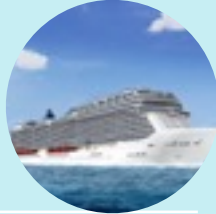




# NEWSLETTER

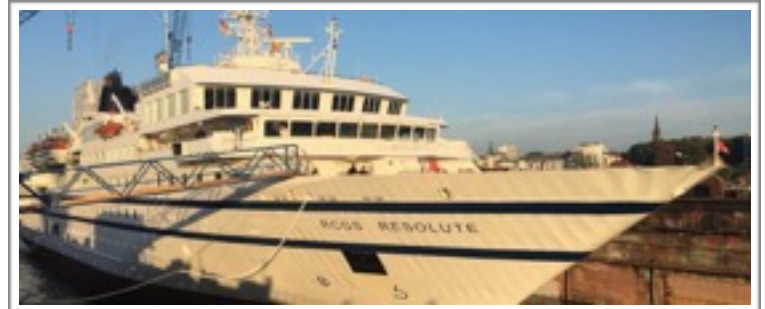
## **Ships companies and ships linked to us:**



We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 759 men and 167 women on ships, a total of 926 crew and staff under management.

## **We welcome:**

Shyam Bahadur Lopchan  
Machindra Karki  
Sinuara Subba  
Dipak Kumar Thapa  
Ashmita Gurung  
Hom Bahadur Gurung  
Hem Bahadur Rai  
Noppadon Kinarak  
Nillawan Ngamwong



We publish this month a photograph of Columbia Cruise Service.

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

## **GI (HK) BUSINESS**

We are providing security services for 27 Hong Kong Clients and have 84 security staff employed.



**T**his is the Newsletter for December last year, delayed by the Christmas and New Year holidays, over which I was travelling and for much of which our Hong Kong office was on skeleton manning. I am sorry that it will reach you so late.

Part of my travels at the end of last year included a visit to the offices of Fred. Olsen in Ipswich. I called in there just before Christmas and met their managers dealing with our Ship Security Guards. I was delighted to hear from them that our crew have continued to perform to expectation on their ships. Well done to those of you who are with them!

I was also very glad to be asked to nominate some candidates for basic positions in the hotel departments of their ships. This will be a first for us with Fred. Olsen, and will take some time to implement. I expect we shall see some new crew joining their ships from about the middle of the year.



This is the visit on 4 December 2018 of Dr Robin Murray, Carnival (UK)'s Medical Officer, to the Subba Clinic, our medical examiner in Kathmandu.

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# WORLD SECURITY

## **Economics**

In the Eurozone, where the standoff between Italy and the European Commission over the Italian budget has been resolved for the time being, but clouds continue to gather over European economies, which are drifting into recession. Brexit continues to trouble markets in Britain and Europe; the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the EU in March, but agreement on future relationships has so far seemed impossible to achieve. The Chinese economy is slowing and the trade disputes between the US and China have yet to be resolved; this is having a dampening effect on world trade. Many developing economies have been hit by the tightening of credit, rises in interest rates and the rise in value of the US Dollar. 2019 looks set to be a rather bumpy ride.



## **Nuclear**

There have been no developments, either in the North Korean or Iranian nuclear issues.

## **Europe**

Tension between Russia and NATO countries, and between Russia and the Ukraine, remains high. Five people were killed and 12 others wounded in a shooting attack near a Christmas Market in Strasbourg, France. The attacker, a Muslim fundamentalist, was killed two days later by police. Suspected Islamic terrorists injured 2 policemen in a grenade blast in Nazran, the capital of the Russian North Caucasus region of Ingushetia. The two assailants were shot dead. Left wing activists exploded a bomb in the media station Skai TV in Athens, Greece; later, another bomb exploded outside a church in Athens, injuring a policeman. In Barcelona, Spain, a van was driven by an Islamic fundamentalist into a group of police officers during an antiterrorist action.

## **The Middle East and the Arab World**

Conflict continues in Syria, Libya and Yemen. Iraq continues to suffer a large number of terrorist attacks.

The blockade of Qatar by Saudi Arabia and its allies drags on.

In Egypt, 3 soldiers were killed by Islamic militants in the Central Sinai. 2 police conscripts were killed and 6 injured by a roadside bomb near the city of Rafah. 3 Vietnamese tourists and an Egyptian guide were killed and 12 people were injured near the pyramids of Giza, when the tour bus carrying them struck a roadside bomb.

In Morocco, 2 female tourists, a Norwegian and a Dane, were murdered in their tent in the Atlas Mountains. 22 Islamic State loyalists were arrested.

In Tunisia, Jund-al-Khilafah (ISIL) militants carjacked a vehicle and robbed a bank, killed 1, in the province of Kasserine.

## **Palestine**

A baby was killed and 7 people injured in a drive by shooting by Palestinians in the Israeli settlement of Ofra; an attacker was shot dead by security forces. A Palestinian was shot dead in Jerusalem's Old City after injuring 2 police officers with a knife. 2 Israelis were killed and 2 others wounded in a shooting at a bus stop in the Jewish settlement of Giv'at Asaf, northern Jerusalem.



## **Afghanistan and Pakistan**

Violence remains widespread in Afghanistan, causing many deaths and injuries this month. Violence has increased this month in Pakistan, with deaths caused by a series of IEDs and assassinations, including in the cities of Karachi, Rawalpindi and Dera Ghazi Khan, as well as in tribal areas.

## **Asia**

Tension continues in both the South China Sea around the Spratly and Paracel Islands and in the Sea of Japan around islands held by Japan but claimed by China and South Korea.

## **Philippines**

A soldier was killed and 2 others wounded, and 7 Abu Sayyaf militants were killed in a shootout in Patikul, Sulu. 2 people were killed and about 28 injured by a bomb in the city of Cotabato; the attack was blamed on a pro-ISIL group. 11 soldiers were wounded by Communist New Peoples' Army (NPA) A rebels in Monkayo and another 4 soldiers and 2 civilians were injured in Catarman. NPA gunmen shot dead the wife of a member of the Citizen Armed Forces Geographical Unit in Talaingod, Davao del Norte. NPA insurgents attacked a banana processing plant in Arakan, injuring 6 officers.

## **Thailand**

A police officer was killed and 5 others were wounded in a bomb attack on a police vehicle in the province of Narathiwat. 4 motorcyclists were injured by a bomb in Narathiwat's Si Sakhon District. A woman was killed and 3 soldiers were wounded in shootings and ambush attacks by insurgents in the province of Pattani.

## **Indonesia**

2 policemen were injured by Islamic militants who had beheaded a civilian in the Parigi Moutong Regency.

## **India**

Kashmir remains disturbed and terrorist attacks continue in many rural areas of India, almost on a daily basis, causing many casualties.

## **The Malacca Straits**

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

## **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. Al-Shabaab terrorists continue to attack soldiers and civilians in Kenya.

## **Africa**



Boko Haram Sunni Muslim terrorists continue to attack military and civilian targets in Nigeria, causing many casualties this month. Other Islamic attacks occurred in Mali, Niger, the Central African Republic and Burkino Faso. Civil conflict continues in South Sudan.

In Cameroon, militants in the Noun Department killed one person and injured several others. Several people were kidnapped. Over 60 houses and vehicles were also burnt down. A soldier was shot dead in a separatist militant ambush in the Mbengwi town, Momo Division.

The Democratic Republic of Congo remains subject to many outbreaks of communal violence.

In Ethiopia, a roadside bomb struck a minibus, killing 10 civilians and injuring another 1 in the Benishangul-Gumuz Region; the Oromo Liberation Front was blamed.

In Mozambique, Islamic terrorists attacked a village in the Macomia District, killing 2 civilians and burning down 103 houses. They beheaded 2 other people in a village nearby.

## **The Americas**

In Colombia, ELN guerrillas stopped cargo vehicles on a highway, injuring 1 driver was injured and burning 5 cargo trucks.

Venezuela continues its slide into poverty and anarchy.

## **Summary**

Violence seems to be spreading gradually in Africa and in the regions of the Middle East and Asia affected by Islamic militancy. 2019 seems set to be a violent year. Remain alert and make sure that your ship is not an easy target.

# NEPAL NEWS

## Nepal's Children at Risk

Investigating rising fears that Nepal has become a target for paedophiles acting under the cover of aid work.

Thousands of foreigners come to Nepal each year, offering to help children living in poverty.

Some provide money, others work for aid organisations or even set up charities.

But police say some come for more sinister purposes.

A rising number of foreigners have been arrested for allegedly sexually abusing children in recent months.

This *101 East* investigation finds many of the accused worked for charitable organisations or were financially supporting poor children and their families.

One of those on trial is Peter Dalglish, a world-renowned aid worker who has spent the last two decades helping some of the world's most vulnerable children, from Africa to Afghanistan and Asia.

In a rare interview from behind bars, Dalglish insists he is an innocent man caught up in a police crackdown.

While Nepal recently introduced tougher penalties for anyone convicted of child sex abuse, advocates say much more needs to be done to protect children.

"There is a Sanskrit saying: 'Guests are like God'," says Pinky Singh Rana, a human rights activist and board member of Saathi, a local organisation that counsels abuse victims and their families.

Source: [Al Jazeera](#)



# Nepal's first modern train track reaches till Bihar

The competition between two Asian giants, India and China, for influence over tiny Nepal is yielding a bonanza in the form of the Himalayan mountain nation's first modern railway — and possibly more to come.



New shiny rails connecting the 34 kilometers (21 miles) between Janakpur in southeastern Nepal and Jay Nagar in the Indian state of Bihar are raising hopes for more business and pilgrimages.

The new line will be able to handle bigger trains carrying more passengers than the old trains, says Binod Ojha, who was supervising the project from a makeshift office at the new station. Apart from tens of thousands of Hindu pilgrims, it also will accommodate cargo — landlocked Nepal imports all of its oil, food and other goods from India, which accounts for two-thirds of its foreign trade.

"Once we start operating trains, people will be able to travel from here to New Delhi or even southern India. We will be well connected," Ojha said. "Once trains begin to bring all these things from India, the cost will naturally go down. Our daily expenses will be much cheaper."

Source: [The Economic Times](#)

# United States seeks Nepal's help in resolving Korean peninsula problem

United States Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has asked Nepal to use its good offices to cajole the North Korean leadership into signing deals that could help denuclearise the Korean peninsula.

The US Secretary of State sought Nepal's help last week in his talks with Nepal's Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali in the US capital Washington DC.

According to a Nepal Communist Party (NCP) Standing Committee member, Gyawali revealed this to party leaders on Saturday at the SC meeting.



NCP Standing Committee member Haribol Gajurel said that the US might have sought Nepal's role thinking Nepal's communist government might have some leverage with North Korea and that could help denuclearise the Korean peninsula. Gajurel was a member of the group led by senior NCP leader and former prime minister Madhav Kumar Nepal when he visited North Korea in August to tell government officials and leaders not to remain isolated and to be a part of the global community by developing friendly relations with all countries. "The US official told our Nepali delegation that Nepal could help create a conducive environment to ease the peace process," Gajurel told *THT*.

When Nepal returned from North Korea in August, he publicly said he had also played a role in bringing Kim to the negotiating table with Trump.

Source: [The Himalayan Times](#)

# HONG KONG NEWS

## **Hong Kong's New Regulation 'Might' Be Harmful for Local Crypto Industry, Experts Say**

New regulations for crypto-related companies, which Hong Kong's Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) announced earlier, might prevent crypto entrepreneurs from entering the market. Expert comments on the situation were reported by business media Nikkei Asian Review on Monday, Dec. 17.

Timothy Loh, owner of a local law firm, told Nikkei that some entrepreneurs might decide not to participate in the new framework in order to "maintain their current shares in the market." "The requirements of the SFC initiative may prove too burdensome for some operators," he added.

The SFC first announced the new regulatory framework in November. The guidelines compared cryptocurrency exchanges to existing licensed providers of automated trading services, pointing out that they also need to protect investors.

Moreover, the SFC has major concerns about money-laundering cases and fraud, which have prompted the regulator to introduce new legislation. It will likely be applied to exchanges, traders, investment funds and other crypto-related businesses.

Source: [Cointelegraph](#)

# Hong Kong's unsolved crimes: cardboard box killing, flower tomb and naked corpse among chilling murder mysteries

City's gory tragedies fuel online rumours and conspiracies to this day, as some wonder if killers are still on the roam.

Despite its reputation as a safe city, Hong Kong is not short on crime mysteries, some of which would confound even Sherlock Holmes.

According to police statistics, a total of 45,653 crimes were reported between January and October last year, and among them, 42 were homicides, up from 18 during the same period in 2017. Numbers also show 55 per cent of crimes in the first half of 2018 remain unsolved.

Compared with other jurisdictions, Hong Kong's figures are better – in Britain, only 9 per cent of reported crimes ended with suspects being charged or summonses issued in the 12 months up to March 2017, according to the Home Office.

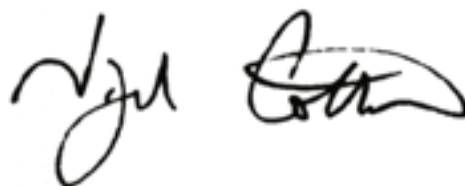


Source: SCMP

## Conclusion

All of us at GIMS hope that you and your families had a happy Christmas. We wish you all every success and happiness ion the New Year!

Nigel Collett  
Managing Director

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