wai. If he was allowed to stay in Hong Kong, Yau-wai could set a precedent for people to get the right of abode via irregular channels, they argued.

Chan said she respected the grandmother's decision.

Sze Lai-shan, community organizer of the Society for Community Organization, said uncertainties for Yau-wai remain.

Sometimes it takes a long time for mainland authorities to issue a hukou, or household registration, which is necessary for children to enroll in schools, Sze said.

It is possible for mainland authorities to grant a one-way permit to him if he seeks a reunion with Chow instead of his parents.

There are one or two such quotas every day. A total of 150 one-way permits are issued a day.



## Ten bomb plot radicals seized

**16 Jun** - The Police Organized Crime and Triad Bureau arrested six men and four women, aged between 21 and 58, for "conspiracy to manufacture explosives." A 58-year-old man was arrested late last night near the Lo Wu checkpoint. The other nine arrests were made in various districts, including Sai Kung, late on Sunday night.

Police are investigating the suspects' motives, but at least one admitted to being a member of local radical group the National Independent Party.

Bomb making equipment was seized in a derelict television studio by officers from the Organized Crime and Triad Bureau during a raid that saw members of Explosive Ordinance Disposal and Fire Services deployed to abandoned former ATV drama set in Ho Chung, Sai Kung. Initial reports cited sources alleging the bomb makers were recruited over the Internet with the intent to take drastic action before and after a pivotal vote on the future of Hong Kong's constitutional reform later this week.

Four of the arrested persons were women and included a student and a teaching assistant.

Detonators and air guns were also recovered from some of the arrestee's homes as the force continues its investigations.

## Hong Kong rejects controversial China-backed reform proposals

**18 Jun** - Controversial electoral reform proposals which sparked mass protests in Hong Kong last September have been rejected by lawmakers.

The city's Legislative Council were voting on China-backed plans to change the way Hong Kong's Chief Executive was elected.

Although the new system would have allowed the next leader to be directly chosen by voters, Beijing would have retained the right to choose the candidates on the ballot.

At least 47 of the chamber's 70 politicians needed to support the bill for it to pass. However, just eight voted in favour of the package, with 28 pro-democracy lawmakers voting against it.

Many lawmakers who were against the electoral reform staged a walkout as the bill headed for defeat.

"This motion has not gained a two-thirds majority vote. I announce that the motion has been vetoed," said Jasper Tsang, the Legislative Council's president.

The result represents a defeat for Beijing's leadership and a victory for the "umbrella movement" which brought the heart of the former British colony to a standstill last autumn.

Hong Kong's most senior stateswoman at the time of the handover from Britain

to China in 1997, Anson Chan, said she had expected the pro-democracy lobby to prevail.

Ahead of the vote, she said: "We want choice. We do not want to be presented by two or three puppets anointed by Beijing and then be told to go and exercise the 'vote' in your hands."

Ironically, the pro-democracy faction's rejection of the "Beijing plan" means that the status quo will remain, with only a committee of 1,200 people eligible to vote for the next leader or Chief Executive.

Mrs Chan insists campaigners will back nothing less than full democratic rights.

"What's the point of this right [to vote] when you have no choice in selecting those who you want to see as candidates? No pan-democratic candidate can ever get through," she added.

However, among the pro-establishment lobby outside Hong Kong's government headquarters, there were large gatherings of people who believe a little democracy is better than none.

Jackie Cheung, leading a group of people calling for the Beijing-backed proposal to be passed, explained that democracy is a step-by-step process.

Rejecting Anson Chan's assertion that only full democratic rights will do, he said that it was better to accept a "form of democracy" rather than no democracy.



Pro-democracy lawmakers display a yellow umbrella and a banner stating "Reopen political reform to protect Hong Kong, never give up to fight for true universal suffrage".

### Joshua Wong punched in the face in unprovoked attack by young couple

**29 Jun** - Scholarism leader Joshua Wong suffered cuts to his face when he and his girlfriend Tiffany Chin were attacked by a couple aged in their 20s as they walked home from the cinema on Sunday night. Wong was punched in the face and Tiffany was dragged to the ground by her hair during the unprovoked attack in Tai Kok Tsui, according to Scholarism's Facebook page.

The couple were walking towards Mong Kok MTR station after watching a movie at Olympian City shortly after midnight when the attack happened, according to Wong.

"At 12:02, me and Tiffany were walking on Elm Street when we saw a couple, both looked like they were in their 20s. When we passed them, about two metres away from them, the man suddenly charged towards me, grabbed my neck and punched me in my left eye. My glasses dropped and I fell down," Wong said on Facebook.

The assailant then turned to Chin who was attempting to film the attack using her phone. She was dragged to the ground by her hair and suffered scratches on her legs. Wong said the attacker then hit and kicked him, as he lied on the ground.

"I asked them why they hit me. They ran

across the road on Elm Street. Me and Tiffany chased them on Elm Street and asked why they hit us. The man, around 20-something, walked towards us although the woman did not say anything or move," Wong told reporters later. He said the attacker, about 1.8-metres in height, rolled up the sleeves of his jacket and threatened to hit him again.

The couple called the police and later went to the Kwong Wah Hospital to seek treatment.

In a statement posted on Facebook, Scholarism condemned the attack and urged a thorough investigation into the incident. The statement also said the attack did not appear to be premeditated. Wong told reporters he believed the attack was related to his political activities and political views.

Speaking to Commercial Radio on Monday morning, Chin said she found it surprising that the attackers were so young. "Usually, so-called 'blue ribbons' we come across are those of an older age. But those who hit us yesterday dressed and looked quite young," she said.

Clashes broke out in Mong Kok last night as localists and pro-Beijing groups held rival protests. Five people were arrested. It is unclear whether the attack and the protest are related.

At 9:47am on Monday Wong posted a message on his Facebook page saying he

was on his way home to get some sleep after talking to the police. In the message, he said the attack showed social activists not only face harassment from "blue ribbons" in demonstrations, but also risk being attacked in their daily lives.

"Please don't say things like 'we are all Joshua Wong', today is not about universal suffrage, it's about the little freedom and rule of law left in Hong Kong that is being wiped out by these assailants. The road ahead is long and difficult, but let's hold our original intention and keep walking on this bumpy road of democracy," the message said.

In a Facebook statement by the Hong Kong Professional Teachers Union (HKPTU), the HKPTU strongly condemned the violence and demanded the police to arrest the suspect. The HKPTU also called for the government to protect citizens personal safety and freedom of expression.

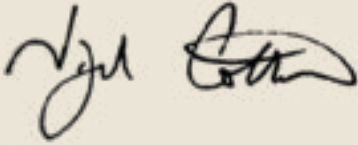
Wong is an iconic figure of last year's Umbrella Movement, during which thousands of people occupied several main roads in the city demanding "true universal suffrage." Wong and Scholarism has recently been advocating for amending the Basic Law in order to draw attention to questionable articles such as the national security law Article 23.



Student activist Joshua Wong was punched in the eye and nose by attackers. On the right is his girlfriend Tiffany Chin.

## Conclusion

The world is going through some remarkably troubled times at the moment. It makes our job more important. Never forget that the safety of your passengers, fellow crew, your ships and you yourselves are in your hands. Be ever vigilant!



**Nigel Collett**  
**Managing Director**

