



Newsletter

Contents

- The Last Month in Brief, Shipping Companies 1
- GI (HK) Business, World Security: Economics, Nuclear, Europe 2
- The Arab World, Afghanistan & Pakistan, Palestine, Asia 3
- Thailand and Malaysia, The Malacca Straits, Somalia, Africa, The Americas, Myanmar, India 4
- Nepal News..... 5 - 7
- Hong Kong News 8 - 9
- Conclusion 10



We publish this month a photograph of TUI Discovery II of Columbia Cruise Services Ltd.

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

This month we heard that the management of the MV World Odyssey had changed to Cruise Management International (C.M.I.) of Miami. We are delighted that we have been able to establish a new relationship with CMI and our old crew of the World Odyssey will be rejoining the ship soon.



We Welcome

Columbia Cruise Services Ltd.
 Jhag Bahadur Saru Magar
 Lokendra Bahadur Thapa
 Karna Bahadur Pal
 Manisha Gurung

Oceania Cruises
 Joni Shrestha

Universal Shipmanagement
 Aman Gurung
 Ashok Kumar Gupta
 Binay Dahait Tharu
 Kubir Gurung
 Pujan Gurung
 Sobit Gurung

SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 741 men and 171 women on ships, a total of 912 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

Tensions remain high between the United States of America and its allies Japan and South Korea on the one side, and North Korea on the other. This month, North Korea threatened a nuclear strike on the US Pacific territory of Guam, and US President Donald Trump issued threats of retaliation in return.

Europe

Tension between Russia and NATO countries remains high. Over 100,000 Russian troops are currently deployed on Exercise Zapad (which means West) in Belarus, the Baltic Sea, western Russia and the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

In Barcelona, Spain, a van was driven into pedestrians on La Rambla on 17 August, killing 13 and injuring at least 130 people. The driver of the van killed a 14th victim in order to steal his car and escape, but was later killed by police. Nine hours after the Barcelona attack, five men drove into pedestrians in nearby Cambrils, killing one woman and injuring six others. All five attackers were shot by police. All those involved were Islamic extremists and responsibility was claimed by ISIL.



Witnesses in Barcelona described the van as deliberately targeting people by weaving from side to side down the boulevard.

The Middle East and the Arab World

The Syrian civil war continues. US-backed Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) have advanced into and taken control of Raqqa city's central districts, thoroughly ejecting ISIS militants from them after ten weeks of fighting. ISIL now controls only peripheral areas of the city. Raqqa was the last major urban area in Syria controlled by ISIL.

Iraqi forces continue the pursuit of ISIL forces after 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 and they control much of the rural areas of the country. The United States of America has reinforced its troops recently and is asking for greater support from its allies

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 is making slow progress, but has recently recaptured the police station and claims to have killed over 583 insurgents. 45 civilians have also died.



Iran has allowed Qatar Airways to use its airspace during the diplomatic crisis in the Gulf

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, and in Muslim-settled areas of Rakhine province Buddhist villagers have blockaded Muslim Rohingya villages. More than 87,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since Rohingya insurgents killed nine police in northwest Rakhine in October, starting a military crackdown.

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 clings to power and is arresting opposition leaders. The US Government has branded Maduro a dictator and imposed sanctions. Over 150 people have been killed in five months of violence. A sacked public prosecutor has fled to Brazil, accusing the President of corruption.



A demonstrator throws a petrol bomb while clashing with riot security forces during a rally against Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro's government in Caracas, Venezuela.



Nepal News

Floods claim more than 800 lives across India, Nepal and Bangladesh

22 Aug- MThe Nepalese police arrested four citizens with links to international terrorist groups. According to authorities, they are migrant workers, who went to Dubai in search of work. There they came into contact with a Pakistani citizen, who introduced them to the Islamic Caliphate file. For now, given that in Nepal there is no anti-terrorism law, they are detained on charges of murder.

The arrest took place yesterday after weeks of investigation. The four arrested are: Shamsul Hoda, Mojahir Ansari, Asish Singh and Umesh Kumar Kurmi, all originating from Bara district in the south of the country.

Police officer Narendra P. Upreti, said that “the arrest was conducted successfully. Our investigations shows that they are guilty of killing two Indians who wanted to join the terrorist network. When they changed their mind refusing to work as terrorists, the four criminals have taken them into the Nepalese jungle and killed them”. The bodies of Dipak Ram, 18, and Arum Ram, 28, were found in a forest Karaiya last December 28, 2016.

The security forces investigations show that those arrested are part of a network of terrorist groups with bases in India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Dubai and Nepal. Guided and funded by a Pakistani named Safi, who is attempting trying to expand the network in Europe and other countries.

In addition to links to terrorism and the prosecution of murder of two Indian, investigators believe the group has also planted the bomb at the Ghodasahan railway station, near Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh) with the aim of causing a disaster. That incident, which at the beginning was thought to be due to human error, caused the death of over 150 people.

Gyanwali P. Thakur, a police spokesman, said: “This incident reveals that poor migrants are recruited by ISIS. It is a serious matter, given that the present poverty in Nepal can be an exploited by terrorists. We also have open borders, so the activist militants of the Islamic State is a threat not only for us, but also neighboring India”.



Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang, left, shakes hands with Nepali Deputy Prime Minister Bijay Kumar Gachhadar in Kathmandu on Tuesday.

Beijing signs deals with Nepal amid China-India border clash

16 Aug- A US\$1 million humanitarian aid package and an agreement to explore oil and gas resources were among the deals signed during China's official visit to Nepal this week.

Chinese Vice-Premier Wang Yang's trip to Kathmandu was intended to boost economic ties with its western neighbour, and came amid an ongoing border clash with India.

One of the deals, signed on Tuesday, was an agreement to undertake a feasibility study to explore natural gas and petroleum resources, Nepal's foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

"China is ready to help Nepal increase its self-sufficiency on energy," Wang was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

As well as the aid package, China agreed to provide Nepal with a grant to help it restore border bridges and facilities at Tatopani port – a joint venture development project between the two countries – that were damaged in the earthquake in April 2015. Nepal voiced its desire for China to open the port, which is on the border between the countries at Tatopani and Zhangmu,

at the earliest possible date, according to a press release from its foreign affairs ministry.

Wang, who arrived in Nepal on Monday, described the two countries as "trustworthy friends and partners". He also noted Kathmandu's cooperation on the "Belt and Road Initiative", China's ambitious plan to develop an infrastructure network across Asia, Europe and Africa.

The visit by the Chinese delegation came amid a tense border stand-off between China and India over disputed territory at the Doklam tri-junction with neighbouring Bhutan, and as both China and India are attempting to boost their links with South Asian nations. Before heading to Kathmandu, Wang attended Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations and vowed to further push for the development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor.

The dispute between China and India has created a dilemma for Nepal, during which it has sought to remain neutral. According to an earlier report by The Times of India, Nepal's deputy prime minister and foreign minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara said the country "will not take sides".

Wang Dehua, a professor at the Shanghai

Municipal Centre for International Studies, said China and Nepal had many opportunities for cooperation, describing them as "good brothers".

"China and Nepal do not have many problems," he said. "As Nepal is a small country, China is very willing to help work with it through the 'Belt and Road Initiative', in the hope they can improve their economic cooperation."

Despite Nepal's historic ties to India, he said it had consistently been able to maintain a neutral position between the two Asian giants.

Zhang Guihong, a professor of international studies at Fudan University in Shanghai, said the agreements were an important step in China-Nepal relations, which had made rapid progress with 10 cooperative agreements signed last year.

"China is vigorously pushing forward the 'Belt and Road Initiative', strengthening its relations with nations along the route, including Nepal," he said. "These efforts to enhance relations with South Asian nations will also mean more competition between China and India, to gain a more favourable and active position in the conflict."



Flood waters in Balurghat, in West Bengal, eastern India.

Floods claim more than 800 lives across India, Nepal and Bangladesh

22 Aug- More than 800 people have been killed and 24 million affected following widespread floods across south Asia.

Severe flooding has devastated communities and destroyed crops in India, Nepal and Bangladesh, with NGOs warning of food shortages and the risk of disease.

In Bangladesh, where the floods are thought to be the most severe in 100 years, more than a third of the country has been submerged. Najibullah Hameem, chief of field office for the UN children’s agency, Unicef, in Bangladesh, told the Guardian on Monday that water levels are now going down, but that aid workers are running out of crucial supplies needed to protect communities from disease. At least 115 people have died and more than 5.7 million are affected.

“The need is huge and our resources are limited. We cannot respond to all of what people require in this situation,” he said. “[Agencies had made plans based] on last year, when the flood was not serious like this. We had not expected the number of communities that are currently affected.”

Last week, most government departments had run out of medicines and items

such as jerry cans, tarpaulin and water purification tablets. Supplies have since been replenished, but are still short of demand.

Survivors of the flood are returning to find their homes destroyed, Hameem said. “In terms of water level the situation is improving but there might be rain again, and if so the waters will go up again. They need to repair their houses – some are completely washed out. We are expecting more medical issues and disease.”

Unicef is trying to collect information on children affected by the floods, who may have been separated from their families, or be at risk of drowning and snakebites. In four of the districts most severely affected, all schools are closed, leaving children unable to finish their exams, which are held over the summer months

Mark Pierce, country director for Save the Children in Bangladesh, warned that the central and southern areas of the country now face devastation as flood waters flow from the north.

“An enormous volume of water has to pass through the country, and people need to take care, stay away from flood waters and evacuate their homes as necessary. The humanitarian situation remains extremely serious and will be for

some time.

“The sheer scale of this crisis means there still isn’t enough food or clean drinking water. More than half a million homes have been damaged while over 400,000 hectares of farmland was destroyed. We’re doing all we can to help, but much more assistance is urgently needed,” said Pierce.

In the Indian state of Assam, which borders Bangladesh, at least 180 people have been killed in the past few weeks. “With the floods washing away everything ... there is not even a trace of our small thatched hut,” said Lakshmi Das, a mother of three, living in Kaliabor, Assam.

Ravikant Upadhyay, team leader of Assam flood response for Care India, said communities have been devastated. “The embankment of rivers in many areas have been breached, forcing over 400 families to stay in extremely unhygienic conditions. Most people have lost everything including important documents. Schools are submerged under eight feet of water. Overall, the flood survivors are very worried and in dire need of support,” he said.

In the eastern Indian state of Bihar, at least 253 people lost their lives. Heavy rains have destroyed crops, roads and disrupted power supplies.



An orange Lamborghini was among the cars found covered with mud, tree branches, plastic bags and plastic foam.

Hong Kong News

Lamborghini and 20 other vehicles found covered in mud, trash and live fish after Typhoon Hato flooded Hong Kong car park

25 Aug - An orange Lamborghini and 20 other vehicles were found covered with mud, trash and live sea basses after an underground car park was flooded during Typhoon Hato.

It took three service vehicles more than 24 hours to pump out the sea water that submerged the parking area of a large-scale residential estate in Heng Fa Chuen. Even after the water had been cleared at 6pm on Thursday, it was another three hours before the car owners were allowed to get in.

“He was busy for work and asked me to send him updates ... I cannot do much but just feel a bit pressured,” Lee said, adding that it should be covered by insurance.

She said the MTR, which was in charge of managing the property management, had been irresponsible.

“They did not pile sand bags or notify car owners. They did not do the job well.” Another disgruntled owner who did not want to disclose his name, called for a

tow vehicle at around 4pm, but was told not to remove his car before the management office had taken pictures for insurance purposes first. Another BMW service mobile came and left as well.

Of the 39 spaces in the car park, more than 20 were believed to be occupied at the time of the flood, including the orange Lamborghini later seen covered with mud, tree branches, plastic bags and plastic foam.

An insurance consultant, Paul Law Siu-hung, said the owners would be granted the total value of the car – minus a small percentage as an excess – if they had full insurance, while those with third-party coverage only may have to prove the management company had been neglectful to claim compensation.

“There is [usually] one Ferrari, three Porsches and a BMW parked inside,” said a car cleaner.

An MTR spokesman said piling sand bags beforehand would have obstructed the exit while lives would have been endangered if they told the owners to drive the cars out in extreme weather. He described the incident as

“unfortunate” and said they had been assisting the residents in any insurance channels.

In response, another owner who did not give his name, said: “It was their responsibility to notify us and it was mine to decide whether I would risk my life to take the car.”

District councillor Stanley Ho Ngai-kam said he and the affected owners will issue a letter to MTR headquarters demanding compensation.

Meanwhile, some residents of the estate volunteered to clean up the debris left by the storm surges.

One initiator of the effort, Michael Hung, who has been living in the area since 1989, said he was horrified by the amount of trash especially plastic foam strewn around the neighbourhood.



Hong Kong's Central Market is waiting to be revitalised by Urban Renewal Authority.

Work to begin on Hong Kong's historic Central Market, but no one knows what the plans are

21 Aug- After a delay of more than 12 years, work is finally scheduled to commence on what is arguably the most controversial of all the city's urban development projects, yet nobody seems entirely sure what the plan is.

Hong Kong's publicly owned Central Market, which has been part of local street life for 175 years, is about to undergo a HK\$740 million "heritage preservation and revitalisation" project. The few remaining tenants occupying small shops along Central Market's walkway have been ordered to vacate their premises next month so work can commence.

"We have to be out of here by 26 September," says Johnny Yuen Pong-fei, who runs a traditional tailor's shop with his brother, Bonnie. Now he is struggling to find suitable premises nearby, so he can continue to serve his loyal client base of local bankers and city types.

Yuen has not been offered a space in the revitalised market and has little idea what's planned for the historic building, home to his artisan business for more than 22 years.

"We are still talking but they can't promise me anything. They say we will have to wait for five years," says Yuen.

Central Market first opened for business in July 1842, serving locals essential daily provisions, and the current Grade 3 listed, three-storey, Bauhaus-style building was constructed in 1939. It has been the focus of controversy since it was formally closed in 2003 so it could be bulldozed for high-rise development. After years of public protest, the building was eventually afforded protection and, in 2009, the Urban Renewal Authority (URA) was tasked by the government to revitalise the former Central Market building and preserve its heritage.

Many were sceptical about the choice of the much-maligned URA from the start. Critics asserted that the public body should never have been trusted with the project because it has no interest or track record in heritage preservation.

"We think it is very disappointing and worrying that the URA is tasked with this project, because it is a state-sponsored property development company, which judges its performance solely on profit," says Dr Chloe Lai Ming-sze, a journalist and co-founder of the Central Market Concern Group, who has written and

campaigns extensively on the issue.

Almost three years of intensive public consultation was conducted after its closure, which resulted in the concept of an "urban oasis". This was subsequently dropped by the URA in 2015 due to the cost, in favour of what the authority called a "simplified design". That was approved by the Town Planning Board last September, but after 12 years of foot-dragging and judicial reviews, no one appears to know what this new simplified design is, what exactly the revitalised building will be used for, or how its heritage will be preserved.

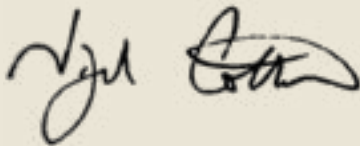
Also on the walkway, Angela Yeung Siu-ling's small shop, Joyous Club, sells quirky jewellery, gifts and trinkets. She will also be packing up in time for the September eviction.

"We have to leave here after 20 years. We are not a big profit business so we cannot afford higher rents in a new shop," she says.

Yeung's customers seem to have no idea about the revitalisation project. "I honestly didn't know what they were planning here," says Marie Mitchell from Tai Po.

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!



Nigel Collett
Managing Director