



Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of the Disney Dream of Disney Cruise Line.

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

We Welcome

Norwegian Cruise Lines
Sant Bahadur Gurung

Prestige Cruise Holdings
Santosh Kumar Gurung

Disney Cruise Lines
Ek Bahadur Gurung

SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 740 men and 169 women on ships, a total of 909 crew and staff under management.

It has been a routine summer month, with no big news to inform you of. I thank those of you who have taken the time to send us entries for our survey of training schools. The information you sent has been most useful, and I urge everyone to have a look at the survey and send us an entry when you have time. Remember, it is anonymous if you wish it to be. Details are below.

Survey Detail

So that we may ensure that you and other crew receive SCTW and other training that meets your needs and the needs of our Clients, we need to assess the quality of the training that you undergo at the Sea Schools you attend. Please take a few minutes to complete this Survey as it will help those who follow you to sea.

You may simply click this website:

<https://surveyplanet.com/57c8e32d50530ddd0c7f73e8>

or visit our website (<http://www.gurkha.com.hk/>).



GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 28 Hong Kong Clients and have 104 security staff employed.

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

Editor of Newsletter



Derek Lin

World Security

Economics

The major issue at the moment seems to once again be Europe's banks. The major German Bank, Deutsche Bank, has been fined US\$14 billion for mis-selling mortgages in the US, and the markets are beginning to distrust the bank's solidity. There are fears of a major financial crisis once again in Europe.

Nuclear

There are no new developments at the moment.

Europe

Tensions on the border between Ukraine and Russia remain high and the arguments about migrants in Europe continue.

The Middle East and the Arab World

Russia and the US signed a ceasefire agreement for the Syrian civil war but peace was shattered within days and Syrian government planes continue to bomb Aleppo.

Conflict has not yet ended in Libya and Yemen.



Aleppo's citadel as seen through destruction on Wednesday in the Farafira district. The Syrian army took control of the rebel-held district after days of heavy airstrikes.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

The security situation in Afghanistan remains grave. Tension is high on the Indo-Pakistan Line of Control (border) in Kashmir after a an Islamic group tried to overrun an Indian base and India struck back across the border.



An Indian army soldier patrols along a highway on the outskirts of Srinagar, September 29, 2016.

Palestine

There is little news currently in Gaza or the West Bank.

Asia

Tension continues in both the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan around islands claimed by China. China's insurgency problems in the Muslim areas of far-western Xinjiang province and in Tibet continue. The President of the Philippines, Rodrigo Duterte, has gone out of his way to offend the US, moving close to China, removing US forces training local troops and ending joint exercises.



China's largest Muslim group, who number at least 10 million and are far more culturally Chinese than Uighurs.

Thailand and Malaysia

The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues.

The Malacca Straits

There is no news this month of piracy in the area.

Somalia

There have been no more reports of Somali piracy. Fighting continues in the country between the government and its foreign allies and Islamic militant al-Shabaab fighters.

Africa

Nigerian forces continue to attack Boko Haram Islamic terrorists in the north of the country. Civil conflict continues in South Sudan.

Myanmar

There is no news of a security nature this month.

India

Kashmir remains disturbed.

The Americas

'Black Lives Matter' protests continued in the US after a series of killings of black men by police, leading to rioting and some deaths. Small bombs planted by a Muslim militant exploded in New York, injuring twenty-eight people and another militant attacked people in a shopping mall in Minnesota, injuring eight.

Problems continue to increase in Venezuela, where the government's disastrous policies have led to impoverishment of the people and civil unrest.



Nigerian Army Chief Faces Death Threats from Boko Haram, But Says He Already Beat Them.



The NYPD has not yet released records requested under the state freedom of information law because it could reveal limitations of undercover operations, an NYPD officer said.



Coll Kumar Lama at the Old Bailey in London in February 2015.

Nepal News

Nepalese officer cleared of torturing suspected Maoist detainees

6 Sep- A Nepalese army officer has been cleared of torturing suspected Maoist detainees following years of investigation by Scotland Yard and two war crimes trials at the Old Bailey.

Lieut Col Kumar Lama, 49, was charged under a rarely used clause of the 1988 Criminal Justice Act that allows the prosecution in the UK of alleged foreign war criminals.

Lama was arrested in 2013 after settling in St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex, with his family. He had been serving as a UN peacekeeper in South Sudan shortly before being detained.

He was accused of mistreating prisoner Janak Raut during his country's civil war, which raged between 1996 and 2006. The Old Bailey trial heard that he presided over beatings of his alleged victim while in charge of the Gorusinghe barracks in Kapilvastu. Lama has always denied the charges.

It was claimed that one of Lama's more unusual torture methods was to allow a soldier's pet parrot to peck at the victims until they bled.

Lama first stood trial in February 2015 but the jury was discharged following the failure to provide sufficiently qualified translators to hear the evidence of about a dozen Nepalese witnesses who had been flown to the UK.

Last month, a second jury was discharged after failing to agree on a verdict on the remaining torture charge. On Tuesday, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) announced it would offer no further evidence against Lama.

The prosecutor, Duncan Penny QC, said: "The crown has carefully and thoroughly considered the evidence on the remaining count and there was no longer a realistic prospect of conviction."

The judge, Mr Justice Sweeney, told the jury: "It is relatively rare for so many witnesses to require interpreters and indeed for so many problems to arise in one case." He assured Lama that he would face no further action in British courts.

Section 134 (sub-section 1) of the Criminal Justice Act permits prosecution of foreign war criminals in the UK under so-called universal jurisdiction. The UK is one of 159 signatories to the UN convention against

torture and perpetrators must be tried in the country in which they are arrested.

The two trials are estimated to have cost about £1m. His solicitor, Jonathan Grimes, a criminal law partner at the law firm Kingsley Napley, said: "I am extremely pleased for Col Lama that this case is finally at an end and that he can put these allegations behind him.

"The jury's verdict in August on one of the charges, and today's decision by the CPS on the other, confirm what Col Lama has always maintained: that he never ordered, or was complicit in, torture.

"The past three-and-a-half-years has been an extremely frustrating and stressful period for Col Lama and his family. There have been unacceptable delays in bringing this case to a conclusion, none of which have been any fault of his.

"He has borne these delays with great patience and good spirit and has always trusted that justice would prevail. I am pleased that Col Lama, an officer who has served with distinction with both the Nepalese army and the UN, will now be able to return to Nepal and resume his military career.

“This case has run into a number of difficulties, in particular, the complexities arising from the fact that most evidence was in Nepal and in Nepalese and that the witnesses were located in Nepal. The reliance by British police and the CPS on evidence gathered by a human rights organisation, Advocacy Forum, has proven to be a mistake.”

Janak Raut, one of the alleged victims, said he respected the jury’s decision but hoped the government of Nepal would consider legal action.

Daniel Machover, a solicitor at the law firm Hickman & Rose, which represented Raut, and an expert in international criminal jurisdiction, said: “We have worked very hard on a number of these cases and it is a source of great satisfaction to know that the UK takes seriously its international obligation to investigate and where appropriate to prosecute alleged crimes of this nature.”

Mandira Sharma, founder of Advocacy Forum, said: “Regardless of the decision not to re-prosecute Mr Lama, the case has already established that the door of universal jurisdiction for the victims of torture and other gross violations is

open in the UK and beyond.

“I just hope the government of Nepal understands the gravity of the issue at hand and starts a process to end impunity for torture and gross violations of human rights in Nepal.”

Running for Nepal in Denmark

23 Sep- Last week, the town of Viborg in Denmark came together to raise funds for children’s education in five villages of Madi, Chitwan. Through a run titled ‘Children in Denmark run for Children in Nepal’ the event saw over a thousand young participants, some along with their parents, to take part in the 4.2 km run.

For parents like Michael Kolthoff the event was the “greatest experience” as their children got to make friends and interact with Nepali children. His daughter, Marie, who completed the race within 45 minutes, was quick to make friends with Pradyal Adhikari, a Nepali boy living in Denmark.

Having been to Nepal no less than three times and also having visited Madi along with his 14 year old son, Kolthoff said he plans to visit soon. “It was so easy staying in a village with children. I was always sure

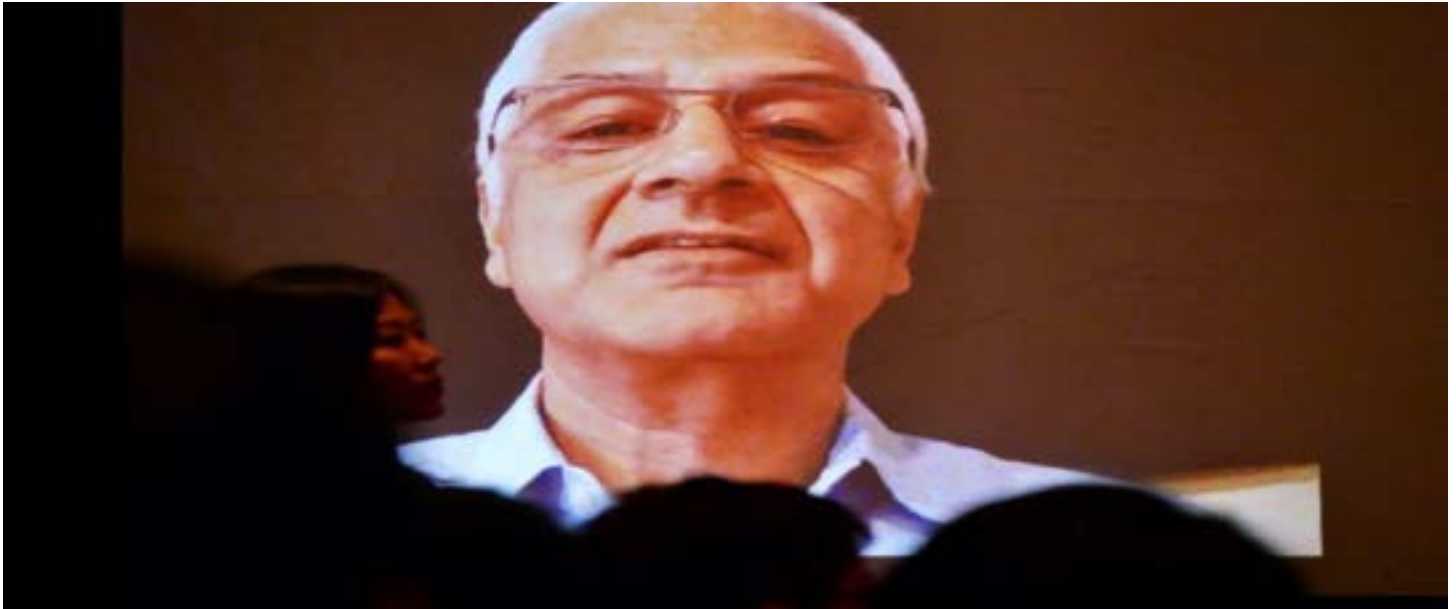
that wherever my son was, there would be friends around him,” said Kolthoff.

With the funds raised in last week’s race, the organisation is planning to arrange for a Bus Library which will tour the five villages continuously, with at least one day in each village. Equipped with books and two staffs, the bus will also host different children’s events once it is in operation.

After a successful event in Denmark, the organisers are now planning for another children’s run. Only this time, the venue will be Madi itself. Jutland Village Development in Nepal’s Lone Peterson, along with co-ordinator of Viborg City Marathon, and Rolf Bücking -the co-ordinator of the children’s run, will be visiting Madi in November to plan for the race to be held on 11 April, 2017. Selected children from Denmark along with families will also be present during the run next year.



Two young runners participating in the event.



In this Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016 photo, Kunda Dixit, Nepali journalist and publisher, addresses attendees through video conferencing from an undisclosed location during a gathering of more than 350 journalists from 50 countries at a conference in Kathmandu, Nepal. The prominent local journalist who helped organize a gathering in Nepal of investigative reporters from throughout Asia was notably absent from the event, exiled to avoid possible arrest.

Journalist's Exile Shows Concern Over Nepal's Press Freedom

26 Sep- A prominent local journalist who helped organize a gathering in Nepal of investigative reporters from throughout Asia was notably absent from the event, exiled to avoid possible arrest.

Journalist and publisher Kunda Dixit, who founded the Nepal Center for Investigative Journalism, is under investigation by the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority.

Global Investigative Journalism Network executive director David Kaplan, who worked with Dixit for more than a year to bring more than 350 journalists from 50 countries to Nepal this weekend, said Dixit is being targeted for prosecution and detention by Nepali officials, underscoring broader concerns about press freedom.

"He fled Nepal just weeks before this conference because of a witch hunt in which he's scared of being detained and imprisoned if he comes back here," said Kaplan. "Kunda is one of our best and we are here because of him. We are all going to continue fighting for what Kunda believes in."

Nepal's home ministry spokesperson Yadav Koirala said Dixit's issues are not related to the overall government and only concern the Commission for the

Investigation of Abuse of Authority.

The commission's official Ganesh Raj Karki said his agency has no warrant or case against Dixit because he is not a public figure and thus cannot be charged. However, Dixit and his brother, also a publisher, are being investigated for the amount of property they have in their names.

Dixit said he's waiting for courts to grant him protection against unfair prosecution by the commission.

Some local journalists and editors say Dixit's situation highlights growing government pressure on journalists to avoid publishing anything that could cast authorities in a poor light, even if they're true and fairly reported. At least one news magazine is being forced to close, and a radio station was demolished last week after authorities said its building encroached on forest lands.

U.S. Ambassador Alaina B. Teplitz told journalists that free press is an issue the State Department is closely watching in this impoverished Himalayan nation fraught with political instability. The ninth government in 10 years took power last month, and a constitution adopted last year both espouses a right to free expression and has clauses that seem potentially restrictive of the press.

"I don't think Nepal can have a healthy democracy at the end of the day if it doesn't have a healthy media and citizens aren't free to express themselves, as you say, without fear of dire consequences," said Teplitz, who would not speak specifically about Dixit's situation.

When pressed, she said having a free and open press is a high value to the U.S. which is at least officially espoused in Nepal.

"There are elements out there in a very politicized society with a lot of politicized institutions that are not as in love with that concept as we are," she said.

As for Dixit, he was sad to miss the conference where journalists shared tips, story ideas and research methods. He was supposed to introduce Pulitzer Prize-winning Boston Globe editor Walter Robinson, featured in the Academy Award-winning film "Spotlight." Instead he sent a video from his unnamed location, drawing huge cheers.

"Our officials have refined their methods. They don't do anything as crude as jailing journalists anymore. Censorship today is achieved by behind-the-scenes threats which can be even more insidious and sinister," he told The Associated Press.



Hong Kong News

Yuen Long residents fear eviction as government mulls public housing project

14 Sep- Tenants at a controversial plot of land in Yuen Long are worried they may be evicted as the government is under pressure to speed up a plan to build public housing on the site.

They have also questioned the feasibility of the plan, saying an industrial zone next to the site will make the area unfit for living.

A plan to build 17,000 public housing flats on the 33-hectare brownfield site – agricultural land in rural parts of the New Territories occupied by various industrial operations – in Wang Chau first surfaced in 2013. However, the government later scaled down the plan and opted to build 4,000 flats on a nearby 5.6-hectare greenbelt site – a heavily vegetated area under stricter planning rules – involving three non-indigenous villages.

Newly-elected lawmaker Eddie Chu Hoi-dick, who has criticised the government for succumbing to opposition from rural strongmen with triad links and vested interests in the brownfield site, is under police protection after receiving death threats.

Residents living in the affected villages urged the government to develop the brownfield site first before taking their homes away.

A source said the Housing Department is now considering revisiting the original plan. The government said that it had simply taken the greenbelt site plan as priority.

Siu Kin, 55, has been running a garage on the brownfield site for 15 years. He said if the government was willing to relocate the garage he would support the plan.

“We have six workers in the garage. They all have families,” said Siu. “If we are forced to move, we don’t know where to go. Then six families will lose their incomes.”

The site includes both government-owned and private land. The government first consulted the Ping Shan Rural Committee with the larger plan in 2013, according to Leung Che-cheung, Yuen Long district council chairman, who has close ties to the committee. The next year, when the Housing Department tabled the scheme to the District Council, it had been scaled down to the 4,000-flat plan.

Residents in the three affected villages said they did not deserve to be homeless. Ng Kwai-ngor, 80, said she had been living in Wing Ning Tsuen to the south of the brownfield site for about 70 years. She choked up at the thought of moving out of her home.

“I started to grow vegetables and raise ducks and pigs here when I was a teenager,” said Ng. “I’m deeply connected with this place. Even if the government gives me a public housing flat, it will not be as big and it will be very difficult to get up and down.”

Ng said the government did not consult villagers about the plan. She said her daughter, who lives with her, only made about HK\$10,000 a month, which would not be enough to rent a place outside the area.

Ng’s house is on land owned by developer New World. If the government builds on the area, compensation would go to New World, according to Ng’s son.

Revealed: decision behind Wang Chau rural housing scandal reaches very top of Hong Kong government

21 Sep- All the top government officials including the chief executive and the three key secretaries took part in a collective decision to defer a key part of a controversial housing project, the Post has learnt.

The news emerged even as Leung Chun-ying avoided questions over the past few days as to who made the call to hold up development of a brownfield site in Wang Chau, Yuen Long. The site is controlled by rural leaders and could yield 13,000 public housing flats.

Leung and Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-wah, who has distanced himself from the project, are expected to come clean on their roles in the project in a press conference on Wednesday afternoon.

The two men are seen as hopefuls in next year's chief executive election. Chief Secretary Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, who also distanced herself from the matter, will attend a charity event at around the same time.

A source familiar with the situation said the collective decision was made at a weekly meeting of the government in early 2014, chaired by the chief executive.

Tsang, Lam, Secretary for Justice Rimsky Yuen Kwok-keung and the relevant bureau and department heads were all present.

"They made the decision after receiving a progress report by the Housing Department, which made the recommendation to defer phases two and three of the Wang Chau project," the source said.

The progress report, dated January 2014, said the two phases should be deferred "to later periods" due to oppositions from local leaders. Those two phases cover a brownfield site – a large part of which is controlled by a rural leader for the operation of a car park and open storage business – could yield 13,000 flats.

A similar finding was reported by Singtao Daily on Wednesday.

The source also said the progress report mentioned Yuen Long district council chairman Leung Che-cheung had suggested to the government to confine the development to only phase one, with 4,000 flats. That phase, to be completed by 2024/2025, covers a green belt area where three villages will have to be displaced.

Preceding progress reports had stipulated phases two and three were

scheduled for completion in 2026/2027, the source told the Post, but these dates were no longer mentioned after officials decided to defer them at that meeting.

On Saturday, an Apple Daily report forced the chief executive to admit he chaired a task force on Wang Chau in June 2013, a month before officials were said to have "soft lobbied" rural leaders for support.

On Monday, Leung brought Tsang into the controversy, saying it was the financial secretary's Steering Committee on Land Supply that followed up detailed issues regarding the project.

Tsang then said his committee did not decide that Wang Chau should be developed in phases.

The chief secretary on the same day told the press she was not a member of either Leung's or Tsang's panels. She said on Tuesday she noted her boss and other officials would speak to the media on the matter at the press conference.

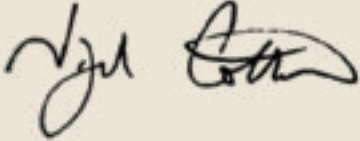
The Wang Chau project came under the spotlight after lawmaker-elect Eddie Chu Hoi-dick's campaign over the past weeks drew public attention to the plight of the Yuen Long villagers it will displace, and to his long-time allegations of collusion between the government, business, landlords and triads behind it.



The brownfield site in Wang Chau in Yuen Long is controlled by a rural leader.

Conclusion

Next month, I shall travel to England to visit some of our Clients, and hope to have the chance to meet some of you there.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Collett', written in a cursive style.

Nigel Collett
Managing Director