



Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of P&O Cruises

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

We are glad to announce that Universal Shipmanagement of Singapore has asked us to recruit more casino staff and guards for the second half of the year.

GURKHA INTERNATIONAL (HONG KONG) LTD PROMIOTIONS

We are very pleased to announce the promotion of the following from Senior Guard to Supervisor:

Mr Kiran Kumar Ale

He will hold the post of Supervisor at the Hong Kong Golf Club, Deepwater Bay. Kiran joined the Company in May 2014. I give him our warmest congratulations!



Mr Kiran Kumar Ale

We Welcome

Universal Ship Management

Deepak Lama
Juda Rana
Vicky Thapa
Bikas Ale

Columbia Cruise Services Limited

Pratigya Gurung

Aida Cruises

Govind Bahadur Shrestha
Budda Lama

SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 740 men and 171 women on ships, a total of 911 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 fired four surface-to-surface anti-ship cruise missiles into the Sea of Japan this month, but there is no news on nuclear matters there or in Iran.

Europe

Tensions between Russia and NATO countries remain high. In Britain, 8 people were killed and 48 injured when a van driven by Islamic extremists drove into people on London Bridge and its occupants stabbed many people before being shot dead by the police. Some days later, a van driven by an anti-Muslim extremist rammed into people walking near Finsbury Park Mosque in London injuring eleven.

In Europe, an Islamic militant injured a police officer guarding Notre Dame de Paris with a hammer and was himself injured



American and Japanese warships in the sea between Japan and Korea on June 1. North Korea fired missiles into the sea, days after the ships left.

The Middle East and the Arab World

The Syrian civil war continues. Iraqi forces have continued to make slow progress in finishing the recapture of Mosul from ISIL. Conflict continues in Libya and Yemen.

Following US President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, the Saudis and their allies in the Gulf Cooperation Council mounted a blockade of Qatar, whose Emir they regard as too close to Iran and as sponsor of Al Jazeera, the only free press in the Middle East. Ironically, Qatar is home to the biggest US base in the Gulf, placed there to cordon off Iran.

Afghanistan and Pakistan

Taliban attacks on Government controlled cities have increased. On 31 May over 150 were killed and over 463 injured in bombs targeting the German embassy. On 3 June 3, three explosions took place during a funeral, killing 20 and wounding 87. On 15 June, ISIL terrorists attacked the Shia al-Zahra mosque, killing several people, including a leader of Afghanistan's ethnic Hazaras, Hajji Ramazan Hussainzada.

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

Palestine

Israeli settlement building in the occupied West Bank has resumed.

Asia

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

In the Philippines, the Army still had not finally cleared all parts of the town of Marawi in Lanao del Sur province of the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao of the Islamic militants who had captured it in early May. The casualty figures so far are: 299 militants, 71 government forces and 110 civilians killed and 297 government forces wounded.



Dozens of children were hurt in the gas attack in Syria.

Thailand and Malaysia

The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues. A pipe bomb detonated at an army-run hospital in on 22 May, injuring at least 24 people.

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.

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

The death toll in anti-government protests in Venezuela, where the left-wing government of President Nicolás Maduro attempts to cling to power and has bankrupted the country, has risen to over 60.



A banner is displayed by a masked man in a police helicopter, from which grenades were dropped on the Venezuelan Supreme Court on Tuesday.



Koirala-Azad has served as interim dean since January.

Nepal News

Nepali becomes first female South Asian dean at a university in the United States

23 JUN- When Shabnam Koirala-Azad was growing up in Kathmandu, she had no aspirations to be an educator. But everything she saw, inside and outside her home, pushed her imperceptibly towards her eventual profession.

Nepal was changing. With the People's Movement of 1990 there was great hope that the restoration of democracy would bring progress in health and education. Yet even back then, Koirala felt that although she was going to the best girls' schools in the country, there was something missing.

"Living in Nepal was fantastic, I look back on my childhood with a lot of fond memories and gratitude, but the way we learned didn't allow us to think creatively: the education practiced here never really met my creative needs," recalls Koirala, who has just been appointed the first South Asian female Dean at a major US university: the School of Education at the University of San Francisco.

Even as she commuted from home to school every day in Lalitpur, Koirala realised early on that her childhood was different than that of her friends. For one thing, she was growing up in a bi-cultural family: her father is a Nepali and her late mother was Iranian.

After high school, it was clear to Koirala that if she wanted to pursue higher education, she would have to leave the country. She got a scholarship and enrolled at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, a liberal arts college for women.

In the first class, her professor asked Koirala: "What do you think?" A straightforward question but it had an everlasting impact on her.

"I had never thought what I think or feel, or to question facts. It was during that time that I thought more seriously about pursuing education as a field of study and eventually work," said Koirala.

This impulse to educate is in her blood. She is the fourth generation of teachers on her mother's side, and her grandmother faced great difficulty as an educator in

Iran because of her Bahá'í faith, which was heavily persecuted. The conditions for her teaching were dangerous and constrained. Shabnam's father is Bharat Dutt Koirala, the noted Magsaysay-winning journalist and media educator.

"When I think about education, it is not this idea of mass education for all. Instead, it is a specific education, for a specific group of people who are oppressed," said Koirala. "Education can be empowering to people when delivered the right way."

Koirala's experience of growing up in Nepal allowed her to see the impact foreign aid has on a developing country: the lack of follow-through and the corruption. She became more interested in how education and social change intersect. This curiosity would lead to her pursuing both a Master's and PhD from the University of California at Berkeley.

Now that Koirala has accepted her appointment as Dean, she intends to focus on maintaining her integrity while staying true to her Nepali roots. To her that means a strong sense of resilience, hospitality, compassion, understanding and patience.



Women line up in the Asigram booth in Dadeldhura district on Wednesday.

Polling in the rain

28 JUN-Voters turned out in large numbers in the second phase of local elections on Wednesday, braving monsoon downpours and some threats of violence.

Even in the Tarai districts where the Madhes-based RJPN boycotted elections, voters lined up from early morning to cast their votes. Voters were seen crossing swollen rivers to reach polling stations.

An early estimate is that the voter turnout could be more than 70%, and two RJPN leaders admitted that their party's call for boycott has been rejected by the people.

RJPN leader Sarbendra Nath Shukla did not cast his vote, but visited booths in his constituency in Rupandehi district and said he found "people enthusiastic to elect local representatives".

RJPN General Secretary Brij Kumar Gupta said he was disappointed that his party did not allow him to openly support and vote for candidates. Both leaders agreed that the RJPN has made a mistake by boycotting elections, and should not repeat it in the third phase.

After the first phase in Provinces 3, 4 and 6 on 14 May, the second phase was held on Wednesday in Provinces 1, 5 and 7. Only Province 2, which is believed to be a stronghold of the RJPN, will go to the polls on 18 September in the third phase.

The second phase was relatively peaceful with reports of minor clashes and obstruction coming in only from a few places. Improvised explosive devices were found outside a couple of booths, but were quickly disposed by army squads.

In Tulasipur of Dang, Head Constable Durga Bahadur Rana saved voters by throwing away a bomb immediately after it landed inside the polling station. Sub Inspector Gopal Sharma told Nepali Times that they could not see who hurled the bomb as the polling place was covered with mist.

In two villages in Solukhumbu and Nawalparasi district, some people abstained from voting saying they were not happy with the way the boundaries of local village and municipalities had been drawn up.

In Thabang in Rolpa district, the epicentre of the Maoist war, people voted enthusiastically for the first time since 2008. They had collectively boycotted the second Constituent Assembly elections in 2013.

Speaker Onsari Gharti Magar and Deputy Prime Minister Krishna Bahadur Mahara who fought the war against the state in Rolpa district returned home to cast their ballots. Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba was also in his home district of Dadeldhura, and cast his vote from the Asigram polling station.

The second phase of polls was held for 334 self-governing municipal and village councils in 35 districts, including 11 in the Tarai. For six million voters, 8,364 polling stations had been set up.



Nepalese women planting rice.

Government decides to review rice supply policy

28 Jun- The Ministry of Supplies is set to review its food supply policy keeping in mind the demand-supply ratio in the 23 remote hill districts, where the government has been supplying subsidised rice.

According to Information Officer at the Ministry of Supplies Baburam Bhusal, the ministry has sent a team to those districts to collect information on food availability, changing food habits of people, their purchasing power, and the current need of subsidised rice.

“In recent years, some eastern hill districts are not consuming the amount of subsidised rice sent there,” he said, adding that some western hill districts including those in Karnali zone have demanded that rice supply be increased there.

Nepal Food Corporation, which supplies food grains to remote hill districts, has fixed this year’s quota of 1,510 metric tonnes of rice for eastern hill districts — Sankhuwasabha, Bhojpur, Solukhumbu, Okhaldhunga and Khotang.

Likewise, the NFC has fixed 870 quintal of rice for Manang, Gorkha and Mustang districts. Large amount of subsidised rice goes to districts of the mid-western regions — Rukum, Rolpa, Dailekh, Jajarkot, Jumla, Humla, Mugu, Dolpa and Kalikot where the government sends 9,556 metric tonnes of rice annually. Achham, Baitadi, and Darchula of the far-western region are getting 3,645 tonnes of rice annually.

“Dolpa and Humla also heavily depend on government supplied rice, whereas demands in other hill districts have decreased,” Bhusal added.

“Within the 23 districts too, the people of the headquarters buy less rice so we are shifting the rice godown from district headquarters to remote villages,” Bhusal said. He also said that the team sent to study the demand-supply ratio had started its task since last week.

Humla and Dolpa are among those districts where the government is spending more money to supply rice than the actual cost of rice per kg. “We have to pay nearly Rs150 for a kg of rice to supply

to Humla district. We have to spend Rs 65 per kg for processing rice,” said Nepal Food Corporation General Manager Shiva Hari Shrestha.

Shrestha also said that in those districts where the government had been supplying subsidised rice, district prisons bought large amounts of rice. “We supplied nearly 45 quintal of rice to prisons,” he added.

Supplying rice to remote hill districts is always a cumbersome process. Bhusal said the lengthy tender process; unusual demand of suppliers and the obstruction caused by rain and road obstruction are also causing delay in the supply of subsidised rice to hill districts. Bhusal also said although the suppliers were supposed to supply at least 25 per cent of rice every three months, they had failed to do that.



President Xi inspected the People's Liberation Army garrison in Hong Kong on Friday.

Hong Kong News

Hong Kong PLA troops break tradition with new greeting for President Xi Jinping

30 Jun- Soldiers at Hong Kong People's Liberation Army garrison broke with a tradition dating back more than 30 years to offer a more personalised welcome to President Xi Jinping during his inspection on Friday.

Instead of shouting "hello, commander", as would be the usual case at official inspections, PLA troops instead shouted "hello, chairman" – a welcome that has never been heard at such an event.

Analysts believed the new greeting was a gesture by the PLA to assert its sovereignty in the city, as well as an oath of loyalty to Xi. "Chairman" in the greeting refers to Xi's role as head of the all-powerful Central Military Commission.

The special arrangement underscores the significance of the event and is expected to be followed in inspections in the future, according to retired PLA major general Xu Guangyu.

"It's a special event, Hong Kong is celebrating the 20th anniversary of the handover and Xi is visiting there. I personally see it as a way to let Xi feel closer to the forces," Xu said.

The PLA follows strict protocol in inspections, stipulated in a set of official rules called the formation regulations. During an inspection, the commander should greet the soldiers with "hello, comrades" or "comrades, you have been working hard", and then the force should respond with "hello, commander" or "service for the people", according to the regulations.

The slogans, first used by state leader Deng Xiaoping in 1984, were the only ones heard in all military inspections known to the public.

The new greeting is more personalised and are intended to emphasise Xi's consolidated power in the PLA, said Chen Daoyin, a political scientist with the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

"Any general could be called a commander, but the new slogan can't be chanted to anyone else but Xi," Chen said.

"It shows he has successfully consolidated his power after two years of overhaul of the PLA, as they put it, all actions are at the command of Chairman Xi," he said.

While the PLA could adopt the slogan later, as Xi is expected to inspect the PLA again to mark the 90th anniversary of the army's foundation in August, the decision to begin the practice in Hong Kong is no coincidence, Chen said.

"It's also gesture to assert China's sovereignty in the city. Beijing has recently attached great emphasis on challenges by the city's pro-independence sentiment," Chen said.

During Xi's visit to Hong Kong, he is accompanied by the PLA's top general Fan Changlong. Fan is the most senior PLA general to visit the city since the handover in 1997.

Hong Kong home prices scale new peak, 20 years after 1997 record

30 Jun- Hong Kong carries the dubious honour as the world's least affordable city to own a home, but many property industry veterans still firmly believe they can do no wrong in buying a residence here.

Home prices have surpassed their 1997 peak by 40 per cent, and this has prompted the government to roll out no fewer than three cooling measures in seven months, from a 15 per cent stamp duty to credit tightening. Thus far, they have done little to arrest the price surge. "The government's relative caution comes after some painful lessons from previous landslide declines in home prices" because the property market had taken it right on the chin during the worst days of the global economic crises, said Bugge Lau Ka-fai, chief analyst at Midland Realty. Home prices plunged as much as 70 per cent during the 2003 severe acute respiratory syndrome (Sars) outbreak from their 1997 peak, saddling 105,697 homeowners with negative equity – where homes were worth less than their outstanding mortgages.

However, the rebounds had been equally sharp since then, due largely to economic stimulus measures by Beijing, including a relaxation in the number of individual mainland travellers to Hong Kong.

Cases of negative equity were effectively eliminated as of March, according to the Hong Kong Monetary Authority's data.

With prices now back at a record, international property consultant JLL has revised its 2017 price growth forecast upwards, from zero to 5 per cent, to a range of 10 to 15 per cent.

Home prices have risen 3.5 per cent in the first quarter, said JLL research head Denis Ma.

"Sales of new flats continue to create high expectation of further price rises in coming months," he said.

But time was needed for the HKMA's latest curbs to leave an impact. From June 1, the maximum limit on bank loans for a developer to buy a plot of land will be cut to 40 per cent of the site's value, down from 50 per cent. The cap on loans for construction costs will be cut to 80 per

cent from 100 per cent.

Back in 1997, a 451 sq ft apartment in City One Shatin – a housing estate popular with home seekers and investors – could be bought for HK\$3.06 million, but that has now doubled, according to Midland's data.

The capital appreciation of luxury homes was even more dramatic. The value of a 1,124 sq ft unit at Braemar Hill Mansions in North Point, which comes with a car parking space, has jumped 147 per cent from HK\$8.4 million to HK\$20.8 million since 1997.

"The records prove that buying property in Hong Kong for the long term promises handsome returns," Lau said.

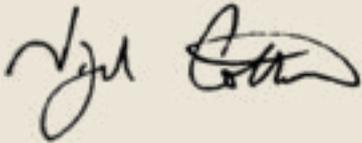
Home prices surged to an average of HK\$11,376 per square foot in April, 47 per cent higher than June 1997, according to Midland, which tracks prices at housing estates, not considered luxury locations. Prices have been driven by low interest rates, strong demand by mainlanders, and the tight supply of new apartments coming on to the market.



Home prices in the crowded area of the city have risen by 120 per cent since 2008, and by more than 30 per cent from their previous peak in 1997.

Conclusion

It has been a sombre month, with news in the world largely consisting of terrorism and fanatical attacks on people of different religious beliefs. This will go on as ISIS/ISIL loses its grip on Syria and Iraq and its fighters flee to other countries. The international conflict between Sunni Muslims (sponsored by Saudi Arabia and its allies) and Shia Muslims (sponsored by Iran and its allies) will last longer and cost more lives in the long run. We all have much hard work to do in keeping the people we guard safe.

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

Nigel Collett
Managing Director