



# Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of Disney Fantasy of *Disney Cruise Line*.

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

I had the great pleasure this month of travelling to England and meeting the management of Carnival UK. The report I was given of the performance of our crew was excellent, and I congratulate everyone who is working at Carnival UK through us on the great impression you give in your work.



## We Welcome

Norwegian Cruise Lines  
Umesh Bahadur Thapa  
Keshab Bahadur Khadka  
Bhim Kumar Gurung

Aida Cruises  
Tara Ghale

## SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 733 men and 171 women on ships, a total of 904 crew and staff under management.



## 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

Billy Lin

# World Security

## Economics

There is no major news about the world's economy this month.

## Nuclear

North Korea continues to fire missiles into the Sea of Japan, and claims now to have a nuclear armed ballistic missile capable of hitting the United States of America. Tension has risen.



Pyongyang has reportedly launched another missile on July 28, 2017, which landed in the Sea of Japan.

## Europe

Tension between Russia and NATO countries remains high.

On 29 July, an Islamic extremist killed one person and injured seven others in a knife attack in Hamburg.



Police officers secure the area after a knife attack at a supermarket in Hamburg.

## The Middle East and the Arab World

The Syrian civil war continues. Iraqi forces have completed the recapture of Mosul from ISIL. Conflict continues in Libya and Yemen.

Saudia Arabia and its allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council have continued the blockade of Qatar.

## Afghanistan and Pakistan

In Afghanistan, Taleban atrocities continue. Seven people dies when militants detonated a suicide bomb and attacked the Iraqi Embassy in Kabul. An explosion at the Shia Muslim Jawadia mosque in Herat killed about 30 people and injured dozens more.

The security situation in Pakistan seems now to be under control.

## Somalia

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

## Asia

Tension continues in both the South China Sea and the Sea of Japan around islands claimed by China.

In the Philippines, the Army continues to battle to recapture the city of Marawi in Lanao del Sur province of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, captured by Islamic militants in early May. The Army claims to have killed over 500 insurgents. ISIL linked militants are holding between 80-100 hostages, mostly in a mosque.



An explosion at a mosque in the Afghan city of Herat has killed about 30 people and injured dozens more.

## Thailand and Malaysia

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

## Palestine

There is no news this month.

## Africa

Nigerian forces continue to attack Boko Haram Islamic terrorists in the north of the country. Civil conflict continues in South Sudan. Civil war continues in the Central African Republic between rebel Muslim Seleka and Christian Anti-balaka fighters

## Myanmar

Fighting continues in Shan State between the army and several local militia.

## The Malacca Straits

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

## India

Kashmir remains disturbed.

## The Americas

In Venezuela, the government of President Nicolás Maduro has had a constitutional assembly elected in what is widely viewed as an attempt to enable it to continue to hold power. The vote has been largely denounced as fake. The government is arresting opposition figures and bloodshed is occurring on the streets of many cities as government forces attempt to suppress resistance. The US Government has branded Maduro a dictator and imposed sanctions on him. About 120 people have been killed in more than four months of violence.



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro celebrates election results after a national vote on his proposed Constituent Assembly at Plaza Bolivar in Caracas



## Nepal News

### **INTERNATIONAL TIGER DAY: NEPAL'S AIM TO DOUBLE NUMBER OF TIGER BY 2022 ON TRACK**

29 July- Nepal's aim to double then existing number of tigers by 2022 is in the way of reality as its number has increased to 198 from 120 just within three years since the plan was made. The number of tigers may go higher as the count was carried out in 2013.

Then Prime Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal at the International Conference on Tiger Conversation held in 2010 in Russia had committed to doubling then 120 numbers of tiger in Nepal by 2022.

The Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation (DNPWC) estimates that the number of tiger has increased in national parks and reserves.

Nepal is set to carry out census of tigers

later this year. Of the total number of tigers found across the country, the highest 120 are in the Chitwan National Park alone. Others are in the Banke National Park (four), the Parsa Wildlife Reserve (seven), the Shuklaphanta National Park (17) and Bardiya National Park (62).

The aim of doubling the number of tiger will be achieved if things go as it is now, said Nurendra Aryal, assistant conservation officer and information officer at the Chitwan National Park.

The main challenge of protecting the wildcat is, according to experts, to save it from poaching. Other challenges include increasing deforestation, human encroachment of its habitat and haphazard opening of roads among others.

In the face of tigers migrating elsewhere

due to climate change, conservation education officer at the DNPWC Bishnu Shrestha said the department should take steps to conserve Chure region.

The increasing conflict between tiger and humans has also made the matter worse. Of late, the trend of tigers straying from their habitat into human settlement is increasing, thus inviting conflict between the animal and humans. Such trend is also threatening the lives of almost five percent of the population of tigers in the Chitwan National Park, said a study carried out by an expert team earlier.

Meanwhile, International Tiger Day, 2017 is being observed across the country today. In Chitwan, various programmes were organised while awareness rallies were taken out.



Villagers carefully cross a flood-swollen river in the Madi Valley

**Texting when trouble arrives**

**28 July-** After a rainstorm during last year’s monsoon, Dhaka Mohan Timalsina saw a flash flood rumbling down the Riyu Khola, the river that usually meanders through Madi, the valley that is sandwiched between the jungles of the Chitwan National Park and the Indian border.

A grocery shop owner in Ayodhyapuri village on the southern-most rim of the valley, Timalsina immediately alerted another villager downstream, who relayed the message further along.

The message ran faster than the flood and finally reached Sita Timalsina, who runs a restaurant in Gardi village on the northern-most edge of the valley. She quickly informed local government authorities, police and other villagers.

The flood took nearly two hours to charge through the valley before finally reaching the Narayani River. By then, people living along the Riyu Khola had already fled to safety, freeing cattle and securing important documents like citizenship cards and land ownership certificates. “It was scary, but everybody got the message in the nick of time,” Sita remembers.

People in Madi have been helping

each other to survive flash floods since the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM) installed a community-based early warning system two years ago under a scheme supported by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Dhaka Mohan and Sita are from two of the four community-based disaster risk management committees in Madi. A resident of the upstream village of Ayodhyapuri, Dhaka Mohan is able to see flash floods before anyone else.

He says: “We rely on each other to survive in this wild valley surrounded by jungles.”

Unlike in most of Nepal, rivers in Madi Valley flow south to north, from the Siwalik to the Narayani. Flash floods are common here, as the rivers meander across the floodplains that are filling up with human settlements. Last year, two people were swept away by the swollen Riyu.

Denudation of the Chure hills to the south adds to the intensity of floods, which often carry with them sand and boulders. Ganesh Poudel, a Nepali Congress cadre in Kalyanpur village of Madi, says: “When it rains, it pours here. And what looks like a

dry river now swells up in just a few hours. It is dangerous.”

Nepal has installed early warning systems in nine river basins. The DHM’s flood forecasting section constantly monitors rainfall data and gauges water levels. If it crosses the danger point, people living nearby are immediately alerted through bulk text messages. Last year, the DHM sent more than 2.5 million SMSs to people living in the Narayani, Kankai, Bagmati and West Rapti river basins.

In Kathmandu, UNDP Country Director Renaud Meyer says: “Local people have an amazing ability to sense what is happening around. All you need to do is to equip them with some technology. And this is what we have done in Madi.”

But many flood-prone areas outside the major river basins lack such systems. Early this month, the swollen Mahuli khola breached its embankment and submerged villages in Saptari. There was no advance warning.

Sunil Pokharel, a hydrologist at the DHM, says: “The focus is on major rivers, but small rivers are as dangerous, especially due to erratic weather. Madi is a model for other flood-prone areas in Nepal.”



### Manufacturing ministers

**30 July-** After sending nine cabinet ministers and four state ministers to join the Sher Bahadur Deuba government, the CPN (Maoist-Centre) is now selecting five more state ministers.

For a distant third party in Parliament, having 18 ministerial berths is an impressive achievement. But this pales in comparison to what the erstwhile revolutionary has achieved after joining parliamentary politics – a bourgeois democracy they fought a bloody war to overthrow.

In the last 10 years after the end of the war and joining the peace process in November 2006, as many as 72 Maoist leaders have become ministers of which 44 were cabinet and 28 state ministers.

Some Maoist leaders have become ministers multiple times: Krishna Bahadur Mahara is a six-time minister. After being Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister even in the Deuba government he is now Foreign Minister. Giriraj Mani Pokharel had already become minister three times, and has now become Health Minister for the fourth time when Deuba expanded his cabinet last week.

Janardan Sharma, Top Bahadur Rayamajhi

and Prabhu Shah have become ministers three times each. Nine other Maoist leaders have become ministers twice and 30 leaders once.

There have been 10 governments in the last 10 years, and the Maoists have been left out only three times. Except when Madhav Kumar Nepal, Khila Raj Regmi and Sushil Koirala were Prime Ministers, the Maoists have always been in government – they led three governments and were part of four other ruling coalitions.

Political analyst Shyam Shrestha says: “Maoists have now become part of the very bourgeois system that they condemned. Their attitude and aspirations are not different from those of old parliamentary parties.”

Comrades from the UML whom the Maoists during the war denounced as lackeys, would often proclaim that they are not into politics to be ascetics, implying that their real aim is to grab power and earn money. Now, that has become favourite one-liner among Maoist leaders. Politics is a lucrative business. Shrestha, who is also a Maoist MP, says: “Maoist leaders are vying with each other for greed.”

Analyst Mumaram Khanal, who quit the Maoists and is now a Central Committee

member of the newly-unified Bibeksheel Sajha Party, says Maoist leaders no longer debate political agendas, and are just concerned about grabbing plum ministerial posts. The Maoists have split not because of ideology but because of the party command could not fulfill every leader’s aspirations, he adds. “For example, Mohan Baidya would not have split at all if his lieutenant, Dev Gurung, was made Finance Minister.”

Narendra Jung Pitar, an analyst still affiliated with the CPN (Maoist-Centre), says: “In our party, there is an ongoing marathon to enter Singha Darbar. But except for one or two, no Maoist minister has done anything to be proud of.”

A Maoist leader sarcastically says: “In the Hetauda convention, our party decided to form a manufacturing brigade. And sure enough, our party is now manufacturing ministers.”



Secretary for Food and Health Professor Sophia Chan visits Tuen Mun Hospital

## Hong Kong News

### **Overcrowding in Hong Kong hospitals eases with 1,000 fewer patients daily in past week**

**29 July** - Overcrowding at emergency wards in public hospitals has eased in the past week.

But a respiratory expert said it was still too early to reach a conclusion and urged the public to remain vigilant over a new dominant flu virus.

Speaking about the latest situation in public hospital wards on a radio programme on Saturday, health minister Professor Sophia Chan Siu-chee said some 5,000 people sought medical attention in emergency rooms per day over the past week, down from a daily figure of more than 6,000 in the previous two weeks.

But demand for in-patient services remained high, Chan stressed, especially from elderly people with chronic illnesses.

The occupancy rate for most hospitals was still more than 100 per cent, meaning they were taking in more patients than their intended capacities.

The latest figures show the rate at 15

public hospitals across the city was 107 per cent on Thursday, with only four hospitals recording less than 100 per cent.

A weekly report from the Centre for Health Protection indicated that 12.2 cases per 1,000 consultations at general outpatient clinics in the week from July 16 were flu-related, down from 14.2 in the previous week.

But the trend was different at private clinics, with 76.4 flu cases per 1,000 consultations, up from 65.5 the week before.

Dr Leung Chi-chiu, advisory committee chairman on communicable diseases at the Medical Association, said figures from the past week suggested the peak may have passed.

But he stressed many factors would continue to affect the situation. "The recent hot weather may cause people to stay indoors ... Will the crowded environment have an impact? We do not know yet."

Another possibility is the spread of the H1 strain of the flu virus from tropical areas like India. Leung said there may be

a clearer picture after next week.

Referring to a two-month scheme to transfer stable patients to the private St Teresa's Hospital to ease overcrowding, Chan said 13 patients had utilised the service, a far cry from the 48 authorities had planned to transfer.

She said there was no cause for concern about the figures, adding that the Hospital Authority would closely monitor the usage rate.

In the short term, 10 doctors from the Department of Health have signed up to help out at public hospitals on a part-time basis, while another 24 private practitioners were referred by the Medical Association.

"An ageing population and the [prevalence of] chronic illnesses is creating enormous pressure on the public health care system. Even with the Hospital Authority rebuilding hospitals and ramping up manpower, the gap still could not be bridged," Chan pointed out. In the long run, the minister said the Medical Registration (Amendment) Bill must be passed to allow foreign medical professionals to practise in Hong Kong.





**Disqualified Hong Kong lawmaker 'Long Hair' Leung Kwok-hung not guilty of misconduct over HK\$250,000 donation from media tycoon**

**31 July-** A Hong Kong court on Monday cleared disqualified opposition lawmaker "Long Hair" Leung Kwok-hung of misconduct in failing to declare a HK\$250,000 donation from a media tycoon while he was still in public office.

Judge Alex Lee Wan-tang said after a seven-day trial that he could not be sure the donation from Next Media founder Jimmy Lai Chee-ying in 2012 was meant for Leung personally as a lawmaker, rather than his party, the League of Social Democrats.

"Despite the suspicions I have of the defendant's conduct, I am not satisfied that the prosecution has proven its case against him beyond reasonable doubt," the judge wrote in a 77-page ruling. "The defendant had the benefit of doubt and was acquitted of the charge."

The case was the only prosecution brought by graft-busters over a series of million-dollar donations Lai made to a number of pan-democratic parties and politicians, which came to light in leaked documents picked up by local media in 2014.

The Department of Justice said it would study the judgment and prosecutors' report to decide if further action was necessary. The Legislative Council secretariat would not comment, saying it could not follow up on the court case.

Veteran activist Leung, who was stripped of his Legco seat by the High Court earlier in July over improper oath-taking, emerged all smiles from the District Court. "We democrats are not a political force manipulated by others as claimed by the Chinese Communist Party," he said, flanked by supporters and pan-democratic lawmakers. "The allegation that democrats have been paid by foreign forces to stir trouble in Hong Kong is not true."

The 61-year-old politician, charged with one count of misconduct in public office, was accused of severely undermining public confidence in the legislature by intentionally depriving the public's right to know about any conflict of interest in his acceptance of the donation.

Unlike in the case of former chief secretary Rafael Hui Si-yan, who was jailed on the same charge, the judge noted that prosecutors did not raise any allegation of corruption or claim the payment was intended to make Leung feel obliged to be favourably disposed to Lai or his business.

They only accused him of intentionally failing to disclose, declare or register the HK\$250,000 he received via Lai's aide, Mark Simon, with the secretariat in compliance with its rules of procedure.

All lawmakers are required to register on a prescribed form the financial sponsorships they receive, whether directly or indirectly, from any person or organisation. But they do not apply – as agreed by all parties in court – when legis-

lators only receive donations on behalf of a third person.

The current chairman of Leung's party, Avery Ng Man-yuen, testified that the payment was a donation for the group, which Leung accepted in his capacity as then chairman. Political parties in Hong Kong are not obliged to declare such donations as there is no relevant legislation.

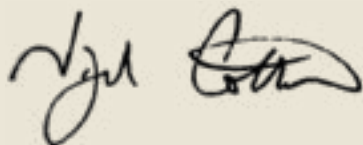
Since there was no counter evidence to contradict Ng's claim, the judge found prosecutors had failed to prove the main plank of their case. Still, he considered Leung's conduct to be "not without suspicion" since the payment originally came in the form of a HK\$1 million cashier's order that named the party as the payee but was later redeemed and split into three new cashier's orders for the party, Leung and another member.

The court heard Leung's HK\$250,000 was transferred shortly after to his accountant at his Legco office, following what Lee described as "a discernible pattern" for Leung to transfer donations out of his account within a short period, as seen in his past handling of other donations from Lai for the party.

While the donation saga initially sparked debate on whether Hong Kong should establish a party law, members of both pro-establishment and pan-democratic camps said on Monday they did not see any urgent need to tighten the declaration rules or legislate on political parties.

## Conclusion

The world gets no safer, as you will know if you read our security reports every month. We have our work cut out to keep safe those we look after. Stay watchful and keep safe!

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

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