



# Newsletter

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We publish this month a photograph of the **AIDAvita** of Aida Cruises .

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

## We Welcome

### Star Cruises

Bhoj Raj Chaudhary  
 Ramesh Thapa Magar  
 Bikash Gurung  
 Rabin Tamang  
 Roshan KC  
 Rajendra Mahat

### Norwegian Cruise Lines

Yam bahadur Garbuja Pun  
 Atit Gurung  
 Prem Bahadur Somai Magar  
 Akash Singh Gurung

## SHIPPING COMPANIES AND SHIPS LINKED TO US

We are working with 21 shipping companies, and have 775 men and 155 women on ships, a total of 930 crew and staff under management.

## THE LAST MONTH IN BRIEF

This month I am travelling, to Nepal and Myanmar, so I hope to see some of you who are home on leave then.



## We Welcome (Cont'd)

### Carnival UK

Ishwori Bista  
Anita Subba Limbu  
Ramji Giri  
Surya Bahadur Chhetri  
Padma Rijal  
Om Prasad Giri  
Sanjeev Gurung  
Arjun Gurung  
Manoj Kumar Gurung  
Sujata Thapa  
Neelima Sapkota Shrestha  
Babita Tamang Thapa Magar  
Pushpa Gurung

## GI (HK) Business

We are providing security services for 32 Hong Kong Clients and have 100 security staff employed.

Our employment agency placement service found 0 Bodyguard/Driver post position over the last month.

# World Security

## Economics

The major economic news this month is the threat to the Eurozone caused by the victory of a left wing party, Syriza, in the Greek general elections. Syriza has vowed to go back on Greece's bailout agreement with the EU, the European central Bank and the International Monetary Fund. This could lead to Greece's leaving the Euro and some disruption in Europe, We shall know by next month. Oil prices have stabilized around US\$50 a barrel, leading to economic collapse in Venezuela and huge losses in Russia. North Sea oil production is being scaled down and fields closed.

## Nuclear

The negotiations with Iran over its nuclear programme are almost at an end. Whether any agreement will be made to last is uncertain, as the republican party-controlled US Congress is opposed to any agreement with Iran and has invited Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's premier, and a fierce enemy of Iran, to speak to its two Houses. There are fears that North Korea has resumed work on its nuclear programme, and the country tested a highly accurate anti-ship missile this month.

## Europe

There is considerable political conflict in Europe at present, both due to the need to forge a united policy over Russia's invasion of the Ukraine, and over the future of the austerity programs insisted upon by the German government and their northern European allies. Russia is attempting to pick off smaller and more authoritarian states in Europe (such as Serbia, Hungary and Turkey), as well as those with which it has close economic ties (Italy, Bulgaria and maybe nowadays Greece), making the task of a united approach to European sanctions difficult. France and Germany, the two leading European powers dealing with the Ukraine crisis, oppose American ideas of arming the Ukrainian government.

## The Arab World

The campaign against the Islamic State (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria took an even more barbaric turn this month when they murdered a Jordanian pilot they had captured by burning him alive in a metal cage. In response, Jordan executed some terrorists and began an intensified bombing campaign against ISIS. The civil war in Syria continues and draws in ever more foreign Muslim fighters who later may become a potential danger to their home countries. Iraq remains a highly dangerous country, with Sunni Muslim rebels carrying out atrocities against Shia Muslim targets, causing hundreds of casualties every month. In Yemen, Shia Muslim Houthi rebels put U.S.-backed President Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi and his Cabinet ministers under house arrest, leading to their resignations. Subsequently, the Houthis, who are followers of the Shiite Zaydi sect

in Sunni-majority Yemen, dissolved parliament and declared they were taking over the government. More fighting is inevitable and foreign embassies are closing. Libya is now in a state of civil war between Islamic militants based in the old capital, Tripoli, in the west and the remnants of the democratically elected government and the old military based in Benghazi in the east.

## Palestine

There are no developments this month.

## Afghanistan and Pakistan

Afghanistan remains highly dangerous, with much of the country outside government control and in the hands of the Taliban. Pakistani forces continue to strike into Northwest Frontier border areas to root out the Islamic militants responsible for the earlier slayings of army school children.

## Asia

There is no news of the conflicting maritime claims of China and its neighbours this month. Occasional terrorist acts continue to occur in Muslim areas of western China's Xinjiang province. In the southern Philippines, fighting continues between government forces and dissident Muslim rebels opposed to an autonomy deal between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the largest Muslim rebel group in the country. Atrocities aimed at locals, including a bomb attack on a bus that killed 10 and injured over 30 in Bukidnon province in Mindanao in December, have caused many to flee their homes. On 25 January, 44 Philippines soldiers were killed in a gun battle with the Moro Liberation Front, when they attempted to arrest one of Southeast Asia's most-wanted terror suspects, Malaysian Zulkifli bin Hir or Marwan, whom the Moro guerillas were hiding.



Philippines police commandoes unload body bags containing the remains of their comrades killed in a clash with Muslim rebels.

## Thailand

The Thai military continues to run the country and has announced that it will prosecute the previous Prime Minister, Yingluck Shinawatra. The Muslim insurgency in southern Thailand, near the Malaysian border, continues. In Malaysia, ex-Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, leader of opposition People's Justice Party, lost his appeal against conviction for sodomy in what most observers regard as a politically motivated trial, and will spend the next five years in jail.



Jordan's King Abdullah II drives through a crowd after cutting short a US trip to rally support against the Islamic State.

## Somalia

There are no new reports of piracy at present. Fighting continues in the country between the government and its foreign allies and Islamic militant al-Shabaab fighters.

## Malacca Straits

There are occasional reports of piracy attacks aimed at small tankers in the region.

## Africa

Islamic militants Boko Haram continue to attack Nigeria's northern provinces and have spread their operations to neighbouring Niger, Chad and Cameroon. The security situations in Burkino Faso, the Central African Republic, Mali and South Sudan remain disturbed. The outbreak of Ebola Virus in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea continues to be gradually brought under control and infection rates are dropping.

## Ukraine

The situation in eastern Ukraine has worsened, with Russian troops and Russian armed separatists causing many civilian casualties by shelling and rocket fire, Ukrainian forces are poorly armed and losing many casualties daily, but are resisting Russian attacks. France and Germany are attempting to broker a ceasefire, so far with no success, and the US is threatening to send arms to the Ukrainian government. In response, Russia has warned of nuclear war. The situation is highly dangerous.

## The Americas , India, and Myanmar

There is little news of a security note this month.



Pro-Russian soldiers walk along a road near contested town of Debaltseve earlier in February.



Nepal-India border meeting concludes that joint efforts were needed to curb criminal activities in both countries.

## Nepal News

### Litterbugs to be penalised

9 Feb, DADELDHURA - Amargadi municipality has come up with stringent action against those who do not keep the surroundings neat and clean in Dadeldhura headquarters Baghkor, effective from tomorrow.

The office decided to make public the profiles of three generations of persons who throw waste carelessly, on the radio and newspapers, besides penalising them with Rs 1,000 for each violation.

The office announced the punishment as locals continued to neglect waste management in the district despite a series of appeals from the authority. The decree was announced in coordination with Community Service Centre, Dadeldhura, and at the launch of Baghkor Clean Campaign today.

According to Lal Bahadur Sawad, planning officer of the municipality, they will launch the clean campaign from tomorrow morning, urging people to dispose their waste only at the allocated venues of the municipality, else they will be penalised.

### Zero tolerance against corruption: PM

11 Feb KATHMANDU - President Ram Baran Yadav and Prime Minister Sushil Koirala today urged the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) to intensify its crusade against corruption but also said that the anti-corruption body needed to always be mindful that innocent people were not victimised in the anti-corruption crusade. Addressing a programme organised to mark the 24th anniversary of CIAA, the President said the anti-corruption body should also target all those who use loopholes to engage in corruption.

The PM said the government had a policy of zero tolerance against corruption. Lauding the role played by CCIAA against corruption, the PM said he was confident that the anti-corruption body would be able to adopt more effective measures against corruption.

He, however, said the anti-corruption body needed to ensure that its crusade against corruption does not unnecessarily victimise any innocent individual.

### Nepal-India border meeting concludes

11 Feb, POKHARA - The eleventh joint working committee meeting of Nepal-India border management concluded today, stressing that joint efforts were needed to curb criminal activities in both countries.

Officials of both the neighbouring countries expressed commitment to fight against criminal activities, human trafficking, drug smuggling, terrorism, trading in arms and ammunition and border security during the meeting.

According to Dhakal, officials of both countries agreed to strictly work to curb children and women trafficking, armed groups illegally taking shelter in Indian territory and fake currency trade, among others.

Nepali delegates had reminded Indian delegates about the woes of hundreds of displaced Nepalis in the Tarai due to construction of roads and other structures in India's Dashgaja and adjoining areas.

According to sources, the Indian side pledged to jointly seek alternatives after necessary study of the affected area. Dhakal also said that the Indian team directed the concerned authority to ease the pension distribution process in Nepal.

Meanwhile, Indian officials applauded the contribution of the Nepali security force in curbing fake Indian currency and urged the Nepali authorities to provide to them details for investigation.

### **Water crisis hits historical Udayapur village hard**

**12 Feb, CHAUDANDI** - Locals of Chaudandi VDC have been reeling under acute drinking water crisis for many years.

The crisis is due to lack of permanent sources of the water in the district. In addition, due to failure on the part of the concerned authority to solve such problems in the VDC, people are compelled to walk three to four hours

to fetch water from the Devasthan water spout.

Chaudandi is historically famous as the area from where the Sain dynasty ruled. Despite its significance, no one has bothered to equip the locality with easy access to water.

According Surman Tamang, 75, the crisis could be resolved if they pumped water from Sunkoshi River, which is about 10 kilometres away from the village.

The residents at wards 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the VDC have been facing the problem of water scarcity for many years.

Shantimaya Tamang, a local, said, "I leave home at 2:00 am every day to fetch water."

Lack of water supply has forced many villagers to abandon the village and migrate to other places.

### **Timber worth millions rotting away in Bajura**

**12 Feb, BAJURA** - Timber worth millions of rupees is rotting away in the national

forests of Bajura.

Hundreds of dried trees lying strewn in the forest bed are gradually decaying in the forests of Pokhare, Budhinanda, Badimalika, Bicchyan, and Khaptad.

District Forest Officer Raju Chhetri conceded that the timber was decaying due to the lack of provision for sale of such timber.

"There is no provision to sell these trees although an action plan is needed," he said, adding hundreds of trees felled during construction of the Martadi-Kolti road too were neglected in the forest. "We can generate income of approximately Rs 65 million by selling the timber," Chhetri informed.

Laxmiraj Padhya, a local, bemoaned the wastage of forest resources due to ignorance of the authorities.



Nepal's extreme landscape presents a range of challenges: remote sources, contamination and dwindling supplies in urban areas.



Kim Hye-gyong scores her biggest win in the 2015 Standard Chartered Marathon.

## Hong Kong News

### Marathon tears and triumphs

**25 Jan** - A young North Korean woman yesterday halted Ethiopia's domination of the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon, which saw a record 70,000 runners.

Kim Hye Gyong, 21, became the first Asian woman to win the Hong Kong title since 2008 and also set a record time of two hours 31 minutes and 46 seconds. She will get US\$70,000 (HK\$546,000) in prize money.

Kim was in tears when she received her trophy. "This is a big win for me as it could help me represent my country at the World Championships in Beijing in August," she said. The men's section was won by Ethiopian Ejigu Sentayehu Merga in two hours 13 minutes and 46 seconds.

However, the massive event left 1,137 runners injured, and it is unfortunate that a 24-year-old collapsed and died while running the 10km race. The sad

news, while clouding what would otherwise have been considered a successful marathon, is a reminder of the health risks involved in sports that are particularly strenuous.

### Young pool shrinking as protest numbers dive

**1 Feb** - The first mass protest since the quashed Occupy movement drew a smaller-than-expected turnout of 13,000 people, who marched from Victoria Park to Central.

Observers also said the younger generation was not prominent yesterday, unlike in the 79-day "Umbrella Movement" that ended in December.

Convener Daisy Chan Sin-ying of organizer Civil Human Rights Front said the low turnout does not mean Hongkongers are giving up the fight for true democracy. The Umbrella Movement already revealed how people firmly opposed Beijing's poll framework,

she added.

### Tuen Mun parallel protesters pepper sprayed

**8 Feb** - Several people were injured and at least 13 arrested when anti-parallel-trader sentiment exploded in Tuen Mun yesterday, forcing police to use pepper spray and batons to quell the protesters. By evening, shops at Trend Plaza were forced to shut as protesters sought refuge from the police and took over nearly half of the shopping mall.

Some protesters left the mall at about 8pm, some moving to the B3X bus stop to Shenzhen.

Tuen Mun residents have become increasingly angry at the growing number of mainland traders who they say have disrupted their daily lives.

The traders typically travel to Hong Kong by train though more recently by bus and stock up on everything from

iPads to milk powder, taking advantage of lower prices, wider choices and better quality in the city, and dodging hefty tariffs on their return.

### **Domestic helper abuse case found guilty**

**10 Feb** - A Hong Kong housewife was convicted of beating, starving and keeping prisoner her Indonesian maid in a case that sparked international outrage. Law Wan-tung, 45, a mother of two teenagers, was found guilty in the District Court after a 16-day trial.

Law's bail was revoked and she was remanded in custody for sentencing on February 27 when she faces a maximum seven years in jail.

Law burst into tears while she looked at her husband through the glass panels of the dock before she was taken away.

The victim, Erwiana Sulistyarningsih, 23, and a group of supporters clapped and cheered in the courtroom.

Law was convicted on 18 of the 20 charges which included causing grievous body harm, assault, criminal intimidation and failing to grant holidays and pay wages to Erwiana.

She was also found guilty of assaulting and threatening another former maid, Tutik Lestari Ningsih.

"I accept it in its entirety and despite the defendant's clear record I am sure the defendant did assault, wound and threaten Erwiana as charged," judge Amanda Woodcock said as she delivered the verdict in a packed courtroom.

Judge Woodcock also ordered Law to pay Erwiana HK\$28,800 in wages owed for her eight months' work at Law's flat between May 2013 and January last year.

### **Flu death toll in Hong Kong could be highest in 15 years expert warns**

**11 Feb** - A microbiologist has warned that the dominant strain of H3N2 is more infectious than usual and may push up

this year's death toll to one of the highest in 15 years. This came as 12 more patients with flu died yesterday.

Announcing the results of a Chinese University study, microbiologist Professor Paul Chan Kay-sheung said the city was now halfway into the flu peak season, which could last six to nine weeks.

The weather would determine the severity of the virus in the coming weeks, he said "A dry and warm spring would be able to stop the spread of influenza," Chan said. "The virus is more active when the weather is very hot or very cold. Humidity exceeding 70 per cent can also help it spread."

He said the virus could not survive when the temperature ranged between 22 and 27 degrees Celsius, which meant there could be another peak season in the hot months of June and July.



Police officers had to intervene in order to calm rally participants during the Tuen Mun parallel trader protest.



### **\$10,000 a person plan to save ATV**

**11 Feb** - Anyone with HK\$10,000 to spare can be a shareholder of Asia Television.

The broadcaster has come up with the new idea of saving the cash-strapped station after revealing that three investors were in talks to buy a majority stake in ATV.

For it appears that the offers by the three have so far failed to satisfy majority shareholder Wong Ching, according to Derek Lai Kar-yan, managing partner for Deloitte China's southern region, who was appointed last month to act as station manager.

Lai said the three buyers are capable of running ATV and have experience in the media industry, but he refused to reveal the offers.

With no progress on that front, ATV executive director Ip Ka-po called on Hongkongers to pitch in and help buy the 10.75 percent share in the station, calling it the "one man, one share to save ATV" campaign. A share costs HK\$10,000. "The Chinese New Year is coming and every staff member needs to collect his or her salary. Thus, we hope that a station which belongs to the people of Hong Kong can be rescued by the people of

Hong Kong," Ip said.

Asked if such a move is legal, Ip said: "We'll have to take a closer look at the law and regulations before launching it." Democratic Party lawmaker James To Kun-sun said that according to the Securities and Futures Ordinance, such a move could be considered a collective investment but would need the approval of the regulator.

### **ATV top brass miss out on wages too**

**11 Feb** - Senior executives at embattled broadcaster Asia Television were in the same predicament as frontline staff, ATV representatives argued in the Labour Tribunal yesterday as two former staff members brought their civil suits to court.

ATV representatives said former vice president of finance Lee Shek-fan had signed an agreement last year that senior executives would not receive wages before frontline staff. Lee argued the letter only mentioned owed wages in September.

The judge in the Labour Tribunal accepted Lee's argument and said it could not accept ATV suspending payment to its staff. However, Lee's request for ATV to

pay him owed wages and HK\$110,000 in compensation before the Lunar New Year was rejected by the court. It then ordered ATV to pay wages before February 25.

Meanwhile, the Communications Authority said it will fine ATV a further HK\$100,000 for failing to abide by the Broadcasting Ordinance. "The CA took a very serious view over such a repeated contravention by ATV," it said.

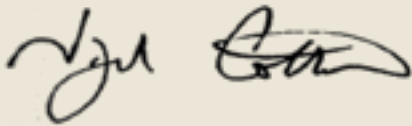
However, ATV did not pay the provisional variable fee on time and committed repeated breaches of the same requirement.



ATV faces a struggle for survival.

## Conclusion

In Hong Kong, where I write this Newsletter, the Chinese New Year of the Ram is almost upon us, so I wish you in local tradition, Kung Hei fat Choy for the Year of the Ram!



**Nigel Collett**  
Managing Director

