



NEWSLETTER

Shipping Companies and Ships Linked to Us

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 721 men and 167 women on ships, a total of 888 crew and staff under management.

We welcome:

Prestige Cruise Holdings:

Bam Bahadur Tamang

Norwegian Cruise Lines:

Yogesh Kumar Gurung

Pyae Phyoo Tin Win

Columbia Cruises SVC. LTD.:

Raj Kumar Gurung

Pratima Gurung

Bikash Adhikari

Krishna Gurung

AIDA Cruises:

Narayan Prasad Pangali



We publish this month a photograph of the *Marella Discovery 2* of *Marella Cruises*. If you have pictures or postcards of your ship, please send them in to us for future Newsletters.

This month's Newsletter has been delayed by my trip to England, where I had the great pleasure of visiting the offices of Disney Cruise Line in London. Disney will be adding three ships to their fleet over the next four years and so we shall be recruiting again for them gradually over that time. It was very good to hear their high opinion of our crew and their work, so well done those of you who are on board Disney's ships!

We are currently completing the additional recruitment for crew on the new ships managed by Columbia, and they will be joining in April.

International

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Editor of Newsletter:
Rory Ma

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BUSINESS**

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INTERNATIONAL

Nuclear – US President Donald Trump’s announcement that he will meet North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, has altered the dynamics of the issues surrounding North Korea’s nuclear programme. Details of the meeting have yet to be announced.



Kim visited Beijing on 26 March and met Chinese President Xi Jinping, his first visit outside his country since taking power. There has been no change in the situation regarding Iran.

EUROPE

On 23 March, a gunman affiliated with the Islamic State attacked and stole a car, killing the passenger and wounding the driver, in Carcassonne. He arrived in Trèbes and during the process a police officer was injured when the terrorist shot him. Then, he attacked a supermarket, where two civilians were killed and several others injured. A policeman exchanged himself for a hostage, was later shot and stabbed and died of his injuries in hospital. The attacker was later killed by the police. A van driver killed two people then shot himself in Munster, Germany, on 7 April, but the incident was later reported as not terrorist related.

Russia stands accused of attempting to murder an ex-Russian spy, Colonel Sergei Skripal, living in Salisbury, England and his daughter Yulia using nerve agent Novichok. Russia has vigorously denied the accusation but is the only source of such an agent. Britain deported 23 Russians serving in the UK under diplomatic cover and announced a series of sanctions. In response, Russia deported 23 British diplomats, and in response to that, US, EU, NATO and allied countries deported over 100 Russian 'diplomats'. The dispute continues and has added to the tensions that have built up between Russia and the West over Russia's annexation of the Crimea, its fostering of Russian separatist forces in Ukraine, the Russian attack on Georgia, and Russian provocations in the air and at sea against NATO allies.



Police outside the supermarket in Trèbes, southern France. An armed man initially took eight people hostage.



On 23 March 2018, there was a series of Islamist terrorist attacks in the towns of Carcassonne and Trèbes in southern France.

AFGHANISTAN & PAKISTAN

The Taleban continue to carry out acts of violence across Afghanistan; these are only a few of the attacks that occurred this month. On 2 March, a foreign forces convoy was hit by a suicide car bomb attack in the ninth police district of Kabul, killing three people and injuring 22. A suicide bomber killed three people, including the local head of the Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs, and injured 16 others in Jalalabad on 7 March. On 9 March, a suicide bomber killed 10 people and injured 22 others when he set off explosives in a crowd of Shiite Muslims near a mosque complex in Kabul. On the same day, at least 24 members of the Afghan security forces were killed and several others injured in a Taliban attack in the Balu Buluk district of western Farah province. At least four people were killed and eleven others injured in a motorcycle bombing in Jalalabad in the province of Nangarhar. On 21 March, a suicide bombing near a Shiite shrine in Kabul killed at least 33 people and injured 65 others as Afghans celebrated the Persian New Year. At least 20 people were killed and 55 more injured in a suicide car bomb attack at the Ghazi Muhammad Ayub Khan stadium during a wrestling match in Lashkargah. A bomb exploded near a protest site in the Afghan capital, Kabul, killing one person and wounding 13 others. Two suicide bombers attacked a Shiite mosque in Herat, killing three, including the two terrorists, and wounding nine others. A member of the provincial council of Kunar, a religious scholar and a security guard were killed in a suicide bombing in the Watapur district of Kunar province.

In Pakistan, terrorist violence continues, mostly in areas bordering Afghanistan; only some of the attacks this month are listed here. At least ten people were killed and 35 others injured in a suicide bombing that targeted a police check post in Raiwind on the outskirts of Lahore. On 17 March, terrorists killed two polio workers and seriously wounded two others in Safi tehsil of Mohmand Agency. The gunmen also attacked tribal police and the paramilitary Frontier Corps when they responded to the attack, killing one paramilitary and wounding another. Twenty-four people were injured after a hand grenade was hurled towards the stage of a spring festival in Dera Ismail Khan.



The explosion took place near a vehicle belonging to foreign workers in eastern Kabul.



Men carry the coffin of a policeman who was killed in a suicide blast, during his funeral in Lahore, Pakistan March 15, 2018.

THE ARAB WORLD

Violence continues in Syria, where the forces of the regime of Bashar Assad have retaken Ghouta, a city adjacent to the capital, Damascus. On 8 April, Assad's forces dropped chemical weapons on the rebel held town of Douma, killing at least 48 people and escalating the tension between the USA, whose president Donald Trump blamed the Russian President Vladimir Putin personally for the attack carried out by his Syrian allies, and Russia. Civil wars continues in Libya and Yemen, where Saudi backed forces continue to intervene to defeat Shia anti-government rebels. The number of terrorist attacks in Iraq is running at nearly one or more a day as government forces continue to push the remnants of ISIS out of their areas of control.

PALESTINE AND GAZA

A bomb blast targeted Palestinian prime minister Rami Hamdallah's convoy during a visit to the Gaza Strip, leaving seven people hurt. Palestinian protestors in Gaza approaching the Israeli border were fired upon and 16 killed, including a journalist covering the incident. Israeli snipers were seen targeting unarmed civilians.

ASIA

Tensions remain in areas of the South China Sea and Sea of Japan claimed by China and many other surrounding nations. Insurgencies in southern Thailand and the southern islands of the Philippines continue. There are currently no reports of piracy in the Malacca Straits.

Nearly five years after the government of President Bashar al-Assad agreed to purge Syria's chemical weapons stockpile, the chemical warfare shows no sign of ending as Syria's bloody civil war stretches into its seventh year.

Victims of an attack in Ghouta, a rebel-controlled suburb of Syria's capital, Damascus, in 2013.



AFRICA

Nigeria and neighbouring countries remain at risk of Islamic terrorism. On 1 March, Boko Haram Islamic insurgents shot a woman and abducted three people in the Madagali Local Government Area of Adamawa state. On the same day, Boko Haram militants killed at least 11 people including three aid workers in an attack on a military barracks in the town of Rann in Borno state. Another three aid workers were wounded and one more kidnapped. On 2 March, 30 people were killed and 85 wounded in terrorist attacks on the French embassy and cultural centre in Burkina Faso and the country's army headquarters. South Sudan remains violent. Six people were shot dead and another was stabbed to death in a raid by Ugandan Islamist rebels in the village of Eringeti in Democratic Republic of Congo's North Kivu province.

The waters off Nigeria, especially the Niger Delta, remain dangerous for local pirate attacks. Zimbabwe continues on its path towards bankruptcy.

SOMALIA

Fighting continues in Somalia between the government and its international allies and al Shabab Islamic fundamentalists. No incidents of piracy have been reported off Somalia. Al Shabab terrorists attacked two security camps in Kenya's northeastern Mandera county, killing five police officers and injuring three others. On 2 March, At least three Burundian soldiers of the African Union Mission to Somalia were killed in an Al-Shabaab attack near Jowhar. Seven others were injured, four were missing, and one armoured vehicle and four trucks were damaged during the attack.

THE AMERICAS

Venezuela continues its slide into chaos, poverty and starvation with 3,000 fleeing the country into Columbia a day and 250,000 since August 2017, making this South America's biggest humanitarian crisis.

INDIA

There is no major news of security interest at present, but India continues to suffer almost daily terrorist attacks in Jammu and Kashmir and in areas of the country subject to Marxist Naxalite terrorism.

MYANMAR

There is no major news of security interest at present.



NEPAL NEWS

UNIDENTIFIED GROUP ATTACKS BMC-10 WARD CHIEF BHANDARI

Renu Dahal, Mayor of Bharatpur Metropolitan City visits BMC-10 Ward Chair Arun Pandit Bhandari at the Bharatpur Hospital in Chitwan district, on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.



An unidentified group carried out a broad daylight attack on Bharatpur Metropolitan City-10 Ward Chief Arun Pandit Bhandari at busy street in Narayangardh, on Tuesday.

Pandit, who had gone to the market to repair his mobile around 4:30 pm this afternoon, was suddenly attacked by an unidentified group from behind.

Ward Chief Bhandari, who sustained injuries in his hand and head is undergoing treatment at the Bharatpur Hospital in Chitwan district.

Bhandari said, “As soon as I reached near my vehicle in the parking lot, I felt something was coming from behind and suddenly, I fell onto the ground. After that they sprinkled lubricant onto my face before pelting stone on my head.”

“I clearly saw the attackers had topi on their heads and were short in stature. But, I did not see their faces as they were covered with scarfs.”

Chitwan District Police Office spokesperson and Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Shiva Sharma Acharya said, “It is not clear who carried out the attack on Bhandari, however, the man hunt has been launched to nab the attackers.”

Meanwhile, the locals have suspected that Netra Bikram Chand led Nepal Communist Party cadres might have carried out the attack on local representative.

-10 Apr 2018

‘ACT WILL BE DEVELOPED TO PROTECT WOMEN’S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHT’

Minister of State for Health and Population, Padma Kumari Aryal, has said that an Act related to reproductive health would be developed to be utilised in women’s lives.

Addressing a discussion on ‘bill related to reproductive health’ organised here today by the Women, Law and Development Forum, State Minister Aryal said that the Act would further protect women’s reproductive right.

Stating that the bodies concerned have been asked to prepare the draft of the bill at the earliest, she said the draft would be presented soon after the House begins.

Similarly, Acting Secretary of the Ministry, Sushil Pyakurel, said that preparations were underway to give final shape to the draft by incorporating suggestions from all.

Likewise, Under-Secretary at the Ministry of Women, Children and Senior Citizen, Binita Bhattarai, said that the Bill should be formulated in order to establish rights to safe abortion and family planning.

Forum President Mira Dhungana said that the bill should accommodate genuine compensation to women if their reproductive right is snatched away.

-10 Apr 2018



Minister of State for Health and Population, Padma Kumari Aryal, addressing a discussion on ‘bill related to reproductive health’ organised by Women, Law and Development Forum, in Kathmandu, on Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

CNP COMPLETES ZERO POACHING YEAR

Chitwan National Park (CNP) has completed one year of zero poaching. Chief Conservation Officer at CNP, Bed Kumar Dhakal, said that CNP has been successful to celebrate zero poaching year with the support of all and that an arrangement has been made to patrol the area round the clock to prevent poaching.

A male rhino was killed by poachers at Dhubaghat of Belhatta Hariyali Community Forest of CNP on April 7, 2017. A plan to celebrate third year of zero poaching became unsuccessful last year after the rhino was killed 26 days before completion of the third year of zero poaching. Earlier to this, a rhino had been killed at CNP on April 22, 2014.

Dhakal added that a total of 50 permanent posts, 50 temporary posts and more than 20 mobile posts have been patrolling the CNP area on bicycles, motorcycles, four-wheelers, boats and elephants. The Nepal Army has been carrying out patrolling

using real time patrolling technology. “As February to June is the ideal season for poachers, security has been beefed up.”

Most of the places at CNP and buffer zone are under surveillance and high-alertness has been adopted at more sensitive areas of CNP, said Battalion Chief of Batukdal Battalion, Samundra Thapa.

Similarly, Information Officer of CNP, Narendra Aryal, Buffer Zone Consumer’s Committee, Poaching Control Youth Awareness Campaign and locals of buffer zone have been supporting the security of CNP.

As per statistics, the highest number of poaching cases was recorded in 2002. A total of 38 rhinos were killed that year. As per the latest census, there are 605 rhinos in CNP.

-10 Apr 2018



As per the latest census, there are 605 rhinos in CNP.



HONG KONG NEWS

43,000 NEEDY AND ELDERLY IN HONG KONG FIRST TO GET CASH HANDOUTS

The handouts were announced in an amendment to the budget last month to give up to HK\$4,000 each to 2.8 million city.

They have been given priority as they are already receiving social or disability allowances and are likely most in need of the money.

This group had already been promised additional allowances in the original budget announcement on February 28 and the cash handout they are eligible for is the difference between HK\$4,000 and the allowance amount. Some would get HK\$50 while others could get up to HK\$1,310.

On Friday, the government said this group would get their handouts and extra two months' allowances a month after lawmakers pass the budget.

They are likely to start scrutinising the budget as early as the next few weeks. Last year, the budget was passed in May.

In unveiling the government's spending blueprint, Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po doled out a HK\$50 billion package of goodies that largely benefited the middle class through salary and profits tax rebates.

But under intense public and political pressure to do more for the needy, Chan announced the following month that he would use an extra HK\$11 billion from the city's bumper surplus for that purpose.



An elderly person on the Old Age Allowance scheme who received an extra HK\$2,690 from the government would then get HK\$1,310.



Financial Secretary Paul Chan Mo-po and other city officials felt pressure to do more for the needy.

Hong Kong residents aged 18 years or above (as of December 31 this year) who do not own property, do not receive any government allowances and did not pay income tax for 2017-18 financial year could get the full HK\$4,000 sum.

Others could claim the difference between HK\$4,000 and any concessions they received from the city, such as tax rebates or social, disability and elderly allowances.

In the case of underprivileged residents, an eligible adult from a family of three receiving the Comprehensive Social Security Allowance would get from the original budget HK\$3,950 – two extra months of allowances. He

would then get a top-up amount of HK\$50 because of the additional cash handout.

An elderly person on the Old Age Allowance scheme who received an extra HK\$2,690 from the government would then get HK\$1,310.

However, others such as single parents would not get the extra cash handout because their two extra months of allowances would already exceed HK\$4,000.

In a paper to the Legislative Council on Friday, officials estimated the cash “top-up” for the 43,000 Hongkongers would cost it HK\$435 million.

-7 Apr 2018



The city is home to about 370,000 domestic workers.

LEGISLATOR AND LAWYERS PUSH FOR BILL AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN HONG KONG

Modern Slavery Bill was drafted by Civic Party lawmaker Dennis Kwok, human rights lawyer Patricia Ho and barrister Azan Marwah.

An anti-human-trafficking law for Hong Kong drafted by a legislator, a human rights lawyer and a barrister is expected to be discussed at the city's panel on security next month. The long-awaited legislation has been repeatedly called for by advocates in a city that has been rattled by cases of human trafficking, mostly involving domestic workers.

“We all need to play a part to tackle human trafficking. It is not just about Hong Kong. It's about the 28 million victims who are subjected to human

trafficking crimes, so I think that Hong Kong should work together with the international community to combat this crime,” said Civic Party lawmaker Dennis Kwok, one of the three who drafted the Modern Slavery Bill.

Forced labour is not a crime in Hong Kong, a city that relies heavily on migrant workers, and local laws provide a narrow definition of human trafficking, including only trafficking for the purpose of prostitution.

There are about 370,000 domestic workers in Hong Kong, most of them from the Philippines and Indonesia, with others from nations such as Thailand, Nepal and Bangladesh. In the coming three decades, the government said, the city would require about 240,000 more domestic helpers.

According to experts and advocates, Hong Kong authorities have failed scores of human trafficking victims in the city.



Human rights lawyer Patricia Ho says the bill will give police and other agencies powers to help tackle human trafficking cases.

Such legislation would also protect victims from being prosecuted for offences they were forced to commit.



“Whenever we bring girls or victims to the police, we actually have police officers telling us and complaining to us that they don’t have sufficient investigative powers to deal with the matter,” said leading human rights lawyer Patricia Ho, who drafted the bill along with Kwok and barrister Azan Marwah.

“As much as they might think that something is quite wrong with the case they are presented with, they continue to tell us that they can’t do anything, because no laws are being breached.”

“At the end of the day, that is what it is all about – making the crime of forced labour and human trafficking a real crime. And the bill deals with giving police and other agencies investigative powers, which are critical if we are to be serious about tackling this problem,” the lawyer told the Post.

“We are not putting it forward as a perfect model at all. At the end of the day, with the way that the legislative process works, it needs to come from the government. I think in many ways it’s really about getting the ball rolling,” Ho said.

-8 Apr 2018



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nigel Collett'.

Nigel Collett
Managing Director